



UPAN Newsletter

Volume 3 Number 12 | DECEMBER 2016

"Empowerment and Growth Through Knowledge and Unity"

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Sending Peace and Hope This Christmas

There will be NO UPAN meeting in December

NEXT UPAN MEETING: MONDAY, January 9, 2017 6:30-8:30 PM

TOPIC: Various Updates and form committees for different issues

LOCATION: Holladay Library, 2150 E Murray Holladay Rd, SLC, UT 84117

3rd Annual Faith In Reform Mini-Summit Meeting, Saturday, January 28, 2017

Free to everyone but tickets required for planning. See full details, page 9

Time: 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM, Light breakfast and free lunch provided.

Location: First Unitarian Church 569 South 1300 East, Salt Lake City, UT 84102

FOCUS MEETING: FOCUS Meetings Cancelled Until Future Notice

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*overworked, Ed.	

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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 holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us. ~ Terri Marshall

Special Announcement From The President

by Molly Prince

*Shauna Denos Will Take Over Role as UPAN President
Molly Prince Will Remain Involved as She Steps Down*

As Founder/President, A Privilege To Serve

I have had the privilege of serving as president of UPAN since its incorporation in October 2013. I will be stepping away from this role and turning the leadership of UPAN over to Shauna Denos. I will remain a director involved in working in the capacity of past-president and will continue to meet with corrections administrators, represent UPAN in our meetings with other agencies concerned with criminal justice reform and the development of the new prison.

I will continue to research and write articles for the newsletter and coordinate with our editor Warren Rosenbaum. Until we find a volunteer in the Salt Lake Valley willing and able to take over the inmate newsletter mailing list and newsletter volunteer coordination, I will continue to manage that. I will continue to strive to work toward criminal justice reform in Utah and improvement of situations and conditions that our incarcerated loved ones face in the Utah State Prison system.

Growth And Recognition Through Service To Inmates And Families

Being part of this organization is an incredible experience that I cannot begin to describe. I have watched it grow from a small group of families who were struggling with common issues related to their loved ones in USP to what it is now. And it will continue to grow.

It is gratifying and validating as I learn of the empowerment that various friends and family members of prisoners have gained through attending UPAN meetings, reading the newsletters, reading articles on our Facebook and other information UPAN provides.

Prison families have learned that they can have a voice and their voices MATTER! We have legislators paying attention to what we say.

UPAN is recognized and included in meetings with the Utah Dept. of Corrections and other agencies about various prison and criminal justice reform issues along with the ACLU and Disability Law Center. Families and inmates contributed a lot of information that was utilized in the Audit of the Board of Pardons and Parole in 2015, which is culminating in changes in the Board over time.

Volunteers Appreciated In Criminal Justice Reform

I shared my deep gratitude for everyone who helps UPAN to reach its goals and objectives in the November newsletter, so will not take up space doing that again. Please know that each of you is valued and appreciated in whatever role you have chosen to take in the movement toward a better criminal justice system and improvement in the way our prison system is structured and administered. There are so many that do so much in a variety of areas, from both the inside and out here. These issues are vast and the challenges many. I am confident that UPAN will continue to move forward in its work and we rely on everyone's input.

It has been an honor to lead UPAN over these past three years. I will continue to work in various capacities and support Shauna as she takes the helm.

One of the beliefs I live by is the idea that ***if we are not part of the solution, then we are part of the problem.*** I will continue to strive to be part of the solution. Blessings to everyone, Molly

"The World is changed by your example, not your opinion" Paulo Coelho, author of *The Alchemist*

WHAT UPAN HAS ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR – 2016

By Molly Prince

UPAN Working Behind The Scenes

As 2016 comes to a close we are realizing just what UPAN has accomplished this year. Much of what the directors and UPAN families do is behind the scenes, and not everything is public knowledge.

Now Officially Retroactively Non-Profit

In January, UPAN finally obtained its official IRS 501c3 designation, affording us complete non-profit status retroactive to October 2013. All contributions to UPAN are tax deductible.

Attendees Learn, Take Action – Audit Started

UPAN took advantage of the ACLU trainings and our

directors and many UPAN participants learned how to lobby. They have written, emailed, called, and met with their elected officials regarding a variety of prison and criminal justice issues this year.

While several UPAN family members talked to their legislators about their concerns related to SOTP in Utah State Prison, one man in particular was able to get the attention of his legislators and the Legislative Audit

Subcommittee. This past summer, that Subcommittee ordered a Legislative performance audit of the Sex Offender Treatment Program offered through the UDC. This is a tremendous undertaking. The UPAN directors

and many families who have loved ones needing this type of treatment are pleased and hope the audit will lead to the recognition by our lawmakers of the dire need for additional funding to assist with providing enough therapists to deliver this highly specialized type of treatment and to bring SOTP into the 21st century. It has been running on the same budget for 20 years and counting, while the numbers of individuals requiring it has tripled during that same time.

UPAN directors have each helped a variety of inmates or families navigate their own issues with the DOC during 2016. As we help people learn how to bring attention to the problems their loved ones face, the UPAN families find their voices and become more empowered to continue advocating when new issues arise.

Monthly 10-Page Newsletter Packed With Info

UPAN continued to put out a monthly newsletter keeping inmates and other readers informed about important criminal justice issues. A series of articles between February and May's newsletter explained the findings of the in depth Legislative Performance Audit of the Board of Pardons and Parole. Publishing a monthly newsletter is no small task. It requires hours of research, writing, revising and editing, organizing and formatting before it is sent out in its final form. UPAN Newsletter Editor Warren Rosenbaum has been instrumental in making this happen effectively each month. Actually, without him, it probably would not happen at all! (FYI, this is our 30th monthly issue. Ed.)

UPAN Provides Input Into Many Important Changes

UPAN directors Molly Prince and Michael McAinsh sit on a committee with representatives of the ACLU and Disability Law Center which meets monthly with the executive director of the Board of Pardons and Parole as the Board works toward fulfilling the recommendations of the Audit of the Board that was released on February 1, 2016. We have been asked for and given input on administrative issues of the Board regarding a variety of topics including expungement, compassionate release, structured decision making, rationale sheet revisions, wording related to new Board Rules resulting from HB 348, rewording portions of the board packets to be more clear, and dealing with complex issues related to sex offenders and people with mental health, learning challenges, and developmental disabilities. It should be noted that UPAN was INSTRUMENTAL in assisting to gather and provide information on a variety of issues related to the Board to the auditors in 2015 during their data gathering process.

Shauna and Molly have met twice this year with the new Director of Medical Services, Tony Washington, to discuss concerns originating with inmates related to a variety of areas.

UPAN directors continued an annual meeting with the DOC administration this year, which also includes interested parties from other advocacy groups.

Suggestions Made For New Prison

Molly and Shauna met with Steve Turley, Director of Special Projects, and the main architect of the new prison and shared a lengthy list of recommendations and hopes for what will be included in the design of the new prison to be built west of the airport.

UPAN is a member of People Not Prisons and Molly has attended most of the monthly meetings held in 2016. PNP is a loose coalition of a variety of agencies in Utah that are interested in seeing a new prison that facilitates rehabilitation, education, treatment, and humane housing for all inmates under state care.

Monitoring State Inmates In County Jails (IPP)

Directors met with IPP Director James Chipp and are in communication with him as needed on a wide variety of issues related to the problems encountered by state inmates who find themselves housed in various county jails across the state.

Visit And Presentation At Gunnison (CUCF)

Directors Shane Severson, Shauna Denos with her husband Rusty, and Molly Prince presented at the Saturday Forum in Gunnison in the spring. Being able to meet with and talk to inmates face to face in this setting was a highlight for us. The warm welcome and feelings shared in that setting help to re-charge us as we go about the sometimes grueling work that we do. The band there learned the Rascal Flatts song *I Won't Let Go* that Shauna and Molly adopted for UPAN and we were all able to sing it together as part of the afternoon.

Felons Finding Housing – Problems Exposed

A short documentary about UPAN was made in May by Nathaniel Kemp and is available on You Tube and UPAN's Facebook page. Mike McAinsh, Molly Prince and her husband Lacee Harris are featured in a portion of a documentary film *Not For Rent* by Metamora Films, about the challenges felons have finding places to live, which will debut April 5, 2017. For more information: <https://www.metamorafilms.org/2016/12/10/not-for-rent-film-release-weber-state-university/>

Molly Prince joined Anna Brower Thomas in a forum this summer at the Unitarian Church and focused on discussing the need for resources in the community and increased funding to assist in programming for both in-prison and outpatient programs and other programs to assist in parole success.

Live & Archived Videos Of Monthly UPAN Meetings

Shane and Emily Severson began sharing videos of the UPAN meetings on our Facebook page this year. We have received feedback that this is appreciated by families who are unable to attend the meetings for

various reasons including living in places other than SLC.

Heartfelt – Kids And Their Dads – Tears Anyone? No, Everyone! We Need Rehabilitation And Release

In October, Molly was able to volunteer in the Draper Father's & Kids Day event in Promontory and saw firsthand how this new event operated smoothly and for great benefit to the fathers (inmates) and their children.

Unexpected Recognition – Thank You City Weekly

On December 1, 2016, UPAN was awarded City Weekly Best of 2016 award for Best Activism for Those Behind Bars. (See related article on page 8. Ed.)

Email List And Newsletter Readership Growing

UPAN's email list has grown to 506 this year. Families and friends of incarcerated, plus certain lawmakers, public administrators, correctional administrators, news reporters, therapists, social service workers, and representatives of other advocate groups, receive our emails with newsletter each month. We even have a couple of subscribers working at prisons in other states.

Over 40 newsletter mailing volunteers now print and mail out free newsletters to 323 prisoners who don't have family or friends to do so. (Comment: My inmate reports that the two newsletters I send him circulate and have been read by as many as 200 inmates. Ed.)

The mailing volunteers also mail out Christmas cards, along with an extra dozen volunteers who send out cards for the Christmas holidays only. Audrae Rogers coordinated the holiday card program again this season and makes it work.

Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love. – Hamilton Wright Mabie

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Coping Strategies In The Face Of Limited Mental Health Services

By Michael J. McAinsh

(Note: Opinions expressed by this author represent his thoughts, not necessarily those of UPAN).

A Threatening Letter To UPAN President

Recently, an inmate wrote a letter to UPAN. When he didn't get an immediate response, he wrote another letter, directed at the president of UPAN, threatening sexual violence when released from prison, and then requested to be put on our mailing list! What gall! [Or maybe a lack of mental health medications. Ed.]

What UPAN Strives To Do, But Our Volunteers Have Limitations

UPAN is an organization with a mission to support families of incarcerated individuals, while standing up for the "unalienable rights" of inmates to be treated fairly and compassionately while they are in prison. Molly Prince LCSW, along with others, organized UPAN in 2013 because she saw the need for an organization that would work for change in how inmates are treated.

News Reporters Seek Info And Auditors Seek Help

UPAN directors have been contacted by news reporters as a source of information and knowledge on various issues during 2016. We also were contacted by the auditors for the Legislative Audit on SOTP. UPAN created and compiled surveys on SOTP and provided that information to the auditors as well.

In addition to all of this, various directors spend time speaking and emailing with family members struggling to understand how our prison system works. We also lend a sympathetic ear to frustrations and fears of folks just starting their prison journeys with their inmates.

Last, but not least, this year UPAN held 10 monthly meetings (the 2nd Monday of every month except for July and December). We had a variety of topics and speakers at these meetings including two meetings directed at Utah Legislators to educate them about the various issues of particular interest and concern to UPAN families and inmates.

Summary Statement – UPAN Impact

As we review the year, we are encouraged when we look at how much we have accomplished, a grassroots, all volunteer organization. In the three years we have been organized, we have earned the respect of both families of inmates and inmates, plus a variety of agencies interested in criminal justice and prison issues. We still do this out of our homes, from our laptops, with monthly meetings in libraries and directors meetings in restaurants. We hope that in the coming year we will be able to secure our own office space to call home.

This organization works closely with the ACLU, the Disability Law Center (DLC) and with Corrections Administration to try to find solutions to the problems that inmates face when they are committed by the courts to the supervision of the Utah Department of Corrections (UDoC). That is no easy task! Besides working with prison and parole officials within the UDoC, we deal with the Utah Board of Pardons and Parole, as well as the governor's office and the legislature.

Needed Changes Are Never Immediate

Some inmates expect miracles from UPAN. If they don't see immediate changes that address their concerns, they begin to grumble about how this organization really doesn't care.

As a former inmate, I understand the frustration that inmates go through when change doesn't come fast enough. I have written my share of letters to UPAN, the ACLU and the DLC seeking help for the annoying problems that I was facing only to be met by (cue the crickets) . . . SILENCE! Only when I got out of prison did I realize how immense the problems really are.

The Good Book tells us that, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few." How true this is! UPAN, the ACLU and the DLC are very concerned with the needs of prisoners. Members of these three organizations, along with others in this state meet regularly to discuss how to better deal with the problems in our antiquated penal system. However, most organizations that deal with the adverse issues facing inmates have few workers and little money to work with.

Tips On Coping From One Who's Been There

I was furious when I learned of the letter that threatened violence to the one person who better understands the problems facing prisoners than most of us, and has the compassion to care enough to do something to change the system. Once I got the hate for this individual out of my system, I considered how this miscreant was spending many idle hours in super-max with nothing but his frustrations and fantasies with which to entertain himself. I realized that he had fantasies that many of us who have been incarcerated have had—except most of us have the filters that this man lacks, that keep us from writing vile letters to those who vex us!

Some Of The Bad Conditions Inmates Subjected To

Many of you who are reading these words know all-too-well how the prison mental health services are failing inmates. You have gone for help, and when you express suicidal tendencies, you find yourself locked in a cold room, wearing only a "turtle shell" garment; there is no mattress on the floor to lie down on, no covers to keep you from the cold. There is nothing but your thoughts to wile-away the endless hours of frustration and boredom. Express anger in an inappropriate manner, and you wind up in SMU, Uinta 1, or Hickory. Now you have a mattress, and blankets, but nothing to help you work through your problems. As it presently stands, mental health services at the prison are woefully inadequate to help inmates with depression or anger issues. (Note: I'm sure the UDoC would disagree with me; the director of clinical services is welcome to write a rebuttal. Address it to me at the UPAN address on page 10, and I'll see that it gets published).

Personal Experience May Be Helpful To Inmates

What can you do in a time of crisis? What can you do when frustration leads to anger, and you want to take it out on someone? There are no easy answers to these questions; I can only offer suggestions from things I have learned from my own experience.

First, take stock of the situation. I have been faced with several situations while in prison that could have had a bad outcome if I had panicked, rather than considering the courses of action open to me. Even if you are dealing with irrational individuals, there are ways to change an outcome to your advantage, so don't panic. It's the times when I've panicked while trying to reason with unreasonable people in the heat of the moment that I have suffered my greatest defeats in prison.

Inmates: Do This For Self-Preservation

Developing some stress-management techniques, and practicing these before I was faced with a stressful situation has helped me to control frustration, and take charge of the situation. Taking deep breaths, and counting slowly backwards from 100 is a technique that I could use to calm myself in times of stress. Reminding myself that the situation could be much worse has helped too. "This too shall pass" became a mantra that I used to remind myself that bad outcomes, even those that led to restrictive housing, were only temporary situations.

So, what to do to fix what's broken? I found that the anger and hate that accompanied my frustration only led to headaches, knots in my stomach, and constipation. So I tried to get my mind off of the frustration that I was experiencing, and think of ways that I could improve my situation.

Then, I'd go over the events that got me in the fix that I was in and write them down if that was possible. It is important to write as soon as possible after the adverse event in order to keep the facts straight. Once my head was clear of the frustration and anger, a pathway to a successful resolution often presented itself.

Cautions To Control Normal Human Behavior

Please be careful not to exaggerate the prison's role in the problem. Also, don't use foul language when trying to make a point. You want to write something that makes you sound like a rational person, not a raging moron! If you have to write an angry letter or grievance, then write it! As long as you have your facts in order, you can revise it later, when you have cooled down, before sending it. I've done this, and it worked wonders, especially when I couldn't talk with another trusted individual.

The inmate who sent the letter to UPAN that threatened violence should have used good sense, and torn it up. Perhaps he was recently taken off medications that helped him stabilize and keep from taking impulsive actions. In that case, he could have written UPAN a letter expressing this fact, and that he has violent impulses as a result. We could then have expressed our concerns for the wellbeing of this man to the director of Clinical Services. We could have asked the DLC to look into the matter. The fact that this individual chose to send his letter did nothing to help himself, and

probably caused him further problems, because we do report threats against UPAN and ourselves to the proper authorities.

Summary For Helpful Action And Thanks To UPAN

There are techniques other than these that are equally valid. Ask a trusted friend, a spiritual leader, or family member to suggest some that you might use in times of stress. Then, you should go over your chosen techni-

ques in your mind, thereby being prepared when a situation demands a moderated, appropriate response.

Thanks to Molly and UPAN, the organization she and two others started, and the volunteers they recruited, I have a way to communicate to those of you in need, through this newsletter. Peace, Mike

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. ~Roy L. Smith

UTAH DOC OPENED THE NEW MONROE HOUSING UNIT AT CUCF

Information taken from the Utah DOC Facebook page December 8, 2016

According to the DOC's Facebook page, the Utah Department of Corrections had a ribbon cutting ceremony marking the completion of construction of the Monroe housing unit at the Central Utah Correctional Facility in Gunnison on December 7, 2016.

The housing unit adds an additional 192 beds to the prison. It also adds a new intake and transportation building and a dog kennel for up to 12 K9s.

Innovations Built Into New Facility

The modern corrections facility includes progressive security features, including the direct supervision management model where correctional officers interact directly with incarcerated individuals. Direct supervision has received growing support throughout the corrections industry in recent years because it increases the safety of facilities and reduces violent

incidents. Similar design features are expected to be included in the new Utah State Correctional Facility.

The Central Utah Correctional Facility currently employs about 350 people. This expansion adds 76 DOC jobs, including 61 correctional officer positions, to the six-county region. The \$30 million housing unit was built by Layton Construction. Guests at the ribbon cutting included Rep. Darrin Owens, Sanpete Council member Claudia Jerrett, Gunnison Mayor Bruce Blackham, and Layton Construction Vice President Bruce McDonough.

UPAN has received some letters from inmates and inquiries from community members asking if UPAN representatives would be present at the new facility's opening and have a tour. The answer is – No. Unfortunately, UPAN directors were not invited to this event for learning about and reporting on this structure.

Concerns Expressed By Inmates And Family Members Regarding Rumors About Which Inmates Will Be Moved To The New Facility

by Molly Prince

Concerns & Rumors Abound, Who Will Be Moved?

During November, UPAN received questions and concerns from inmates and family members regarding which inmates, on the list of several hundred candidates housed in the Draper Wasatch Facility, would be moved to fill the 192 beds opening up in the new housing unit in CUCF in December. I contacted DIO Director Jerry Pope and UDC Director Rollin Cook with the questions and concerns in a lengthy email that included suggestions that the DOC ask for volunteers to move to CUCF.

UPAN Common Sense Recommendations

The suggested pools for volunteers could include state inmates who are stuck in jails throughout the state on IPP who would prefer being in the Gunnison facility, as these should fit the Level 3 classification. I also suggested they could find volunteers in prisoners that fit the classification criteria who are ICE detainees and others who for whatever reason are unable to participate in education, programming, or hold jobs in the Draper prison.

Moves Could Be Very Disruptive to Inmates and Families

A major concern I heard was that longtime inmates with no management problems currently housed in Wasatch who have good UCI jobs, are established in their lengthy prison stays (many are lifers) would be moved to CUCF. This would result in loss of coveted jobs that have been held over the years. Many long term and life inmates do not have long term financial support from family members and need to support themselves. The concern also was voiced that loss of property, which is always costly in a move, would occur. Finally, as we all know, change is very challenging for prisoners and the concerns about their stability and future were voiced.

DOC Response With Evaluation Criteria

Director Pope and Maria Peterson responded to my lengthy email in a phone call at the first of December. Mr. Pope stated that there was a long list of potential candidates for the move that was being shortened based on each inmate's security classification level, medical and mental health classification, and if they

were actively pursuing mapping priorities such as education, or programming. It seems that the intent of the DOC is to select a cross section of Level 3 inmates for this move.

Policy for Hiring the Same in Draper and CUCF?

I had been informed by some concerned folks that the policy for employment with UCI at CUCF requires that no one can have a job unless they are less than 5 years to release. Dir. Pope said that is not true and that the policy for hiring inmates in Gunnison is the same as it is in Draper.

Christmas Visits – Travel Plans From Out Of Town

I had also heard a rumor that the moves were going to begin the week of December 5, but Pope was unable to share any indication of when the moves would actually occur, citing safety and security reasons, which I understand. I did advocate for a delay in moves of inmates from Draper who have visitation from family or friends until after the holidays. Moving inmates right before Christmas has the potential to create problems for families who make detailed plans to travel for visits during their time off work during the holidays. If their loved one is moved and they are not able to receive notice from their loved one in a timely manner, it could

be a costly and highly emotionally disappointing event for them. Since we all know that the phone system in the prison is not always reliable, it is possible this could happen. Or if they are moved and there is a lockdown in Gunnison for whatever reason once they arrive, they would not be able to notify their loved ones.

DOC Recognizes Inmates' And Families' Concerns

I don't know if Director Pope will take these recommendations into consideration as he plans for the move. He was not able to commit to it, but he did acknowledge the fears and challenges faced by both prisoners and families who find themselves caught up in such moves.

Summary – And Advice To Look On The Bright Side

Only time will tell how things will work out, who gets moved, how smoothly the moves will occur, and when that happens. It may have already happened by the time we get this newsletter published and mailed.

I would like to encourage anyone affected by this move in a negative way to work hard to focus on the bright side – at least you or some families' loved ones were not moved to a county jail.

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***Every piece of the universe, even the tiniest little snow crystal, matters somehow.
I have a place in the pattern, and so do you! -- T.A. Barron***

At Christmas, all roads lead to home. ~Marjorie Holmes

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THE SOTP AUDIT IS - - - NOT QUITE OVER!

By Michael J. McAinsh, UPAN Secretary

UPAN Involved In Gathering Information for Audit

It was only last May that the Legislative Audit Subcommittee approved the audit of SOTP. It was then assigned to the auditors in July. After meeting with the two auditors who were tasked with gathering information that would be processed into a final report for the subcommittee, UPAN directors wrote the survey form that was included in the August newsletter.

In late August, surveys began arriving in UPAN's P. O. Box; first a trickle, and then a deluge arrived and were handed to me to be processed onto spreadsheets. Altogether, UPAN received 230 responses. Most were from inmates, but a few came from parolees, and one arrived from a man who expired his sentence.

Officially, UPAN's role in gathering information for this audit has ended. Unofficially, we will continue to process surveys if they come in, and bring any new

information received, whether favorable or not to SOTP, to the attention of the auditors.

Process Of Data Collection

Most inmates wrote comments. Many of the comments were short enough that they could be included in full on the spreadsheet. However, many of you had a lot to say about SOTP. All of the comments received—some of which ran in excess of 25 pages—were carefully read by me, with other directors reading some, before being selected for consideration by the legislative auditors. Of course, all survey responses, including all comments, were electronically scanned and provided to the auditors, so they can refer to the complete statements of the writers, if they choose to do so. All of the original surveys and comments as written are being preserved by UPAN so that the auditors or the audit subcommittee can call for and refer to them if necessary.

Some Details Of Process of Compiling Information

Once processed, the comments and excerpts were divided into four broad categories: 1) SOTP-specific comments, 2) those made about the therapy or the therapists, 3) those that dealt with the Board of Pardons and Parole (BoPP) and/or the matrix, and 4) comments that concerned the program as it is practiced at the Promontory facility, called Resolve.

The auditors had planned to break the audit into two parts: 1) the financial/funding portion and 2) the SOTP program performance and delivery. The financial portion was planned to be released in late winter. As the auditors have gathered information, they have changed their goal of when the audit will be complete and reported on. The report will not be coming out until next spring, so that the auditors can pursue other questions that have arisen as a result of the scope of issues that have been identified thus far and more effectively make a recommendation on additional funding needed to effectively and efficiently deliver treatment services.

[Editor's Note: Early Funding May Be Authorized – Keep Your Fingers Crossed*]

*Late info indicates some legislators may seek additional interim funding for SOTP due to mailings and personal contacts by UPAN families who have learned the importance and methods for contacting them. As a result, the January legislative session hopefully may authorize interim funds to get the SOTP ball rolling ASAP. *And say a prayer for these wonderful, thoughtful, listening legislators. Ed.]*

UPAN went to great lengths to represent the comments faithfully. Of the 173 comments selected, only 13 were favorable. Many of the favorable comments were about therapy in the two county jails offering SOTP. Two respondents who criticized the way the program was being run at Promontory conceded its value. They found they learned a lot about themselves from being in the program, and were grateful for the opportunity to take SOTP.

Inmate Recommendations Regarding SOTP

SOTP itself came in for most of the criticism. Of the 66 respondents who directed most of their comments to this general topic, only two were favorable, and one was unrated. Many expressed the desire to start the program early in the prison journey. A common thread among inmates making this suggestion is the inability to

recall crucial details about crimes they committed 15 or 20 years ago, and so appearing to the therapist as if they are withholding information.

Several inmates who reported on the survey they have a learning disability would like to see groups specifically formed of others with similar problems. One prisoner suggested that those who have transitioned could volunteer as tutors for those in the groups of slow learners. This would be an easy fix for SOTP to adopt, and would save money in the long run.

Some respondents were angry about having to take SOTP over again when they came back to prison on a parole violation (not re-offense). One was expected to re-take the program, even though his present crimes had nothing to do with a sex offense.

SOTP Removal, Readmission Letters, And BOPP

Writing readmission letters came under fire as well as the “one size fits all” policies, the widespread perception of the “fact” that SOTP makes money off the inmates who are washed out of the program, and the punishment that one bears when refusing to take, or being removed from this “voluntary” program. It would be helpful if the Utah Department of Corrections would clarify whether this program is truly voluntary, in light of the loss of privileges for inmates who are removed from or choose to not take it, as well as the negative way the Board of Pardons and Parole views those who do not complete SOTP. As for the rumor that the UDcC makes money when inmates fail the program, all I can say is that, if they do, it doesn't show up in their budget! SOTP is still being funded at 1996 levels. 1996 dollars are not worth as much today as they were in 1996!

Reducing Incarceration Backlog Via Outside SOTP

Many inmates expressed the desire to do SOTP in the community. Since this is currently under consideration by auditors and can be considered on an individual basis in board hearings, this may well be the easiest change that can be made to ease the backlog of SOs needing to do this program.

Summarizing: Overall, I am encouraged by the response that this survey garnered. It is the hope of the UPAN Board, and our community of families, friends, and inmates that this exercise of democracy in action will bring positive changes to how sex offender therapy is funded and administered in this state.

There has been only one Christmas — the rest are anniversaries. ~W.J. Cameron

I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. ~Charles Dickens

UPAN RECEIVES BEST OF CITY WEEKLY 2016 DESIGNATION
Best Activism for Those Behind Bars: Utah Prisoner Advocate Network (UPAN)
Adapted in part from an article in the November 17, 2016 edition of City Weekly by Stephen Dark

UPAN – Unique

While there have been worthy attempts in the past to organize relatives of the incarcerated, prison activists, and their sympathizers, the Utah Prisoner Advocate Network (UPAN) founded in 2013 by therapist Molly Prince and Heather Fabian has become a remarkably assured and powerful voice in just a few years for reform and accountability in Utah's penal system.

Monthly Meetings, Speakers, Newsletters

They send out a monthly newsletter full of information, hold monthly meetings with speakers—such as ACLU's Anna (Brower) Thomas, keeping them abreast of developments in key issues impacting the incarcerated. UPAN doggedly pursues issues that matter to those behind bars and their loved ones. And that includes

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issues few take into account, such as outpatient sex-offender treatment. In a state where the rights of the incarcerated register with few, UPAN ensures that their relatives remain informed, and those who run and are responsible for the prison know that UPAN and families of inmates are watching.

Year-End Gala Celebrates This Festive Event

The gala of all the Best of City Weekly 2016 recipients was held on December 1st. UPAN Director of Communications Shane (and Emily) Severson along with UPAN Vice-President Shauna (and Rusty) Denos attended while scheduling conflicts precluded attendance by UPAN's other directors. UPAN directors would like to thank whomever nominated and voted for UPAN. Thanks also to Stephen Dark and others for paying attention!

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Oh, for the good old days when people would stop Christmas shopping when they ran out of money. ~ Unknown

Confidence at Christmas

By Warren F. Rosenbaum, UPAN Newsletter editor

Christmas is the perfect time to thoughtfully reflect,
The Prince of Peace is born, the Good Life's architect;
Plus help from one of Yogi Berra's wisdom
homerun belts,
"If you don't know where you're going,
You might end up somewhere else."

I know I'm not the person, my circumstances say,
My inner core is telling me, with hope I'll not dismay;
For better things await me, they will not get away.
Leaving this hellish place will be my second birthday.

A new beginning awaits me, a blossoming life anew,
I know from meditation (my past life I review);
Never going back there, never will temptation,
Ever overpower my sincere determination.

Coupled with thanksgiving, and humble gratitude,
Can do, will do, must do! My renewed attitude;
Confidence starts building, internal strength acquired,
A giant in my toolbox, spiritually inspired.

* * * *

I may not now possess, the mental confidence yet,
But gradually it is rising, with skills I'll not forget,
An incredible fortress building, within my inner core,
Something I've been lacking, I've never felt before!

I know I have a calling, a purpose here on earth,
A legacy I'll leave behind, for which I came to birth.
I feel it in my bones, a purpose to fulfill,
And with my newfound confidence, I will, I will, I will.

Creator of the universe, will help me on my way,
He wants His Spirit in me, I'll humble myself and pray.
Thank God for life and hope, and a chance to make
my mark,
And live the life He's meant for me; I'm emerging
from the dark.

From darkness into light, a buried seed does start,
And surges forth into the world, its former life depart;
That's what Christmas is all about, a gift from God
for me,
A chance for new beginning, as soon as I am free.

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Faith In Reform, 3rd Annual Mini-Summit Meeting

A short message from Anna (Brower)Thomas, ACLU of Utah

Hello, Faith in Reform friends! There are less than two months remaining until the third annual Faith in Reform Mini-Summit, which will be held at the First Unitarian Church in Salt Lake City. We are hard at work planning some very interactive and engaging discussions to

benefit the work of all community members working on - or just interested in! - criminal justice reform in Utah. If you have ideas of what you'd like to hear about or talk about or network about, please email the Google Group! Send email to:

faith-in-reform-utah@googlegroups.com.

(See page 1 for meeting location.)

This event is FREE but space is limited. Light breakfast & full lunch included! Reserve your spot now.

Look for 3rd Annual Faith In Reform Mini-Summit on

www.Eventbrite.com

www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-faith-in-reform-mini-summit-for-criminal-justice-reform-in-utah-tickets-29029917264

Also: www.facebook.com/FaithInReform

Or go to the UPAN website and copy from the December 2016 newsletter the following link for tickets:

***Love the giver more than the gift.* ~ Brigham Young**

Gratitude turns what we have into enough ~ Unknown

PrisonEd Summary Report November 30, 2016

PrisonEd contact info: Don Wright, Ph.D., President, PrisonEd Foundation; P.O. Box 900693, Sandy, UT 84090

Email: prisonedfoundation@gmail.com

New Students During November: 24 (14 prev. month)

Current Students and Previously Served Students:

373 Enrolled Students (349 previous month); 76% of

total: 162 Draper (151 previous month)

44 Gunnison (39 previous month)

167 Jails (159 previous month)

118 Previously Served Students

(117 previous month); 24% of total

491 Total Students who have ever enrolled

in PrisonEd (466 previous month)

Comment of a student to a tutor: "Thank you for the opportunity you have given me to help myself and my life.... Your response from my... assignments touched me and made me break down crying! This is something that I have not done in years. Thank You! It made me want to continue on and put more effort in myself. ...I have a feeling that you will become a big part of helping me change my ways and life and helping me walk away from these prison walls forever.

Thank you: Appreciation to many supporters, particularly to the PrisonEd tutors!

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Holiday Gift Suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to a friend, your heart; to a customer, service; to all, charity; to every child, a good example; to yourself, respect. ~ Oren Arnold

Christmas is a time when kids tell Santa what they want and adults pay for it.

Deficits are when adults tell the government what they want and their kids pay for it. ~Richard Lamm

Three phrases that sum up Christmas are: Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men, and Batteries not Included.

~Author Unknown

To paraphrase D.M. Dellinger - This is UPAN's wish for you:

Peace of mind, prosperity through the year, happiness that multiplies, health for you and yours, fun around every corner, energy to chase your dreams, joy to fill your holidays!

UPAN News: Wishing all inmates, at all locations, a Christmas and Holiday Spirit of rehabilitation, renewal, and hope, and that your New Year is Better and Happy as you avoid the winter cold, while staying cool. You do good! Ed.

Utah Prisoner Advocate Network

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Email: Utahprisoneradvocate@gmail.com

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Past-President Molly Prince

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