TEDx SingSing

X = an independently organized TED event at Sing Sing Correctional Facility

December 3, 2014 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Welcome to TEDxSingSing. Today’s speakers will explore the theme of “Creating Healthy Communities” from a variety of perspectives including personal, physical, mental, environmental and emotional health. We believe that it’s possible to build a nourishing and supportive community, no matter where you might be, even in a maximum security prison like Sing Sing, just by working together.

Our 22 dynamic thinkers include musicians, poets, actors, artists, social activists, role models and leaders who will present talks that foster cultural, intellectual and socially-minded conversation. In addition to our honored guests from outside these walls, we are proud to present representatives of Sing Sing’s diverse community of inmates, officers, administrators and volunteers who are united by the common goal inherent in our theme: “Creating Healthy Communities.”

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short powerful talks. TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics – from science to business to global issues – in more than 100 languages.

In the spirit of TED’s underlying theme, “ideas worth spreading,” TEDx is an independently organized TED event focused on sharing ideas in communities around the world. The TEDx program is designed to help communities, organizations and individuals spark conversation and connection through local TED-like experiences.

We hope you enjoy today’s TEDxSingSing event. Please discover the many ways to join the conversation online at the back of this program.

Sean Pica
Executive Director
Hudson Link for Higher Education in Prison
TEDxSingSing Co-organizer

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Hudson Link
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Sponsors

Jonathan Demme
Jonathan Demme started as a writer and producer with Roger Corman in 1971, and has directed and produced more than 40 movies since. His films as director/producer, which have been nominated for 20 Academy Awards, include *Beloved*, *Melvin and Howard*, *Philadelphia*, *Kurt Vonnegut Jr.’s Who Am I This Time?*, *Rachel Getting Married*, *The Manchurian Candidate*, and *Silence of the Lambs*, for which he won the Oscar for Best Director in 1991.

Most recently, Demme directed *A Master Builder*, based on Andre Gregory and Wallace Shawn’s adaptation of the play by Henrik Ibsen, which will be released on DVD and Blu Ray by the Criterion Collection in June 2015. He is currently in production on *Ricki And The Flash* with Meryl Streep, Kevin Kline, and Rick Springfield.

In television, he has directed episodes of *Columbo*, *Enlightened*, *The Killing* and the pilot for *A Gifted Man*. Demme has also produced Spike Jonze’ *Adaptation*, Tom Hanks’ *That Thing You Do* and Carl Franklin’s *Devil in a Blue Dress*.


Demme was producer of 1994 Oscar nominee *Mandela Son of Africa* (directed by Jo Menell and Angus Gibson), and Peabody Award-winning *Beah: A Black Woman Speaks* (directed by LisaGay Hamilton).

In addition, Demme has executive produced, produced and/or presented Kate Barker-Froyland’s *Song One*, Adam Leon’s *Gimme the Loot*, Nancy Savoca’s *Household Saints*, Victor Nunez’ *Ulee’s Gold*, Gillo Pontecorvo’s *The Wide Blue Road*, Peter Omrod’s *Eat the Peach*, Susanna Styron’s *Shadrack* and recently, Lindsay Jaeger’s *Everett Ruess: Wilderness Song*.

In 2014, Demme will be presenting two feature films - Nabil Ayouch’s *Horses of God* and Charlie Griał’s *The Center*, plus a new documentary, Sean Gallagher’s *Brothers of the Black List*.

Jonathan Demme serves on the Board of Directors of the Jacob Burns Film Center in Pleasantville, New York.
Program

9:30 a.m.  PROGRAM BEGINS

WELCOMING REMARKS
Jermaine Archer

TEDx INTRODUCTION VIDEO

LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN: THE POWER OF AGENCY IN BUILDING COMMUNITY: Bryonn Bain

TED VIDEO: Ze Frank “ARE YOU HUMAN?”

THE MANY ROLES OF A CORRECTIONS OFFICER: Correction Officer Javier Caban

TRANSCENDING MENTAL BARS: Hill Harper

THE POWER OF A PARENT’S VOICE: Lawrence Bartley

CREATING A WE NATION: Lucinda Cross

ECHOES OF AN URBAN DESERT: Markey Coleman

HOMETOWN SECURITY: Majora Carter

11:15 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

TED VIDEO: Eric Whitacre “VIRTUAL CHOIR LIVE”

FINDING YOUR IDENTITY: Gina Belafonte

A TEAR FROM THE PHOENIX’S EYE: Jason Calkins

THE AMBIENT EXISTENCE OF MUSIC: Shedrick Blackwell

CONNECTING THROUGH ART: Kenyatta Hughes

12:30 p.m. LUNCH BREAK

Christopher O’Neill
Curator
Hudson Link Alumnus, Bachelor of Behavioral Science, Class of 2011; MPS Class of 2012
Christopher J. O’Neill is a husband, father, grandfather and a caring person who loves to laugh and make others comfortable. He works in the Hudson Link learning center assisting students and the academic coordinator. Chris has completed basic and advanced Alternative to Violence Project workshops and Prisoners for AIDS Counseling courses. He aspires to continue to grow positively, further his education, nurture his children/grandchildren, be a great husband to his beautiful wife Lisa, gain his freedom, work hard, and live a simple and peaceful life.

Jon-Adrian “J.J” Velazquez
Curator
Hudson Link Alumnus, Bachelor of Behavioral Science, Class of 2014
J.J. Velazquez strives to maintain strong family ties with his two sons and dedicates his energy toward the service of others. He has been awarded a Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Community Service from a N.Y. State Senator and the Ossie Davis Award for General Excellence & Community Service from Hudson Link. J.J. has blazed a trail of redemption for others through such progressive ventures as the Voices From Within DVD Series, the Forgotten Voices Gun-Buy-Back Program, and an Inmate Bereavement fund for the untimely deaths of three community residents. His wrongful imprisonment case has aired on a Dateline NBC documentary titled “Conviction.”

Robert Rose
Production Manager
Hudson Link Alumnus, Bachelor of Behavioral Science, Class of 2007; MPS Class of 2008
Robert Rose enjoys working in educational settings because he believes he has the knowledge and background to be a true asset within his community. He acknowledges his responsibility for past criminal acts, and has grasped the notion that he can never fully atone for the immoral deed he perpetrated against another human being. He aspires to work in the fields of anger management and conflict resolutions, with a special emphasis on domestic violence.

Kevin Williams
Hospitality Coordinator
Hudson Link Alumnus, Bachelor of Behavioral Science, Class of 2013; MPS Class of 2014
To Kevin Williams, family is everything! He is a grandson, son, brother, father, grandfather and an uncle. He respects the values and opinions of his family, friends, and associates. Kevin has obtained two college degrees while incarcerated and is currently the president of the New Mind Jaycees. He has extended his legacy of creating innovative fundraisers for distributing winter hats, gloves, scarves and school supplies to the children of incarcerated parents by sending surplus supplies to women’s correctional facilities. He aspires to wake up one day and not have to worry about the issue of race.

Production Team
Program

TEDx VIDEO: Doug Wood “PRISON TO SCHOOL PIPELINE – EDUCATION AS TRANSFORMATION”

A MEDLY OF SONGS: Sing Sing House Band

COMPOSING COMMUNITY: Carnegie Hall at Sing Sing

TED VIDEO: Rita Pierson “EVERY KID NEEDS A CHAMPION”

SURVIVING ON THE INSIDE: Ice-T

VOICES FROM WITHIN: Dan Slepian

SHAPING THE FUTURE FROM THE INSIDE: Superintendent Michael Capra

A GOOD ROLE MODEL OF WHAT NOT TO DO: Wilfredo Laracuente

TED VIDEO: Zak Ebrahim “I AM THE SON OF A TERRORIST. HERE’S HOW I CHOSE PEACE”

GANGDEMIC: COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU: Herbert Morales

FORGIVENESS, A PATH TO REDEMPTION: Yusef Salaam

2:50 p.m. COFFEE BREAK

MAKING NOISE CAN SAVE THE WORLD: Ivan Calaff

TED VIDEO: Drew Dudley “EVERYDAY LEADERSHIP”

TRANSFORMATION THROUGH EDUCATION: Michael Tineo

BUILDING 1412 / LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL: Simeon Duggins

CLOSING REMARKS: Jermaine Archer

4:00 pm PROGRAM ENDS
Profiles

Bryonn Bain
"Life After Lockdown: Revolutionary Community Building with the Bill of Rights for Returning Citizens"
Multi-media exploration of the possibilities for life beyond incarceration.

Prison activist, spoken word poet, hip hop artist, actor, author and educator. After launching the “Lyrics on Lockdown” national prison tour/campaign, Bryonn Bain created the university course by the same name to link students at Riker’s Island prison to NYU, the New School, and Columbia, and has performed the hip hop theater/spoken word production “Lyrics from Lockdown” for sold-out theaters on three continents worldwide. www.lyricsfromlockdown.com

Jermaine Archer
Master of Ceremonies
Jermaine is the host of TEDxSingSing, an ideal position for him because he loves bringing people together and enjoys learning new things. He is most proud of his status as a father and stepfather.

Jermaine Archer is multilingual; he speaks, reads and writes in Spanish and French. He is currently learning German and created the first and only Chinese Mandarin Language Course to be taught inside a New York State prison. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Hudson Link/Mercy College, is a long-standing member of Rehabilitation Through the Arts, and a founding member of the Forgotten Voices Committee and Voices From Within. Jermaine facilities for Prisoners for AIDS Counseling and Education, Alternatives to Violence Project and the Youth Assistance Program. He uses his experience, education and organizational connections to unite people, especially youth, creating an “us” concept that lets us see each other as connected.

Lawrence Bartley
“The Power of a Parent’s Voice”
Inmates, officers and doctors come together to help a father share his healing voice with his prematurely born son.

Lawrence Bartley values integrity and respect for others. A lifelong learner, he considers himself to be flexible and open. He believes there is value in earning your way and having balance in your physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual life. He is also a husband and father of 3 beautiful children. His aspires to earn an MBA, PhD.

Gina Belafonte
“Finding Your Identity”
An exploration of the ways in which the arts can break down barriers, help people connect, define social relationships and create healthy interactions.

Born and raised in New York City, Gina Belafonte has spent most of her life surrounded by entertainment and activism. Today, her professional work encompasses these two arenas. As the youngest child of Julie and Harry Belafonte, whose life’s work reflects some of the best-known entertainment and most progressive social activism, Gina’s passions should come as no surprise. Most recently, Gina played a leading role in producing the documentary SING YOUR SONG, a film focused on the personal history and extraordinary events of Harry Belafonte’s life and legacy.

Production Team

Jacob Burns Film Center
PRODUCTION TEAM

Video Production by
JACOB BURNS FILM CENTER
www.burnsfilmcenter.org

Jonathan Demme
TEDxSingSing Event Executive Producer

Thom O’Connor
Technical Director / Camera Operator

Brooklyn Demme
Camera Operator

Justin Drobinski
Camera Operator

Sean Gallagher
Camera Operator

Kervin Marseille
Camera Operator

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Edie Demas
Executive Director

Dominick Balletta
Managing Director
Shedrick Blackwell
“The Ambient Existence of Music”
The power of music to evoke memories of events and people. This nostalgic talk makes us think about how we connect with people through the personal soundtrack of our lives.

Shedrick Blackwell is an outgoing, optimistic, and caring person. He has received a Certificate in Ministry from Rising Hope, Inc., and has become involved with the Carnegie Hall Program. He hopes to earn a college degree in the near future.

Correction Officer Javier Caban
“The Many Roles of a Corrections Officer”
Javier Caban will be our only speaker of the day to present in uniform. Javier has an interesting background with a long history serving in the armed services and as an officer in the New York State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision. He left his job as a correction officer at Sing Sing to serve our Country in Iraq and after 15 months, returned to civilian life and back to Sing Sing.

Admittedly his role as an officer transformed while he served overseas. He is reminded every day that he is not JUST an officer in a maximum security prison, but also a soldier, father, and role model. He is married and has two children.

Ivan Calaff
“Making Noise Can Save the World”
A new way to facilitate, enhance and improve the way we communicate with each other through Sounding Off. The power of sounding off helps to create a deep sense of friendship.

Ivan Calaff is recognized as a humble, easy going person with an intuitive mind. In short, he is a people person, always aiming to please, with an exceptional skill for problem solving. He has earned his G.E.D., Certificate of Completion in Breaking Barriers, and a facility parenting course. In addition, he is currently pursuing a bachelor’s degree in Behavioral Science to fulfill his aspirations of seeking higher education, and re-entering society as a man willing to give back to the community without reservations.

Jason Calkins
“A Tear from the Phoenix”
A perspective of one man’s path to redemption using the Phoenix as a symbolic figure to show how new life can be born out of self-destruction.

Jason Calkins is a highly energetic person, one who is continuously searching for ways to improve himself. His yearning and passion for interaction with people is only rivaled by his desire to be both an example and answer of what it is to be a good friend.

In the last 10 years, education has been Jason’s focus. He has received an associate’s degree from Mercy College, graduating in 2013 Magna Cum Laude. He is now working on his bachelor’s degree. At Auburn, Jason helped to create a support group for inmates who are affected by HIV/AIDS and he is now a facilitator for the Alternatives to Violence program and works with the Youth Assistance Program. He aspires to become a mentor to at-risk youth.
Superintendent Michael Capra
“Shaping the Future from the Inside”

Michael Capra has over 32 years of experience in the field of Correctional Management and Law Enforcement. He is known as a seasoned leader, manager and mentor. Mr. Capra started his career in 1981 as a Corrections Officer and today, he is the Superintendent of Sing Sing Correctional Facility, one of the largest maximum security correctional facilities in the state.

Superintendent Capra oversees a staff of 825 security and non-custodial staff and 1,825 offenders. As Superintendent, Mr. Capra evaluates and develops policies and procedures that enhance public safety by ensuring that offenders have opportunities to improve their skills and to receive individual treatment services based on ability and willingness to participate so they can return to society as productive members.

Mr. Capra co-developed “Voices from Within” a program that enhances the potential of inmates as well as impacts the minds of our youth.

Carnegie Hall at Sing Sing
“Composing Community”

“Music has definitely been the main discipline for me now. I wouldn’t be anywhere without music.” Carnegie Hall workshop participant at Sing Sing

Five years ago, Carnegie Hall started a music program at Sing Sing Correctional Facility. A workshop group of talented and highly committed men have collaborated with many different Carnegie Hall artists to create their own musical compositions and perform concerts for the prison population and staff. Together, they have shaped a community of learners and creative thinkers that come together with the aim of making great music. This performance communicates what the human and musical connections formed mean to prison participants, as well to the professional musicians involved, and features Sing Sing musician Pedro Collazo (composer) with Sing Sing collaborators from the workshop, alongside Carnegie Hall musicians, Emily Eagen (voice), Brad Balliett (bassoon), Meena Bhasin (viola), Claire Bryant (cello), Paul Won Jin Cho (clarinet), Anna Elashvili (violin), Kris Saeb (upright bass), and Laura Weiner (horn).

Markey Coleman
“Echoes of an Urban Desert”

Creating community gardens as a tool to bring generations and communities together for a common goal.

Markey Coleman is an intuitive, loving and caring person with an embedded yearning to assist his community once released. He is motivated by love and the challenge of developing concepts and possible solutions to social ills.
Dan Slepian
“Voices from Within”
Renowned TV producer discusses his volunteer work at Sing Sing, helping to create the “Voices From Within” project, a video and education initiative that uniquely addresses the epidemic of gun violence directly through the voices of inmates living with the consequences of their deadly choices.

Dan Slepian is an award-winning investigative producer and an 18 year veteran of NBC’s venerable newsmagazine, Dateline – where he has developed and produced dozens of episodes, complex hidden camera investigations, and breaking news segments.

Referred to as “A TV News Gumshoe” by The New York Times, Slepian’s investigations have helped solve cold cases, assisted in exonerating wrongfully convicted inmates, uncovered corruption, sparked changes in laws, and led to the shutting down of illicit businesses. He also conceived and developed three separate recurring hour-long series: “Vegas Homicide,” “Vegas Undercover” and “Wild, Wild Web.” The work he’s done at NBC has appeared on the Discovery Channel, History Channel, National Geographic, CNBC, Court TV, MSNBC and Netflix. Slepian graduated from the State University of New York at Stony Brook where he currently serves on the Journalism School’s professional advisory board.

Sing Sing House Band
“A Medley of Songs”
The Sing Sing House Band will perform a medley of songs including some original compositions.

Members of the Sing Sing House Band include: Shedrick Blackwell, Kevin Collins, Simeon Duggins, Denis Martinez, Mohammed Monsuri, Dexter Nurse, Robert Pollack, Darren Steward, Isaiah Umali, Alfred Roberts, Paul Hinds, Kenyatta Hughes and Hector DeJesus. The Sing Sing House Band performs at a number of special events at Sing Sing including graduations, family day celebrations and volunteer recognition day.

Majora Carter
“HomeTOWN Security”
An exploration of how to build healthy and sustainable communities.

Majora Carter is an urban revitalization strategy consultant, real estate developer, and Peabody Award winning broadcaster. She is responsible for the creation & successful implementation of numerous green-infrastructure projects, policies, and job training & placement systems. After establishing Sustainable South Bronx and Green For All (among other organizations) to carry on that work, she built on this foundation with innovative ventures and insights into urban economic developments designed to help move Americans out of poverty. Her 2006 TED talk was one of the first 6 videos to launch their groundbreaking website. Majora is a Board Member of the US Green Building Council, and the Andrew Goodman Foundation. Majora has continually set new standards of excellence with projects in her South Bronx community, while expanding her reach through philanthropic pursuits and business interests that have all pointed toward greater self-esteem and economic potential for low-income people everywhere.

Lucinda Cross
“Creating a WE Nation”
This talk will share the analogy of the tree and how our beliefs, attitudes and actions mold us and the community that is connected to us. There is no single leaf whose actions do not affect the whole tree. Sharing the importance of balancing the Fab Five in order to rebuild, restore and reinvent ourselves and communities we serve include:  Faith, Family, Friends, Finance and Fitness.

Lucinda Cross is an award-winning investigative producer, Life Coach and Small Business Consultant. Her work is about helping women live a life of fire, fun and freedom. Lucinda Cross is the best-selling author of “The Road to Redemption” and “Corporate Mom Drop Outs.” She is an internationally known speaker, contributing writer for Black Enterprise and The Huffington Post. Lucinda Cross is the person women call when they are ready to leverage and monetize their expertise and message all while creating products, programs and a signature a platform.

Over the past decade, she has discovered surprising trends about why certain people and businesses succeed. Today, Lucinda teaches how to communicate and captivate in a noisy world with a short attention span and the tendency to procrastinate.

Michael Tineo
“Transformation Through Education”
Prison rehabilitation leads to healthy communities on the outside when men are released. Rehabilitation prevents crime. Let’s rebrand Sing Sing as the Healthy Community Maker.

Michael Tineo is a patient and loving father, who is mindful of his actions. He tries his best to be of some benefit to others he encounters. He has big dreams, plays hard, and is deliberate in implementing the steps necessary to achieve his goals. Michael is proud of the relationship he has developed with his daughter, despite the hurdles created by his incarceration. This relationship has been a source of growth and fulfillment for himself and his daughter. He aspires to be a tremendous benefit to the world through influential and philanthropic efforts.

Simeon Duggins
“Building 1412/Life is Beautiful”
This poem connected to Building 1412 in Brooklyn, a public housing development, highlights the realities of urban life, particularly in Building 1412, yet his premise is to make the world understand that Life is What You Make It.

Simeon Duggins brings a lot of energy into the room as he enters with his outgoing personality. He is a progressive thinker, and a remarkable entertainer who strives to inspire others around him. His aspirations are to become a fitness trainer and a counselor for youth, but once you hear his poetry, we believe you’ll agree his place is on the stage.
Ice-T, Actor & Musician

“Surviving on the Inside”

Through his music, his books and his lecture tours at colleges including Harvard, Princeton and Stanford, Ice-T has become a cultural icon recognized worldwide.

Born in New Jersey, Ice-T quickly learned the art of survival. As an only child whose parents died when he was very young, Ice-T became involved in Los Angeles gangs before spending four years in the army. His first break came when the producers of the film “Breakin'” asked him to rap in the movie. He went on to become rap music’s original gangster, writing songs like “Six in the Mornin’” and “New Jack Hustler.”

Ice-T formed Rhyme Syndicate Records in 1989 and released a string of groundbreaking West Coast rap records. He subsequently formed the thrash metal band Body Count with close friend and guitarist Ernie C. Body Count’s 1991 self-titled debut contained the controversial single “Cop Killer.” Body Count was the most critically acclaimed act on the highly successful 1991 Lollapalooza tour and continued to tour worldwide. Ice-T received a Grammy Award and was voted Best Male Rapper in Rolling Stone’s 1992 Readers Poll.

Ice-T parleyed his music career to acting roles in “New Jack City,” “Ricochet,” “Trespass” and “Johnny Mnemonic,” all while building a flourishing television career. Since 2000, he has portrayed NYPD Detective Odafin Tutuola on the NBC police drama Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. He has numerous independent and documentary film roles to his credit and most recently starred in the popular E! reality series “Ice Loves Coco.” He has also branched out into producing, directing and writing.

Hill Harper

“Transcending Mental Bars”

This talk focuses on the deep seated beliefs, both individual and cultural, that hold people back from achieving their true potential, and ways to move past them.

Hill Harper is an American film, television and stage actor, and an author. He is best known for his portrayal of coroner-turned-crime scene investigator Dr. Sheldon Hawkes in the CBS television show CSI: NY. He is also the author of several books including Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny; Letters to a Young Sister: DeFINE Your Destiny; The Conversation: How (Black) Men and Women Can Building Loving, Trusting Relationships; and Letters to an Incarcerated Brother: Encouragement, Hope and Healing for Inmates and Their Loves Ones. He is a member of the Obama for America National Finance Committee.

Harper graduated from Brown University with a Bachelor of Arts degree and from Harvard with a J.D. and Masters in Public Administration. He is a full-time member of Boston’s Black Folks’ Theater Company. Harper’s Bazaar wrote, “You might expect Hill Harper to be the next actor vying for the presidency...but he has other things on his agenda”.

One of those things was the creation of the Manifest Your Destiny Foundation www.mydf.org, a youth serving organization whose mission is to provide underserved youth a path to empowerment and educational excellence through mentoring, academic enrichment programming, college access skills obtainment and the facilitation of psychosocial and physical development strategies.

Kenyatta Hughes

“Connecting Through Art”

This talk centers on music and its ability to transcend the “superficialistics” and allows people to connect at the purest level.

Kenyatta Hughes is sensitive and intelligent, with a heart towards communication and relationships. He is an artist, who enjoys acting, but finds the most fulfillments in songwriting. He is a man of faith, who has found a guiding principle in Jesus’ message of love and reconciliation. He believes himself to be extraordinarily blessed by the people who have been moved by his outlook and have invested in him. He hopes to become a better husband, son, and brother, as well as a better human being and friend to all.

Wilfredo Laracuente

“A Good Role Model of What Not To Do”

This talk will impart the significance of “manning up,” and encourage others to expose our youth to a brighter future...but the question is...how?

Wilfredo Laracuente is a funny, outgoing, and charismatic individual who seems to remain motivated toward personal improvement. He constantly seeks challenges that will enhance his success until it becomes second nature. Enthused by the opportunity of possibly making a difference in people’s lives, he began developing a passion to impart the significance of fatherhood to anyone willing to listen. His aspirations consist of completing his degree, and using the knowledge obtained to ensure that he is eligible for further progression upon his release.

Herbert Morales

“Gangdemic: Coming to a Neighborhood Near You”

Gangdemic has become a reality in communities and in prisons. Membership is climbing as well as violence and drugs associated with gangs. Elimination of gangs may not be feasible but behavioral and philosophical conversion to become an uplifting economic and political power within communities may be possible.

Herbert Morales entered prison as an angry 18-year-old, uneducated, irresponsible, teenager. After 31 years’ incarceration he has not just survived, but has strived to become an educated, compassionate, disciplined, and open-minded individual. His love for God has shown him that anything is possible as long as he has faith. He has had a positive impact in the lives of over a dozen inmates by educating himself in the field of criminal law.

Yusef Salaam

“Forgiveness, a Path to Redemption”

This talk focuses on using forgiveness as a path to redemption, rebuilding relationships and community.

The fifth suspect in the Central Park Jogger case, at 15 years old Yusef Salaam was wrongly accused and convicted of assaulting a female jogger in Central Park. He spent 7 years of a 10-year sentence incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. In 2002, based on a confession and DNA evidence, the Central Park Five convictions were vacated. Today, he is committed to advocating and educating people on the issues of false confessions, human rights violations and criminal justice.
The word is life and life is beautiful.

The world becomes bright if in light you view it through.

You heard it right man, life is beautiful.

Beautiful

By Simeon Duggins