

In Memoriam

Marcia Tjapkes
wife of Doug, mother of Matt



Marcia died April 16, 2022, following a lengthy illness. She was 84. Marcia and Doug had been married nearly 65 years. In addition to Doug, she is survived by four adult children (Matt is the youngest) and nine grandchildren.

Marcia was a registered nurse. In addition to her role as a loving wife and mother, she worked professionally as an OR/RN nurse, a hospice nurse, and a parish nurse. A gifted singer, she was a member of the choir at Ferrysburg Community Church for many years. She also served as Sunday School Superintendent, and the church's first woman elder.

A celebration of Marcia's life was held in Grand Haven on May 22. Memorial contributions in Marcia's name can be sent to HFP at PO Box 687, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

Condolences from HFP Clients

Tracy: You all have done so much for us. I wish there was something we could do.

Bill: May wonderful memories of your mother, and her legacy, live on through each and every one of you!

Vincent: Thinking of you and your family, just as you think about us prisoners, we (I) stand in prayer for you

James: I will always keep in my heart the everlasting smile her eyes held when I sung at Maurice Carter's play

Bellamy Creek – all of us here are praying for the families, and rejoice in Marcia's memory

Handlon CF - we will have prayer groups for you and your family that God restore your broken hearts.

Women's Huron Valley – card signed by 12 inmates

Chippewa CF – card signed by 21 inmates

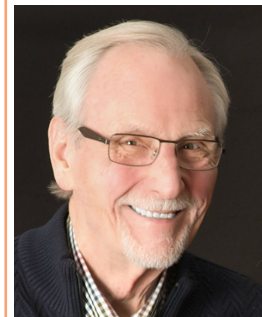
Lakeland CF – card signed by 25 inmates

Muskegon CF – card signed by 45 inmates!

From the desk of Doug:

**LITTLE THINGS:
They mean a lot!**

I became a part-time radio announcer at the age of 17. That was in 1954.



Most of the records I played on my Saturday afternoon show were still spinning at 78 RPM.

One of the major hits was by vocalist Kitty Kallen, who sang **Little Things Mean a Lot**.

I was thinking of that song as I was preparing the front page of this month's newsletter.

I recently read a rather stuffy message on the internet saying that if you're going to express condolences to someone, make sure you do with a sympathy card. The advice bluntly cautioned against texting or emailing.

I don't know who makes those rules or establishes those guidelines, but it's a different day and age.

When Marcia left us for her new home, all four kids and I received a ton of messages! And they came in all forms and sizes. Many people messaged us or commented on Facebook. We received texts. We received emails. People chose to comment on the newspaper obituary. And, as you might expect, many chose traditional sympathy cards. Stacks and stacks of them.

But the simple, short personal messages, regardless of the medium chosen to make the expression, were priceless! From all of us to all of you who made the special effort to convey a kind word of comfort: **THANK YOU! It meant a lot!**

HFP

Humanity
for Prisoners
Action with Compassion

Unball

2022

Another successful Unball!

Late reservations still arriving and welcome!

Totals from the annual HFP spring fundraiser:

More than 250 non-attendees

25 tables reserved

Inches away from our \$20,000 goal!



CALVIN PRISON INITIATIVE

CALVIN UNIVERSITY | CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Congrats, Grads!

On May 9, 2022, Calvin Prison Initiative students participated in an extraordinary commencement ceremony at the Richard J. Handlon Correctional Facility. There had been no ceremonies for the past 2 years, due to COVID, so this year a gala event was held to honor the graduating classes of 2020, 2021, and 2022. 46 students were awarded bachelor's degrees and 32 were awarded associate's degrees. Some 300 family members were allowed to attend, and HFP Board Member, Dr. John Rottman, was the main speaker. According to MDOC Director Heidi Washington, the event was the largest of its kind ever to take place in a Michigan correctional facility.

Save the date!

**Author Susan Burton
booked for our fall event**

Susan Burton, author of *Becoming Ms. Burton* and founder of *A New Way of Life*, will be in Grand Haven on October 13 for the HFP author/lecture series.

More details later.



Best wishes, Claire!

We said our farewells to Claire Berg on May 4. Claire came to HFP as an intern from Grand Valley State University last September, and was loved and appreciated by staff and clients alike! Claire graduated, and returned to her home in Illinois. We miss her shining personality and her exceptional work!

We all need justice!

We are all implicated when we allow other people to be mistreated. An absence of compassion can corrupt the decency of a community, a state, a nation. Fear and anger can make us vindictive and abusive, unjust and unfair, until we all suffer from the absence of mercy and we condemn ourselves as much as we victimize others. The closer we get to mass incarceration and extreme levels of punishment, the more I believe it's necessary to recognize that we all need mercy, we all need justice, and - perhaps - we all need some measure of unmerited grace."

— Bryan Stevenson

Donate today at [Humanityforprisoners.org](https://humanityforprisoners.org)

Humanity for Prisoners | PO Box 687 | Grand Haven, MI 49417 | humanityforprisoners.org | (616) 935.0075