

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!



Sister Helen Prejean

Tuesday October 23, 7 p.m.

Lakeshore Middle School - Grand Haven

Humanity for Prisoners, along with The Bookman, is honored to welcome Best-Selling Author and Activist Sister Helen Prejean to Grand Haven. In 1982, Sister Helen Prejean became the spiritual advisor to Patrick Sonnier, the convicted killer sentenced to die in the electric chair of Louisiana's Angola State Prison. In the months before Sonnier's death, the Roman Catholic nun came to know a man who was as terrified as he had once been terrifying. She also came to know families of the victims and men whose job it was to execute—men who often harbored doubts about the rightness of what they were doing. Sister Prejean's book was made into a powerful movie starring Susan Sarandon and Sean Penn and sparked the national debate about the death penalty.

Tickets for the event are \$25 in advance, \$30 at door and \$15 for students, and are available at The Bookman and online at humanityforprisoners.org.

HFP Founder Honored



HFP founder and President Doug Tjapkes was one of 27 community leaders honored at a recent community event. The Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival, in partnership with the City of Ferrysburg, sponsored the program, labeled *The Heroes and Legends Dinner*.

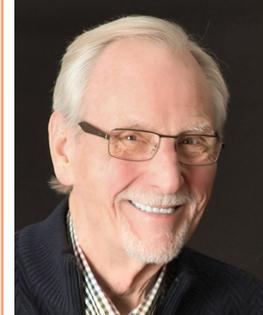
Said Festival Director Mike Smith:

This husband of over 60 years and father of four is most honored for his incredible, tenacious work on behalf of

those forgotten and behind bars. His earthly awards are numerous, but based on his compassion and beautiful soul, I truly believe his greatest reward is yet to come. Tonight, with respect and admiration, we salute Mr. Doug Tjapkes.

The event, new to the Coast Guard Festival this year, was created to celebrate the heroic actions of the US Coast Guard and honor visionaries of the Tri-Cities, according to Smith.

From the desk of Doug: The big award: Satisfaction



When I was an active broadcaster, back in the olden days, some radio and TV news depart-

ments seemed to get all the big awards. And the reason was simple: they tried to win awards, and even had staffers assigned for that purpose.

I coveted the thought of having "award-winning" included in the description of my newsroom, but serving listeners was my primary concern. And so, while we went about keeping our community informed on a daily basis, a number of others went out and won the awards. In my private and personal opinion, those of us down in the trenches were the real award winners.

I bring this up because of our front page story about a bunch of old-timers being honored in our town. While it was very kind and thoughtful, it should be pointed out that none of those people had lived their lives hoping to win awards and accolades.

John Bunyan is quoted as saying, "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

I remember hearing an honoree many years ago say, "when you are blessed to live in a community like this, you're obligated to give back."

Said Poet Maya Angelou: *"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back."*

Prisoner Art On Display



You still have an opportunity to view more than 30 pieces of art created by Michigan prisoners. The exhibit, *...and I am an artist!* can be seen through September 22, at:

Artworks Cultural Center
106 N. Michigan Ave
Big Rapids, Michigan

Dale's Corner



This month's suggestion from HFP Financial Consultant Dale Ringerwole on interesting and creative ways to support HFP.

Many people, especially business owners, have older cash value policies that they are considering letting lapse. ALWAYS check with a third party to see if there might be residual value. Depending on the situation, we have seen life insurance policies sell on the secondary market for many thousands of dollars that otherwise would have been lost.

Watch for another helpful suggestion next month!

Your Church - A Station of Hope?

Healing Communities of West Michigan has introduced a new program for churches in Kent County. Could it/should it spread?

STATION OF HOPE

Under this exciting plan, a church would be there for a person

- at the time of arrest, investigation, trial and sentencing
- during the period of incarceration
- preparing for release from prison
- returning home.

As a part of this plan, church leaders would agree to

- deliver messages relating to crime and incarceration
- develop a Sunday School curriculum that includes Station of Hope
- attend educational opportunities offered by Healing Communities
- educate the congregation on advocacy issues developed by HC.

For more information, contact Pastor Greg Chandler, 1975 Jefferson SE, Grand Rapids 49507, 616 216 3161.

You're meeting with the Michigan Parole Board...what next?

This insightful 15-page booklet prepared by HFP Vice President Holly Honig-Josephson will be invaluable to the inmate scheduled for a meeting with a Parole Board member or scheduled for a PB Public Hearing!

The information was compiled from numerous existing documents, from HFP staff members who have participated in such encounters, as well as from an actual in-person interview with the PB Committee Chairman! Copies are available at the HFP web site. It's the only one of its kind, and it's good!

A thief at heart!

"Today I am admitting to you that after being in prison for 3 years, I am very good at stealing. Now it's not my fault (spoken like a true criminal). It's a fact that most people steal when they don't have anything. If you think that I am wrong, take a suitcase full of things and walk through a place where people have nothing and see what happens. You would steal food if you were hungry enough. What I've learned is that when I am ready to steal, I must be careful of who is around me. There are other inmates who would really hate what I do. I must also be mindful of which officers are around. I have already been busy at my task this morning. I found myself alone in the small yard. I looked left and then I looked right, gathered up my courage and I did it...I sang along with my radio! My crime? What did I steal? I stole 3 minutes of joy. And I totally got away with it!"

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Humanityforprisoners.org