

A Publication of The Pennsylvania Prison Society

GRATERFRIENDS

Promoting a humane, just and constructive correctional system and a rational approach to criminal justice since 1787

Special Report PA State Prison Smoking Ban

Pennsylvania Prison Society Staff

Beginning on the first of July, all tobacco products - which includes cigarettes, cigars, tobacco, tobacco substitutes, lighters, pipes, pipe cleaners, filters, rolling papers, roller aprons and rollers - will be banned from every Pennsylvania State Prison. This new policy was announced in March in a press release by Corrections Secretary John Wetzel:

“Last year we made SCI Graterford tobacco free prior to relocating that facility to the new SCI Phoenix. Based on that successful transition and on the fact that several other prisons already are tobacco free, we have decided to make all state prisons tobacco free. Doing so promotes a healthier environment, which benefits both employees and inmates and increases facility safety through the elimination of black-market tobacco sales inside the prisons.”

This ban will affect both inmates and staff. According to the press release, inmates and staff will be permitted to use DOC-approved disposable/non-refillable e-cigarettes only in designated areas. Inmates will also have smoking cessation programs, educational materials and support groups aimed at helping smokers quit as well as nicotine patches available to purchase through the prison medical department.

Smoking has already been banned in SCIs Phoenix, Chester, Pine Grove and Quehanna Boot Camp. Smoking has technically been banned in Federal Prisons since

tobacco products were removed from commissary shelves in 2006, but it was formally banned in 2014 with exceptions for religious purposes.

According to Philly.com, in 2017, cancers of the lung and larynx, chronic pulmonary obstruction, and heart disease accounted for at least one-third of deaths in Pennsylvania state prisons and smoking is more than twice as prevalent among inmates as it is in the outside world. Smoking is undoubtedly harmful to one's health, but for prisoners dealing with high stress circumstances, nicotine has a huge calming effect of nicotine which can affect not only the smoker but all other inmates and prison staff.

Furthermore, past instances of prison smoking bans resulted in incarcerated individuals continuing to smoke. This is partially because employees in prisons (many of whom also smoke and would now be prohibited from doing so) may not be motivated to diligently enforce new smoking bans. Though smoking bans may eventually reduce healthcare costs, officials will need to address the links between depression, nicotine addiction, and nicotine withdrawal symptoms that have been found in past research. An additional concern is that with the banning of tobacco, another commodity will likely arise as the new optimal form of extralegal currency in informal prison economies.

A UK report found that, after banning

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smoking in prisons, “non-smoking prisoners reported to the Board that, whereas previously they would share a cell with another non-smoker, they did not feel able to complain about their cellmate to obtain a cell transfer when they were smoking illicitly.” Non-smoking prisoners at prisons where smoking is banned have also complained that air quality has declined since bans took place since smokers were now turning to homemade cigarettes made of any variety of ingredients as well as other harmful and illicit substances.

Prison staff are also concerned about the possible negative effects of this ban. “I am concerned that this will put officers in a more volatile situation,” Jason Bloom, President of the Pennsylvania State Correc-

(See Special Report, continued on page 3)

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Prison Society Members and Supporters:

At our core the Prison Society is just that, a Society, a group of people who have come together to form a community. A community dedicated to the proposition that all among us are entitled a life of dignity and caring -- regardless of commission of crime, mistakes, or poverty. A community that believes that the criminal justice system should restore hope and the possibility of a life of virtue and happiness, not dash hope and end lives.

Last month we celebrated 232 years of this community. A community dedicated to extending compassion to those living behind prison walls. Not caring about the reason why someone is behind bars, just simply committed to extending compassion.

We received a letter a few months ago from a Graterfriends reader who has been incarcerated in Pennsylvania since the 1970s. He said that, during his first decade living in a Pennsylvania prison, Prison Society volunteers were on his housing unit every month. They cared, were helpful, checked on things, provided a social connection, helped bring programming into the prison. Now, 40 years later, he almost never hears of or sees a Society volunteer. He wonders what happened to us.

The answer is mass incarceration. In 1980 there were 14,000 Pennsylvanians living in state and county prisons. Today there are 80,000. That's more than a 6-fold increase. Today, one percent of Pennsylvania's adult population lives behind bars.

In 1829, Society volunteers organized themselves to go behind prison walls to report "on abuse, infraction of law, or oppression." The goal was for Society volunteers meet with each incarcerated

person at least once a week. A 1941 Society pamphlet reports "it was soon clear, that the number of volunteers were all out of proportion to the number of inmates." The Society needed to retool and redesign how it advanced its mission of citizen volunteers keeping incarcerated people safe, humanely treated, and poised to return to the outside.

We are at a similar moment. Mass incarceration has meant that the way we do things is all out of proportion to the number of people on the inside. And so we are modernizing. Earlier this year, thanks to the foresight and financial support of the Barra Foundation, we onboarded our first ever prison Monitoring Director Joshua Alvarez, to redesign for this moment how we have the biggest impact in, what has become, the greatest civil rights and human rights problem of our day.

A chorus of volunteers across the state have jumped at the chance to work with Josh in reimagining and reinvigorating our work. Our tireless Director of Volunteers John Hargreaves has made this moment possible through his decades-long work strengthening our volunteer corps and our relationships with correctional officials. In Josh, John and our unparalleled volunteer network we have an incredible team poised to transform what citizen correctional monitoring looks like.

This is a massive endeavor. It is only possible thanks to the generosity and commitment of each Society supporter. Much as our founders were revolutionaries, creating a democracy, envisioning a restorative criminal justice system, so are you today. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Claire Shubik-Richards

GRATERFRIENDS

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Graterfriends is a publication from the Pennsylvania Prison Society. The organization was founded in 1787 to promote humane prisons and a rational approach to criminal justice.

We reserve the right to edit submissions. Original submissions will not be returned. We will not print anonymous letters. Allegations of misconduct must be documented and statistics should be supported by sources. All submissions should be no more than 500 words, or two double-spaced pages. Letters more than 200 words, or one double-spaced page will not be published in their entirety and may be shortened for clarity and space.

To protect Graterfriends from copyright infringement, please attach a letter, or a note on your submission, stating that you are the original author of the work submitted for publication; date and sign the declaration.

If you have a question about Graterfriends, please contact our staff by mail, email, or phone.

(Special Report, continued from page 1)

tional Officers Association, said in a statement, “We’re concerned that there is not enough resources in place to assist inmates with tobacco withdrawal. That presents safety issues for our officers. With assaults on our officers being a major concern right now, this must be addressed.”

Despite all of this, some supporters claim that if advanced notice of the ban and adequate resources are provided to help individuals quit smoking, they are more likely to adhere to the new policies without excessive resistance.

Prison smoking bans are not new and they have been met around the US and the world with wildly varying results. It is hard to predict what effects these massive changes will bring to PA state prisons, but, regardless of the issue, PPS believes that any massive change to prison policy such as this should be done slowly and incrementally.

LOVE ABOVE BARS BASH

At the annual event held at Eastern State Penitentiary on June 5th, we honored two individuals and one group who have contributed most to incarcerated people, improved prison conditions, and/or prison reform.

The Julia Glover Hall Incarcerated Person of the Year: Samuel Barlow was honored for being a leader, a stabilizing force, a quiet presence, a tireless mentor, a community leader, and an imam for fellow inmates. He was able to attend the event thanks to the commutation of his sentence by Governor Wolf in April of this year.

Mr. Barlow, who was the last man to be held on death row at Eastern State before it closed, spoke as he approached the prison 50 years later, “When you’re in a car and in shackles, it definitely doesn’t look like this,” he told his fiancée, Karen Lee, who was watching his face warily for signs of PTSD.

Although incarcerated for 50 years, he never lost faith that he would be free. While in prison, he found way to mentor those inside and outside. His autobiography, *Life Without Murder*, was published in March 2018. Prof. Carl Milofsky, a sociology professor at Bucknell University, calls him a “complex visionary.” Karen Lee describes him as “one of the most humble and intelligent people I’ve ever had the pleasure of meeting.”

Correctional Officer of the Year: Thomas McGinley, superintendent at SCI Coal Township, was honored for his compassionate treatment of incarcerated individuals under his supervision. He is known for being remarkably accessible, responsive, considerate, and available to speak with inmates and families. His view is that “If my loved ones were incarcerated, how would I want them to be treated? That’s my daily creed.”

Coincidentally, it turned out that Barlow had been housed in Coal Township for 22 years, knew McGinley, and had received Mc-

Ginley’s support for his attempts to gain commutation. The men expressed gratitude to each other. “I believed if there was anyone deserving of commutation, it was Mr. Barlow...I’ve learned from Sam, and it’s men like Sam who put me in the position I’m in today.” Barlow, who applied for commutation 14 times over the last 40 years, believes McGinley’s recommendation was crucial.

Official Visitor of the Year: Rather than honor an individual, PPS honored the Philadelphia Chapter of PPS Official Visitors for their outstanding service to inmates in the city. The award was accepted on their behalf by their outgoing Convener, Malik Neal, who has revitalized the Chapter. He has increased the diversity of visitors, has drawn in younger volunteers, and has leveraged internet tools for tracking requests and outcomes.

MAIL AND BOOK POLICIES

The Prison Society continues to monitor the impact of the Fall 2018 mail and book policies. Complaints about these policies have decreased significantly. It appears that delays in receiving mail have been reduced and copy quality has improved.

The Society continues to receive complaints about books and magazines being returned. In fact, the last edition of Graterfriends was returned to the Society despite our confirmation with DOC Central Office that we were using the correct address and protocols.

The DOC has explained that several book distributors and magazines are unable to fit the full address of the new, central DOC book and magazine clearinghouse onto their labels. As a result, the address is often cut off, causing the Postal Service, UPS, or Fed Ex to return the magazine or book. The DOC recommends abbreviating the address as follows:

FOR BOOKS AND MAGAZINES SENT TO THE SECURITY PROCESSING CENTER (SPC):
SPC - John X. Smith/AB1234
268 Bricker Rd
Bellefonte, PA 16823-1667

FOR LETTERS, CARDS, AND PHOTOS SENT TO SMART COMMUNICATIONS (SC)
SC - John X. Smith/AB1234
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg FL 116823-1677

If necessary, the acronym (SPC or SC) can be omitted entirely.

**Want to subscribe to
Graterfriends?**

See the order form on page 24.

REPORT FROM
NICOLE SLOANE, ESQ.
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY

Charging Multiple DUI Offences for the Same Incident Violates Double Jeopardy

After a motor vehicle accident allegedly caused by her impaired driving, Lisa Bezick was convicted of three different DUI offenses. A witness reported that he observed Bezick driving erratically as she swerved in and out of travel lanes prior to impact. As a result of her impaired driving and the accident, Bezick was charged with DUI highest rate of alcohol, DUI general impairment (where an accident resulted in damage to a vehicle) and DUI general impairment. Each offense was considered Bezick's second offense within the last 10 years for sentencing purposes.

The court sentenced Bezick on the first count of DUI to 90 days of house arrest with a concurrent two years of probation. The court then merged the second and third DUI counts with the first offense.

Bezick appealed, arguing that her rights were violated under the Double Jeopardy Clause of the Fifth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 10 of the Pennsylvania Constitution when she was convicted of more than one DUI offense from the same incident. *Commonwealth v. Bezick*, 2019 Pa. Super. 104 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2019).

Bezick's argument relied upon the Court's holding in *Commonwealth v. Farrow*, 168 A.3d 207 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2017). In *Farrow*, the Superior Court held that where a single DUI offense is subject to enhancements (such as for an accident or a refusal), the prosecution must only charge a single count in the criminal information and include any enhancements as subparts of that single count. While referencing the decision in *Farrow*, the Superior Court panel in *Bezick* vacated Bezick's sentences, remanding for resentencing.

The Superior Court panel acknowledged that although the double jeopardy issue was raised for the first time in Bezick's appeal, the issue is not to be considered waived. The reason is because a double jeopardy objection raises a sentence legality issue which can raise a sentence legality issue which can be raised for the first time on appeal. The Bezick panel further held that there had been a violation of the protection against double jeopardy despite the fact that Bezick's sentence for the second and third DUI counts merged into the sentence imposed for the first count. The panel pointed out that merging the sentences does not cure the defect in that PennDOT may issue multiple driver's license suspensions for multiple convictions even though the sentences were merged and even though the DUI charges originated from the same incident.

In summation, the Commonwealth violates a defendant's protection against double jeopardy under both the United States and

Pennsylvania Constitutions when it charges separate criminal counts of DUI for one criminal episode. The Commonwealth is instructed to charge a single DUI offense per criminal episode and add enhancements as subparts or subparagraphs as appropriate. In this way, multiple DUI convictions and corresponding sentences for the same criminal conduct will be eliminated but the factfinder will still be able to make the necessary findings with respect to the DUI enhancements.

PRISON LITERACY PROJECT REVISITED

by Joan H. Behr, PLP Co-Founder and Volunteer

It's hard to believe that the Prison Literacy Project (PLP) has been active at SCI Graterford (now Phoenix) for 34 years. It was created in April 1984 when 13 outside volunteers met with SCIG student council members to develop a literacy tutoring program. Our unique co-management structure was what made the PLP so vibrant and successful. Each month, project participants met at SCIG to discuss such management areas as finance, communications, tutor administration, outreach and enrollment, integrity and well-being.

We are grateful for the contributions of co-directors Mitch Blatstein and Steve Blackburn, tutor administrators Mary McNichol and Yusef Jones, and newsletter editors John Griffin and Prudence Greco-Morgan. James Miller was in charge of security and I was communications co-manager with Leon Johnson, Rayford Cole, and several others. Tyrone Werts, Andre Martin, Kevin Mines, Hakim Brown, Bull Greer, Gary Kretchmar, and Hameen Washington were all involved in some capacity helping us to get started and keeping us on track.

What made our project work was its guiding principles. Our vision: that individuals inside and outside prison are members of one and the same community. Our purpose: to have prison residents learn to read or significantly raise their reading levels through ongoing literacy tutoring programs. All project participants would experience community partnership and empowerment through personal interactions.

Because of these goals, in addition to one-on-one literacy tutoring, the PLP published a recruitment brochure, a handbook, two volumes of prison writings, a newsletter, and produced an Emmy-nominated documentary. Two projects based on PLP concepts were created: one at Trenton State Prison and another at PLP West in Three Rivers, Texas, thanks to John Griffin.

Our tutors, both inside and outside, were trained by the Center for Literacy, the (Philadelphia) Mayor's Commission on Literacy, and the Norristown Literacy Council. During our formative years, supporters within the prison administration included the Deputy Superintendent Thomas Stachelek, School Principal Irv

Schmuckler, State Educational Coordinator Jim Symmons, and also included our fearless volunteer advocate Joan Gauker, then director of volunteers.

Thanks to Barbara Rittenhouse, current volunteer coordinator, SCIG had peer tutoring. The PLP worked alongside those student-tutor pairs ably mentored by Rob Bender. Starting at Phoenix last November, the PLP had 13 outside tutors weekly. In January, Villanova student tutors who come each term will have returned.

Although the PLP may not have the same inside-outside personality and structure as before, there is an intact management team (Paul Perry and colleagues) who arrange for inmate tutors and meet quarterly with outside tutors and appropriate staff members. Newsletters have been published and Letters to My Younger Self, writings from inmate students and tutors, was published in 2016. An active playwriting group has already performed its first play, with another in progress.

It has been my privilege to be a part of the very special original PLP management team. Being involved with the creation of the PLP at SCIG is one of my most memorable experiences. Inside-outside volunteers developed a unique partnership in tutoring prisoners in reading and writing. That accomplishment and my continuing relationships with PLPers manifests our vision and purpose.

IN THE NEWS

The First Step Act

Recently released information on the bipartisan federal First Step Act shows that criminal justice reform is possible. An independent agency reports that, since the law was enacted four months ago, more than 1,000 federal inmates who were incarcerated due to crack cocaine offenses, had their sentences reduced.

According to The New York Times, “The old crack laws were a vestige of the racist war on drugs started in the 1970s. Offenders convicted of crack-related offenses, a vast majority of them African-American, received unduly punitive sentences — about 100 times harsher than those imposed on white, more affluent offenders who were convicted of crimes related to powdered cocaine.... Under First Step... federal inmates across the country who had been sentenced under the old crack laws began to apply for relief — and judges began reducing their sentences, which resulted in many of them being set free. According to the Sentencing Commission, the average sentence reduction has been 73 months, or a little more than six years.”

Supporters of First Act predict that it will lead to the release of 3,000 more federal inmates and will continue to benefit inmates who are seen as low risk or show good conduct. While this is only a first step, it seems likely to inspire similar reforms by individual states.

PA Board of Pardons

This April, Lieutenant Governor John Fetterman announced the appointment of Brandon Flood as the new Secretary of the PA Board of Pardons. Flood has worked as a policy aid to legislators for many years, as a lobbyist, and Executive Director of the House Black Caucus.

What is perhaps most remarkable about his appointment is his personal experience with the criminal justice system in Pennsylvania. Years ago, he spent nine years in prison after conviction for a firearms violation and for possession with intent to deliver cocaine. [A few weeks before the appointment, Governor Wolf pardoned Flood to allow him to qualify for the appointment.] Thus he brings a unique perspective to the job. Importantly, he has made efforts to reassure the public that he will be an advocate for victims as well as those convicted of crimes.

He joins a five-member board of Pardons that includes: Lieutenant Governor Fetterman, Governor Wolf, Attorney General Josh Shapiro, a corrections expert, a psychiatrist and a victim representative. The Board is responsible for restoring certain legal rights to defendants such as serving on a jury, buying a gun, or holding public office. Those who are pardoned still need to apply for the expungement of their record. The pardon application is now free but there is still a charge to expunge the record.

His first priorities as Secretary will be to: improve public awareness of the pardon process, add regional sites to help reach more applicants, grant pardons more quickly to the most worthy candidates, make expungement automatic after a pardon is granted, and support legislation for other ways to improve the fairness and efficiency of the pardon process.

Pro-Se Defendant Wins Case

May 6, 2019. Hassan Bennett was acquitted of a murder charge after acting as his own lawyer. He was in prison for 12 years and endured three previous trials: the first ended in a mistrial, the second ended in a conviction that was later overturned, the third resulted in a hung jury.

Hassan told the Philadelphia Inquirer, “I stayed in the [prison] law library. I read every book I got my hands on, whether it was law work or history,” he said, “and I would practice and review other lawyers’ writings, then I would write. My biggest hurdle was overcoming the naysayers and the myths.”

Hassan’s key argument in the fourth trial was the lack of credibility of the detective involved in his case, an individual who has faced other recent allegations of misconduct such as forcing statements from witnesses and suspects. The Philadelphia Inquirer reported that Hassan is now considering working as a legal investigator and applying to law school.

BOOK CASE

Prison Legal News

The Human Rights Defense Center (HRDC) was originally founded in 1990 in Washington State as Prisoners' Legal News (later Prison Legal News). The initial purpose of the organization was to publish a monthly newsletter of the same name to give a voice to prisoners, their families and others affected by criminal justice policies in Washington. By 1993 the newsletter had grown into a magazine with nationwide news coverage and circulation.

HRDC publishes Prison Legal News (PLN), a monthly magazine that reports on news and legal and political developments involving the criminal justice system. Originally started in 1990 as a 10-page newsletter covering issues in Washington state, PLN has expanded to a 72-page national publication with approximately 9,000 subscribers and a readership of 8-10 times that number based on subscriber survey data.

Each issue of PLN contains news articles and litigation case reports involving the U.S. criminal justice system. In more than 24 years of continuous publishing, PLN has established itself as the foremost publication dedicated exclusively to reporting on the human rights of people detained in correctional facilities. PLN is also the longest-running prisoners' rights publication in American history, and in 2013 received the First Amendment Award from the Society of Professional Journalists.

The HRDC also coordinates several special projects, including the National Campaign for Prison Phone Justice, which seeks to reduce the cost of phone calls made by prisoners to stay in contact with their families, friends and loved ones (see www.phonejustice.org and www.prisonphonejustice.org) and the Stop Prison Profiteering campaign (www.stopprisonprofiteering.org), which targets the financial exploitation of prisoners and their families through fee-based video visitation, debit release cards and money transfer fees, among other services.

Subscription Information:

Prison Legal News (\$36 for one year; 12 issues)
info@prisonlegalnews.org
www.prisonlegalnews/subscribe/print/

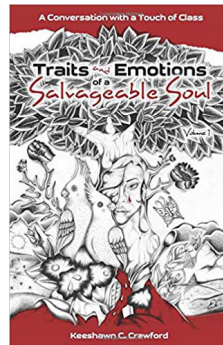
For more information on PLN and HRDC:
561-360-2523 (9:00-6:00 EST)
PO Box 1151 Lake Worth FL 33460

Prison Living Magazine: 2019 Special Edition

The first annual issue of this magazine offers information on free or inexpensive stuff for inmates, including: 29 sources for free books, 18 free catalogs, 19 legal resources, health care and religious newsletters, correspondence bible courses, and advertisements for books by inmate authors. They welcome information on organizations that provide free information, products or service for prisoners (no more than 10 suggestions per contributor).

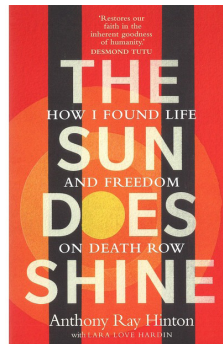
This year PLM is launching a fundraising effort to pay for distribution of free copies of the magazine to 800 U.S. prisons. At this time, the subscription cost for individuals is \$14.95 (mail checks, payable to Prison Living Press, to P O Box 1302 Glendale AZ 85318). The entire 2019 issue can be viewed by families and friends online, at no cost, at PrisonLivingMagazine.com/free.

Traits and Emotions of a Salvageable Soul by Keeshawn C. Crawford



All people have their own remarkable intrinsic value, and it's time we recognize it in ourselves and share it with the people in our lives. From the wisdom of elders comes *Traits and Emotions of a Salvageable Soul: A Conversation with a Touch of Class*, a guide to growing and healing ourselves so that we can live the quality of life we were always meant to live. From life's hard lessons, Crawford offers the reader encouragement and truth, a path for using life's challenges to overcome and even thrive. Don't give up, he reminds us. Every one of us has great potential and purpose. We just need to have faith in ourselves and courage. (Available at Amazon.com for \$9.49).

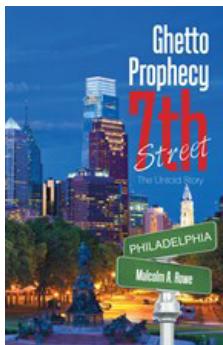
The Sun Does Shine: How I Found Life and Freedom on Death Row by Anthony Ray Hinton



"Ray Hinton is extraordinary, an example to us all of the power of the human spirit to rise above complete injustice. He is using his experience as a way to turn the broken criminal justice system upside down. He is a brilliant storyteller, and his book will make people laugh, cry, and change their own lives for the better. It will also inspire people to never accept the unacceptable, like the death penalty." - Richard Branson

A powerful, revealing story of hope, love, justice, and the power of reading by a man who spent thirty years on death row for a crime he didn't commit. (Available at Amazon.com for \$4-\$28.)

Ghetto Prophecy by Malcolm A. Rowe

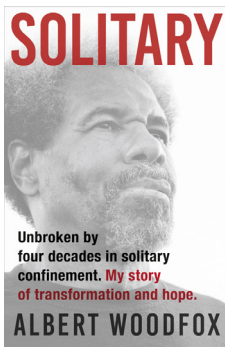


Urban street culture has changed. There is no longer any such thing as respect, honesty, trustworthiness, or loyalty. Most of these young street guys who are now running around controlling the hustle game have all but lost their moral integrity. There is no real reason for any street hustler to be celebrating the hustling lifestyle - a lifestyle that has brought the African American communities so much hurt and pain should not be looked upon

as a thing of beauty by today's youth. It is crack, dope, pills, and weed smoke that has led today's youth down the wrong path.

With this novel, *Ghetto Prophecy 7th Street: The Untold Story*, Rowe attempts to bring the plight of a race of colored people, who had so much hope and promise, to the world's stage. The sheer brilliance of the average street hustler can only be compared to major business CEOs. Today's *Ghetto Prophecy 7th Street: The Untold Story* will forever change the urban storytelling game. This remarkable, marvelous, emotionally gripping, thought-provoking street epic will be praised by mainstream society. This is a powerful Philadelphia story, so Philly readers definitely should not be left out of the loop. (Available at Amazon.com for \$4-\$27).

Solitary by Albert Woodfox

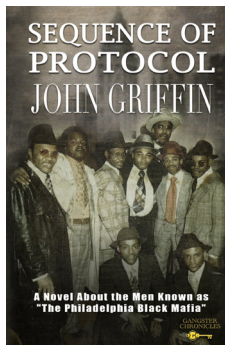


Solitary is the unforgettable life story of a man who served more than four decades in solitary confinement in a 6-foot by 9-foot cell, 23 hours a day, in notorious Angola prison in Louisiana all for a crime he did not commit. That Albert Woodfox survived was, in itself, a feat of extraordinary endurance against the violence and deprivation he faced daily. That he was able to emerge whole from his odyssey within America's prison and judicial systems is a triumph of the human spirit,

and makes his book a clarion call to reform the inhumanity of solitary confinement in the U.S. and around the world.

Remarkably self-aware that anger or bitterness would have destroyed him in solitary confinement... Albert turned his anger into activism and resistance. The Angola 3, as they became known, resolved never to be broken by the grinding inhumanity and corruption that effectively held them for decades as political prisoners. He survived to give us *Solitary*, a chronicle of rare power and humanity that proves the better spirits of our nature can thrive against any odds. (Available at Amazon.com for \$14-\$25).

Sequence of Protocol by John Griffin

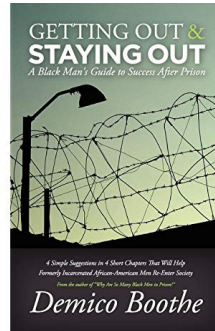


Mr. Griffin has been incarcerated for 40 years and has college degrees in both Human Services and Marketing. In 2002 he self-published an autobiography entitled, *A Letter To My Father*, a revealing account of a son's personal memories to his deceased father about the love and strength of their family. He shares his experiences of growing up in Philadelphia surrounded by racial images while trying to find his place. His search leads him to the Black Nationalist ideology

of the Nation of Islam, community activism and crime. In 2010, he self-published a sensational murder mystery entitled *Screams From The Coffin*. In 2014, his novel *Sequence of Protocol* was selected for publication with GC Worldwide, along with *First Shot*

Fired. He has been writing since childhood and has published a poetry and short fiction booklet, *Inside/Out*, a literary magazine, and *Images and Legacy*, a book of poems. He teaches paragraph writing classes to assist younger inmates in earning their GED and was one of the founders of a project known as The Prison Literacy Project. (Available for Amazon Kindle for \$5, paperback version is currently out of stock).

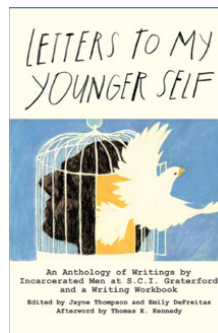
Getting Out and Staying Out by Demico Boothe



The United States of America has more people behind bars than any other country in the world and every year nearly 700,000 prisoners get released back into society, the largest percentage of them being black males. *Getting Out and Staying Out* is a short, easy to read set of guidelines intended to help incarcerated and newly freed African-American men learn how to most productively do their time while in prison, know what to expect once they are released, understand that

entrepreneurship and self-employment is what their long-term focus should be on instead of a job and understand the importance of stable relationships and how they aid in successful re-entry. If followed, the advice and suggestions given in this simple guide should prove helpful for black men who are serious about getting out of prison and not ever going back. (Available at Amazon.com for \$9.95)

Letters to My Younger Self



In this anthology, incarcerated men in the Prison Literacy Project at SCI Graterford contribute pieces about regretful decisions made or painful experiences in their youth, fearlessly exposing their vulnerability. The men chose many methods of sharing their messages: some wrote letters to their younger selves or family members telling of their struggles growing up in difficult circumstances. They reached out from behind the prison walls to caution young offenders while they still have time to change their lives. But they speak to us all. They remind us all about choices, consequences, and caring for others. (Available at Amazon.com for \$1.32-\$10).

Please remember that any submissions we receive will NOT be published without permission to print and a note stating that you are the original author.

Submissions without either of these two requirements will not be printed. We also cannot print copyrighted material. Original submissions will not be returned.

OUR VOICES

The Real Epidemic: The Loss of Hope *Patrick Middleton, PhD, AK-3703, SCI Albion*

Warden Michael Clark recently published a letter to the prisoners at Albion addressing what he calls an epidemic: the use of dangerous synthetic drugs (K-2, Spice) and the extreme reactions these drugs are bringing to some of the users. The Warden notes that there have been multiple adverse reactions over the past several months (one episode last week, two this week!). While even a single case of someone going berserk after using these drugs is one too many, calling the situation an epidemic is an extravagant exaggeration. Of the 2,000 plus prisoners here at Albion, fewer than 200 (10%) are using these dangerous drugs. Typhoid was an epidemic, AIDS was an epidemic. There's no epidemic here.

We are being asked to help the Warden fight his war on drugs by turning in anyone we see or know who is either using or selling them. To encourage our cooperation, the Warden advises that the prison will be locked down and shaken down every time there is an episode involving these drugs, a sort of "time out" for everyone. Then the men who are caught engaging in these activities are doubly punished, first with solitary confinement, and later with the loss of their visiting privileges - sometimes for years.

Here's a novel idea for you, Sir: Why don't you try addressing the real epidemic in this prison? BOREDOM, ALIENATION, HOSTILITY and INDIFFERENCE, and a sheer LACK OF ENCOURAGEMENT on the part of staff from the top down, not counting the few exceptional men and women who "get" what their jobs and life are all about? Are you really clueless as to why these young men are cutting and stabbing each other, using drugs and plotting this way and that? The great nineteenth century Russian author Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote this in his own prison cell in Siberia: "I declare that the best of men can grow hardened and degraded to the level of a beast by nothing more than force of habit." This is still true today, in this prison and in other prisons in this state. There was a time when wardens and prisons brought hope, encouragement, and incentives to the prisoners in the form of meaningful vocational programs and therapy sessions led by highly qualified and caring psychiatrists.

The loss of hope is the real epidemic. One day, Mr. Warden, you will feel compelled to ask, "How do I bring hope and meaning to these young prisoners before they wake up and realize they need more than a drink or a fix to relieve their pain?"

One day these men are going to be poked and spit on and ignored for the last time. They're going to rise, rise, rise and shout from every tier, "No more! No more!" It might start after one of them reads how Gandhi freed his people from British tyranny with nothing more than simple passive resistance. Lock us down, knock us down, if you want! We will not clean your floors, your offices, or your toilets any longer! We will not serve your meals, do your laundry, mow your lawns, fix your cracks in the side-

walks, or bounce your basketballs! Not until you give us our God-given right to improve ourselves.

Empowerment! That's what the men will call it. And there will be an outbreak of this peaceful empowerment. It will spread like uncontrollable laughter in a room full of people, strong and brawny and impossible to ignore. And all the world will hear it and chant, "Power to the prisoners!" And the warden will say, "Whoa! Wait a minute! Wait a minute! We get it now! Here's your welding school, plumbing tools, IT courses, college prep programs, college, group therapy, and here's the key to the prison greenhouse where you will find seeds to plant beautiful flowers and roses for my secretaries. And here's one more thing: From now on, we're going to work together. What do you say?"

We thought you'd never ask, Mr. Warden!

Respect is Due to a Dog *Curry Robinson, GR-5392, SCI Houtzdale*

I am of the belief that the Prison system is not only there to protect society from those who need to be here, but also to protect those who need to be here from society as well.

I have been at Houtzdale for many years and have experienced many correctional staff members, as well as inmates come and go. Nonetheless, there is one constant, that being the attitude of "we are right, and you are wrong, merely because you are an inmate." My mother used to say frequently, "Respect is due to a dog." I believe this statement not only applies to inmates, but more so to the correctional staff at all levels of corrections.

To have the disposition that you can disseminate indifference and procure a level of obedience and trust among those in whom authority over has been entrusted in you, is self-absorbed. In most correctional settings, the idea of "learning to take responsibility" is a major issue for rehabilitation. However, if there are no positive examples from those that are charged with authority over the inmate population, this hypocritical display of inconsistencies will damage the core effects of reform.

Here is an example, although it is not considered a big deal by some, I believe it is an important tool to measure the attitude of most correctional staff as a whole. I was sitting in my cell waiting for the block officer to call halftime out to yard. After hearing the block officer yell a few times at other inmates that halftime had not been called, and other inmates screaming through their cell doors that it had (for they can see the walk out to the yard through their cell windows), five minutes later the block officer called halftime out to the yard.

Then as I was attempting to go to the yard, and walking down the walkway, all the blocks started to coming in, indicating that halftime movement out to the yard had been terminated by the officer at the yard gate, and not thinking that the block officer would vehemently argue his point of halftime not being called, I didn't really think of it until I got to the yard gate. One correctional officer was very understanding that it was the block officer's

mistake and didn't want to send me back considering I was not in control of the situation.

To make a long story short, a sergeant in the yard very decisively said to me, "You missed the halftime, go back to the block!" Most people would think the problem was with the sergeant directing me to go back to the block...not so. The problem was his unwillingness to place responsibility on the right individual, due to me being an inmate. Acknowledgement that your subordinate co-worker is the cause of an error goes a long way in building a common human respect for those that are in authority over those in prison.

If the sergeant would have taken the time to call the block officer to confirm that he just called half time and decided to still send me back to the block, then this would build up a common respect and an ethical standard of fairly dealing with persons respectfully.

When a person is forced to be held accountable for another's shortcomings, this is not a positive example of "accepting responsibility." It is not justifiable for those in prison to be punished for the wrong doing of others. We are still human, and with every human, especially those in authority, there must be extra efforts to ensure that standards of reform and rehabilitation are at the forefront of every decision, policy and interaction with those that have no more power than a child put in your care. Before an inmate can rehabilitate to higher standards of conduct, they must be taught and given positive examples of that to follow. Is that not the mission of the justice system and the Department of Corrections as a whole?

Program or No Program, That is the Question

Rev. Augustus Anthony Simmons Enoch, KL-2144, SCI Forest

I want civil society and prison populations in Pennsylvania to be aware of the fraudulent use of treatment programs by the PA DOC! While I will focus on my experiences, I know others have had similar experiences in Greene, Forest, and Fayette (aka "the triangle of hell"). Those of us who have angered the administration by filing grievances, speaking out against injustice, filing a lawsuit, or writing critical articles (such as this one), are typically transferred to one of the three prisons named above.

Since long-term isolation has been deemed unconstitutional (see *Shoats v. Wetzel* and *Arthur Johnson v. Wetzel*), the PA DOC now abuses various treatment units (DTUs, BTUs, MHUs, SMUs, and STGMYs) as weapons of mental war. There is no real treatment nor rehabilitation taking place in these units.

While in the STGMU, staff accused me of being a gang member even though I showed them proof of my life changes via religious books, devotion, and dedication to helping those in need. This accusation stems from filing grievances and a lawsuit against SCI Forest (see *Simmons v. Overmyer*). I complained that STGMU staff refused to allow those in the program to receive books, watch TV, maintain privacy (we are stripped nude when transferred), or participate in group activities in the yard or day room. Treatment groups are run poorly and we mainly do our work

alone in our cell without teacher contact. Inmates sit in their cells doing nothing or end up screaming at each other through the doors. If you don't accept the non-treatment, you are removed from the STGMU, like I was only a few days ago. Now I will be in solitary confinement for possibly another year or more, making it a total of seven years of RHU time since 2013. Are we just being warehoused by the PA DOC?

Inadequate Grievance System for Denial of Health Care

Rodney Hojnowski Jr., HQ-7055, SCI Albion

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections has a grievance system that inmates may utilize to redress a wrong that may have happen upon them. However, when it comes to medical issues the system is wholly inadequate.

An inmate has 15 working days to file a grievance after the date of the incident they are complaining of. The initial review answer is due within 15 working days. However, they have the option to get a 10 working day extension for further investigation. A first level appeal is due within 15 working days from the date of the initial denial and then there is a 15 working day period to answer. The final appeal must be filed with the chief, secretary's office of inmate Grievances and Appeals within 15 working days from the first appeal denial. The chief official has 30 working days to file a final answer.

The DOC has a current contract with correct care solutions to provide health care to the inmates within their care, custody, and control. When an inmate submits a sick-call they are seen by a physician, or physician assistant employed by correct care solutions. If the inmate is unhappy with the treatment, or feels they are not being provided treatment they may file a grievance.

The initial grievance is assigned to an official in the medical department at the facility whom is inferior to the Physician or Physician Assistant. This person has no authority to overrule the Physician or Physician Assistant's decision. Also, correct care solutions' policies and procedures require in most cases approval from a Regional Medical Director, or committee to issue treatment. The person answering the grievance is also inferior to these other officials too. The first level appeal is submitted to the Facility Manager whom is not a medical professional and does not have the knowledge to know if the inmate is being treated correctly or not.

The final level of appeal to the Chief Secretary's Office is now submitted to the Bureau of Health Care Services for review by medical professionals to issue an opinion to the Chief Official before they answer. This entire process takes anywhere between 3 to 4 months to complete, because the initial grievance on health care issues should be submitted immediately to the Bureau, because the system causes unnecessary delay to treatment.

ADVOCATES

October CADBI Rally in Harrisburg

David Lee, AS-3041, SCI Coal

If you have a Death By Incarceration (DBI) sentence you should pay close attention to the upcoming CADBI rally in October in Harrisburg, because your life is at stake (the exact date to be determined soon).

SB 135 introduced by State Senator Shariff Street and HB 135 introduced by State Representative Jason Dawkins will require tremendous support from our friends, family, and others in order to become law. It is imperative that we get them passed now when there is a good chance of sufficient support. Emails and phone calls to legislators are good but if we really want to get their attention, we need to get thousands of our supporters to the next Harrisburg rally, so they know that we are serious.

Legislation of this magnitude is controversial and will be contested at every step of the process. If we cannot show that Pennsylvanians are ready for this sort of legislative change, then it will not happen! We must share information with each other and figure out ways to transport our supporters to the rally in October. Please have your family and friends contact CADBI.

CADBI c/o Decarcerate PA
PO Box 40764, Philadelphia, PA 19107
P: 267-217-3372
W: www.DecarceratePA.info
E: DecarceratePA.pgh@gmail.com

Let's Stop the Criminals

Jerome Marshall, AV-5932, SCI Greene

According to our old and new contract agreement with J-Pay in Pennsylvania state prisons, money will be placed in an account within 48 business hours (or one week) of receipt of money orders. But J-Pay is now trying to say it will take 10 business days, which means four non-business days for a total of 14 days, not including the three to four days it takes to get there, which means two and a half or three weeks before we receive our money.

This is why we are having trouble receiving our money on time. So when our families and friends ask us to find out what happened? They are told repeatedly "If you want him or her to get the money sooner, then you should've used the electronic method, so he or she will get it overnight." This is not in the contract agreement. And they're deliberately holding it up that long to try to shake down our families, friends, and us to pay for electronic services. This is why our money is taking so long. This is extortion. I'm a criminal. I live among criminals. I know what extortion is.

We must write the Better Business Bureau and file a Grievance. If the DOC or the institution in which we reside, fail to uphold their responsibility to us, to stop this, then we must file a complaint with the Attorney General on this matter. Let's stop the criminals!

Parole Eligibility for Lifers

Tyreem M. Rivers, DK-2865, SCI Dallas

Crabs in a barrel attempt to pull others down, while genuinely good people help others get free. Getting free is only the first step, the next step is being good, being productive, staying free, and bettering ourselves, our families, and our communities.

For many of us, a potential Second Chance is a long-awaited dream. We have spent decades in prison for a 1st or 2nd degree murder charge. Now we have legislators, prisoner advocates, and others talking about parole eligibility for deserving lifers.

Many of us are not the same people we were when we committed our crimes. We are not bad people but rather people who may have made bad choices that cost us years of pain, regret, and remorse and caused others years of pain and sorrow. Our decades in prison not only served as a "lifetime of punishment," but also motivated us to change. With such change, we've come to realize that parole eligibility is not an absolute right, but rather a privilege.

Please help end mass incarceration by supporting ALL legislation which seeks to abolish life without parole in Pennsylvania!

Compassionate Release: Doctor and Family as Advocates

Ruth Hoskins, Ph.D., H.H.S., LCSW

What will it be like to die? Will I die in pain? Will I die alone? Will there be someone to comfort me and answer my questions? Will I be forgiven? No one wants to die alone, and people are afraid of dying in pain. End of life issues are a complicated time with strong emotions and anxious anticipation. Advocates are pushing for ways to help the incarcerated die with dignity, and hospice providers are beginning to serve this patient population in greater numbers, according to Home Health Care News.

The PA Department of Corrections originally implemented a program that trained inmates to assist with the care of patients within Pennsylvania SCI Dallas in 2001. On August 16th 2005 a Hospice Program was launched at Pennsylvania SCI Graterford where residents helped the sick and continued on when SCI Phoenix was opened in July 2018. The hospice support team is comprised of SCI Medical staff, Administrative staff, Chaplaincy and the hospice men, all of whom have cared for approximately 65 terminally ill residents helping them to move on peacefully and with dignity. Although the SCI Phoenix hospice program is growing, deferment of sentence medical parole also called compassionate release is not. There have been only 3 residents who have been granted medical release to a licensed hospice facility or home hospice since the inception of the hospice program at SCI Graterford. In Graterford SCI there was one compassionate release in 2017.

In the PA DOC, there is inmate involvement with hospice directed by the Department of Corrections (Policy 13.1.1 Section 15). Currently, there are nineteen active infirmaries across the Pennsylvania DOC system and those locations without infirmaries have combined services with neighboring facilities. In the PA DOC all facilities with infirmaries can have hospice services.

There are nineteen locations. In addition, SCI Laurel Highlands also provides hospice services for long term care inmates. Including SCI Laurel Highlands, there are 20 locations.

Inmate involvement with hospice services is voluntary and depends on facility security review, so there may not always be inmates available in each location to help with others in their SCI community. According to the AMA Journal of Ethics, "prison hospices are available only at 69 of 1,719 state correctional facilities."

There are many reasons why compassionate release is difficult for a prisoner or the family to obtain; families do not know how to begin the process to advocate for their loved one. In the AMA Journal of Ethics it states that "Nationwide, compassionate releases occur relatively infrequently. Out of 2,621 requests for compassionate release during a one-year span in the Federal Bureau of Prisons, only 85 (3.24 percent) were granted. State prison systems are likely to have similar if not lower rates of release. These low rates stem in large part from state and federal policies with restrictive medical and criminological eligibility criteria for release."

The doctor and the family have a key role in advocating for a prisoner's compassionate or medical release. "Each person has dignity, which is not subject to circumstance and persists regardless of the situational context in which a person may find himself, including incarceration," says the American Medical Association Journal of Ethics, "While physicians have professional responsibilities to uphold the dignity of their patients in an exam room, for example, they also have obligations to advocate for policy changes when they observe patient dignity being undermined in specific circumstances, such as incarceration."

Education is needed. It is important to learn about the regulations for medical release varying from state to state. There is assistance from local legal aid offices and in Pennsylvania from the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network.

Ruth Hoskins, a licensed psychotherapist, provides support for the men who sit vigil at the bedside of the dying residents at SCI Phoenix. She is an advocate for medical/compassionate release and can be contacted at Prisonhospice@gmail.com.

Compassionate Release: Reflections from the Hospice Care Team at SCI Phoenix

By H.H., SCI Phoenix: "I shall reflect on the very first patient/inmate I witnessed released to a Hospice Care facility, and the joy Brother Abdul displayed when it came time for him to sign out of Graterford Prison. His new abode was at the Old Saint Agnes Burn Center which had been converted into a full time hospice care facility. Upon arrival his family had been waiting with some real classy pajamas and bathrobe. Brother Abdul immediately sent us some pictures of his room with a view from the balcony with overnight accommodations for his family. Brother Abdul didn't focus on how many days he had left in this realm, but in the beauty found in the quality of life, in the joyous moment. As a hospice care provider going on 14 years now, there hasn't been a 'compas-

sionate release' witnessed for any other patient that was smooth and trouble free for all parties involved. This is the compassionate release policy we need to have reinstated."

By A.W., SCI Phoenix: "As a hospice volunteer worker, when we think about Compassionate Release, I believe a prisoner should be able to die with dignity along-side their family members. The last person I remember was Frankie. I can remember Frank like it was yesterday. Frank was a person that was thankful for each day and for everything that was done for him. He got the chance to get out on compassionate release and the next day he passed away, his family by his side. God Bless his Soul. Most of us don't want to die in prison. So for that reason I am so happy that compassionate release exists."

By J.D.C. SCI Phoenix: "Everyone knows that prisoners don't get the best medical treatment. Although there are a lot of nurses to help here (and they do care and do everything they can to assist the terminal patient) they can only do as much as the head doctor and superintendent allow. For example, Frankie was one of our hospice patients. He wanted to eat, but couldn't stomach the prison food. He loved eating scrambled eggs and he could stomach that, but special meals were not approved. Despite his family visiting him, they could only visit him two people at a time which was a burden to them. If he had been released, the family could have been by his side at his final moments and made him more comfortable. I believe everyone deserves to die with dignity and be with their family while going through the end of life process."

By J.D.C. SCI Phoenix: "The last and only person that I know who received compassionate release was Frankie. It gave me hope that there are people with authority who have a heart. I was overjoyed with emotions when I found out Frankie was granted compassionate release. I remember clinching a victory fist with the arm pump closing my eyes and saying "Yes!" I was so happy for Frankie. But waiting for that answer for compassionate release I was so nervous for him because I knew they didn't really grant compassionate release in PA. However, I also knew Frankie was determined because he told me he wasn't going to die in prison, and he didn't. I was getting upset because it was taking months and Frankie only had days to live. Frankie inspired me so much because of his mental strength. Despite having days to live he held on for those months and was eventually granted compassionate release. He left the prison on a Friday around 4 PM and passed away Sunday morning around 4-5 AM.

"I really wish there would be a way to get sick patients out faster. I believe when a person is diagnosed with a disease that could be terminal that the family/attorney should be able to file the paperwork in advance. This way everything would be completed while the patient is going through treatment. This way everything would be ready if the patient is deemed terminal. Once give the diagnosis of being terminal and given less than a year to live, the proper authority would be notified and the patient released within 24 hours. If the patient's recovery goes into remission the pre-compassionate release papers would become void and destroyed. Most patients in prison die within a couple of days of being diagnosed as terminal. They don't have a chance at compassionate release."

LITERARY CORNER

America, the Beautiful?

John Griffin, AM-8535, SCI Phoenix

Are there no mirrors in America,
so your flaws you may detect?
Or is it because of your vampirism,
that your image will not reflect?
Haven't you noticed that your armor is tarnished,
and your crown is slightly bent?
That your slave has risen from his grave,
to become your embarrassment?
He marches in your streets,
at your Capitol steps, he sings
proclaiming loudly, the burdens,
from which injustice springs.
And what of your conscience, America?
Does it rose-color the sight,
of citizens walking your streets, by day,
and sleeping in them by night?
Can't you look into their eyes,
and see that they're vacant?
That they're void of emotion,
and somewhat complacent?
That their spirits are broken,
their self-esteem is low?
That they're constantly moving,
but never any place to go?
But to some other shabby shelter,
with what little they have to carry,
and the only permanence to the dwelling,
is that it's always temporary?
You're emptying your schools, America,
while filling your prisons and jails.
Holding elaborate hearings
into why your youth rebel.
You're being extremely hypocritical,
that's something the whole world knows.
And regardless how expensive the facade,
it's obvious the emperor has no clothes.
You need to find and clean your mirror,
and look closely at what you see.
Discover your conscience, America,
and be all you were supposed to be.

Let Freedom Ring

Nahbeel Richardson, JS-0382, SCI Mahanoy

If I were a slave
Could I be as brave, as some?
Taking hold of their soul
As they went on the run.
Toward the Mason-Dixon Line
A sight unseen
Vision not being a requirement
As their feet raced to their dream.

Freedom was their goal
From rampant oppression
Yet, even til this day
Some, still, try to suppress it.
Of how "no-good n****s
Need to stay in their place
As if, ignoring our history
It would somehow erase.
The roundabout way
America is retreating to its past
Or could it be, quite frankly
Equality we never had?

Only God Can Help Us Now

Bobby K. Williamson, DQ-9200, SCI Smithfield

Matted hair and no shoes on my feet
My veins are flat, some yet to collapse
Walking dead I roam the street
The methamphetamine will not allow me to sleep
Only God can help me now.
I Pray:
Oh God, save me from myself
For I've exhausted my veins
My nose is infected from snorting dope
My stomach ulcerated when I tried to eat meth
Oh, God, I have no more options to cure my disease
The mark of the beast has reached my brains
Sometimes suicide appears to a viable way out
Oh God, accept!
Only God can help me now.
I pray,
If I can dream about myself
God can give me the strength to redeem myself
Recovery isn't like being born gain
Sobriety doesn't mean you've become boring again
Only God can help us now.
I pray.

Brother, Can We Talk?

Kenneth Cannon, HH-4008, SCI Mahanoy

There once was a garden that was being shared by two brothers.
The garden was green, full of sweet fruit and delicious vegetables.
A delightful freshwater river flowed between its eastern and western borders.
When the two brothers decided to sleep after a hard day's work, a fire broke out among their crops. By the time dawn began to embrace them, they recognized, with a single glance, the pitch black stubble that remained after the fire. Wanting to investigate the crops, they called out to one another saying, "Go to your garden and pluck the good fruits and vegetables".

Along the path of investigation each began to mutter that none who were poor would eat from their harvest. But, when they were certain that all had been ruined, there was a moment of humility. So just as brothers would do, they began to rebuke one another for not being willing to give to the poor. In their moment of crisis and vanished livelihood, they finally understood the mystery of interdependence and thus hoped for betterment and change.

ARTIST COLLECTIVE

Graterfriends encourages all incarcerated artists to send some original work to be published in our new art section!

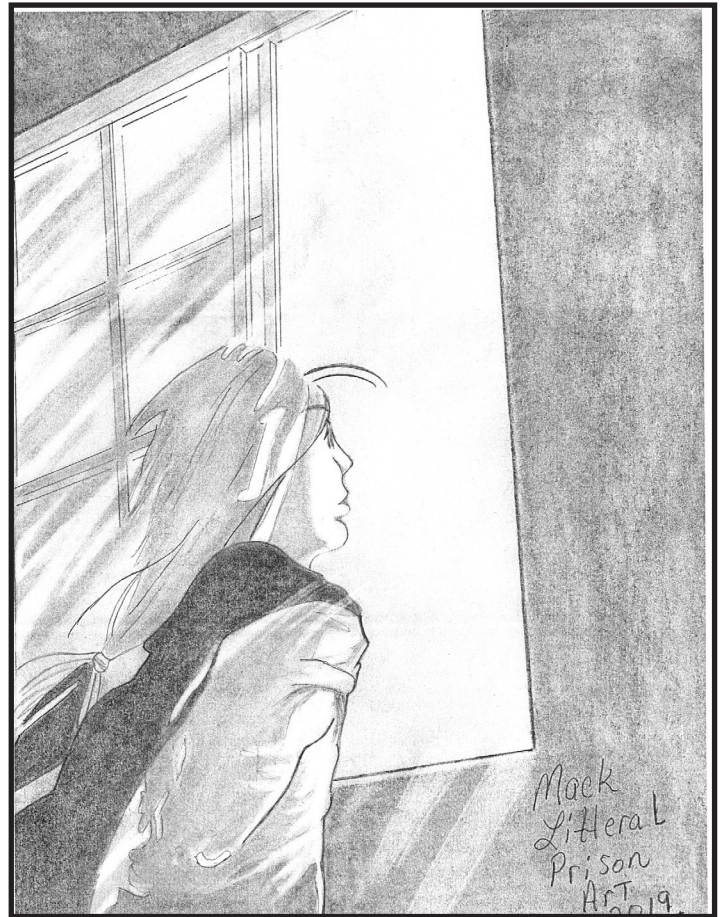
Want to be a part of Graterfriends? Are you visually creative? Then this section is perfect for you! We will consider all forms of 2D art including drawings, sketches, paintings, comics etc. from artists of any skill level.

All rules regarding written submissions also apply to drawings. We encourage creativity but we will not print anything obscene, graphic or offensive. As always, it is up to Graterfriends' staff to determine what is appropriate. It is a good idea to sign your artwork, but please also remember to attach a note stating that you are the original artist and that you grant Graterfriends permission to scan and publish it.

Thank you and we look forward to receiving your submissions.

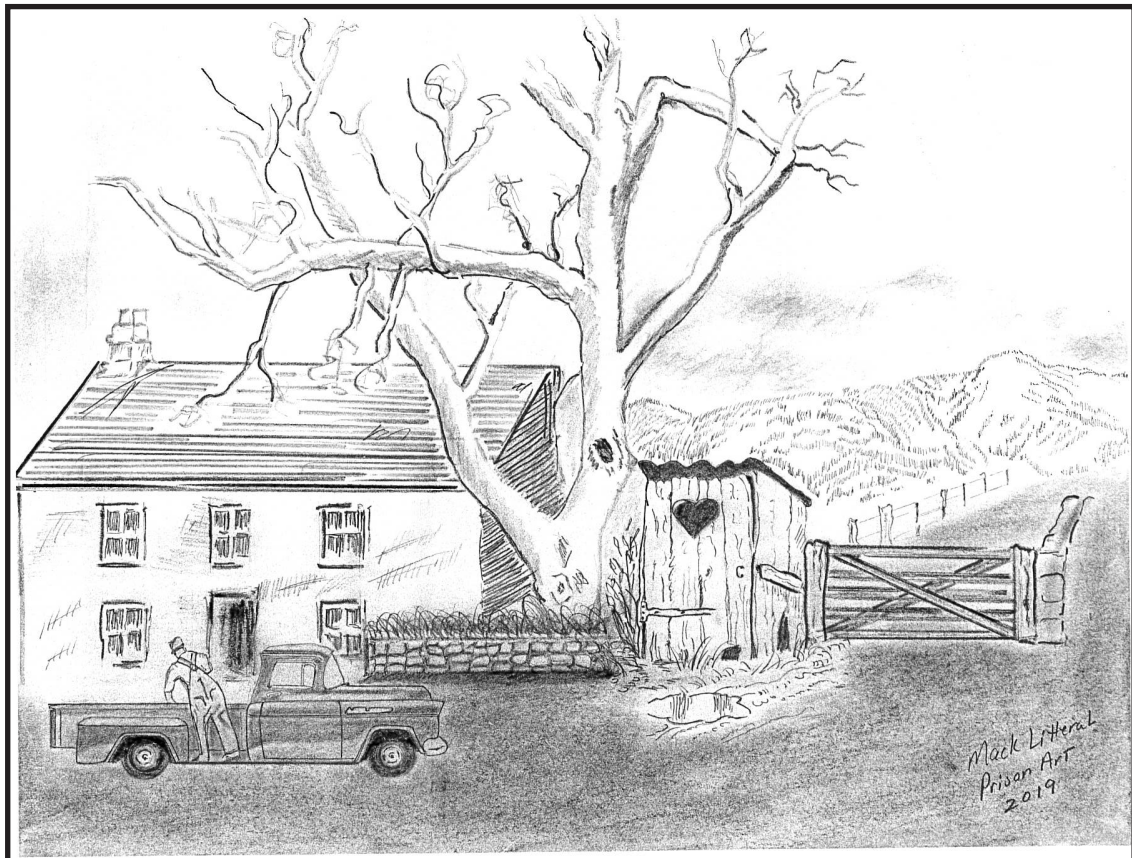
Untitled (Right)

Mack Litteral, 1317087, Caledonia Correctional Institution, NC



Untitled (Below)

Mack Litteral, 1317087, Caledonia Correctional Institution, NC



REPORTS FROM THE INSIDE

Smokers' Rights: Anthony Ray Thompson, GQ-6082, SCI Forest, has filed a civil suit against the DOC to obtain a temporary restraining order against the smoking ban that is scheduled to begin on July 15th. (He is barred from filing a grievance before the new policy is in place.) "I'm not indifferent to a non-smoker's right to contest secondhand smoke but if the DOC would only send non-smokers to an institution that clearly permits non-smokers to be housed, the DOC would solve the problem of such people filing civil suits against the DOC."

He hopes that others will come forth soon to support his fight for smoker's rights.

Graterford Gray Panthers January 2019 Meeting: Frederick Page, BU-2238, SCI Phoenix, updates us on the Graterford Gray Panthers' January meeting. "On January 31, 2019, the Graterford Gray Panthers hosted their first 'Aging Out of Crime' seminar in the newly-opened SCI Phoenix, which included the premiere of a documentary entitled 'The Mayor of Graterford.' The film, developed by Villanova Professor Steve McWilliams and his students, debunks the long-running belief that lifers and long-term offenders should not be released.

"The film features the successful integration of commuted lifer Tyrone Wertz and the recently released juvenile lifer John Pace beyond Graterford's forty-foot wall. Behind the wall you hear from the Gray Panthers on Aging Out of Crime.

"Rehabilitation of seniors is the focus for women and men who are the product of overincarceration. The film was viewed by Superintendent Tammy Ferguson and staff, Senator Art Haywood and State Representatives Steven Kinsley, Joanna McKlintock, Chris Rabb, some of their chiefs of staff, and a representative from Governor Tom Wolf's office. State representatives who attended intend to make the film available to all current Pennsylvania legislators. The strategy is to educate legislators in order to muster support for true criminal justice reform for long-term offenders.

"To all our silver-haired sisters and brothers: Keep hope alive! Reforms are on the way."

Blog Site: Leonard Love, 65927-061 Ashland FCI, Ashland KY, announces his blogsite, www.PrisonMentorLove.com as a resource on prison life and criminal justice reform. He is interested in hearing from fellow prisoner and reform advocates. According to the blog site:

"We are dedicated to educating individuals, along with families and friends of the incarcerated, with up-close, raw, in-depth, informative blogs and excerpts from an educational prison mentoring program titled Men 101 and also offering blogs about the truth and reality of what jail and prison life is really like and the overall facets of the criminal justice system in America.

"Our Vision:

- Educating individuals globally with informative blogs about the criminal justice system in America.
- Strengthening the bond between families and their incarcerated loved ones.
- Creating of a 501(c) 3 non-profit to work with leading foundations, prison organizations and mentorships to create opportunities for ex-offenders, at-risk youth and incarcerated families.
- Reducing the school to prison pipeline of young adults in America ages 18-25 coming to jail and prison rather than going to college or trade school.
- Helping ex-offenders strive to become productive members of society and in their communities."

REENTRY SUCCESS STORIES

The Key to Going Back
James Bevan

The key point of getting started back into society is weighing who you can trust. Everyone has motives and if given an incentive for monetary gain they will bend over backwards to make good on what I want.

You have to be analytical in your own thinking. All the fake camaraderie of your acquaintances can destroy you. If you balance out your learning experiences you will find that you can get a foothold on yourself and get back into society and look out for yourself. Someone will always try to steer you wrong, but as a survivor, use your skills and be rational. Everything you do will depend on your good judgement. For you to succeed, this is the key to you going back to society and the streets.

Do you have a reentry success story?

Our readers want to hear from you.

We are looking for articles written by or about former inmates about their lives after prison. If you have any advice about successful reentry or want to tell us your story, send us a submission!

Know an inmate who wants to be profiled?

Interview them and send in a submission to have their story published in the next edition of Graterfriends.

Please be sure to include permission to publish from the author and the person profiled.

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The PA General Assembly began its two-year legislative session in January, and several important criminal justice bills have already been introduced. PPS is partnering with groups like FAMM, ACLU of PA, Americans for Prosperity, and the Commonwealth Foundation, among others, to support positive reforms and oppose negative bills. In January, representatives from all five of these groups spent a day at the state capitol sharing our priorities with lawmakers and expressing our bipartisan support for criminal justice reforms. Below, we describe some of the important topics and bills we are monitoring.

SB 123, if passed, would allow the parole board not to consider a sexually violent predator for parole if that person has been denied parole within the previous 3 years.

Sponsor: Senator John Sabatina (D)

Status: Introduced 1/28/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Oppose

SB 14, if passed, would reform how long Pennsylvanians stay on probation, and the time served in prison for probation violations. Among other reforms, the bill would require ending a person's probation sentence if they have no violations or revocations over an 18-month period; limit prison stays to 30 days for probation revocations based on administrative violations of probation conditions (e.g., missing a meeting with a probation officer); limit the length of prison stays for revocations based on the commission of new crimes; cap probation sentences for felonies at 5 years; and cap probation sentences for misdemeanors at 3 years.

Sponsor: Senator Anthony Williams (D)

Status: Introduced 1/24/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

SB 93, if passed, would make it a third degree felony for drug delivery with serious bodily injury resulting to others, and require the state's sentencing commission to create a sentence enhancement for such cases.

Sponsor: Senator Camera Bartolotta (R)

Status: Introduced 2/12/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Oppose

SB 8, if passed, would re-instate mandatory minimum sentences for trafficking fentanyl or mixtures of drugs containing fentanyl or fentanyl analogues. Mandatory minimum sentences would range from 2 to 9 years, depending on the weight of the drugs and the person's criminal record.

Sponsor: Senator Mike Regan (R)

Status: Introduced 2/5/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Oppose

HB 1009, if passed, would permit judges to sentence some pregnant women to alternative punishments.

Sponsor: Rep. Summer Lee (D)

Status: Introduced 4/2/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1002, if passed, would establish a program to allow formerly incarcerated people to mentor those in prison.

Sponsor: Rep. Elizabeth Fiedler (D)

Status: Introduced 4/2/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 497, if passed, would limit the use of solitary confinement for PA prisoners to times when the person is in danger from himself or others; is being disciplined; and has received a medical and mental health assessment within the first 48 hours of confinement. Prisoners would be allowed to challenge their confinement at a hearing within the first 3 days of confinement and every 15 days thereafter. Time in solitary would be capped at 15 consecutive days and no more than 20 days of any 60-day period – including when a facility is placed on lockdown. Among additional other reforms, the bill would also ban the use of solitary confinement on people who are under age 21, over age 70, or pregnant or in postpartum recovery. The bill would limit placement of prisoners in emergency confinement to 24 hours, and ensure that people are not placed in protective custody against their will unless there is no less restrictive way to keep them safe. The bill would also require the creation of alternative disciplinary measures other than the use of solitary; create an independent investigator to review prison misconduct and misuse of solitary confinement; and require training for staff about how to use solitary confinement.

Sponsor: Rep. Tina Davis (D)

Status: Introduced 2/12/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1011, if passed, would create the Women and Girls Committee to track data on women and girls in the justice system.

Sponsor: Rep. Morgan Cephas (D)

Status: Introduced 4/2/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1555, if passed, would reform how long Pennsylvanians stay on probation, some of the conditions of probation, and the time served in prison for probation violations. The bill would allow courts to terminate a probation sentence after the person has served half of the sentence or two years, whichever is longer; limit prison stays to up to 90 days for a new misdemeanor committed while a person is on probation; limit prison stays for probation revocations based on technical violations of probation conditions (e.g., missing a meeting with a probation officer); cap probation sentences for felonies at 5 years and for misdemeanors at 2 years; give people more due process when they are facing a probation revocation for a technical violation; and allow people to earn time off their probation sentence for complying with conditions and completing a high school diploma/GED or a certified vocational training program.

Sponsor: Reps. Delozier (R), Harris (D), Jones (R), & Gainey (D)

Status: Introduced 5/30/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

HB 261, if passed, would eliminate parole eligibility for the following offenses if the victim is a detention or correctional facility employee: assault by a prisoner, or aggravated harassment by a prisoner. The bill would also require that people in prison serving life or death sentences who commit aggravated assaults receive and serve the entirety of a sentence for second degree murder. The bill defines aggravated assault to include throwing human feces, urine, blood, or other bodily liquids at others while knowing that those liquids carry a communicable disease such as HIV or hepatitis B.

Sponsor: Rep. Carl Metzgar (R)

Status: Introduced 1/29/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Oppose

HB 1007, if passed, would allow incarcerated parents to make two free phone calls and send one free email to their children each month.

Sponsor: Rep. Donna Bullock (D)

Status: Introduced 4/2/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 257, if passed, would create a 5-year consecutive sentence for assaults by prisoners if the victim is a detention or correctional facility employee.

Sponsor: Rep. Carl Metzgar (R)

Status: Introduced 1/29/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Oppose

HB 440, if passed, would allow expungement of a crime from a person's record when the person is acquitted or is pardoned for the crime.

Sponsor: Rep. Ted Nesbit (R)

Status: Introduced 2/11/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1008, if passed, would require the DOC to provide feminine hygiene products for free.

Sponsor: Rep. Izzy Fitzgerald (D)

Status: Introduced 4/2/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1015, if passed, would require DOC to help prisoners to apply for public benefit programs before their release, if they qualify for those programs.

Sponsor: Rep. Joanna McClinton (D)

Status: Introduced 4/2/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1014, if passed, would require DOC staff to provide trauma-informed care to prisoners and require DOC staff to receive training about providing trauma-informed care.

Sponsor: Rep. Summer Lee (D)

Status: Introduced 4/2/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1343, if passed, would reinstate mandatory minimum sentences for drug trafficking. The bill would require a mandatory 25-year prison sentence for a first offense of drug trafficking and life without parole for a second or subsequent offense.

Sponsor: Rep. Dan Moul (R)

Status: Introduced 4/29/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Oppose

HB 1012, if passed, would require the DOC to submit an annual report to the General Assembly on health care services provided to prisoners.

Sponsor: Rep. Morgan Cephas (D)

Status: Introduced 4/2/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1538, if passed, would make it so the parole board would not be required to consider a parole application for someone who has applied for parole within the past three years and is serving a sentence under the following:

Section 2901(a.1) (relating to kidnapping)

Section 3011(b) (relating to trafficking in individuals)

Section 3012 (relating to involuntary servitude)

Section 3121 (relating to rape)

Section 3122.1(b) (relating to statutory sexual assault)

Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual intercourse)

Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault)

Section 3124.2(a.1) (relating to institutional sexual assault)

Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault)

Section 3126(a)(7) (relating to indecent assault)

Section 4302(b) (relating to incest)

42 Pa.C.S. Ch. 97 Subch. H (relating to registration of sex offenders) or I (relating to continued registration of sex offenders).

Sponsor: Rep. Martina White (R)

Status: Introduced 6/3/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Oppose

HB 44, if passed, would require correctional officers to write and submit statements to the parole board within 30 days of a person's parole hearing, or testify in person at the hearing. The parole board would be required to read and consider those statements or testimony when granting or denying parole.

Sponsor: Rep. Pamela Snyder (D)

Status: Introduced 1/28/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Support

HB 1456, if passed, would create five-year mandatory minimum prison sentences for second or subsequent convictions for providing false information relating to the purchase of a firearm or while obtaining a concealed carry license.

Sponsor: Rep. Joe Hohenstein (D)

Status: Introduced 5/14/19; no committee action scheduled yet.

PPS: Oppose

LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Justice Reinvestment II: A package of reforms known as Justice Reinvestment II (SB 500, SB 501, and SB 502) were introduced in late March and passed the Senate unanimously in June. The bills will now go to the House and will need to go through the committee process, pass through the House of Representatives, and be signed by the governor, to become law. The bills were scheduled for a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on June 17.

SB 500, if passed, would establish the County Adult Probation and Parole Advisory Committee within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. The Committee would be responsible for funding and overseeing improvements to county probation. The bill also provides a funding mechanism to support the Justice Reinvestment Fund and county adult probation and parole departments.

SB 501, if passed, would authorize the Sentencing Commission to make sentencing guideline adjustments that allow courts to consider costs of sentences and a person's risk of reoffending. The bill also makes various reforms to probation, parole, and the state drug treatment program so that more people are able to receive drug treatment while incarcerated. Most importantly, SB 501 would allow prisoners with a minimum sentence of confinement under two years or a recidivism risk reduction incentive minimum sentence under two years to receive parole immediately upon completion of their minimum sentence, without a parole hearing – but this provision would NOT be retroactive.

SB 502, if passed, would expand the definition of crimes under the Crime Victims Act, improve the flow of information from law enforcement to victims, expand the statute of limitation for victim compensation, and lower the amount of minimum loss required before a victim can be awarded compensation, among other reforms.

Were you recently transferred or assigned a new state ID number? Let us know!

The DOC does not alert us when inmates are transferred or assigned a new number.

Please write us so we can update our mailing list and ensure quick delivery of your Graterfriends!

Want to subscribe to Graterfriends?

See the order form on page 24.

RESOURCES

PA State Officials

Governor Tom Wolfe

Governor's Correspondence Office
508 Main Office Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
P: 717-787-3391
F: 717-772-8284

Attorney General Josh Shapiro

PO Box 22653
Philadelphia, PA 19110
P: 215-886-7376

Senator _____

Senate PO Box 203 __ __ *
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Representative _____

PO Box 202 __ __ *
Harrisburg, PA 17120

*If you know the three-digit district number for your Senator or Representative, add it to the PO Box number. If you do not know, information for Senators is available at www.pasen.gov; information for Representatives is available at www.house.state.pa.us.

DOC Secretary John Wetzel

19020 Technology Parkway
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
P: 717-728-2573
W: www.cor.pa.gov
E: ra-crpdocsecretary@pa.gov

PPS Mentoring Program

Families and Individuals Reintegrating Successfully Together (F.I.R.S.T.), our mentoring program, is a voluntary program for men currently in the Transitional Housing Unit (THU) at SCI Chester and SCI Phoenix.

The program helps prepare incarcerated individuals for successful re-entry mentally, emotionally, and logistically. After a series of workshops on relevant topics (such as social media, applying for medical benefits, securing housing, and obtaining education and jobs) mentees are assigned to mentors, to meet one-on-one for at least six months to develop and achieve a personalized goal plan. We are also working with soon to be released juvenile lifers across the state to help them bridge into life outside in the community.

We are always seeking mentors and mentee participants. For more information, or for a mentor application, please contact:

Joseph Robinson, Mentoring Program Case Manager
P: 215-564-4775, ext. 1005

RESOURCES

Life Without Parole

Women Lifers Resume Project of PA

PO Box 324
New Hope, PA 18938
P: 814-393-5400 (Cambridge Springs)
P: 570-546-3171 (Muncy)
W: www.wlrpp.org

Reconstruction Inc.

ATTN Fight for Lifers
PO Box 7691
Philadelphia, PA 19101
P: 215-223-8180

Juvenile Life Without Parole

Juvenile Law Center

The Philadelphia Building
1315 Walnut Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
P: 800-875-8887 (toll free)

The Campaign for the Fair Sentencing of Youth

1319 F Street, NW Suite 303
Washington, DC 20004
P: 202-289-4677

Prisoner's Rights

Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration

c/o Decarcerate PA
PO Box 40764
Philadelphia, PA 19107
P: 267-217-3372
W: www.decarceratepa.info
E: decarceratepa.pgh@gmail.com (Pittsburgh)
E: cadbiphilly@gmail.com (Philadelphia)
E: decarceratepa@gmail.com

PA Institutional Law Project: Philadelphia

The Cast Iron Building
718 Arch Street, Suite 304 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106
P: 215-925-2966 (Philadelphia)
F: 215-925-5337 (Philadelphia)
P: 570-523-1104 (Lewisburg)
P: 412-434-6004 (Pittsburgh)
W: www.pailp.org
E: alove@pailp.org

Prison Activist Resource Center

PO Box 70447
Oakland, CA 94612
P: 510-893-4648
W: www.prisonactivists.org/resources
E: info@prisonactivists.org

FAMM

FAMM, a DC-based sentencing reform organization, is working to fight mandatory minimums in Pennsylvania, but needs case examples to help convince lawmakers to support fair sentencing.

If you are serving a long mandatory sentence for a drug or gun offense, please send 1) your name, 2) your contact information, 3) contact information for an outside friend or family member, 4) a brief description of your offense, and 5) your sentence (example: I received a 10-20 year mandatory minimum), to:

FAMM

Attn: Pennsylvania Stories
1100 H Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Note: FAMM does not offer direct legal assistance and cannot respond to every letter received, but the organization will contact you by mail if they'd like to learn more about your case.

Pro Bono Services

Pittsburgh Pro Bono Partnership

436 Seventh Avenue, 400 Koppers Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
P: 412-402-6677

Philly VIP

1500 Walnut Street, Suite 400
Philadelphia, PA 19102
P: 215-523-9550

Refers indigent individuals to volunteer lawyers, paralegals, and others who provide legal services free of charge.

American Bar Association

W: www.findlegalhelp.org
Allows site users to search for a list of resources available in their state, including pro bono or inexpensive lawyers, legal information, and self-help materials.

Broad Street Ministry

Begun in 2008, BSM's Hospitality Collaborative incorporates stabilizing services that not only meet basic human needs, but also strive to move lives forward. Along with our nutritious meals, guests can benefit from a mailing address, change of clothes, and personal care items. And we partner with other best-in-class non-profit organizations to offer medical and behavioral health care, legal assistance, and assistance with housing, public benefits, and personal identification.

Broad Street Ministry

315 South Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
P: 215-735-4847
W: www.broadstreetministry.org

RESOURCES

The Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

An idea conceived in a prison classroom over twenty years ago has now grown into an international movement comprised of more than 100 correctional and higher education partnerships, hundreds of trained instructors, over two dozen think tanks, and more than 35,000 students worldwide who have benefited from these life-changing courses.

For more information, contact:
The Inside-Out Center
1938 Liacouras Walk
MB 299-06, Suite 301
Temple University
Philadelphia, PA 19122
P: 215-204-5163
E: insideout@temple.edu
W: www.insideoutcenter.org

Expungements

Juvenile Law Center

The Philadelphia Building
1315 Walnut Street, 4th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
P: 800-875-8887 (toll free)

Expunge Philadelphia

Juvenile Expungement Hotline
P: 267-765-6770

Community Legal Services

Center City Office
1424 Chestnut St.
Philadelphia, PA 19102-2505
P: 215-981-3700
North Philadelphia Law Center
1410 W. Erie Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19140
P: 215-227-2400

Inmate Authors

If you are a prisoner who has written a book, the Prison Foundation wants to publish it! There is no charge to read or publish your book. Your book will be scanned and published exactly as we receive it. Any language is acceptable. It may contain drawings and photos. For more information, contact

Prison Foundation

2512 Virginia Avenue, NW Suite 58043
Washington, DC 20037
W: www.prisonfoundation.org
E: staff@prisonfoundation.org

Reentry Services

Uplift

700 Delsea Drive
Westville, NJ 08093
P: 856-471-2008
E: info@upliftsolutions.org

Presbytery of Philadelphia

915 East Gowen Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19150
P: 215.242.1400
F: 215.242.1444
E: office@presbyphl.org

Jubilee Ministries

235 South 12th Street,
Lebanon, PA 17042
P: 717.274.7528
E: jubilee@jub.org

Fair Shake

PO Box 63
Westby, WI 54667
P: 608.634.6363
E: information@fairshake.net

The National Reentry Resource Center

New York (Headquarters)
22 Cortlandt Street
Floor 22
New York, NY 10007
P: 212.482.2320
E: info@stepuptogether.org

ACLU

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union) has been our nation's guardian of liberty, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

Whether it's achieving full equality for LGBT people, establishing new privacy protections for our digital age of widespread government surveillance, ending mass incarceration, or preserving the right to vote or the right to have an abortion, the ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach.

ACLU Pennsylvania Central Office

P.O. Box 11761
Harrisburg, PA 17108
P: 717.238.2258
W: www.aclupa.org
E: hbginfo@aclupa.org

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

THE PENNSYLVANIA PRISON SOCIETY



WHERE WE VISIT

We have buses to all PA state prisons except Camp Hill, Chester, Phoenix, and Quehanna Boot Camp.

WHO CAN TRAVEL

Anyone can travel as long as he or she is on the inmate's official visitor list, including infants and children. Please check with whomever you are visiting prior to purchasing a ticket to ensure that you are on his or her list. You will not be refunded if you are unable to visit because you are not an approved visitor. If you require a handicap accessible bus from PPS, please be sure to request one at least five days before the bus departs, by calling the Prison Society office.

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

Tickets can be purchased over the phone, in person at our office or online at www.prisonssociety.org/transportation. Cash, debit, and credit cards are accepted. There is a \$2 surcharge per ticket to use a credit card. If you would like to mail in your payment, please note that we only accept money order payments via post mail. Do not send cash in the mail.

SEND PAYMENTS TO:

Attn: Family Transportation
Pennsylvania Prison Society
230 South Broad Street, Suite 605
Philadelphia, PA, 19102



Please make money orders payable to: PA Prison Society at the address listed above.

When sending payments through the mail, please include your full name, the prison you are visiting, and your phone number. We may need to contact you.

A physical copy of your ticket must be presented to the driver. Screenshots will not be accepted.

For more information, see bus schedule on page 17 or contact PPS with the information above.

FAMILIES OUTSIDE



ABOUT FAMILIES OUTSIDE

The Families Outside program provides low-cost transportation for families to visit their incarcerated loved ones at state correctional facilities. Children and older adults are welcome. Children must be accompanied on the visit by a parent, other caregiver, or caseworker. Ticket prices are affordable because of a contract with the PA Department of Corrections.

WHERE THEY VISIT

The program provides transportation to the following institutions: Albion, Cambridge Springs, Greene, Fayette, Houtzdale, Laurel Highlands, Somerset, Forest, Mercer, Rockview, Benner, Phoenix, Frackville, Mahanoy, Muncy, Coal Township, Smithfield, Huntingdon, Camp Hill, Dallas, and Retreat.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Anyone with an incarcerated loved one is able to participate. In order to utilize the program, a first time individual must complete a free orientation session.

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

For information on how to purchase tickets, please contact Families Outside by phone or email with the information listed below.

CONTACT

Families Outside
221 Penn Avenue
Wilkinsburg, PA 15221
Phone: (412) 458-6456
Website: wfspa.org/service/families-outside



For more information, see the bus schedule on page 18 or contact Families Outside with the information above.

PRISON SOCIETY 2018/2019 BUS SCHEDULE (PHILADELPHIA)

This schedule is subject to change. Any changes will be posted on our social media pages and the website ASAP.

BENNER/ROCKVIEW

**Bimonthly, 2nd Thursday,
4am-9:30pm, \$40/person**

Oct 11, 2018 April 11, 2019
Dec 13, 2018 June 13, 2019
Feb 14, 2019 Aug 8, 2019

FOREST

**Monthly, 2nd Monday,
2am-9:30pm, \$50/person**

Sept 10, 2018 April 8, 2019
Oct 8, 2018 May 13, 2019
Nov 12, 2018 June 10, 2019
Dec 10, 2018 July 8, 2019
Jan 14, 2019 Aug 12, 2019
Feb 11, 2019 Sept 9, 2019
Mar 11, 2019

MUNCY

**Bimonthly (Pending),
5am-7:30pm, \$35/person**

**PLEASE NOTE: All tickets
must be purchased 5 days in
advance.**

Sept 11, 2018 May 14, 2019
Nov 13, 2018 July 11, 2019
Jan 8, 2019 Sept 10, 2019
Mar 12, 2019

PINE GROVE

**Bimonthly, 3rd Friday,
2am-9pm, \$50/person**

Aug 17, 2018 April 19, 2019
Oct 19, 2018 June 21, 2019
Dec 21, 2019 Aug 16, 2019
Feb 15, 2019

GREENE

**Monthly, 1st Friday,
2am-9:30pm, \$50/person**

Sept 7, 2018 April 5, 2019
Oct 5, 2018 May 3, 2019
Nov 2, 2018 June 7, 2019
Dec 7, 2018 July 5, 2019
Jan 4, 2019 Aug 2, 2019
Feb 2, 2019 Sept 6, 2019
Mar 1, 2019

FAYETTE

**Monthly, 3rd Friday,
2am-9:00pm, \$50/person**

Aug 17, 2018 Mar 15, 2019
Sept 21, 2018 April 19, 2019
Oct 19, 2018 May 17, 2019
Nov 16, 2018 June 21, 2019
Dec 21, 2018 July 19, 2019
Jan 18, 2019 Aug 16, 2019
Feb 15, 2019 Sept 20, 2019

LAUREL HIGHLANDS/ SOMERSET

**Monthly, 1st Monday,
4am-9:30pm, \$40/person**

Sept 10, 2018* April 1, 2019
Oct 1, 2018 May 6, 2019
Nov 5, 2018 June 3, 2019
Dec 3, 2018 July 1, 2019
Jan 7, 2019 Aug 5, 2019
Feb 4, 2019 Sept 9, 2019*
Mar 4, 2019

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS/MERCER

**Bimonthly, 3rd Monday,
1am-12:30am, \$50/person**

Aug 20, 2018 April 15, 2019
Oct 15, 2018 June 17, 2019
Dec 17, 2019 Aug 19, 2019
Feb 18, 2019

FRACKVILLE/ MAHANAY

**Bimonthly, 2nd Monday,
6am-7:30pm, \$35/person**

Sept 10, 2018 May 13, 2019
Nov 12, 2018 July 8, 2019
Jan 14, 2019 Sept 9, 2019
Mar 11, 2019

HUNTINGDON/ SMITHFIELD

**Bimonthly, 2nd Monday,
5am-9pm, \$40/person**

Sept 17, 2018 May 20, 2019
Nov 19, 2018 July 15, 2019
Jan 28, 2019* Sept 16, 2019
Mar 18, 2019

DALLAS/RETREAT

**Bimonthly, 4th Monday,
6am-7:30am, \$35/person**

Aug 27, 2018 April 22, 2019
Oct 22, 2018 June 24, 2019
Dec 17, 2019* Aug 26, 2019
Feb 25, 2019

COAL TOWNSHIP

**Bimonthly, 2nd Friday,
5:30am-7:30pm, \$35/person**

Sept 14, 2018 May 10, 2019
Nov 9, 2018 July 12, 2019
Jan 11, 2019 Sept 13, 2019
Mar 8, 2019

HOUTZDALE

**Bimonthly, 2nd Thursday,
4am-9:30pm, \$40/person**

Oct 11, 2018 April 11, 2019
Dec 13, 2018 June 13, 2019
Feb 14, 2019 Aug 8, 2019

WAYMART

**Bimonthly, 4th Saturday,
6am-8pm, \$35/person**

Sept 22, 2018 May 25, 2019
Nov 24, 2018 July 27, 2019
Jan 26, 2019* Sept 28, 2019
Mar 23, 2019

ALBION

**Monthly, 2nd Friday,
1am-12:30am, \$50/person**

Sept 14, 2018 April 12, 2019
Oct 12, 2018 May 10, 2019
Nov 9, 2018 June 14, 2019
Dec 14, 2018 July 12, 2019
Jan 11, 2019 Aug 9, 2019
Feb 8, 2019 Sept 13, 2019
Mar 8, 2019

* These are exceptions to the usual schedule, due to holidays.

FAMILIES OUTSIDE 2018/2019 BUS SCHEDULE (PITTSBURGH)

This schedule is subject to change.

CAMP HILL

Bimonthly, Wednesday,

6am-7:30pm

July 25, 2018 Mar 20, 2019
 Sept 19, 2018 May 22, 2019
 Nov 28, 2018 July 24, 2019
 Jan 23, 2019

BENNER/ROCKVIEW

Monthly, Thursday,

6:45am-6pm

July 12, 2018 Mar 14, 2019
 Aug 16, 2018 April 18, 2018
 Sept 13, 2018 May 16, 2019
 Oct 11, 2018 June 13, 2019
 Nov 15, 2018 July 18, 2019
 Dec 13, 2018 Aug 15, 2019
 Jan 17, 2019 Sept 19, 2019
 Feb 14, 2019

LAUREL HIGHLANDS/ SOMERSET

Monthly, Sunday,

8am-5pm

July 29, 2018 Mar 24, 2019
 Aug 26, 2018 April 28, 2019
 Sept 23, 2018 May 19, 2019
 Oct 28, 2018 June 23, 2019
 Nov 18, 2018 July 28, 2019
 Dec 30, 2018 Aug 25, 2019
 Jan 27, 2019 Sept 29, 2019
 Feb 24, 2019

ALBION/CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS

Monthly, Saturday,

6:45am-5:30pm

July 14, 2018 Mar 16, 2019
 Aug 18, 2018 April 13, 2019
 Sept 15, 2018 May 18, 2018
 Oct 20, 2018 June 15, 2019
 Nov 17, 2018 July 13, 2019
 Dec 8, 2018 Aug 10, 2019
 Jan 12, 2019 Sept 21, 2019
 Feb 16, 2019

FOREST

Monthly, Sunday,

7am-5:45pm

July 15, 2018 Mar 17, 2019
 Aug 12, 2018 April 14, 2019
 Sept 9, 2018 May 12, 2019
 Oct 14, 2018 June 9, 2019
 Nov 11, 2018 July 14, 2019
 Dec 9, 2018 Aug 11, 2019
 Jan 13, 2019 Sept 15, 2019
 Feb 10, 2019

MERCER

Bimonthly, Monday,

7:30am-6:30pm

July 16, 2018 Mar 11, 2019
 Aug 13, 2018 April 15, 2019
 Sept 10, 2018 May 13, 2019
 Oct 15, 2018 June 17, 2019
 Nov 12, 2018 July 15, 2019
 Dec 10, 2018 Aug 12, 2019
 Jan 7, 2019 Sept 16, 2019
 Feb 11, 2019

PHOENIX

Bimonthly, Sunday,

3:30am-9:30pm

July 22, 2018 Mar 17, 2019
 Sept 16, 2018 May 19, 2019
 Nov 18, 2018 July 21, 2019
 Jan 20, 2019 Sept 22, 2019

FRACKVILLE/ MAHANAY

Bimonthly, Sunday,

4am-9:30pm

July 22, 2018 Mar 17, 2019
 Sept 16, 2018 May 19, 2019
 Nov 18, 2018 July 21, 2019
 Jan 20, 2019 Sept 22, 2019

HUNTINGDON/ SMITHFIELD

Bimonthly, Sunday,

6:45am-6:30m

Aug 12, 2018 April 14, 2019
 Oct 14, 2018 June 9, 2019
 Dec 9, 2018 Aug 11, 2019
 Feb 10, 2019

DALLAS/ RETREAT

Bimonthly, Friday,

3:30am-9pm

Aug 24, 2018 April 26, 2019
 Oct 26, 2018 June 21, 2019
 Dec 21, 2018 Aug 23, 2019
 Feb 22, 2019

COAL/MUNCY

Bimonthly, Saturday,

4am-9pm

Aug 18, 2018 April 20, 2019
 Oct 20, 2018 June 15, 2019
 Dec 22, 2018 Aug 17, 2019
 Feb 16, 2019

HOUTZDALE

Bimonthly, Saturday,

7am-6:30pm

July 28, 2018 Mar 23, 2019
 Aug 25, 2018 April 27, 2019
 Sept 22, 2018 May 25, 2019
 Oct 27, 2018 June 22, 2019
 Nov 17, 2018 July 27, 2019
 Dec 22, 2018 Aug 24, 2019
 Jan 26, 2019 Sept 28, 2019
 Feb 23, 2019

FAYETTE/GREENE

Monthly, Saturday,

8am-5pm

July 14, 2018 Mar 16, 2019
 Aug 11, 2018 April 13, 2019
 Sept 22, 2018 May 11, 2019
 Oct 20, 2018 June 15, 2019
 Nov 10, 2018 July 13, 2019
 Dec 8, 2018 Aug 10, 2019
 Jan 12, 2019 Sept 14, 2019
 Feb 9, 2019

READER SURVEY

We welcome comments and suggestions from all readers. Please complete this form and mail it to PPS. Relevant responses may be used to aid PPS in further advocating for prison reform.

Have you had the opportunity to participate in any educational, writing, or drawing courses in prison? Let us know if these were beneficial and if you created any essays, stories, or drawings that you would like to submit to Graterfriends.

Do you have any other comments or concerns to share with us?

First Class postage is required to re-mail



230 South Broad Street, Suite 605
Philadelphia, PA 19102

June 2019

GRATERFRIENDS

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Subscription Information

Support our mission and become a member!

Receive *Graterfriends* for:

Prisoner	\$3
Family of prisoner	\$10
Former offender	\$10
Student	\$10
PPS Member	\$40
Friend of Society	\$100
Patron	\$200
Sponsor	\$250
Founder	\$500
1787 Society	\$1,000

Make a check or money order payable to:

**The Pennsylvania Prison Society
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