



# AVP/California Update

Alternatives to Violence Project/California

Fall 2006

P.O. Box 3294, Santa Barbara CA 93130 800/905-6765

[www.AVPCalifornia.org](http://www.AVPCalifornia.org)

## An incredible year...

During the past year AVP/CA has been busy keeping up with requests for workshops in prisons and communities. Over 100 workshops have been offered, training 1,300 people inside and outside the prison walls in alternatives to violence since June 2005, and most prison AVP programs were opened in the last six months!

The open doors have come in locations where we had few if any volunteers, thus facilitators from other areas have invested tens of thousands of miles and thousands of hours of travel in these opportunities.

Over 1,000 prisoners have signed up and are waiting to take workshops.

Upon entering a prison, within a few months we develop teams of prisoner facilitators to work with the outside group. This decreases the need for outsiders to two per workshop, and with more experienced facilitators we can go with one outside Lead facilitator per workshop.

## Amazing prison support...

A couple of examples of the reception we have received in the institutions we have been privileged to go into during the last year: Thirteen AVP workshops have been held at the **Sierra Conservation Center in Jamestown** since August 2005. Our thanks go to Mr. Hector Lozano and to Ms. Reggie Kramer, of SCC, who, with the backing of Warden Tony Malfi, have been responsible for the significant effort by SCC to make this possible. Our thanks also to Michael and Stephanie McCaffrey for their support in providing lodging at their lovely McCaffrey Bed and Breakfast for traveling volunteers. These workshops were facilitated by 13 different volunteers, only one of whom is local to the area.

**Susanville** is about eighty miles north of Reno, Nevada, east of the Sierras, in a remote northeastern section of California. There are two state prisons and one federal prison in that small town of 30,000 people. AVP has been active in two yards of **California Correctional Center (CCC)**, since December 2005, and began in **High Desert State Prison**, a maximum-security facility, in July 2006. Warden Kathy Prosper, of CCC, wholeheartedly supports AVP and works with her staff to make sure that the workshops run smoothly. Carol Polan, Assistant Manager in the Business Department, with a positive spirit, efficiently organizes all the details to make it possible to have Basic, Second Level (Advanced) and Training for Trainers (T4T) workshops.

AVP/CA is deeply appreciative of many other people at CCC, including: Assistant Deputy Warden Ron Barnes and the teachers and librarian in the education department who have assisted us through the maze of getting classrooms and supplies; guards who respond to our alarms going off accidentally, help us through locked doors, make sure we understand the rules and regulations for our safety and that of the inmates, and who are patient as we learn; and Associate Warden Tennell, whose support for the program and interest in the inmates' needs boosts the credibility of our work. Finally, we have warm gratitude for the prison staff who have housed us from time to time. And community support for these prison programs is growing as well: In Susanville, Cheri Farrell, Founder and Director of Crossroads Ministries, a community center for the homeless, parolees and anyone else in need, is our most energetic and generous outside organizer, and we have hope of forming a local council soon that will be able to take

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Call for information at 800/905-6765. Sign up for a workshop at [www.AVPCalifornia.org](http://www.AVPCalifornia.org)

responsibility for the CCC and High Desert programs.

What is needed now is to bring the AVP experience to as many local people as possible so that they, too, can discover how deeply satisfying this program is.

## Wealth of community workshops needing participants...

To keep the prison workshops happening, it is crucial to train community-based facilitators. Workshops are being offered on a regular basis throughout the state.

### **Basic**

**Blythe:** Saturday & Sunday, September 23 & 24  
Contact-Kenya Williams, 800/905-6765

**Ben Lomond/Santa Cruz:** September 29-October 1, Contact-www.QuakerCenter.org

**Santa Barbara:** October 12-14,  
Contact-Sue Thorpe, yst1@earthlink.net

**El Centro:** Saturday & Sunday, October 28-29,  
Contact-Pat Hardy, avppat@earthlink.net

**La Jolla:** Two Saturdays, 10/28&11/4 Contact-Gail Fuller, fullers@san.rr.com

**Berkeley,** November 3-5,  
Contact-Katherine Youngmeister, ky@lmi.net

### **Advanced**

**Santa Rosa:** September 22-24, Contact-northbayavp@yahoo.com 707/220-8269

**Ben Lomond near Santa Cruz:** November 3-5,  
Contact-www.QuakerCenter.org

**Central Coast/San Luis Obispo:** Nov. 3-5,  
Contact-Janet Riley, jrileypeace@sbcglobal.net

### **Training for Facilitators**

**Los Angeles/Claremont:** September 9 and 10,  
Contact-Judith Favor judithfavor@hotmail.com

**Ben Lomond near Santa Cruz:** December 1-3  
Contact-www.QuakerCenter.org

**Central Coast/San Luis Obispo:** January 20-21,  
Contact-Janet Riley, jrileypeace@sbcglobal.net

## Staff training

We are making steady progress toward staff training in the prisons. The California Correctional and Peace Officers Association (the guards' union) and Chicano Correctional Workers Association have invited AVP/CA to speak at their annual meetings of union leaders. In addition, professional prison staff trainer John

Shuford will be training a group of AVP/CA facilitators this fall at staff trainers.

### **11 active AVP programs in CA Dept.Corr. & Rehab**

San Diego- R.J. Donovan Corr. Facility  
San Luis Obispo -Cal. Men's Colony  
Chino - Heman G. Stark Youth Corr. Fac.  
Blythe – Chuckwalla Valley SP  
Jamestown - Sierra Conservation Ctr.  
Susanville - Cal. Corr. Ctr.  
Susanville- High Desert State Prison  
Soledad - Corr. Training Facility  
El Centro - Centinela S.P.  
Folsom S.P.  
Chowchilla - Ctrl. Cal. Women's Fac.

## Continued openness in CDCR

Many of you are probably wondering if we have been affected by Jeanne Woodford's resignation earlier this year as Secretary of the Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation. According to administration sources, her replacement, James Tilton, seems to be staying the course of the work done by his predecessors. We continue to establish relationships with CDCR Sacramento staff, which are standing us in good stead.

## Your help is needed

Developing local participation is the greatest challenge now, and it is happening slowly.

**Do you know someone** in any of the prison towns listed above or where workshops on your left are being offered? We need people to help locals with logistics and finding people to take the workshops. Please contact the person listed there, or Pat Hardy or George Ramos at 800/905-6765.

**Pass this Update on** to someone else, Please.

### **Statistics on AVP/CA progress since June '05 Over 100 AVP workshops!**

*"In a Basic workshop at the beginning go-around of the circle of participants a young man sat directly on my left. He was slouched way down, arms folded, eyes downcast, ankles crossed, sending out body language messages in every direction that this was all just a lot of baloney (he wasn't that genteel in his language!) and that all he was there for was to get the record of attendance into his files.*

*Two days later when we asked who was going to sign up for the next (Advanced) workshop his hand was the first to go up!"* Bob Barns, facilitator