

Hearts on a Wire

Issue 12

spring 2014



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* support incarcerated and detained trans and gender variant people *

* build community through bars *

* organize for justice *

Hearts On A Wire

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

We meet in Philly at:
William Way Center
1315 Spruce Street

Tuesdays at 5:30pm

tokens provided
heartsonawire@gmail.com



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Letter from the Outside Collective

Dear Hearts on a Wire Community:

We are so pleased to bring you this newsletter. You haven't heard from us in some time and we hope you are doing well. The Outside Collective has been having some challenges as several regular members have had to focus on other parts of our lives and have not been able to fully participate in the collective's efforts.

We are excited to announce the upcoming publication of a new anthology *Trans Bodies/Trans Selves*. Several inside and outside members collaborated to write a chapter about creating solidarity.

The outside collective sees part of our work as creating visibility around the intersection of trans* issues and the criminal (in)justice system. We try to bring prison/policing issues to conversations about trans issues, and trans issues to conversations about prisons/police. In February, several of our younger members raised prison/police issues at the Youth in Action conference, this year dedicated to "Igniting a Pennsylvania Youth Movement for Trans* Justice and Freedom." Some of us will once again be participating with our banner in the Philadelphia LGBT Pride Parade in June. Many of us will bring trans* issues to the table at the Prison Health Summit. We will again be tabling at the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference, this year with the Philadelphia Survivor Support Network (a group that works to address the harm caused by sexual violence without involving the criminal-legal system). As we attend and participate in all these things, we want you to know that you - those of you on the inside - are always our top priority.

Hearts was awarded some funding to make small, one-time grants to trans and gender variant folks from our inside community returning to the outside after incarceration in Pennsylvania. We haven't worked out the details about how we're going to administer this program yet, but please get in touch if you are expecting to come home soon.

In loving solidarity,

Hearts on a Wire Outside Collective

Miss Jaci Adams Transitions from Elder to Ancestor



Jaci Adams, who overcame childhood abuse and drug addiction to become an inspiring leader in Philadelphia's LGBT community, died on Saturday, February 15, after a struggle with cancer. Miss Jaci helped shape Hearts on a Wire, and was a friend and mentor to many in the organization, on the inside and on the outside.

Miss Jaci rose above the trauma and chaos of her early life to become one of the city's most tireless advocates for trans people and on HIV and AIDS issues.

Jaci served on many boards and commissions, but was perhaps most loved for her willingness to share her story in personal, one-on-one conversations. Whether offering support to a young trans woman or counseling a person with HIV, she offered hope to those who thought there was none.

Born in Beckley, West Virginia, Jaci moved with her family to Philadelphia when she was a child. After her mother left the family, "there was no laughter in our house," Jaci told the Philadelphia Gay News in an interview last year. But there was horrible abuse. At age nine she fled the house in search of safety, she often related when telling her life story. The streets of Philadelphia offered no sanctuary and she was soon consumed by a life of prostitution, drug abuse and crime while searching for an identity.

Jaci said she slowly began to rebuild her life after being sent to prison, where she earned her GED.

Diagnosed with AIDS in 1983, Jaci had done some HIV work, such as distributing condoms. But it was the death of transgender woman Nizah Morris in 2001 that propelled her into activism. Reflecting on the aftermath of Nizah's death, Jaci told PGN, "I had an 'aha' moment and decided that instead of being angry, maybe a career criminal like me could use that familiarity with the cops to slither in and become part of the solution."

. . . Miss Jaci Adams continued from previous page

She eventually became the longest serving member of the Philadelphia Police Liaison Committee. She also served on the planning committee for the Morris Home, named for Nizah, which provides holistic, comprehensive services for transgender and gender-variant individuals. Jaci served as a member of the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference Planning Committee. She was a founding member of the Temple University Community Advisory Board and founded the Trans People with Hope Conference in 2004. She acted as an advisor to the City of Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs, served on the board of the LGBT Elder Initiative and the board of The God Environment and volunteered with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Youth Aid Panel and the Delaware Valley Legacy Fund. In November POZ Magazine named Jaci to its list of 100 Unsung Heroes.

Last year, Philly Pride Presents gave her the first OutProud Transgender Award, which will be renamed in her honor. At OutFest in October, Jaci was clearly in ill health and needed help on stage to accept the award. She ended her last public speech with the following words: "It's not what they call you, it's what you answer to."

Several hundred people filled the sanctuary of St. Luke and the Epiphany in Philadelphia on Friday, March 21 to say farewell to Jaci. At the first mention of her name, the crowd rose in a joyful and prolonged standing ovation. Miss Jaci, you will be as powerful an ancestor as you have been an elder.



RIP Christian Sheehy

It is with heavy hearts that we inform you of another loss in our community. Hearts on a Wire collective member Christian Sheehy died in early April, 2014, shortly before his 26th birthday. He is survived by his daughter and many, many friends.

Christian's death is a sobering reminder that so much work for basic inclusion and dignity remains to be done. No one should have to fight for a place at the table, and not everyone can.



Christian Sheehy,



Life of a Queer by Miss Janel

To Be Understood Markita @ SCI Fayette

Through these years of trials + tribulations, I have found wisdom + gained understanding.

For its virtue is of royalty + patience, and never once is it ever demanding. Knowledge comes to those who seek, traveling the world for its uttermost importance.

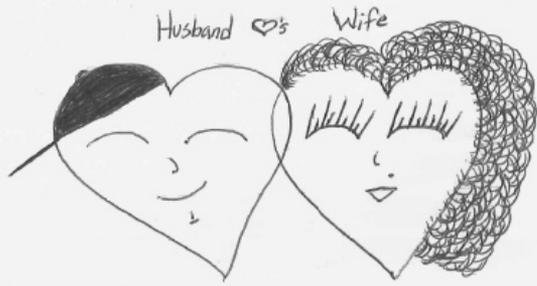
Satisfying the soul is a must, and embracing hardship no matter the distance.

Sincere are my words if they fall on receptive ears, for my eloquent linguistics soothes the soul.

My life would move your heart, but to be understood, is my true goal.

(I'll Always Wait)
Mrs. Rosie V. Sanders

Written with a pen
Sealed with a kiss
If you love me, then answer
this.
Tell me now and tell me true
So I can tell you I love you
too .
If I die before you do
I will go to heaven and wait
for you.
If you're not there on
judgment day
I'll know you went the other
way.
Just to prove my love is true
I'll give the angels back their
wings.
I'll risk the loss of everything.
I'll spend my eternity in Hell
To be with you.
(I Love you, with all life and
strength in me)
(Love you Babybutt)



for Tyree by Rosie

Fighting Transfer by Miley

Miley wrote to Hearts asking us to publish her story and get it out to other organizations in an effort to stop her transfer. Since she submitted this piece, she was transferred away from the SCI where she was. Nonetheless her story should be told.

I am in a restricted housing unit on administrative custody for over six months due to my gender and race. Being the only white transgender person in SCI XXX, the Institution's security office and

administration show a custom of "if you're white you should not be that way. If you are we do not want you in our institution. You're a disgrace to our (white) race."

I am a victim of systematic, long-term sexual harassment. I was threatened to be transferred if I did not give in to the demand of being a male inmate in this institution. I am not wanted in population here because the COs do not like inmates chasing me around and they see me as a distraction to their population. I am told either to act like a male inmate or I will not be placed in this institution's population anymore and I would be transferred.

It is about sexual harassment, sexual discrimination not letting me stay in population due to my Gender Identity Disorder. I was placed on Administrative Custody under DC ADM 802-IA1 "Request for AC Confinement: the inmate is in danger by/from persons in the facility and cannot be protected by alternate measures."

To the present date I am still on AC lockup awaiting a transfer. I do not want a transfer. I never have requested nor asked to be on AC confinement, I do not fear for my life in this institution. I have asked numerous times to be let back out in population but the administration will not grant it. This is all a ploy to have me transferred because they do not want a transgender white inmate in their population. The percentage of minority workers at SCI XXX is very very low.

6 It is determined that I will be transferred out of SCI XXX. I am female! I am a woman! And I want to stay at SCI XXX!

Fear of Being a Fool

Thomas
@SCI Smithfield

I once proclaimed
to fear no man
But I've learned that
declaration was untrue
You are honestly my
dream

Still I fear being made
to look like your fool

I've lost a few rounds
And I know that
you have too

This time we may
have it right
Only time will tell us if
we do

A lot of this is new to
us both Clearly for
different reasons
But I promise
to give you my all
Though we both must
deal with our past
demons

I always tell you I love
you
And that's 100% true
I just hope I won't end
up
Being made to look
like your fool

The sun will rise
the sun will set
But I will never forget
the day we met
(9/29/12)

Every time I go by the
place

It brings a smile to my
face
For I am reminded of
your elegance and
grace,

And I want you to
know that to this day,
Thoughts of you still
make my heart race!

Soulmate and Best Friend

Pretty Boi Mecca @ SCI Fayette

Throughout life, you will meet one person who is unlike any other. You could talk to this person for hours and never get bored. You can tell them things and they won't judge you. This person is your soulmate, your best friend; don't ever let them go!

The best relationship is when your lover is also your best friend and you can be yourself with them, and they still love you for who you are!

Find someone who isn't afraid to admit that they miss you, someone who knows that you're not perfect, but treats you as if you are, someone whose biggest fear is losing you, one who gives you their heart completely, someone who says I love you and means it!

The best place in the world is in the arms of someone you love. Who will not only hold you at your best, but will pick you up and hold you tight in your weakest moments!

Opposite Love J.A.M. @ Forest

Loving my man hurts at times, but loving my brown sugar is safe at times. And, our love can be what we want it to be.

Loving my brown sugar is what I love. Loving his body is what I desire, Loving his mind is what I need, Loving his heart is what I love.

Me and my brown sugar laying naked in sweat is a beautiful sight.

Our love is a sexual delight, it's unbreakable. Our love is a good fuck all night, its a hug, a kiss and a simple hello.

Our love is different to some, being man and man, but more so he's brown and I'm white. But I don't care he's mine and I'm his, our love is cute, warm and heartfelt and I don't care what others think.

Love is love, and this is my story of the love I possess for my caramel colored man. This is love.



by J.A.M.

Philadelphia Prison System Non-Updates Transgender Policy

Jordan Gwendolyn Davis

The news that Harris County, Texas (of all places) passed an LGBT policy for their prison system which includes non-harassment, affirmation of identity through names and pronouns, and even allows for trans people to be placed in gender appropriate housing regardless of surgical status gave me some inspiration. As someone who has been part of so much legislative and policy work concerning the trans community in this city, I feel I would be remiss if I did not address the issues surrounding the Philadelphia Prison System.

In November, I emailed Commissioner Louis Giorla about reforming PPS policies to match those of Harris County. I then got an email from a flack within the prison system stating that they do have a transgender policy, but when pressed, they said they would not give it out. I was in contact with Leon King, the former prison commissioner and an ally to the transgender community who supported allowing transgender inmates to be able to be housed based on their gender identity, and he told me to seek a Right-To-Know request.

Marriage

Carley

Is having someone to share
your dreams with,

Someone to live your life with,

Someone to walk and talk with
through the years...

Someone you can turn to,

Someone you can run to,

Someone so close you taste
each other's tears...

Someone who'll stand beside
you,

Someone whose hand will
guide you through good or bad
times, happiness or sorrow...

A Life of Love together
A Love that spans forever,
A Bridge across today to
tomorrow.

That someone is you J. and
I wouldn't want it any
other way

At the same time, I contacted Harris County jail about their policy, and their LGBT liaison actually sent it to me without struggle. I then emailed back this flack with the Harris County policy and a demand for the contact info for their right to know officer. That same day, I get an email from the attorney for PPS giving me the contact to the RTK officer.

I filed a RTK request asking, among other things, policies on trans healthcare, housing placement, and commissary restrictions on December 10. They should have received it by Dec 12. At the same time, I did an investigation into SecurePak, a commissary program in which those on the outside can order items for an inmate. The commissary list is gender segregated, trans women locked up in "male" facilities cannot have bras or other feminine items.

On January 16, the maximum amount of time permitted by law, they returned the transgender policy for the Philadelphia Prison System, which had several major flaws:

* It specifically does not allow for transgender inmates to have access to hormones unless they got them on the outside. This was similar to a policy in the federal system that was eliminated after an inmate sued (*Adams v. Bureau of Prisons*), and could be viewed as a categorical exclusion, as prohibited by the federal *Fields v. Smith* decision.

* It cited and incorporated provisions of the Prison Rape Elimination Act Final Rule of 2012, which referenced issues around transgender prisoners, but did not cite or incorporate Section 115.42(c)(d), which provides that transgender prisons should not be housed based on genitalia alone, that the inmate's personal views of safety must be heavily weighed, and that there should be a frequent review of classification to make sure the inmate is safe.

* Most disturbingly, the policy update was signed on December 16, 2013, four days after the RTK presumably hit their desk. Furthermore, the last iteration of the policy happened in March 2011 BEFORE the Prison Rape Elimination Act Final Rule and 8th Amendment cases that affirmed trans inmates' right to transition related care, the policy is reviewed every four years, and they updated it ahead of time without any meaningful change and preserving various flaws.

I sent my research to the Philadelphia Gay News, and after a staff writer interviewed correctional flack Shawn Hawes (who has misgendered inmates and claims against all common sense that an alleged sexual harassment incident perpetrated by a trans inmate in a female jail precludes allowing transwomen who have not had genital surgery into women's prisons), as well as Louis Giorla (who was talking out of both sides of his mouth), and Leon King, who basically claimed that putting people in based on their gender identity does not in and of itself cause trouble (although in cruder terms), an article hit the Philadelphia Gay News in which Giorla blatantly admits to many flaws in the policy, but does not appear to seek correcting them in a timely fashion.

There is an old saying that a measure of society can be judged by entering their prisons. Philadelphia has passed a lot of laws and policies that have helped the transgender population, but the prison system remains stuck in the dark ages, and for that, we are not truly an LGBT friendly city. Of course, these reforms should also come with LESS incarceration and criminalization of trans folk.

In Each Other's Arms

Scott R. Esmi

There is one place we both belong
When things dont go our way-
or
When we're tired of having to face
Our problems from day to day...
(Within the safety of each other's arms)
A place so warm and tender
As only two people can share
A place where absolutely no-one
Could possibly interfere...
(Within the safety of each other's arms)
So, if your troubles seem endless
Remeber these words with a smile
That there's always one place
We both can go ~
So make it ALL worth while
(In the safety of each other's)

Assault in Prison as a Constitutional Violation by Miley

Transgender and gay prisoners are often more vulnerable than other prisoners to assault (including sexual assault) at the hands of both fellow prisoners and guards as well as the illegal searches by prison guards. If you have experienced such assault, you may be able to bring a Section 1983 claim for violation of your Eighth Amendment rights against prison officials either for assaulting you or for failing to protect you from assault.

Assault by Prison Employees

The Eighth Amendment protects you from punishment that is cruel or unusual. USCA VIII. Courts have been reluctant to find constitutional violations when prison officials use force to maintain or restore security within the prison *See Hudson v. McMillian*, 503 US 1, 6-7 (1992). However, if the force has no identifiable purpose and is simply meant to harm the prisoner, an official may be found to have used excessive force. To show that an assault by a prison official violates the Eighth Amendment, you must prove that: (1) the prison official acted “maliciously and sadistically”, and (2) the injury you suffered was sufficiently severe (this means the injury is not de minimus).

I'm giving a birthday shout out to Tommy! Tommy, Happy birthday May 26 Baby Boy! Keep Sweet, -Miley

This standard was explained in *Hudson v. McMillian supra*, and is known as “the *Hudson* standard.” To determine whether an official acted maliciously and sadistically, Courts will consider factors such as (a) the extent of the injury suffered; (b) the need for the official to have used force under the circumstances; (c) the relationship between the need to use force and the amount of force that was actually used; (d) the size of the threat as a prison official would reasonably perceive it; and (e) efforts made by prison guards to lessen the severity of a serious use of force.

Under the *Hudson* standard, you do not need to show you suffered serious injury, but you must show that you suffered some physical injury. Also, the Prison Litigation Reform Act (PLRA) prohibits actions for emotional distress without severe accompanying physical injury.

To bring a Section 1983 suit for sexual assault in prison requires the same elements of proof as physical assaults. That is, if a prison official sexually assaults you, you must show that the prison official acted maliciously and that you suffered harm.

PLRA also requires that you exhaust administrative options before bringing an action under 42 USC 1983.

Assault by other prisoners

If you have been attacked or feel at risk of attack by fellow prisoners, you may bring suit under section 1983 to claim that prison officials who failed to protect you violated your Eighth Amendment right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment.

See *Farmer v. Brennan*, 511 US 825 (1994). To show that a prison official violated the Eighth Amendment by failing to protect you from assault by other prisoners, you must prove that (a) the prison official exhibited “deliberate indifference” to your health or safety by disregarding an excessive risk to it; and (b) the injury you suffered was severe.

Deliberate indifference is a standard that is harder to meet than negligence but not as difficult as malicious or sadistic intent. The leading case for Section 1983 claims involving assault and deliberate indifference is *Farmer v. Brennan*, in which prison officials failed to protect a transgender prisoner from other prisoners. The US Supreme Court defined deliberate indifference as the failure of prison officials to act when they knew of a “substantial risk of serious harm.” The Court went on to say that inference from “circumstantial evidence” could be used to demonstrate that prison officials had knowledge of a risk. Circumstantial evidence is evidence that tends to show something as being true. This means that a prisoner can present evidence showing that the prison officials knew of the risk, even if there is no “direct evidence” that shows the risk. Circumstantial evidence can be used to show an official actually knew something he denies knowing. Under *Farmer v. Brennan*, you do not have to wait until you have actually been attacked to bring a viable Section 1983 claim of deliberate indifference.



If prison officials did not protect you from the mere risk of harm, they may still have deprived you of your rights under the Eighth Amendment.

Your status as LGBT may make it easier to prove you are at risk of harm. If prison officials know your status, then they know you are at a higher risk for harm. For example, in *Greene v. Bowles*, 361 F.3d 290 (6th Cir. 2004) the 6th Circuit recognized an Eighth Amendment deliberate indifference claim where the warden admitted knowing the plaintiff was placed in protective custody because she was transgender and that a predatory inmate was being housed on the same unit. The Court held that a vulnerable (eg gay or transgender) prisoner could prove prison officials knew of the prisoner's vulnerable status and of the general risk to her safety from other prisoners even if they did not know of any specific danger.

Although it may be easier to prove you are at risk if

Before I Met You

*Pretty Boi
Mecca @ SCI
Fayette*

Before I met you, I was in darkness, you have shown me the light!

Before I met you, I was lost, you have shown me the way!

Before I met you, I was at my weakest moments, you gave me strength and encouraged me to be strong!

Before I met you, I wanted to die, you gave me a reason to live!

Before I met you, I was gonna catch a case, you gave me a reason to go home!

Before I met you, I was full of hate, you gave me someone to love!

Before I met you, I wanted to kill, you have shown me how to heal!

Before I met you, I trust no one, you gave me someone to trust!

Before I met you, I felt hated. You make me feel loved!

Before I met you, I was in pieces. You made me feel whole!

you are a vulnerable prisoner, you should still report any threats against you, because there must be a substantial risk to actually prove deliberate indifference.

To bring a Section 1983 suit for sexual assault in prison requires the same elements of proof as physical assaults. That is, if another prisoner sexually assaults you, you must show that prison officials acted with deliberate indifference and that you suffered harm.

(Everything)

*Russel Woods AKA
Rasul AKA Polo at SCI
Pittsburgh*

Everything we go through is
for something,
cause life can be full of
nothing.

Everything is going to be
alright,
cause in life we gotta stand
up & fight.

Everything may not happen
that day,
but eventually we'll pave our
way.

Everything we do we'll take
to the grave,
So have no fear & remain
brave.

Everything in our eyes we
must see until we die.
So Always believe we can
fly.

Everything we want we must
go for.
Cause life is good, bad &
much more.
Always trust in god &
remember that,

Everything will be everything
that's facts.



On "Crazy" and "Disabled" Trans* Ppl

Mari@x Donn@x Prim@x
Belmont Hospital

An intro guide to treating trans*, femqueen, two-spirit, androgyne, drag queen, micx@x, hijra, gendervariant and butch, chronic femme gender-nonconforming people with respect.

- 1.) Respect is key. If you can't humanize (see as human) someone who is trans*, gender-variant, and/or gender non-conforming, especially ones who are "crazy" (loca) or dealing with "health concerns," then you probably shouldn't talk to them.
- 2.) Don't assume one's limits and abilities. All humans are good/boss/bueno at some things and no so good at other things. Love people as they are, not as you want them to be.
- 3.) Don't assume or judge whether someone is aware of themselves or their surroundings. If they happen not to be, ask if they want help, and Please (por favor!) take their response seriously. Agreeing to (consenting to) help is very important (at least to me!).
- 4.) Here's a basic: if you're not supposed to talk about someone's genitals in public/towards strangers, then doing so for someone's "ability" status or "disability" is also uncalled for (out of pocket).

Caution: moving to drinks + using

- 5.) Not everyone wants to stop using/drinking; some people want to but don't know how. I think, sometimes, that asking someone to stop drinking and/or using is like asking someone to stop eating or drinking: it seems impossible. Please respect people's different levels of (un)sobriety.
- 6.) Don't assume that someone wants help; please ask and take their response seriously.

report: trans/gender variant imprisonment in PA



Experiences of Trans and
Gender Variant People in
Pennsylvania's Prison Systems

A Report by the Hearts on a Wire
Collective

Many of us participated in Hearts on a Wire's survey a few years ago. The report of the results is available!

Hearts on a Wire has **free** paper copies of the report available for people who are currently locked up in Pennsylvania.

Fair warning: we have had some trouble with censorship in some institutions. Please let us know if you want us to try to get you a copy!!!

The report is also available online, along with back issues of all our newsletters, at:
www.scribd.com/heartsonawire

From the Mail:

Disclaimer:

We get a lot of mail, and cannot publish every letter we get. If you write to us responding to something you read, please let us know (1) if we can print an excerpt from your letter, and (2) how you would like to be credited.

Letter to the entire Hearts on a Wire Community (Inside & Out)

Hey! I hope and pray this letter finds all Hearts on a Wire members in the best of health, healing, happiness, peace of mind, and Blessings Spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally. And free from stress and worries.

I would like to say thank yous all for your Love, Care, and Support in every way. I would love to say I very much appreciate all that yall do for us, for all yall time and love and support. Thank all of yous members of the community that volunteer your time to make it possible for us to receive all kinds of good love, advice and support. May God keep blessing every part of Hearts on a Wire and their families in every way.

-Mrs. Rosie V. Sanders

Miss Juicy

I am the GAYMOTHER to Miss Juicy Woods. She is going home soon so I just wanted to put something in here for her because she is my daughter. When I got transferred from SCI Pitts she was the only one I talked to that was real from day one we had this mother and daughter love that nobody can come between us. We went to the hole together. She was my right hand girl and when she leaves no one can replace her. I LOVE U Juicy my daughter now and forever.
Your mother,

-Ms Ayhonna U'Nekka Letsinger
AKA La-La SCI Huntingdon

Sping Loving

Hey sister's...I'm sending my Spring Lovin to all my sisters!! I hope all is well. For those who are not locked up "FREEDOM" is the best thing to ask for so...please stay out of trouble and pray for all of us incarcerated sisters and brothers...ALSO... I LOVE YOU A.S.

-Mrs. Mariah Lee Smith @ SCI Forest

Letter to the Inside Hearts on a Wire Community

Oh, whats up people! We been amazed by the contributions shared in Hearts On A Wire...Especially the encouragments to express one's self on the topics asked.

14 However, **I wish more would contribute.** That way it won't appear to be a volume dedicated to the same ol' thoughts of the

same ol' people... **I enjoy very much those people**, but I know damn' well it's more that read and receive Hearts on a Wire, than these same intelligent people. Some I knew directly, others I don't... The contributions can be a discrete expression of thoughts that you don't have to put a name to or can use your nickname on. I know these same people who contribute wish to hear a fresh opinion, poem or even a shout out. Twenty something prisons and you mean to tell me there's only 6 or 7 voices? Real talk, do those who read the colorful contributions in these volumes need help in identifying their place in the collective or LGBT community? If so I'm sure if asked it can be defined for you. Ok... I do believe there has to be more activism and politics incorporated into our dialogue. Personally its nice to hear about who loves who. However, the agenda has TO BE a lot bigger and more informative than the soap operas. What affects this collective and the community? What's happening in these prison industrial complexes that can be helped? Wordly views on what we are and accepted as being appeared to be the purpose for this venue. Does the attention on solitary confinement (recently) affect anyone? This isn't a swat at anyone. Nor is it shade being thrown. I'm just saying, contribute and when so doing add substance to stimulate...

Love All,

-Boo Boo.

Heroes & Mentors (Issue 11)

Thank you for putting my article in the issue... Hopefully it helps out all my sisters and brothers! Hearts on a Wire helps me a lot mentally just reading how other people feel.

-Mariah Lee

I have been used and abused by many People. It wasn't until I came to SCI Forest and met Lady Mariah. Since I've been here my sister has opened my eyes.

-Carley

The Ban on Issue 10 (Issue 11)

The excuse given by Fayette is a poor excuse. The real excuse is they don't want girls walking around with lip gloss on. They won't say that in a response but that's what it is. When I was there the women staff wore make up but I was told along with my sister that we could not wear our make up. There is no policy by the DOC stating we cannot wear make up so the excuse is a bad excuse. Every time one of us girls says show a policy that says we can't wear make up they are stunned and don't know how to reply. Their excuse was a poor excuse to ban newsletter # 10. All the other SCIs let it in.

-Miley



by Brakie

We want to hear from you!

We welcome your:

- * Responses to this edition
- * Artwork (black and white)
- * Commissary recipes
- * Contribuciones en español son muy muy bienvenidos!
- * We are looking for additional help translating articles into Spanish. If you are bilingual and would like to help, please write to us!
- * Poetry
- * Ideas
- * Articles

Next Issue:

Mail censorship: Could someone who has successfully used the grievance system to obtain mail after it has been censored please write a step-by-step how-to article?

Parole: What are the obstacles for parole that you see in front of you? Are any of them specific to your gender? Why do some people think it is better to max out?

Z-Code: (for our subscribers outside of PA, Z-Code in PA State Correctional Institutions, a Z-code means the inmate must be single-celled). Do you have a Z-Code? What do you think of the Z-code system? Why?

Dating: Hearts on a Wire often gets mail from people who are interested in dating a trans or gender variant (T/GV) person, or from people who exclusively date T/GV people. Sometimes these letters are sweet, but sometimes people say ignorant things or don't understand the experiences of T/GV people. We are looking for an article aimed at "trans-amorous" persons on what to do or what NOT to do if you want to impress/date/love a T/GV person. Are there ways you do/don't like to be talked about? How do you like to be approached by someone?

If you contribute something, make sure you tell us:

1. **Exactly** how you want to be credited [anonymous, legal name & ID number, the name you use, a nickname, etc.]
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.

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subscribe

If you would like Hearts On a Wire mailed to you, write to us and let us know. Subscriptions are FREE for incarcerated and detained people in any PA facility. If you are getting out soon and want to stay on our mailing list, please keep your address up to date with us.