

Date: 12/3/2023 11:55:34 PM
Subject: Celebration behind bars ,etc.

CTA / Durland Alternatives Library
Attn : Caroline
P.O. Box #6556
Ithaca Ny 14851

Salubrious Caroline .

Re : your request for my experiences with Holidays in prison .

1. Let me start by painting the mood for you , it's 4:24 am , I will be gettin up normally an half hour from now to pray/read and to get ready for my voluntary job as a food server , I'm listening to the song , " Never Never Land " , By Lyfe Jennings .

2. I have formulated a response to your letter days ago , but I now have a bit of time to sit down and put them to expression.

3. also thank you for reaching out and wanting to lean about " Our " experiences .

4. Well , I've been imprisoned for over 30yrs so things have changed alot from time to time , and prison to prison . and

these are only my experiences and awareneses /knowlegde of things .

5. I came to prison in the 90s and back then , Church groups in the local area of Green bay would donate X-mas Bags to

Greenbay prison , filled w/ a card , candy and maybe some chocolate .

6. The one thing that is statewide and still going on , from back then and currently , is the " FOUNDATION AMRY'S " ,

Toy drive for kids . in which we can send toys to our kids if we have them and of young age . I can't recall if they do it for

grandchildren . Also ,, of statewide , but still certain items differe from prison to prison , is the Holiday purchase

order program . each prison allow you to order a limited amount of items that are uniquely different from our normal

canteen . for example , this year we were allowed to spend up to 75_\$\$\$ buying candy bars , meats and cheeses .

(Ill send you a brochure in a separate envelope .)

7.The other Holidays like thanksgiven ,we may get a special meal. but cannot buy anything other then regular canteen .

but the special meals may simpleyl be real chicken on bone , a tha-leg with a nice desert , or at times just a carten of

chocolate milk . a Halloween or and a Xmas decorated Cookie .

with this minor exception . I am a CPS (certified Peer Specialist) for this priosn , and I am Housed on a SMU (Special

management Unit) and my Boss/ unit manager , a person who I believe wants to make a big difference in this world ,

try to do so in Her sphere by doing Holiay hobby projects / hobby decorartions as part of a mentalhealth project or

meaningful wellness program . in which they come out to a day room and make holiday decorations for what ever one is

on the calendar . and we put them up on the walls when we are done . it can feel very grammarschool at times , but she

has this way about her that make it special and you see it for what she was aiming for . they do blankets and other state

projects too , that they can even earn a very small wage . it is only these two units that do this though . in regards to the

holiday stuff she mostly stick to what is perceived as traditional ; though I'm sure if some one ask her to cover a

nontraditional , she would probably do it , as her aim is more mental health then tradition or holiday .

so we don't do nonreligious or ethnic holidays . like Hanukkah or Kwanzaa .

8. I am currently trying to get guys to form a Xmas choir , it will be something new . and it started off as a prank idea ;

as a Muslim , I really don't get into celebrations; but I don't place my beliefs on others

9. I never really gave much thought to these any more and really never deeply cared . though , when you call home or

reminisce on the old days you get the spirit ,as these were times of happiness for me as a kid and young adult .

10. some prisoners do their "OWN" celebrations off the books . they do , " Hook- Up's " . which is composed of various

items we can purchase from canteen .

11. Our items are very ,very very limited in comparison to other states . The most basic , " Hook-Up " is rice , beans ,

cheese and flour tortilla ; or rice ,cheese & chicken . or some unique variation . add fish combos.

12. some guys know how to be creative and make bootleg prison cheesecake . I have yet to make my best effort .

but have made a few for my self in-cell .

13. " Outlaw " hook-up are made w/ stingers or if you work in the kitchen /servery you can make it street food praiseworthy.

I occasionally work in our servery , which is a satellite kitchen , with a grill & microwave and you can be very creative with

this access to where I make canteen or the food they give us taste like you pulled up to a street truck .

if you are in one of these spots during the holiday , you can individually or you and your orbit can make a trully special meal.

14. I'm certain , but I'm not personally inclined to participate , that in this one and other states , they make bootleg eggnog

& the like spirits to celebrate their inprison holidays .

15. After being down as long as I have , these days are just another day of loneliness . too much thought to them can be

depressing and even dangerous to some , because they bring to the surface all the things we don't have , the absence

of family , a girlfriend and the like . writing this to you may have been the most thought I've given to these in a very long

time . But when I can enlighten others about the truth of reality from my P>O>V> , I must arise to the occasion .

Also , I am a student of knowledge and I like to meet new educated people .

16. I would say that new years by far is the most popular holiday in prisons . most stay up late watching the many count

down /music shows , playing their radios /tablets .

17. what are you studying in school ? your interest beset a sociology student , which is a field I have diltantated with .

18. As to what I would like to change about Holiday's in prison . maybe if they allowed you to make special purchases

on all these holidays ,regardless your religion , as right now you only can get special holiday stuff if it is your approved

religious faith .so a holiday catalog open to any body.

19. If possible , I would like to read all that you eventually post on your blog .

20. what's your fave holiday and what's the most memorable time ? a favorite song or customs or ritual ?

a few of mine was getting the turtle chocolate candies at X-Mas , and riding my brand new bike in the snow . and this

silent night musical bell that hung from the tree that I use to walk around with . when I was younger , I use to get money

from my father , and I would go to TOY"S R-Us every year to get what ever I wanted if my money could afford it . \$500

was the limit .

well, Caroline , I appreciated this opportunity to participate in your page , and hope that you are successful in the endeavor

and if at any time I can further assist you let me know , and I look forward to hearing back from you soon . take care.

Ras Atum-Ra Uhuru Mutawakkil

Mr.Norman C. Green, Jr

box 189 , #228971

Phoenix , MD 21131

Mailing Address : p.o

place Address : P.O. Box 900
Portage

wisconsin, 53901-0900

Sincerely yours

Ras Uhuru.