Here at SCI Albion, we have a Certified Peer Support (CPS) Program, which is about encouraging our fellow prisoners to rise above their past and current circumstances, aiming for a brighter future.

We are not here to take the power they have over their own lives away. We are here to help our peers take back power over their own lives and decisions, to overcome the stigma of their past crimes and become more than their past, to become the people they were meant to be.

Many here at SCI Albion think that the CPS Program was started just for those on the Resident Treatment Unit (RTU) or the Special Needs Unit (SNU). However, the CPS programs are for the entire prison population here because we all have bad days, we are not perfect, we all need help or a push in the right direction when we drift off course. CPS specialists are here to help our peers find their own answers and empower them to make the right decisions for themselves. CPS specialists are nonjudgmental, supportive, and understanding. We see the good in people and we see everyone as equal. At least that’s how I see people and my fellow prisoners.

To become a CPS specialist, you must learn about yourself, your own strengths and weaknesses. Before you can help others, you must know yourself and your own limitations. I am whom I am, faults and all, imperfectly perfect. I have a big heart; that doesn’t make me weak. In fact, it makes me strong. You may even find hidden inner strengths you never knew were inside you.

You will learn to see past someone’s faults, their past, and their behavior. You will begin to see the good inside people, past all the stuff on the surface and see the inner beauty within regardless of race, faith, background. You will see them as human beings. It’s not about the pay, title, or privileges. It’s about having purpose and meaning, not just in your own life, but in the lives of others.

(See CPS Specialist, continued on page 16)

An article in the New Pittsburgh Courier (December 2nd) quotes the Pennsylvania Secretary of Corrections, John Wetzel, stating that “He stopped the long-standing policy of shipping inmates to facilities far from their homes” when study data revealed that it hindered family visits and increased recidivism.

According to the Pennsylvania state constitution, counting prisoners living in areas that aren’t their residences is illegal. According to a 2009 study by the Prison Policy Initiative, Blacks are 9.2 times as likely to be in prison as white people but a disproportionate number of state and federal prisons are located in counties that have a larger proportion of Whites than the state as a whole.

In 2010, Maryland became the first state to pass a law requiring that prisoners be counted in their home districts, adding an estimated 12,000 Baltimoreans to the city’s official population. Pennsylvania should follow suit. There are eight legislative districts in Pennsylvania that would be illegally small were it not for prisoners.

The transfer of electoral power from city to country, from Black to White, makes a mockery of the “one person, one vote” principle. Philadelphia’s growing political loss is rural Pennsylvania’s ill-gotten gain.

(See Gerrymandering, continued on page 16)
From the Editors

This edition of Graterfriends raises a number of issues and concerns. One of those is the importance of voting. Pennsylvania is one of the states that does not limit voting for a number of individuals who have served time or are serving time in prison. Please see the article on page 9 for details as there are a number of exceptions and exclusions, but even if you cannot cast a ballot, you can encourage your contacts to vote. Election Day is almost here, so as NIKE commercials used to say: JUST DO IT.

This edition has numerous letters, announcements, and issue updates. It follows in the tradition of the prior issues of Graterfriends which is based on your letters and concerns. Thank you for sending us information and for continuing to contribute to, read, and share Graterfriends. We realize and apologize for the slow timetable and how to turn it around. This takes both time and funding support. We are fortunate to have received support from Bread & Roses for Graterfriends. We included more information on this important social change foundation on page 15.

Also, we are continuing to review our verification processes to make this a better publication. If you have any ideas, please send them our way.

From all of us here at the Prison Society,

Thank you!

Spotlight

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS TO SEE YOUR CHILDREN
by Angus Love Esq, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project

You have a right to a hearing to ask the Court of Common Pleas in the county that the child resides to allow contact with your child [Etter v Rose 684 A2d 1092]. Contact can take many forms, such as letters, phone calls, cards and pictures or actual visits. Hearings can be conducted by telephone. Sample pleadings are available at the Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP).

If you do not exercise your right in any fashion for a period of six months, your parental rights could be terminated. This can lead to adoption.

For more information contact the PILP (see page 19 for contact information).

Editor’s Note: SB 163 calls for changes to this often final and devastating ruling. It provides for language giving the court authority to NOT terminate an incarcerated parents’ rights if they are making an effort to comply with family service plans, a provision that incarceration cannot be the sole reason for termination, and an arrest policy to safeguard children when a parent is arrested. As listed in prior issues of Graterfriends, SB 163 passed the PA Senate and is in the House Judiciary Committee.

Graterfriends is a publication from the Pennsylvania Prison Society. The organization was founded in 1787 and works toward enhancing public safety by providing initiatives that promote a just and humane criminal justice system.

We reserve the right to edit submissions. Original submissions will not be returned. We will not print anonymous letters. Allegations of misconduct must be documented and statistics should be supported by sources. Letters more than a page in length (200 words) will not be published in their entirety in Mailroom or Legal Chat Room, and may be considered for another column. All columns should be no more than 500 words, or two double-spaced pages. To protect Graterfriends from copyright infringement, please attach a letter stating, or note on your submission, that you are the original author of the work submitted for publication; date and sign the declaration.

If you have a question about Graterfriends, please contact Emily Cashell, Executive Assistant at 215-564-4775 x116 or ecashell@prisonsociety.org

The opinions expressed are of the authors and not necessarily those of Graterfriends or The Pennsylvania Prison Society.
FALSE OATHS AND FATAL LIES

by Kevin Brian Dowling, DY-6243, SCI Greene

The criminal justice system is not a world of black and white, but of grays and shadows. The policy of mass incarceration is structured to reward dishonesty. Perjury is the most common crime followed closely by the subornation of perjury. Very few are ever charged, let alone convicted.

Editor’s Note: In American law, the ‘subornation of perjury’ is the crime of persuading a person to commit perjury — the swearing of a false oath to tell the truth in a legal proceeding, be it spoken or written.

Perjury is a legal term defined as deliberately making material false or misleading statements under oath. The legal effect of an oath is to subject a person to the penalties for perjury. Perjury is a third degree felony punishable by up to five years in prison for each count. Both prosecutors and defense lawyers must tell the court if one of their witnesses gives testimony they know to be false. How often does that happen? Failure to do so is a crime, subornation of perjury.

The Oath of Affirmation Clause of the U.S. Constitution requires all Federal and State officials in the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government to pledge to uphold said Constitution, which includes specific rights to those charged with crimes. The most vital is the right to a fair and unbiased tribunal and jury, there are many types of oaths.

Lawyers swear on oath upon admission to the practice of the law and are bound by the Rules of Professional Conduct. Suborning perjury can result in prosecution and disbarment.

Judges swear an oath upon taking the bench and are bound by the Rules of Judicial Conduct. They promise to be neutral arbiters and to protect the rights of criminal defendants. Pennsylvania still elects Judges rather than appoint them on merit. Political elections guarantee that mostly former prosecutors become Judges; their robes do little to conceal their bias and slant to assist the prosecution.

Jurors swear an oath during the selection process to answer questions truthfully, so that the lawyers can uncover valid reasons to excuse them for cause, or use a peremptory strike. They take a second oath when seated for trial, promising to obey court instructions and to weigh the charges only on evidence presented in court. Yet, jurors lie to get selected and convict based on personal bias and evidence not heard in court.

Law enforcement officers swear oaths when given their badges and every time they testify. They are permitted to lie to suspects, but not under oath. Yet, a high percentage of them commit perjury daily, including forensic experts who are often sworn officers as well.

A former San Francisco Police Commissioner, Peter Keane, wrote an article published in the San Francisco Chronicle, decrying a police culture that treats lying as the norm. It is a perversion of the American justice system that strikes directly at the rule of law. Yet, it is the routine way of doing business that an honest cop will not report a corrupt one.

Prison inmates swear an oath before testifying as well. All citizen witnesses swear an oath before testifying. Many have a reality show mentality, a poor understanding of the burden of proof, and are vulnerable to manipulative police and prosecutors. They consciously lie to help lock up the perceived bad guys.

Most are already convicted felons, career criminals, and enjoy testifying against those who worked for a living. Prosecutors openly coach these jailhouse informants and provide them information on the case. They give them free passes on their admittedly serious crimes. In effect, prosecutors commit a crime against the victims of these snitches. One former prosecutor likened the relationship between informants and their handlers to “fall in in love with your rat.”

Rewarding snitch testimony constitutes bribery of witnesses and manifests itself in many forms. Serious charges are dropped, sentences are reduced, preferential treatment and jobs are offered, money is placed in Commissary accounts, and financial help is given for moves and purchases of businesses.

From 2008 to 2013, nearly 50,000 Federal convicts (out of 400,000) had their prison terms reduced in exchange for testifying against someone. Pennsylvania State cases are even worse. Virtually all of the 181 prisoners on death row and of the 5,000 with life sentences were convicted with the help of lying snitches. Entire state prisons are dedicated to housing them.

Death penalty statutes list aggravating factors warranting the imposition of death. California has a unique one called “Perjury Causing Execution.” If an executed inmate is later determined to have been innocent, and your perjury was the prime reason for conviction, you can be charged with his murder and face execution yourself.

(See False Oaths, continued on page 16)
SO MOTE IT BE, FINALLY

Ten years ago, I began a journey. One that would take me up and down, left and right, back and forth (more back than forth), and in and out of the process of obtaining legitimacy, and acknowledgement of the Wiccan religion in prison. Nine years ago, Graterfriends asked me to write about my struggles in this quest (see the September 2007 issue).

Dear and faithful readers, I am very happy to report that Wicca has finally come to SCI Fayette! So many RAQ's (rarely asked questions), so many proposals, denials, frustrations. I, indeed, have the scares to prove it. I must first thank Rev. Frank Lewis, F.C.P.D., who advocates objectively, Ms. Hawkenberry, C.C.P.M., and the voting members involved beginning with Mr. Lane, our superintendent. We’ve been authorized by the Central Office to hold “communally viewed” audio-video tapes for one hour per week. This is a giant “baby step” toward our overall goal of full ceremonies and services. To achieve our next step, a “study group,” we cannot proceed without a volunteer to come in.

On August 18, 2016 (a full moon, mind you), we opened up the “Alternative Spirituality Grove” with Wiccan/Pagan songs and guided meditations, all found on our tablets. The possibilities are endless, each song a star in our universe and step further toward the Goddess.

Now, Brothers and Sisters o’ the Craft, it’s your turn. Submit your RAQ’s state your case, and bring your quest. May the God and Goddess guide and temper your mettle along the way.

Richard “Chainsaw” McCullough
LQ-7822, SCI Fayette

Editor’s Note: "So mote it be" is a ritual phrase used by Freemasons, in Rosicrucianism, and more recently by Neopagans. It means "so may it be", "so it is required" or "so must it be", and may be said at the end of a prayer in a similar way to "amen".

TREATMENT IS JUST ANOTHER WORD

I was placed in a Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) when I was younger for mental health disorders from 1997 to 1999. I was rushed to Einstein Medical Center for a suicidal overdose. I was placed in a mental health facility called Charter Fairmount when I was younger.

Since being incarcerated, I’ve been suffering from the same symptoms. I’ve attempted suicide countless times, I’ve been placed on numerous medications, I was admitted to SCI Cressons Mental Health Unit for suicide attempts in 2009. I spent two years in the hole for having mental health episodes that the staff just could not handle. SCI Frackville told me that after being housed on their Special Needs Unit (SNU) for six years, they realized that I am not receiving the proper treatment that I need and deserve. I was told that I would be shipped to an institution that had the proper programming and the proper staff to assist in my treatment. That was a total lie!

I was shipped to SCI Coal Township’s SNU and there is no programming at all! No treatment staff! Nothing! Frackville’s elite – the Unit Manager, the Superintendent, and the Psychologist - are the ones responsible for this cold disregard of mental health treatment! And as always, they’ll get away with it.

by Braheim Staten
GJ-2070, SCI Waymart

SALUTE TO GRATERFRIENDS

We want to thank you for giving us an avenue to express ourselves, as well as for getting our message out to inmates and others in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Without your organization, it would be difficult for us to spread the word of truth and positivity of our minds. We, as changed men, salute you and thank you for being true to your name, a “Greater Friend.”

We salute you for being consistent and thorough. What you do for us inspires us to do for ourselves and others. Your staff is spectacular as well as being outstanding writers. I believe we can speak for all inmates that have subscribed and read Graterfriends when we say, “You are a breath of fresh air, an important key to (ally in) our struggles and unfortunate incarceration.” Because of you, we, as changed men, will continue to be positive. We will continue to be grateful for your help. Please do not stop being a Greater Friend to us. We salute you!

Bradford Gamble AF-6787 &
Jaquan Jordan LU-8302
SCI Coal Township

Do you want to subscribe to Graterfriends?
See the order form on page 18.
Mailroom, continued

PROBLEMS WITH PROPOSED MERGER

I am serving a 6-12 year sentence at SCI Benner. Recently, we have heard about the proposed merger of Pennsylvania’s Department of Corrections and Pennsylvania’s Board of Probation and Parole. The biggest problem with this merger is the danger in giving the Parole Board the authority to establish the conditions of parole when they have abused that authority so many times in the past. I think that the DOC is better off handling these decisions than the Parole Board. I urge Governor Tom Wolfe to reconsider the consequences of this proposed merger (see page 19 for the Governor’s contact information).

Kareem Goldstein
LH-0886, SCI Benner Township

SMOKING RULES

We were recently given notice that, after April 30th, 2016, anyone caught smoking in their cell could receive a misconduct or sanction under misconduct regulation #38 and be charged with a cell cleaning or with $25 for the cell to be disinfected. I doubt that this policy will be enforced since (a) those who are supposed to enforce this policy also smoke, (b) some of them ignore the Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act of 2008, and (c) they have failed to enforce other new policies, like the one regarding head phones.

James R. Cruz
CL-1798, SCI Fayette

According to the
American Cancer Society,
there is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke (SHS).

Any exposure is harmful.

The only way to fully protect non-smokers from exposure to SHS indoors is to prohibit all smoking in that indoor space or building.

David McGinley
CX-1921, SCI Waymart

INMATE PAY: THE WRATH OF THE DOC

More and more people need to start filing grievances, doing legal work, and writing state legislators in regards to our pay – peacefully.

What has happened to me in the 20 years since our pay was last increased? Tobacco has gone up 600%, the average costs of food has gone up 300%, the price of TVs have doubled, more money is being made from the tablets, and the sizes of products have gone down while the price goes up.

For those of you new to the system, the DOC doesn't pay us, we actually pay ourselves. 5% of all commissary sales (minus the .25% "maintenance fee") goes into our Inmate General Welfare Fund (IGWF) account. That is what we get paid from.

So whatever happened to the cost of living? While the guards wages continue to rise and they make millions off of overtime, we get left behind. And then, when your family has to send you money to survive, the DOC takes a cut for your court costs. Since when was my family ordered by the court to pay my fines?

And why isn’t there an independent third-party overseeing the IGWF and adjusting our wages? The pay scale should range between $0.38 - $1.02 (double from the decades old $0.19 - $0.51) and that’s at the bare minimum.

If the money – our money – isn’t coming back to us, then where is it going? An investigation into the handling of OUR money is long overdue.

Anthony Saltalamacchia
HT-3225, SCI Benner Township

The opinions expressed are of the authors and not necessarily those of Graterfriends or The Pennsylvania Prison Society.
SOLITARY THINKING
by Termaine Saulsby, GP-3965, SCI Greene

The old saying goes, “There are three kinds if people: those who make it happen, those who watch things happen, and those who were never really sure of what was happening.”

The first group of people take initiative and responsibility by using their resources, knowledge, and skills to solve problems and make positive changes. The second group of people stand on the sidelines watching the first group use the resources, knowledge, and skills to make positive changes. The third group of people are deaf and blind to the resources, knowledge, and skills, so they really never had a clue of what was happening or how to make it happen.

Many individuals I have seen give up or break themselves knew history, were very politically conscious and blind to the resources, knowledge, and skills, so they really never had a clue of what was happening or how to make it happen.

Many individuals I have seen give up or break through the isolation, and break free to the resources, knowledge, and skills, so they really never had a clue of what was happening or how to make it happen.

Long story short, we must be those people who make it happen, by taking initiative and using our pens to write letters with our ideas and input. Send your letters to family members, friends, churches, publications such as Graterfriends, progressive newspapers, radio deejays, artists, college students, lawyers etc. Keep writing, don’t stop. You may not get responses from everyone you write but you will get some. Constantly writing these letters reinforces your inner consciousness to solidify your internal change beyond mere words. Your focus is no longer your own immediate isolation, therefore your thinking is not controlled.

THE TABLET OF MOSES
by Reginald S. Lewis, AY-2902, SCI Graterford

William Shakespeare said, “If music be the food of love, play it.” Perhaps somewhere, amid the fierce national movement for prison reform, the Pope’s clarion call for a “Year of Mercy,” corporate profiting from mass incarceration, and the necessity for modernity, fairness, and reason…..commandments were sent down granting Pennsylvania prisoners (true victims of the digital divide) the privilege to purchase digital tablets.

At SCI Graterford, prisoners queue up at kiosks to spend their UnitLinks (digital currency), to download music, and to check their emails. Tiny ear buds and big clunky headphones clasp tightly as they bob their heads to an eclectic mix of sounds and funky rhythms. I watch on old head, who walks with the aid of a cane, dancing. In the library, a prisoner, who is usually quiet and studious, hums a sweet love ballad.

The young lions as they watch this writer, an old dinosaur, fumble with this device. “You can’t do it like that, Salahud-din,” a brilliant young brother named Na-Reddy barks. “You’ll break it.” He then gives me a demonstration of how to deftly navigate through a winding labyrinth of a super sensitive touch screen on this advanced technological accoutrement. Smart young techies like Meaty, Poobie, and G teach me how to do extended searches. I learn that the entire Holy Quran, in three parts, can be purchased for one UnitLink each.

Say what? I find speeches by Malcolm X and Reverend Jeremiah Wright. An artist named Holy Moses pops up and another who calls himself “Moses the Prophet.”

Really?

On the music app, I find over 15 sound adjustments. I isolate the flute, orchestra, strings, and the horn section in extended version of Love Never Felt so Good by Michael Jackson with Justin Timberlake. The young bucks, disciples of pseudo-rap gods, debate with me about the superiority of their music to mine, implying that the “mind” music I favor is old and outdated. I channel Tony Montana in Scarface, “Okay! Okay! You wanna go to war?” They lean in close as I give them a taste of selections download to my tablet, like Donald Bird’s Places and Spaces, Falling Like Dominoes, Lansanna’s Priestess, and You and Music. I come back at them with Come to My Garden and At the Edge of a Dream by Minnie Riverton.

I threw a hard left hook with The Jackson’s Even Though You’re Gone, Coltrane’s My Favorite Things, I dashed them with Teddy Prendergrass’ It Don’t Hurt Now, the Spinners’ There’s No One Like You. After smooth cuts like Look What You Done to Me and Have You Been Making Out Okay? fade out, one young buck asks, “Yo, Who’s Al Green?” I roll my eyes, “Never mind.”

They counter with a combination of hard rappers: Lil Wayne, Drake, Nickie Minaj, Jay-Z. “Yo, listen to this, old head,” as they rock to Young and I’m Getting It by Meek Mill, You Know I talk that Stick Talk by Future, then Rick Ross kicks God Forgives But I Don’t. They pump Black Jesuz by Tupac. A staccato hypnotic euphony anchored on a swirling vortex of driving rhythms; the defiant lyrics of brilliant young poets spinning tragic Shakespearean tales of love and pain and social injustice. I end our jam session with Aretha Franklin’s Gotta Find Me an Angel and Holy, Holy, Holy, Pharoah Sanders’ The Creator Has a Master Plan and Love Each Other by Leon Thomas.

Music is sonic brain stimulation. A lawful, cerebral escape from the dark, drab and depressing mundanity of an oppressive prison. A soothing, medicinal salve for deeply wounded, tortured souls.
Our Voices, continued.

**UNITE TO REDUCE INCARCERATION LEVELS**  
*by Bob Lankin, SCI Graterford Volunteer*

Regular readers of *Graterfriends* read letters from prisoners and others about one or more aspects of unfair treatment, unjust sentencing, and other abuses inherent in the correctional systems in this country. It is time for like-minded people to work together for the common effort which needs to be the vast reduction of the numbers of people incarcerated in the United States.

The problem that I see is that there are too many people in prison and a major reduction of these numbers is not going to happen with quick and easy fixes. None of the following individual reforms will be sufficient to solve the problem:

1. Reducing or eliminating long prison sentences for non-violent drug crimes;
2. Eliminating of prison sentences for petty crimes;
3. Ending mandatory sentences;
4. Eliminating long return sentences for probation violators;
5. Allowing parole boards to consider lifers for parole; or

It will take all of these things plus one other initiative that few people talk about: The reduction of time served for a wide variety of serious felonies.

The high incarceration rate hurts our society in many ways. It siphons off money needed for schools and other beneficial uses, devastates families (especially inner city families), and has not been proven to reduce crime. We need to work together to substantially reduce the number of people who are incarcerated. It is time for every incarcerated person to write letters to their public officials (see page 19 for addresses) advocating for the government to take the many steps necessary to do this. It is most important that your friends and relatives write too, because only a mass movement in this direction will lead to the desired results.

**A NEW TRICK I LEARNED FROM A NEW DOG**  
*by Brian Fuller, #20446619, Huntsville Unit, Huntsville, Texas*

Nobody knows for sure how old Bo really is. They don’t even know if “Bo” is his real name. But he answers to it good enough. I found that out my first day in town when I asked the store cashier, “How old is your dog?” She just smiled and said, “Old Bo ain’t our dog. He just likes to hang out here.”

That’s when I found out that Bo is an opportunist. His home is down the road. And I’m sure that his owners love him and care for him. But they’re getting “up in years.” And Bo still yearns for getting more out of life. So every morning he walks the few blocks up to the store. And every evening he returns home.

He’s got his routine. He watches people gas up and get their morning coffee. There’s always the lunch rush. Nobody’s gonna miss that little end of the corn dog or a pizza crust. But the best, by far, are the kids coming home from school. All them little hands scratching behind the ears and patting his head are better than sausage.

As far as I know, old Bo ain’t never bit nobody that didn’t have it coming. He’s a better judge of character than most people I know. And there’s no sensing chasing every squirrel or stray cat that comes along. A single bark usually does the trick.

We all got our share of aches and pains. Bo’s got his. I can tell by the way he moves sometimes. I was watching him try and get comfortable one day. He got up, turned in a circle a couple of times, then laid back down.

So I thought to myself—WHAT CHANGED? Perhaps it was just his attitude. He felt he needed to do something. So he got up and did it. Then he felt better about it. That’s the lesson Bo had been teaching me.

Life ain’t going to come to us. We got to go out and find it. If we look for the good in people, then that is exactly what we’ll find. And sometimes we can’t do a lot to change our situation. But if we can change our attitude - THEN WE HAVE CHANGED EVERYTHING!

Some of the best lessons in life come from the most unexpected teachers. So the next time you’re in town and you see Old Bo, give him a pat on the head. Or maybe give him one of your French fries. You’ll be glad you did.

The Prison Society does not offer home plans. However, our online resource, The Prisoner Reentry Network has 800 organizations, many of which can assist in finding a home plan.

If you are in need of contacts for a home plan, have your counselor or loved one help you search on the Prisoner Reentry Network at www.phillyreentry.com
Parole Tips for Inmates
By Patrick Kruger, KN-6991, SCI Dallas

I am writing to reach out to those of you who are approaching their parole hearings. I’ve worked in two prison libraries (SCI Houtzdale and SCI Dallas) over the last 2½ years and I have fielded many questions concerning employment letters. I’m not an expert and I offer no guarantees, just sharing a few tips that just might help a few people.

I’ve noticed that quite a few people wait until the day before they see the board to complete their employment letters. This is not only a bad way to try to get a job but it also shows the board that you are not taking your re-entry seriously. Employment letters need to be sent out at least six months before you see the board. That gives prospective employers time to respond and it shows the board that you are not procrastinating.

I’ve also noticed that some feel that because the board wants to see five letters, that five are sufficient. It could take 20, 40, or even 100 letters to get even a few responses. Sending that many letters cannot be done with the free postage you get each month. You will need to prepare for this by purchasing paid envelopes from the commissary. If you start early and buy a few at a time, it won’t be so bad, even if it means one less bag of coffee or pouch of Kite. Ask yourself, what’s more important, coffee and Kite or going home?

On to the form of the letter: You need to convey as much information as possible without droning on and on and on. Remember, this is not your résumé, it is simply meant to tell an employer about a few work skills and to ask for a job. It’s all about talking points. List a few of the skills you have, list any training and education (from the streets and in prison), and a few of your positive personality traits.

There are always mixed feelings about whether one should talk about being incarcerated. I feel you need to acknowledge it since the response will be mailed to your prison address. You can’t really hide that and shouldn’t. You got yourself there, own it and keep rolling.

I’ve heard a few arguments about providing information on the Federal Bonding Program and the Tax Credit Incentive (26 U.S.C §38(b)(2)). I would be careful

See Parole Tips, continued on page 16

Constitutional Right to Receive Mail (Re: DC-ADM 803 Section 1.A.)
By Horace Harriott Jr., DF-9780, SCI Benner Township

I’ve been reading Graterfriends for about 20 years now and I have never written a letter but this stuff if getting out of control, unnecessarily. I feel it is my duty to start doing my part by sharing the little knowledge that I have. Most of what is being done to us in the name of policy is clearly, blatantly, and flagrantly unconstitutional. So, I’ve decided to begin helping us all properly contest and right these wrongs. To all inmates whose mail has been withheld, denied, rejected and returned to the sender due to the color of the envelope: It is well-settled law that these types of denials of mail are unconstitutional. According to the United States District Court, this denial and WITHHOLDING of mail is a violation of First and Fourteenth Amendment Rights1-5.

While cards that are not in white envelopes have been withheld, denied, rejected and returned to the sender due to the color of the envelopes they are mailed in, letters in various color envelopes have been allowed. Letters in manila envelopes have also been allowed. So, this policy cannot be rationally related to any security concerns. The United States Supreme Court6 and the United States District Court7 have both long held that “the loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time, unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury.”

If the sender is not made aware that their mail has not been delivered; not giving them adequate notice of the fact that their correspondence has not been delivered, and not giving them adequate opportunity to appeal that decision, is a violation of the United States Constitution’s due process clause. The “decision to censor or withhold delivery of a particular letter must be accompanied by minimal procedural safeguards.”8

“The Supreme Court has held that ‘the interest of prisoners and their correspondents in uncensored communication by letter, grounded as it is in the First Amendment, is plainly a “liberty” interest within the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment’ and even though qualified of necessity by the prisoner’s circumstances of imprisonment, this liberty interest attaches not only to communications by letter, but also to a prisoner’s receipt of subscription publications.”9

On the next page is everything you need to file a grievance and an appeal of your “unacceptable correspondence” and everything the sender of the correspondence needs to file their law suit.
Legal Forum, continued

7. *Thalheimer v. City of San Diego*, 645 F. 3d 1109, 1128 (9th Cir. 2011).


WHO CAN VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8th?

You must be at least 18 years of age on Election Day, a United States citizen for at least one month before the election, and a resident of Pennsylvania for at least 30 days before the election.

**CAN VOTE**

- Pretrial detainees CAN VOTE.
- Those serving misdemeanors CAN VOTE.
- Those released or who will be released by a correctional facility or halfway house and have completed their sentence, by election day CAN VOTE.
- Those on probation or released from parole CAN VOTE.
- Those under house arrest CAN VOTE.

**CANNOT VOTE**

- Those currently in a halfway house due to a felony or on pre-release status CANNOT VOTE.
- Those proven guilty of a violation of PA election laws within the past four years CANNOT VOTE.
- Those serving felonies and not scheduled for release before election day CANNOT VOTE.

Other states have their own rules and many, such as Iowa, Kentucky, and Florida, permanently prohibit those with felony convictions from voting. New York, Connecticut, Colorado, and California prohibit those in prison and on parole from voting. Other states (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Utah, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Montana, Michigan, Hawaii, Oregon, and the District of Columbia) prohibit those in prison from voting.

Pennsylvania laws, as indicated above, allow many more impacted by prison to vote. It is a right, a responsibility, and a privilege to vote.

Exercise Your Right and encourage others you know in and out of prison to VOTE.

YOUR VOTE COUNTS.
REGISTER.
VOTE.

Please remember that any submissions we receive will NOT be published without express permission to print and a note stating that you are the original author.

If we receive a submission without either of these two requirements, we will not print it.

Submissions will not be returned.

Thank you.
The Pennsylvania General Assembly’s two year legislative session is nearing its finale with very few session days remaining. A number of major issues are still on the table for discussion but final passage is not that likely. Several pending criminal justice bills are listed below. Any bills not passed after going through the legislative process will need to be introduced against in the next legislative session that will begin in January 2017. Please note that this list is current as of printing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BILL NO.</th>
<th>PRINTER NO.</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>CHIEF SPONSOR</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB 1062</td>
<td>PN 2109</td>
<td>Increases the maximum sentence for home invasion burglaries where the perpetrator commits or threatens to commit bodily injury to someone present in the home. (Includes a number of other changes/additions to sentencing.)</td>
<td>Sen. John Rafferty, R-Berks, Chester, Montgomery County</td>
<td>Passed Senate 5/10/16 (48-0). Tabled in House 9/20/16 and removed from the table 9/26/16. Second consideration on the House floor with amendments 9/28/16 and re-referred to House Appropriations.</td>
<td>Opposed to increased penalties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 1261</td>
<td>PN 1831</td>
<td>Post-Conviction Relief Act; calls for filings within one year if there are grounds instead of just 60 days.</td>
<td>Sen. Stewart Greenleaf, R-Montgomery County</td>
<td>Passed Senate Judiciary. 2nd consideration in the Senate 6/15/16. Tabled in the Senate 6/20/16.</td>
<td>Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 1311</td>
<td>PN 2016</td>
<td>Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Compliance. The majority of the Act is compliance related. One provision that is overly broad expands involuntary termination of parental rights. It will expand parental termination to include parents listed on the sex offender registry. This registry includes 50 sentences, including sexting cases of statutory rape that may include an 18 year old in a sexual relationship with a minor. This bill will include everyone on the registry, not by specific offense. It leaves no room for changing your life and instead creates consequences that are life long.</td>
<td>Pen. Patricia Vance, R-Cumberland &amp; York County</td>
<td>Passed Senate 6/28/16 (50-0). Amended in House Judiciary. Tabled in the House 9/20/16 and removed from the table 9/26/16. Second consideration 9/28/16. Re-referred to House Appropriations 9/28/16.</td>
<td>Oppose due to the provision for involuntary termination of parental rights.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CORRECTION AND FURTHER DISCUSSION: SB 1147

SB 1147 PN 1576 on Juvenile Life Without Parole was listed incorrectly in the last issue of Graterfriends.

The bill provides for:

Proposed sentences for first and second degree murder for juveniles under 15 years old and those over 15 years old.

- First degree: at 15 years old the maximum sentence is 45 years; under 15 years old the maximum sentence is 35 years.
- Second degree: at 15 years old the maximum sentence is 40 years; under 15 years old the maximum sentence is 30 years.

The length of the sentence raised concerns among many who called and wrote us indicating that these proposed sentences are too long and inflexible.

The Prison Society’s Policy Committee has taken this matter under advisement and is re-examining the bill, now suggesting revisions for the next legislative session. A sentencing structure that reduces the number of years not increasing the time to be served is the direction we seek.

We appreciate dialogue on this important issue and look forward to further discussion on sentencing and other issues.

(Election Quiz, continued from age 20)

Contrary to popular opinion, the first two are true, the third is false.

Many incarcerated individuals and those returning home can register and cast their ballot in the upcoming November General Election.

Pennsylvania currently incarcerates 100,000 in county jails, state prisons, and federal facilities.

Voting eligibility requirements are quite extensive but the basic tenant is that, unless you are doing time for a felony, you should register. There are additional caveats but if you are not sure, register—err on the side of possible, as the deadline for the upcoming November election was October 11th. You still have time to register for the Spring election.

The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is November 1st (earlier is recommended).

Absentee ballots must be returned (mailed) by November 4th.

So, hopefully you are registered and will vote. If not, remind everyone you know to cast their ballots on November 8th!
The Precedent of Time Credit

It has been seven years since I last wrote to you about issues surrounding the denial of credit for jail time served. Since that time, criminal defendants continue to be denied time credit for prison time that he or she already served. This is especially true for criminal defendants who were incarcerated on both new charges and a Board of Probation and Parole detainer. Although I have written about this topic in the past, I do so again to emphasize how important it is to be your own advocate by comparing the time credit that has been applied to your sentence with the amount of time credit you are entitled.

For my own clients, I vehemently remind sentencing judges about the clear decisional law pertaining to time credit. Unfortunately, it seems that even the brightest judges oftentimes do not understand the statutory and decisional law on the issue. Fortunately, when criminal defendants appeal sentences for which trial courts erroneously failed to award time credit, the appellate courts have consistently applied legal authority to vacate and remand for the imposition of a new sentence that includes time credit that was denied.

To begin with the basics, understand that when a criminal defendant is held on new charges as well as a detainer lodged by the Board of Probation and Parole, the sentencing judge should apply the pre-sentence time credit to the new sentence. If the sentencing court fails to award time credit applied to the new sentence, the defendant may lose that time. Decisional law is clear that the Board of Probation and Parole lacks the power to apply the credit to the defendant’s backtime.

In Commonwealth v. Mann, 957 A.2d 746 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2008), the Superior Court vacated the judgment of sentence and remanded for time credit to be applied by the sentencing court. The Superior Court recognized that credit for the time Mann had been incarcerated on both a Board-lodged detainer and new charges must be applied to the new sentence. The Court recognized that the Board is without power to apply the credit to the defendant’s backtime.

A year prior to the Mann decision, the Commonwealth Court issued an opinion with a similar holding. In Koehler v. Board of Probation and Parole, 935 A.2d 44 (Pa. Comwlth Ct. 2007) the defendant asked the Board for time credit against his detainer backtime. The Commonwealth Court held that the Board was without the power to award the credit. The Commonwealth Court pointed out that Koehler was not incarcerated solely on the Board’s warrant prior to the time he was sentenced on his new charges because bond had not been posted on the new charges. The Commonwealth Court held that if Koehler was entitled to credit, then that credit must go to his new sentence. Specifically, the Court stated “…where a sentencing court does not give an inmate full credit for time served, the inmate’s remedy is in the trial court and through the direct appeal process, not through the Board.”

If you are an inmate who was sentenced on a new charge after being held on both the new charge and a detainer, check your sentencing order or with your institution’s records department to make sure you received credit for all the time you were incarcerated. If the sentencing court failed to award time credit that you were entitled to and you still have time to file a post-sentence motion then file the motion asking for time credit. Even if it is past the 10 day period but within 30 days from the sentence, file a post sentence motion nunc pro tunc. As always, it is preferable to seek the advice of a competent criminal defense attorney. Nevertheless, if your judgment of sentence has been final for less than a year, you have the opportunity to file a pro se petition for post-conviction relief (PCRA). Your prison counselor or the law library should have a fill-in-the blank PCRA petition for you to complete and send to the clerk of court in the county where you were sentenced. In the alternative and regardless of when you were sentenced, you could file a “Motion for Time Credit” in an attempt to obtain the credit for which you are entitled without being subject to the strict requirements under the Post-Conviction Relief Act. A Motion for Time Credit has been successful for my clients in the past.

Regardless of the document that you use to ask for the time credit for which you are entitled, point out that the denial of time credit challenges the legality of the sentence. Attach a copy of this article to your document to be filed and good luck!
A SECOND LOOK
By Lenward Golphin, AY-8081, SCI Frackville

It's truly a shame that in this day and time our values and thoughts are still being manipulated and shaped by Hollywood and the media. A good example to support this argument is that we have been programmed to believe that when someone in prison says they're innocent, subconsciously we say “yeah right that’s what they all say.”

The saddest part of not believing in the innocence claims, is the record number of exonerations that verify that fact. In 2014, 137 people were exonerated for crimes that they didn’t commit. In 2015, an additional 149 people were exonerated. That is a total of 286 people convicted of crimes that they were innocent of committing.

All of those wrongful convictions would never have been overturned if not given a second look. As carpenters, we are taught to measure twice and cut once. It would seem that our justice system deserves that same kind of scrutiny (or caution). If we're serious about prison reform we must be willing to take a second look.

Remember, at one time we accepted that separate but equal was fair and that our decisions to go to war in Vietnam and Iraq were the right things to do. And even the war on drugs and the extremely harsh sentences that were a product of it, were viewed as correct. It wasn’t until we took a second look at all of the above mentioned situations that we realized that a mistake was made. That second look was crucial and should have made us aware that we’re fallible.

With all of the exonerations that have taken place, our justice system should make it mandatory that we review the life sentences of those who have served over 20 years, especially since, during that time period, most of the crime labs had no certifications and used a lot of junk science to obtain many of those convictions.

The most expensive cost to the prison budget, is the aging lifers population. Many of them are unable to function without the assistance of a caretaker and definitely do not represent a threat to our society, yet we continue to spend thousands of dollars keeping them confined. Keeping someone in jail for the rest of their life has not, and will not, deter crime.

A second look has also made us aware that being tough on crime isn’t the answer or the solution to the problem. This knowledge should be passed on to the commutation board. If any agency should be willing to take a second look, it should be them, especially since so many inmates have been time-barred and have never had their meritorious issues litigated.

In a justice system, we should be more concerned with seeing that justice is served. As a country that makes such a fuss with other nations about human rights violations, how can we justify sentencing someone to die in prison because they failed to file a petition in time?

I beg each and every one of us to take a second look at ourselves, and be honest about it, and then we might accept the fact that we can help our Governor make a difference by being able to reallocate some of this massive prison budget to our school system. That’s where one reform will help reform another situation.

All it takes is a second look for our legislators to recognize that if they don’t address this problem, then our leaders will become our criminal breeders.

2016 Family Transportation Schedule

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<tr>
<td>October 10th, 2016</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Benner/Rockview</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Houtzdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 14th, 2016</td>
<td>Albion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 17th, 2016</td>
<td>Cambridge Springs/Mercer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 21st, 2016</td>
<td>Fayette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Pine Grove</td>
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<td>Dallas/Retreat</td>
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<td>Cambridge Springs/Mercer</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 19th, 2016</td>
<td>Dallas/Retreat</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, contact Ebonee Allen at 215-564-4775 x 103 or eallen@prisonsociety.org
Announcements

Day of Action to End Death by Incarceration
October 18th in Harrisburg, PA

There are over 5,000 people serving Life Without Parole sentences in Pennsylvania. In PA, “life” means your entire life, which is why many instead call it “Death by Incarceration”. This harsh sentencing does not improve public safety and disproportionately impacts poor people and people of color.

We believe that denying people the right to transformation and redemption is an affront to everyone’s humanity. Join the Coalition to Abolish Death by Incarceration (CADBI) and our allies from across the state as we converge at the state capitol to ask our legislators to end Death by Incarceration in Pennsylvania.

CADBI General Meetings happen on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30pm at 1515 Fairmount Avenue.

For more information, visit decarceratepa.info/CADBI

Barber Issues?

Have you had problems with a barber, beautician or cosmetology license? Have you been told that you cannot take the barber exam? Has the government said it wants to revoke your license?

We are still interested in exploring ways to solve some of the problems that people are having in getting or keeping their licenses. We have heard from a number of you and look forward to hearing from others.

We are interested in learning how many people are having these problems. We are not able to represent you, so if you get a notice saying that you have to appeal by a certain date, we encourage you to file an appeal directly on your own, so you don’t miss the deadline.

Please send a summary of issues surrounding obtaining the barber or cosmetology test or license or related issues to the Pennsylvania Prison Society (see page 2 for address). Please explain the problem and include copies of any notices that you have received. Please keep the originals for our own files.

Thank you in advance.

Pennsylvania Veterans Justice Project

PJVP is looking to hear from all veterans who are incarcerated in Pennsylvania.

Write to us with your name, address, inmate number, years in service, type of discharge, criminal offense, and names of the attorneys who represented you. The PVJP group will use this data for research and some interviews with our legislators and political officers in government.

If you like, please give us a brief one-page letter describing the facts of your case. Each veteran has a unique story to share with others who make policy changes in the Department of Corrections and Parole & Probation. If you have applied for a pardon we want to hear from you too. All veterans are asked to submit your one-page story of the facts of your case.

We would also like all veterans to write about how your military injuries have caused you trouble over the years since your separation from the service. Please give us a direct and factual description of how your military injuries (e.g., PTSD, traumatic brain injury, sexual assault, alcoholism, drug addiction, psychological disorders) are the mitigating circumstances which caused your criminal behavior to be provoked. Please limit your report to two paragraphs.

We are building a public presentation to show how your case and cases like yours need to be reviewed. Representative Mark Cohen will sponsor our legislation requiring the review of the cases of incarcerated veterans this fall.

In closing, we wish you all good spirits and good health.

Write to:
Veterans Legal Foundation Incorporated
P O Box 155 Chester PA 19016
ATTN: Pennsylvania Veterans Justice Project

Fight For Lifers West In Pittsburgh PA

Meetings are held every third Saturday at Thomas Merton Center, located at 5129 Penn Ave., Pittsburgh, 15224 at 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m.

Contact FFLW at 412-361-3022 (leave a message) or at fightforliferswest@yahoo.com for more information.
Families Against Mandatory Minimums (FAMM)

FAMM, a D.C.-based sentencing reform organization, is working to fight mandatory minimums in Pennsylvania, but needs case examples to help convince lawmakers to support fair sentencing.

If you are serving a long mandatory sentence for a drug or gun offense, please send 1) your name, 2) contact information for yourself, 3) contact information for an outside friend or family member, 4) a brief description of your offense, and 5) your sentence (example: I received a 10-20-year mandatory minimum), to:

FAMM
Attn: Pennsylvania Stories
1100 H Street, NW, Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20005

Note: FAMM does not offer direct legal assistance and cannot respond to every letter received, but the organization will contact you by mail if they’d like to learn more about your case.

Prisoner Authors

If you are a prisoner who has written a book, Prisons Foundation wants to publish it. There is no charge to publish or read your book. Your book will be scanned and published exactly as we receive it. Any language is acceptable. It may contain drawings and photos. For more information, contact:

Prisons Foundation
2512 Virginia Ave NW #58043
Washington, DC 20037

According to a new report from the Sentencing Project, 6 Million Lost Voters: State-Level Estimate of Felony Disenfranchisement, 2016:

One of every forty adults or 6.1 million cannot vote due to state laws that bar those in prison or who had been in prison from voting.

More than 4.7 million or 3/4ths are in the community after release or on probation/parole.
**Parole Tips, continued from page 8**

if you include this information. Be mindful that this can come off or sound like a con. This is where I’d simply say, know your audience. If you want to provide information on this, you can include a relevant website for them to review. Your library should have information on this in it’s re-entry section. Your law library has the United States Code in Lexis.

Writing your letter, being truthful and humble, isn’t difficult. If you do not type or are not the most eloquent writer, have someone you trust help you. There are books in your library that can help with the actual format of the letter and résumé. Take some time to familiarize yourself with such references. Skip a yard or two to work on your letter. This doesn’t guarantee you’ll get paroled but it will increase your chances and without it you will most certainly not get paroled. I hope this helps even a few of you get one step closer to that front gate. Good luck to you all!

**False Oaths, continued from page 3**

Legal scholars estimate that at least one percent of American prisoners are innocent. The number is closer to four percent for death row inmates and lifers, the primary victims of the perjury parade. When your lies take someone’s freedom or their life, it is no minor sin. And, remember that all harm suffered by that person’s family is a plague on you accursed soul as well.

An unknown author said, “The Rule of Law is like a three-legged stool supported by an honest judge, an ethical bar, and an enforceable oath.” What happens when all three are broken? An 18th century English legal scholar, William Blackstone, is credited with saying: “It is far better to let ten guilty people go free, than to convict a single innocent person.”

**Editor’s Notes:**
1. The first third of this article was inadvertently omitted when it was published in the Fall 2015 Issue.
2. The author is paraphrasing Blackstone, who wrote: “It is better that ten guilty persons escape than that one innocent suffer.”
3. The editors were unable to confirm the statistics cited in this article.

**CPS Specialist, continued from page 1**

if you include this information. Be mindful that this can come off or sound like a con. This is where I’d simply say, know your audience. If you want to provide information on this, you can include a relevant website for them to review. Your library should have information on this in it’s re-entry section. Your law library has the United States Code in Lexis.

Those you touch. When you help someone, you learn too. It’s a two-way street.

Many prisoners don’t like to come to staff (CO’s, etc.) with their problems or concerns, or even just to talk with them. A CPS specialist is like a go-between to get help the peer needs. Talking to a fellow prisoner may be more comfortable.

Sometimes it can be a life or death matter, as when people are thinking of committing suicide. Talking to a peer such as a CPS specialist can make a difference. Despite being in prison, all life has value and is special. People will hate and judge but in the end, no one is any better than anyone else. Just because we are in prison, we are not any less human than the next person.

CPS Programs should be in all prisons. If there is one in your prison, sign up. If not, you could ask for one. There is no such thing as a stupid question. In fact, the stupidest question is the one not asked.

When we drop all the hate, bigotry, racism, Ku Klux Klan mentalities, we will be able to see each other as human beings and want to help those who want to change and better their lives. Divided we fall, united we can accomplish meaningful goals. This goes for prisoners, staff, CO’s, as well as for those who are not in prison. When we work with and help each other, positive, constructive change can happen. We are all human beings. I wish all of my brothers and sisters peace. Continue to learn and grow always.

**Gerrymandering, continued from page 1**

The counting of prisoners where they are incarcerated violates the state’s voter registration statute that “no individual who is confined in a penal institution shall be deemed a resident of the election district where the institution is located. The individual shall be deemed to reside where the individual was last registered before confinement or if there was no registration prior to confinement, the individual shall be deemed to reside at the last known address before confinement.”

For more information about prison-based gerrymandering, see the newsletter at www.prisonersofthecensus.org or contact Peter Wagner at www.prisonpolicy.org/contact.

Note: For information on Maryland’s 2010 law, see http://www.prisonersofthecensus.org/news/2010/04/13/maryland_law/.
The Prison Society does not provide compensation for overcrowding in the Philadelphia Prison System.

It’s a rumor.

Contrary to what you may have been told, no compensation is available from the Prison Society — or any other agency — for individuals who have experienced overcrowding at the Philadelphia Prison System.

It’s simply not true.

For more information on previous class action suits concerning overcrowding in the Philadelphia Prison System, please contact:

The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
The Cast Iron Building
718 Arch Street, Suite 304 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The Pennsylvania Prison Society gratefully acknowledges a generous donation by the Bread and Roses Community Fund in June of 2016, in support of Graterfriends, our mission, and those we serve here at the Prison Society.

The Bread & Roses Community Fund believes in change, not charity. They organize donors at all levels to support community-based groups in building movements for racial equity and economic opportunity.

They believe that the people in the best position to create real change are those who are most affected by injustice and inequality. And they provide training and capacity building to build leadership among people of color, poor and working-class people, people with disabilities, women, and LGBTQ people.

They believe that real change is created by people who have the courage to stand up, the determination to join together, and the resources they need to create solutions for justice.

Editor’s Note: This mission statement is from their website: breadrosesfund.org.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

by George Hopkins, FW-5493, SCI-(Bellefonte)

Like Petals to a Rose, Volume 11. Featuring: Kuami Wright, Saleem Little, Infinite, and Shavar L. Thompson. Poet S.A.H.E. recruits a few friends for the newest installment in his Like Petals to a Rose series. This one is a collection of “conscious” and “love” poems. (Cost $7, see below)

On Time with Time. This is a memoir from George Hopkins; “a man that was considered irreconcilable, irredeemable, and, to some, a menace to society. It is the introspective views of a man that made a way when there was no way available. People fear what they do not understand, and being that change is misunderstood, I shied away from it until I landed amongst the Walking Dead. For a while, I had no idea who I was, and it took some time to shed this façade, for me to see that I did have a choice in the matter. Once I found that out, I chose to change; for the betterment of myself and others.” (Cost $10, see below)

For one or both books, please make a check or money order out to Mitanni Publishing, mail to PO Box 5179, Harrisburg PA 17110, and allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

The opinions expressed are of the authors and not necessarily those of Graterfriends or The Pennsylvania Prison Society.
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THE PRISON SOCIETY MENTORING PROGRAM

The Prison Society seeks volunteer mentors and mentee participants for its F.I.R.S.T. Mentoring Program (Families and Individuals Reintegrating Successfully Together). The F.I.R.S.T. Program is based on a successful pilot project at SCI Chester and SCI Graterford which we hope to expand to other PA prisons. So far, approximately 100 returning citizens have been served in prison and after release.

The program helps prepare incarcerated individuals for successful reentry mentally, emotionally, and logistically. After a series of workshops on relevant topics such as social media, applying for medical benefits, securing housing, and obtaining education and jobs, mentees are assigned to mentors. Mentors meet one-on-one with participants for at least 6 months to develop and achieve a personalized goal plan.

We are also forming a peer support group that meets monthly in our offices, called Hope Alive, modeled on our former ReNew program.

Interested mentees or mentors may email rberger@prisonsociety.org or contact us at the below address to request an application.
Rachel Berger
Mentoring Program Coordinator
Pennsylvania Prison Society
245 N. Broad Street, Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA 19107

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Support our mission and become a member!

Receive Graterfriends and Correctional Forum for:

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<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>$100</td>
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<td>$1,000</td>
<td>1787 Society</td>
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Are you a prisoner who just wants Graterfriends? You may subscribe just to Graterfriends for $3.

New Subscribers: Please allow 12 weeks for receipt of your first issue.

The opinions expressed are of the authors and not necessarily those of Graterfriends or The Pennsylvania Prison Society.
STATE OFFICIALS

Governor Tom Wolf
Governor’s Correspondence Office
508 Main Office Building
Harrisburg PA 17120
Phone: 717-787-3391, Fax: 717-772-8284

Attorney General Bruce Beemer
Strawberry Square, Harrisburg PA 17120
Phone: 717-787-3391, Fax: 717-787-8242

Senator
Senate P.O. Box 203 __ __ __*
Harrisburg PA 17120

Representative_________________
P.O. Box 202 __ __ __*
Harrisburg PA 17120

*If you know the three-digit district number for your Senator or Representative, add it to the P.O. Box number. If you do not know, information for Senators is available at www.pasen.gov; information on Representatives is available at www.house.state.pa.us.

PRISONER ADVOCACY ORGANIZATIONS

Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project
Philadelphia Office
The Cast Iron Building
718 Arch Street Suite 304 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106
Phone: 215-925-2966

Pittsburgh Office
429 Forbes Avenue, Suite 800
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-434-6175

Human Rights Coalition

Pittsburgh Office
c/o FedUp! Chapter
5129 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15224
Phone: 412-361-3022 (ext. 4)

Philadelphia Office
c/o LAVA Space
4134 Lancaster Avenue
Philadelphia PA 19104
Phone: 267-293-9169

Prison Health News c/o Philadelphia FIGHT
1233 Locust St, 5th Floor
Philadelphia PA 191017
Phone: 215-985-4448

Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union

Philadelphia Office
PO Box 60173
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-592-1513

Harrisburg Office
PO Box 11761
Harrisburg, PA 17108
717-238-2258

Pittsburgh Office
247 Fort Pitt Blvd
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
412-681-7736

PRISONER BOOK PROGRAMS

Books Through Bars
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143
Provides book packages to individuals and institution libraries

Prisoners Literature Project
c/o Bound Together Books
1369 Haight Street
San Francisco, CA 94117

Prison Book Program
c/o Lucy Parsons Center and Bookstore
1306 Hancock Street, #100
Quincy, MA 02169
Phone: 617-423-3298

PRISONER PEN PAL SERVICES
(note: these are not matchmaking services)

J.A.R. Ministry
7038 Webster
St. Louis, MO 39502
Also offers free newsletters

Joy Writers
2001 Liberty Square Drive
Cartersville, GA 30120
Also offers Christian Prisoners Resource List

Letters Outside
PO box 2608
Dublin, CA 94560

Reaching Out
PO Box 928
Pinole, CA 94564

The opinions expressed are of the authors and not necessarily those of Graterfriends or The Pennsylvania Prison Society.
ELECTION QUIZ

For each statement below, check True or False.

Many incarcerated men and women in Pennsylvania can vote.
   True___ or False___

Many reentrants or returning citizens can vote in Pennsylvania.
   True___ or False___

A prison record automatically prevents most former offenders from voting in Pennsylvania.
   True___ or False___

(Find the answers on page 11)