CCWF Paper Trail NEWSROOM

1ST QUARTER 2026 ISSUE 1 VOL. 1

Welcome to CCWF Paper Trail

By Mallissa James & Mimi Le

Stepping into the television studio at Central California Women's Facility (CCWF), the front door echoes as it closes.

The front room is like an airplane hangar—huge and vacant. What once held the smell of dust and the air of unused space at first misdirects the visitor that this empty desolate place was all that it was, empty and desolate.

But behold! Laying hidden behind the blue-grayish door of the interior room lies the magical sphere of women's journalistic talent.

Welcome to the newsroom. This is the heart of the CCWF Paper Trail newspaper. The unmistakable sound of nails on keyboards and hushed conversations are often combined with the smell of coffee. The editorial board, staff, contributing writers, and volunteers gather to share story ideas and collaborate over newsworthy elements in our daily lives.

The team is most often found typing the stories that appear in our monthly editions of CCWF Paper Trail on state of the art iMac computers—donated by Pollen Initiative. Intense concentration and dedication goes into the important work involved in amplifying the voices of CCWF residents.

Embarking on its third year in publication, CCWF Paper Trail has managed in its brief existence to have a profound impact on the incarcerated community by raising the voices of those often unheard and unseen by society at large.

CCWF Paper Trail has stepped into the journalism scene and signed its name into history with the unique and profound stories being published and recognized by the numerous awards honoring the writers. In September 2025, the American Penal Press Contest (APPC) awarded CCWF Paper Trail second place in best debut publication as well as four more awards for our outstanding writers.

Audiences all over the globe have viewed our content through our website and Instagram.

Currently, we have four editorial board members, three staff writers, thirteen contributing writers and sixteen journalism guild members. There have been two graduating classes of journalism guild members with another class completing in May, which we will be highlighting in our third newsletter.

As our team continues to grow, so does our impact on audiences across the world. The world's largest women's prison has finally found its voice and there is no stopping us now!

Meet the CCWF Paper Trail Editorial Board

AMBER BRAY - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Amber Bray currently supervises CCWF Paper Trail in her role as Editor-in-Chief. She also contributes articles to the paper and won best editorial comment through the California Newspaper Publishers' Association in 2025. Once released, Amber looks forward to joining the Pollen Initiative management to continue the work she began at CCWF. Amber wrote Paper Trail's first long-form news analysis on the conviction of former correctional officer Gregory Rodriguez in her article entitled, "Rodriguez Sentenced."

GUADALUPE BARRAGAN - MANAGING EDITOR

Guadalupe Barragan is the Managing Editor for CCWF Paper Trail. She currently coordinates and keeps track of assigned reporters and onsite stories. She's most proud of her article "From Lifer to Law School" contained in the January 2026 issue. She has earned her BA in Social Science from CSU Fresno. Upon release, she looks forward to working with Pollen Initiative as an intern to learn professional development skills and be a voice for all incarcerated women.

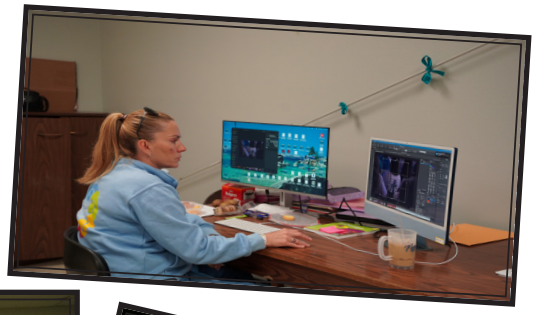
NORA IGOVA - ART & LAYOUT DESIGNER

Nora Igova is Paper Trail's Art and Layout Designer. She leads and lays out the issue design, including the creation of all art to accompany the stories. In 2025, Nora was awarded 1st place for Immigration Reporting, 2nd for Health Reporting, and was also awarded Woman Prison Journalist of the Year from the American Penal Press Association. She is two semesters away from earning her Social Science degree from CSU Fresno and works as a LifeScripting mentor.

DIANA LOVEJOY - JOURNALISM GUILD CHAIRPERSON

Diana Lovejoy serves as the Journalism Guild Chairperson—teaching journalism in the CCWF Paper Trail newsroom. Previously, Diana worked as a story and fitness writer. She feels empowered by representing her community while helping others shape their creative ideas. Diana's article "Nutritional Rehabilitation" won American Penal Press Award's Best Opinion Piece, and her film pitch "Desert Blossoms" won Best Documentary Pitch at the 2026 San Quentin Film Festival Presents @ CCWF. After release, Diana plans to use her voice to advocate for prisoners, and for domestic violence prevention and treatment.

Timeless Memories



Contributing Writers

VEGAS BRAY
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This Publication was Created By

MALLISSA JAMES

MIMI LE

LAKISA CROWDER

Staff Writers

MALLISSA JAMES

"My unique capabilities are helping craft a movement that creates a space for incarcerated women."

MIMI LE

"I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to pursue my passion in journalism. "

LAKISA CROWDER

"I have the opportunity to empower those around me."

Thank You For Your Support

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THE REVA & DAVID LOGAN FOUNDATION

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Thank You for Supporting us in our Achievements

2nd Place, Best Prison Publication
2026 Society of Professional Journalists & Prison Journalism Project Stillwater Awards

2nd Place, Best Debut Prison Publication
2025 Society of Professional Journalists & Prison Journalism Project Stillwater Awards

1st Place, Opinion Writing
1st Place, Local Coverage
2nd Place, Feature Writing
Woman Prison Journalist of the Year
2nd Place Best Debut Publication
2025 American Penal Press Contest

1st Place, Editorial Comment
1st Place, Immigration Reporting
2nd Place, Health Reporting
1st Place, Feature Writing
2025 California Newspaper Publishers' Association Awards, Division 4

A Letter To The Team

From: Buddhist Prison Ministry

Dear Everyone at CCWF Paper Trail!

Congratulations for the launch of your beautiful newspaper!

I was thrilled to receive your first issue...We all are sending our aspirations that the goals of Amplifying Voices and Empowering Choices experiences the far reach that San Quentin News has. May our sisters behind the walls across the entire country find encouragement through reading the CCWF Paper Trail!

All the best,
Rev. Susan Shannon, M.Div., BCCC
Director, Buddhist Prison Ministry