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2nd Annual Human Library Materials

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## LMU Human Library Catalog

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## [LMU Human Library](#) Catalog - November 2013

### ***Don't Judge A Book By Its Cover!***

We invite the LMU community to be a part of our second annual Human Library. On Thursday November 7, 2013, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m., students, faculty, staff, and community guests will have the opportunity to engage in honest, one-on-one conversations with any of the following Books, all of whom have unique, inspiring, thought-provoking stories to share that align with the themes in this year's [Bellarmine Forum: Restorative Justice](#).

#### **1 - Peace Officer Working for Peace**

Life-long justice seeker; existential poetry lover - especially poetry of Mirza Ghalib, Mir, Rumi, and Hafez; LAPD Officer, Professor of Terrorism Studies/Security Studies; student of ancient classical music form called dhrupad; has always been active in social issues, always siding with the underdog, not moving the gaze away from where others turn their heads away. This Book was born and raised in a refugee family around a lot of angry relatives – yet resists the pull to be angry.

#### **2 - Guilty Until Proven Innocent**

At the age of 16, this Book – a current LMU undergraduate – was taken away from society, accused of murder and sentenced to live out the remainder of this life in a dark prison cell. By all accounts he was never supposed to be seen again, but the story isn't that simple. This young man had actually been wrongfully accused and wrongfully convicted for a crime he did not commit. He persevered and after 20 grueling years in prison he was finally able to prove his innocence.

#### **3 - Public Defender: Fighting for Justice, Making a Difference**

2014 marks the Centennial celebration of the oldest, largest and most successful criminal defense firm in the nation. Established in 1914, this Constitutionally mandated law office of over 1,118 dedicated men and women remains committed to protecting the civil rights of, and providing a vigorous defense for poor people, adults and children, facing criminal charges. This Book, a veteran of 37 years as a trial lawyer and executive manager in the Public Defender's Office, was recently honored by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for his years of service to the citizens of Los Angeles and to the criminal justice system.

#### **4 - Prison Chaplain and Youth Advocate**

Once upon a time this former gemologist thought he found fulfillment in selling jewels. However, some 25 years ago, his sense of fulfillment turned on its head when he decided to switch up his typical Sunday routine; instead of watching football on TV, he would go visit children in jail. This Book is the Co-Director of the Office of Restorative Justice of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. A chaplain who accompanies victims and offenders, often on spiritual journeys that include both unimaginable

darkness, as well as God's greatest Light. He also works tirelessly to transform for the justice system into a system that restores people and communities.

### **5 - Is Mama still Singing? A Gang Member's Road to Redemption**

His mother never wanted him or his brother to join a gang, use drugs, or go to prison, so she moved the family from New York to California. Unbeknown to her, she moved them closer to what she feared most. The brothers joined the same gang, one became a heroin addict and the Book, a murderer. In 1995, the victim's mother took a deep breath and did what was never expected, she wrote and forgave the Book. Learn how a mother not only forgave the Book for killing her son, but how her small act has affected his life and about those that he continues to touch in her son's honor and all victims.

### **6 - Victim of Violence**

This stay-at-home soccer mom's life was changed in an instant on a typical Monday evening of picking up her son's trophy at the park and heading on to Shakey's for the school fundraiser. Gang violence erupted in the parking lot. Her 7-year-old died instantly and her 10-month-old baby boy was severely injured. As a woman that had spent her previous career working with at-risk youth, she and her husband responded by the Grace of God, with forgiveness, conviction, and determination to reach the youth in the California Youth Authority Juvenile Detention Facilities throughout California for the past 14 years to impress upon them the devastation of murder upon families and communities as a whole, the preciousness of life, the value of their lives and hope for their futures to become a part of the solution. She and her husband have received recognition for their work, most recently as Local Heroes by KCET and Union Bank in 2011. She is currently with Community Build, Inc. working with youth ages 10 to 15 years old in gang prevention, for the City of Los Angeles Office of the Mayor's Gang Reduction and Youth Development Program.

### **7 - A Deacon Warrior**

This Book was born in Tijuana, Mexico and was ordained Deacon for Los Angeles Diocese. He is the father of four sons – one of whom is serving a life sentence at Pelican Bay – and the grandparent of 4 boys and one girl. He came to the USA when he was 14 years of age, English is his second language and his first jobs were working in the fields and operating a forklift. For the past 4 years he has become a warrior for true justice and serving the forgotten souls of the prisons.

### **8 - The Whoopass Healing of Sexual Abuse & Trauma!**

A survivor of clergy abuse, this Book transformed from victim, to survivor and emerged as a thriver using a 5-step system, teaching others how to move from chaos to calm. She now teaches others how to do "whoopass healing" on their trauma from Sexual Abuse, Child Neglect, Domestic Violence & Victimization, and to live a powerful, calm, and drama-free life.

### **9 - Mindful Lawyer**

Although this Book may seem to have had it comparatively easily, a privileged upbringing, an Ivy League law school education, and a successful 35 year career as an entertainment trial lawyer

representing celebrities and others in the entertainment industry, he knows well that suffering is something we all face--and that he has faced. From working in the streets of Honolulu with glue-sniffing teens, to a position as president of the board of directors of Break the Cycle, a national organization dealing with teen dating abuse and violence, he has seen the suffering that arises from challenging families and circumstances. He knows from personal experience that many of us go through life with a sense of vague discomfort or even anxiety. He also knows the struggle to find a balance between one's personal values and the demands of a challenging profession. About 12 years ago, the Book became interested in mindfulness meditation, and has since attended several silent retreats, and 3 years ago started the Los Angeles group of lawyers interested in using meditation to improve the quality of their personal and professional lives. After the person who acquired his law firm turned out to be one of the biggest crooks in the country and his firm collapsed, he retired happily, now able to pursue his various interests (though he's sure no one wants to read his chapter about the joys of retirement). This Book can share the value he has found in using mindfulness meditation to mitigate stress and anxiety, to increase the ability to focus and to make our lives, professions and relationships with others more compassionate and more satisfying.