

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

[REDACTED]
August 5, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs:

My name is Catharine Steenstra, and I am a retired private school director and a minister with Ananda here in Washington, where I live at the Ananda Community in Lynnwood which I helped to establish 28 years ago.

Although I do not personally know Joe Hunt, I have heard about him from various friends of Ananda. All have spoken very highly of him. For many years, we have prayed for Joe and have followed his situation. I learned about his amazing courage in prison, the legal abilities he gained through studying and then helping many other prisoners, his spiritual goals of meditation and prayer which he has embraced completely and practices despite the difficulties of being in prison.

Our spiritual teachings show that everyone is a child of God, and everyone has the potential to express their God-like qualities. Joe is certainly one who has learned this to a great extent. The letters written about him, and the comments I have heard from friends who do know him, show that he practices many important qualities such as kindness, helping others, honesty, compassion, motivation to better himself, ability to make things happen while even being in prison, forgiveness and a loving heart.

I see him as a great asset to society, once he is free. I would be very grateful for his release. I hope that I will be able to meet him in the near future and to thank him for the inspiration and hope he has inspired in many of us here at Ananda Washington.

Thank you for your consideration. I would be happy to talk further about my feelings for Joe anytime. I can be contacted at 4 [REDACTED] or at r [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Catharine Steenstra



Larry Rider

1 [REDACTED]
↑

August 2, 2020

To Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Larry Rider, and I write this letter with regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

I live at Ananda Village, a spiritual community of some 250 souls in the foothills of the Sierras northeast of Sacramento. I moved here from New England in 1979 and, over the course of time, came to find here the community of like-minded souls wanting to seek God and contribute something substantial in the way of an example of a better way to live than I saw in the larger world around me. I have worked in various retail businesses, both as employee and manager, and have become a minister with Ananda Church. I sing and play several instruments and am grateful for the opportunity to share uplifting beautiful music with others.

I have never met Joe Hunt in person, but I have known of him and his imprisonment for many years. A number of friends have visited him in prison, and are convinced he has been unfairly judged. There seems to be doubt as to his guilt. In any case, his positive attitude during his incarceration, and the ways he has conducted himself and helped others while in prison have inspired me for years. It is my understanding that he has been passed over for release on previous occasions, and I want to urge you to consider again whether Joe would be a better asset to society outside than within the prison system. He seems to be a very fine man indeed.

I can be reached at 5 [REDACTED] !.

Thank you for your consideration,

Larry (Lawrence) Rider





Ananda
Washington



425-806-3700 ~ AnandaWa.org ~ 23305 Bothell-Everett Hwy Bothell WA 98021 ~ friends@AnandaWa.org

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 2, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

CC: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Alexandra E McGilloway. My husband and I are ordained ministers in the Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Seattle and swamis in the Nayaswami Order. I am writing about my support for Joe Hunt's commutation application, and encourage you with all my heart to indeed commute his sentence. He has been a model prisoner for decades now, and is a fine human being. Long ago as a young man he made a mistake, and for this he has paid dearly.

I have been a friend of the family for the last two decades, and have studied what I could of his case. I have read about his service to fellow inmates, and to others, including minister friends of ours who have personally conveyed this to me, and been truly inspired by who he has become during his years in prison. Notwithstanding a challenging environment, he has managed to inspire many he has come in contact with, with concrete and noble actions. His actions are remarkable for most people, what to speak of someone who has been in prison for so long. My prayer is that Joe Hunt can live out the twilight years of his life with friends and family.

Commuting Joe Hunt's sentence will be a true act of compassion. I pray that you feel moved to do so, and I know you won't regret it if you do. There will be many, many of us who call Joe Hunt our friend, who will be eternally grateful to you.

I can be reached at: 2 [REDACTED] !

Bless you for your consideration of this important request on behalf of Joe Hunt,

[REDACTED]
Alexandra E McGilloway



Assisi, Italy - August 9th 2020

In regard to Joe Hunt's, D-61863, and Governor's Commutation Application.

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Lorenzo Ramadoro, I Live in the Community of Ananda Assisi where I serve now for three years. Through friends of the community in California I have come to know Mr. Hunt's story. Of his generous actions and ways that he has had versus inmates and companions of prison. It seems he has demonstrated much will power to study law and I imagine this has helped him understand deeply his case and his responsibility.

I ask you to consider his plea and help him start a new life.

Thank you Governor for your attention

Best regards

Lorenzo Ramadoro



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

J.T. Heater

J [REDACTED] 1
[REDACTED]

August 1, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

CC: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is J.T. Heater, I am writing in regard to Joe Hunt, D61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

It is with great pleasure I write this letter in support of Joe Hunt. To introduce myself, I moved to California in 1994 in pursuit of a spiritually based life, and found my spiritual home at Ananda Village, in Nevada County, California. I have lived and served at Ananda as a minister, as well as an architect and musician for more than twenty-five years. My life of service to advance mankind's ultimate search for meaning, has been the foundation of my life's work.

I find the life of Joe Hunt to be an inspiration, as he has also given the past thirty-five years of his life to service of his fellow prisoners and to his spiritual family at Ananda. His unselfish work to give legal assistance to his fellow inmates and help them in other times of need, speaks volumes about his positive character. Although I do not know Joe personally, I have received inspiration from his letters to our community and by his commitment to the spiritual life he shares with those of the Ananda community that visit him in prison.

As the primary architect at Ananda Village, I had the honor to design and help construct the Temple of Light at Ananda Village in 2019. This inspirational project would not have been possible without the support of Joe Hunt, and his family. His generosity and loving spirit permeates the building and is another testament to the fine character of this man.

The recent letters of "laudatory chronos" from the prison staff at the California Health Care Facility, where he is stationed, also illustrate his positive and serviceful attitude. He is an asset to his current community, and will be a glowing asset to the greater community when he is released. It will be a joyful day when I can welcome Joe Hunt home, into this community of faith. I appreciate your consideration of Joe Hunt's commutation, and pray you free this deserving soul.

If you wish to contact me for more information, please do so at the address above, at my email:

jt [REDACTED] .

Warm regards;

[REDACTED]

J.T. Heater



Regarding Joe Hunt, D-61683, Governor's Commutation Application

August 9, 2020

Respected Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs,

My name's Paola Lavermicocca and I live in Italy near Assisi. I've been teaching English in the school of two jails in Umbria, and after taking a diploma as Yoga teacher in 2010 I've started the project of teaching Yoga to the women in the jail of Perugia. Now a friend of mine is carrying on teaching meditation in the same jail.

Watching the movie "Doing time, doing Vipassana" about the introduction of meditation in an Indian jail in New Delhi, I was very touched by the intense and moving change that happened to the prisoners that took part in the program. But it was only after reading about Joe Hunt's story that I could have a real-life example of someone who has really done this. The moving letters of his companions witness that through his steadfast commitment to the practice of yoga, pranayama and meditation he was able to help not only himself but many others to overcome many troubles, giving them support and counseling, sharing the teachings and the practices that can bring peace, wisdom and light even in the darkness of their condition, becoming a true example of love and compassion, serving his fellow inmates and supporting his Church in many social projects.

That's why I would encourage you to consider the possibility to release him now after so many years of exemplary conduct in prison, so that he can continue in the last years of his life to give an even greater contribution to the society at large with his powerful testimony that hope and transformation are possible even in the most terrible conditions.

So your act of compassion will touch and positively transform many lives.

Trusting in your understanding and wise deliberation,

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Paola Lavermicocca

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Ananda Janaka

FOUNDATION

Building Ananda's Legacy of Light through Estate Gift Planning



The Janaka Foundation
Board of Directors



Executive Director
Parvati Hansen

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 4, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Cynthia Parvati Hansen, and I serve as a minister of the Ananda Church of Self Realization. I also serve as the Executive Director of the Ananda Janaka Foundation (aka: The Janaka Foundation) which supports Ananda financially through estate gift planning. I have been with Ananda since 1972, and have helped in establishing many of the Ananda centers and communities in the United States as well as in Europe. In this process I have worked with many different kinds of people.

I have been aware of Joe Hunt for the past 25 years and more that he has been in prison. I have not met him in person, but do have many longtime friends who have done so and have told me about him and about his life in prison.

Through these friends, and through reading some of the letters Joe has written, I have been very impressed by Joe's ability to adapt to the realities of his life in prison and to grow in self-understanding through them. I have also been aware that as part of his growth he has helped many other prisoners with their very real needs. In addition to this, and as a way of deepening his ability to serve others and to better know himself, Joe has taken up a dedicated meditation practice and spiritual life. This has produced the fruits of such a life in him - peace, kindness, the ability to deal with stress, and love for your fellow human beings. These are qualities which prove to me Joe's sincerity and depth of understanding.

This to me is remarkable given the difficult circumstances of life in prison. Not only has Joe reached out to his fellow prisoners to help them, but he has also reached out to help the Ananda community, which is his spiritual home, in its efforts to build a temple on the grounds.

Help ensure the future of Ananda by including the **Ananda Janaka Foundation** in your will.

For all the above reasons, commuting the sentence of Joe Hunt would be very worthy of your consideration. Joe has gone above the norm in helping his fellow prisoners and in helping Ananda, which has the prime ministry of sharing the uplifting teachings of meditation and living a balanced lifestyle with people throughout the world.

Joe's release from prison would be a welcome addition to the world and to Ananda. He would be welcomed at Ananda Village as part of our spiritual family and would be supported in his transition from prison life to life on the outside.

Thank you for reading my letter of support for Joe Hunt and for your consideration of commuting his sentence after he has served over 35 years in prison.

I would be happy to speak with anyone about what I have written.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Cynthia Parvati Hansen

I can be contacted at the following address, phone and email:

Ananda Janaka Foundation

[Redacted address line 1]

[Redacted address line 2]



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 6, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Patricia de Anguera. I graduated with a BofS in Medical Technology from the University of Washington and worked as a Laboratory Technologist for many years. During an employment transition period I was invited to be the bookkeeper at Ananda Washington. As a member of Ananda Washington for many years I jumped at this opportunity to serve in this fine organization. I am now retired after 15 years in the Ananda Washington Temple office. My husband (of 48 years) and I look forward to some travel time after the pandemic settles down. I now volunteer and plan to continue to volunteer at Ananda as long as I am capable of doing so.

I do not know Joe Hunt (known to us as "Jairam") personally. I only know him through my Ananda friends whom I trust implicitly. I understand he was convicted of killing someone who actually could still be alive. That there was no body found and some evidence that this individual was seen by more than one person after the murder, puts some doubt in my mind that Joe is even guilty of the crime he has spent more than 35 years in prison for. In a sense, though, that doesn't really matter since at the time of his arrest he may not have been a completely innocent soul and needed this test.

All the Ministers and Light bearers of Ananda that I have met are people of the highest integrity, whom are respectful, loving, have a joyful presence, and have many other fine qualities. I have heard through my Ananda ministry friends that Joe Hunt has been profoundly changed by his friendship with Ananda people. They tell me he has transformed himself as well as other prisoners through the teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda, along with Ananda's spiritual support. I have heard he is a model prisoner as a result of this transformation in spirit. I understand he has personally helped other prisoners with their paperwork, successfully helping some of them to get reduced sentences. I have implicit trust in the Ananda ministry and firmly believe that my Ananda family has expressed truth about Joe. When people change, that change needs to be acknowledge and supported.

Given his exemplary prison record of giving consideration, respect and even joy to fellow prisoners and prison staff, as well as helping many fellow prisoners with paperwork, I believe he would be a positive force outside of the prison world as a free person. While it may be that he made some mistakes in his early

life, I believe through meditation and self-reflection, a person can change and become more sensitive to others—a calmer, caring, service-full, thoughtful, reliable, and joyful contributing member of society.

Joe should have the right to petition for parole. I know that Ananda would be supporting of his transition to independence, and he would be a contributing member of Ananda. Joe has already contributed through his successful fundraising efforts to support the Temple of Light recently constructed at Ananda Village, CA.

Please commute his extreme sentence, to give him the chance to be released by the parole board. Joe deserves the opportunity to prove that he can become a positive contributing member of society outside of prison, as he has become inside prison.

Thank you for reading this letter and considering this request. I can be reached at [REDACTED] or phone: [REDACTED] if you need to contact me for any reason.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Patricia de Anguera



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 13, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Peggy Baat. I am a retired teacher, former Vista Volunteer (Domestic Peace Corp), serving in the Navaho Nation. I stayed on after my service to teach on the reservation for another nine years. I am a third generation Californian, one set of my grandparents met in a soup line after the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco. My father, Jack Baat, was a night school instructor, U.S. History, at San Quentin Prison in the 1950's. I recall his stories of how some prisoners tried to improve themselves while serving their time. One student, was researching and hoping to find the Lost Dutchman Mine in Arizona on his release. I learned early on that prison can make or break a person depending on how they respond to incarceration.

I think Joe Hunt is a prime example of growth, self improvement and helping others while incarcerated. I've known about Joe Hunt's story for a long time. I do not know him personally, I've come to know about his life through my affiliation with the Ananda Community. I have been impressed by what Joe had done while in prison. Joe took the bull by the horns and grew himself and others and continues to do so. He didn't give into bitterness and anger but used it as an opportunity to grow. Joe Hunt embodies the fortitude and inspiration under very trying circumstances. He is to be commended and released!

Joe Hunt is one of the most inspiring stories to come out of the California Prison system. He has served his time and deserves to be released! He has gone above and beyond what is expected of a prisoner. When Joe is released, I'm certain he will continue to serve others and be an asset to his community. It's time for mercy and release. I pray that it is so.

I welcome any further correspondence. if there are questions or concerns re: this letter, I can be reached at peggybaat@gmail.com.

Sincerely,


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Peggy Baat



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

8/10/2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CCI Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs and Madam,

My name is Phouvang (Pu-wan) Sengmany and I live here at Ananda Village, an intentional community located in Nevada City in the foothills of California. I serve in our local community market and I have lived here since 2014. Our community is based on the spiritual teachings of Paramhansa Yogananda, and one of the guiding principles that we live and practice here is selfless service to each other, to the greater community and to the planet. We serve to help each other reach our highest potential.

Before serving at our community market, I served on our organic farm for five seasons. We grow foods for a community of 250 people. While serving there and even before then, I've come to know Joe Hunt through his longtime friends who are the leading farmers and they are also my dear friends and spiritual advisors. These friends have lived and served at Ananda Village for over 40 years. They have visited Joe in prison over the last 30 years and they share their experiences with us. I feel as if I've found a dear friend in Joe through them.

I've read testimonies of fellow inmates whom Joe has helped to be released from prison, and I'm deeply moved by his dedication and kindness. I've come to know Joe as a kind soul, a gentle man who would never hurt a fly and a man who is deeply dedicated to his friends, his family, his community in and outside of prison. Should Joe be released from prison, I know that he will inspire even more people to be more kind and helpful towards one another. I've yet to hear or to read that Joe has given up on his mission to be released from prison. His indomitable will and his positive attitude have helped me many times when I need inspiration to lead a life in service to family and community. His life in prison has been a great example of deep faith and right attitude. I know that his release from prison will help our community and even help the world to be a better place. Our community welcomes and supports Joe's release, and he will definitely be an asset, an inspiration and a moving force of good to all who come to know him, personally.

I hope that you will consider Joe's release from prison. Please feel free to email me at [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED] should you have any questions.

Thank you for your sincere consideration.



Phouvang (Pu-wan) Sengmany





Ananda

CHURCH OF SELF-REALIZATION of Nevada County

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

July 28, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Bent Hansen and I serve as an ordained Minister and manager of outreach programs for the Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Nevada County, California. I have spent more than forty years sharing the teachings of meditation, yoga, and the practical tools of spiritual living, with thousands of interested individuals, as well as countless groups, including various government agencies and employees. I am writing to give my support for Joe Hunt's commutation application.

Joe Hunt is someone I have known about for several decades through his letters, as well as through fellow Ananda ministers who have visited Joe in prison. I have had the opportunity to be well informed regarding his life during that time.

I've gained tremendous inspiration from the way Joe has endeavored to live in the most positive manner possible, under his challenging circumstances. I've come to admire Joe's willingness to be of support and inspiration to many of his fellow prisoners. It's not often that I've come across someone in such conditions which Joe is dealing with, i.e. being in prison, and yet is so consistent in reaching beyond these conditions in his care and tangible support of others in the prison system. He has given this support in teaching others how to deal with stress through meditation techniques. He also has been a clear example of being a calming influence to others around him, amidst the tensions of prison life.

Joe has shown, over the years that he has the ability to adapt, in a productive manner, with others around him. I feel that his release from prison would allow Joe a continuation of his positive support of others. Because of this, he would be a very real benefit to society, and to all those he comes in contact with. Joe has also proven through his generosity that he would be able to sustain himself upon release. He would certainly be a welcome resident in our Ananda Community.

Thank you for reading my letter of support for Joe Hunt. If you need to contact me with any questions regarding my statement, you can reach me at [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Bent Hansen





Ananda

CHURCH OF SELF-REALIZATION of Nevada County

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 10, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Governor Newsom,

We are ministers and teachers at Ananda Village, a 50 year-old spiritual community based on the teachings of yoga and meditation. We have each lived and worked in our worldwide communities for over 25 years. At Ananda, we practice living the principle that people are more important than things. We are always helping each other to be in service to others, to improve their own and others' lives and in doing so to uplift our society towards a better world. It is because of this that we are inspired by Joe Hunt's life and believe his commutation is deserved.

He has led an exemplary life in prison. Co-founding one of the first men's group in a California prison is just one example. He has stood as a spiritual light in the most difficult conditions of prison life, bringing hope, healing and positive change to many fellow prisoners. We see what he has learned and practiced these many years and realize he can be an asset to society.

We welcome any questions or concerns regarding this letter. We appreciate your time and leadership as you address this matter during these challenging times.

Thank you for your consideration of commuting Joe Hunt's sentence.

Sincerely, with blessings in your service,

Gregory and Leslie Ghirla



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 6, 2020

To: Governor Newsom

cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Gentlepersons,

My name is Karen Rider and I am writing in regards to Joe Hunt, D-61863, and his Governor's Commutation Application.

I reside in a spiritual community called Ananda World Brotherhood Village in Nevada City, California. I have been an Ananda member for 32 years and have lived and served others in several Ananda locations---Ananda Portland, Ananda Seattle and Ananda Rhode Island---in addition to Ananda Village. I have had the joy of practicing and teaching Ananda Yoga as well as meditation and other subject classes to help uplift and enhance the well-being of others. I currently serve at our Ananda Living Wisdom School at Ananda Village.

In all my years of serving as an Ananda Lightbearer Minister, no matter what part of the country or what part of the world we have been involved with, I have seen others be transformed by their steadfast practice of yoga and meditation. At our school the young people are free to explore their spiritual nature as well as learning about the mind, the heart and all that is involved in developing a life-long interest in learning and in finding ways to serve others.

I feel this process has been going on for Joe Hunt for many years now, even though he has had a much tougher environment to deal with as he has practiced. I have not had the chance to meet him in person, but I have been introduced to him via my association with people whom I regard with the deepest respect who have visited him and guided him in his spiritual interests over many decades. They have introduced me to him and let me know of his dedication to a personal meditation practice and to serving others in ways that are available to him. I know that he has been a positive influence in the prison system by starting a men's support group where others embraced sharing and helping each other to grow and to understand the truth of taking responsibility for one's actions and feelings. I know that others have written to you in support of Joe and his goodness as well.

Recently I was astounded when Joe and 2 others worked together to earn and donate over \$1 million dollars to help make our Temple of Light project a reality. Due to this generous donation, our temple is available to people from all over the world to come and meditate and pray and experience inner peace and upliftment---bringing renewed hope to many.

I am writing to add my voice to others who are asking you to release Joe Hunt. He has demonstrated the truth behind the words "by their fruits you shall know them".

He has the caring to help others, to take action to assist and help others in very tangible ways. He takes responsibility for keeping his mind and actions as positive as possible. He has the ability to be creative and will be able to support himself if he is granted his freedom. If his commutation request is granted, taxpayers will save money and Joe will be able to do much more good privately than as a ward of the state.

Thank you for reading my letter of support for Joe Hunt. If you wish to contact me further, my contact information is listed below.

Thank you, also, Governor Newsom for your efforts to lead our state through this very challenging time of the current COVID19 pandemic.

Most Sincerely,



Karen (Prem-Shanti) Rider





This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 2, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Sandra Wong, and I'm writing on behalf of Joe Hunt, D-61863, in regard to the Governor's Commutation Application.

I am a retired educator, having served for 40 years in public education, as well as a principalship in India right after my retirement in 2009. I co-founded a Personalized Learning Charter School in 2001 based on Education for Life principles, focusing on the importance of skills for living, a premise of Paramhansa Yogananda who brought yoga to America in 1920.

Though I have not met Joe Hunt, I have followed his very unusual journey, over 35 years of which has been in the penal system. In claiming his innocence all these years, he has chosen to serve others that are clearly at the low point of their lives, most having suffered the consequences of tragic choices.

After reading the many, many letter of fellow inmates on behalf of Joe Hunt, I have been struck by the testimonies they offer in which Joe Hunt counsels a clear path toward rehabilitation based on cultivating kindness, friendship, and perseverance through meditation and yoga. These valued friendships of men seeking hope, have sustained themselves through many decades of their association with Joe. His gentle spirit is enunciated throughout these testimonies and offer an example of right living through the turmoil and challenges that have impacted these lives. Behaviors change with commitment and practice. . . and deep, caring and authentic friendship. These souls have been recognized as having value.

As an educator, I recognize education as the path toward personal growth, change and transformation. Joe Hunt made an enlightened choice early on in his incarceration. He committed to seeking a path that would give meaning, even in dire circumstances, and more importantly, he decided to share this path with others who were suffering hopelessness.

Now, Joe is 60 years old and experiencing health challenges. The question I raise: Has Joe Hunt been a burden on the penal system or has he contributed to the rehabilitation and potential humanity of a great many in that system? Even the guards, ministers and counselors offer their support for consideration of his release.

I concur.

Please feel free to write with any comments or questions regarding my letter. I can be reached at : [REDACTED] or at my mobile number, [REDACTED].

With gratitude for your consideration,



Sandra Wong
Truckee, California

[REDACTED]



Ananda

CHURCH OF SELF-REALIZATION of Nevada County

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 12, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Kathleen Rainbow and I am a minister and monastic at the Ananda Church of Self-realization located at Ananda Village, Nevada City, California. I have been associated with Ananda since 1995 and I have lived at Ananda Village, an intentional spiritual community, for the past 20 years. Before becoming associated with Ananda I was an integral part of another spiritual organization for 11 years, teaching and directing spiritual centers. Most of my life has been focused on knowing truth and finding inner peace. Through regular practice of meditation for the past 35 years I have become a much better person. A person who thinks about others needs and strives to be kind, compassionate and forgiving. I believe that anyone who is sincere in the practice of daily meditation can, through personal effort, change their life for the better.

I first heard about Joe Hunt when I was living in the Ananda spiritual community in Mountain View, California. It was at that time that Joe contacted Ananda and asked if someone could go to his prison to teach him meditation, which they did. Joe has been meditating regularly for 25 years or more. Over the years many of our ministers and teachers, who I have the greatest respect for, have visited Joe. On their return they would all share inspiring stories of his positive attitude, and how he was making the best of his situation through the many ways he was helping other inmates. This included offering legal assistance to those whom he felt would use the help wisely. Joe also co-founded the first men's group in the California prison system.

Joe has dedicated his time in prison to improving himself and helping others. Over the years our congregation has prayed many times for Joe and he has prayed for us. I believe that Joe has used his time wisely while incarcerated. He has been a positive role model for many others both inside and outside of prison. I think Joe would be able to integrate very well into society. He has a very large spiritual family who would help him and be delighted to do so. I believe that incarceration is best used as a tool to teach and encourage people to reform their thinking and behavior. Once this has been achieved and they've turned their life around, why continue to spend taxpayers' money needlessly? Joe has already spent 35 years incarcerated. It is time for him to join and contribute to society, which I am convinced he'd do if given the chance.



Ananda

CHURCH OF SELF-REALIZATION of Nevada County

Please give Joe the opportunity to go before the parole board. He has used his time in prison productively and I think he deserves the opportunity to demonstrate that he would be an asset to society.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Should you need to contact me for any reason my contact information follows.

[REDACTED] /.

Kathleen Rainbow

[REDACTED]

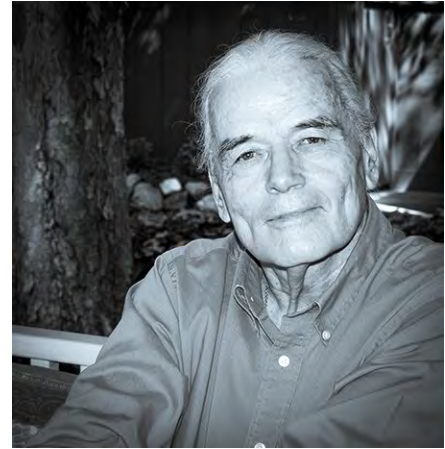


This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 12, 2020

Governor Gavin Newsome
CC: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is George Robert Beinhorn. I am 78 years old and have worked for 48 years as a writer and editor for clients in technology, business, academia, and publishing. I am a monastic member of the Nayaswami Order. It has been my lifelong experience that what people are seeking in their lives is happiness and freedom from suffering. I have observed that these come through personal expansion at the levels of body, heart, will, mind, and soul. In other words, by those actions, thoughts, and feelings that promote health, love, strength, wisdom, and joy.



While I have not met Joe Hunt (Jairam) personally, I have closely followed his case for at least fifteen years through the writings of people with whom I have been intimately acquainted, many for more than forty years. And because they are without exception people of impeccable integrity and character whose words ring with truth, I heartily and unreservedly lend my support to the cause of commuting Jairam's sentence.

I am grateful to Jairam for the profound inspiration of his example. I can only aspire to achieve the inner strength, the selfless service, the courage and good spirits, and the seamless integrity of this great soul, and I look forward eagerly to the privilege of shaking his hand someday.

Jairam has abundantly demonstrated during his years of imprisonment that he possesses the expansive personal qualities that I refer to above. Through his service to those both within and outside prison walls, he has shown that he is, in the words of the Navaho culture, a "valuable person" who not only deserves to be allowed re-enter society but would unquestionably enrich it. He has served as a model prisoner whose influence for good among the incarcerated population has been incalculable; and he has served those outside as a counselor and financial adviser of great practical wisdom and insight.

There can be no question whatever but that Jairam would immediately be employed and comprehensively supported, financially and in any other conceivable practical ways, by his family and his hundreds of friends within the world of the Ananda communities worldwide. That he would become a burden on society, or on the already strained social support infrastructure is laughable! I and countless others of my acquaintance would eagerly take him into our homes, if such a need were to arise.

I can be reached at:

George Beinhorn
Ananda Community of Mountain View

2 [REDACTED]
M [REDACTED]
g [REDACTED]
([REDACTED]

Very Truly Yours,

[REDACTED]

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

To Governor Gavin Newsom,

8/7/20

cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Ken Atwell. I live at Ananda Village, which is a spiritual community dedicated to meditation, service, and respect for the oneness of all religions. I have operated the water system at the Village for the last 20 years. I have never met Joe Hunt, but friends of mine, some of whom I have known for 30 years, have visited and talked with him. The impressions they have shared with me have been deeply affecting.

Joe has been in prison for 35 years, and though many would find that a challenge at the very least, Joe has grown in the experience. Years ago, when Joe was starting out his term, he reached out for help from some of the ministers in our community. They offered him counseling, taught him meditation techniques, and shared with him the teachings of yoga as taught by Paramhansa Yogananda. He has lived the principles of that life faithfully; a life of kindness, respect, and service to others. Soon, Joe was sharing what he'd learned by teaching yoga classes, instructing others in meditation, and mentoring prisoners. Joe has earned the respect of many during his incarceration, not only of the spiritual community I live in, but of prisoners and prison staff alike.

Many in this community have read his inspiring letters and followed his story since the beginning. **There is no question that we would welcome him here with open arms upon his release.** And yet Joe has done even more to inspire us.

Two years ago our community started work on a temple they had been trying to build for 40 years. The price tag was hefty, and it looked like the Village would be in debt for a long time after its completion. Joe however, in collaboration with his sister and brother-in-law, by making wise investments, were able to raise two million dollars towards the temple's completion. The community now owns the temple free and clear.

From what I've seen in Joe's letters, heard from my friends, and witnessed in his actions, I can think of no greater example of selfless service, generosity, humility and kindness than what Joe Hunt has become. I cannot imagine a more worthy man than Joe to receive your consideration for commutation of sentence. And I think you will give us all a great gift with his release.

Thank you for the time you've spent considering this letter.
In case you wish to contact me, I can be reached at the address below.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted address]



Assisi, Italy - August 9, 2020

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom
cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Rashmi Carlo Fioravanti. I am a geologist and worked for nearly twenty years in the post earthquake reconstruction of 09.26.1997 in Umbria, Italy. Currently I serve in the agricultural cooperative of Ananda, helping to expand our food production and self-sufficiency in support of our growing community.

I don't know Joe Hunt personally, but I do know that Swami Kriyananda, founder of our community, Ananda Assisi in Italy, held him in high regard. I am impressed by the attitude he has maintained in all these years in prison especially because of the very difficult environment, where pain and suffering, especially psychic, generally prevail. Despite this, thanks to his devotion to the spiritual practices of our path, he managed to keep himself balanced and was able also to help others around him. Even making a very generous donation to the construction of the temple of Light in Ananda Village in Northern California. But the thing that struck me most from the testimonies on his behalf is that he never complained about his condition, a quality I find difficult to maintain, even in the life I live in comparative "freedom".

As Joe Hunt's situation has come to my attention: his 36 years in prison, his finding ways to help the people around him with their legal and personal problems, I feel that such behavior deserves a dignified and joyful life in the Ananda Village, together with his wife, his sister and his spiritual family, who are preparing a home for him.

Just in the last few days I was reflecting how my own physical "freedom" is fictitious and nothing compared to the inner freedom through meditation gained by Joe Hunt, whom I know by the name "Jairam". I really hope, one day, to meet him as a man freed from incarceration and to celebrate with him the "Victory to God", that is the meaning of his spiritual name which I believe he embodies.

Thank you for considering the commutation of Joe Hunt's sentence,

Dr. Rashmi Carlo Fioravanti





This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 2, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sir,

I am writing for Joe Hunt, whom I have never met before. He has been in prison too long! I have heard his case through my friends here at Ananda, and I believe that they all ring true. Considering what makes it into the courts, the no retrial is not valid.

Sincerely,

Raymond H. Noble



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

[REDACTED] 9
July 28, 2020

To Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs,

My name is Ric Moorhouse, and I've been a resident of Ananda Village, a spiritual community, since 1980. Our lives here are dedicated to growing closer to God and serving our fellow man. I've served in our community in many different capacities over my years here, and currently serve as the manager of our phone and internet system.

I have known of Joe Hunt for many years now, and all I have ever heard of him is exemplary. Our community founder, Swami Kriyananda, met Joe some decades ago, and ever since, he, and many others of our community have visited Joe and corresponded with him. All I've ever heard are glowing reports of a man deeply committed to God and serving others. His steadfast adherence to high ideals while incarcerated are ennobling to those who know him and even just know of him.

I sincerely and deeply hope you will take to heart what a fine man Joe is, and I would welcome him with open arms to our community, and would be honored to have him here.

Very Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Ric Moorhouse
[REDACTED]



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

[REDACTED]

8/3/2020

Governor Gavin Newsom
cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

I am member and ordained minister of the Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Seattle. It is through Ananda leaders and ministers that I know of Joe Hunt.

While I have personally never met Joe Hunt, I do know many of the Ananda ministers who wrote letters to Governor Jerry Brown supporting Joe's commutation application in 2017. Without exception, I know them to be perceptive individuals whose lives demonstrate their firm commitment to integrity and truth.

But they were not the only ones writing in support of Joe's application in 2017. Many others wrote too, including fellow inmates, attorneys, paralegals, Joe's family, and families of fellow inmates.

Their letters testified to the remarkable qualities of Joe Hunt, who despite some 30 years in prison retains an energetic and positive outlook, and who devotes his energy and skills to serving those around him.

I was particularly impressed with letters from fellow inmates, some serving LWOP, who testified that they had begun to change their own lives for the better through their contact with Joe.

Joe's ongoing commitment to his spiritual practices and meditation is an inspiration to me and to many members of Ananda, of which he is a long-time member and which he actively supports.

Through this commitment, and to serving those around him with practical help and by the example of his own life, Joe Hunt demonstrates maturity and the positive qualities of one who would be an asset to society at large.

Joe's family has offered to support and employ him on his release. Joe Hunt's demonstrated abilities and skills would make him a valued and contributing member of society, and I urge you to approve his application.

Please feel free to contact me by phone at [REDACTED], or by email [REDACTED].

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Rick Johnston



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 2, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Helen Sanderson and I live at Ananda Village - a spiritual community in Nevada County which is based on the teachings of yoga and meditation. I have lived here for over 25 years.

I have not met Joe Hunt in person though I am good friends with many who have, and I trust their very favorable opinions of him.

What I am acutely aware of is his selfless giving to our community especially in the extraordinarily generous donation he made to our new temple fundraising campaign and the part he has played in supporting his fellow prisoners with yoga classes and more.

He is a shining example of selfless service and I know that he would be welcomed to live in our community, where I believe he would thrive.

Thank you for reading this letter. If you have any questions, please do get in touch with me.

([REDACTED])

Helen Sanderson

[REDACTED]



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 2, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sir,

My name is Rose Gradel and I've been associated with Ananda since 2002. I first heard about Joe Hunt a few years ago. What I learned about his situation from the trial to his present day standing leaves me with some questions about our legal system.

Joe Hunt has been nothing short of an exemplary inmate who has demonstrated a keen sense of service to others. This service not only exists within the prison walls but extends beyond. He has had a large part in helping build the Temple of Light here in our Ananda community. He assisted a fellow inmate in filing for parole and succeeded in that endeavor; started a men's group for prisoners. What does all this say to you about this man who has been in prison for thirty-five years?

What else can there be to learn in a prison environment? Joe Hunt has more than proved his freedom should be imminent. I feel our taxes could be used in a much more beneficial way than keeping someone in prison who has more than earned his freedom.

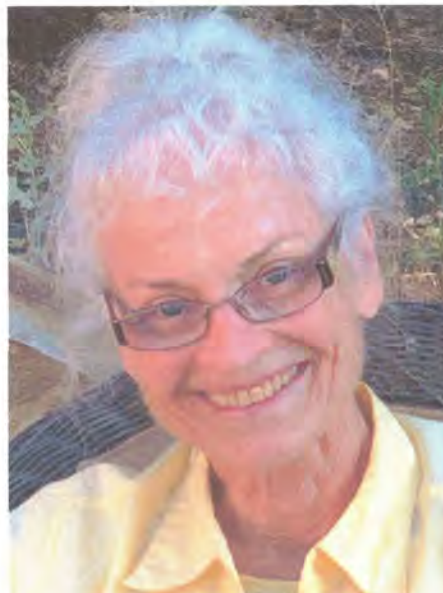
Thank you for your time and I hope this letter is deeply considered in your decision about Joe Hunt's life moving forward. If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

Rose Gradel

[Redacted Address]



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

8/13/2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Ones,

My name is Connor Burke and I live at Ananda Village, an intentional-cooperative community in Northern CA, and serve in our small, community market place, "Master's Market."

I first learned of Joe Hunt through his sister, Katherine Olivier, and his letters to the community. I was thoroughly impressed, after hearing his story, at how positive, indeed cheerful, he managed to be under such dire circumstances. I haven't much experience with prison life, and perhaps they're not as intense as movies like *The Shawshank Redemption*, but I imagine the heavy mental/emotional atmosphere is a harrowing challenge to the human. Perhaps this is as it should be, perhaps not. That's not for me to say. But for a man in prison to keep peace, to live a life of principles, to reach out in service to others – that is nothing short of remarkable.

Beyond the incredible fact – which I'm sure you've read of by now - that Joseph managed to raise and donate (with the outside investment help of his sister and brother-in-law) one million dollars to our communities' new 'Church of All Religions', *The Temple of Light*, Joe has inspired me personally more by his undaunted character in the face of the harsh world of prison life. Yes, the million dollars is a noteworthy fact, but it's his integrity and fortitude, even his humor, that has most inspired my life. It's hard to know a man you haven't met, but one's words bespeak much of one's character; "*Ye shall know a tree by its fruit.*" Here is a letter Joe wrote in early March that I believe is worth reading in order to give you an idea of what I mean:

March 2, 2020

I write to you in a spirit of joy, knowing that I am part of Master's spiritual family of Ananda. Gratitude resounds in waves from my heart. I have found a harbor of calm & wisdom amongst you.

Devi asked me to write about some of my experiences when she and Jyotish last visited me. In obedience to her gentle nudge, I offer what follows. A couple weeks ago, throughout two consecutive nights, I noticed that my heart was racing. I repeatedly clocked it at 150 beats per minute. The next morning, I was called to a doctor's appointment on an unrelated matter. My vitals were taken and I related my recent history. The doctor called a Code 3. I was taken by ambulance to San Joaquin County Hospital. A Detachment of three prison guards accompanied me. The tachycardia had not subsided. They diagnosed atrial flutter, a condition in which the

upper ventricle of the heart is so rapidly Contracting that the heart loses its sinus rhythm and is doing little more than twitching. To reset its rhythm, they proposed a drug called Adenisone. They said it would stop my heart and, God willing, give it a chance to restart itself in Sinus Rhythm. If it did not do so they stood ready to use the electric paddles to bring me back. I consented. (I mean what could go wrong?)

The first dose of Adenosine did not persuade my heart to stop. So they increased the dosage by 50%. Waves of darkness engulfed me, and then cleared. However, my heart kept its madcap pace. By this point I had three IVs in me and a half dozen electrodes on my chest. They ask me if I wanted something for anxiety. I said no. I was not feeling even a trace of anxiety. My thoughts were only how about the importance of keeping Master & the Dharma of our path at the forefront of my consciousness. The people assisting me, the doctors and nurses and guards, seemed to radiate loving kindness. There was no difficulty in silently loving them back. I was assigned a room. They started me on Coreg (a Beta blocker), Aminoderone, and Heparin. I was Shackled at both ankles to the bed. Whenever I had the strength (which was at least a dozen times a day) I would sit up on the edge of the bed and do Kriya. We know that Lahin prescribed it as a medicine for all the ills to which we are heir. Otherwise, I slept or did Mantra Yoga.

After a few days they did the cardiac catheter procedure, also known as an angiogram. I had no blockages. They declared themselves baffled as to why my heart function, the ejection rate, was impaired. Why had I gone into atrial flutter? They had no Theory. On the seventh day I was sent back to the prison and was told to continue on all the drugs they have been giving me. I discontinued them after the first day. My heart seems to have recovered its natural Rhythm. (However, I have been seeking help for an irregular heartbeat and periods of fast and slow heartbeat for several years.) I am still diminished in stamina.

I came back with cellulitis in my left ankle from the shackles, which chaffed & apparently had been exposed to staphylococcus. I also picked up a lung infection from a person that I shared the hospital room with during the last three days. The cellulitis was vanquished by some antibiotics and the lung infection is on the way out as I write this. I'm arranging to have my records reviewed by an outside cardiologist. One of our Gurubhais is helping me to find one. My suspicion is that these heart problems were brought on by Valley Fever, a fungal infection that I was exposed to when I was at Pleasant Valley State Prison. It has been known to debilitate the heart. There was no serious pain during any of this. I know that many of you have withstood greater tests.

My perspective throughout was to look to our Masters for help and guidance, surrendering the matter to them. I reflected upon the fact that my parents, and literally billions of others had died, and that it surely could not be so difficult. I had just experienced something on that order with the Adenosine. I took an inventory of my heart and noted the attachments that I retained to the work of helping my family and Ananda. I saw that I yet wanted to have the experience of doing more for them and you. I surrendered all of this to Gurudeva.

Your loving Gurubhai, Jairam

Joe is not just a good man; he has a heart of gold. Please give him a chance. I encourage you, visit him one time. Look into his eyes and see for yourself. Talk with him, see if he reflects a man that would do harm to, or improve, society with his freedom. Now, in regards to whether he is – or was – innocent or guilty when first convicted of murder decades ago, I personally believe he is innocent. But my faith is not the question here. The question isn't even whether he was innocent or guilty nearly 40 years ago, but: *has he earned, and is he worthy of, commutation?* If he was innocent all along then nothing could give him those years of his life back – nothing but, perhaps, the freedom to start fresh. If he was guilty, and if he is as good and noble as his many letters to the community have justified (at least in my eyes), then why not give him that same freedom to start afresh?

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or if you want to see any more of Joe's letters, please feel free to contact me with the info provided below.

Sincerely,

Connor J. Burke

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 13th, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs,

My name is Sanjeev Mittal and I am writing this letter in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

I am working for an IT company at Gurgaon, India. I am married and have twin daughters (15 years old). I am also a meditation practitioner and have learnt yoga, meditation at Ananda Sangha India. I practice meditation as integral part of my daily routine and have been deeply benefited by it both in my personal and professional life.

I have never met Joe hunt in person but have heard of him from my mentors who have met him and hold him in highest regard and I trust the integrity of their testimonial for Joe Hunt.

From what I understand is that Joe Hunt has spent over 35 years in prison and has been a positive influence for people around him in the prison. I believe he would be able to contribute even more good to society when outside the prison.

Thankyou for your kind consideration to give Joe Hunt a chance to release. I can be reached at +91 [REDACTED] if you need to contact me for any reason.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

Sanjeev Mittal



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

Nancy Kendall

1 [REDACTED] 5
1 [REDACTED]

August 4, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Like many of the people supporting this campaign to bring Joe home, I am a part of Ananda, an active member for 33 years. Before that I taught school for 7 years in Berkeley, CA. I left to have a baby and bring her up until she was three. At that point I became a single mother and had to get work that would support us and became a Real Estate Broker.

Finding Ananda at a center in Palo Alto and quickly understanding that this was my home, my first project was to purchase a simple apartment on almost 5 acres in Mountain View to establish an Ananda community of simple living and high thinking. This interesting project brought together old friends, new Ananda friends and investor clients as owner/ investors of the property, the landlord for our Ananda Palo Alto Community. This model was used again to establish apartment communities in Sacramento and other states.

Leaving my real estate practice to my daughter, I went on to work on developing Ananda's Education for Life philosophy by helping it's Living Wisdom Schools become independent corporations and getting the one in the Village, where I live now, accreditation. In the middle of that work I went to India for a year with a small group to get our work established there.

My last big project was to work with another woman from our Italian Community as executive producers of a movie called Finding Happiness about Ananda. You can watch it on Amazon Prime or I would be happy to send you a complimentary copy. This movie, like all of Ananda, is done professionally with great heart – also a Hollywood star, director, producer and cinematographer, all award winning. 6 years after release it is still a draw, partly because watching it makes you so happy that you want to watch it again and again. People want to see and feel how living simply with high ideals brings so much happiness.

Watching this would enable you to see what a fantastic place wants to bring their brother, Joe Hunt, home. He found us soon after incarceration, looking for help with meditation and spirituality. A set of dedicated ministers became his mentor, visiting regularly. We all have heard the amazing stories of his spiritual growth, the love and caring he gives out to serve his fellow man within the prison. It takes great

patience and love to live in a place of anger and violence for so long and in your heart feel only love. Think of the example he can be to his fellow California citizens who have so much trouble feeling love in a life, though filled with crisis, much more tolerable than a prison.

Giving Joe his commutation is a huge win for the State of California. Besides saving the money of his incarceration, you would free a man whose whole life is about turning an enormous loss (the loss of his freedom) into a blessing not only for himself, but for others. He is the kind of citizen everyone would want as a neighbor. I know you are a governor who really cares about the citizens of his state. When you free him you will gain a colleague in that care.

In Blessings & Joy, Nancy (also known as Santoshi)


Nancy Santoshi Kendall
()

PS I know the overflow of money from Ananda people to help him get settled, will be in excess rather than short. But to make that clear, I agree to personally pay \$100 per month as a minimum.



This is regards to Joe Hunt - D 61863, Governor's Commutation Application

Association Ananda Assisi

Italy, 7/8/2020

Dear Sir,

My Name is Sara Rizzardini; I live in one of the many Ananda communities around the world, in Assisi, Italy.

I moved to live in this reality in 2006. In these years I have had the opportunity to meet many people who have made the same life choice as mine; living this reality daily, maintaining relationships with many people, even if distant, but united in the values of truth and loyalty towards life and humanity.

I have such a conviction motivated by common values in the supreme law of truth that even if honestly I do not know personally Joe Hunt I feel to write. I have heard so many stories about what a great example he is for all of us and for the whole world, showing the courage to accept the misunderstanding - the imperfection in the human - to go further towards the Divine by discovering the real truth; that even though he may be incarcerated he cannot be truly imprisoned!

For me he is an example of great perseverance, compassion; living life gloriously touching the true meaning, regardless of the external vicissitudes.

I pray to God and his Divine law that Joe Hunt can expand this extraordinary life of his by becoming a point of hope and reference for many people. And who knows, I hope one day to be able to see him and get to know him personally perhaps by inviting him here to Assisi... and show him a part of the big family that he is a part of.

God knows our hearts and whispers to our consciences, may we be open to his whisper!

Immensely grateful for your taking the time to read this letter,

Best Regards,

Sara Rizzardini



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

Lauri Hall

[REDACTED]

August 5, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Lauri Hall, and I am writing in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

I am a Pilates Instructor, Yoga Teacher, Massage Practitioner, and Reiki Healer. Joe's sister, brother-in-law, and niece are dear friends of mine, and clients. I see them multiple times a week over Zoom, and they keep me updated on how Joe is doing. I have done multiple distance Reiki sessions for Joe, which is an hour of focused healing prayer for his health and well-being.

In addition, I am part of Joe's spiritual community, so over the past 6 years or so I have come to know him through his letters, recordings of his voice, and messages to our community. Many of my friends have been to see him in prison, and all come back with glowing reports of how uplifting it is to be in his presence. Our community is like a family, and he is one of us, beloved by all for his generosity and inspiring example of acceptance, peace, and joy in the face of extremely difficult circumstances. There are hundreds of people praying for him on a daily basis.

I believe Joe has done his time, many times over. He has a flawless record of conduct, and after 32 years of incarceration, deserves a chance to re-integrate into society and live a normal life. His sister has told me that if he were released, he and his wife would come to live here at our spiritual community near Nevada City. His knowledge and expertise would be very useful here, and I expect after a period of rest and enjoyment of freedom, we would put him to work! He has demonstrated over and over a desire to serve, even from prison. I'm sure you've heard already that he helped raise a million dollars for our Temple building project last year. I would never have thought that was possible, but Joe made it happen. So I have no doubt that he would contribute greatly to us and to the larger society by sharing his gifts and talents.

We are a community of over 200 friends on the land, and over a thousand world-wide. We would all welcome him with open arms, and do everything we could to help him and his wife transition smoothly. Our community is already

set up to do this; when someone isn't feeling well, others shop and cook for them and take them to the doctor. When a baby is born, others bring the family meals for the first month and even help with household chores and laundry. Since COVID, to limit the exposure of our members, a few people have volunteered to run errands for everyone else in town several times a week. We have communications systems set up over phone and email so that people can ask for help and/or prayers and receive it almost immediately.

My personal contribution would be in helping Joe with any physical discomfort through the modalities that I offer. He has endured a lot of pain in prison, and my specialty is pain-relief.

I could go on, but as you can see, there is already a well-established river of love and support here – Joe and his wife would just slide right in. After all these years of isolation and punishment, he would finally have a home with friends. Please give him that chance.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at [REDACTED], or [REDACTED].

Thank you so much for your consideration of this wonderful opportunity to make a difference in Joe's life and ours.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Lauri Hall



August, 3 2020

Assisi, Italy

Governor Gavin Newsom

cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

Eminent Governor Gavin Newsom,

my name is Chiara Galletti, 37 years old, living in Ananda Assisi Community, Italy. I am a devotee of Ananda Church from 18 years and I know how many important is to have faith. It is not easy to accept daily life without the faith in God. How we can face up to every single aspect in our life in the best way for every one around us without faith in God?

In Ananda Assisi Community I am the director of fundraising and I create from my own this new department on the community administrative structure.

I never met Joe Hunt and I read nothing about him before now, except for his generous heart during the building of the Temple of Light at Ananda Village, a very strong temple to cultivate love for God, for others and for ourself.

I am writing this letter to support Joe Hunt's release because I know the importance of indulgence, especially for a good man. I know that to be compassionate is the way to be free, for those who received it and especially for those who give it. Our society needs an example of compassion and indulgence.

He will be welcome back with love from his family and from his church and I think that he could be an example of peace , acceptance and forgiveness, for every person he will meet.

Best regards

Chiara Galletti



] [redacted] 1

This is regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

Scott Marcom

1 [REDACTED]

August 6th, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado , CDCR

Greetings! My name is Scott Marcom and I am a member of Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Nevada County. I live at Ananda Village and from my friends and acquaintances I have heard much good of Joe Hunt. I believe in the natural goodness inherent in humanity as well as the high principles we all can live by. I support all those who earnestly seek to live a life of goodness and righteousness: to live a life of harmony and peace.

I first heard of Joe Hunt from Ananda's Spiritual Directors about six years ago. Though I do not personally know him, the people who speak highly of him are people I myself look up to. They mentioned what a beautiful person he is through his demeanor, generosity and presence. I firmly believe Joe Hunt is an individual who lives and exemplifies a life of harmonious living.

I have been deeply inspired by Joe Hunt's friendship to others and willingness to face adversity with a true noble spirit. The incarceration he has faced is not easy but he has experienced from a strong and open heart. From what I hear, I receive stories of a hero: someone who bravely serves others and seeks the highest in himself and in others.

Joe Hunt was instrumental in raising more than a million dollars for Ananda's Temple of Light. This truly was a magical boon for us here at Ananda Village as the Temple serves all of us (worldwide) with a beautiful sanctuary to worship God. The Temple naturally symbolizes the high principles that members of Ananda try and live by each day: direct personal communion with God, service to God and others, devotion to God and sharing what our experience is spiritually with others.

I firmly believe Joe Hunt should be granted a commutation. He exemplifies the inner qualities we here at Ananda try to live by each day - service, love of God, wisdom, peace and calmness in daily life, noble friendship, kindness and courage. He would be a light here at Ananda Village. His presence would naturally be an elevating grace for us all.

I think Joe is now ready for a new stage in life where he can serve as a noble example to many. Our founder, Swami Kriyananda also was very adamant about having Joe released. In

my eyes, Joe Hunt is a hero. This world, I believe, would benefit from Joe Hunt being released and his application for commutation accepted.

If I am needed in any way for questions regarding my letter I can be reached at scottmarcom@gmail.com or by phone - 707-441-1111.

In Sincerity,



Scott Marcom



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application
August 12th, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
California

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Sir,

My name is Seema Aggarwal and I am writing this letter in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61683, Governor's Commutation Application.

Joe Hunt has served a 35 years in prison. He was just a 24 year old when convicted and is well into middle age now. Please consider his release.

He has turned to spiritualism and has helped many people inside prison by counselling them and teaching them Yoga. Maybe that was God's way to place his own person inside prison so that he could reach out to the otherwise unreachable people.

Once released he will benefit the society immensely with his raised level of Christ Consciousness.

Please do consider his release keeping in mind that he is not a habitual offender, his young age at the time of conviction, the long sentence already served and his good track record in the prison.

Sincerely,

A small, dark, rectangular redacted area covering the signature.

Seema Aggarwal



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 1, 2020

TO: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cd: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Sonia (Seva) Wiberg. I'm a member and minister for Ananda, a spiritual community in Nevada County. I've been a member and living here for over 50 years, a pioneer helping Ananda to form and grow to what it is today. During this time I spent many hours a day working with Swami Kriyananda, the founder of Ananda. And through this association have learned to have complete faith in his integrity and his compassion for all souls. He helped us to know how to live in community and how to work with others, how to have respect and love for all beings. Ananda is built on spiritual principles of love and respect.

While I have not met Joe Hunt personally, his story has been part of our history for all the years of his incarceration. Joe became a spiritual friend to many before and after the doors closed on him – so to speak. Swami was one such friend. Swami could tell when a person was of a spiritual nature, living in truth and right action. He often talked about the fact that Joe should be released from prison. Others in our community have visited Joe, knew him before his imprisonment and have had the same impression of his character.

My personal admiration for Joe developed in knowing how much he has helped those in prison, helped his family, and helped Ananda. It would take a great person of integrity and energy to do all that he has done in spite of the situation he has found himself. Prison life, it would seem, would take you into hatred, fear, and anger or, if you are a good, positive soul, into compassion and love. Joe took the second choice.

Since Joe is so helpful to those in prison, he very likely would be a help to society in general once released. An example is the help already given to our community. We would all welcome him, if he is released, to come and live here at Ananda.

If I can be of any help in your decision to release Joe, please do let me know. My email is [REDACTED], and phone is [REDACTED].

Sincerely, Sonia (Seva) Wiberg

[REDACTED]



This is in regards to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's C0mmutation Application.

Barbara Hoffman
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

August 12, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Barbara Hoffman, and I am writing in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

Let me tell you briefly about myself. I am a resident of the Bay Area of California since 1963, and have been working as a Licensed Marriage and Family therapist since 1994. In 2004 I move from Capitola, CA to the Ananda Community in Mountain View, in order to live my life as a member of a spiritual community, which is based on meditation, yoga, service to others and devotion to a great spiritual teacher. I have continued to practice as a Marriage and Family Therapist in Mountain View.

I have never met Joe Hint in person, but have come to know about him through many of our spiritual leaders and members here and throughout the United States, as well as from his sister and brother-in-law, Katherine and Michael Olivier. These people whom I respect and know, and who practice harmony of spirit and generous service to others, speak so highly of Joe. It is through their stories and sharing of experiences with Joe, that I feel I have also come to know about him.

During his 35 years of incarceration, Joe became a devoted disciple of Paramhansa Yogananda, who wrote Autobiography of a Yogi (published in 1946). Joe's life in prison became one of service to others, both to others who were incarcerated, as well as to raise \$1 million to help fund the construction of the magnificent Temple of Light, built at Ananda Village, CA. A plaque in that temple is dedicated to Joe Hunt in honor of his unwavering support and generosity. There are many other inspiring stories of this person, who rather than complain or be discouraged about his situation, has lived to serve others and maintain a harmonious and uplifted attitude despite adversity.

I believe Joe deserves to be released from prison for integration back into the community. He has shown himself to be a positive influence on society. He has maintained a clean record and an exemplary life in prison. A worldwide spiritual family awaits to embrace Joe and provide transitional guidance and support as he navigates re-integration into society. I believe Joe is an asset to our society.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter of appeal regarding Joe Hunt. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have regarding anything I have stated here. I can be reached at ([REDACTED]) or at [REDACTED].

Wishing you and your family all the best, and good health during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Barbara Hoffman



)

Regarding Joe Hunt, D-61683, Governor's Commutation Application

August 5, 2020

Respected Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs,

I am a United States citizen, resident in California, and for the past 35 years living in Italy. I am president of a non-profit Association for the promotion of social welfare, and the founder and president of the Ananda European School of Meditation.

Joe Hunt has had an interesting, although indirect, impact on my welfare work. One of the main tenets of our School is that "circumstances are neutral" and the way we respond to them can render them positive or negative to our life and health.

An extreme example of this was depicted in the academy-award-winning film "Life is Beautiful," wherein the protagonist transforms a horrific situation into something nourishing for his son. In a similar vein, we speak about Joe Hunt and how he has been able, even though incarcerated for long years, to transform a situation which could be dehumanizing into a life-long and daily opportunity to serve others and to contribute to the society in which he finds himself. He has not been "serving time" but rather serving society.

I would encourage you, in your wisdom and compassion, to release him now so that he can continue his service and make even greater contributions to society at large. His example will be so much more powerful when he is able to speak about it himself to people whose lives would be transformed. Your act of compassion will positively change many lives.

Thank you for your serious deliberation,
And wishing you well in the challenges which face you and the vast population which you lead.

— [Redacted Signature] —

Fern Shivani Lucki
President
Ananda Sangha for Self-Realization
Assisi, Italy



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

Sonal Dhir,



August 12, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs,

I write this letter to **support Joe Hunt's** freedom from prison.

My name is Sonal Dhir. I am a Corporate Social Responsibility professional working for Adobe Inc, at its Indian subsidiary at Noida, **India. I serve the 'Brand Purpose' team and my personal & professional** aim is to drive social equity, by empowering employees to do social good by volunteering and creating lasting social impact. I was also a former honorary board member on the International Human Rights Organization (IHRO), India, which is an international non-profit that strives to uphold human rights of all planetary citizens, as members of one universal family.

I practice meditation which I learned from Ananda Sangha Delhi. My teachers there, Michael and Diana Taylor. I am acquainted with Joe Hunt through our community. I have also heard John and Phyllis Novak, the spiritual directors of Ananda in California, speak of Joe with admiration and respect. They all support Joe being released from prison. **I've known** and trusted them, and trust them also in this instance.

I haven't personally met Joe, but even being informed on his life journey and all he has done to create a heaven of peace that is both internal, and **also raise grants to provide seed funding for the 'Temple of Light' at** Ananda, California – is phenomenal. Only a person of high ethics and moral and spiritual stature is capable of such redeeming good.

Following the thread upon Joe's false implication and imprisonment for almost three decades, one cannot help but be inspired of the fortitude that **Joe has presented. He also formed the first Men's Group in the prison** premises, and it is beyond doubt that he is a role-model for all inmates already.

In 2020 when Joe enters the 60th year of his life, after spending the years of youth where he could flourish in the freedom of outside world, I think the time is ripe for the legal jurisdiction to make amends and honor Joe with freedom to spend his last decades in honourable living.

On the Hindu spiritual path, to stay away from the world in seclusion or self-imposed solitude is called *Tapasya* (Penance). It is not for any worldly crimes, but rather to renounce shallow worldly distractions to grow in **likeness of the Higher Power in virtue. Perhaps Joe's journey was such in** which destiny allowed this *Tapasya*, through which he could shine the **gold of his 'soul'**. But now after long arduous years, I am confident that a full life is what he definitely deserves.

Joe also has his sister Katherine and her husband Oliver living at the Ananda Spiritual Community. After his release, they and a sprawling family of spiritual brothers and sisters would be looking forward to have Joe help with many projects that need **attention at the community. Joe's** mastermind and impeccable directives on execution of projects, can do much after he resumes a normal life. The community and society at-large are sure to witness social good that Joe can usher through his contributions.

Therefore, with this letter I give testimony to **Joe Hunt's** confirmed toweringly exceptional conduct and full support to his release, as soon as possible. This also becomes eminent in light of recent health concerns that he has endured. I am sure that the State of California finds merit in this request.

Please reach out if I can be of help: sonal.dhir@ananda.org; +1 (617) 552-1234

Thank you for reading this.

Sincerely,



Sonal Dhir

Assisi, Italy - August 2nd 2020

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, and Governor's Commutation Application.

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Stefania D'Amato, I am Italian and live in the Ananda Community. I am a high school philosophy teacher for 27 years.



I came to know Joe's case through the testimony of friends that know him. I admire Joe's constant tenacity of embracing a serious meditation practice for many years now. It is not easy in his situation to find positive energy to study and create a life inside the bars of the detention reality.

I support his petition to open his case to evaluation because I strongly believe his determination can be a new possible life. And I think Joe can make use to the best of such an opportunity.

Thank you for your attention

Stefania D'Amato

<

STEVE NAVISKY, LMFT

I [REDACTED]

08/04/2020

This letter is in regards to Joe Hunt – D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

To Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CCI Maldonado, DDCR

Dear Sirs:

My name is Steve Navisky. I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, in practice in Nevada City and Grass Valley California. I belong to a spiritual community called Ananda Village. Ananda, which, translated from ancient Sanskrit, means Divine Bliss. My therapy practice and my life are based on the practice of the teachings of my spiritual teacher Paramhansa Yogananda. His powerful Autobiography of a Yogi, one of the bestselling autobiographies of all time, is what drew me and hundreds of thousands of other spiritual seekers, including Joe Hunt, to this Path. It has changed my life unimaginably and I believe Joe's also. My life is based on the spiritual teachings of love for God, kindness and respect to all, self-honesty, and the daily practice of meditation to practice these teachings and share them with all whom I meet, including all my clients, as they choose to accept. I feel Joe Hunt to be a spiritual brother, whom I have physically not yet met. I consider him, however, to be both a friend and an inspiration to me. This is due to his interactions with our community and with my good friends who have visited Joe in prison.

I have lived and deeply prospered at Ananda for almost 30 years. Over 25 of these years, many dear friends whom I respect and who are inspiring leaders in our community have visited and interacted with Joe. They have taught him the spiritual teachings of this path of yoga meditation, shared in the West by Yogananda, and have shared that they have found great love and respect for Joe. This means a lot to me.

The following are key reasons that I believe that it is now time, perhaps beyond time, that Joe be released from prison:

Jairam, Joe's spiritual name, meaning Victory to God, has, in his time in prison, opposed gangs (at risk to his own life), been a positive influence upon his fellow convicts, many of whom have written letters in support of him, as have a number of guards, Chaplains, correctional counselors and his many friends, WORLD WIDE.

He is devoted to a path of non-violence, as taught by Yogananda, Ghandi and Martin Luther King. He has helped fellow prisoners receive sentence reductions, offering legal assistance to them from his owned learned fund of knowledge. I understand that he co-founded the first men's group in a California prison. This is of special interest to me as a therapist and supporter of men's issues.

Lastly, though far from finally, Ananda was able to build a magnificent TEMPLE OF LIGHT, completed last year, as a commemorative to loving souls throughout the world. It is an Icon of Love, Peace, Harmony and Soul Consciousness. IT WOULD NOT BE COMPLETED AND USED NOW, IF IT WERE NOT FOR JOE HUNT, JAIRAM! He helped raise over TWO MILLION DOLLARS that was donated for the completion of our Temple of Light.

This is a man, a soul, that deserves to be free and share his gifts, freely given, with all his brothers and sisters in the world, and especially at Ananda Village. Heed these words: HE SHOULD NOW BE FREE!

I would be very pleased to speak with anyone who might have any questions for me. In deep respect and fairness, sincerely,

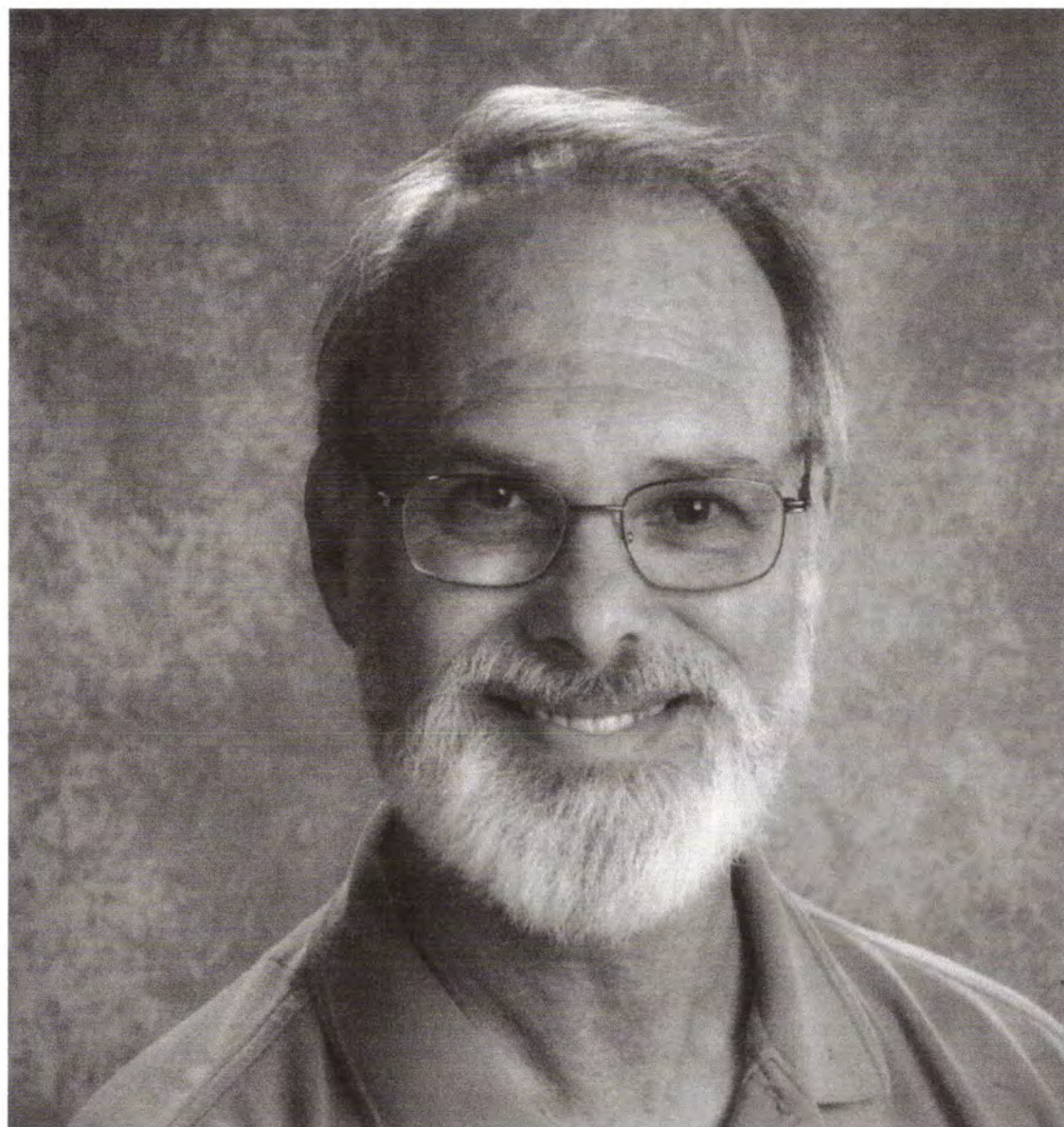
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Steve Navisky, LMFT

Steve

Navisky,

!



Sue Stickney



*This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's
Commutation Application.*

August 6, 2020

*To: Governor Gavin Newsom cc:CCI
Maldonado, CDCR*


*My name is Sue Stickney, and I am residing at Ananda Village
in Nevada City. I have been an active member of this community
since 1989, living here and 18 years in the Sacramento
Community.*

*I first learned of Joe's challenges in the late 1990's, when the
leaders of my community were making weekly visits to see Joe in
prison.*

**Was inspired, even then, at how committed Joe was to being
his best self and for doing for others as much and as often as
he could.**

**I have always held Joe in high regard. I understand that Joe is
petitioning for release from prison. And I strongly support
this. When he is released, he will move to Ananda Village and
make his home with his sister and brother-in-law, and be
surrounded by many friends who practice simple living and
high thinking. I can think of no better move for Joe or for all
of us.**

**Thank you for your attention and for your support.
Sue Stickney**





This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 4, 2020

TO: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Governor Newsom:

My name is Susan Van Alstine. I am writing from Ananda Village in Nevada City, California. I have lived here for 25 years and serviced as a minister and also as the Corporate Secretary for Ananda Church of Self Realization of Nevada County.

As the Corporate Secretary for our church at Ananda Village, I have been privy to the many kindnesses Joe has offered our church and individuals living in our community. I've been privileged to hear the many stories of helpful acts which Joe has given to his fellow inmates. He has made friends with inmates and prison employees. I've heard stories of integrity and trust and hope directed toward his hoped-for commuted sentence.

As a spiritual community at Ananda Village, we would welcome Joe; and, I assume with confidence we could provide employment and housing. I believe he would be a wonderful addition to the environment we have created. I know him to be harmonious with others....we have a very harmonious lifestyle which encompasses 800 acres, many families, activities, community projects and support for his spiritual growth.

I thank you in advance for considering this appeal. If I can offer any information or further encouragement, please contact me. My email is: [REDACTED]. My phone number is [REDACTED].

Very sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Susan Van Alstine



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

Sureena Chowdhri

[REDACTED]

August 10, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Sureena Chowdhri. I am a wife and mother of 2 sons, a professional fashion designer, and lead a busy life in New Delhi. I'm close with John and Phyllis Novak, whom I've known for many years. They told me about Joe Hunt, and have spoken very highly of him. They have remained in close touch with Mr. Hunt and have followed his case carefully. I respect and trust their judgment.

I have subsequently read about Joe Hunt's case, and I feel he was not guilty beyond reasonable doubt. He is having health problems, he's 60 years old, and has been in prison for 35 years.

From what the Novaks and other friends have told me and what I have read of Mr. Hunt's life, I am convinced that through his positive thinking and peaceful sharing with others, he has transformed himself and has brought hope and light and a sense of peace to many in the prison system.

I support Joe Hunt's petition for release from prison.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me: [REDACTED]

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Sureena Chowdhri



Ananda Portland

Temple and Teaching Center

This is in regard to **Joe Hunt, D-61863**, Governor's Commutation Application

July 29, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

I am writing to you as the Spiritual Director of the Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Portland, and as someone who is saddened to see how often and how easily injustice can prevail.

I have known of Joe Hunt through his acts of extraordinary generosity, and through his friendship with friends of mine, for several years. His sincerity is apparent to me, especially as seen in the selfless legal and spiritual counsel he has rendered to many other inmates.

To me, Joe Hunt has long demonstrated the power of love, compassion, and goodwill, even under the most challenging circumstances: namely, his decades of imprisonment. He is exactly the kind of person we need "outside" today, where he can have a greater positive influence, in particular on those at risk of "breaking bad."

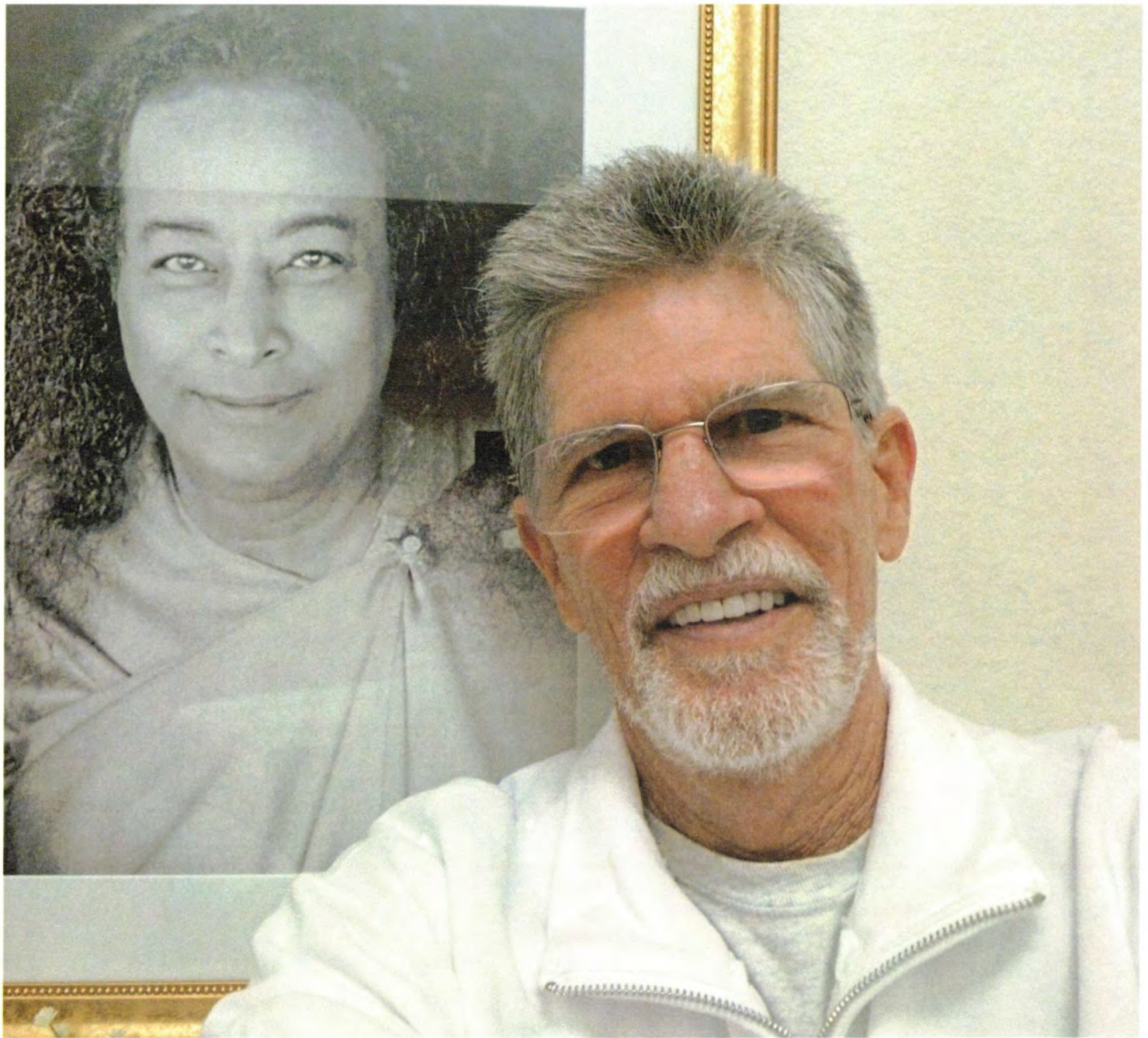
It is not an exaggeration to say that he has an important ministry to fulfill. Furthermore, Joe Hunt would be gratefully embraced and supported by everyone I know within Ananda, the spiritual worldwide movement I have been associated with for 24 years.

Please feel welcome to contact me with any questions you might have or further supportive information you might require. I can be reached at the address on this letterhead or via email at s [REDACTED];

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Surendra James Conti

Enclosed: my photo and photo ID





This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 1, 2020

1 [REDACTED]

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs,

I want offer my support for the leniency of sentence, ideally for his release, for Joe Hunt.

From everything I have read and researched Joe has served as a model prisoner and helped many others who have been incarcerated with him.

On a personal level, I am inspired at how he has helped and supported the building of a magnificent temple here at Ananda Village.

I think he would be a valuable member of society on his release.

Yours truly,

[REDACTED]

Marshall Crisman



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 13, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Susan McGinnis, and I am a minister and meditation teacher at Ananda Meditation Retreat in the beautiful foothills outside of Nevada City. We are a part of Ananda, a worldwide community of yoga practitioners that has been in existence for over 50 years.

I first became aware of Joe Hunt from Ananda ministers who have visited him regularly and gotten to know him well over many years. Joe has become a sincere and dedicated practitioner of meditation in a difficult environment, and has gone on to be a mentor to others. His attitude of calmness in the face of injustice is an inspiration to me- and to hundreds of people in our communities worldwide.

Joe has used his time behind bars constructively, acquiring legal training- and using that training to help other inmates. He has been a force for peace in tense prison environments, and helped to found the first men's group in a California prison.

Joe has received letters of recommendation from prison officials recognizing his exemplary character as an inmate: his genuine caring for others, his dedication to truth and inner reform, and his positive influence on those around him.

Joe has had a positive impact on his environment in prison, and I believe he would do the same if he were released. **I know he would be welcomed as part of the Ananda communities, and receive strong community support.**

Joe was incarcerated in his early twenties, and after 35 years of exemplary conduct as an inmate, is now 60 years old and suffering from health issues. **Joe is a rehabilitated, elderly inmate with strong community backing.**

I respectfully ask that you commute his Life-Without-Parole sentence so that he can have a hearing before the parole board.

Thank you for your kind consideration. I can be reached via the below contact information if you need to do so for any reason.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

Susan McGinnis

[Redacted contact information]

[Redacted contact information]



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 8, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs:

My name is Susan Pisor. I am a native Californian, living and working in Napa for the last 20 years. I have been a member of Ananda for 17 years, participating actively in the Sonoma County Center.

For over 17 years I have been inspired, motivated by and grateful to be part of Ananda Sangha. Even though I have not personally met Joe Hunt, I have learned of his story and his exemplary conduct through members of our larger community, whom I hold in highest regard. These community members have stood beside Joe Hunt, and in turn he has shared the gift of divine friendship while behind bars; bringing hope, healing and positive change. A very tangible example of his positive, creative ability is the new temple at Ananda Village, of which his efforts played a large part in making a reality. The temple is exquisite and welcoming to all.

Something has crossed my mind regarding the situation of parole for Joe Hunt. Perhaps the prison system is having difficulty letting him go because of the positive effect and influence he's having. If this notion has any substance, it's surely safe to say he's more than done his fair share. Perhaps make a condition of parole he continues serving the prison system in some way, while having the daily support of living in his spiritual community, which will more than welcome him. A win-win, yes?

Thank you for reading my letter in support of releasing Joe Hunt. I would be happy to answer any further questions, or concerns regarding my statements. I can be reached at [REDACTED] or s [REDACTED]

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]

Susan Pisor



This is in regards to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

Suzanne Ilgun

[REDACTED] 3

August 09, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sir:

My name is Suzanne Ilgun, and I am writing in regards to Joe Hunt, D-61863.

As a way of introduction, I am a retired RN, having been born, raised, and schooled in Santa Barbara, CA. I come from parents who are both rags-to-riches stories produced by honest, hard work, dedication, commitment and determination. I've been raised to always positively contribute to society through giving both financially and through service projects to my community, neighbors, family, friends, and church. As a nurse, working at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital, I worked with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person, whether incarcerated or free. Additionally, I have been a member of Ananda Church of Self-Realization of Nevada County, California for the past 20 years, practicing the principles of honesty, respect, kindness, and compassionate understanding.

Over the years I have heard my close friends, mentors, and ministers share about their personal experiences meeting and/or corresponding with Joe; all of which have been motivational and inspiring to me. I have had the pleasure of volunteering with Joe's sister Katherine for many months in the Crystal Hermitage Boutique as well as attending the same spiritual study group as she.

In all the stories I've heard the attributes that stand out and inspire me about Joe, and I've personally experienced with his sister Katherine, are even-mindedness, cheerfulness, being calmly active and actively calm, facing trials and hardship with equanimity, courage, fortitude, while especially looking for ways to help inspire, serve, and uplift people with no regard for self-benefit. I am motivated and encouraged to perfect these qualities in myself, and to render grateful service to my community, neighborhood, family and friends.

Joe's name has come up frequently over the years through my church as a participant from prison in prayer and fundraising campaigns. The most recent example of this is Joe's dedicated work to help raise over 2 million dollars for the new Temple of Light at Ananda Village, CA; where 1000 people came 1 year ago in 2019 to celebrate and dedicate the new building.

Without Joe's efforts, I doubt that would have been possible. As a free man, Joe would be able to have a greater impact in sharing the lessons he has learned during his incarceration, inspiring others to be good and do good, as well as contributing both financially and through service projects to his community.

As a member of Ananda Church, I join my fellow parishioners in welcoming Joe into the congregation in-person upon his release from prison, to be supported and guided in positively re-integrating into society.

Thank you for your time in reading and considering this letter. Should you wish to contact me with further questions, please see my contact information below.

Sincerely,

A rectangular grey box redacting the signature of Suzanne Ilgun.

Suzanne Ilgun

A rectangular grey box redacting the contact information of Suzanne Ilgun.

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 14, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Sylvia Willekens. I am an *independent researcher and consultant* based in Leopoldsburg Belgium Europe. I have 2 daughters with their husbands and 4 grand children. I believe in God and that our common goal as human beings is to find God. As long as we have not yet found God, we are all prisoners in a way, in the prison of our ego within or without the walls or bars.

At a certain moment in our lives, God calls us actively to accelerate our search for Him. He calls people who have quite a high moral standard. I know this from experience.

I have never met mister Joe Hunt but I know he is trained in a very demanding way to find God. It takes a lot of effort, will power and discipline to follow the education he received. And highly developed inner qualities such as kindness towards all people, intelligence, evenmindedness, calmness and faith.

I follow the same education as mister Hunt at Ananda Worldwide and SRF Los Angeles.

I am familiar with mister Hunt's situation via the people of Ananda Village and through my intuition.

In changing situations in our nations, in the world as we are facing right now, in the US of America, in my small country in Europe, everywhere on Earth we need people like mister Joe Hunt in our society.

Won't you please give him a chance to be considered for release by the parole board? I am certain that the State of California will grow stronger and even more happy with mister Joe Hunt living among the people. I also wish from the bottom of my heart you may meet mister Hunt in person.

Thank you so much for your time in reading this letter. I can be reached at

[REDACTED] 1. You are most welcome to contact me for any reason. May God be with you.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

SYLVIA WILLEKENS

[REDACTED]



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

Tadhg Hennessy


August 8th, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

I am writing this letter in order to add my voice to that of many others who support Joe Hunt's commutation application.

My name is Tadhg Hennessy and I am a monk who lives at Ananda Village, an intentional community of people meditating and serving together. I moved here after living at the Ananda Community near Seattle in order to dedicate my life more fully to the spiritual search in cooperation with my brother monks in a monastery.

I first became acquainted with Joe through the stories I had heard of him from some of my mentors. I cannot remember in what context it was but I remember knowing about his being imprisoned for murder for a crime he did not commit. I was inspired by the fact that he shared the same aspiration of meditating daily as I did. What particularly struck me about his story was that the founder of Ananda and direct disciple of Paramhansa Yogananda, Swami Kriyananda, believed strongly in Joe's innocence and told Joe that he should fight for his freedom.

I trust the opinion of Swami Kriyananda for many reasons. Out of his desire to serve his guru and mankind, he founded nine successful intentional communities with thousands of members and one of these communities has just celebrated its 51st year; he wrote of hundreds of books and over 450 pieces of music; his personal relationship with Paramhansa Yogananda and the detailed lessons he learned through such a relationship as described in many of his books and lectures; but most importantly, the kindness, wisdom, practicality, and humor with which his closest students, and now leaders in Ananda, now live and share with everyone they come across.

It was through such leaders, like Nayaswamis Hriman and Padma, the spiritual directors of Ananda Washington, and Nayaswamis Jyotish and Devi, the spiritual directors of Ananda Worldwide and recent recipients of the United Nations Global ambassadors of Peace award, that I first became acquainted with Joe. All of these mentors and leaders have been serving in such roles for decades and have helped me personally in my life and/or in my spiritual search.

Joe has impacted my spiritual search in a profound way that, perhaps, no one else could have done. With his investment skills, he helped his sister and brother-in-law, Katherine and Michael Olivier, to raise one million dollars to help build the Temple of Light at Ananda Village. The building of this temple is a miraculous story in itself, taking about two years from start to finish with no funds at the beginning. I meditate in this temple most days of the week, now, and, although the choir is temporarily postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, I will also be serving regularly here during the Sunday services.

I believe Joe is fully deserving of a commutation because not only has he conducted himself with generosity toward his fellow human beings outside of prison by helping to raise funds for the Temple of Light but he has also aided in sentence reductions for 16 other prisoners and cofounded the first men's group in a California prison. After being in prison for 36 years and showing such exemplary behavior, he deserves a commutation.

I believe his generosity will continue when he is released, benefiting society even more as he will be more free to serve others through his financial and legal skills.

I know Joe will be welcomed by loving friends if he is released from prison. I know this because I personally have just finished working on the site where a house for him will be built. The work I did was to go through the site with a pole saw, after someone on a masticator cleared most of the brush, to clear any dead, low hanging limbs that were left. This house is being built for him by his sister and her husband, Katherine and Michael Olivier, in their hope that Joe's sentence will be commuted.

Everyone here has so much gratitude and friendship toward him because of his generosity toward us and our sympathy to his situation. We all share the same guru and meditate daily, and that shared relationship and aspiration ties us together as family.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and, should you wish to contact me, I can be reached at : [REDACTED],

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Tadhg Hennessy



In support of Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

8/2/20

Dear Sirs,

As a new resident at Ananda Village in Northern California, I never had the opportunity to meet Joe Hunt. Jairam, as he is known as here, means victory to God. And from the stories I have heard, that name embodies Mr. Hunt's personality. Many of my mentors have told stories about Jairam.

Mr. Hunt while incarcerated was able to raise over one million dollars to help build our new temple, dedicated last year to the unity of all religions. This temple has been an inspiration to me and to many truth seekers.

Mr. Hunt was also instrumental in founding a Men's group in the B Facility of the Sacramento CA State Prison. He has been a positive influence in the lives of many inmates. His dedication to his spiritual practice has been a great support to Joe as well as to others he contacts.

With COVID-19, I am particularly concerned about Jairam's health. Especially now I would love to be able to welcome him back to the safety of our community. His support of this community would be much welcomed.

Thank you,

Tammera Thompson



Handwritten initials



Tammera Thompson

Tara Silicio

From: Tara Silicio
Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 3:41 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re. Joe Hunt, D61863, Governor's Commutation Application

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governors Commutation Application

August 6, 2020

To: Dear Governor Newsom
CC: CC1 Maldonado CDCR

My name is Tara Silicio with Windermere Real Estate in Seattle Washington. I am writing to you on behalf of Joe Hunt. I am writing regarding my support for Joe Hunt's commutation application and would ask you with respect to Joe's case to please consider commuting his sentence. Joe has been a model prisoner for many decades, he is an admirable human being. It was long ago as a young man that he made a mistake and he has paid dearly for that mistake. I have studied and read as much as I can of his case, I have read about his service and inspiration to other fellow inmates. He has been leading a truly inspiring life for himself and others he has mentored. My hope and prayers ask that Joe Hunt can live out the later part of his life with his loved ones and friends and family. As a true act of deep consideration and compassion I ask that you would please consider commuting his sentence. I know He will continue to be a joy, inspiration and continued service to others in the outside community that love and cares about him. I know it's not a decision to be taken lightly by you or the prison system I feel assured you would not regret the decision.

I can be reached at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Thankyou for your consideration of this timely request on behalf of Joe Hunt

Tara Silicio [REDACTED]



A banner for Tara Silicio, a real estate agent with Windermere Real Estate. On the left is a photo of Tara Silicio, a woman with short brown hair, smiling. To her right is her name 'Tara Silicio' in a large, elegant script font. Further right are her contact details: 'cell: 206-799-8853', 'office: 206-527-5250', 'Taras@Windermere.com', and 'www.TaraSellsHomes.com'. On the far right is the Windermere Real Estate logo, which includes a diamond icon and the text 'Windermere REAL ESTATE' and 'Windermere Greenwood'. The background of the banner is a warm, golden-yellow color with a subtle pattern of green ferns on the right side.

León, Spain. August 12, 2020

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, and Governor's Commutation.

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom. Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Teresa Cerdeira, a Yoga Teacher. I am a biologist, and I am involved in spirituality and in sharing the benefits of meditation with others. I write this letter in support of Joseph (Joe) Hunt, whose case came into my knowledge through the spiritual movement Ananda, to which I belong. The leaders of this movement, Joytish and Devi Novak, know personally all about the Case and they have brought me up to date about his life path, which I personally consider of a great inspiration for all.

Joytish and Devi Novak, that informed me about this Case, are people whose moral behaviour is above any suspicion, their purity and integrity are a reference for each one of the members of Ananda Church of Self-Realization. I have not any hint of a doubt about the truth of their words.

I myself have studied at Ananda Church of Self-Realization in Ananda Village, California, in several different periods. There I have known personally so many different people, and all of them are deeply sincere and are renowned for their solidarity towards people in need.

I think that his release would be an example for anyone he would be in touch with him, because of the moral balance he has acquired through the troubles his life made him go through, and I am sure his personal growth shall proceed much faster if he is able to share his experiences to others.

I am sure Joseph Hunt will receive all the support, at all levels, he might need under any circumstances.

Teresa Cerdeira Crespo



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 1, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CCl Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs:

My name is Tom Shott. I'm writing to you on behalf of Joe Hunt. I've known of Joe and his unique story for over 20 years. I am good friends with his direct family and many people who know him directly. I have carefully followed his struggles and efforts to obtain release from prison for many years. I have personally been praying for Joe for over 10 years on a daily basis.

I'm a long time member of the Ananda Community, a spiritual community based on the teachings of yoga and meditation.

Joe has many friends and supporters here and would be well received and looked after. His direct family are members and live in the community, which I'm assuming would be where Joe would go after his release.

During Joe's time in prison he has become a shining example to both other prisoners and staff but also to the outside world. Joe works tirelessly to help others and is a fine man. He has become a radiant spiritual man during his decades in prison, very often helping other prisoners thru their own difficulties. I'm certain he would be a model citizen and would serve absolutely no risk to anyone should he be released. In fact quite the opposite is true, Joe would contribute to the lives of others in deep and meaningful ways.

I welcome any further questions should it be necessary.

I can be reached at [REDACTED].

Thank you for talking a careful look at Joe's case and evaluating it on the actual merits of the situation.

Sincerely, Tom Shott

[REDACTED]



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 12th, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

From what I understand about Joe Hunt's case, it seems like he has served enough time.
Please consider his release. I think he has proved that he is a beneficial. uplifting member of society

Sincerely,

Tripti Verma



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 5, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs:

My name is David Ramsden. I am a minister and teacher and work at The Expanding Light Yoga Retreat Center, where I have served for over 20 years. I previously retired from the United States Navy serving on Aircraft Carriers and Submarines for 20 years. Earning numerous rewards for exemplary service.

I believe Joe Hunt deserves this letter asking for commutation and hope you will act to allow Joe Hunt to be finally free of his long period of incarceration.

Rehabilitation is a goal of California's Prison System. Joe Hunt has shown in many ways that he has been rehabilitated in the ways he has helped our community financially and in expressing these yoga teachings to help others rehabilitation. He has been for many years a model prisoner.

Since his behavior for many years has been exemplary with no hope for parole; there is every reason to believe he will be an asset wherever he resides.

In closing I know that you have been a fair and just Governor. If you take a few minutes to look at Joe Hunt's record; freeing him is the compassionate act of kindness he deserves.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely

David Ramsden



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

Elizabeth Fox

([REDACTED])

August 4th, 2020

To Governor Gavin Newsom

cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Beth Fox and I am writing in support of Joe Hunt's commutation application.

I first heard about Joe from my minister in Portland, Oregon. I was one of those spiritual-but-not-religious types until I hit middle age and was looking for a community of other spiritual seekers. I found that community at Ananda.

I had been attending Sunday Service at the Temple in Beaverton for some time before I heard the story of how Joe, from prison, created a business that raised enough to tithe one million dollars to help build the Temple near Seattle, Washington. I was very impressed by the initiative and generosity. Since then, I have heard other ministers speak highly of Joe, and it is through them that I heard there is a possibility of his release. It sounds like a really good idea to me.

Personally, I would like to meet the man who has stayed so positive and selfless after 35 years in prison. It seems he will have many, many friends who will welcome him back into the community.

Thank you for considering,

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Fox





Ananda

CHURCH OF SELF-REALIZATION of Nevada County

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 2, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Governor Newsom,

I am a minister of the Ananda Church of Self-Realization, serving with my wife as co-manager of the Ananda Community Apartments in Portland for the last 9 years. I have also been a building contractor, licensed in both California and Oregon for over 30 years.

A fair-minded review of the questionable circumstances of Joe Hunt's incarceration, the excessive nature of his sentence and a serious look at the integrity of his more-than exemplary behavior these last 36 years should be ample evidence that justice can only be served by his release.

I have known many of his ardent supporters personally for over forty years and they are among the most discriminating, high-minded people I have ever met.

Please join us in supporting Joe by authorizing his release and setting to rights this grave injustice.

Sincerely,

Dennis M. Johnson

Morano Madonuccia, Italy - July 28th 2020

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom cc: CCI Maldonado, CDCR

We are Alessandra Serra and Marco Scutti, we have lived in the Ananda Community in Assisi Italy for many years now. We are married and are the owners of a health food store. We have worked for many years as Sales Managers and commercial Representatives for various health food companies.

We write to you on behalf of Mr. Joe Hunt. We wish to contribute with our petition to the many that have come to know his inspiring story. It is one of tenacity, high ideals and values, love for life and for his fellow men. We know of testimonials given by inmates who have benefited from his choices and life style, and from his knowledge from having studied law.

We have come to learn that there could be a revision of Mr. Hunt's legal status and would like to add our support to freeing him. We believe he has been a life-changing example for others inside prison, and would continue to be even more so outside prison.

Thank you for your effort in doing good

Best regards

Alessandra Serra



Marco Scutti





This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 14, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom
Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Governor Newsom,

My name is Vineet Desai and I am writing this letter in regards to Joe Hunt, D-61863.

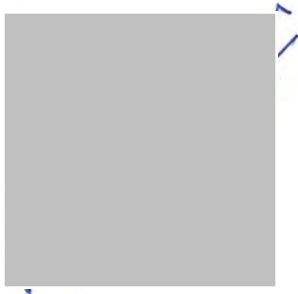
I have heard wonderful things about Joe Hunt, his character, and what a positive soul he is from sources and people who have been really inspiring and have been able to help people around the world in order to bring peace, happiness in their lives and thereby uplifting this world.

I hear that Joe Hunt has served over 35 years in prison. All these years he has proved that he can be a beneficial, uplifting member of the society. I am sure he has learned from the mistakes that he has made in the past.

Everyone should be given an opportunity to live a better life, especially if one is fit and willing to do so. And I believe that learning from our mistakes is the highest way to reform ourselves and our lives, and the society as well.

Requesting you to please consider his release.

Sincerely,



VINEET DESAI.



This is in regards to Joe Hunt D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

Jacquelyn Ramsden

[REDACTED]

August 1, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Jacquelyn Ramsden, and I am a retired Deputy Sheriff from San Diego County. I have experienced working in jails and many years of service as a bailiff in the courts. I want to add my voice to those who are advocating the release of Joe Hunt. Even while behind bars, Joe Hunt has helped and inspired us here at AnandaVillage. We wish to welcome him and allow the last part of his life to be even more filled with the service that is possible when a man is not behind bars.

I believe the time has come for the recognition that the greater good is sometimes served when in a select amount of cases a person who was given life without parole can be released back into society, where they can be a shining light instead of part of a clogged prison system. Joe Hunt has years of sharing his light with fellow prisoners, doing whatever good he can in his current circumstances. Some people need to stay behind bars to keep society safe, but by his actions and life while in prison, Joe Hunt has shown that he will be an asset to our community and in this world.

Now that I am retired from law enforcement, I run the goat dairy at Ananda Village. I hope I will be able to share with Joe Hunt the joy of animals that are well loved and humanely cared for as they help provide our village with food. One of our sayings here is "Simple living, high thinking." It is a wonderful way to live! We hope that Joe Hunt will be able to experience living his truth in the fresh air and light with us, serving more deeply in the last years of his life.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at [REDACTED], or [REDACTED] home and [REDACTED] Yogoata Dairy.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Jacquelyn Ramsden



Regarding Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application

August 11, 2020

To

The Governor Gavin Newsom Cc: CCI Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs,

My name is Virender Parkash, a disciple of Gurudeva Paramhansa Yogananda. This is regarding Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

I am living in India and follow the principles of Ananda Sangha (Ananda Church of Self-realization). Ananda Sangha is based on the spiritual teachings of Gurudeva Paramhansa Yogananda and Swami Kriyananda. Joe Hunt is my Gurubhai, having same Gurudeva (Master).

So far I have never met Joe Hunt personally but my Spiritual Directors, Acharyas (teachers) and Gurubhais, who have met him, pay highest regard to him. My own life is entirely changed by the teachings and guidance of all the Spiritual Directors, Acharyas and Gurubhais of Ananda Sangha. Therefore, I fully trust the integrity of their testimonials of Joe Hunt.

I believe that he was convicted the punishment based on the witnesses. But sometimes, things seen by the naked eyes and listened by the open ears comes out to be untrue. It is learnt that he has spent more than 35 years in prison and his behaviour and attitude is positive towards all whether inside the prison or outside it. The very purpose of jail is to reform and learn from the errors one has made. Knowing the details of Joe Hunt, I am of the firm opinion that he may be of a great help for the society and our Ananda Sangha as he has been internally totally transformed.

Now, I request your honour to kindly consider my application sympathetically and arrange to release Joe Hunt at the earliest.

Love and Regards

[Redacted Signature]

VIRENDER PARKASH



This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, Governor's Commutation Application.

August 5, 2020

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

Dear Sirs:

My name is Victor Veenhof. I have lived at Ananda Village in Northern California for nearly 20 years. For the past 15 years, I have worked in the Nevada City/Grass Valley area as a Hospice Caregiver. I am writing this letter in support of Joe Hunt's commutation from prison.

Even though I have not met Joe Hunt personally, he has been an influence for good in my life through his generosity and selfless service. I first learned of Joe Hunt through Ananda, and through his generous gift to help Ananda build a temple. Since that time, I have learned of many other things he has done, such as providing prisoners with needed legal help and co-founding a men's group in prison.

What has impressed me most, is how Joe Hunt has used his intelligence to help bring change and hope to others. To me, a man of this character can only be a force for good in society. He has done so much from the confines of prison. I have no doubt that he would be an asset to society, should he be released.

I welcome any further correspondence. You can contact me at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].

Sincerely,
Vic Veenhof

[REDACTED]



Assisi, Italy - August.1.2020

This is in regard to Joe Hunt, D-61863, and Governor's Commutation Application.

Dear Governor Gavin Newsom cc: CC1 Maldonado, CDCR

My name is Zandra Mantilla, I am the director of Education for Life Italy, a worldwide educational project. My profession is Clinical Art therapist and I am president of Educare alla Vita Non Profit Association.

I came to know Joe's case through the testimony of others, I learned from friends about his generous capacity that has manifested in these long years. The fact that he has transformed such a difficult situation into an opportunity of growth has always filled my heart with admiration.

I can imagine Governor, that many things have to be taken into consideration. Listening to videos on his case and reading letters of inmates. I feel this man was so young, ambitious and immature, taken by a world of materialistic temptation. It is difficult to know if he is responsible or not for the murders of two men, we do know he has served more than 35 years as if he was guilty. During that time in such place, he has done good, created significant, positive relationships, demonstrating today maturity, good will and many powerful and positive qualities. Very few are saints, but we are all in the process of becoming the best we can be. We learn by making errors, by falling, and standing up again, thereby learning and growing as human beings. This for me is important.

Another consideration may be Joe's future life, I must say that living at Ananda for six years now I can imagine the Community would be a friendly and familiar environment that would embrace Joe's needs and wellbeing. Ananda is a fellowship that embraces the concepts of simple living and high thinking. Joe has already taken many steps that make him an active part of this beautiful reality and from what I know he would want to live at Ananda Village. Interesting to think, how he started out in his twenties and his choice today of being part of such a humble and simple reality, this is for me an evident sign of where this man is today. Joe today has a loving community that can help him go forward in his life making possible this new constructive process.

I support his petition for Commutation of his case because I believe he is a man of strength like many in the world. I believe these 35 years have not been useless but have given Joe a positive direction for his energy. This is precious and by his faith, meditation and the spiritual lifestyle he has chosen to live, this is a fact.

Thank you for your kind attention and important service

Zandra Mantilla //

