



UPAN Newsletter Volume 7 Number 8 | AUGUST 2020

“Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity”

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Video Visits Soon – Nat’l Day of Freedom & Justice – Lacey Harris R. M. Innocence Center – Comp Release – Gratitude Articles Needed

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SEPTEMBER UPAN MEETNG: MONDAY, September 14, 2020 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Virtual - Zoom Registration **Topic:** UPAN will discuss outcomes from the 2020 Legislative Session and the impact of any new laws on the incarcerated, probation, or parole populations and their supporters. Free and open to the public. Live stream on Facebook Live will be available. Virtual Zoom Meeting – Register Here: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/7115965040544/WN_VF3fFKLrTMCpYMzqkO4ViQ

UPAN is working to begin virtual meetings this fall. Meanwhile, check out our Facebook page. All UPAN Meetings and those posted on this page are free and open to the public.

FOCUS Meeting: Scheduled for **Monday, September 21st, 2020 from 6-7 pm** via a virtual link that will be posted to the UDC website . **Topic:** the **New Utah State Correctional Facility** currently under construction near the airport. We hope to see you there (virtually)!

Go to: www.corrections.gov click on Family & Friends tab, scroll down & click on FOCUS Forum and find link to the meeting on that page.

Questions – contact UDC Public Information Officer Kaitlin Felsted at: 801-545-5536 or kefelsted@utah.gov

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

UPDATE ON VIDEO VISITS - VIDEO VISITATION IS EXPECTED BY MID-SEPTEMBER

According to information UPAN has received, Deputy Director of UDC Jim Hudspeth confirmed on August 28, 2020 that video visits are likely to begin in approximately 2.5 weeks. The UDC now has all the contracts signed and has been testing the broadband and is working out the kinks. They currently have 30 iPads that will be available and rotated between sections.

It is anticipated the visits will be up to 30 minutes in length. For now, UDC will cover the cost for the video visits. It is unknown how long that will last.

If visitors have a current visitation approval, they will be able to participate in these video visits. If those who want to visit via video are not currently approved visitors, but had been approved prior to the COVID-19 cessation of visitation, and have submitted their renewal applications, there will be a grace period to allow for video visits while Corrections gets their applications

approved. If someone has not already been approved as a visitor, they need to submit their application as soon as possible, as it could take several weeks for approval.

ID of the approved visitor will be checked before the video visit begins and the visit will be monitored in its entirety.

It is our understanding that the inmate will be responsible for requesting and arranging for the visits and it will be up to the incarcerated person to notify the family of the date and time that the visit is scheduled.

We are not yet aware of the details of how visits are scheduled, the frequency of visits per week that will be available for each incarcerated person, or other details. Hopefully UDC will provide that information in writing to all housing units in both Draper and Gunnison.

Note: Due to the safety precautions necessary regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, visitors to BOPP hearings has been suspended for another month.

Utah Department of Corrections Focus Meeting –

Sept 2020 Monday, September 21, 2020 at 6 PM From the **UDC website:**

"The Utah Department of Corrections invites interested community members to attend Focus, a discussion forum. The next meeting will occur **virtually** in September. We will share a link to the virtual event on [the corrections website page below] in the near future. In the next session, we plan to discuss the New Correctional Facility being built in Salt Lake City, a few miles west of the SLC airport. We're excited to share how this facility will provide opportunities to expand treatment and evidence-based programming and enable us to move toward direct supervision.

Our public forums are an opportunity to engage families and friends of incarcerated individuals, and community members in a dialogue around a specific topic in order to

share information and address concerns. Families and friends play such a critical role in an offender's success, and it's important to us that we provide them with the information and resources they need to support their loved one.

For questions, please reach out to Kaitlin Felsted, Communications Director, at kefelsted@utah.gov or 801-560-7608. If you have specific questions regarding your incarcerated loved one, or Corrections in general, we encourage you to continue utilizing our public website or contact us at: corrections@utah.gov / 801-545-5500."

More info available at: <https://corrections.utah.gov/index.php/family-friends/focus-group>

National Day of Freedom & Justice Rally held on August 22, 2020

by Molly Prince

August 22nd was National Day of Freedom and Justice, a day dedicated to the efforts of criminal justice and prison reform. In honor of the day and its cause, Prisoner Advocate Group (PAG) hosted an event in Salt Lake City.

While the purpose of this event was to rally for freedom and reform in the criminal justice system, attorney Alex Ramos commented that this rally in Utah "focused on hope while pointing out the faults of the system." The moderator of the event locally was Roni Wilcox, a co-founder of PAG and mother of an incarcerated person. She explained that this event had participating locations

in all 50 states. She dedicated Utah's gathering to some specific individuals as well as the "over 13,000 adults and 450+ children incarcerated in the state of Utah." The event was covered by CNN in some states. Utah's was streamed live on PAG's Facebook page and can still be seen in its entirety on Facebook at Prisoner Advocate Group. It has also been posted to YouTube at PRISONER ADVOCATE GROUP – PAG. Roni shared statistics about the number of people incarcerated in Utah and discussed the challenges of the criminal justice system here in Utah between each speaker's presentation.

At 2 p.m. Mountain Time, the speakers paused for two full minutes of bell ringing coordinated with the Day of Freedom and Justice rallies across the United States. The ringing was to signify solidarity in the fight for constitutional rights and freedom for those incarcerated in the United States. One of the organizers at the national level said, "We need some champions to deal with this injustice that is taking place...If there is a law, the law should be for all and not for a few."

PAG decorated Utah's bells with red white and blue ribbons to signify the unity and need to come together as Americans regardless of color, culture, or affiliation. Since it was streamed on Facebook Live due to COVID, people throughout the state rang their own bells at home at the same time. It was a powerful moment.

Speakers included Matthew Holman; Britney Martinez; Ms. Chris Murphy; Sue Steele; and Alex Ramos.

Matthew Holman is an advocate who was formerly incarcerated between 2002 and 2017 and who has successfully attended college and graduated. He is involved in the University of Utah's Prison Education Project and the Utah Reintegration Project <https://www.facebook.com/utahreintegrationproject/>. He discussed the challenges of successful reintegration after incarceration and the need for support to be successful. This includes public and systemic (affecting the entire system) support as well as personal family and friend support.

Brittney Martinez is the wife of an incarcerated husband and a mother to their children. She detailed the difficulties she has faced going through the arrest and court processes and then moving into trying to maintain and redesign a life for herself and her children throughout her husband's incarceration and involvement in the prison and criminal justice system. She addressed the implicit bias and racial injustice in Utah's system. She described the many things that have negatively impacted her and her family directly as a result of her husband's involvement in the system. She is dedicated to making changes and quoted Martin Luther King Jr, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Chris Murphy has worked with gang involved youth in Utah for 12 years. She has done this through involvement with law enforcement agencies. She has created prevention and intervention programs for gang involved youth and has trained thousands on understanding of youth who become involved in gangs. Chris is a certified gang expert. She used her unique perspective to address both sides of the issue during her

discussion. She hit a lot of areas that need addressing including re-entry, the difference between repeat offenders and probation / parole violators and discussed restorative justice approaches. She is an advocate who hopes to continue to educate on these issues.

Sue Steele is a co-founder of PAG and a mother of an incarcerated person. She did a significant amount of research to prepare for her presentation. She spoke to the financial aspect of the huge business of profiting off prisoners and their families. She shared statistics about the incentive that the private business sector in the US has to profit from inmates and their families in all areas of prison life – from phone and inmate communication, to medical, to commissary and food service. There are currently 2.3 million adults incarcerated in the US. These private corporations profit from the prison industry. There are currently 5,706 individuals incarcerated in Utah's state prisons and 1,625 state inmates incarcerated in all of Utah's jails.

Alex Ramos is an attorney who interned with the Innocence Center and has spent time as a federal public defender. He is currently in private practice. He discussed the problems inherent in our criminal "injustice system," many which are based on the lack of equal access to quality defense based on income and socioeconomic status of the defendant / inmate. He also discussed implicit bias and the need for judges to see the defendants as human beings in their court rooms, not simply offenders or those accused.

Ramos spoke about the ease of attorneys, prosecutors, law enforcement, and judges to become complicit in the injustice and inequity embedded in this system. He said the fact that it is even a "system" is wrong because it needs to remember and address that these are human lives – lives of not only the accused, but the families, and not only the incarcerated but the families.

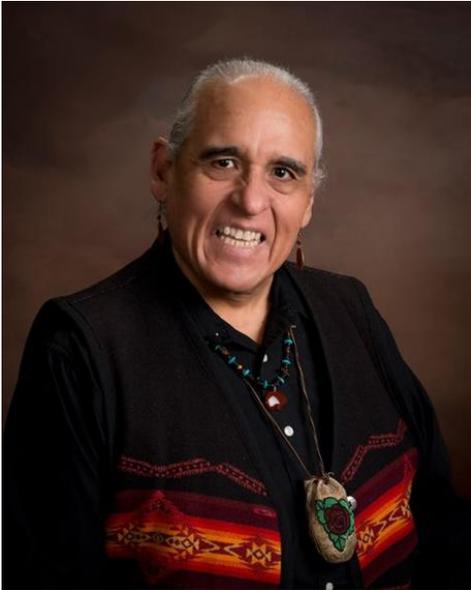
He stated, "When individuals are profiting off of human lives and we miss out on the empathy – because it is so easy to do – then we dig a deeper and deeper hole, creating more and more resentment. It is a vicious revolving door." Ramos said that the only way to reform this is through US - people impacted by the system - all of us who have been as close as we can get to being hurt by the system. He closed with the thought that "Right now is the time to get things done" as far as criminal justice reform is concerned.

This rally was a powerful reminder to all of us who have justice [system] involved loved ones – or who are justice involved ourselves – we are the voices that will make a difference. Continue to speak, educate, and advocate!

"Overall, we need bold change in our criminal justice system. A good first step forward is to start treating prisoners as human beings, not profiting from their incarceration. Our emphasis must be on rehabilitation, not incarceration and longer prison sentences." Sen. Bernie Sanders

Recognizing the Life and Achievements of Lacey Alan Harris (1944-2020)

Beloved within the Native American Community and Loving Husband of Molly Prince



Lacey Harris lived a life of service, including as a volunteer chaplain to the First Nations inmates in USP. Actively involved in the urban Indian community for 45 years and lecturing at various colleges and universities throughout the west, Lacey's accomplishments and impact helping thousands of Utahns are legend. Lacey was born on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation in Fort Duchesne, Utah on June 29th, 1944, and is Northern Ute and Northern Paiute. He was the eldest of five children.

After graduating from BYU with a Bachelor's Degree in American History, emphasis on Native American History, he earned his first Master's Degree in Public Administration. In 1973, Lacey became the University of Utah's Indian Education Advisor for the next 14 years. He received awards for Man of the Year from Native American students and Chicano students. He then earned another Master's Degree in social Work in 1985 from the University of Utah, becoming a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW).

His social work included working in elementary school social work, child protective services, and youth corrections. Later he served adults and became a mental / behavioral health therapist at Valley Mental Health and then at Weber Mental Health. He was also the behavioral health/ substance abuse counselor at the Indian Walk In Center before finally retiring. Married to Molly Prince for 26 years, he spent part of his retirement working with her at CIRCLE Treatment in SLC and Tooele. He was also the contract therapist for the Goshute band at Ibapah, Utah, for several years, serving tribal members in substance abuse and mental / behavioral health capacity.

Among his many accomplishments, in the late 1970s and early 80s, he had a TV show on KUTV called Indian Affairs and for some years he also hosted a radio show on KRCL. He was heavily involved in the Native American Consortium in the early years of what was to become the Indian Walk In Center in Salt Lake City (now the Urban Indian Center). He served on the Board of Directors for the Indian Circle Center in Ogden for three years and sat on the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable for ten years. Named Outstanding Young Man of America in 1977, and Notable American by the Historical Preservation of America in 1977, he was included in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities in 1979.

Lacey received the Utah Division of Indian Affairs Centennial Award of Appreciation in recognition of contributions to the Indian Community in 1996.

Recently, he has assisted Utah's Department of Human Services Director of Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) in conducting for DCFS on ICWA throughout the state. He has also acted as a First Nations consultant to a variety of state, county, and non-profit organizations over the years and has written and presented on a variety of issues relevant to the indigenous people of Utah. Lacey did Native traditional consulting work and ceremonies for 40 years, which includes blessings, weddings, burials, and cleansings.



During his retirement and until 2020, Lacey volunteered his services as a chaplain for Native Services at the Utah State Prison Draper, and at the Huntsman Cancer Institute. He has had so many prayers sent to him, including for example, many letters sent from caring inmates he mentored at the Utah State Prison. The current as well as former Ethnic Minority Resource Officers at USP have expressed how much he contributed to helping them understand the processes inherent to honoring American Native spiritual traditions in a correctional setting and how much his contributions were appreciated by both staff and inmates.

Lacey was a tremendous support to Molly's founding of UPAN. It was because of his support and understanding the importance of service to others that she has been the unwavering backbone of UPAN for the past seven years. Behind the scenes, he helped with stuffing envelopes to mail out 50 newsletters each month. He would review and critique many of the articles that Molly wrote for the newsletter. His gifts of objectivity and remaining grounded in the principles he believed in were invaluable to helping Molly deal with the myriad of issues that have come up for UPAN related to Utah's prison system and criminal justice

issues. His contributions will be missed. Known for his laugh and sense of humor when teaching spiritual principles, he touched thousands of lives.

Lacey dealt with four different types of cancer over the past 20 years. He overcame three of them. The fourth was his final round. He would tell you that four is a sacred number. He moved peacefully into the dawn of August 6, 2020. He sang his death song and welcomed the transition to the spirit world to be with the ancestors.

“We will be known forever by the tracks we leave.”

***“When you arise in the morning, give thanks for the morning light, for your life and strength.
Give thanks for your food, and the joy of living.
If you see no reason for giving thanks, the fault lies within yourself.”
Tecumseh - Shawnee Chief***

FELONS CAN VOTE IN UTAH!!! YES THEY CAN!!!

By Molly Prince

Much of the following information was obtained at <https://slco.org/clerk/elections/voter-information/>
And <https://elections.utah.gov/> and DMV.org

For years the Salt Lake County Voter Information guide has said on its cover, *“If you don't make a choice, you don't have a voice.”* This is so true!

Shattering the Myth that Felons Cannot Vote in Utah

There is a myth that a felon cannot vote in Utah. That is false! Anyone who is NOT incarcerated in a correctional facility may register and exercise their right to vote in Utah. This means that inmates in the Utah State Prison at Draper or CUCF in Gunnison cannot vote. People housed in a county jail, in a community correctional center, or a UDC operated transitional center cannot vote. However, once released from a facility, you have the right to vote restored immediately.

Eligibility Requirements to Register to Vote in Utah

Include: You must be a U.S. citizen and must be 18 years old on or before the next election. You must have resided in Utah at least 30 days immediately before the next election.

Where and How to Register to Vote in Utah: You may register to vote year-round. You can complete your Utah voter registration online, by mail, or in person. After submitting your application, if you are eligible to vote, your county clerk will then mail you a voter registration card that tells you where your polling station is (you must vote at your assigned polling station). You do not need to designate a political party affiliation to register to vote.

Online Registration: To register online you need a valid Utah driver's license or ID card. Your address must also be current and up to date with the Driver's License Division (DLD) [aka DMV] so that your ID or driver's license information is the same as the information you are submitting online. You will need to submit your registration a minimum of 7 days before the next election you wish to participate in.

Registering By Mail: To register by mail, complete a State of Utah Mail-In Voter Registration Form and send it to your local county clerk's office at least 30 days before Election Day. This form can be found online at your local county clerk's website or at your local DLD.

In Person Registration can be completed in person at your local county clerk's office. You may also register to vote at your local DLD when applying for or renewing your Utah driver license or ID card. Registering to vote is fairly easy and empowers you to have as much say as anyone about your laws and leaders — countywide, statewide, and at the federal level.

When you apply for a driver license in Utah, you will be offered the opportunity to register to vote. The Utah DLD provides the forms as a convenience for those who want to participate in the democratic process.

Changing Your Voter Information: You will need to re-register if you change your name, move to a new address, or if you change your political party affiliation. Simply complete a new voter registration form and submit it to the county clerk's office. You may do the same if you change your party affiliation—though you do not need to declare a party affiliation in order to vote.

You Will Be Assigned a Polling Place to Vote

If you have not signed up to vote by mail, you will receive a voter registration card that identifies the location of the place you vote. These are often at schools or churches.

Vote by Mail: If you prefer to not have to go out and brave the crowds on election day (particularly if there is a resurgence of COVID-19), you may select to Vote By Mail. If you choose to Vote By Mail you will receive a ballot a few weeks prior to the election through the U.S. Mail. You can vote and follow the instructions on the ballot and envelope to sign and mail it back.

In Person Voting On Election Day You Will Need to Take Valid Voter Identification

Valid Voter identification means a form of identification that bears the name and photograph of the voter which may include:

1) a currently valid Utah driver license; 2) a currently valid identification card that is issued by the state, or a branch, department, or agency of the United States; 3) a currently valid Utah permit to carry a concealed weapon; 4) a currently valid United States passport; or

5) a currently valid United States military identification card.

Other Options: one of the following identification cards, whether or not the card includes a photograph of the voter: a valid tribal identification card, a Bureau of Indian Affairs card; or a tribal treaty card;

For more information, visit the State Elections Office website at <https://elections.utah.gov/> for more detailed information about voting in Utah. You may also register to vote on this website.

Recommended Reading: "All My Friends are Felons: Finding Hope for the Utah Department of Corrections" by Mark Hugentobler

After his long and successful career as a coach and high school administrator, **Mark Hugentobler** was "sentenced" to prison by his local school board. He became academy principal within the **Central Utah Correctional Facility** in Gunnison, Utah. Arriving at the "Island of Misfit Toys" he soon recognized the vast, unexplored opportunities to help inmates: providing hope and purpose through education. He also gained the viewpoint of seeing prison life through an inmate's eye. During his eight years "down" he saw enrollment

in the prison academy jump from 200 to nearly 1,200 students and enacted, firsthand, a model of the change that is possible in a broken system. If only someone would listen.

Part of the proceeds from the purchase of this book will go back into prison education. Also by purchasing through **Amazon Smile** and selecting "Utah Prisoner Advocate Network" as your chosen nonprofit charity, Amazon will make a donation to UPAN. Thanks for your support!

Rocky Mountain Innocence Center

Summary by Molly Prince; information from www.rminnocence.org

UPAN receives a number of letters from incarcerated persons as well as communications from their families regarding wrongful convictions. UPAN does not have attorneys who offer legal advice. This month we are featuring Rocky Mountain Innocence Center to help spread information about what they do. The following information is taken from their website.

Who is Rocky Mountain Innocence Center?

RMIC works to correct and prevent the wrongful conviction of innocent people in Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada. The Utah office address is **358 South 700 East # B235, Salt Lake City, UT 84102.** The website can be found at www.rminnocence.org.

RMIC is a non-profit organization that advocates for systemic reforms to improve our justice system and to create meaningful opportunities for the wrongfully convicted to prove their innocence and for them to receive compensation for their time spent behind bars.

Executive Director Blair Hodson's statement on RMIC website states, "For more than 20 years, Rocky Mountain Innocence Center (RMIC) has worked to correct and prevent wrongful convictions in Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming. During that time RMIC has grown from a few volunteers handling post-conviction claims of innocence, to a small full-time staff and dozens of pro-bono attorneys handling more than 50 cases. Each case is meticulously screened to ensure

precious resources are directed to worthy claims of innocence. Because of generous supporters, RMIC is able to complete this work at no cost to any of its clients. There is still a great deal of work to be done and each case has expenses—DNA testing, gas money for us to visit our clients in remote prisons, phone bills so clients can call us from prison, and copies of transcripts and crime scene photos can add up."

Innocence Work

The United States recently achieved its 317th exoneration by DNA evidence. These 317 innocent individuals came from more than 38 different states (and Washington D.C.), and spent an average of 13.6 years individually – and more than 3,000 years collectively – in prison. DNA evidence has established without any doubt that our criminal justice system can make mistakes, causing an innocent person to be convicted and imprisoned while the true perpetrator remains free. Indeed, recent studies establish a 3 to 6% error rate in our criminal justice system nationwide, meaning that many thousands of innocent people may be imprisoned.

Yet the vast majority of innocence cases do not involve DNA evidence – either because that evidence was lost or destroyed or because the perpetrator did not leave biological evidence at the crime scene. Without extensive legal assistance (either through private attorneys or by organizations like RMIC, most innocent

prisoners will never find a way to prove their innocence and win their rightful freedom.

Given the room for error in our justice system, hundreds of other innocent people are likely in prison in Utah, Nevada, and Wyoming in profound violation of their constitutional rights. These individuals have been robbed not only of their liberty but also of their home, work, family, and future. They have no assets, no representation, no access to the courts, and, without the services provided by RMIC, no hope of ever righting the wrong committed against them. RMIC provides critical legal services – and hope – to these individuals by helping them find a way to prove their wrongful imprisonment in court and thereby win restoration of their rights, freedom, and life.

According to the website, no other organization provides these services in Utah and RMIC provides them entirely for free. RMIC can do this through a unique program that combines the efforts of trained and supervised law students and local, volunteer attorneys. The students conduct the factual investigations to uncover the evidence that will prove wrongful imprisonment; the attorneys then work to find a way to open the courthouse doors that have long been locked shut.

In addition to assisting innocent people in prison, RMIC also conducts education and advocacy about the causes and consequences of wrongful convictions and

about reforms to improve the fairness and accuracy of our justice system. Improving our justice system and creating safeguards to ensure that the right people are convicted is important not only to innocent defendants and their families, but also to crime victims, law enforcement officials, and the general public alike. No one benefits when an innocent person is convicted – the crime victim receives neither justice nor closure; police and prosecutors have failed to get a criminal off the street; the public's trust in law enforcement and the criminal justice system is weakened; and precious public funds are wasted on the cost of trying, convicting, and imprisoning the wrong person.

RMIC also provides unparalleled opportunities for law students and local attorneys. The students participate in a year-long clinical program through which they put in 250 hours of work on RMIC's cases, earn five academic credits, and learn how to perform critical pre-litigation and litigation tasks. The local attorneys get the opportunity to work on the case of, and possibly exonerate, an innocent person in prison – which can be the most rewarding experience of one's legal career. RMIC currently has an Innocence Clinic at the S. J. Quinney College of Law in Utah. In addition, law students from the Brigham Young University Law School and the University of Wyoming College of Law also work on RMIC's cases. RMIC also collaborates with nine other law firms.

Compassionate Release: A Real-Life Story and Personal Opinion Editorial

By Warren Rosenbaum, UPAN Board Member and UPAN Newsletter Editor

First my opinion: Compassionate Release should be streamlined – or said another way – Fast-Tracked, to serve or accommodate the inmate's family as well as the dying inmate because life is precious. At the conclusion of this article, I will complete my opinion.

Next the background: The gift of life, in itself, is a miraculous occurrence – the reproduction of two individuals into a third person with physical similarities to other human beings and to that individual's parents and to make that product come alive – to breathe, eat, sleep, age, and die, is beyond human ability to duplicate. Those "blueprints" are from a miraculous Creator.

Continuing this line of thinking a bit further, can you imagine both a seed and sperm, each individually unique, reproducing, from miniature substances, a "memory" of all of our necessary internal organs, blood vessels, specific gender, digestion processes for life and energy, breathing, the ability to develop unique physical talents for various sports with proper physical fitness training, growing to a general preplanned height and weight. Even right down to baby teeth that are programmed to be replaced as the individual leaves infancy and becomes a child. And to top it off, able to think, analyze, make decisions, create, and perform. If

you haven't considered the miracle of that reproduction, it's time you became aware of it and the priceless miracle each person is, yourself included.

And the spirit of LIFE. When life leaves the person, everything physical is still there, a human body, head, brain, heart, limbs, face, teeth, hair, eyes, fingers, feet, toes – but just lying there, immobile – because the spirit of LIFE has departed. Therefore, value LIFE.

We are all terminal, hopefully after living a long, fruitful, enjoyable, and rewarding life, with termination uncertain. BUT... some physically ill people are notified of their termination, though the exact day is uncertain, it will happen soon. That predicted termination changes every-thing. When a date for death can be ascertained within a reasonably short time, those last days become priceless. When terminal, not even a billionaire can buy more time. Therefore, those priceless days remaining MUST be valued and cherished to the utmost. Those few days and hours are here now, NEVER to return. In the prison system, it is not unusual for an inmate to be diagnosed as terminally ill. Such is the case of the "real-life story" cited in the title of this article.

The real-life story: Note – This story is true but the details (months and names) have been omitted for

anonymity. An inmate was diagnosed with terminal cancer, having about 6 months to live. The hearing for a compassionate release was moved back one month but still remained four months from the death notice. One sibling lives in Utah where the inmate will probably reside and be cared for. Another sibling lives out of state and wants to visit and spend some time with the inmate who has been incarcerated for more than a dozen years, but time is disappearing fast.

Conclusion of my opinion: Compassionate release should not take more than 48 hours, two days. If I were in charge, I'd clear the release within about 10 minutes **after confirming the inmate was not a psycho-serial-axe-murderer** or similar threat to society and receiving **valid paperwork from the attending physician.** All the DOC release procedures can catch up on their own time schedule **while the terminally ill inmate is with family.** Even two weeks delay is unconscionable, period! And 4 months? There can be NO valid justification for such delays. But that's the "one size fits

"Terminally ill inmates in state and local prisons often cannot take advantage of compassionate release programs due to confusing, opaque and strict rules. 'While compassionate release is nearly universal, it is underused,' Families Against Mandatory Minimums said in its report about compassionate release, blaming 'poor design.' Prisoners often 'die waiting for decisions that come too late.'" as reported by Reuters at reuters.com June 26, 2018. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-justice-prison-illness/compassionate-release-for-dying-prisoners-underused-report-idUSKBN1JN0EL>

When You Send Mail To Our UPAN Draper P.O. Box, It May Be Returned Unless...

Contributed by Deon Corkins

...Unless the first line reads UPAN or Utah Prisoner Advocate Network. The Draper Post Office postmaster has notified us that starting September 1st, 2020, mail that does NOT match the name(s) on the P.O. Box application will be returned to the sender. UPAN will get all the directors names listed with the post office, however please start the address with the top line stating: UPAN or Utah Prisoner Advocate Network. On the next line write Attn: _____ and the name of the specific person to whom you are writing. Then write the address. We are hoping this will work. The U. S. Postal Service is making many changes at this time. We will work to stay on top of this.

CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN CONTEST - FOR INMATES - UPAN 2020

CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Inmate artists are encouraged to join UPAN in celebrating the 2020 Holiday Season. Share your talents in designing a Christmas Card in any of the following four categories: Religious, Traditional, Contemporary, or Humorous. (Or one in each category if you want – maximum of four submissions per inmate).

Winners in each category will be posted on the UPAN website. People will be able to download, print, and mail the cards as holiday greetings to inmates and friends. Entries cannot be returned due to colors and new mail room rules. They will be retained and preserved with appreciation, respect and care and kept

all" world we currently live in. [REMEMBER.THIS IS MY OPINION.]

Continuing with a refreshing, simple scenario: A Correctional Supervisor visits the terminally ill inmate at the inmate's location. Being sure the supervisor is addressing the ill person, the "Supe" says, "Regarding your compassionate release request, **it hit my desk this morning, was reviewed and granted.** Your family has been notified. Here are some suitable clothes in your size obtained from Deseret Industries for the current weather conditions. Ask one of your fellow inmates to pack this cardboard box with your personal possessions while you change clothes. Can you do that in 10 minutes? Your family will be at the gate to pick you up in 15 minutes. I hope these last days of your life will be some of the best you've had. Best Wishes." The Correctional Supervisor leaves. (And so does the terminally ill inmate, setting a new Guinness Book of World Records time for changing clothes).

in a binder on display at UPAN meetings for viewing and enjoyment of attendees.

Important Notice For Artists: Choose the size of the card to fit your design, 5½ x 8½ inches or 3 2/3 x 8½ inches (a 1/3 fold of an 8½ x 11 inch paper). The original artwork can be any size (like 8½ x 11 paper or larger) and we will resize it to the size you specify. **Please sign your entry on the bottom right of your design.** Mail entries to: **UPAN Christmas Card Design Contest, P.O. Box 1018, Pleasant Grove, UT 84062** **NOTE:** this is **NOT** the UPAN Draper P O Box address shown on page 10 under "Our Contact Information."

"Hardships often prepare ordinary people for extraordinary destiny." CS Lewis

"There are some human rights that are so deep that we can't negotiate them away." Sister Helen Prejean

Seeking Short Articles from Inmates on Gratitude

Thanksgiving will be upon us in 2 ½ short months. The focus of the November newsletter has traditionally been thankfulness and gratitude. Once again, UPAN is seeking poems and articles from incarcerated individuals about their experiences with gratitude despite being in prison. Please submit to PO Box 464 Draper, UT 84020. Please specify if you give permission for your name to be published with the card. Submission deadline is October 10, 2019.

UPAN Writing Exercise – 2nd Year Completion

A Special “Thank You” To Participants In UPAN’s Writing Exercise

Those who submitted one or more written pieces often showed interesting creativity or bravely bared their soul and inner feelings. I will attempt to follow up with a general thank-you letter before rereading all entries and issuing certificates to all. The submissions have often been heartwarming in their content and often, heart-wrenching and disturbing in reading the injustice, unfairness, and trials our inmates have received and endured. They have shown courage and abilities to cope and endure that would surely surpass my abilities and those of the general public. Inmates have proven they can handle the toughest parts of life and survive with dignity, honor, and a sense of overcoming challenges that will serve them well during the balance of their lives. Thanks guys and gals. Ed.

UPAN’s Current Events Comment

Comment from the UPAN Newsletter Editor, Warren Rosenbaum

Nationwide protests and riots regarding suspects of criminal behavior and police interaction have been dominating the media for several months. Because of this widespread issue, often with people taking sides, it requires a comment from UPAN. Close analysis of both sides of the controversy indicates numerous areas needing improvement and issues that need scrutiny and review.

None of the pros and cons will be addressed in this commentary for these issues and controversies are beyond the mission and goal of UPAN. Our purpose can easily be sabotaged by the distractions of these current events and allowing emotions, personal desires,

and political preferences to intervene and disrupt our mission and goal.

Therefore, coverage of these current events will be left to the media via newspapers, TV and radio broadcasts, and interaction and exchange of information and opinions between individuals. UPAN recognizes this distraction with a redeclared affirmation of our mission and goal, i.e. serving families of incarcerated persons and to the extent we can, the inmates, with support, clarifying information, and efforts to improve Utah’s criminal justice system. For detailed info on UPAN and what we do, please read June 2020 issue of the UPAN Newsletter, pages 6-8

Our Mission

To provide a safe and understanding place for families and friends of incarcerated individuals to connect and share their challenges and receive support and information to help them more effectively cope on their prison journey. When a friend or loved one ends up in prison, it’s a grueling experience for all involved as the inmate and his or her supporters try to adjust to the rules, regulations and restrictions of a life separated by bars.

Our Goals

1) To create a network of prison family and friends who can contact each other for help and support when various issues come up. To guide each other on who to talk to when a serious problem arises so that we can all effectively learn how to navigate the prison system for the benefit of everyone involved.

2) To identify challenges and problems faced by inmates as they serve their sentences, and then work WITH prison officials and Utah Department of Corrections administration to resolve these problems. The mission of UDC and the prison policies and how they are carried out impact the quality of life for those living portions of their lives in prison. This in turn affects their families and support networks. Since the Dept. of

Corrections has committed to collaborate with other agencies and organizations and systems to provide both community safety and rehabilitation of prisoners, UPAN can hope to become one of those organizations that help to contribute to solution of problems and the rehabilitation of inmates.

3) We want to improve the level of understanding of what happens in prison and how things work for the families of inmates, as well as educate the public about the TRUTH and WHOLE picture of having a loved one in prison. To dispel the MYTHS that all inmates lay around getting special privileges and perks at the taxpayer’s expense.

No More Postcard Reminders for Utah Vehicle Registration

Utahans will need to sign up for **email notification** if they want to receive a reminder from the DMV to relicense their vehicles. This presents a problem for individuals who cannot afford smart phones, internet service, and for registered sex offender probationers/ parolees who are not yet eligible for internet privileges if they want to get DMV reminders. No more post card reminders means they will have to make note on a traditional calendar.

Here's one untried suggestion: Ask a trusted family member or close friend to sign up on the internet and when the notice comes, pass the word on to the parolee about their pending renewal. This suggestion may work, but if the name filed with the DMV reminder is NOT the name on the vehicle registration, the reminder request may not be accepted.

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***“Endangering human life for profit should be a universal crime.”
Suzy Kassem, Rise Up and Salute the Sun: The Writings of Suzy Kassem***

***“I am happy that the urgency to reform our broken criminal justice system
has found allies all across the political spectrum.” Cory Booker, US Senator***

***“We need transformational change of our criminal justice system - not just, you know,
a handful of consent decrees or policy reforms.” Michelle Alexander, Writer***

***“Victims of crime and the wider community deserve a grown-up debate on our criminal justice
system and how we can make it work - for those within it and for those it protects.”
Sadiq Khan, British politician***

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☺A Couple of Smiles and Maybe a Laugh☺

~~ I'm great at multitasking, I can waste time, be unproductive, and procrastinate all at once. ~~
~~You know you're ugly when it comes to a group picture and they hand you the camera. ~~
~~You know why you never see elephants hiding up in trees? Because they're really good at it. ~~
~~Two goldfish are in a tank. One looks at the other and says, "You know how to drive this thing?" ~~

No visitation, COVID regulations, hot summer, have we hit bottom? That means the next move is up. Stay cool. Ed.

* * * * *

***“I think our criminal justice system has two problems.
We have systematic problems and we have people problems.
So, if the hearts of people are not about justice, then any system you have won't work.”
Maya Moore, American Athlete***

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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Website: Utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com
Email: Utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com
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***