

Solstice Edition

Hello Fair Shake readers ~

Happy Solstice...and Juneteenth, Full Moon, and Father's Day; and upcoming Fourth of July! It's time to celebrate. Today is the longest day of the year and, for me, there still aren't enough hours to get things done! ~ :)

Thank you everyone for your kind words and support regarding my graduation! I am in no way done learning. Now I will learn to build a Free School...and I will rely on your input. We will build it together.

Thank you, also, to all the donors who support this newsletter and Fair Shake in general. I do the work here by myself (no other employees here!) using the support that comes in from donations alone. More than 50% of Fair Shake's donors are incarcerated...and they are making it possible for 2163 readers to receive this email ("Yes, we can!"). This is why Fair Shake is so unique. Like Rzero, Fair Shake is here for EVERYONE for FREE...including free of data collection, 'nudges' or other forms of persuasion. We are both here to support people on their journey...no matter who you are, and no matter where you are. More than 40 people sign up each week and I'm encouraged!! We are getting an awful lot of brain power together, from people inside and also people who have been released, to experiment, research, determine and declare "what works".

Why does Fair Shake run on donations alone? Simply put: grants fund agendas; foundations want 'proof' that 'programs' 'reduce recidivism' (when, of course, a PERSON does this, not a PROGRAM). Foundations do not provide free, open and equal support for everyone who is coming home. Fair Shake is a FREE phone book, a Reentry & Community Center, a basic Do-It-Yourself (DIY) building store...for building yourself and/or your reentry success project. I keep finding tools and information to add to the growing website/software. You then can use what you need when you're ready for it. That's why Fair Shake is SO BIG! We all need different stuff, for different needs...and here, at least, you can practice one of the most basic human needs: your need for AGENCY, to determine what it is that you need to direct your own life.

But one person, working 12 hours per day, can only do so much. I am grateful for your questions; they keep me informed about your concerns which sends me to the internet for answers. Since several people ask similar questions, my plan moving forward is to gather the questions and answer the ones that are relevant to a national or state readership in the newsletter instead of individual correspondence. As far as resource specifics, which I cannot manage between the nearly 2200 readers plus the 30 letters that come in the mail each week, I will refer people to the website and software, which I will also have time to build (and which really needs building...and cleaning!). The resource data base will always be free for anyone to access...and the software is free to all prisons and jails. This is what one person can do. I know the software is not in every location, but we all will have to do what we can (squeaky wheel and all that!) to make that happen. This is how the democracy works.

I will still read all emails but I will respond to very few. I'm sorry about that. Know that I send UBUNTU! and my usual oomph when you push 'send'. I wish I had more funding to have a staff to respond, send resources and all the rest.

We have to work together to build Freedom Potential Factors (FPFs) to counter balance the Risk-Needs algorithmic assessments...which corrections is increasingly leaning on (see below). Corrections is intentionally dehumanizing and anti-social. Three of the top 4 "Criminogenic Needs" have an anti-social aspect. I believe we can provide evidence that FPFs are 'what works'. We must do this together, however, or it wouldn't really be pro-social, would it? ~ :)

We are a democracy, yet we lock up more people than any other country, regardless of the governance model. Doesn't democracy reflect the wishes of its citizens? We need to roll up our sleeves and figure this out because no one else is going to do this for us. Whining won't work, blaming won't work, nor will allowing academics to scientize the problem and use antiquated and inhumane behaviorism on us. Rich people will not fix this. (remember Winner's Take All?) We are smart! We have experience! Pointing out what is bad is important...but it's not enough; we need to counter that with what we need, like resources and information!...to create our knowledge base of 'what works'.

Moving forward from here, I am going to focus on these things:

- Load tons of resources (I have them! They're just waiting to get entered!) in the Fair Shake database
- Complete new software application

- Work on getting the software into more prisons
- Newsletter: 2x per month (depending on funding to cover expenses)
- Start Newsletter to Fair Shake members... 1450 now; all formerly incarcerated.
- Create Free School curriculum
- Build the Revolution Wellness Center's fundraising retail store where all profits support Fair Shake.

IN THE FAIRSHAKE SOFTWARE are the following items, and many more:

- Huge Resource Directory (15,000 resources!) and continue to host the nation's Veterans Reentry Guides for each state (the VA no longer has them).
- Computer basics tutorials including storing information and building your personal web page.
- Reentry classes and programs created by incarcerated educators
- Information for all stakeholders...so you, your family, employers, corrections, and anyone can find info and support for FREE
- Documents and tutorials to support you in getting ready to engage with the internet, with computers and with yourself and others in a busy and challenging world. (Including the full Reentry Packet, complete with the Ownership Manual and many documents supporting mental, physical and emotional health.)

Remember the maxim of Heraclitus: The only constant is change.

On to today's news:

GOOD TIME CREDITS

According to the Legal Information Services Associates, "July 19th is the date on which BOP computers will automatically update sentence records to credit the additional seven days per year good-time that was awarded in the First Step Act last December, crediting federal prisoners retroactively to the start of their sentences." And according to the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), "the Hudson Institute...will assist the Department as it develops and implements risk and needs assessment tools and evidence-based recidivism reduction programs." AG Wm Barr said: "Independent Review Committee plays an important role by assisting in the development of a new risk and needs assessment system and improvements to our recidivism reduction programming."

"NIJ also announced that it is contracting with outside experts and leading researchers for assistance and consultation as the Department develops the Risk and Needs Assessment System under the Act. The NIJ has hosted "listening sessions" to receive input from more than 25 stakeholders regarding the development of the Risk and Needs Assessment System under the Act. These stakeholders represent a diverse array of viewpoints." Do you know anyone who participated?

GOOD NEWS in the NEWS:

Attention to Restorative Justice is gaining momentum. In early May, we reviewed *Until We Reckon*, by Danielle Sered. This month I found out about two television programs about Restorative Justice. Perhaps you saw them? Or maybe they can send videos that you can watch?

60 minutes

The Restorative Justice Project arranges meetings that can change the lives of both victim and convict. Scott Pelley reports. <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/crime-victims-get-chance-to-confront-perpetrators-through-the-restorative-justice-project-60-minutes-2019-05-12/>

Van Jones' Redemption Project

Instead of focusing on retribution, it focuses on rehabilitation.

<https://www.cnn.com/shows/redemption-project-van-jones>

NEWSLETTERS AVAILABLE THROUGH CORRLINKS:

The Community

An anti-mass incarceration newsletter.

e-mail: thecommunitywis@gmail.com, or write us: The Community, P.O. Box 100392, Milwaukee WI 53210

Legal Information Services Associates (LISA) Newsletter: (where I found some of the info above)

Email: newsletter@lisa-legalinfo.com

Your family may read our newsletter online at www.lisa-legalinfo.com.

NEW SUPPORT SERVICE AVAILABLE (Not free, but committed to freedom!)

Wonderful Things Done, owned by Wayne T. Dowdy (author of the blog Strait From The Pen started in 2015 – while he was still incarcerated: www.straightfromthepen.com) - is now at your service. WTD services include: Online Research; Internet Searches, Technical & Legal Writing; Professional Typing; Book Reviews, written and or posted online; Book Publication Assistance. Contact Wayne for details. Email: info@wtd4u.com or write WTD4U, c/o Wayne T. Dowdy, P.O. Box 2608, McDonough, GA, 30253

WRITERS!

The American Prison Writing Archive
c/o Hamilton College
198 College Hill Road
Clinton, NY 13323-1218

If you would like to submit an essay to add to the 1600+ documents in the archive, write to request our permissions-questionnaire (PQ). All submissions are read and, with very rare exceptions, scanned, searched and ingested. Anyone with first-hand experience inside US carceral institutions today is eligible to submit essays. This includes prison employees and volunteers, who materially shape the day-to-day conditions in which incarcerated people live, and who are in turn deeply affected by their work. Visitors to the archive can search by state, author attributes, etc. They can also search by keywords. With these tools, visitors can not only read widely; they can curate their own virtual collections.

APWA <https://apw.dhinitiative.org/>

NEW PENPAL WEBSITE:

Serving N Time

Our Mission is to connect prisoners with the outside world. Our Vision is that open and honest communication will be the foundation to the transformation and successful re-entry of prisoners that are in need of a real second chance to be productive and contributing members of their communities. This is not a dating site.

Serving-N-Time

P.O. Box 64256

Washington, DC 20029

Email: servingntime1@gmail.com website: <https://servingntime.webs.com/mission.htm>

Basic Ad: \$15 per year: 150 words plus one pic of you or your art.

Gold: \$20 per year - 250 words plus two pics

Superstar: \$30 per year - 500 words, 5 pics

Book review THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE FUNDED

Edited by INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence. Including contributions by Ruth Wilson Gilmore (abolitionist and author of Golden Gulag) and Paul Kivel (author of Uprooting Racism, Men's Work and You Call This A Democracy!) among many others From the description: A trillion-dollar industry, the US non-profit sector is one of the world's largest economies. Many social justice organizations have joined this world, often blunting political goals to satisfy government and foundation mandates. Urgent and visionary, The Revolution Will Not Be Funded presents a biting critique of the quietly devastating role the non-profit industrial complex plays in managing dissent.

Mumia Abu-Jamal says, of the book: the 'non-profit industrial complex', an unseen web of money and power that tries to undermine people's struggle for racial, class, economic, gender and environmental justice." And Susan Pharr says "we will mark (this book) as the jump-start for our new thinking about ways to make collective social change."

QUOTES:

The revolution will not be televised. The revolution will be no rerun, brothers. The revolution will be Live. ~ Gil Scott-Heron

The corporate revolution will collapse if we refuse to buy what they are selling – their ideas, their version of history, their wars, their weapons, their notion of inevitability. Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing. ~ Arundhati Roy

You cannot buy the revolution. You cannot make the revolution. You can only be the revolution. It is in your spirit, or it is nowhere. ~ Ursula K. Le Guin

Thanks for reading everyone, and a huge thank you to the incarcerated donors who make this newsletter possible for all to read!

To our successful transitions!
Ubuntu, ~ sue

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As always, remember to look up free support in your phone-gizmo:
2-1-1
Fairshake.net
Rzero.org
And HelpYourselfTherapy.com