



# UPAN Newsletter Volume 7 Number 3 | MARCH 2020

*“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”*

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## Prison Visiting Suspended with some Free Phone Calls – COVID-19 Protection – “Section 6” – Targeted Adult Medicaid

\* **NEXT UPAN MEETING:** Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Kafeneio Coffee House 258 West 3300 South, SLC

Topic: Family Meeting and recap of Utah 2020 legislation that passed related to prison & CJ

**DAY OF EMPATHY:** Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup> *Due to COVID-19 this event will be VIDEO ONLY and posted on UPAN’s Facebook Page when it is available on March 25<sup>th</sup>.*

Theme: People. Power. Policy. Video presentations from local people & celebrities.

**CANCELLED:** March 26<sup>th</sup> Screening of Documentary Untouchable at SLCC

\* **UDC FOCUS Meeting:** Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Location: Utah AP&P Treatment Center, 3280 W 3500 S, West Valley City, UT

Topic: Update on new Utah State Prison being built west of SLC airport.

\*These meetings are subject to change or cancellation based on COVID-19 closures.

**All UPAN Meetings and those posted above are free and open to the public.**

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**Disclaimer: Formulate your own opinions about the information presented. This information is presented for the reader’s enlightenment and evaluation.**

*The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend. Abraham Lincoln*

**INFORMATION FROM THE UDC WEBSITE RE COVID-19 PROTECTION MEASURES**  
**Thursday, March 12 & 13 & 14, 2020: Visiting and Volunteering Suspended & Free Phone Calls**

The UDC website is keeping the public informed of their response to COVID-19. They are suspending visitation and volunteering to Utah State Prison in Draper and the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison. UDC will reevaluate this suspension in two weeks and they are continuously providing updates through the UDC website and social media. Volunteers, family and friends play a critical role in an offender's rehabilitation process, and UDC intends to keep everyone informed over the next weeks when visiting and volunteer services can resume. Attorneys will be permitted to meet with offenders, but only through barrier visits at this time"

**Increased Access to Phones will begin Monday, March 16**, when inmates at USP Draper and CUCF will have access to **10 free phone calls** per week. The free calls will be limited to 15 minutes. Traditional fees will be charged for additional calls and calls exceeding the 15-minute limit. The free communications are being put in place to allow the incarcerated to stay in contact with loved ones while visiting is suspended at both facilities. UDC Says "We'd like to thank CenturyLink for working so quickly in coordination with our Department to get this in motion!"

**As of March 12, 2020: Tours and public awareness panels have been suspended for the time being. Also, the Utah Serving Time Cafe is closed for business until further notice.**

The website says that UDC is proactively working to prevent an outbreak while also preparing for a potential outbreak of the Coronavirus within its facilities. In

addition to suspending visiting and volunteering; they are placing strategic signage throughout all facilities for staff and residents regarding preventative steps and recognizing symptoms; identifying areas for isolation and quarantine for those exposed, symptomatic or confirmed; strategizing on limiting movement between facilities or other outside locations; providing additional sanitizing materials; and educating staff and inmates on the use of protective gear and sanitization.

**Question: Are those entering UDC facilities being screened for the Coronavirus? Answer:** "Screening processes are in place, including for offenders, staff and others entering or moving between facilities. Any suspected cases will follow the protocols identified by the Governor's Office, which may include immediate isolation and testing following initial screenings."

**"Suspected cases in inmate population will be immediately isolated and tested following initial screenings."** The website also states, "Measures are already in place where any staff member with symptoms has been directed to stay home and to notify the chain of command."

As of March 15, 2020: Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in Utah: 21;  
Confirmed Cases of COVID-19 in UDC (includes prison staff and inmates): 0  
Deaths in Utah: 0 **FAQs are now also on the website:**  
**<https://corrections.utah.gov/index.php/home/alerts-2/1237-udc-coronavirus-updates>**

**USP & CUCF and COVID-19 \*\*\* Protecting Our Incarcerated Loved Ones** by Molly Prince

**UPAN received rumors about COVID-19 and USP.** On Wednesday night March 4<sup>th</sup>, UPAN received word about a rumor that someone in USP tested positive for the Novel (new) Coronavirus (COVID-19). Our directors immediately jumped to action texting, emailing, and calling the UDC public information office to find out if this was fact or a rumor. By the morning of March 5<sup>th</sup>, Public Information Director Kaitlin Felsted responded. She informed Molly Prince that she had researched the rumor and confirmed that it was not true. She confirmed that the UDC has a plan in place and UDC is working with the Utah Health Department and the Governor's Task Force on Coronavirus.

**Inmates can control what they do but not what the prison does.** While the report UPAN received turned out to be a rumor, families have had a lot of concerns about the possibility of an outbreak in our prisons where our incarcerated loved ones have little control to protect themselves from it. Frequent hand washing can be a challenge when not every sink in the facility works and

indigent hygiene bags do not always provide enough soap to last a week. It has been stressed in the mainstream media that alcohol-based hand sanitizers are recommended to kill this new virus, and to use that when soap and water are not available, but our prisons and jails do not generally allow anything that is alcohol-based in an inmate's possession. Some medical sources also recommend keeping hydrated and drinking water regularly to help stay healthy. COVID-19 is spread between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes (per the Centers for Disease Control. Living in close quarters in small cells or in dorms does little to stop the spread of any type of germs.

There are numerous articles in the mainstream media as well as on social media about the challenges of protecting America's incarcerated from the spread of COVID-19.

**What is COVID-19?** The “Coronavirus” in general is simply any of a group of RNA viruses that cause a variety of diseases in humans and other animals, including the cold virus. The Novel Coronavirus Disease, known as COVID-19 is that particular virus which is believed to have originated in animals in China and began to transfer to humans and has now quickly spread throughout the world.

**Ideas on how inmates can protect themselves and those around them.** UPAN suggests that any incarcerated individual does what they can to protect themselves and other inmates by always covering their mouths when coughing or sneezing. This can be done by coughing down the neck of your shirt, into your elbow, or into a tissue. If you cough or sneeze into a tissue make sure you discard it into the trash and then wash your hands before touching any surfaces or shaking hands with anyone. Always properly dispose of used tissues rather than leaving them laying on bunks or hard surfaces to prevent the spread of germs. Wash surfaces that you touch frequently.

The CDC recommends to stop handshaking or fist bumping – use other noncontact methods of greeting. Elbow bumps are becoming popular. Wash and (when possible) disinfect surfaces like doors, door handles, tables, chairs, desks, and handrails regularly. Increase ventilation by opening windows or adjusting air conditioning.

When washing hands, take at least 20 seconds to lather up well with soap and wash your palms, the top of each and, between the fingers, the thumb, under the fingernails, and the wrists. Lather up well and rinse thoroughly. It is recommended that people stay at least three to six feet apart to prevent spread of the germs. This will be difficult in the close quarters of the prisons and jails of Utah.

According to the Utah Health Department and US Dept. of Health, the Coronavirus symptoms are only a fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

**As of Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, ALL VISITATION IS SUSENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.** However, when it resumes, UPAN recommends that visitors, volunteers, and staff should stay away from the prison if they are ill with any cold or flu symptoms. While you may want to visit your loved one, it is best to avoid any possibility of communication of any illness by

skipping a visit or two if you are sick. We urge volunteers and staff to do the same.

UDC staff has sick leave and paid time off, so officers and staff should not go to work if they are ill with a cold or flu. This helps protect the health of the residents of USP and CUCF and ultimately, the health and well-being of anyone involved in the prison facilities.

USP has a large number of elderly inmates and those with serious health concerns. These are the most vulnerable to contracting any communicable illnesses. Help to protect them.

**UDC Memo on Corrections Website** dated Monday, March 9, 2020 labeled “Utah Department of Corrections Prepares for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)” stated in part:

*“The Utah Department of Corrections (UDC) is working collaboratively with state partners, including the Lieutenant Governor’s task force to address Coronavirus in Utah. The U.S., and the State of Utah, are actively monitoring the ongoing outbreak of novel (new) coronavirus... The safety of our inmates, along with our staff, volunteers and others who enter our facilities, is paramount. We want to assure the public that we are strategically prepared for most any scenario in which the Coronavirus could impact our operations.*

***We ask that those working in or visiting any of Utah’s facilities to be self-aware and to stay home if you have symptoms of the virus, which include fever, cough and shortness of breath. (emphasis added by UPAN).***

*If UDC operations are impacted, then information will be posted on the public website at [corrections.utah.gov](https://coronavirus.utah.gov). If you have immediate questions, please contact us at 801-545-5500 or email [corrections@utah.gov](mailto:corrections@utah.gov). For more information on the virus, and for state-related updates, visit the website: <https://coronavirus.utah.gov/>”*

**UPAN families feel helpless to protect our incarcerated loved ones from this public health scare. Please do your part, help to protect everyone in Utah’s facilities by being conscientious about not spreading germs of any kind, whether you are an inmate, a visitor, a volunteer, or a staff member.**

UPAN Communications Director checks UDC website and posts to UPAN Facebook on this regularly.

### **A New Group to Advocate for Inmates has Organized**

There is a new group in town that is advocating for the rights and well-being of inmates. UPAN wants to clarify that even though the name this group has chosen is close to Utah Prisoner Advocate Network, its organizers are separate from UPAN directors. UPAN welcomes everyone to our meetings and to be involved in our

mission to help families learn how to navigate the prison system and be a positive support to their incarcerated loved ones, as well as educating the public and paying attention to legislation being enacted by lawmakers that impact prison inmates and prison families.

Named Prisoner Advocate Group (PAG) the new group was formed in response to the problems resulting from the removal of the A/B recs in the Utah State Prison system for those classified as STG (Security Threat Group, aka gang members).

It was organized by Sally Sue Steel and Roni Wilcox who went public about their loved one's situation in the prison and connected with other families of incarcerated gang members to join together for a common cause. Over the past two months they have joined with families of impacted inmates and staged a total of three protests near Utah State Prison in Draper. Their flyer states, "Unite and Make it Right" and "As Families We Can Unite Because They Can't." It shows a red and a blue bandana tied together as a symbol of families out here uniting to help their gang affiliated loved ones in there.

While some of PAG organizers and participants have also been involved in UPAN meetings or written articles for the UPAN newsletter, the two organizations are completely separate entities in terms of organization and operation.

The problems inherent in Utah's prison system are numerous and broad enough to warrant a variety of groups and organizations to fight for change and advocate for our incarcerated loved ones. The two organizations have separate styles and methods of

### **DRAPER: "SECTION 6"**

By Sue Steel PAG (Prisoner Advocate Group)

The Utah Department of Correction's follow-up policy to the A/B day rec elimination is being referred to as "Section 6", or the "Gladiator pit". There have been many rumors from the inmates, to their families, based on information they have received from the Correction Officers (CO's) in their sections.

The information we have put together is a combination of statements from inmates who have spoken with CO's and an anonymous source currently a CO in Draper. It details how the "Section 6" policy will be implemented.

The Northern and Southern gangs have all been moved into the Uinta Max units. These inmates are given the opportunity to work through a program called the "Phoenix" program. The program has 3 phases. The first 2 phases are self-paced and include 16 packets each. After each phase the inmate completes, they get additional phone calls each week as well as an additional visiting day each month. This is incentive to complete the program. After the inmate completes phase 2, they become eligible for phase 3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase is teacher taught and the inmate will need to attend class. The inmates are chained to special chairs, in order to keep order in the restrictive inmate classroom setting.

As they become eligible for the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, the new prison policy is to move these inmates to Uinta 2,

achieving our goals, but we want to be supportive of each other. The following is taken directly from PAG's flyer for the most recent protest held on March 7, 2020:

*"As families and friends of our incarcerated loved ones we would love the opportunity to join you in your individual fight. Your inmate may be paying their debt to society so they can come home to their loved ones, or your inmate may be one of many who has been unjustly incarcerated. Either way, our inmates are living their lives in fear!"*

*Fathers, Mothers, Husbands, Wives, Brothers, Sisters, Sons & Daughters are being subjected to a wide range of human rights violations. They are being forced into "human dog fights" by prison officials, intentionally mixing rival gangs; racial inequality; unjust "rulings" from the Parole Board and District Judges; as well as inadequate heating and inferior medical care.*

*We are asking for this to be a common ground for everyone regardless of affiliation. Please join us in supporting our inmates while looking forward to enacting immense change in the current methods practiced by the Department of Corrections! Please contact us at: [prisoneradvocategroup@gmail.com](mailto:prisoneradvocategroup@gmail.com) or visit us at: [prisoneradvocategroup.com](http://prisoneradvocategroup.com)*

*Inmates can contact us at: Prisoner Advocate Group 869 E 4500 S, Ste #222, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106.*

"Section 6". They are moving them to "Section 6" to test them to see if they will fight. The expectation of a gang member in prison is that if they see their rival in the open, they are to fight. Based on gang culture, these guys have no choice. They know the consequence of not following orders. The prison has not integrated any of these rival inmates yet but have continued to slowly move all of them over to "Section 6". We have received information that on March 18, 2018, the prison staff is planning on pairing up inmates, as they did with the A/B day rec elimination, by size, weight and threat level. They will "pop" the doors of 4 Northern inmates and 4 Southern inmates, leaving all other inmates locked down. The CO's will stand back and watch these 8 inmates fight, again, as they did during the A/B day rec elimination. Inmates will be forced to defend themselves from their rivals and fight back as dictated by the prison leaders of their individual organizations. It should be noted that during the elimination of the A/B rec, once the inmates left their cells on recs, the doors were locked and they were not able to retreat back into their cells. Even if they wanted to avoid fighting, they could not go back into their cells. We anticipate that there will be multiple inmates transported to hospitals by ambulance and life-flight, in danger of losing their lives over a power play instigated by the UDC and prison leadership and staff.

A CO was quoted by one of the inmates preparing to go to "Section 6" that "they can do whatever they got to do and if they fight/stab each other, they will go back to Uinta 1." They will bring in another 8 rival inmates and repeat these integrations, "until they get along." "Getting along" is just not going to happen unless the sanctioned fights result in killing off all gang members. These gang members, again, know the price of disobeying orders.

Our anonymous source also told us that this "Section 6" policy was put up for vote in a meeting in January 2020, including all Utah Department of Corrections administration staff and Prison employees, after the A/B day rec elimination. There was a group of Correctional officers who deal more closely with gang inmates that voted "No" on the "sanctioned" fights. They believed that it was far too dangerous for the inmates, as well as the officers, but they were overruled, and the majority of employees voted "Yes", knowingly putting these inmates lives in imminent danger. The "Section 6" policy was put into motion.

When the original A/B day rec elimination policy was put into place, the UDC public information officer, Kaitlin Felsted, told us that if the inmates chose to fight during the elimination of the A/B schedule, they would be moved to max and they would have to stay there, lose their privileges and potentially pick up additional charges. That would be the price of fighting. That appears, now, to be untrue with this newly added stage of sanctioned human "dog fights".

The 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the United States Constitution

### **Additional Information from Re-Entry Program at February 2020 UPAN Meeting** by Molly Prince

This article continues sharing information received in our February 10, 2020 UPAN meeting where the UDC Re-Entry Team presented on the (computer) tablet program. Other information has been acquired about release issues since that time. Part 1 is in the February UPAN newsletter.

**Everyone on the Re-Entry Team expressed** in some way the goal of the Re-Entry Unit to assist the incarcerated in learning how to access resources, use a tablet and electronic technology, for the purpose of becoming successful on their parole and in their life. The tablet program in the institution helps inmates to learn to use their time more productively and create their own structure. People can access resources (discussed in the February newsletter) as well as email their case worker for quick answers to questions.

Eric Barker, Asst. Regional Administrator under which the Re-Entry Unit operates shared more about the Tablet Program in USP. Many people have been incarcerated for multiple years and are not familiar with technology and this program is intended to help empower individuals to function and adjust to the 21<sup>st</sup>

states: "Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted." These inmates were sent to prison because they committed a crime in our society that demands they serve time, locked away from society, to compensate for what they have done. Nowhere does it state that they are to be continually tortured, day and night, by threat of structured violence, loss of life, taunting by prison staff, and extended separation from family by means of limiting, or eliminating, visits and phone calls. Most of these inmates just want to come home to their loved ones!

These are beyond reasonable expectations for any human to constantly endure. They are in a constant state of "War!" They all suffer from some level of PTSD. This is clearly "cruel and unusual punishment". Is there any wonder why these imprisoned human beings return to society damaged and unable to cope with "normal" life? And that they return to prison at a national average of approximately 80% recidivism rate?

Utah, we can do better than this! We need to be the example for the rest of the country. Can we create a world where HUMANS pay their debt to society for the mistakes they have made, be forgiven those mistakes, and while doing that we give them purpose? We offer education, job training (trade skills, coding, sales, art, etc.) emotional and mental health care, along with social skills training so that when they leave prison, they can be a positive contributor to Utah and humanity?

Destroying them with the absence of basic human dignity and respect, is NOT working.

century upon release. Since there are a limited number of tablets (390) in use, there is criteria that the inmate must meet to be eligible to be in the tablet program.

1. The inmate must live in a housing unit that has a tablet program.

2. The majority of participants must have a parole date within one year.

3. To date, they cannot be someone with a sexual offense, although more recently with Board of Pardons & Parole input there will be a program developed that allows sex offenders to use tablets.

4. There are some others who may be eligible if they do not yet have a parole date but will have one in the future. Currently 35% of participants do not have a parole date.

5. The inmate must be at a safety classification level that allows them to participate.

**Preliminary Data on success of the program.** Early data shows only a 17% recidivism rate (meaning violation rate in this case) of people using the tablet program. The average Utah recidivism is about 65%.

**Release Day** Every Tuesday is Release Day in Utah State Prison. There is a Community Release Day Fair

held in the Fred House Academy. Families can go to an orientation at the Fred House Academy while their loved ones are being processed out of USP. Then they can attend the Fair with their loved ones. At this fair is a variety of tables set up with community resources. It is recommended parolees and their families take the time to visit these tables to learn what is available for them in the community to help them succeed. This includes Dept. of Workforce Services which managed Targeted Adult Medicaid health insurance, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation which can help with training and work clothing, and other resources.

A different release day experience may be expected for those going to a community correctional center such as

Northern Utah CCC in Ogden, or facilities in Salt Lake City that include Fortitude Treatment Center (men), Orange Street CCC or Atherton Treatment Center (women) or Bonneville CCC (men). Vans will transport paroling individuals to one of these community facilities. It is still important for the individuals who release to a CCC or Treatment Center to obtain the literature, applications and information for services and then follow through on them once they arrive at their destination.

UPAN is pleased with the progress we have watched the Re-Entry Unit make over the past two years and we are excited to watch it evolve.

### **Important Information about Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM)** by Molly Prince

Utah has several different types of Medicaid Health Insurance Plans, which makes the Medicaid maze very confusing for everyone. Targeted Adult Medicaid (TAM) is intended for ALL justice-involved persons upon release from a prison or jail. Residents in halfway houses or state-run adult treatment centers are also eligible. Contrary to misconceptions by both released individuals and some correctional staff, the releasing person does not have to have participated in a substance abuse program while incarcerated. The individual does not have to have been in mental health treatment while incarcerated. The qualifying criteria is that the person has to be involved in the criminal justice system and was incarcerated. It allows for 12 months of coverage from the date of release, even once the parolee obtains a job.

The Medicaid application received on release day needs to be completed and submitted to Utah Dept. of Workforce Services along with Form 43A as soon as possible. Form 43A is what defines the person as justice involved. It must be completed and signed by the person's probation / parole officer or halfway house

shift leader and submitted to the Medicaid office. UPAN has learned that if the Form 43A is not submitted within 60 days of the parolee's release date by their correctional agent, the window to qualify closes, resulting in the former inmate being denied TAM coverage. This has been a problem for several individuals who did not know this, the Form 43A was not completed and submitted from the CCC / A P & P before the 60 day deadline, and they lost this coverage.

The Utah Health Policy Project has also offered assistance to former inmates with navigating the application process.

If the parolee is denied TAM coverage, they may qualify for Adult Expansion Medicaid, which terminates once the person obtains a job and has an income. This is not effective for most justice-involved persons because they often must start their probation or parole with employment thru temporary services and low wages, in jobs that don't offer affordable health insurance coverage. **RELEASING PERSONS:** Know the process, ask questions, be persistent, and follow through.

### **Untouchable Film Review** by Faye Jenkins

In January, UPAN partnered with NARSOL (National Association for Rational Sexual Offense Laws), ACLU of Utah, and WAR (Women Against the Registry) to host a public viewing of the movie *Untouchable*, directed by David Feige. The documentary is an important film to see for anyone who seriously cares about ending sexual abuse in our country, doing so by focusing on education and discarding current ineffective regulations and restrictions that forever damage the lives of citizens who are now totally safe former offenders. They offer less risk than the general population! Who better to welcome into your neighborhood than a former offender who is now proven to be a lower risk than your other neighbors?!

The film chronicles the crusade of Florida lobbyist Ron Book to enact the strictest sex offender laws in the

nation after it was discovered his daughter had been sexually abused by her nanny for many years. It interweaves intimate portraits of men and women who have been branded sex offenders with heartbreaking stories of those who have been sexually abused. This film takes the viewer on a 360-degree tour of sexual abuse in our country, the abused, those who are convicted of sexual abuse, and the families closely tied to these issues.

**SPOILER ALERT:** I'll share some of the most poignant messages I received from the film. Please don't let it stop you from watching this important film!

#### **Experiences from those on the registry:**

Hearing the stories of people on the registry, you realize they are not monsters, but people who made seriously

poor or damaging choices and are trying to heal and rebuild their lives.

Shawna Baldwin – Plead guilty to engaging in sexual activity with a minor (teen) on her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is now a mother of two children sentenced to lifetime probation and registration. The registry lists her as Class 3 – child molester, the most severe classification. Since her sentence, the most she has been able to earn is about \$300 per week. With the cost of monthly probation, group, and polygraphs, she estimates she has spent \$35,800 in associate expenses during the 14 years since her conviction. Her sentence is for life.

Clyde Newton – He describes himself as the monster everyone hates. For inappropriately touching his stepdaughter, he made a deal for eight years in prison and seven years parole. After release from prison, he returned to prison for 3.5 years for not finding suitable housing. Later on, working two jobs, he purchased a home outside Florida's original 1,000-foot boundary around schools and parks. He was ultimately forced to move to a homeless encampment across town when the City of Miami enacted a 2,500-foot housing restriction. Due to a delayed bus one night, he arrived 8 minutes late to the encampment and was sent back to prison for 4 years. He violated parole one more time by missing one of his classes and finally expired his sentence of twenty years with the final seven months in prison. Clyde is now free, but still has the scars from the sexual abuse he experienced as a child at the hands of his father and for the hurt he inflicted upon a child, not knowing what possessed him to do it.

John Cryer – Describes himself as a “closet pedophile.” After 3 failed marriages he was convicted of possessing child pornography and sentenced to 15 months probation. While on probation he was arrested for possessing child pornography and crossing state lines with intent to have sex with a minor. He was sent to federal prison for 11.5 years. He doesn't know if his attraction to children will ever go away, but he does not view himself as a risk because he has learned how to control his behavior through treatment and the group he attends regularly. Sex was imprinted on his child mind at the age of eight when exposed to sexual behavior between his cousins who were children themselves.

#### **Lessons learned from victim activists:**

Ron Book is angry about his daughter's abuse, as is expected. His personal mission to enact the strictest laws against sex offenders in the country is controlled by his belief you can protect children from sexual abuse by keeping those who would hurt them away. Contrary to his philosophies, data shows restrictive registration laws do not prevent sexual violence. Focus needs to be put on education.

Ron Book – When asked in the film if any of the harshest laws he and his daughter lobbied to pass in Florida against past offenders would have made any

difference in protecting his daughter from her abuse, he stated, "Most of the laws we have passed would have likely done nothing to protect my daughter. But I believe had we properly educated my daughter on how to be safe, on safe touching, about secrets, and that no secret is forever, I am absolutely convinced the abuse would have been short lived. My daughter would have told."

Lauren Book – After years of advocating and lobbying for harsher laws in Florida and talking to people on the registry and their families, Lauren Book realized, "You cannot broad-brush this issue, the moment you do will create policies that are dangerous and cannot be enforced. Smart policy (not punitive) keeps kids safe."

If you don't prevent sexual abuse through education and awareness, you can't be effective."

Patty Wetterling – Her son Jacob Wetterling was abducted and never found. Due to her advocacy work, the first federal registration act passed was named after her son. It required every state to manage and maintain a register for sexually violent predators released into the community. The registry was supposed to be used and managed by law enforcement for investigating crimes, not for public information. She states, "I feel like the intention of that law got hijacked and went down another path... In the beginning it was a tool for law enforcement; now it's a punishment."

#### **Take home message from the experts:**

Registration laws were created and designed around the image of strangers, loners, offenders arrested for rape and then escalades to raping and killing after a person is released from prison. Though they are extremely rare, rape/murder events get tons of publicity. With these dangerous offenders in mind, laws are enacted for a broadly defined category of sex offender, aimed at the most dangerous.

The world of politicians and the world of science do not meet. The public thinks recidivism is almost 100% but the empirical, scientific truth from studies over and over again shows recidivism after 5 years is 3.6%. (2.7% convicted and 1.7% return to prison).

Recidivist sexual violence is a tiny part of the problem of sexual abuse in our country. Most sexual offending is not a visible monster prowling among us - they are us! Lauren Book made a bold statement about something she said no survivor talks about, "All feel a deep dark hole where a monster exists - a Waldi in me - and if I'm not careful she is going to come out and hurt another kid." (Waldi was the name of the person who abused Lauren.)

Every million dollars spent on registration laws is a million dollars not spent on primary prevention and changing society attitudes that allow sexual violence to flourish. It's money not spent on tried and true treatment and supervision of sex offenders.

The film *Untouchable* is designed to bring all sides together for the common goal of reducing sexual abuse in our country. That comes from using education and awareness to keep children safe and creating a culture of healing for both victims and offenders (who in many

cases were victims of child sexual abuse themselves). *Untouchable* is available on Amazon Prime, iTunes, and Google Play. It can also be viewed free of charge across the country on Konapy.com through partnership with your local public library.

### **Dr. Yusef Salaam & Raymond Santana of Exonerated 5** **Speak at Salt Lake Community College** by Molly Prince

Two of the members of the "Exonerated Five," Yusef Salaam and Raymond Santana participated in the February 18, 2020 day-long event focusing on racism, the criminal justice system, and their lives after incarceration. The two spoke at the Grand Theatre for Salt Lake Community College's 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Keynote during this event.

UPAN's Britnee Webb manned an information table and attended this event on February 18, 2020. She and her husband attended the keynote speeches and they were privileged to meet Dr. Yusef Salaam and Raymond Santana.

#### **A brief history of the Central Park Jogger Case and the "Central Park Five"**

In April 1989, a 28-year-old white female investment banker, Trisha Meili, had been out jogging in the park. She was found beaten and raped and was in a coma for 12 days - and in that time, the case of the Central Park Jogger would grip New York City. Five young black and Hispanic adolescent boys, between the ages of 14 and 16, were present in the park that night (as were up to 30 boys and men of color). In the days that ensued, these five innocent boys, including Salaam and Santana, were coerced into a false confession by police officers after being deprived of sleep, food, and water, being lied to, and were prosecuted despite lack of evidence.

These five boys would be found guilty and jailed for the crime. The five boys were Kevin Richardson age 14, Raymond Santana 14, Antron McCray 15, Yusef Salaam 15, and 16-year-old Korey Wise. They became known as the "Central Park Five." There is a powerful documentary series of their experience called *When They See Us*, available on Netflix. The quintet was labeled the "Central Park Five" and maintained their innocence. They each spent years fighting the convictions, hoping to be exonerated, which they eventually were, and after a decade, DNA evidence proved their innocence. This limited series spans a quarter of a century, from when the teens are first questioned about the incident in the spring of 1989, going through their exoneration in 2002, and ultimately the settlement reached with the City of New York in 2014.

In 2001, Matias Reyes, a convicted murderer and serial rapist serving life in prison, confessed to officials that he committed the crime that the five boys had been convicted of. Mr. Reyes' DNA matched the DNA found at the scene, and he provided other confirmatory evidence. He said he committed the rape alone.

After finally being exonerated in 2002 for the wrongful conviction, Salaam and Santana have spent their lives working to inform the public on criminal justice reform. Mr. Wise and Mr. Richardson work with the Innocence Project and are also involved in criminal justice reform. Mr. McCray lives quietly in the south raising his family. The men are now known as the "Exonerated Five."

**Racism and the "chess" of the criminal justice system.** According to a Feb. 19, 2020 article in *The Daily Utah Chronicle* by Ivana Martinez and Joseph Moss, two of the Exonerated 5 spoke at the 2020 Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Keynote to a sold-out crowd.

In addition, Raymond Santana spoke with students at a luncheon hosted by the Black Student Union and the Utah Criminology.

Santana spent the day with students talking about their own personal experiences with racial issues in Utah. Salt Lake Community College student Ryiah Murchison spoke at a luncheon where students met Santana. The long history of racism in our community was a topic. "There was one time they did blackface for an assembly," Murchison said about her school. She went on to talk about how she even almost got suspended at that assembly for taking action. Murchison mentioned another incident when she was running for homecoming queen and was told by a member of the Board of Education at the time that she wasn't going to win because "she was black."

Santana continued the conversation, asking if there was unity between different races in Utah. After more student input, he told students that racism isn't as blatant as it used to be. It has masked itself in different forms. Michelle Alexander touches on this in her book "*The New Jim Crow*," identifying mass incarceration as a system of operation based on race. "The system has become very strategic. The system plays chess. It doesn't play checkers," Santana said.

According to data from the Institute of Crime and Justice Policy, the United States remains one of the countries with the highest mass incarceration rates. While racial disparities have been shrinking in American prisons, people of color are still disproportionately imprisoned. Black people comprise 12% of the adult population in the U.S. but represent 33% of the prison population.



### **The Loss of Innocence**

Yusef Salaam was 15-years-old at the time of the conviction. He spoke about his loss of innocence during and after the trial. "It is tantamount to going to sleep every day — wanting the American dream and waking up to the American nightmare," Salaam said. He said that his mother had tried to give him a parallel education that he hadn't yet experienced. He received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2016 from President Obama.

Salaam talked about the American justice system and its role in mass incarceration of people of color. "We've been walking around saying something wrong. 'The system is broken.' The system is alive and well. Then we found out that the system is actually not broken," Salaam said. "That the system is working exactly as it was designed."

### **Further life changes upon exoneration and the**

***Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all. Dale Carnegie***

### **Thoughts on Being Authentic About Your Past** by Dave Donaldson, Fresh Start Ventures

Yesterday I was in the store. A man I recognized from having been in my classes in jail for about a year approached me with a big smile and shouted, "Dave!" He had in tow, two young children, a girl and a boy, I'd say 7 and 5 respectively. We hugged, which we never had never been able to do before. Before catching up, telling me about his employer that gave him a chance, and about how he's now an apprentice electrician, he introduced me to his kids. Calling them by name so I'd know, he said, "This is Dave. He came and taught classes to Daddy while I was in jail." I shook each of the kids' hands and told them I really loved their Dad.

I never "out" people that I have met in jail or prison when I see them on the street with their families or friends. Some would rather not remember that moment. Some have even just glanced at me, nodded, and not said any greeting, hoping probably that I wouldn't out them in front of who they're with. I totally respect that.

But some out themselves, and for that I am grateful, and proud to know them in that moment. I know LOTS of people who have not outed themselves to their "closest" relationships, and I wonder at the cost of doing so. Invariably I witness those who keep the darkest

***When They See Us series.*** Salaam and Santana spoke about how their life changed after the release of the Netflix limited series "*When They See Us*," which dramatized the lives of the Central Park Five. "It had changes in a more positive way. It has given us more opportunities to go out and speak to young people giving the message," Santana said.

**Mindset matters.** Santana mentioned that we, as a people, need to stray away from the mindset that one individual's idea is better than others, and instead we should bring those ideas collectively and combine them to solve the problem. That mindset is "What destroys the solution [is] when we start fighting amongst each other," he said. "We have to work on both solutions." Salaam and Santana were met with a standing ovation at the end of their keynote.

<https://dailyutahchronicle.com/2020/02/19/yusef-salaam-raymond-santana/>

parts of themselves from those closest to them, have the most superficial relationships. I know SO many parents who, hoping to re-write history (and believe me, I do understand the power of shame in our culture), allow their children to struggle with trauma responses from vague memories of childhood separation, abuse, parental conflicts, incarceration, etc. The science, and my anecdotal experience, says that such children become adolescents that act out, and adults who struggle with addiction, depression, PTSD, eating disorders, and secrets themselves, and even higher incidence of autoimmune diseases (see Bessel Van der Kolk's, *The Body Keeps The Score*).

The data is in: your kids need to know who you are. It doesn't matter your age or theirs, there is an age-appropriate way to tell them your story. It will bless them. It will bless you. It will change familial emotional DNA for generations.

The kids of the man I reacquainted with yesterday are on the path to becoming mentally and emotionally healthy adolescents and adults - and that, in no small measure, because of a Dad who is not going to be defined by the worst thing anyone knows about him.

***"The love we give away is the only love we keep." Elbert Hubbard***

### **Getting Married While Incarcerated** by Rev. Christopher Scuderi

Yes, you can marry while incarcerated! Recently some misinformation has been given about those incarcerated being able to marry while in prison (or jail). The fact is that there is simply a different form for special circumstances like this and a few extra hoops for the person on the outside to get handled. It can be done. If you or your loved one are having challenges obtaining a license to get married, please contact Rev. Christopher of Universal Heart Ministry at 801-577-0542, PO Box 65974, Salt Lake City UT 84165 [universalheartministry@gmail.com](mailto:universalheartministry@gmail.com)

## **The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (aka COVID-19) and Prisons**

By Warren Rosenbaum (aka Ed.)

Coronaviruses are not new. Anyone who has had a common cold, and who hasn't, has had a type of coronavirus. The Prison Policy Initiative shared "common sense policies" to slow the spread of any viruses among the prison population. This is especially important during the current COVID-19 scare. These policies and recommendations are:

1) Release medically vulnerable and older inmates, 2) Stop charging copays for medical care in prisons, 3) Lower jail (prison) admissions, 4) Reduce unnecessary probation and parole meetings, 5) End imprisonment for technical parole and probation violations.

Prisoner advocates in Indiana called on their Governor to consider releasing large numbers of elderly and sick prisoners who are at highest risk of complications from coronavirus. Elderly people, usually those with chronic

illnesses, represent a vast out-of-balance population in all prisons, and the elderly are the fastest growing group in prisons. (IOW, release the old folks.)

Other considerations are what is intended when staff shortages occur when easily contagious illness hit the prison, what improved sanitation steps will be taken, and how will inmates be quarantined when infected.

The incubation period for COVID-19 is similar to other coronaviruses like SARS and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) – on average 5 days but can take from 3 to 14 days to manifest symptoms based on CDC information.

**Latest news:** ABC News reports on Sun, Mar. 15<sup>th</sup>, U S has 3244 confirmed cases in 49 states with 61 deaths.

***What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.  
Ralph Waldo Emerson***

### **UPAN Writing Exercise – Sharpen Your Pencils and Your Brain – Writing Opportunity for Inmates**

Inmates are encouraged to participate in a UPAN sponsored event. Write (in English) **an informative letter, story, fiction, non-fiction, article, memoir, rhyming poem or free verse poem (not rhyming), or a special category called CJS-Prison-Jail Complaints.** Limit **3 submissions total per inmate.** Select one or a mix of the categories. All narrative (prose) writing limited to about 1,500 words (5 or 6 handwritten sheets), poems limited to 100 lines each. **No limit** on the special category, CJS-Prison-Jail Complaints. (But book-length entries in that category are frowned upon.)

**Submission deadline: Wed. July 1, 2020.** Certificates of Achievement awarded to all ASAP after deadline. Submissions will not be judged against other writers nor be published in the UPAN Newsletter (we simply don't have the space). We are considering other options of publication. Writer's **names are ALWAYS confidential, especially in the CJS-Prison-Jail Complaints category.** Write the category at top right of page 1 of your entry. **Submit to: UPAN Writing Exercise, P.O. Box 1018, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062.** This expedites review of your submissions. Please do **NOT** send to UPAN's Draper P.O. Box address. Thanks for your participation and best wishes toward your good writing. I hope you have some fun with this. Ed.

### **A Couple of Smiles and Maybe a Laugh**

How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh? Not eight. It takes ten-tickles.\*\* A grasshopper sits down at a bar. The bartender says, "We have a drink named after you." The grasshopper asks, "You have a drink named Steve?" What does the world's top dentist get? A little plaque.

*Stay calm, this too shall pass. Meanwhile, enjoy the coming spring when viruses historically diminish – Stay warm, Ed.*

### **Utah Prisoner Advocate Network**

President: Shauna Denos  
Past-President & Treasurer: Molly Prince  
Director of Communications: Shane Severson  
Inmate Newsletter Volunteer Coord: Deon Corkins  
Director of Sex Offender Policy Issues: Faye Jenkins  
Director of Women's Issues: Britnee Webb  
UPAN Volunteer Coordinator: An Bradshaw  
Newsletter Editor: Warren Rosenbaum

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Facebook: Facebook.com/UtahPrisoner  
(Note: go there to view recent UPAN meetings)

***"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead***