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LD 178

I want to add my voice to recommend Parole return to Maine.

I have been a weekly volunteer to MSP leading Meetingbrook Conversations, an open forum resident-driven conversation on all and any topic since the old prison. I have also taught college courses in the humanities, specifically philosophy, at MSP as an adjunct lecturer for UMA since 1989.

I have found the men I've come to know over these years to be intelligent and worthy of consideration for release back into the community. So many that I've come to respect and value as co-students and explorers of values and character development have inspired me and displayed qualities that would benefit many in our everyday society were they to experience parole and return to an exclaustated life. I use the word "exclaustated" advisedly, in that, for a significant number of men I've known at MSP, they resemble residents of a monastery whose life of prayer, study, meditation, and good works have brought them to a psychological and spiritual place of equanimity, reliability, and availability.

It would be wonderful to allow them to be experienced, and allow them to experience, outside of prison confines, the work and life of beneficial grace, service, and freedom — for and with — those fortunate to come to know them.

I am for parole returning to Maine, and I am for the men who deserve this chance to thrive and contribute in this beneficial opportunity.