



April 2020

Dear friends,

Enclosed is a gift from the Prison University Project, the organization that runs the College Program at San Quentin, and that recently founded Mt. Tamalpais College at San Quentin. Thanks to support from the new warden, Ron Broomfield, we'll be sending one to all 4,000 residents of San Quentin. The packages are being paid for by friends of the Prison University Project/Mt. Tamalpais College. Note that this will NOT count as a quarterly package.

Please know that a huge number of people on the outside are thinking about you, and trying to figure out how to help. Many people are advocating for the release of folks with existing health issues, or who are older, or calling for the reduction of the population however possible, to make it easier to create more space. As an organization, we're helping to organize support for people coming home, while also working to keep attention focused on conditions inside, including the need for things like cleaning supplies, masks, yard time, etc. We are also working to ensure that prison staff have the supplies and materials they need to feel safe.

Please note that this package contains envelopes and two stamps, to use however you like. If you feel like writing to us, our address is:

Prison University Project
Post Office 492
San Quentin, CA 94964

If you do write, please let us know if it's OK to share your letter -- for example, on the Prison University Project website, or in email messages to our community. We are trying to keep everyone informed on how things are going inside, and would also be happy to share anything else you're thinking about, including ways people on the outside can be of help.



College students: As you can imagine, your teachers are incredibly impatient to get back inside, and back to teaching! The one thing you can be sure of is that however long this whole episode takes, we'll be here – so stay ready.

In the meantime, we send you our warmest wishes.

All best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jody Lewen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jody Lewen and the entire Prison University Project/Mt. Tamalpais College staff, teachers, and friends

Enclosed are:

A short article by Ferris Jabr, “Why Soap Works”

An essay by author Arundhati Roy, “The pandemic is a portal”

An article by Robin McKie, “Five months on, what scientists now know about the Coronavirus”

Please note that the holes in the bags were made by us, for institutional/safety purposes.