



Tuesday, April 26, 2016
7-9 pm

Criminal Justice Reform Stories & Opportunities

The Marshall Project

<https://www.themarshallproject.org/about#.YUocajbf8>

A nonprofit news organization focusing on creating and sustaining a sense of urgency about criminal justice in America with accuracy, fairness, and impartiality. Does deep investigative projects, narratives and profiles that put a human face on criminal justice, explanatory and contextual pieces, along with guest commentary and voices from inside the system. Partners with a diverse array of media organizations.

More Than Words Bookstore and Café

<https://www.mtwyouth.org/>

A nonprofit social enterprise that empowers youth who are in the foster care system, court involved, homeless, or out of school to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business involving the selling of donated books online and in retail locations in Boston and Waltham.

New England Association of Drug Court Professionals

<http://www.neadcp.org> is an informational website supporting the New England Association of Drug Court Professionals. It is used for communication and jobs for drug court professionals, with links to other federal and state technical assistance and information. Contact Roberta Leis, executive director, rglneadcp@gmail.com

New Start Project

<http://newstartproject.org> reduces recidivism through advocating and supporting the successful reintegration of people coming from incarceration into our community. It works to remove social stigmas and economic barriers, and promote safer prosperous communities.

Partakers Program

<http://partakers.org> more than 300 ordinary citizens support incarcerated men and women in five local institutions enrolled in the Boston University educational program. Teams of four to six mentors each support one mentee via correspondence and in-person visits. Recidivism in graduates is 2%, vs.63% nationally. Partakers also works with other organizations to improve Mass. criminal justice laws.

Prison Book Program

<http://prisonbookprogram.org/>

Mails books to people in prison to support their educational, vocational and personal development and to help them avoid returning to prison. Aims to provide a quality volunteer experience that introduces citizens to issues surrounding the American prison system and the role of education in reforming it.

Prison Pup Partnership (NEADS)

<https://www.neads.org/training-placement/prison-pup-partnership>

What and where and why they do this win-win-win work, and how we can help.

7:00 Refreshments, Info Tables

7:30 Welcome

Rev. Dr. Stephanie May, First Parish Minister

Introduction and Remarks

Hon. Beth Butler, Massachusetts Superior Court Justice (Ret.)

7:40 **Stories:** Dan, Tyron

8:00 **Alternative Justice: Drug courts**

Honorable Robert Ziemian, Massachusetts Trial Judge, Current President, New England Association of Drug Court Professionals

8:10 **Legislating Justice**

Susan Tordella, End Mass Incarceration Together

8:20 **Education Behind Bars: Partakers**

Arthur Bembury, Executive Director, Partakers

8:30 **Q & A**

8:45 **Opportunities to be involved:**

work with offender programs, raise community awareness, advocate for legislation, donate in-kind

Refreshments • Info Tables • Contact Cards

First Parish In Wayland, Host
A Unitarian Universalist Community

Learning and Action Resources



End Mass Incarceration Together (EMIT)

Susan Tordella, founder

A task force of Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network

EMIT invites people of all faiths to facilitate face-to-face visits with state representatives for justice and corrections systems reform. EMIT provides UU preachers, and speakers who were formerly incarcerated.

<https://endmassincarcerationtogether.wordpress.com/>

EMIT highlights these criminal justice reform bills pending in Massachusetts:

Restorative Justice – (S 71 Eldridge) (H 1313 Garbally)
To provide an opportunity for offenders of all ages to repair the harm caused by the event, as opposed to adjudication, punishment and incarceration.

Expungement – (S 810 Eldridge) (H 1248)
To permanently erase from public record: certain offenses made by juveniles and young adults; and false and mistaken accusations made against adults who have been exonerated.

Increase Felony Larceny – (S 2132 Eldridge)
To raise a felony offense from \$250 to \$1300 to prevent creating a felony record and incarcerating people for minor crimes. We are one of a few states with such a low felony trigger. This bill has been reported favorably out of the Judiciary Committee.

Solitary confinement – (S 1255 Eldridge) (H 1475 Malia)
To ensure appropriate use of segregation in prisons and jails that will also reduce recidivism, curb unnecessary spending and increase safety and security in prisons.

How to volunteer in the Massachusetts Correctional System

Contact Bill Milhomme, Director of Volunteer Services
Massachusetts Department of Correction
2 Merchant Road / P.O. Box 351, Framingham, MA 01704
508-620-6437 x104 wtmilhomme@doc.state.ma.us

MA Department of Corrections Program Description Booklet

<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/docs/doc/program-booklet.pdf>

5 Things We Can Do to Support Criminal Justice Reform

(adapted from American Friends Service Committee - Mass Incarceration

<http://www.afsc.org/key-issues/issue/ending-mass-incarceration>)

1. Educate ourselves about mass incarceration.
2. Get inside the prison walls.
3. Lift up mass incarceration concerns within our communities.
4. Provide support to prisoners' families and people returning home.
5. Challenge key people—including our legislators.

Michelle Alexander

The New Jim Crow <http://newjimcrow.com>

"A devastating account of a legal system doing its job perfectly well. Alexander looks in detail at what economists usually miss, namely the entire legal structure, does a fine job truth-telling, pointing a finger where it rightly should be pointed at all of us, liberal and conservative, white and black." - Forbes

Michele Alexander's TEDx talk, "The Future of Race in America"

<http://tedxtalks.ted.com/video/The-future-of-race-in-America-M>

"Today there are more African American adults under correctional control in prison or jail, on probation or parole than were enslaved in 1850, a decade before the Civil War began. As of 2004 more black men were denied the right to vote than in 1870, the year the 15th amendment was ratified prohibiting laws that explicitly denied the right to vote on the basis of race."

Jobs Not Jails

<http://jobsnotjails.org>

An umbrella campaign bringing together a diverse array of people who care about the future of our economy, and about the damage that mass incarceration is doing to our communities. It is not a legislative strategy. It pulls together dozens of organizations who are leading separate legislative strategies – for everything from a higher minimum wage to the creation of an innocence commission. Goals: Criminal justice reform in Massachusetts; stop all new prison construction; redirect \$2 billion saved to create job opportunities.

Spotlight on Criminal Justice Reform at the Wayland Public Library Spring 2016

Special shelf
of Wayland
materials
available to
borrow.

Webpage:
<http://waylandlibrary.org/blog/criminal-justice-reform-booklist>

Lists of
books and
films on this
topic in the
MLN
network.