

Coming to a theatre near you?



"Finding Sunlight For Maurice" is the working title of a feature-length film in development by a team of filmmakers who came across Doug Tjapkes' book. Watch for updates on this exciting project, inspired by SWEET FREEDOM!

Thanks for your absence!

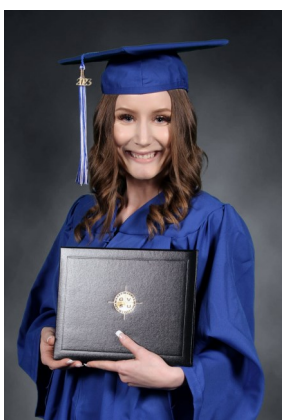
A non-event supports the work and mission of HFP!



Unball

The 2023 HFP Unball was a huge success! That's the word from committee members involved in the "elaborate" planning and preparation that it took for the event. We knew the goal was exceptionally high when we set our hopes on selling 300 tickets, yet, we almost made it! Once again our friends who love to stay at home, who love avoiding one more meeting out, but who also love the work of HFP did a great job! The final total was about 25 tickets short of the goal. And here's the kicker: We can still meet the goal! If you completely missed it or forgot, you may still purchase a ticket. The price is \$75 each, but no donation is too large. And our thanks to committee members, who also received a bonus night with their families, because they didn't have to hire a caterer, book a meeting hall, or fly in an expensive speaker. Thanks to all!

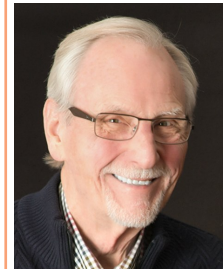
Congrats to our Sarah!



HFP Volunteer Manager and overall expert in "many fields" Sarah Ebison, in graduation ceremonies at Grand Valley State University on April 28. Sarah received a Bachelor of Science Degree, with a Double Major in Legal Studies and Criminal Justice. Besides her duties at HFP over the past two years, and the task of being a mother, Sarah added college studies to her routine. And, in just five years, she graduated Cum Laude! Kudos from the team, the board, and yes, the volunteers!

From the Desk of Doug: Dave and Carol Quiet, Sensitive, Effective!

The year was 2014. A mutual friend introduced me to David Myers, a prof at Hope College. I was told that he



might be interested in our work among the incarcerated. Was he ever!

First a quick word about Mr. and Mrs. Myers, who live in a historic home in Holland.

Dave is more than a teacher... he's a renowned social psychologist, a communicator of psychological science to college students and the general public. He's the author of numerous textbooks (and other books) and his research and writings are widely recognized.

Carol is the creator and host of a world class website offering information and resources related to the real Santa Claus, St. Nicholas.

Two examples of their reaction to incarceration.

A Michigan prisoner caught a typo in one of David's books and contacted him. The two became friends, and now, in their own quiet way, Dave and Carol have informally adopted the man.

After learning more about HFP, Dave and Carol annually provided exceptional financial support to our work. They prefer not talking about numbers, and they shun publicity. Suffice it to say that our remarkable growth in recent years would not have been possible without the generosity of these dear friends!

It reminds me of that delightful little drawing of Tigger. As he hugs Winnie the Pooh, he says, "Some people make the world special just by being in it!"

HFP Wish List

New computer system for the new CEO

Our technical advisors report that it's time to replace the Executive Director computer equipment, and obtained the following quote:

1. Lenovo ThinkPad P16s Laptop: \$1,200.00
2. Lenovo ThinkPad Docking Station: \$315.00
3. ViewSonic Monitor: \$125.00

Total Cost (including installation): \$1,902.00

Some friends of HFP prefer meeting our office needs rather than making financial contributions. Your help with this purchase will enable our budget dollars to support our work with the incarcerated.

Summer Reading List

By HFP Founder Doug Tjapkes

Sweet Freedom

Humanity for Prisoners?

Tri-Cities: One Grand Community

By Louise Ann Sipes Reichert

The Prisoner's Prayer Book

By Hank Steketee

The Douger and Maurice

Special prices at DPZtechnology.com



"I believe empathy is the most essential quality of civilization."

— Roger Ebert

Life on the other side of the wall

Drama in a Michigan prison!

Nothing picks up one's heart rate like stepping onto a floor and seeing an obviously angry mob of convicts. My bunkie and I walked down the stairs to our wing before noticing the agitated state of about thirty men, but what made it intriguing was its composition. Usually, when things go sideways in prison, groups form based on race, or more rarely, religion. But this mob was made up of blacks, whites, and Hispanics, and they weren't being quiet about wanting to stomp out the latest bug to be moved onto our floor. Not wanting to be part of whatever was going down, but still being curious, I weaved my way through the crowd and stopped a dozen feet away. Turns out this bug (he shaved his head and had crazy tattoos done where his hair ought to be) stole stuff from his roomie, a kindly old man who never says "no" when a guy is in need. A couple of our weight pit gorillas told him to go collect everything he stole, give it back to Dan, and then he had to get off our floor. Or else. Dan did indeed get his stuff back and then the bug begged to get locked up, which the guards accommodated when they saw how ugly things were about to get. Finally, a smart decision! But such drama. Glad the piece of garbage is gone, but I'd be just as happy to see some of the mob's members go, too, due to their ongoing use of drugs, drunkenness, and gang-banger mentality. Oh well, one problem at a time.

Report of a distillery behind bars (window bars, that is!)

Talk about stupid! Our resident spud juice maker responded to my query about getting in trouble for brewing the rot gut by saying he now gets \$8 per 20 oz bottle. That breaks down to 640 oz in a 5-gallon bucket, or 32 bottles, earning him \$256 for less than a week's work. He gets almost all of his ingredients free from the chow hall, and according to those staggering about, his is the most potent... a fact I'm willing to accept for those times he "burps" and the stench is enough to burn the hair from my nose. :-)

Donate today at HumanityForPrisoners.org