

If you contribute make sure you tell us...

1. Exactly how you want to be credited [anonymous? ID number? Chosen name?] ***** **we will only use your government name if you explicitly tell us to do so *******
2. Whether it's OK to say the facility you are/were in
3. Please respect other people's privacy; only make disclosures about yourself.

SUBMISSIONS

RULES & GUIDELINES

You can send us...

- :: Letters responding to this edition
- :: Artwork (black and white)
- :: Commissary recipes
- :: Articles
- :: Poetry
- :: Ideas

Subscribe with us!

If you want our newsletters, then ask to be on our mailing list!

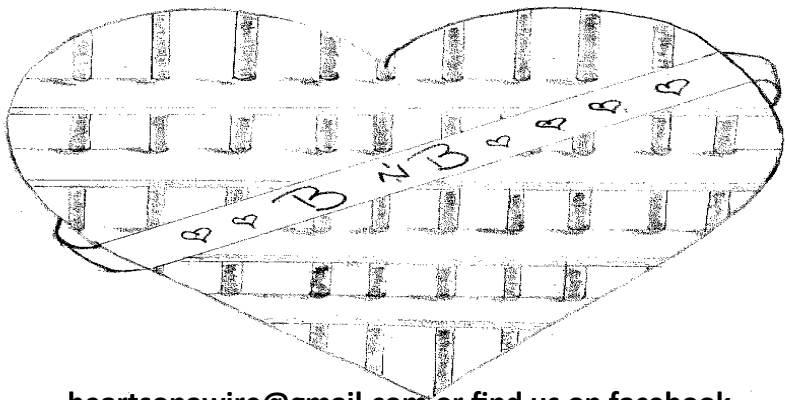
Write to:

Hearts on a Wire

1315 Spruce St

Philadelphia, PA 19107

Subscriptions are **FREE** for incarcerated and detained people.



heartsonawire@gmail.com or find us on facebook

Artwork: Shaylanna

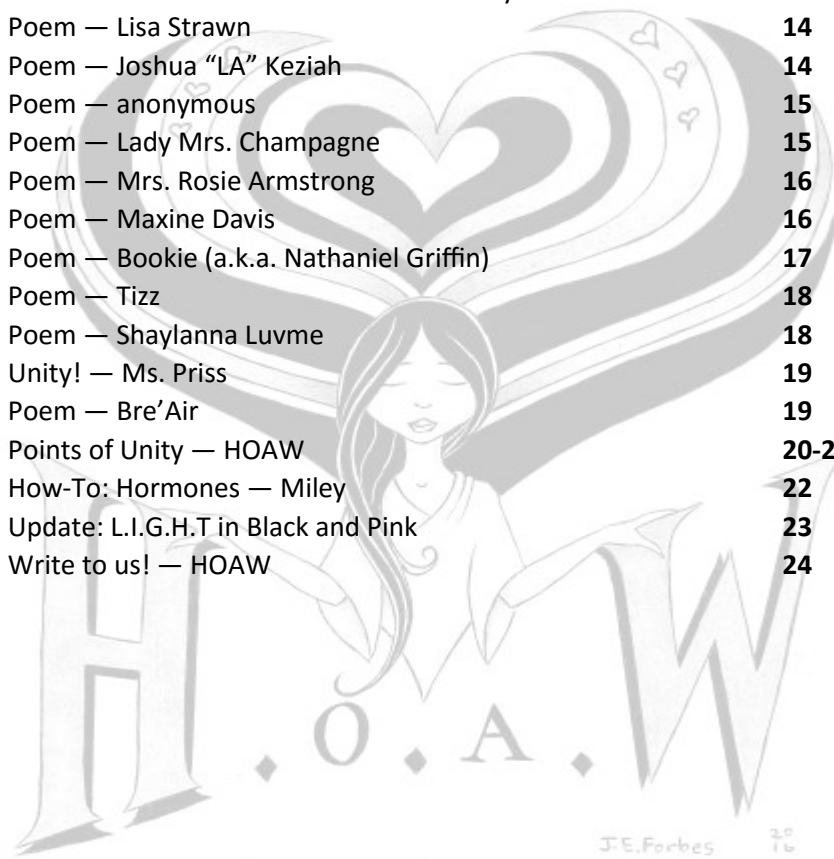
Artwork: Bre'Air

Hearts on a Wire

Issue #18 — Summer 2016

- ♥ support incarcerated and detained trans and gender variant people ♥
- ♥ build community through bars ♥
- ♥ organize for justice ♥

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J.E. Forbes 2016

We are trans and gender variant people, and our allies, building a movement for gender self-determination, racial and economic justice, and an end to the policing and imprisoning of our communities.

We meet in Philly at William Way Center 1315 Spruce Street

Tuesdays at 5:30pm tokens provided

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LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

Dearly beloved queer & trans family,

We are writing with heavy hearts. Since our last newsletter, our communities have experienced devastating losses, from the tragedy in Orlando to the ongoing police violence against black and brown folks, including the recent murders of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling. We have no words that can encompass the pain, rage and grief caused by these terrible actions, particularly when we know these incidents have roots in the systems of racism, homophobia and poverty that threaten the survival of the fearless people who are resisting and fighting back. We would like to share the words of Adrienne Marie Brown, a poet, healer and organizer in the movement for black lives:

"Things are not getting worse, they are getting uncovered. We must hold each other tight and continue to pull back the veil." We are so grateful for all of your love and generosity in sharing your stories and visions, and allowing us to share them with this community. We know that the only way forward is to keep revealing the truth, keep healing and keep building with each other.

Since our last newsletter, we have been busy. We participated in a few workshops and conferences, which are described in this issue. We organized several mailing parties to send letters, art and support. We gave out several Homecoming Grants to folks coming home. We welcomed some new members to our outside collective meetings, and we are preparing to have another strategic planning meeting to work on our vision for the coming year. We would love to hear your thoughts on what you would like Hearts to focus on!

We are sending love to all of you, and hoping that in this darkness, we can help each other see the stars.

In solidarity,
Hearts on a Wire outside collective

We are thrilled to announce that the Learning Initiative for Gay, Hetero and Trans prisoners (LIGHT), based at SCI Rockview, will have an insert in the Black and Pink newsletter every month. To subscribe, please write to:

Black and Pink
614 Columbia Rd
Dorchester, MA 02125

L.I.G.H.T
in
Black & Pink!



HOW-TO: HORMONES IN PRISON

MILEY

Here is the outline of the process I used to go about getting hormones in prison. I never took them on the streets.

1. request slip written to your institution's psychologist explaining that you have gender dysphoria and gender identity disorder. The psych will call you and speak to you.
2. thereafter, the psych will either deny you or grant you. If your request is denied, ask the psychologist if you can be scheduled for therapy. the psychologist might tell you the institution doesn't have a specialist for your request.
3. if you are diagnosed with gender dysphoria, the psychologist will recommend you to the psychiatrist in your institution by per call out.
4. after you have spoken with the psychiatrist you will see the doctor by per call out.
5. once you see the MD you will be scheduled for blood testing. Once the results come back you will be placed on the hormones.

If you are denied any of these processes, immediately file a grievance. There is case law to support your grievance (below). State in your grievance that you are entitled to receive hormones due to your gender identity disorder.

It is also good to involve outside organizations explaining your needs to obtain hormones. Explain the process you used that they denied you. I found the support of HOAW and Black & Plnk (14 Columbia Road, Dorchester MA 02215) and TGIJP (1230 Market Street PMB705, San Francisco, CA 94202) helpful.

I wish you all the best,
Miley Selena
SCI Benner Township

case law that supports this process:

Gammet v. Idaho State Bd. of Corrections, 2007 WL 2186896, 12-17 (D. Idaho July 27, 2007) (explains Process to Obtain Hormones and Psychotherapeutic treatment for Gender Identity Disorder)

Phillips v. Michigan Dept of Corrections, 731 F. Supp. 792 (W.D.Mich. 1990) (explains continuing transgender estrogen treatment)

Yarbaugh v. Roach, 736 F. Supp 318 (N.D.C. 1990) (explains requirement of medical treatment)

BEYOND THE WALLS: PRISON HEALTH SUMMIT

REPORT BACK BY KAT DELANCEY

The Beyond the Walls: Prison Healthcare and Reentry Summit brings together the communities that are affected by the parallel crises of HIV and mass imprisonment. With a focus on community-led responses to the crisis in the criminal justice system, workshops reflect the needs of prisoners and former prisoners and highlight the work being done to improve conditions inside prison walls and in the communities to which prisoners are returning.

Philadelphia FIGHT's Institute for Community Justice plays a big part in making this happen. This year, we were thrilled to be able to show off some of the amazing artwork from the Hearts On A Wire Collective, folks currently and formerly incarcerated.

This year also, four of our collective members from the outside sat on a panel in a workshop titled, Trans Justice: Creating Community Across Walls. The room was jam packed with a few uniformed Philadelphia Police Officers, a bunch of service providers, a social worker from the Curran Fromhold Correctional Facility, a uniformed correctional officer from the Philadelphia Department of Corrections, and a bunch of other folks. This workshop provided an overview of the disproportionate impact of incarceration and policing of trans and gender variant communities in Pennsylvania.

We discussed the challenges that our communities face in Pennsylvania Prisons and institutional barriers to self-determination. In addition, we demonstrated how collaborative work between Hearts on a Wire's inside and outside collectives helps create community for T/GV impacted by incarceration. We discussed the analytical and ethical common ground that holds us together as a group and situates us within the intersecting movements for trans justice and the movement to end mass incarceration. We highlighted our tactics and strategies by discussing several key projects and how they address systemic barriers to safety, health, and well-being for T/GV individuals who are incarcerated or interface with the criminal legal system. Finally, we shared information about the resources created by our inside membership and the processes that we use to distribute that wisdom on a national level.

Two members of the outside collective participated on a

panel Breaking Down the Walls that Divide Us, where we explored methods used to maintain meaningful communication and information-sharing across prison walls, and discussed how building collaborative relationships across prison walls disrupts the separation and isolation created by the prison system and allows for a more powerful, vibrant response to the harmful impact of mass imprisonment on individuals and communities.



HIV IS NOT A CRIME CONFERENCE

REPORT BACK BY ADRIAN

I attended the second HIV is Not a Crime conference in Huntsville, Alabama in May 2016 for my job. There were about 300 people at the conference, all of whom are connected to the issue of HIV criminalization, either as people living with HIV who are impacted by the laws or as advocates.

HIV Criminalization

HIV Criminalization is the use of HIV positive status in a criminal prosecution, either under HIV-specific criminal statutes that apply only to people living with HIV, or under general criminal statutes where charges or punishments are initiated or heightened because of a person's HIV status.

- o We are committed to dismantling all forms of oppression and discrimination.
 - o We actively challenge systems of oppression that manifest within our group, our communities, and the structures and institutions that our organizing work targets.
 - o We envision decriminalization and decarceration as viable and necessary measures to address mass incarceration.
 - o Challenging white supremacy and transphobia is foundational to every aspect of our organizing work.
- o We strive towards a group model of deep democracy.
 - o None of us knows everything, together we know a lot.
- o We believe that the criminal legal system is incapable of administering justice.
 - o The criminal legal system is a form of violence.
 - o We are committed to breaking isolation and building community.
 - o We challenge the belief that prisons and police keep us safer while recognizing and centering the safety needs of our communities.
- o We believe that alternatives to policing and incarceration are possible.
 - o We recognize that some communities have limited options to pursue alternatives to calling the police in times of crisis.
 - o We live in a culture that tells us police and prisons make us safer.
 - o We have seen that police and prisons are violent and harmful, and do not make the majority of people safer.
- o We are all as one a family not just members of an organization. We care about others' news no matter how big or small you may think something is we would like for you to share. We also like updates good or bad to know how much progress has been made or what needs to still be achieved.
- o We are here for each other. We stand united against the struggles we all face every day. We can all make a difference if we join together. You can make a difference. By uniting, we build a stronger impact and strengthen our position.

POINTS OF UNITY

HEARTS ON A WIRE COLLECTIVE

The points of unity tie us together in our beliefs, values, and how we work together. We welcome and encourage your feedback!

(Points of Unity as discussed at the retreat on 2/13/16 with feedback from Maxine, Miley and Mrs. GeGe incorporated July 2016)

- o The primary purpose of our organizing work is to promote the self-determination of transgender and gender variant individuals who are in contact with or are vulnerable to coming into contact with the criminal legal system.
 - o We take leadership from those most impacted and who experience the worst consequences of over policing and mass incarceration.
 - o We do not assume what people need - we ask.
- o Our work aims to elevate and nurture people's humanity.
 - o Taking care of each other is central to our work.
 - o We work from a place of compassion for each other, prioritize the mental health of our members, and continuously work on intentional accessibility.
- o We strive to make our meetings spaces as accessible as possible.
 - o We choose meetings spaces that are physically accessible in terms of location and structure.
 - o We cultivate a meetings space culture that as many people as possible can participate in comfortably.
- o Our meetings are spaces for learning and growth.
 - o We do not believe that isolation solves problems. We support people to take responsibility for their mistakes and work with others in their community to be accountable.
 - o We strive to build trust and are willing to be led by each other.
 - o We take our responsibilities seriously and expect ourselves to be an imperfect community.

Why Care?

Criminalizing sexual behavior based on HIV status exacerbates the stigma and discrimination experienced by people with HIV. Criminalizing HIV conflicts with the current scientific understanding of HIV transmission risks, treating activities that carry negligible risk of HIV transmission as though they were high-risk. It undermines efforts to encourage HIV testing and retain people living with HIV in healthcare, and creates distrust of public health officials and programs.

Nothing About Us Without Us.

HIV criminalization dehumanizes already-marginalized communities that are both disproportionately affected by HIV and disproportionately targeted by the criminal legal system – sex workers, drug users, people of color, transgender women, gay men, and poor people. Criminalizing HIV creates another basis for our arrest and imprisonment, and reinforces stereotypes that define our sexuality as inherently dangerous or predatory.

At this conference, an effort was made to center the voices of people most affected by the issue. For example, one of the keynotes called from a prison in Idaho where he is serving a sentence for sex that would not have been a crime if he was not HIV positive.

My favorites

I went to a workshop by Desiree Alliance, a trans-led sex-worker organization, who presented how the overlapping stigmas in sex work, transgender rights, and HIV policies can be addressed (for those with internet access, their fantastic report can be downloaded or viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/jjbvzmrf>).

Our friends at Positively Trans presented their initial findings from the first ever national needs assessment of trans people living with HIV, and talked about the network of HIV positive trans people they are creating (want more information? write to: Positively Trans, Transgender Law Center, 1629 Telegraph Ave, Suite 400, Oakland, CA 94612).

All in all the conference was a great experience that left me feeling energized about the work we are doing on this issue in Pennsylvania. Please get in touch if you want to get involved!

PULSE NIGHTCLUB — ORLANDO

LOVE AND LIGHT

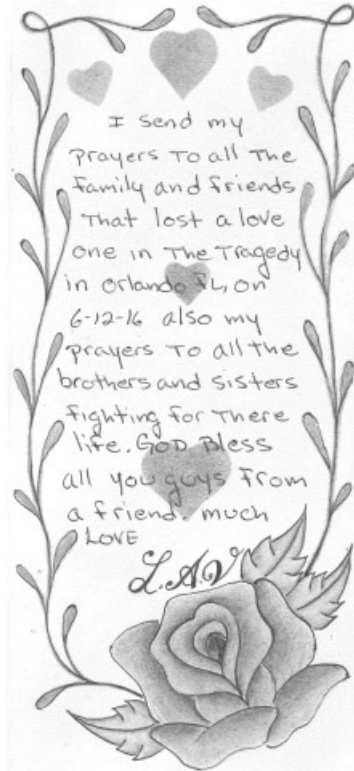
My brothers and sisters my heart goes out to the families and friends of the loved ones that have been lost in the Orlando shooting. R.I.P. I also want to send my condolences to this community we've called family and home. Yes it is sad and terrible that this had to happen. But we need to be strong and stick together in this time of need. Because it is when we are banded together in times such as this one is when we are strongest. The president has my full 100% support for this community and gun safety. Who is with me? It's time to stand and say enough is enough and myself as an American Citizen will not just stand by and "actively" do nothing, that is not a choice. Much love and solidarity to Orlando and my LGBT family.

your sister,
DeDe

My Heart is on A Wire
And Mourning For The Victims
of the Pulse NightClub
Massacre.



Artwork: J.E. Forbes



Artwork: Luis A Vega

UNITY!

MS. PRISS

UNITY!

THE WORLD ALREADY LOOKS DOWN ON US AS IF WE'RE NOTHING, BEATS US AND EVEN KILLS US. SO IT SHOULD BE UNTHINKABLE TO HELP THEM.

I grieve immediately whenever I see division within the LGBTQ community... let's celebrate each other's diversities... we must come together so we can unify our love by caring for one another... Start with planting positive seeds cause chile, they do grow... help turn that shade into sunshine.

- Ms. Priss,
SCI Houtzdale

LOVE LOCKED DOWN

BRE'AIR

There's no place
No space
No time
or gates
Than could keep
my love away.
No judge
no C/O
or anyone
That could lock
my love away.
We will overcome
the trials
that's been put in place.
Our hearts are one,
That nobody can take.
WE walk as one
through time
and space

We are two hearts
with one beat,
that any blind man
can see
Our love is strong
and in place
Our love speaks
for itself
That our hearts
can't be touch.
Not by anyone
You're my one
and only.
And that's a fact
My hearts is yours,
and yours is mine.
I will love you
until the end of time.
Always and forever.

LOVE & RAINY DAYS

TIZZ

Love with powers
You have smashed
Through the walls
Of death so that we
Might live with you
forever...

So great a gift
We cannot fully
Understand, but we
pray
That someday we
might
Share the fullness
Of that word in our
hearts...

But one day I hope
As one we can
Show each other
How to love the right
way...

And not call the right
Words can be spoken
On love, but all the
Right actions can
show love...

Now before you tell
Someone you love
them
Look in the mirror
And tell that person
You love him to
Cause that's the real
love
That matters..

Rainy Days are
The saddest days...

So we do thing just
to vent.
And say things that
we never really
meant...

But when the sun
comes
Back out things go
back to the same.

But when those
certain people
Come around things
are never the
same...

So we try to avoid
certain
People that would
remind
Us of those "rainy
days"

SHAYLANNA LUVME

TELL ME WHY

Tell me why you cry
And I will give you a reason to laugh
Tell me why you hurt
And I will give you a hug that'll ease
your pain
Tell me why you hide
And I'll show you a bright light
Tell me why you are ugly
And I'll prove you wrong
Tell me why being gay or trans is
wrong
And I'll show you why it's right
Tell me why you don't have a family
And I'll show you your family
Tell me why you can't be who you
want to be
And I'll show you how to be the
real you
If you tell me why, so will I

By: Shaylanna Luvme aka Queen D.I.X.I

PULSE NIGHTCLUB — ORLANDO

LOVE AND LIGHT

I don't know why there is so much hate, when people are being who they want to be and doing what they want to do. it's very sad that you can't go out and have a good time with friends or your significant other without something happening to you or the people around you. please everyone take care and keep doing what you're doing, don't stop being who you are, what's when those who are trying to stop us win.

get it together all y'all, it's a war out there, take care of one another in jail and on the streets. Look after one another, help those who needs help and assistance, stand tall and fight beside one another and stop choosing friends when we are all in this together.

Andre
Lorenzano



Boricua
Love T.M.



MADE IN U.S.A PRISON
WITH LOVE

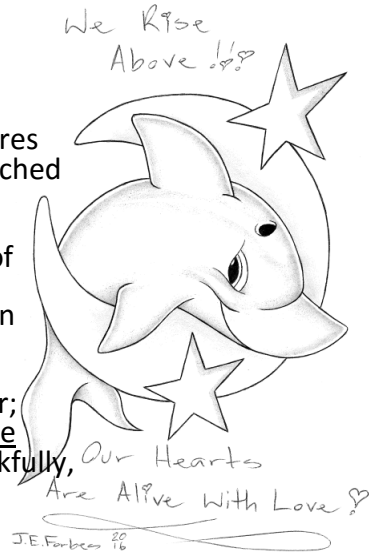


RISING ABOVE & LABOR OF LIVE

J.E. FORBES

I am a person, and yet there is still so much about myself and the world that I do not understand. I'm searching to find and fit together scrambled parts of me, buried treasures in the sand. Flowing through this pinched intersection of temporal demand for building and collapse, to and fro', up and down to the oscillating rhythm of vibrant accumulation.

A person I am, the constitution of both the masculine and feminine, and yet there is so much more to so magnificent a solution than gender; for, sex in and of itself does not define us, it does not tell who we are. Thankfully, we are so much more.



You Validate you !!
There is freedom in truth, and the truth is



There is none more wealthy than an individual who's secured a Labor of Love in which to engage, busily, committedly performing it. There highest form of human expression of desire is labor. It is the connection between demand and supply of all human needs, the precursor of all human progress, the mechanism by which imagination is provided wing of action. Labors of love, all of them, are purely beautiful because they bring the delight of self-expression.

Artwork: J.E. Forbes

UNTITLED & BEAUTIFUL

BOOKIE (NATHANIEL GRIFFIN) @ SCI COAL TOWNSHIP

To all to hear just sit down to read
So many things happen with time
agreed.
Some feel pain and anguish inside
Others want to give up some want to die.
But when times get ruff you can't give up
The more you persevere the better it becomes
To make it through the struggle that you go through
It takes time to be humble and know thats true
A day at a time the pain shall ease
Then pain will cease
That's when happiness becomes free
to take its place down in your heart
No more pain but thats just the start
When you take each step others will see
The one who was sad ain't sad their free.
Then happiness will reflect on all who will see
Then just say you know what I'M HAPPY TO BE ME

Beautiful

(To my dearest and one and I admire
can't wait to get to know you my
Melanie)

As I stand at my door
Watching TV from my cell
I see your face
So much beauty
You seem so frail
You seem so shy
But don't be afraid
Just be you.

I'll love you anyway
When you look over to me
My heart skips a beat
I've never felt this way
The feeling new to me.
Let me get to know you
And you to know me
I'll treat you right.
Just like a queen.
No lies from me
The truth it is deep
So look me in my eyes,
And tell me what you see.
Because when I look at you
I see beauty and peace.

I would love for you to be with me.



Artwork: Andre

DESTINY

MRS. ROSIE ARMSTRONG @ SMITHFIELD

Your words, your dreams, and your thoughts have power to create conditions in your life.

What you speak about, you can bring about.

If you keep saying you can't stand your job, you might lose your job. If you keep saying you can't stand your body, your body can become sick.

If you keep saying you can't stand your car, your car could be stolen or just stop operating.

If you keep saying you're broke, guess what? You'll always be broke.

If you keep saying you can't trust a man or trust a woman, you will always find someone in your life to hurt and betray you.

If you keep saying you can't find a job, you will remain unemployed.

If you keep saying you can't find someone to love you or believe in you, your very thought will attract more experiences to confirm your

beliefs.

If you keep talking about a divorce or break up in a relationship, then you might end up with it.

Turn your thoughts and conversations around to be more positive and power packed with faith, Hope, love and action.

Don't be afraid to believe that you can have what you want and deserve. Watch your Thoughts, they become words.

Watch your words, they become actions.

Watch your actions, they become habits.

Watch your habits, they become character.

Watch your character, for it becomes your Destiny.

The minute you settle for less than you deserve, you get even less than you settle.

p.s. (I Love You Sa'fooh)

Why should we settle for less when we've done it for too long and should have the best
Why should we keep being rejected when we should keep demanding to be respected
Why should we feel like this is a curse
Why should many commit suicide or worse
So each day brothers & sisters we should stand with our significant other with our individual plan.

By: Maxine
Would like these to be in the next news letter
MG-0572 Maxine Davis @ SCI - Camp Hill



MIRROR

MAXINE

Look into the mirror and what do you see
I see someone who is beautiful and yup, it's me.
And regardless what others see
I can see potential in what I could possibly be
Regardless of my fears
My vision is clear
So no matter what others see
I see a totally beautiful individual in me
So what I look into the mirror to see
Helps me to strive to be all I can be

PIECE OF HEAVEN

CHIMERA

(Dedicated to my Everything, my Pennie, my Mrs. Pennie Christie)

I use to be filled with beyond extreme pure evil, Having ruthless and malignance for God up above,
Until I met a special transgender black woman, Who must be an Angel sent to only me with love.
For in 7 days we found that we were true soulmates, Falling so deep in love that we had claimed each other.
Performing a sacred ritual marriage under God's eyes, Becoming Life mates, something stronger than a child loving their mother.
It's a Psychotic and Passionate love FOREVER, I'm so beyond extremely overjoyed that you're All and ONLY mine for all time!
I'm beyond extremely in love with ONLY you, Pennie, I can't wait until your last name legally changes to mine.
We reciprocate each other's unconditional love and unquestionable loyalty, Something I've yearned for since I was only 11.
Being a gender nonconforming creature nuts-crazy for, about and over you,
I truly and honestly, believe I've got a piece of heaven !!

J
I love you, my Pennie, ALL MINE ONLY!



MY ONE AND ONLY

JEFFERY LOPERGOLO

Baby girl, before you I knew a life full of neglect. you brought me from darkness and opened my eyes & heart and gave me peace & love.

everything about you is Amazing and lovable. your eyes that sparkle when your happy, your lips that are too soft and delicate, your body that makes you look as if you were sent to me from the gods.

I don't mind going through your hormonal episodes because I know that in the end your love for me is fiercely strong and it continually grows.

I am proud to be able to call you Mrs. Lopergolo

EXCERPTS AND SHOUT-OUTS...

LETTERS AND LOVE XXXO

Don't care what people say because we know who we are and what we can do. All we care about is ours and demand respect from everybody. So what I am trying to say is be yourself. Take that mask off. Be yourself and not what people want you to be cause when that happens they run your life.

Love your brother, Reginald

Hello Fam... writing to wish all of my extended Hearts on a Wire family blessed cheers... remember those who has gone before us... never sell [yourselves] short & to always always be there for one another. Because united we stand... The Trans Community has come a long way... Ms. Major, Janet Mock, Laverne Cox, & CeCe McDonald. The Trans women who has shaped history... I... will always Embrace, Support and Encourage Other Trans ladies to always be true to themselves and that also Hearts on a wire shines within all of us

Love The Lady Ms Champagne, your girl The Grand Empress

Let everybody know in the LGBT family that I love y'all and stand firm for what we accomplish today... what we do now, will resort to what will be done in the future... and the LGBT family that comes after us. I send my love to Hearts on a Wire and the LGBT family.

Your boy, Fox aka MC Two Star

I think people who worry/hate us as a collective are major freak-Os (but not the awesome kind like me). They should worry about more important things like... is a zebra a black animal with white stripes or a white animal with black stripes?

Katalina Blacktree

I just wanted to....recognize somebody special. I first laid these eyes on you at Fayette and had jaw dropping effect...I...took a gamble with my heart. In return you gave me you, a loving family and a reason to live I'm safe in your arms...we experience so much in a great amount of time who can stop us? I love you and in love with you...I'm here and will always be here for you forget how everybody else view...To my wife and Retreat hold your head boo papi is on his way home.

Dark and Handsome

Miss Ceci: Baby you were such a warm, tender, caring, joyful person... You touched my heart... WRITE ME!

My husband: I love you daddy. You're a sexy ass piece... hope we wed soon... 3 years and still going!

Bre'Air: I love you Boo.

SJ: my little sister. I love you and I have your back.

Alicia: I miss you mommy!! It's your son from the county. The white queen. I was your celly. I love you!!

Love, Lady Mariah @ Forest

(Unknown)

I'm a Man of many words, and Ideas.
But my tongue weighs Heavy.
My mind Races, like waves Hitting the shorebed.
My eyelids Are thin like the Rims of
a Paper Plates, sadly Heavy with Burdens that enable me
To see things Right in front of me.
My Heart Races fast!
Not of joy, not of happiness, but of Fear, and
Sadness. Because my Peers will Judge me and Not God! And my
ears will Here
the melody of soft music to Reassure me that,
Not only am I a Black man, but a Man of God.
And a Child of Christ, and the Victory Belongs to the
faithful ones at Heart. And Yet the (Unknown) seems to
Unveils its self everyday.
(Amen).

EVIL EYE

LADY MS. CHAMPAGNE THE GRAND EMPRESS

This poem was inspired from the harsh abuse and assaults while in prison at the hands of mean hearted peoples because of being a transgender woman of color. I hope that through my story and poem that awareness be raised to support any trans person that has faced what I had to face. So I dedicate this poem to every women who knows what it feels like to be abused, ill treated, and mistreated.

You look at me with hate in your eyes
you outcast me and then told me fruitless lies,
you misled me to walk down a long and endless road,
you played on my intelligence because you thought that I was
slow
share my best kept secrets instead you went and told
what happen to a hand that
would help me to be the best in
life,
the only thing that you were
set out to do was bring me
unhappiness and strife,
when I needed help I couldn't
depend on you
now I am broke and helpless
and feeling like a food
digging up dirt was your game
plan to ruin my pride
the evil eye surrounds me
where can I hide,
you would rather see me doing
bad than to see me doing good
the evil eye awaits us all I hope
you understood



Artwork: Jedi Master Jaina

Artwork: Jedi Master Jaina

YOU CAN'T BULLY ME

LISA STRAWN

Why do you bully me? Is it because I'm smart, funny, or because I have red hair. Is it because I love everyone, and you are filled with hate. Why do you bully me? Maybe because I'm transgender. I didn't give you the right to physically, mentally, and sexually assault me. You think you won. But you didn't. What you did to me made me try harder each day to not be the victim, but to be strong and structured. By you being my bully, the time you laughed, whispered, pointed at me and called me hurtful names, made me see that you were a lost person. What you've done hasn't made me angry at the world. You helped me to be the most wonderful, kind, respectful woman that I need to be. So while you bullied me and some may do, you are the very reason I will never be you. For you are very sad and alone in your life. So for anyone that has ever been bullied and for the 21 transgenders murdered last year and the 18 reported transgender suicides in the U.S., this is for you. I will live and die knowing that the bully never wins. You will live your life filled with hate and never know that the live you've take from this Earth were precious. And I won't be your victim. I never was. Because those who have been bullied and are not here, live and breathe inside of me. So the transgender who is smart, funny, and has red hair will always be a winner. Because you can't bully me.

SORRY PT .1

JOSHUA "LA" KEZIAH

Sorry,
Because that night I could've
had sex with you.
Instead,
I was Riding with the Next an,
Got Arrested Too.
Left you in the blue,
Next days headlines had you
writing too.
Scary Thoughts.
All I had to do was put the car
in park.

I was only second away,
From regaining my family.
An all you knew,
Was Daddy was coming to get
you.
Yet hours ticked away,
Your heart started to struggle,
Filled with pain,
Because of all the things we
Missed,
An were about to regain.

...FROM THE MAIL

OXXOX LETTERS AND LOVE

I enjoyed the LIGHT newsletter. It's very interesting and I love it. Very different, and its much inspiration plus lots of information... My BFF... is getting out... I... told her to stop in... You will all love her. She's GR8!... I can't wait to see the newsletter from Hearts on a Wire... Keep sweet. I love all of you.

Miley

Hello- my name is Brad. I'm a twenty six year old trans-male. I'm currently serving an eight year sentence in the Virginia Correctional Center for Women. I'm the first transgender male to receive hormone therapy while in the VA Department of Corrections. So with that being said I would love to be a part of the community you've started. It seems that most of your members are "Queens" but hopefully you could add a "King".

Take care, Brad

This is not only my personal belief... It's from 2nd Corinthians page 88, the title is "New Bodies"... It might be true or it might not be true... believe at your own risk Chapter 5, verses 1-10:

For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is when we die and leave this earthly body) we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. We grow weary in our present bodies and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing.... God himself has prepared us for this and as a guarantee he has given us his holy spirit. When we go to heaven, we will no longer be in any pain, we will not suffer, and we will not cry... God will have to give us the bodies that match our gender that we truly are/need to be and will make us the happiest. I hope that this helps my sisters and brothers.

Love your sister, Jaina Yukari Sakura @ SCI Rock View

to Miley Selena Grow: The Climb is my jam... she talks about overcoming her roadblocks. "There's always gunna be an uphill battle." Also I know what you mean by a "real man"... I have one :) There's nothing he wouldn't do to ensure my happiness. Like the other day my back was killing... he gave me a massage right there in the yard. usually he wouldn't have done that... whole PDA thing... I love him and he loves me... I don't know why you would title your memoir Code of Silence but I'm sure you have your reasons. My title would be The Boy Who Wore Heels.

Shaylanna Luvme

Before I go I just wanted to give a special shoutout to Maxine "MG0572" to say thanx for introducing me to HOAW. Also I miss you girl! You kept me laughing in a very miserable situation! That being said, stay safe and keep your heads up family! Your stories, thoughts, and poetry inspire me more than you'll ever know.

John MH3860 SCI-Camp Hill

EXCERPTS AND SHOUT-OUTS...

LETTERS AND LOVE OXOXO

Dear Hearts,

I'm very pleased to announce that on February 2, 2016 I was transferred from SCI Benner to SCI Muncy. Muncy is one of two female facilities in PA and I am the first pre-op trans woman to live here on campus, which is incredibly exciting but I don't always like the attention I'm given because I'm the first. For the most part... I've been well-received. The superintendent, Deputy Warden CCPM have been both supportive and responsive when issues have arisen. Staff has been respectful... with the exception of one CO who felt... that he was right to call me Mr. Reilly. The incident was promptly addressed by administration.

Several staff have admitted to me that I'm a very hot topic amongst staff because of my situation. This may sound flattering to some... however on the outside I live "quasi-stealth" which means I don't disclose... unless I have to... being "outed" violates my privacy, since gender dysphoria is indeed a medical condition. I'm currently working with administration to put in place a policy prohibiting disclosure of private information of inmates. After all, medical records are NOT public records, like criminal records are. People will never stop gossip but it's important to make the effort regardless.

As for some basics of housing etc:

- I still retain single cell status, reviewed in 6 months
- Single person showers with full door, ceiling to floor
- Strip and pat searches are done by female officers ONLY
- Commissary, same w/ addition of 2 or 3 shoe styles, yarn for knitting, and access to feminine hygiene products
- Officers call me Mrs. Reilly or just Reilly--like they do everyone
- The inmates are much more gender-variant/gender-diverse
- General attitude toward same-gender relationships is infinitely more open (affection isn't allowed though :))
- People actually sit with me at meals
- I don't hear "faggot" all the time anymore
- So far, no one has thrown anything at me
- I finally feel physically safe and relate to my peers much better
- No hair length restrictions
- Feel free to ask specifics!

Make no mistakes-while this has been a huge victory, "the fight" for me is far from over... I intend to continue to push to make things better for our community, and will write to update you...to anyone who may want to write--I welcome your letters!

Keep fighting the good fight, if you give up, the haters win!

Namaste, Kelli Reilly
OX7677 / SCI Muncy / PO Box 180 / Muncy, PA 17756

...FROM THE MAIL

OXOXO LETTERS AND LOVE

Possible Transfer of Transgender People to Prisons Matching Their Identity

Are you a transgender person currently incarcerated in the Federal Bureau of Prisons? Are you interested in getting moved to the gendered prison that matches your identity (for example, if you're a transgender woman, do you want to be moved to a women's prison)? The BOP claims that they are moving some transgender people to prisons that match their gender identity, we have never heard of any examples of this. We are working with a team of people trying to advocate for specific individuals to be transferred. We cannot promise anyone will get moved, but we do want to collect information from people who might want to be moved. If you are one of these people, please send us the following information:
Name, number, address, sentence length (including likely release date), any history with disciplinary tickets, current classification level (if you know it), whether or not you have been diagnosed with gender dysphoria or gender identity disorder, what types of gender affirming recognition you already have from the BOP (such as if they allow you to get gender appropriate underwear, medical care, etc.), and any other information you think would be important to know.

**Please send this information to:
Black and Pink – Federal Housing
614 Columbia Rd.,
Dorchester, MA 02125**

(submitted by hoaw member: Jaina)

Dear Kings and Queens,
We as a team need to recognize that the fight is not over. So I know many of us wish to have our "z" codes removed and/or have our own blocks (housing unity). I would like for us to bring in a class action... We are not... legally bound to be "z" coded and/or placed in RHU due to someone's ignorance... join me in this struggle if not for us then for the next family member who will suffer... many of us are capable and able to live with someone of our liking, just as anyone else...

In loving solidarity
Charles "Smook" Brown

SRTU program at SCI Rockview... I was supposedly reduced from a phase 2 to a phase 1... told... that because I am a transgender female I am staying in this SRTU program forever... The group sign in [and] my "Incentive Sheet" says phase 2... told that my "Z-code paperwork was lost" ... avoid me when I ask about... going to general pop... the MRT people have/are lying to me... a lot of the BS your sister... is going through here... stay away from this program. I would never want one of my sisters to suffer.

Love you all, Jaina Yukari Sakura.

May gender equality one day come about and remain forever and ever.