MULE CREEK POST

Volume 1, Issue 1 — January 1, 2017 — Free at Many Locations



ART IN THE AGE OF MASS INCARCERATION
Mules Fold's first issue of Volunteer Art Hope's on exhibition of inmate art

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DISCOVERING OUR NATIONAL PARKS
Discovering some of the lesser-known (but no less) classic Volcanic National Parks

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To Our Readers

By R. Robin Robin
Editor-in-Chief

WELCOME TO 2017 and your first issue! Our special "Year of Hope" comes in the form "Artist of Hope" Shane Chambers remembers how he re-writes police "Snake Codes," and we visit the New York City Museum of Modern Art exhibition "Making Time: Art in the Age of Mass Incarceration" to see Inmate reports (Pages 4 and 5, respectively).

January 17 marks Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, and an adaptation of his 1964 speech, "Testament to Hope" provides thought-provoking takes that resonate as powerfully today as they did over fifty years ago (this page).

In our look at America's national parks, we step off at Lassen Volcanic Park as a segue into the page, we interview students from Lassen Volcanic Elementary School with John MacDonald.

Inside, Co. Inmate McKoy commissioner Oakland Poverty Awareness Month, and Lois Lowry's writing class continues its creative and inspiring work with three students being published in their Life Magazine in the "Writing Pros." Page 6. (December cover art celebrate as Mule Creek State Prison has dramatically increased the number of cases locally, hosting the meeting, volunteered opportunities, events to volunteer information to happen! We urge you all to stay safe and vigilant.

A Testament of Hope

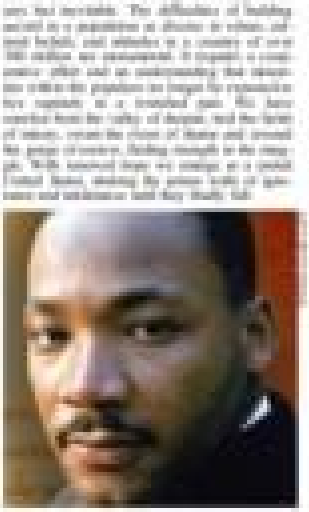
Adapted from Martin Luther King's "Testament of Hope" address delivered in 1968

SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO, I had an experience that changed my life and gave me a profound new perspective on reality. That experience might have destroyed another man, but it saved me. Since then, I have had to analyze it many times, and each time I have found deeper meaning in it. It happened while I was autographing books in Blumstein's department store in Harlem. A demented woman suddenly confronted me and asked me if I was Martin Luther King. Before I could respond, she plunged a letter opener deep into my chest. Rushed to the hospital, I remained in critical condition for several days. Later I learned that if I had sneezed during that time, I would have died. Four days later, the doctors performed a delicate operation to remove the weapon. Within a few weeks I was back in the pulpit preaching my Christmas sermon on peace. Soon after that, I was notified that the President of the United States wanted to express his appreciation to me personally. When I went to the White House, President Eisenhower greeted me warmly and said that he and the nation were grateful that I had not sneezed.

Since that day, I have had a deeper appreciation of the fragility of life and a greater determination to use the remaining years of my life in the most effective way possible. I have also had a deeper appreciation of the value of nonviolence. Before my stabbing, I had preached it as a way of life because I felt it was the most Christian and practical way to solve social problems. After my stabbing, I preached it because I had seen its power in personal relationships. I had felt the response of love coming from individuals all over the country who had been touched by the nonviolent movement. I had seen how violence solves no problems and merely creates more social problems in the process.

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A Tribute to the Artist of Hope

By Mark Mars
Arts Reporter

SHANE CHAMBERS HAS become more to us than "Artist of Hope" not only due to the moving images he painted on himself and other inmates showcased in the devastating wildfires of Ventura, California, in 2016, but for a variety of reasons. Following a book reading that brought attention to the plight of the Paradise residents, Chambers started the country raising money for charitable causes, urging other artists to do the same.

Chambers took a team of inmate artists in Cambodia to help victims of child trafficking. He's been at work, leading a team of young Khmer men, with a youth center program. Chambers said the Subjects have appeared on local and national newscasts, in the pages of Readers Digest and National Geographic. His art is posted on social media, including YouTube, taking leads for many worthy causes.

Shane Chambers began to inspire prisoners and prison artists because of personally carried out what conscientiously encouraging them to give back by donating art to charities such as those that support the victims and other worthy causes. For more on Chambers' efforts, see "Shane's Artist of Hope" on Page 5.

Exhibit Features Prison Art

By A. Rose
Culture Editor

NEW YORK CITY'S Museum of Modern Art is celebrating an interesting and profound look at artistic expression from what most would consider an isolated source: America's prisons.

The head artist leading the work featured in the exhibition is "Some of the most complex and emotionally evocative artwork that's been publicly displayed in a generation."

It's nothing new for those of us inside to discover that there is an abundance of artistic talent residing in the nation's prisons. Now, the rest of the world is beginning to take notice.

The exhibit features works from both currently and formerly incarcerated artists, as well as from friends and family members and those impacted by imprisonment.

Nicole Fleetwood, curator of the project, also wrote a book to accompany the exhibit. She recalls how the stigma of incarceration separated members of her own family and how so many in her community "dedicated their waking lives to the work of incarceration." Page 5 for more on this exhibit.

Exploring the Necessity of Hope

By Dirk Kirkman
Mule Creek State Prison

WHAT IS A world of thought. The mind is a powerful, but it creates that most powerful our thoughts into the consciousness, and our every existence is a creation of the thoughts that dominate our mind. What's necessary about this realization is that it serves more than a thought away from a whole new experience.

An awareness of the concept can help [illegible] circumstances such as imprisonment or living through a pandemic, into an opportunity for growth.

This knowledge is especially relevant to an incarcerated felon person whom we could be a key element. Recovering connections between hope and despair. On an Internet declared in their open personal goals. The more profound because a few ones living with your reality is the choice as to whether they live as a victim or to thereby survive.

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The Mule Creek Post is published monthly by the Lodge Student Association.

This edition is available for reading or posting on the Lodge English website page, www.mulecreekpost.com. Hardcopy can only be distributed after issue has been approved.

Subscriptions are free to eligible current readers.