

Hearts on a Wire

Issue # 23— Fall 2018

LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

From the Outside Collective

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♥ Sparkles Wilson

I Ain't Gunna ♥ Juicy

Write to us!



1 Dear Beloved Family:
 2 We are so pleased to present you with Issue 23
 2 of our newsletter! We changed the format in
 2 response to the changes to the Pennsylvania
 2 DOC rules for incoming mail and
 2 publications. (more about this on page 9). We
 2 are so sorry for the long delay.
 3 We were about to send this issue out when the
 3 new rules were announced. We have been
 3 concerned about whether the DOC would
 3 treat this newsletter as a publication or a letter.
 3 We sent a test mailing using the new Florida-
 3 based mail system to some of our most active
 3 inside members with a request that they let us
 3 know if it worked. It seems to have worked.
 3 We'll see how it goes with a full mailing. There
 3 are over 200 PA addresses on our mailing list.
 4-8 We are experiencing low turnout at meetings
 4 on the outside. This is at least partially because
 5 SEPTA changed from tokens to a debit card
 6 system and it has complicated our ability to
 7 provide carfare for folks attending meetings.
 8 In any case it is just a few volunteers holding
 8 down day to day operations for the outside
 8 collective.
 9 We continue to receive an amount of mail
 9 from outside Pennsylvania that is far beyond
 9 our capacity. We made a policy decision to
 9 stop adding everyone from outside
 10 Pennsylvania who wants to be added to the
 10 mailing list. Moving forward we will only be
 10 adding people in Pennsylvania, where we are
 10 focused, and people from outside
 10 Pennsylvania who let us know in their request
 10 that they are transgender or an ally to the trans
 10 community.

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

~ Hearts on a Wire
 Outside Collective

We are Pennsylvania-based trans and gender variant people, and 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

Mondays at 5:30pm

THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS

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THE A-IN-ME

Prissy Morgan

*There will come a time in our lives
that we must stop pointing the finger
and confront the enemy and the
hardest reality check is once we realize
that the enemy is ourselves.*

there was a point in my life when i would blame everything that happened in my life on someone else. he's gossiping about me, she's hating on me, he's mean so i'll be mean to him, i'm not as successful because she's holding me back. or how fast i can point out my brother and sister's flaws and even bold enough to think i was "better." and too cowardly to confront the in-a-me!

i had to confront myself for what i held within myself. no longer could i hide behind a facade it was critical to my growth to be able to heal covered wounds.

i had to stop being an oppressor, i had to allow haters to hate. i had to stop blaming others for lack of success and push harder. I had to stop living in fear of a broken heart because of past hurts, i must live in the now. and once i was brave enough to confront me things unfolded, seasons change, my quality of life was back. i was my own setback, please do me a favor think for a moment are you tired of circumstance, have you been wounded? have you pushed people away. it's time to confront the a-in-me = yourself let the pain go so you can grow. sometime we create our own misery. check yourself. i was the hardest to confront but when we do, we will move out of our own way.

MAIL CENSORSHIP UPDATE

Adrian

On May 2, 2018, the Spring 2018 Issue (#22) of Hearts' newsletter was mailed out to inside members of the Hearts community in PA institutions. All of the mail to members at Frackville and Mahanoy was returned. The unopened mail was stamped "Refused" with "Unapproved correspondent" checked off. Some of the returned letters had an additional handwritten note, "no pen pals." There was no problem with mail censorship at any other Pennsylvania DOC facilities.

Hearts on a Wire enlisted the help of the AIDS Law Project of Pennsylvania. We were aware that the Law Project had represented SERO Project in a successful appeal of a denial of their Publication Turn It Up! Staying Strong Inside by the DOC last year.

The AIDS Law Project appealed the censorship to the DOC's Office of Policy, arguing that the censorship violated both the DOC's own procedures and the First Amendment. The DOC confirmed that Hearts on a Wire's newsletter should never have been denied. The newsletters were re-mailed on July 19, 2018 without further incident. The DOC policy staff also noted that there is no DOC Rule against promoting pen-pals, the stated reason for the institutions' denials.

Special thanks to those of you at Frackville and Mahanoy who shared information with the Law Project.

SERO Project is a national network of people living with HIV fighting for freedom from stigma and injustice. SERO is particularly focused on ending inappropriate criminal prosecutions of people with HIV.

The SERO Project
P.O. Box 1233
Milford, PA 18337

THE REAL ME

Hockey Puck - RBC

For many many years I was afraid to reveal my true self. I was confused, ashamed, and deprived of knowing thyself. Then you came along and introduced me to myself. I must admit, it was then that I fell in love with myself. Now I'm self-supporting and secure of myself. Now I possess the confidence and strength to express myself. "I hate you! I don't understand you" is what I used to tell myself. "I love you and accept you" is what I now tell myself.

OUTSIDE LOOKING IN PT2

André 2018

Whattup Yawl? Think this some Jerry Springer ish! What y'awl forgetting about those who came before yawl, and after yawl?

Those who sacrifice their life & those now who are sacrificing their future, such as Hearts on a Wire, Black & Pink, Etc. for those they don't even know, But only to give gratitude, too those who came before them an those who are coming after, so they wouldn't have to go through the same situation & things; that they went through. I'm not throwing no shade... but it's time for a reality check... Remember, whata yawl action leaves a reflection of an idea of those Outside Looking in...

Have safe self-respect, self-control and morals about oneself. Don't be an embarrassment to the cause... or the people... "real rap." I love all of yawl, but some times it gets heavy... remember: someone is always outside looking in.

BOY YOU DON'T KNOW

Juicy Queen Bee

Heart start racing
Blood pressure starts rising
Mind goes into shock
Can't move can't speak
Need oxygen to breathe
Can't feel no air
Like a fire
Needs to be put out
No lie that's the truth

Boy you don't know
To feel like this
Every time I see your face
Though it's been a while
I want you
Can't go there with you
Cause things might go crazy

Boy you don't know
What you do to me
When we speak
To each other
Love so amazing
Without even touching

See in my eyes
See it in your face
Fire starts sparking
Energy starts flowing
Like a battery needing recharge

Boy you don't know
What you do to me
An we never done nothing
Got me going crazy
Wanting your love

DRUNK IN LOVE

Prissy Morgan

He had my head spinnin'
Other dude want his place
but he's winnin'
Like the grip of Ciroc, hypnotic or
Hennessy
I swear this dude has a hold on me
Affected like I'm on greygoose.
No other dude can make a girl let loose.
For him I'm always turned up.
I never get tired of him
give me another cup.
What I'm drinking is called romance.
Other dudes get out of my face
you don't have a chance.
I'm not ashamed I'm addicted to his drink.
7 days a week, I don't care what you think.
yea yea I'm a love drunk alcoholic,
or what ever else haters want to call it.
Oh girls I see you in line for a taste.
Don't get mad when it's your time
that you waste.
Yes I stagger and always
knocked off my feet.
Don't get it twisted ya girl
don't skip a beat.
By now you know what I mean,
I'm drunk off a dude named Braheem
Best believe he's drunk too.
I had to lock him down, what was I
supposed to do.
This is a side effect when love is real.
Mentally drunk is how you should feel.
I swear on the heavens above,
That I'm drunk on my man's love.

LABELS

Maxine Davis-Purvis

Like items we all come with labels,
And it's time we shoved them all back under the
table
Whether Gay Straight, Trans, or Bi
It's so many other labels but the question is why?
Judging by outer appearance
When sometimes we need to look at the inside
for clearance
Black versus white
And being labeled and immigrant is not even
right
So many labels
That need to be shoved under tables
Male versus female
When we should be equal cause 'cause whatever
you are we are not fairytale
So let's shove it under the table
and get rid of the labels

FEELING REAL GOOD

Gary Warrington

Fresh out the Hole feeling real good
Chillin' with a few friends from the hood
Met a few people haven't seen in while
It's really all good 'cause they're versatile
On a block I can relax, not worry about a thing
Blending in, head down, just looking for change
My demeanor is on high
'cause i'm in a different spot
But I'll feel it out & see if it's cool or not
Being among some cook folks makes things easy
They ain't about nothing or trying to be greasy
When you carry yourself with respect and class
You're it in return like an easy pass
I consider myself mellow, if you show me respect
Of course I have a mean side
& will go at your neck
I don't show that often
'cause I've mellowed way out
And that's what I'm known for, that's my clout
So as I said I'm feeling quite fine
And I look to stay out the hole
doing the rest of time

Love to Prissy, Nascar, Penny, Griff, and Twan.

YOU CAN'T BULLY ME

Miss Lisa

For anyone that has been bullied and for the trans women murdered last year or who committed suicide, this is for you.

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? 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. I will live and die knowing that the bully never wins. You will live your life filled with hate and never know that the lives you've taken 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 woman who is smart, funny, and has red hair will always be a winner. Because you can't bully me.

EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

Letters and Love XXXO

What's up ladies, It's Mariah Lee. I just wanted to show my love. Ms. Pearl I love you Baby you know I'm always here for you; Cece Hey love I hope you're OK. I'm doing well, still with my husband 5 years boo. Alicia what's up momma. I miss you and you're beautiful! André thanks for the shout out. Stay out of trouble baby. Allen Smith I love you daddy happy anniversary! Well I've been on my hormones for about 1 year now, gained a lot of weight. SJ your boobs will not be bigger than mine so sit down Honey! I love you sis. Smooches. XO

~Mrs. Mariah Smith @ Forest

BABY HAVING SOMEONE

LIKE YOU Juicy Queen Bee

All I ever wanted
Was to be held
To be loved
But heartaches and pain
Comes regardless of what you may do
Baby having someone like you
Brings joy to my heart
Having someone like you to talk to
When hurting takes
Away the pain
Having someone like you
To love lifts me up
When I'm down
Having someone like you
To count on
Cheers me up when I'm down

Dear Family:

Hi HOAW I'm writing to give everybody an update on my HRT well you do know the doc plays games but you got to be smart & been. I been going on fighting and after getting all the information needed a file a complaint against the medical department at SCI Somerset. it was upheld in part denied in part. Now I'm just waiting for my labs (as of June 2018) to get done cause they're backed up with taking labs. Let me tell all my sisters that aren't getting their treatment, get documents, information, write medical review charts, talk to psych and start filing your paperwork. Even if you get your relief, appeal and appeal. Exhaust your remedies just in case they play you. If you're a smoker, stop or the DOC won't approve them.

I send my love to all my family and those I associate with. Shout out to Rome and Chrissy, Hope y'all be home soon and hopefully I won't be far, and all my family at SMR, Pearl, Twanna at Fayette. Rosie I'm finally about to get my HRT.

~Juicy Queen Bee

Dear Hearts on a Wire

I just finished reading Issue 22 and with every issue I mature because of your knowledge and wisdom.

Peace,

~B.R.2 Star

A special shout out to hearts for blessing me with Issue #22. I was mos def touched by the poems by Blue Diamond and Priss Morgan. It's a blessing to hear that heads are displaying self-respect and dignity. Also big-ups to all my heads holding down Houtzdale. Miley & Nikki thanx for the giggles. Jessie hold ya head and remain sucka free we are all in this struggle together. One love.

~Blue Boy

Hello Family. Shout out to all my brother and sisters, my heart feels your incarcerated pain. To my husband Aaron if you weren't there I wouldn't be here today. Love you. Shout out to my sisters Vanessa and Gemini, to my best friend Sion, and to Jesse and Jeff, to Tonka (still in my heart) and J-Lo, and all my trans sisters. Refiki thanks for the shout out.

Sincerely,

~Mrs. Sparkles Wilson

One Love

To Hearts on a Wire. I was touched by the words of Miss Jessie in Mississippi. stay strong and stand tall. I know it's hard.

~w. f.

sci rockview

I would like to give a big shout out to Miss Prissy! I love you and miss you I promise you I'm holding us down, you are the best thing that ever happened to be. Love you XOXOXO

~Dink "Albion"

Dear HOAW Family:

Shoutout to Dawn Guthrie, who I knew when she was at Rockview. Keep your head up. I was sad to hear of your assault but am glad to hear everything's good now. Also my dear one, the love of my life: You mean more to me than you'll ever know! To all my brothers and sisters: I love you all! And to the HOAW Outside Collective: a special thank you for all you do.

Stay strong and proud,

~ Mike at SCI Somerset

Hey there HOAW and HOAW family, this is your girl Mrs. Badd and I just want to say that we need to stay united as a community. I can seriously say that I'm jealous of how queens in different prisons treat each other with kindness and friendship. We don't always get that here at SCI Forest it's always something going on everyday on some BS. Shout out to my heart and future king B.R. I know that I can always turn and count on him. Shout out to my homies Buck and Frenchie. Time getting short for me and my Boo so we don't have time for any B.S. #NoNewAnything.

Love Always,

~S.J. @ SCI Forest

FROM THE MAIL
OXXOX Letters and Love

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

I want all of you to know I love every one of you deeply. I care about our entire fam. If power were given unto me I would end pain and suffering of the entire world. Unfortunately and sadly I do not have such power. So I will do everything to make this a better world for us to live in. Since our fam the LGBTQIA community is of every kind of human being throughout the world, every race, religion, way of life, etc. So I ask those of my LGBTQIA fam on the inside or the outside to spread our love and our healing far and wide. We must keep fighting the good fight peacefully, and never give up hope. When we stop hoping or loving then the enemy wins.

On another matter the psych doctor in this facility is refusing to diagnose some trans women as transgender women so they can get started on hormone replacement therapy. The theory is the prison is purposefully denying some of us being trans because it's expensive to treat medically. There are some of us who feel suicidal because of not having surgeries, electrolysis, hormones. Yet they get away with this shit. Anyways we will win in the end over their evilness.

~Jaina

I would like to send all my love to Ms. DeDe, Ira, Katrina and SJ at Forest from MT. I love my sisters. God bless.

Sincerely,

~MT

Greetings to my beloved LGBTQ community,

I like to give a special shout out to Rico. I miss you dearly, i have not forgotten you all these years. To a very special person, Fresh, you'll always have a place in my heart . Cherish what you have with your mate 'cause once they're gone they're gone, I'm going through it now & it's hard.

~Pumpkin (SMR)

I ain't good at goodbye. So I'm not gonna say it. But I am gonna say, this will be my last issue but not my last goodbye. I'll be leaving 2 home on my max out.

I wanna thank everyone for opening themselves 2 tha kid, it been a pleasure reading and getting to know everyone who is a part of all the hearts on a wire family. Thoughts & prayers go out to everyone. See everyone later! Love ya,

~André 2018.

Hearts on a Wire:

It's amazing how life will take what's not to be in your life only to replace it with something greater.

I fought hard to fight it off boo, but Dink fought harder to win me over.

Shot out to Ms. Bre, Dutchess and E. Love yall & miss yous. Me and Dink on our A game, Shining like the sun.

~Ms. Priss

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

I am a trans woman incarcerated in Virginia. I arrived at this jail from a foreign immigration detention center. I had very recently begun HRT there, which did not carry over to jail. I repeatedly asked for my treatment to be resumed or restarted, but my requests were deferred and denied. My grievance was effectively quashed. I am currently on a hunger strike.

Thankfully,

~Violet Swan

I'm depressed and exhausted from being trapped in this system. There is a lot of hatred toward LGBTQ among the inmates here. I'm used to being open and loving. This place makes me feel I need to constantly be on guard. There are many predators here that are disrespectful as well. They misinterpret gender identity and homosexuality as an invitation to sex, or that they can physically or verbally disrespect someone because of their identity. I don't believe in this justice/prison system, and won't report anything to any officer/organization. They are not there to help. Things need to change. I just feel so alone and voiceless. I do believe that things are able to change. I have hope and won't give up.

Peace, Love, and Anarchy

~Gypsy

Dear HOAW

To my extended LGBTQ family, I send my greetings to all; I would like to give a shout out to all the kings & queens at Benner.

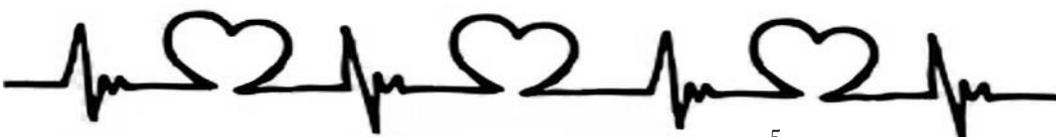
~Hockey Puck

RBC @SCI Forest

I'M AROUND

André 2018

When I think things are a little 2 soft
I'm around
when things start to form & take shape
I'm around
when things become full strength &
standup
I'm around
I'll never give U a gimp excuse
Cuz I'm around
I'll never tell U a gimp lie
Cuz I'm around
I'll never fall short of standing up
Cuz I'm around
I'm around, neva think I'm not
Cuz I am around! smile.



MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

Letters and Love XXXXO

To my HOAW family:

Happy Birthday Nikki T. Stay beautiful baby. You got the look, the walk and the talk. Don't let no one tell you no different. 2026! Love you lots. Skittle kid, you know you still got my heart and my love. Kiss Kiss, thanks for cheering me up. Hey Lite, LOL, good luck hon. I'll miss you. Keep smiling! Hey Lil Rock, my two pump chump. LOL LOL Good luck with ...

I love you all. mmwwahhhh.

Love

~Miley Fletcher
XXOOXX

OUR TIME TO SHINE

Special

It's our time 'cause we've been sidelined too long

We stand together always reminding strong
Like a NorthStar in the sky we'll shine for direction

We look after each other our sole protection
Its us we care for & look to give love
To our girls & clique is what we do to rise above

We have to remain ready for any & all drama
To our brothers & sisters & the ones we call mama

Very few get that title so you know that they're loved

It's something that will never be shoved
It's something that will never be shoved
Under a rug or put on a shelf, it's something we show

And our aura is shining a very bright glow
We live for our freedom that's sirens strength

To run a long mile or any length
From here to Timbuktu if we have to
But beware my foes 'cause we'll do what we have to do

To make sure we continue to shine for one another

Always uplifting my sisters & brothers
So know that I love you & need your love in return

And it its strong enough believe we'll crash & burn.



Dear Family:

I am feeling some kind of way about school shootings. Children are dying and our government isn't doing nothing to protect our children from harm. I'd like to get some input from others on what they think or believe should happen.

Shout out to my sister Special and to Ms. Pearl. Keep your head up and stay strong.

~ Casper @ SCI Fayette

I'd like to give a special shout out to my sisters and brothers up at SCI Rockview, especially Rome, you were a very special person to me.

Right now I'm at Huntingdon and it's nothing like Rockview (worse). Wanted the squad to know that I'm alive and well.

Love Yall

~Mike Armstead KP4544

Hey fam hope everybody is well and in the best of spirits. By the time your eyes lay on this I will be home. Max out September! Yay! Can't wait. I wanna give some holla to my fam at Coal Township. Penny I love and miss you very much. Drew hey bro I hope you're behaving! Munchy, Rico, Shadow, and Moose hey y'all. Hey Ms. Dee Dee LOL. BR keep your head up bro. Ms. Peaches you do the same. And last but not least Matt Matt ... my moms got that letter. I do still love you but you made a promise you knew you couldn't keep. Just be honest. Find a way to get in touch.

Much love,

~Frenchy Johnson

FROM THE MAIL
OXXOX Letters and Love

On February 28 of this year our community lost great one and I lost a friend at SCI Graterford by the name of Gunna. He was one of us. He was smart, funny, theatrical, and a gangster. He was well-liked throughout these state jails and many are not aware that he is no longer with us.

Gunna I'm really going to miss you bro. I hope you are in a better place. I would like to send my condolences to his family.

~Slim

CHAIN LINK FENCE

Mike @SCI Somerset

I'm surrounded by
a chain-link fence
With Razor-wire topping,
Trapped in its iron embrace.

Everything I see is framed by it.

A rabbit emerges from his hole
In the meadow across the way.

I see him through
the patterned homes
That dot him every day.

People drive along the road.
Their tires swish
through the rain,
The they're gone...
And only the links remain.

Did I build this fence?
Not really, only in the sense
That I caused myself
To be placed within it.

The world outside the fence
is beautiful.
It's obstruction can't detract
from that beauty,
Simply re-define it.

Yet, everything I see is
Framed by the chain-link fence.

But is it really everything?
If I keep my head up,
The Sky is clear,
Even on the cloudiest of days.

The fence can't reach that high.

Dear HOAW:

We argue, fight, and
disrespect one another.
We stab and
intentionally mentally
abuse each other. We
are divided, so how can
we be united?

We are too worried
about who's doing who
and so on. When we
need to be worried
about standing up
together and making a
better community. We
have beautiful Queens
being beat down. Then
we have clubs being
shot up, and our family
dying. And we are
worried about jailhouse
politics? We need to
start thinking how we
can make our
community strong and
how to uplift one
another!

Love always,

~Joey
(L.I.)

Dear Hearts family,

I just got finished reading issue #22 of Spring 2018 and I felt so inspired to write. You know what I love about this family (my family) is the sense of realness and wanting to keep it real. I also feel love that's right I feel the love of each other and I can say the love is real. We all need someone real in our life. Someone to keep us grounded and will not sugar coat everything and will tell us the truth about ourselves whether it be good or bad or if it hurts our feelings. Someone we can be real with in return and be ourselves. Whether it be a friend, a family member, a cell mate, etc. Someone we can truly appreciate. I'm extremely grateful for the real manly man I got in my life. I don't say it enough and I know you like it better with action but thank you for being the realness that I needed in my life. You have been a true (my true) does of reality. One love!! Also shout out to all my brothers and sisters. Indy keep ya head up things will get better. GeGe girl I miss you and love the hell out of you. Sparkles there is a light at the end of the tunnel. Ms. Ceci, Dawn, Drew, Andre, and Miley. Nothing but love.

Lovingly your sister,

~DeDe @ SCI Forest

PS I've started my 'mones!!

I am a gender nonconforming inmate at SCI Cambridge Springs in PA. The last newsletter was full of Shout outs & poetry which is nice, but I'm not sure how that addresses prison conditions. I am facing an extreme amount of abuse by the staff at my institution, who are either operating outside way outside policy with me or are literally making things up to do to me or literally making things up to do to me. I am currently being forced to live on a mental health unit indefinitely even though I have no misconduct history & only Gender Dysphoria as a current diagnosis. But I am not crazy. I just want medical treatment for my G.D. So I need more than a "shout out" you know.

~Anonymous

Previous drafts of this newsletter included several **Newspapers/Newsletters/Books-to-prison** resources. Since the availability of these resources is in question under the new PA DOC policy, we are holding off on publishing this information until there is clarity of whether/how these programs will operate.

I want to say hello to the communities at other jails and on the streets. I'm glad that we are growing in numbers and staying by each others side. Congratulations Mama Penny and Nate on the news about the marriage. Congrats to Mass and Black on your marriage. Me and DeeDee are also planning to get married. Thank you for helping me change my life around. Your love gave light to my soul. I love everything about you. What's up Jessie in Mississippi. I will keep you in my prayers. Always,

~Drew

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

Letters and Love XXXO

CLEAR WATERS

Ryan Michael Hill

The day has come and gone
and the clouds have gathered
The cool wind blows against my face.
As I walk past the flowers I feel
serenity drape over me
I breath in peace and exhale despair.
I walk on a soft path
surrounded by green trees
My soul is rejoicing;
evolving with each stride.
Although there is hate in this world,
I smile
For I know that only greatness
is within my future
And those like me will inherit
love and happiness
Because we are tomorrow
and the others are yesterday.
I now find myself near the waters edge
A cool and clear stream with crystal liquids
And as I lay down at it's bank, I am restored
Filled with ecstasy
and thanks as love blooms eternal.

Dear Hearts on a Wire...

Let me start by telling you all how much I love you and appreciate all your hard work and dedication.

The last few months have been extremely difficult for me. On January 22 I max out after 6 years, but instead of going home, I'm going to do 15 years in the feds. 4 years ago I swore to myself I would take my own life on January 21. Now it's 5 months away and I know, for the first time, no matter where I go, I'm going to be OK. I'm beautiful, kind, genuine, and loyal. I am stronger than I've ever been. What I learned is to stop looking at everything wrong in my life. I am so blessed. We are so blessed. To all my LGBT family. We are so blessed. And God does love us.

I would like to give a shout out to Butter. You saved me from myself... I love you. To my girls @ Houtzdale. Kourtney, Tonka, Bre. I love you and I will miss you. Ant to everyone out there... It will get better, I promise! I love you all!

XO Precious XO

Dear Hearts on a Wire

I never thought I could find love like this. Being a tranny it's hard to find real love. This jail has put us through hell but we're still unbreakable they can never take my crown. Black you are the most amazing loving man I ever met and I am so proud of you. We have our whole life ahead of us, and nothing else matters. I wanna shot out all the girls in the DOC. I wanna say "Do You" and "Love You." Nobody matters but us. Nothing but love and respect for all you girls.

XOXO

~Aliyah Maserati-Brown

LIMITED MOBILITY

Maxine Davis-Purvis

Dear Hearts Family

Peace, love, and solidarity to all my strong brothers and beautiful sisters across this spectrum! I've got two special acknowledgments to send out! Ms. Nikki Thompson, what's good lil sis, I hope you're staying out of trouble and away from the goofiness so you can get home. Much love to you. To Ms. Miley Selena. I don't think you remember who I am but we were in the old County jail together when you caught your case in 92 or 93. Shoutout to Sandman, my homie Slim Q, and my homie Marv. Ms. Innocent, Ms. Pearl and Ms. Prissy.

I can get through all this because I got the strongest team on the planet to give me the encouragement, strength, and motivation I need to get through all this, Real Talk, True Story!

I'm out family, I love y'all. Love each other, support each other because we are all we've got.

Your Brother,

~King Chaos

To Whom It May Concern:

I want all of us in the community to be treated with respect and to thrive as much as we are able while incarcerated. There is little to no support or understanding from the DOC staff and we are deprived of our rights and medical needs. There are policies in place to govern how gender dysphoria is "officially" diagnosed and treated, but they feel no obligation to follow it. Many of us have been involved in the grievance process on various issues with very little change.

~ Anonymous report from queer & trans community in a designated female prison in PA

They can limit my mobility
By they can't stop my
capability
And even the conditions of
working for pennies a day
Still can't take any strength
that I have physically away
Cause even though
physically I'm locked in a jail
Does not stop my mental
capabilities or God's plan
from its works to sail
And those that don't
understand may look at me
as though I'm someone
with a disability
But just take a minute to
think the only thing captors
can do is limit your mobility.
Then you'll see your road
never ends
Sadly, if not your captor
wins

STRICT NEW RULES AT PA DOC

Hearts on a Wire Outside Collective



To those of you in Pennsylvania prisons, this will not be news, but those outside PA may not be aware that PA state prisons have instituted drastic new rules based on a drug panic. After some prison staff became ill, the PA DOC imposed a collective punishment, putting all 47,000 people in their prisons in 24-hour solitary confinement for over 10 days. It seems the PA DOC is deathly afraid of invisible, colorless, odorless, undetectable substances that produce anxiety-like symptoms and somehow only affect guards, not U.S. postal workers or incarcerated people.

The lockdown ended, but the PA DOC instituted new book, mail, and visitation policies that have the explicit purpose of preventing incarcerated people from coming into contact with any physical item - letters, books, other publications, photographs, artwork - not provided to them by the DOC (or a private corporation under contract with them). No books or publications can be sent directly to a person in prison; books can only be ordered through the DOC. They are transitioning to e-readers and phasing out paper books. All mail except legal mail must be sent to an address in Florida where it will be searched, then scanned; the intended recipient will be provided with a copy of the scan. Visitors can no longer give anything to their loved ones during visits, including photographs and snacks from the vending machines.

At Hearts on a Wire, we appreciate the magnitude of these changes which further isolate and dehumanize our community members in prison. We are scrambling to figure out how to continue to communicate with our people on the inside. Among the considerations, whether our newsletter will be treated as mail, or as a publication. At the same time we are supporting every effort to roll back these changes. We are in touch with other advocacy groups, and are signing petitions, participating in call in efforts, and using our social media presence to raise awareness of the issues. We are hopeful that a combination of public pressure and legal challenges will ultimately be successful at reversing these policy changes.

THOUGHTS/PREVENTION

Miss Juicy Queen Bee

Content warning: This article talks about suicide and sexual assault. Dear readers, be gentle with yourselves.

The topic of suicide means a lot to me. My friend was sneaking around in the life and it got back to his son and when he called home his son told him not to call no more. My friend took his life and this goes out to his partner. In a quick second anything can happen whether it's being hurt, raped, or losing people you care about.

See when you have thoughts about killing yourself talk to someone. Get help. Don't act on it from being angry. Think about the effect it has on the people who love you. Even your family that don't want to talk to you might be hurting. Your voices in your head tell you go ahead, you're nothing, you won't be missed. Don't feed into the lies, the negativity.

You're not the first person who had these thoughts and won't be the last but you have a choice to get help and live out your dreams, your purpose. You are someone and you are going to be alright. It's OK to get help. Here's some tips:

- Talk to someone you feel like you can really talk to.
- Tell a guard you want to see mental health staff.
- If mental health staff ain't on, ask to see medical.
- Talk to your peer specialist (CPS).
- Talk to your family on the phone. Mother, baby mom, aunts, uncles brothers children etc.
- If it ain't an emergency write to the chapel department for a one on one with whoever you'll talk to from your religion.
- Call the 24 hour hotline.

You have options. Use them as you can.

LOVE'S ADDICTION

LOVE

Sparkles Wilson

Irrational rationalization
This is the common
Cognitive Misfortune

Non-adjustable thought process
I can't figure this out
I love who I am Queen Sparkles
But Hate what I've done
To lose my freedom,
be behind these bars

Without the one I love
Can't get enough
Sound okay but it's not
Need to find a new way

Stack at a crossroad
Maps outdated
Lack of GPS
No smartphone
So how I have to guess

Left is the high road
Right is the low road
Straight is unknown
Reverse can't happen,
to my husband
I want to go

Saw a gas station
Refused the help
This journey is mine
Play the cards I am dealt

The dirt is endless
Hoping for some paved
To lead to a civilization
That will show the way

Life is not hard
We make it our own
Choose or be chosen
The version we know

I was given the answers
The questions I did not know
For they were useless,
the Match unknown

Have to learn to want,
the better than have
For insanity we breathe,
the pill we do not have

So make the choice
To stop the madness
Now or never,
if not here then where?

SUBMISSIONS

Rules & Guidelines

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.
4. No shade

You can send us...

- Letters
- Artwork (black and white)
- Interviews
- Articles responding to current events,
prison policies, and this newsletter
- How-to articles
- Poetry
- Ideas
- Contribuciones en español son muy
bienvenidos!

Back issues of the newsletter are available to
download at heartsonawire.org

We get lots submissions and cannot possibly print everything we receive.
We reserve the right to publish excerpts, as well as to make light edits.

SUBSCRIBE WITH US!

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

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Philadelphia, PA 19107

Subscriptions are **FREE** for Trans people and allies who are locked up.

heartsonawire@gmail.com or find us on facebook

I AIN'T GUNNA

Juicy Queen Bee

I ain't gunna cry no more
I ain't gunna tell another lie
I ain't gonna run no more
Cause you keep me whole

I ain't gunna walk away
I ain't gunna be afraid no more
I ain't gunna shed
Not another tear
Over losing you
Even though
You made me whole

You had me feeling good
You had me happy
To be around you
You had me hurting
For your love
That never came

Now I know
You didn't love me
The way that
I love you

So here I am
To say to you
I ain't gunna hide
Another second 'cause
You're not worth
The hurt and pain
You cause me