

1: Books similar to The Rise and Fall of the Nuestra Familia

The Rise and Fall of the Nuestra Familia is the true story of Robert Lee Gratton, who hopes that its grim reality will help turn the lives of young people away from gangs and in a positive direction.

Prison Gang Reports La Nuestra Familia was formed in Folsom State Prison around 1965, constructed as a force that could combat the existing oppression of the traditionally dominant Mexican Mafia. Since then the Familia has moved eastward across the United States and developed prominent ties in Colorado state prisons. According to Robert Koehler, an ex-convict and past member of the Nuestra Familia, the Family operates as a "mutual aid society," committed to providing commissary goods to fellow Familia members in prison at inexpensive or "face value" costs, and providing commissary goods to members placed in administrative segregation. This is considered "welfare" The Family operates a "capitol," or "power base," in the Limon Correctional Facility in Colorado, considered the most concentrated facility housing the longest-serving Familianos and Familiano leaders in the state. According to Koehler, in Colorado prisons, the Familia is an attempt to protect and preserve Chicano culture in the face of a majority white culture saturating both Colorado prisons and the American criminal justice system. The Familia operate with a "cause," an ideology that places great emphasis on the psychological and physical protection of its members as well as the preservation of the Familia culture itself. In an FBI investigation revealed that top-ranking Nuestra Familia leaders were creating new recruits and turning them into organized criminal operatives upon release, also known as "wolfpacks. Five days after Castillo was released from a short, DUI jail sentence, he was shot at close range in the head. It soon became a multi-agency endeavor, including the FBI, the California Department of Corrections, and the US attorney, operating out of their command center at a downtown high-rise in Santa Rosa, California. Ukiah became a meeting place for gang leaders in March of 1975, including the 3 "highest-ranking" Nuestra Familia leaders in the Bay Area. Northern California, or Norte, is the original homeland of the Familianos. As the Chicano prison population grew in the 1960s and 1970s, so too did the Familianos, and their influence within the prison subculture. The Limon Correctional Facility, whose purpose was to house the more dangerous and violent offenders serving the longest sentences, served to concentrate the Familianos under one roof, strengthening their power within prison. Pelican Bay parolees were reported by informants in 1975 to be instructed by their Familia captains to "re-energize" the Nortenos in Sonoma County. Leaders Rico "Smiley" Garcia, a Sonoma County, California native who became a gang captain, was tried for the death penalty after being charged by the task-force for his extensive involvement in La Nuestra Familia. Around 1975, the leading organizer of a Pelican Bay "wolfpack" was year-old Robert Haas, a Santa Rosa parolee who was arrested in April after hiding in the home of another convicted Nuestra Familia leader, Henry "Happy" Cervantes. Structure and Organization The structure and operational organization of the Nuestra Familia is based on a model of capitalist enterprise, and relies on regular threats against correctional staff to maintain authority. If the debt is not repaid within a reasonable amount of time, debt collectors are assigned to coerce or pressure the convict into paying. Familianos are privileged in that they are only required to pay no interest or very little interest. Records of profit from the "store" are kept secret by the store owner, or memorized in his head. The financial status and balances of the Familia is maintained by a "finance minister. At Level 1 there is the finance minister, the business manager, and the five council members. Among these 5 council members there is a security chief, who manages the less prestigious level 4 inmates, the communications chief, and the director. The director oversees operations, delegates authority, and represents the interests of the Familia. He makes sure that business is conducted according to the rules, and decides on important issues concerning the welfare of the Familia, and the strategies and operations of the family. The communications chief directs the messages to members of other gangs and Familias in other prisons or on the outside. Level 2 includes negotiators, who act as messengers to other prison gangs such as the Bloods and the Crips, and in Colorado prisons are often Caucasian, as white convicts have a greater chance of escaping the suspicion of prison guards. Level 3 soldiers, known as "hustlers," collect drugs smuggled in by correctional staff and distribute those drugs to convicts. In securing the drug trade within prison, the Nuestra Familia attempt to convert guards

into "mules," who may then transport drugs, trade goods, or messages into and out of prison. Guards become "Mules" when they assist the Familia carry out its objectives by smuggling in money, drugs, messages, and women for sex. These duties can often be enforced by using blackmail or extortion. In addition to recruiting "mules," the Nuestra Familia also recruit what are known as "Wolfpacks" inside prison, who once paroled, carry out the commands from their imprisoned Familia captains. These wolfpacks are handed the responsibility of generating revenue for the Familia on the outside. They are trained in prison by Familia members, in vocabulary, symbols, hand-signals, proper dress, as well as how to rob banks, armored cars, and private homes NPR: All Things Considered, March 7 Because the process can take many years, only those convicted of very serious offences, such as murder or armed robbery, are successfully recruited into the organization. Thus, generally, Familiano leaders within prison are those that have been incarcerated the longest. Contrary to what past research has dictated, Koehler stresses that it is not required for an initiate to commit murder. Nor is it required for members to remain a member once they have been released and begin their lives on the outside. Membership in the gang is generally sought for protection from other gangs. In the case of a member of the Familia defecting to another gang, the Familia will usually order a contract hit. Often, membership can also alleviate the psychological harm imposed by confinement and the constant threat of danger. Communication and Symbolism According to Koehler, the Familia is a secretive and strongly-cohesive group, and judging by their self-assuredness, ideological adherence, and solidarity, perhaps resistant to change. In contrast, the number 13 is reserved for the Mexican Mafia, corresponding to the letter "M. Some inmates sport tattoos of a black eagle with arched wings on their wrists. In graffiti, this black eagle points north. The eagle can also be designed to convey a specific message: For language and communication, the Familia uses legal mail and scraps of paper filled with small, almost microscopic letters. They also use code words written in Nahuatl, an Aztec language. The Familia has been known to construct "Bad News Lists," containing hundreds of names and identifying characteristics of gang members slated to be attacked if admitted to the prison. Many Familia leaders on the outside also employ scanner radios to monitor police transmissions. The Nuestra Familia, like all prison gangs, are undoubtedly a highly-secretive, suspicious, and dedicated criminal organization, similarly committed to upholding the cultural identity in the hierarchy of social, criminal, and prison culture.

2: Nuestra Familia - Wikipedia

This book follows the life of Robert Gratton, one of the highest-ranking members of La Nuestra Familia, one of California's most violent prison gangs credited with over murders. Until now, little has been known about its year history and activities. Members follow a blood oath and are sworn.

Stanford University Press Format Available: This was an extraordinary era in the California prisons, one that saw the emergence of a highly developed radical convict resistance movement inside prison walls. This inmate groundswell was fueled at times by remarkable individual prisoners, at other times by groups like the Black Muslims or the San Quentin chapter of the Black Panther Party. But most often resistance grew from much wider sources and in quiet corners: The author examines the efforts of prison staff to augment other methods of inmate management by attempting to modify convict ideology by means of "bibliotherapy" and communication control, and describes convict resistance to these attempts as control. Edward Elgar Publishing Format Available: The original contributions to the Research Handbook provide an introduction to the application of Austrian economics to law. The book begins with chapters on the methodology of law and economics. Further chapters discuss key concepts in Austrian economics – dynamic competitive processes, spontaneous order, subjective value, entrepreneurship, and the limited nature of individual knowledge – as they relate to topics in evolutionary law social rules, self-governance, dispute resolution and basic law torts, antitrust, civil procedure, business and family law. While the second edition of Crime and Criminal Justice in American Society includes the most recent statistics on the police, courts, and corrections, its provocative, current examples also spur critical thinking about justice in the United States. The authors offer an alternative interpretation of criminal justice rarely presented in traditional textbooks or by the media. They encourage readers to examine their beliefs about crime, punishment, and the law. Discussions in the chapters about how African Americans, Hispanics, whites, women, juveniles, the rich, and the poor experience crime and the criminal justice system contribute context for understanding different viewpoints. The poor and minorities are the most likely to be caught in the net of criminal justice – but inequities have consequences for everyone. Reflection on various perspectives provides helpful input for assessing attitudes and for becoming actively involved with issues that have significant consequences. Eighteen thoroughly revised chapters present historical backgrounds, theories, and emerging issues. New to the second edition is a chapter on veterans involved in the criminal justice system. Affordable, succinct, and engaging, this textbook presents the key concepts of the criminal justice system at less than half the cost of many competing textbooks. Author Stacey Chillemi Language: Lulu Press, Inc Format Available: Do you know who your child is socializing with outside the home? Are you protecting your child from gang activity through taking positive actions, such as monitoring their activities, fostering close relationships with them, and using positive discipline strategies? Parents play a pivotal role in keeping young people out of gangs. Most parents think not my child and lack information about gangs. Most gang members tend to be adolescents or young adults, however, recent trends indicate that children are being recruited into gangs at a much earlier age, some when they are in elementary school. Gangs can include people of every gender, race, culture and socioeconomic group. This book is geared toward parents trying to keep their kids away from gangs, drugs and violence, gang members who are looking for a way out, or readers who just want to learn about gangs and how to keep kids away from gangs, drugs and violence.

3: The Rise and Fall of the Nuestra Familia : Nina Fuentes :

From the Publisher. The Rise and Fall of the Nuestra Familia is the true story of Robert Lee Gratton, who hopes that its grim reality will help turn the lives of young people away from gangs and in a positive direction.

4: Nuestra Familia Prison Gang: Inside Prison

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