

FS Newsletter: Mother Earth Day Edition

Hello All!

I'm honored and grateful to be connected to you through this 'dialogic' newsletter. By 'dialogic', I mean that we share information, Broadcast' news – the usual newsletter style – is where information only flows one way. Dialogic is much more fun! I'm grateful to receive news from you!

This month I must cut my soliloquy to make room for lots of news ~

FIRST, A MOMENT FOR MOM

Happy Mother's Day! I'm wishing all the best to the mothers in our group! And I'm tipping my hat to our mothers, too - including those who are no longer with us, and those we have never known. We owe our lives to our mothers...including the mother who cares for us all: Mother Earth.

A REQUEST FOR WOMEN'S ART SUBMISSIONS!

The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice is a national publication that advocates' art and writing. They would be honored to feature visual art in the Summer 2022 Edition of *The Journal*. Please send your submissions by June 30, 2022.

Guidelines: What does mass incarceration look like? How does it feel? What are the causes and effects of mass incarceration? How can we end mass incarceration?

+ We welcome visual art submissions in any medium (photography, drawing, printmaking, painting, etc.)

+ Submit as many pieces as you would like. We ask that you title your submission(s).

+ Submit using your name, your artist name, or without a name.

+ If you are willing and able, we ask that you include a brief biography and photo.

+ Please change or limit details which might identify persons mentioned in your work.

+ In your cover letter, please state how you found out about this request.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR ENTRY TO:

New Jersey Reentry Corporation

ATTN: *The Journal of Women and Criminal Justice*

591 Summit Ave. STE 605B

Jersey City, NJ 07306

TURN OFF THE TV WEEK! May 2...through Mother's Day!

Yes, Readers, once again it's time to play, share stories and relax, free from aggressive advertising and corporate agendas. This week families around the world will put down their "entertainment screens" for seven days of fun, connection, and discovery. If you're not able or willing to turn off the screen, you might want to look at the device through a critical lens: what kinds of advertising is matched to which kinds of shows and does that 'targeted advertising' prey on us by cementing old stereotypes? How many ads did you see? How many ads promote drugs? I know you can think of a million more critical questions to help you see what's going on while you're entertained and getting biased news. (I can say that with confidence because there is no unbiased news ~:) Feel free to share your thoughts! If you'd like to tell your family and friends about TV FREE WEEK, please share this link: <https://www.screenfree.org/>

An excerpt from the FS HOW TO WATCH TV page:

We want to believe that the news is a public service, but the news just offers a controlled view of the world. In addition to telling us about events, it entertains us, incites fear, generates money,

and is filtered by political perspectives and advertisers. According to Neil Postman and Steve Powers: "The "news" is just a commodity, which is used to gather an audience that will be sold to advertisers." Here are a few of their recommendations for what to do when watching TV:

1. When encountering a news show, maintain a firm idea of what is important.
2. In preparing to watch a TV news show, keep in mind that it is a 'show'.
3. Never underestimate the power of commercials.
4. Learn something about the economic and political interests of those who run TV stations.
5. Pay special attention to the language of newscasts.

Look for Robert Cialdini's 'Principles of Persuasion': How are the shows and advertisers trying to get you to buy products or ideologies?

• Reciprocity. • Commitment. • Social proof • Authority. • Liking. • Scarcity. • Unity.

"The media is the most powerful entity on earth because they control the minds of the masses."
~ Malcolm X

FUNDRAISER UPDATE

I was hoping to start the fundraiser when I pushed 'send' on this newsletter. To learn more about fundraising, I went to check out other GoFundMe pages. The first thing I saw was a video. I have never made a video! I decided it's high time I make one, and I need to do it carefully and intentionally; not in a rush. While I was thinking about the video, I was invited to a fundraiser workshop on Friday, May 6th. I'm excited to have an opportunity to learn and ask questions about how to reach potential donors. I know they want information, but not too much information. And the best news is, I've been told that art is still on its way. I will launch the fundraiser with the next newsletter, a little earlier than usual next month...because I will run the entire fundraiser in the sign of GEMINI. Just for fun! Gemini is the sign of twins. I'm a Gemini (6.3.63) and Fair Shake is founded on the philosophy of ubuntu ("There is no such thing as a solitary individual" – Rev. Tutu) so multiple characters within one sign sounds perfect! THANK YOU, ART DONORS!

BUILDING UBUNTU – we are steering this ship together! Thank you so much, to all Donors! James sent a couple of large envelopes full of stamped envelopes, which I stuffed with Fair Shake flyers and sent to the 50+ people who write each week. Bill sent support to make sure you all receive the newsletter and support materials this month. He sent another donation to send the new Ownership Manual to prison libraries. MANY others sent donations ranging from \$5 to \$50 to keep the website going, to print flyers, to buy the DVD's that will hold the FS software application, and even donations to keep Ethiopian coffee in my mug. THANK YOU ALL!

Other valuable donations have come in the form of information updates; including address changes, changes in services (see below) and the news that the Mississippi Library Commission will no longer accept email resource requests through corrlinks. They will, however, accept your requests through the mail, and will send resource lists as promptly as they can. You can now write to them here:

Reference Service Department - Mississippi Library Commission
3881 Eastwood Dr
Jackson, MS 39211

Another RESOURCE RESOURCE?

Prison Families Alliance 7250 S. Durango Dr. Suite 130-237 Las Vegas, NV 89113

I found this group recently. Their website says: Our goals are to help the prison family, those on the outside and those on the inside or returning from prisons and jails, by providing guidance, support, information, and education. It is our desire to benefit this community by enhancing the qualities of their lives".

WRITING UPDATE, IN BRIEF:

PEN America is distributing 75,000 copies of *The Sentences That Create Us*, a book on writing behind bars. A free copy can be requested by writing to: Prison Writing Program c/o PEN America, 588 Broadway Suite 303, New York, NY 10012.

SERVICE CHANGE: Prisons Foundation, in Washington, DC – Sadly, they no longer offer their publishing services for free. If you've sent a letter off to them already, I believe you'll receive information about how their organization works now. Sorry about that. Things change fast!

FS INCARCERATED AUTHORS PAGE!

The Fair Shake website has a page dedicated to books, and now articles, written by incarcerated and formerly incarcerated authors. The listing includes a photo of the book cover, links to page where the book can be purchased online, and a brief description of the book. Several of the authors on that page read this newsletter each month! I've just recently added articles, too...and I'd also like to email a full article to you if you'd care to read it. The article is called "SURVIVING IN PRISON IS 90% MENTAL: That's Why I Teach Workouts That Strengthen the Mind"; written by Aaron Kinzer and published by The Marshall Project. **TWO-FER OFFER!** Two offers are on the table at once: Mr. Kinzer's article, and the Incarcerated Authors book list. If you'd like either one - or both - please start a new message to me and let me know what you prefer: the Book List, the Article, or Both.

CHICAGO NEWS: \$500-Per-Month-for-1-year Assistance Program!

This opportunity opened up on Monday and will close on May 13th at 11:59 pm. The application is available in English, Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Arabic, Polish, and Filipino. Only one member of a household can apply. Households to receive the cash assistance will be selected by a lottery. Your supporters with internet access can apply here:
https://cloud.citynews.chicago.gov/cash_pilot_updates

WI NEWS: 4.15.22: Gov. Tony Evers signed Senate Bill 564, now 2021 Wisconsin Act 264, into law. The bill requires the DOC to contract with no fewer than three vendors to purchase, religious, and other personal items. **FINALLY!**

Also: Looking for Resources and Assistance in WI? Contact The Way Out: support@twout.org

INREACH FROM THE AMERICAN HUMANISM ASSOCIATION:

I reached out to the American Humanist Association (AHA) for information and found that they support incarcerated people in a number of ways. For those who are new to the term, Humanism is a philosophy of life that, without theism or other supernatural beliefs, affirms the ability and responsibility of human beings to lead personal lives of ethical fulfillment that aspire to the greater good. They were founded in 1941. **WRITE FOR INSIDE THE WALLS** - a column by incarcerated humanists is included in their quarterly magazine, the Humanist. They seek personal narratives of 700–1,400 words on experiences relating to humanism in prison. To submit, write to the Editor at the address below or message us on Corrlinks at aha@americanhumanist.org They offer a membership discount for incarcerated people: \$2; and stamps are accepted.

American Humanist Association

1821 Jefferson Place NW
Washington DC, 20036

BOOKS FOR THE SUMMER: How about if you share a book review with me that I can share with the other readers here?! If you'd like to participate, please include the title, the author, and a 400-character (including spaces) description of the book, which includes why you are recommending it!

QUOTES:

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and right doing, there is a field. I'll meet you there." - Rumi

"Our best friendships are friendship that are really based in profound respect for one another. It grows us in ways we don't necessarily choose to grow." – Mpho Tutu van Furth

"Our systems are built for the 'gotcha'; we need more of the "I got you".” - Ari Wallach

Self-pity is a dead-end road. You make the choice to drive down it. It's up to you to decide to stay parked there or to turn around and drive out." - Cheryl Strayed

It's time for me to **CELEBRATE:**
Congratulations **GRADUATES!!!**

Also, the new Fair Shake software application being built! It will be available to send in early May!

To our successful transitions ~
Ubuntu, ~ sue

Fair Shake PO Box 63 Westby, WI 54667

As always, when you are released, remember to find support in your phone-gizmo:

2-1-1 findhelp.com Fairshake.net HelpYourselfTherapy.com FindHelp.org

Newsletters are available at FairShake.net for your family and friends to read or print.