

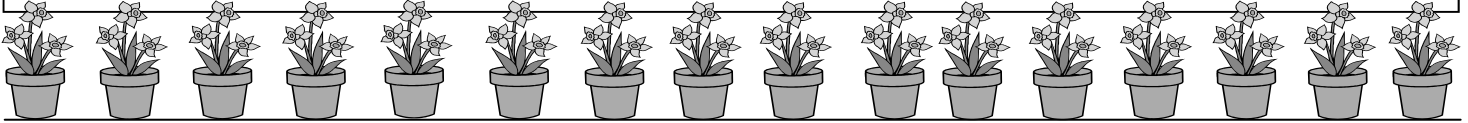


# **Strafford County Department of Corrections**

# **FAMILY NEWSLETTER**

**April—May 2006**

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## **A Family Waits** *by U.J.*

A child is born,  
No sins, no shame  
A Mother's joyful bliss,  
Consumes all physical pains

A cough, a cry, the miracle of sound,  
Young eyes begin to focus,  
As a new world slowly surrounds

Glorious! Glorious!  
This new world must be  
Fresh scents to inhale, beautiful colors to behold  
New tastes to enjoy, could this all be just for me?

I pray so; and I thank God and hope that I'm ready,  
1 hand, 2 hands, 3 hands hold me steady  
A fourth hand appears as I float into space  
The smile of my first pretty unfamiliar face  
Hello!  
Nice to meet you, I wish I could tell you my name,  
But I don't have one yet, still I smile just the same,  
As warmth and wetness suddenly caress my skin,  
Oh! No! I shudder, not again, and bring my fists to my chin,

Eyes closed,  
A new warmth,  
soft and gentle: relaxing, cozy, pleasing and simple,  
A voice,  
A familiar voice, I've heard it before,  
Should I open my eyes and behold this new world  
once more.

I do, and I know what I see to be true,  
A beautiful face crying that looks just like I do,  
She kisses me, I hug her, Mother everything is OK  
I love you and I promise I will never go away

Two eyes searching  
Confusion ----- despair,  
More crying from the eyes that shouldn't be there,  
Sobbing, shaking, joy replaced by pain  
I smile wider only to receive the same results again.  
Mother! Please! Help Me! -----  
What's wrong, I don't know what to do,  
Wait a minute!  
There was only one familiar voice when there should  
have been at least two,  
Four eyes now searching  
Wanting ---- Needing ---- not finding  
Alone ---- Uneasy, fear slowly climbing  
Where is he?  
The deep voiced one who used to hold my mother  
tight,  
The one who used to call me son and kiss  
My home goodnight  
Not there where he should be, standing by our side,  
Tears silent I now understand why twice my mother  
cried!  
She kisses me, I hug her  
Mother everything is OK! I love you and I promise  
still I'll never go away

## Book Recommendations and Summaries

### Couldn't Keep it to Myself: Testimonies From our Imprisoned Sisters by *Wally Lamb*

In 1999, the novelist Wally Lamb took part in a writing workshop at York Correctional Institution, a woman's prison in Connecticut, and culled from this collection of stories by 11 prisoners—most of them horrific and heart wrenching, and all of them reflective of woman's traumatic experiences on the outside. Lamb himself provides an introduction in which he describes the process by which these women came to write, and articulates his belief that works like these are important and should be widely read to broaden public conceptions of who and what prisoners are.

### On the Yard by *Malcolm Braly*

This classic novel about prison life, written in 1967 and based on the authors own experiences at San Quentin, has been reissued with an introduction by novelist Jonathan Lethem.

### Makes Me Wanna Holler by *Nathan McCall*

An explosive, true-life Native son for the 1990's – black Washington Post reporter who served time recounts his life and brilliantly shows why prison has become a rite of passage for many young black men. McCall's accounts of the hidden prejudice encountered in seemingly liberal integrated bastions of the newsroom are eye-opening.

### A Million Little Pieces by *James Frey*

This addiction memoir opens with the author's awakening on an airplane with a broken nose, a hole in his cheek, and four missing teeth and not knowledge of how he received those injuries or, indeed, of how he got on the plane or where he's going. James Frey writes candidly about his monumental problems with drugs and alcohol, his terrifying experiences, and his relationships with the fellow addicts he encountered over six weeks of detox at a Minnesota clinic.

### Families of the Jailed by *Rodger and Margaret Stevens*

A family's life is turned upside down when a false accusation leads to an eight-year prison sentence for Rodger Stevens. Rodger and his mother Margaret—both ordained ministers- were suddenly faced with the challenge of truly living, under extraordinary circumstances, the beliefs and principles they preached to their congregations. Bitterness, anger, despair, and hopelessness battled for supremacy over the faith in God that they had always sustained in the Stevens family. Margaret and Rodger, still live day to day, which is an exercise in acceptance brought on by Rodger's imprisonment, have written an inspirational memoir and spiritual guidebook for others who find themselves in the Steven's situation—the families of the jailed.

### Family Arrested by *Ann Edenfield*

This is a true story of survival, courage, and hope. Suddenly, Ann's world came crashing down on her with the arrest of her husband and his 15—year prison sentence, leaving her to face a nightmare that no one could prepare her for.

### Chicken Soup for the Prisoner's Soul by *Jack Canfield*

This book pays tribute to the many prison volunteers, who work with men, women and children who are often the forgotten ones. It also helps motivate others to experience the rewards of becoming a prison volunteer. These inspiring and true stories pay tribute to the people who have turned their lives around from being a criminal to becoming a productive member of our society and from being a victim to becoming part of the process of forgiving and healing. You will be touched and uplifted as you read about caring people who have shown their sincere heart light to others. Each heart felt story captures the defining moments of kindness and healing to overcoming challenges and finding forgiveness in the darkest of places.

### NewJack by *Ted Conover*

The author, a former corrections officer at Sing Sing Prison, looks back on his rookie year in the prison as he attempts to balance basic human decency with the rigors of the prison system.

### Buried From the World: Inside the Massachusetts State Prison 1829-1831 by *Jared Curtis and Philip Gura*

Between 1829 and 1831, Jared Curtis, the newly appointed prison chaplain at the Massachusetts State Prison in Charlestown, interviewed everyone of the over 300 inmates at the prison and recorded their biographies in two leather bound notebooks. Those notebooks, fully transcribed and well annotated after their discovery in 1998, form the basis for Philip Gura's buried world. Curtis's notebooks provide the sole memorial of the hundreds of inarticulate prisoners who lived in the vast silence of Charlestown Prison. The one or two paragraphs he devoted to each man capture in poignant shorthand lives otherwise lost to history, including details of age, race, upbringing and education, temperance and the crime that brought that individual to Charlestown. Curtis's words, surrogate for theirs, reveal as in no other known document the contours of the prison experience in Jacksonian America.

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## Links to Supportive Websites & Groups

Families Against Mandatory Minimums

[www.famm.org](http://www.famm.org)

Family Justice

[www.familyjustice.org](http://www.familyjustice.org)

National Mentoring Center

[www.nwrel.org/mentoring/children.prisoners.html](http://www.nwrel.org/mentoring/children.prisoners.html)

The Center for Children of Incarcerated Parents

[www.e-ccip.org/journal.html](http://www.e-ccip.org/journal.html)

[www.e-ccip.org](http://www.e-ccip.org)

Center Force...Information for Families

[www.centerforce.org/families/support.cfm](http://www.centerforce.org/families/support.cfm)

Heartland

[www.geocities.com/heartland/flats/5661](http://www.geocities.com/heartland/flats/5661)

Yahoo Community Forum

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/families\\_of\\_prisoners/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/families_of_prisoners/)

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/wivesandgirlfriendsofinmates/>

Prison Talk Forum

[www.prisontalk.com/forums/index.php](http://www.prisontalk.com/forums/index.php)

Prisoners of Love

[www.prisonersoflove.com](http://www.prisonersoflove.com)

Aid to Incarcerated Marriages

E-mail: [wbrock@nhdoc.state.nh.us](mailto:wbrock@nhdoc.state.nh.us)

Families Advocation for Inmates Reintegration

E-mail: [fairnh@totalnetnh.net](mailto:fairnh@totalnetnh.net)

Family Resource Center of the Lakes Region Facility

E-mail: [familyresourcecenter@yahoo.com](mailto:familyresourcecenter@yahoo.com)

New Hampshire Department of Corrections

[www.state.nh.us/doc](http://www.state.nh.us/doc)



## Website Help for Federal Bureau of Prisons

If your incarcerated loved one is a Federal inmate, there is a site that contains a lot of useful information:

<http://www.bop.gov>

At the bottom of the page there are several links. If you click on the link called Inmate Matters you will find information on such things as: Education, Female Offenders, Inmate Money, Inmate Skills, Juveniles, Medical Care, Mental Health, Personal Property, Release Preparations, Religious Programs, Substance Abuse Treatment, Temporary Release, Visiting, Telephones, Correspondence, and Work Programs.

## Jail Industry, A Work Opportunity



Since the newsletter has show-cased many of the other work areas within the facility I thought I would show you the Jail Industry work space, and tell you about the Jail Industry program available inside the facility.

The Jail Industry is located adjacent to unit J and is located in renovated space within the original facility. In order to work, you must be approved by the Classification Department, interviewed by the Industry Director, with final approval given by the Superintendent.

Strafford County Jail Industry was the first county industry program in the United States to be certified by the Bureau of Justice. The certification allows us to enter into private sector partnerships to obtain "real world" work for employees in-house.

Monies are earned for release. Conscientious employees receive a reference for future employment, as well as other possible employment assistance if requested at time of release and if needed.

We do have limited positions, but always get on the list if you are interested. At this point in time, federal inmates may only work in the laundry area of the Jail Industries.