

FS News: Liberation Edition

Happy Season of Liberation Celebration!

I know I'm late to the game. I missed some very important days:

I missed honoring all of the fathers, so I will say it now: Happy (belated) Father's Day!

And I missed the opportunity to shout "Happy Juneteenth!" to everyone...to celebrate a crucial liberation holiday in the history of America's pursuit of freedom! I'm glad it's a national holiday now!

And I missed getting the newsletter out in time for Flag Day, on June 14th, so I could ask you: What flags do you fly?? (actually or figuratively?) I really want to know! Some of my "actual" favorites include the US flag with a peace sign, a Grateful Dead "Steal Your Face" flag (the skeleton with the lightning bolt) and a Pirate flag, not for the Pittsburg baseball club (I'm a Cubs fan) but for the Pirate Party (a real political party!), which supports civil rights, direct democracy, reform of copyright and patent law, free sharing of knowledge (open content), information privacy, transparency, freedom of information, free speech, anti-corruption and net neutrality. I hope you'll share some of the flags you stand by with me!

Happy Solstice, too! Summer is funny; the days get warmer while they also get shorter!

And, of course, I want to wish you a Happy Fourth of July.

I always have a weird time with this holiday. I love being an American for countless reasons. I'm grateful for what I have, esp. the opportunity to develop myself and to try many things! Our nation's freedom, of course, was from the rule of the English. We had also rejected control by the French and the Spanish. Sadly, the founders of this new country demanded the freedom to commandeer land where people had been living for thousands of years. (This has been an on-going problem for the US.) "We" wanted a nation of our own. A terrific idea, esp. in light of all of the examples of democracy right here! The native Americans practiced democracy long before any foreigners arrived. They taught the Europeans a great deal about including everyone in making decisions.

We have yet to talk about that issue, but I'm grateful to share a little news about what our Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland, has been up to. On June 21st, the five Tribes of the Bears Ears Commission formalized and celebrated their partnership for co-management of the Bears Ears National Monument with the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service. Representatives of the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, and the Pueblo of Zuni will once again protect this land for respectful use by all. Bears Ears National Monument is located in SE Utah.

More good news comes from central New York where 1000 acres are being returned to the Onondaga Nation, where nearly all of their ancestral lands were taken away. This is just a small sliver, but it preserves sacred sites. It's a good start.

Freedom is so tough, especially in a world with 8 billion people!

I want to thank everyone who shared reflections with me from the last newsletter. You helped me get through that difficult time...and it sounded like quite a few of you needed to process all of that shock and grief, too. This is our super-power! Thank you. Ubuntu.

#### GROW WITH GOOGLE? Grow Cautious with Google!

According to a story entitled “Google Earmarks \$8M for Job Skills Training for Formerly Incarcerated”, which I found in the John Jay College newsletter called “The Crime Report”, Google announced that the company will invest \$4 million in their Grow With Google fund which has been created to “facilitate programming to build digital and career skills for at least 100,000 formerly incarcerated people by 2025.” The company said it will also invest another \$4 million in their “partners” to “connect formerly incarcerated people with tech jobs”. To make the offer even sweeter, one of their goals is to develop “an automatic record clearance technology, to help state governments with clearing eligible criminal records.”

This all sounds very exciting...but remember who Google is. They are not the fun, free-everything liberal start-up that wants to connect everyone. They are the ubiquitous behemoth that created Surveillance Capitalism...where much of the traces of data that you leave when you're online will be turned in to “behavioral surplus, and valued for their rich predictive signals. These predictive data are shipped to new-age factories of machine intelligence where they are computed into highly profitable prediction products that anticipate your current and future choices. Prediction products are then traded in what I call “behavioral futures markets,” where surveillance capitalists sell certainty to their business customers” according to Shoshana Zubboff, Professor Emerita at Harvard.

But tech does not have to be evil or controlling. We can use tech for liberation! To listen to every citizen, to understand how people feel and help them find what they need. We can use technology increase democracy, as they do in Taiwan! Taiwan did not have to ‘lock down’ during the the Coronavirus because they developed technology that gave citizens the power AND the privacy to make, and act on, good choices...to stay safe and to keep others safe, too.

#### FAIR SHAKE FUNDRAISER TIME!

The Go-Fund-Me page is up and running and ready for visitors and donors! Here is the link to share: <https://gofund.me/9a2f01c6>

Thank you for sharing this fundraiser with your supporters!

And a big Thank You to all of the artists, for supporting Fair Shake fundraiser with your gifts! I will make “Thank You” cards for the large donors, and they will receive an assorted pack of 8 cards with information about all of you, plus information about the image on the front of the card. I'm excited to print them and send them out!

Thank you, also, supporters of all kinds! Financial donors who directly pay for this newsletter...and also the stamp and envelope donors who have been paying for all of the information letters that go out to those who write to learn about Fair Shake. I mail more than 200 replies each month and I haven't needed to purchase stamps or envelopes for more than two months! Ubuntu and gratitude!

Finally, thanks to the many readers here who suggested that I start this crowd-funding campaign. I would not have done it without your encouragement and support.

Speaking of gratitude, here's a little mindfulness exercise to Cultivate Gratitude:

#### GRATITUDE BOX

The gratitude box is a simple exercise that can have profound effects on your wellbeing and outlook. It only requires a few items: a box or bowl, paper and a pen or pencil for writing your gratitude notes; and gratitude!

Find a box, bowl or other container. Decorate it if you wish.

Throughout each day, think of at least three things that you are grateful for. It can be something as benign as a cup of coffee, or as grand love for humanity. Do this every day, write down what you are grateful for on little slips of paper and fill the box.

Over time, you will find that you have a box full of many reasons to be thankful for what you have around you. It also will cultivate a practice of expressing thanks.

If you are ever feeling especially down and need a quick pick-me-up, take a few notes out of the box to remind yourself of what, and who, is good in your life.

#### The 2022 FAIR SHAKE FREE SOFTWARE APPLICATION IS NOW AVAILABLE!

Finally! I've been burning DVD's and loading the software application on to flash drives and mailing them out with Ownership Manuals to several states and institutions. If you don't have access to it where you are, I hope you'll let the Reentry, Education or Library folks know they can email me (sue@fairshake.net) to receive the software or the book or both. Please remember that I'll send a box of up to 8 Ownership Manuals to any prison! (Thank you, donors, for this incredible gift!)

Good news for folks who have access to the RACHEL server! I've contacted the "World Possible" folks who build the server and they are updating their program now to include the new Fair Shake application!

And for folks in the BOP, I'll be giving an update to the Reentry group in the Central Office. You know that the software is approved for all institutions, but not every institution offers it. I'm hoping that somehow it might be able to be available to you in every institution...and maybe even updated regularly. That will be the question I'll bring to the table!

Lastly, we're finalizing the last details for the software application to be used in tablets. Yay! There are many tablet providers and I don't know how this will roll out, but I'm excited to have that done (and paid for! – thanks, donors!) so Fair Shake can become available to everyone. FYI: the app is free for all prisons and jails to offer to you for free. If you ever see a cost associated with accessing Fair Shake, I hope you'll let me know.

I'm sorry, but I haven't been reading much lately! I'll get back on the book review next month!

#### QUOTES:

"A patriot must always be ready to defend his country against his government." - Author Edward Abbey

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." - Benjamin Franklin

"Won't it be wonderful when black history and native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book? Just U.S. history" - Maya Angelou

"Any man or institution that tries to rob me of my dignity will lose!" - Nelson Mandela

"The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion." - Albert Camus

"Mankind must acquire two things which are at present increasingly disappearing: loving kindness and scientific impartiality." - Bertrand Russell (1872 – 1970)

"If your heart is breaking, I hope it's breaking open." – The Keep Going Song by The Bengsons

Here's to a safe and happy 4th for all!

To our successful transitions ~

Ubuntu! ~ sue

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2-1-1 Fairshake.net HelpYourselfTherapy.com FindHelp.org

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