

Hearts on a Wire

Issue # 28 — Spring/Summer 2020

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

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.

Due to Covid-19, we are currently meeting virtually. Contact us for the virtual meeting information. Mondays at 5:30pm

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LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

Dear Beloveds,

Between the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on incarcerated people all over the country, and the ongoing uprisings in response to white supremacist police violence, the months leading up to this newsletter have been heavy with grief and resolve.

In Philadelphia, we saw militarized police violence escalate in residential neighborhoods during the uprisings. And in the weeks since, we have attended protests like the "Say Her Name" March, a Queer Black Lives Matter March, and the Black Trans Assembly for Abolition, which have provided spaces for righteous anger as well as healing.

We recognize how the struggles becoming more visible on the outside are inseparable from the struggles inside prison walls. We love you all and we're thinking of you, always.

We also want to celebrate the Supreme Court's recent decision ruling that sexual orientation and gender identity are both covered under federal employment discrimination protections. This decision owes a great deal to incarcerated trans women who brought *pro se* cases in federal court, building up trans rights jurisprudence, by insisting, against the odds and at enormous personal risk, on their right to survival and dignity.

We find strength in dreaming of collective liberation with you all.

In loving solidarity,

~ The Outside Collective

COMING OUT

In our last issue we asked you for articles about coming out.
Thank you for all your thoughtful submissions!

Monica: My advice to anyone starting to transition inside is to start by asking A LOT of questions and go in baby-steps. Ask TG's who are already out what works for them, the more the better. What works for one may not work for you so try something else. If you find what works for you, you'll be more self-confident and comfortable with who you are and it will show. Don't let setbacks get you discouraged. Go slow, a little more each day. There are no set rules on who or what is transgender. We're all different. Do what makes you, you. Do only what you're comfortable with and don't do something just because so and so does it.

Don't force the new trans you on people, let them get used to it. For example I give everyone I meet a choice on my name, "I'm Monica...or Mark if that doesn't work for you." I am surprised how many use my female name. After 15 years at Rockview I'm still Mark to some Old-Heads. The trans thing grows on them eventually and the name battle isn't one I need to fight in here.

You are Unique and Beautiful. Good Luck.

Dominic: Just accept that its going to be rough, whether it be on you, or whoever is around you. As soon as you absolutely own it, no one can use it against you. Most importantly, keep a paper trail of everything, I don't care how small it is. Your transition is for YOU, do what you need to, for you. No one has to live your life except you!

Caitlin Mae Santos @ SCI-Houtzdale: First think of coming out to yourself as part of coming out. Seeing myself as a woman, a Trans Woman. Telling people was very hard at first, they did not accept me, but down the road they realized they still saw me as the same person, but changing. Just be yourself and be happy about who you are. If people cannot accept that, they cannot control your life or who you want to be. Each of us has a path that no one else can force us to follow. We make that decision. BE YOU!!! Welcome to the Family.

I am me because I chose it. I am Caitlin Mae Santos. I'm a Trans Woman and no one can tell me what or who I cannot be.

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COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Jasmine B: Coming out as a transgender woman was hard for me. Being a certain way my whole life, because I put a mask to who I felt I truly was. I use to fantasize on how it would feel to be a woman. I enjoyed the clothes, the perfumes, the makeup, but I knew that I was stuck in this body. I had to be hard, tough, and powerful. I had to be down with things I never wanted to be a part of. Too scared to be Jasmine, I disguised myself in gang culture, putting on a front to be accepted, thinking the idea of Jasmine would be silenced forever.

Finally ready to be seen and heard, not caring anymore about opinions of others, free from the suffering of being closeted, so many years. When I did come out to my family, they weren't hateful about it, just shocked, but in time they supported it. I only lost one of my friends, but I do fear losing more once released, because I never introduced Jasmine to others but the world I'm in now. I think about this daily now that I'm close to my max-out, but I'm ready to come out fighting and being strong about my new appearance. I'm Jasmine and I'm here to stay.

Jace C. Bonham: I think the best thing I can say is to make sure that you're happy and able to accept yourself. Sometimes that's the very first step, as it was for me. I would encourage everyone to have at least a small group of people to talk to, and be able to accept yourself above all.

Viktoria in Petersburg: I collected understanding people, who avoided trouble, as a way to find safety in numbers and support. A group to support, and out of the staff's notice. I also signed up for support groups and meetings. So I could get to know all the girls, and find staff I could go to if needed.

I came out to family and friends one person at a time. I asked them to let me tell each new person, to let people adjust. I blurted it out to my mother, who thinks I'm joking. My mother-in-law said OK, then asked to take things slow. Her daughter, my sister-in-law, a doctor, told me to check in with her about my meds. Most of my friends just said "we know" or "yeah, took long enough." Two just ignored it, but not me.

Being open seems to work wonders, someone there will be on your side. When I transferred out on a week long trip, I spoke up to the intake. The captain put me in a woman's holding cell for awhile, then found a place I could be safe. She chewed out staff who made jokes.

COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Rachel: The way things happened in my life wasn't exactly the best ideal many envision, laying awake at night, self-denial eating at one-self. A couple of things happened by my choice and doing. Not many though... Nature and unpredictable circumstance lent a hand...or an assertive foot at times.

I had a couple of open-minded Girlfriends who it felt safe to open up to. I was scared wondering if I waited too long to tell them. Would they tell people, especially my friends? I wasn't close to family growing up, and they already knew. After all, they were born with two eyes...

When one of my Exes and I had a falling out, she "outed" me to our entire circle. "Hell hath no fury..." right? Around the same time my mom found letters between me and a "fly-by-night" of mine. Not fun! There was no more hiding, no way to. I am thankful for these experiences. It needed to happen.

If people abandon you because of who you are, they were never REALLY there anyway. You will lose people, but many will stay, and some you lose will return... once they educate themselves. Each day we live is a gift. Either we live it as our TRUE-selves, or as frauds cheating ourselves. Hopefully this helped some people...

LIVING TO LOVE

Juicy Queen Bee

Living to love this life accepting who I am
By spreading love joy laughter everywhere I go
Giving back to my community plus those
Who help me grow move forward giving me
A reason to live this life without being afraid

Living to love
Expecting more than every high every low
Working hard to stay on top get where I want to be
Not allowing hate take control run my life

I am living to love loving to live
Please do not judge me by my race my sexuality
Just give me my respect where it's due
Accept me as I am
A Queen King living to love
Loving to live stepping on no one to stay on top

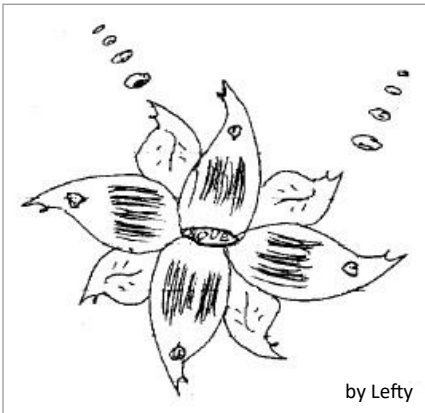
Doing my part
Trying to find my place before it's too late
Being happy and free
To explore my true identity
My race don't run make me
My body don't make me only I make me
Being educating having a purpose in life
Living to love just being me happy with who I am

Loving my life my family my mother
Who gave me strength encourage me to be me
Just living to love
My life as I am

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COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Jai: I suppose the advice I would give my younger self about coming out would be to be patient. I was raised in a very religious climate and also homeschooled through graduating high school. When I was caught naked with another boy at six years old--I was told by my parents that homosexuality was against the bible. When they found out I was dating men at seventeen, they threatened to cut me off completely if I wanted to live that lifestyle. There were many events that made "coming out" or living my truth seem impossible. I thought the day would never come, but y'all--it did! A couple weeks ago, my mom came to visit me alone. We had some deep conversation, which led to us discussing my sexual orientation. I credit the progress of society in LGBTQI matters that led my mom to be open and receptive. For the first time in my life, I felt my mother's love was unconditional, and that she accepts me for who I am. Mom is reading books about people who were raised religious and were homosexuals. She told me yesterday she felt she was reading about my life in every story. Mom apologized for not supporting me or praying for me each day. She is beginning to understand, respect and accept me--as me. I'm still in shock to be honest. I trust it's all up from here!



Phil AKA Pryme: The first step is to be real with yourself and Tell yourself it's okay to be who you really are without caring what people say or Think. The only thing that matters is what you say, feel & think about who you are and How you want to Live your Life. DON'T sacrifice your True feelings about who you Are for NO ONE Not even your family!!! Love yourself for Being you and Not what others want you to Be.

Phillip E. Bornman III
HL7919 SCI Fayette

Shaun Fitzgerald LQ3800 SCI Greene: My coming out story begins at SCI Coal Township. Shout out to Mama Penny, Note, BR, Shadow, and Drew. I started my bid there, and Mama Penny kinda gave me the ropes on what to do and what not to do while in prison, and she taught me so much. I really miss her (sorry tearing up) and the rest of the community out there. And now, I am a proud Gay Inmate in the PADO. Thank you Mama Penny. I owe you one. One last thing Shout out to my one true love Raymond. Love you boo.

COMING OUT, CONTINUED

MT: For those of you who are considering coming out, that means that you know who you are and you're ready to embrace it. I know that you may have fears of what your loved ones and friends may think, but you must be brave despite the cynicism, negativity, and criticism in the world. You have to be willing to choose your own comfort over what others may say or think. Around the world, there are millions of people who aren't brave enough to live the lifestyle they desire. They are afraid that others will see them as lesser and neglect their humanity. This is a "thinking barrier" and it will cause you to barricade yourself from any possible potentials. Here is a 4 step process I believe may help you with coming out.:

1. Examine yourself, evaluate, and be sure that you are making the right decision to come out.
2. Build up your courage and strength, identify your true value, and be brave enough to face the world and the people who have unrealistic standards they believe others should live by, and aren't willing to accept the differences among people.
3. Research, observe, watch and learn about the gender you want to transform into.
4. Approach your new sexuality with aptitude, purpose, and confidence.

When you're afraid to live as the person you truly are, that's when you experience a real death.

Malaysia Monroe: Be yourself, but be careful. A lot has changed in the LGBTQ community in the last 10/20 years. While it seems easier for some, it may be even harder for others. You are who you answer to!! But never let anyone disrespect you for you or who you are. To all the people who are struggling to come out, I'm sorry, and know millions of "us" in "our community" love you while the enemy misunderstands/hates you.

You may be young or older, and you may have a reputation you wanna hold on to.. people may fall back, stop loving you, etc. etc. So what? Just know at the end of each day, you are who you are, and no one can change that but you ♥

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COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Jake: Even if you only admit to yourself, “Hey I’m Gay” or “I’m Trans” that’s a start. Soon you will be able to tell everyone. Be brave and do it for yourself. It really doesn’t matter what anyone else thinks. I know that’s easy to say. I still struggle with that too.

People around you, some anyway, will be mad or hurt when you come out. They’ll ask, “Why didn’t you tell me you’re gay”. My answer was, “Why didn’t you tell me you were straight”. If they can assume everyone is straight, then I can assume everyone is gay until they prove otherwise.

Mike Theroux: It may be hard for some to see us, understand us or accept us but we are as we were made. Don’t delay. Don’t stand down or back away. Be strong. Be proud. Get loud and stand tall. It is your time to shine and be accepted. I love you all.

Mike Theroux W-108986
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Jessica Diana Garza: Coming out is love. It’s the answer to your secrets and expressing that you’ll no longer be hiding in the shadows. The beginning is usually started by exploring the hidden arousing and intriguing mysteries of love. Once you’ve tasted these mysteries of love you’ve found the answer.

You’ll discover who you really are and the way you want to be. Once that truth is established you’ll want to shout it to the world. But certain inhibitions will hold

you back. The key is to get rid of those inhibitions and take pride in the new love you’ve discovered. Because coming out is expressing the love that’s inside you. You want all your friends and your family to know that you’ve discovered who your real self is and you want them to know about it and share in your happiness.

It’s a coming out of secrets and expressing it to everyone around you. Expressing a belief in love and giving of love. I want to feel and give love. Love is the answer.

UNTITLED

Jace C. Bonham

To have someone who
accepts you for who you are.
So rare to find it true
who can take a single scar,
A true friend that will
walk with you when you’re down
Keep your hand in theirs
And make you laugh when you frown.
Make you feel like you
don’t have to change who you really are,
Be there with you
even when the distance is far.

COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Sydney: Today, coming out in any shape or form may bring a lot of change better or worse. You need to have the courage to possibly lose close friends or family you believed would stick anything out with you. Most importantly you should be Firm in being yourself. If they don't like it, let it be their problem. Show love, even if they don't accept you, maybe eventually they may come around. You can use the opportunity to enlighten or free a loved one from a narrow/closed mind. Show them that you are happy.

On the other hand, coming out in prison to strangers can lead to unwanted attention. In my experience, prison is a different atmosphere than the outside world. There is an exaggerated sense of insecurity much of the time. It can be perceived like an invitation rather than just letting someone know who you are. So remember you don't owe them anything because of who you are. Not even an explanation. You will find those who are supportive, with no ulterior motive.

There is no reason in my opinion to hide, but sometimes we still do. I've had it pretty easy. I'm lucky to have my brothers and sisters and all of my friends who support me. My mother was always loving regardless. My father is now sick. We have never really been close, but now we speak more than ever. He has Never been a fan of LGBT stuff and to him I'm his "son." Although I think he may be more receptive now than when I was younger, he doesn't know I take HRT. I don't want him to stress about me in a "man's" jail while he is so sick with cancer. I love him and he loves me regardless, I'm sure of that. In that way I'm content.

Jayne Elliot Patton: When I made the decision to live my truth, I was moving from the hole to a new yard. This was the ideal time for me to come out in prison. I was in a new environment surrounded by people who didn't know me before. With people who I already had a relationship, I broke them into three groups: will accept me, might accept me, and probably won't accept me. I started by sharing my truth with the first group to allow me to have a base of love and respect in my life regardless of the outcome of the other two groups. This first group included organizations which is how I found you <3 ! Most of the second group accepted me as well. I'm still working through the last group. Not a lot of good results, but people I don't need in my life if they can't accept me.

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COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Corey AKA CR at SCI Forest: when I came to SCI Forest I became lovers with someone I really liked. I was scared to walk with her and talk to her out in the open. I fell in love with her so I stopped being a Muslim and started walking with, talking to her out in the open. I emailed my family before they heard it from someone else. At first, my mom and dad were mad but after awhile they came around. We are no longer in a relationship, but we still cool. She's about to go home and I wish her the best and know I will always love you. Be yourself.

Shaylanna "Queen D.I.V.A Supreme" Luvme: First, let me say this...coming out is not an easy thing to do.

Now, the way I "came out" was like this: There was this transgender woman living a few houses down from my mother's house. I approached her & asked her what her name was & she told me but what really attracted me to her was her directness & honesty. She had no shame in who she was & pride & confidence radiated from her. Long story short we started dating & my mother told me she already knew that I liked "men."

This was back in 2004, when I identified as bisexual. I later came out as gay. I didn't identify as transgender until I was incarcerated in 2009.

What you can do is just seek out the LGBTQIA community in your facility & introduce yourself, let them know that you're "coming out" & ask them for their support.

But before you do that, let the people you deal with know that you won't be able to deal with them anymore if they can't deal with someone who's associated with the LGBTQIA community. You don't have to "come out" to them, just let them know you will be hanging out with the LGBTQIA community.

"Coming out" to your family is a little different. Someone in your family may already know & is just waiting for you to come out with it. My advice is if you're close to "ANY" women in your family, "come out" to them first because for some reason women are more accepting to someone who is LGTBQIA.

The big question that "YOU" have to answer before you do anything is ask yourself are "YOU" ready to "come out"?

I send you all my support & love in this course of decision making.

COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Harley Quinn: Throughout my lot years of incarceration, I've met a large number of DL guys. At first, I didn't understand it, and I forced a lot of people out of the closet before they were ready. Such was my ignorance then. Now, since I have some experience, I feel I can give some advice to those in the closet. First off, don't let anyone make you feel shame about not being open about who you are. Take things at your own pace— don't rush things. When and if you are ready, then take baby steps. There are numerous organizations in existence that can help you— discretely even— in every step of the way. Remember, this is your journey, not anyone else. Don't let anyone dictate your journey. And make sure proper communication skills are used with anyone in the out and proud community that are aware of your journey, especially the one or ones you choose to be intimate with. Make sure they understand where you're at— this way there's less of a risk of you being outed before you're ready. And remember, no matter what you have a family to support you in your journey.

Drama free Ski: I don't think i ever truly just came out like Hey y'all im bisexual. But once people found out it was mixed feelings from my folks. Everybody picked a side. I thought i lost some good friends. I cried All night. But the ones that really loved me are still here. Today I guess what i would say is, if you truly fuxks with the person tell them out of your mouth. Don't let them find out from other people. Get the Jump on it. If the love is real they won't care. But if they do care give them time. If they come back cool, if they don't cool. I am still walking that path right to this day. I learn as i go. One day at a time. But always love you no matter what.

Natiley: To the newborns seeking to come out. I can't tell you how to do yours I can only tell you about my born day. It started with a conversation I had with my mom, she said "Baby I always knew who and what you are. Always remember this: anything you got to sneak and do, you don't have no business doing it in the first place. And whatever you choose to be, you be the best you can at it. Fuck what everybody else says as long as you are happy." And that was in 1999. I have been Nalitey AKA Strawberry ever since then in every sense of the word. When it's your time you will know it, so move to the beat of your own drum. The LGBTQ will be here waiting on you to come in because you already a part of.

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COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Taz: I came to find at a young age I enjoyed being with boys and girls. Even though I was taught growing up man is supposed to be with women. I did what felt right which was to not judge someone based on gender. I was sexual with males and females, but most people didn't know I enjoyed being with other males. When I was in high school I was caught with a male friend, then another. Soon after that I was arrested and put in juvenile placement. I was 15 years old. I was attending church services, and we all know what the Bible says. I started to

believe what others said that being with other males made me a bad person. When I was 16 I figured I can't change this. So I started to learn I have to accept myself for who I am.

Today I identify as pansexual. I am proud of who I am. I am a single cell, because of it. Being single celled has negatively affected my mental health and has led to a few suicide attempts. I have also dealt with some harassment, but I try not to let it bother me.

I enjoy sticking up for people in our community. When people call trans inmates the wrong pronoun, I correct them. As members in the LGBT community we need to stick together whether we're inmates or free.

So coming out can be hard. But you should be what you feel is right for you. When it comes to family if they truly love you, they will support you.

[S]UFFERING [I]N [S]ILENCE

Miss Ceci Ransome

Questions I ask myself:

Who should I please?

Society, family, or myself?

Why should I express to people what I'm feeling inside, waiting to see if I'm accepted or not on my own personal feelings?

Or is it my OWN business how I feel about myself?

Should I stand on [MY] principles of self awareness, in which I find happiness, and just be me?

Or should I allow myself to suffer because I want to be liked and accepted?

Can I allow myself to be a leader in my own right?

Should I continue to hide from myself to maintain my family's love that I feel from them?

Or should I be true to Myself, AND Family, and RESPECT what ever their feelings are, and move on, with love, (if they discover me), and no one accepting.

I think, before I die, I can say, I LIVED; by allowing myself to be me.

One me One life, One love...

Just be YOU, and HAPPY you have the strength to BE.

You only live once, why not enjoy it!

What you THINK, you FEEL, you BECOME.

COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Cree: When I came out to my family it was Christmas. After we ate, I said “Everyone, I’d like to say something. I’ve been struggling with this my whole life and I Refuse to hide anymore in the closet, I’m Transgender”. At that point everyone’s mouths Dropped. My parents said, “we’re happy for you and we will always stand behind you with whatever choice you make in life.” I lost a lot of family over it. I haven’t heard from any of my siblings since that day. I got locked up in 2008 but before that, they refused to talk with me. My Advice to Anyone who wants to come out, just do it, Be yourself and be proud of who you truly are. Don’t ever think you’re not worth anything because you’re “LGBTQ.” We all Deserve Love and Respect.

Juicy: Live your life for you, no one else. There will be people who will hate you, Judge you, try to take Advantage of you. But when times Get hard and you Feel everyone is against you, know you Got people that love you. You Got yourself, you Got us and you Got God who will never Turn away from you and loves you for being you. For those afraid to be out the closet it is 2020. Be you. Forget it if some people leave your side, someone New will come. God puts people in your Life for a reason and some for a season. Those here for a Reason will inspire you to Grow and will Help you Transform for the Good and better.

Drew: Let me help you with some knowledge. If you want to come out as gay, bisexual or transgender to anyone close to you be ready for what’s going to come next. When you are ready to let your family know, your family might accept what you are telling them. My daughter, my mom and dad, and my oldest brother loved me for me and supported my life which is true family love and support. Now when my sisters and a couple other people found out they left me alone and told me never to speak to them again. Now when you come out to your homies, you’re gonna really find out who’s real and true and you’ll find out who is fake. I say this because your real true friends will accept who you are and still be a friend, and not be afraid to hang out with you and talk. Your fake friends will leave your side and never mess with you again - but they would have to respect the fact that you approached them and told them. To all of ya’ll who are trying to come out, do it when you are ready and willing to have the courage in your heart to face the world as we in the LGBTQ community have done.

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COMING OUT, CONTINUED

Indy @ Greene | Antoine Walker | KG7791: We've all heard the expression, "In the Closet", right? If I had to describe my "coming out", I'd say I was "in the closet with the door wide open." I didn't hide my sexual preferences. I didn't care what others thought. My biggest obstacle was myself. Self doubt kept me from crossing the threshold until I was 16. So, if you're "in the closet, behind the clothes, with the door nailed shut" or "waiting to cross the threshold," my advice is: BE SURE OF SELF! BE TRUE TO YOU! STAY TRUE TO YOU. Show your beautiful self, don't be scared.

Prison is not an easy place to come out, it's highly LGBT-phobic. But that comes with the territory being 'bout this life. It's not right but it's Facts.

Being confused, scared, or doubtful is normal. We grew up with harsh stereotypes. Reach out to those of us who are out. Try to surround yourself with your LGBT Big Brothers and Sisters. Most of us will gladly guide you but also it keeps bullies and creeps away. Especially Fems, Trans Women, and Little Bitties. Bullies/cowards try to zero in on y'all. Especially if they see you doubt or are scared to embrace yourself. Numbers, size and outspokenness keeps them at Bay. Not saying any of you are weak or scared. Just know we been through it and we got you. Mess with one, mess with all. We're sweethearts but can be sweettarts (sour) if you mess with our Hearts (Loved ones), you're not alone.

Finally, if someone loves you, they'll still be there when you come out. If they aren't, then the love wasn't real. Consider them part of your old wardrobe you left in the closet. You don't need that knock off stuff. You're designer.

This is your life! Be the best you! "Your character is who you are. Your reputation is who people think you are." Live up to the full potential of your character. Not the expectations of your reputation. Rainbows and Flowers need sunlight to show their beautiful colors. Can't do that in the dark closet. Come out and shine with us.

"Ok, I'm getting claustrophobic, think it's time I head out. / But I extend my hand to you; Are you COMING OUT?"

I say this to All individuals afraid to be themselves, afraid to live their life sit down allowing individuals whoever walk over them do whatever They want. Afraid to come out the Closet.

SUGAR RUSH

Miss Ceci

Did you know that starting from birth, most of what we eat and like as well as enjoy, is the result of brain washing to maximize profit for the industrialist, taxes is also in this equation, these food's is not good for long term consumption, cancer, diabetes, and other ailments considered, not to leave out medical and medicine?

But of course this is done by breaking down the genetic structure of fruits and other substances and recreating something new by mathematically and chemically reproducing taste, smell and the appearance of the original foods that is consumed today, as well as getting us hooked on a harmful drug, (sugar), at every meal, that is the tradition with breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There is a science to this, all this is by subliminal suggestions of everything for profits, with little or no concern of the long-term effects.

I just drank two cups of strawberry koolaid, and this is what came to mind.

I CRY

Harley Quinn

Memories of times past, lost lover, lost friends.

Wondering what might, what could've been. I grieve to the end.

Teardrops fell like rain. Whirlwind romance stops.

Heart in tatters, still I crave your love, soaring to the tops.

I grieve the loss of your love.

Oh bittersweet pain!

I dream of you beside me, o can you stop the rain?

Love never hit me so hard, who could take your place

What I wouldn't give to once again behold your face.

Pain has become my closest confidante, my nearest friend.

To have you back again, my heart in a box I'd send.

I'd do anything for you. would you do the same for me?

I love you till the end of time, but mine again, you'll never be.

LOVE

DeDe

LOVE... It's a four letter word, that can heal or cause hurt. Or even do both like a mom giving birth.

Love can be so strong.

Yet if we misuse it, it can be so wrong.

We fight in this battlefield, with swords of steel, that pierce the heart,

and cause tears to rip us apart.

At moments we can be so fierce.

Heartache can make it seem as if the earth stood still.

Someday you'll see that love can be so real.

TIME

Natley

As seconds are ticking away

Multiplying into minutes

Until they become the hours

Which make up another day

To slowly form the months

That evolve into a year

Time passes inexorably on

And indifferent

to each passing moment

My hopes, my dreams, and my future

Fades a little more...

EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

hey hearts in a wire

i got one foot in the door for hormones.
us girls got to stand up to the haters not
back down.

peace out bitches,

~ Jolene

Time was spent. Bonds were formed.
She said she would never forget.
She's gone but I still remain. I'm
lonely, sad, devastated actually. Was
it real? Bree Jiselle please respond.

~ Carlie

HOAW,

I want to give a shout out to Caitlin Mae Santos from Houtzdale. I love you girl,
and I still have your playlist on my table. I always will! Also to Nikki T. I miss you
also girl and stay safe. You're very beautiful. To the rest of you girls stay true and
know that we used tone haters as well!

Well until next time take care, and know when people hate people think about!

~ Alexis Mitchell (Dustin Gorg Lee FG2597)

I'm responding to some of the articles our people wrote in issue #27, every last
one of them had the most positive thing to share. I love this so much that I can't
put it all into words, and that's a rarity for me.

Alicia Simmons, she's forever in my heart, she was so sweet, gentle and beautiful
inside and out, I will always love you.

Hello Caitlin Mae Santos, this is your first time writing, Well! I'm glad you did,
because I experience the same treatment as a transgender woman, here in a
"man's" establishment, as some try to express to me what they feel I am and
should be. I've learned over the years that no response is a confirmed statement of
what you feel and believe: we are who we are. I let my femininity speak for itself
as I walk away... and if someone doesn't want to accept it we can simply walk
away, knowing that they are not addressing me, and that goes for the
administration as well, because I don't have to respond to, and accept
DISRESPECT. be positive about yourself, live in your world and just invite in
who you chose. Remember they are taught what to think and feel by man, you are
taught what to think and feel by your spirit.

Together in solidarity,

~ Ceci your loving sister

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

I wanna give a shout out to everyone who put Recipes in, they are all great. Shout out to Harley Quinn, I'm gonna try the Moisturizing Body Scrub. Sounds wonderful. And to Pryme Star. That French Vanilla Strawberry Cheesecake, I'm gonna make that. I send my Love to All my Family at HOAW. Ms. Brittany, I Loved the part you said don't ever stop fighting for what you want. You're 100% Right. We all have to stick together. Love ya'll.

~ Your sister CREE

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

I wanna say to everybody stick together and stay strong. Don't let our setback bring us down, they can't break what don't bend. Ski I miss you Bro, I'm tryin get in touch. Shout out to Br2Star We was mobbing at the "Set," Sasha I don't know you but your words is strong, Maxine keep your head up and Stay Strong. Juicy Much love we still mobbing.

Stay strong family love always,

~ Eddie

HOAW family:

I received my gender dysphoria diagnosis interview, which I was told I definitely fit, I see the head psych lady this week to find out about starting my HRT. I'm sure it will be good news, but I'm prepared for the not so good. I lost another person in here, to an undertreated cancer this time . It's hard for someone with depression to deal with any form of loss, but I push through. Jayme Elliott Patton: staying strong and taking the high road are things I constantly do. The loving myself part...still needs some work. It's hard to love yourself when part of you wants to die and the other part is just trying to survive. How long did it take the DOC to start you on your HRT? I got told 2-6 years.

Good news: My grandmother (who is the main source of family contact) told me that she's happy I finally settled into my faith even though it's not hers. I'm the only one in my family to practice Judaism, everyone else is LDS.

I have some inspirational quotes that help me:

1. Never be defined by your past. It was just a life lesson, not a life sentence.
2. I am thankful for my struggle because without it I wouldn't have stumbled across my strength.
3. Healing doesn't mean the damage never existed. It means the damage no longer controls our lives.

Always Yours,

~ Jace C. Bonham

EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Hearts On A Wire.

All people's hearts have but one simple need. To be loved. You can numb your feelings and deny it. You can shut and slam the door and lock it out. But eventually your need to love and be loved will tear the door of its hinges. And open you up to love and be loved. Because true love will break the door down and set you free to love again. There's not a prison built that can house it and keep it down. Love is a seedling that can prove to be quite resourceful and even spring forth and grow from the cracks in a sidewalk.

All it needs is to be watered. Hearts On A Wire reaches out like that. Blooming love from a seedling. Thus proving that love never dies but grows forth from even the most extenuating circumstances. Even a broken and empty heart has room for mending and filling. And yes, my heart too has been broken. I've been misused and lied to. But I'm not giving up on finding love and giving of myself. My heart too is on a wire.

~ Jessica Diana Garza

T-32625, c8-125 | PO Box 5103 | Delano, CA 93216

Never give up on a dream
just because of the
time it takes to
accomplish it.



by Jace C. Bonham

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

R.I.P Alicia. She was good people's. Gone but not forgotten. What's good Indy. Stay strong bro. Maxine this ski-bop Holla. My Rockview squad, Sip, Will, CJ, woof we gone make. Stay safe family. This coronavirus is real.

~ Drama free Ski

PS Nair get out your feelings it's all love this way. Keep your head up.

Shout out to my future husband Big Hunk, Strawberry is waiting to be picked.

Love,

~ Natiley

Chaos, what's up my Dude? Dink and Ms Prissy, I didn't see you two getting together but I'm glad you did. As for everyone else, I send my greetings. As for myself, I'm still here in Houtzdale dodging these haters just like I'm dodging the Corona. To be honest, I don't know what's worst sometimes....

~ Skillz

Hey girls, How is Everyone? Fine I hope and pray. me, I am ok, just trying to Deal with Reality= I'm locked up in state prison! Wow, I stay to myself. At this point, All I can Do is focus on Bettering myself. Sending a Shout out to All my fellow LGBTQ inmates out there. Keep you Head up! Stay Strong and Stay Prayed up Sisters.

Love,

~ Twinky Bear AKA JailHouse Wife

A ROYAL MEETING

Twinky Bear AKA JailHouse Wife

I met a Royal Today
Ready to throw Loyalty Away
It was the Slanted Eye's on He
When I looked Back and Seen
That they was Perched on She
it was like, thought's like... "could this Really Be
Feeling them Eyes Really focusing on me
You Do understand it, your Not a Hill Billy
Caylie I looked Away, Feeling Silly
Quickly I looked Back, He Nodded His Head.... "like feel me"
lustful Desire's screaming... I wanna feel He"
I Had to keep my Composure tho, the Crowd was Grilling
He walked out in a Slow Pace
Waiting for me to Run Race
I Fallowed saying to myself "maybe, just one taste"
Caught up wit Him / He said "Hay"
"My Name is Royal, How's your Day"
"Twinky Bear" I introduced
From Him a Smile was Produced
in my P*ssy, Electric Shockwaves Produced Juice
And that's a Delicacy, like cous cous
it was fact, He on my top like fly's on DooDoo
But 1st I gotta find out if He A foo foo
Because I can't, Another Butch Queen, I Refuse to, Boo
If He Not, then WooHoo!... A Royal meeting

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

XOXOX Letters and Love

HOAW:

For most of my life I haven't been able to admit to anyone that I am transgender. When I was 13 I came out as gay. This was a huge step for me, even though no one was shocked. I was black, and I was gay. I felt like I already had two strikes against me, so if I came out as trans, I would be shunned by everyone I knew. That's how I lived the first 19 years of my life. When I came upstate, I didn't know what to expect. I met a lot of good people that are a part of the community, and finally felt like transitioning was something I could do. It took almost a year of fighting for the DOC to diagnose me with GD. I've been 'moning now for 5 months and finally I'm starting to feel whole and love myself. Which I think is something everyone should indulge in just a little more.

I'd like to give a shout out to all of my trans sisters out there. Also to Pear, Special, Keisha, Jessica, Zoey, Slez, Mo, and everyone else I got to know @ SCI Fayette. And to everyone here @ Somerset, Unique, Jaina, Char, Gigi and S, Chris, Snake, Fresh, my sis Steph, and Chanel. To Joey, you know I'm here for you. I'm sorry about the hard times. And lastly, to Buck, if you're reading this I miss and love you, xoxo

~ Gigi @ SCI-Somerset

Hello H.O.A.W,

During my stay here at Rockview I have fallen in love with a beautiful and wonderful transgender woman named Monica. Monica is a very smart, intelligent, wonderful person, with a very good personality. I have found the right lover for me and Monica knows that I am for real about our relationship. We plan on getting married. I will be there to support her in every decision that she makes. I love Monica with my whole heart, and I am very comfortable in who I am and what I have become now, and nothing will change that. Thank you H.O.A.W for reading my letter and for the support. I want to yell out to my baby Monica, "I love you Angel."

Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again.

Blessed be.

~ Xander

HOAW...

Jayne Elliot Patton, thanks for the shout out. I don't have your info, I look forward to hearing from you. You sound intelligent and definitely worth the time. Congrats on your HRT developments!

Though I didn't know Alicia, may she rest in peace.

~ Rachel

Sherman KAPP #398919
PO Box 351
Waupun, WI 53963

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Hearts: I wanna always thank ya for always being supportive and keeping me up on the latest news in our community. Me and my mom was talking the other day and I had asked her if I was born a girl what she would have named me and she got excited and said Fidelity. So we decided that instead of Maya, my name is gonna be Fidelity Toyami Diggs-Speech. I would like to give a shout out to my daughter Sidney, Ty, Romeo, Princess, Miley, Mariah, Nir, Nyla, Juicy, Daniel, DeDe, Zoe aka tattoo, Diamond, Octevian and my lover, my friend, my baby boy, Jaauan. I love ya. Jessica Garza never give up girl, I care for you.

R.I.P. to Alicia Simmons, I'll always remember you

~ Fidelity

HOAW:

Shout out to the fam all over the globe. All my up north brothers and sisters much love and respect.

To Brody, the shout out put a smile on my face. I see you out in Dec. I max-out next October, but I do want to be penpals indeed. Hit me with that info to write you. If you're talk game too, I'll sure follow ya lead smoothies boo. To my Queens at HOAW who write letters and poems, please do continue cause it keeps me pushing forward in this cage and uplifts me spiritually. Also, I keep my prayers open to all who is dealing with the coronavirus. We will get through this tragic situation. With love, peace, and happiness.

~ Jasmine B

Jordan Brown #1000939340
Hays State Prison
PO Box 668
Trion, GA 30753

REST IN PEACE

DOMINIQUE REM'MIE FELLS



Dominique Fells, known to her friends as Rem'mie, died tragically on June 8, 2020 in Philadelphia. She was 27. Originally from York, PA, Dominique was extremely artistic, an aspiring fashion designer and model with plans to continue her education. She organized a successful fashion show at William Way Community Center, and maintained strong ties to the LGBTQ+ community. She was a leader amongst her peers and an advocate in the making taken too soon.

We are full of rage and grief. Our sincere condolence to her many family and friends.

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

XOXOX Letters and Love

Hello Hearts on a Wire,

Sending Passionate love to sisters around the world. I want 2 thank you for Being Beautiful in multiple ways. Ms Evelyn; Harley Quinn A.K.A Tamara Angelique; wonder full woman Ms. Rica A.K.A. Fatcat, the name speaks for itself I am sure Lol... Zoe Carrasquilla you're an amazing woman in many ways; Shaylana Luvme you're a very intelligent Good woman; Linda May Lee I want you 2 know that you the type of woman that any man would love; Rebecca you will never be a outlaw in my Heart and Soul you're 2 much a superwoman 2 Be that; Sky Love, your type of love will put any man on cloud 9; Maya @ SCI Benner you will always Be my Big sister Because your Heart is pure; Tara @ SCI Benner never let any thoughts Hold you back from nothing in this world Because you're above multiple of them and you will always Be my lil' sister; Raven Malaysia Monroe; Ms. Brittany; Ms. Kalieshia Chesney; Miley S. Fletcher; Natiley A.K.A Strawberry I want you all to know that there is something special in all of ya'll so never let anybody tell you different. Maya Toyami Richardson you're the only woman that will have the keys 2 my Heart and soul, you're the only woman i want 2 marry and spend my life with...

~ Blue Magic | SCI Benner Twp.

Twinky Bear, you have a sense of humor in a humorless place. Don't lose that joy and enthusiasm. Love the "Boy Notes." Miss Outlaw, I miss you too little buddy. You kept me laughing. I enjoyed our time. Glad I could help and I always will. Stay in touch. Love you. Victoria Rayne, your poem gave me chills. I hope you're alive and well. Don't give in to the Darkness. Everyday you wake and breathe, you beat the oppressors. Don't let them win. Don't harm yourself. Look at the Hearts on these pages. WE LOVE YOU! WE HEAR YOU! WE'RE HERE BECAUSE WE CARE. We love you. You are us. Talk to us. Dede @ Forest, you never fail to catch my eye. After reading "UNITY" and "IF I WERE PLATINUM" I felt how you felt when you said you'd love to meet the man behind the mind because you got me feeling like that about the women I see in your writings. You are a Platinum Diamond worth more than your weight in Gold. A treasure waiting to be discovered. Don't change shorty. **HUGS & KISSES.** Tamara Angelique, I remember you 100%. I've worried about you since we last seen each other in 2015. I'm glad you're still fighting. You're a sweetheart, but we'll keep that on the Low. If we meet again, I'll tell you 'bout my Harley Quinn. You always got a friend in me.

Here's my lawsuit caption too. I'll keep y'all posted! Walker V. Studlock, 1:17-CV-2371. It's a pro se Excessive Force case.

Love you.

~ Indy @GREENE

Antoine Walker | KG7791

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Hearts Fam!!

What it do? Good Looking on all 'Tha love y'all be showing up in Hearts! On some real shit... feel me? Love my community! We strong and proud! We deep as hell too! They can't stop us. Y'know for Reals... No Lie!

Wanna give a shout out to my True Riders here, tryin to do big thangs... To my Sistas... Flossy— you always been my girl, y'know... Bossy T— I got mad love for you, that shit you did in '03 was some real shit. I ain't never Forgot, you ain't changed either... Twinky, Silky, and Jailynn the Red Bone— We go all the way back like 4 Flats on a Lac, know?... To my Brothers... Sammy The Tennessee Hammer, Freaky Deaky, Lucky Lou, P-Dogg, California Charlie and last but not least... Handsome Hank, I got mad love for all y'all!!

Y'all know who this be.. I stay shakin this ass and poppin that paper. Y'all don't call the Twirk Queen for nothin, know? Holla at cha girl, whether ya know me, or wanna know me makes no difference to me... Holla Y'all!!

~ Chocolate Monica

DaWhawn Walton #562430 | WCI | PO Box 351 | Waupun, WI 53963

When I fell in love with a queen, she truly changed my life around and made me a much better man. Her love and affection brought me into the light and out of darkness. To this day me and my queen are going strong. Peace and love to all my family here at Coal such as Shadow, Juan, Heather, Ryan, Beondre, Mama Penny, etc.

Your brother,

~ Drew (SCI Coal)

I'd like to let an extremely special young man know just how truly special he is. His name is Montez & he has no idea what joy he has brought into my life. I love you Montez! I always will. You will forever be a part of my very soul.

~ Ket Peacock

AKA Pizza Hut And still "A prisoner for Christ"

Dear LGBT community,

They recently transferred my wife Alexis to Albion. I deal with the daily pain of missing her and not having her by my side. Anyone in the community in Albion Please be kind to her and reach out to her. She will always be loved by me. I miss you Precious, hope all is well in the feels/Keep your head high. Better days are coming.

~ Fifty Shades of Joy | SCI Houtzdale

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Dear HOAW Fam,

First a personal shout to J.B. @ Fayette. Suicide runs through my mind every day, and for the same reasons. I lost everyone from my past and my freedom forever. I've attempted suicide only to end up in a coma. In 2018, I was days away from what was to be my last try when I met Kim, who in her special way helped me to finally identify as who I am. From that point life has been worth living. I am trans and proud. I met the love of my life. We're filing permission to get married. If I died on any of my earlier attempts, I never would have found love. Now I have a BFF (Kim) and a wonderful man (Lee). Please stay strong. It does get better.

That said, there are still bumps. I'm actually in the RHU as I write. I got 45 days for a dangerous weapon, extra razor and altering my clothes. Nothing I do threatens safety and security. Everything has a positive effect on my gender dysphoria. My clothes are tailored to fit (thanks Kimberly). I paint my nails, do my eyes, wear bras and thongs, purple socks, my scarf as a belt, carry a purse style tablet carrier. My husband says I look cute, and I agree. Most staff don't care, and I go for months without issues. Then I run across a transphobic staff. Sadly, this trip to the RHU gave staff the power to throw all my gender-affirming property away. They even destroyed the valentine card my husband made me. When I got back to my cell I cried at all I lost, and struggled with tapping out for good. I do a weekly podcast "15 min with Steven Hayes." So I did a show that will be sent to Penn Prison Society and a local newspaper who wish to help. There will always be prison staff who abuse their authority to promote hate and torment to us. I/we will always win when I/we put ourselves back together and continue to express who we are. This I promise to never forget.

To HQ @ Rockview. I fight beside you. If you write me, I will set you up with the podcast to get your message out. This goes for all family members too.

My <3 to all,

~ Linda May Lee (S. Hayes MQ5445 SCI-Greene)

Dear Family,

I would like to say to Patrick A. Carpenter Jr., Thank you for the admiration for me Accepting Responsibility for what I did. It Hurts to know that the things I did Caused Damage. I lost the man I still Love. Please Stay Safe and out of trouble. Welcome to those who have just started getting the newsletters. Take A Stand, DON'T BACK DOWN!

~ Zoey Carrasquillo (SCI Fayette)

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Ms. Miley hey girl, I'm still kicking the dust up & strutting my money maker :)

Thank you & much love to the Outside Collective as a whole. Cree, welcome to the family. Even though you lost most of your family, you've gained an even bigger one ☺. Reach out to me... That goes for you too Ms. Miley.

Sisters, I have a few resources that can bring us closer & fight the DOC's system. We want things but I don't know what "You" girls want. All it takes is for one state to win & all the other states can use that as an open door! New York State prisoners have access to bras, panties & gender affirming clothes. We need more! What is it that you all want that you don't have? Make a list & send it to HOAW & let's see what we can do.

Love,

~ Shaylanna "Queen D.I.V.A. Supreme" Luvme

Shaylanna Luvme 07B2175

Marcy Corr. Fac. | P.O. Box 3600 | Marcy, NY 13403-3600

Dear family I wanted to let every one out there to stay strong and keep y'all head up No matter what. I found myself a bit down today for some reason, To get out that state of mind I Read some of the things y'all Been doing to understand I'm not Alone. I want to send out my love to every one with Respects to the family. Also I'd like to say Hello to Eleven. And Jessica. Feel free to say Hello.

~ Kate

Keith Brown #BDO455

PO Box 1050 | Solidad CA, 93960

Hi LGBTQ Family,

I just want to say be safe and share the Love And Kindness. As we go through this Covid-19. Much Love to my Boys Duke + Allen. Stay up. And shout out to IBA, Keys and DeDe get at me.

~ Dew

Hi! First off I want to send My love to Everyone here at SCI Forest, Ira-Maya I love you and Miss you. Mama, when you making your way back to the West Side? Mariah, Diamon, Dee Dee, Pretty Miley, ZOEY, Tee (where is them cupcakes!?)) S>J> I hope y'all are staying in good spirits and keep yourselves occupied during all this corona stuff. And to my baby, Ed, I love you to death, and my big umbrella whiney brother John. Love you too, stop bitchin. And D. Keep being Real, and keep being yourself, stay FLEEEK.

Peace Love + Anarchy

~ Sydney

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Dear Hoaw family,

Shout out to my fam at Coal: Momma Penny, Lou-Lou, Shay, J-Bunny, J. Cruz/Spike, Samantha and the rest of the crew who helped me while I was there. I was transferred to Mahanoy because of my D-code. I have since become stable and have worked on my suicidal tendencies. I'd like to shout out to Joey AKA Big Star and anyone else that deals with suicide, self-harm, or any other self-destructive behaviors. I have been dealing with mental health since around 5 and self-harm stuff since I was 11 years old. I am a survivor. So I know times can be hard especially with this modified lockdown. I have been working on self-inquiry and mindful thinking, so I am more at peace. I still struggle with feelings of loneliness, feeling unloved, and depression, but I will keep working to better myself. If any1 needs help or some1 to write I'm here to help. Sending love to all.

Blessed be (From Taz)

Tyler Trewitz | NM4043 | SCI Mahanoy

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

Love + grace to each of you all. Beyond words your dedicated and profound commitments to seek out sisters is a life long journey. I'm wishing and so humbly willing to lean in on that unbreakable team deeply. Love to the friends when shit gets rough :) My acknowledged victory for LGBTQIA people was a mark of how far we've risen. "get real and stay humble and smart," time to be a big girl & I am on this "uncharted territory Journey to seek unimaginable levels of policy reform for refuge, and safety, community, and employment measures. I'm in 'til there's nothing left in my human body to stand firm, justice for all humanity is my Quest.

Skillz remember my song on your tablet. Friends 4ever. I forgive you whole heartedly.

So seriously proud of all the contributors, so much Love. Stay with me our work has just begun. We seek liberation, not only for ourselves, but for all beings. To do this monumental task, we must generate a sense of knowing we belong, the altruistic intention to attain enlightenment in order to benefit all beings. Thus we'll meditate on great love, great compassion. There is no greater realization than awareness of the impermanence of our lives. All the pretty concerns that worry us become insignificant compared to the importance of practicing the path before our lives end. Stay woke. We're leaders and I am on a winning team as are you all.

Love,

~ Rica AKA Fat Cat

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear HOAW Family,

I'd like to give a big shout out to every one of my sisters around the globe. I love you all, stand chin ↑, ten toes down PROUD. This is a Pink Star Life to be proud of. To my Maryland sisters locked down, Ms. Kennedy; Ms. Mia; Porsha; Chloe Miley; Cardi B; Ms GiGi; Candy; Anita; Alexia; Ms. China; Ms. Q; Sweatpea; Phearoh; Jess; J-Lo; Leah; Shawte; Ms. Tootsie; Myesha; Amber; Ms. Shay; Ms. Lu -Lu; Ms. Kim; Aurranna; Sierra. To my brothers, Reese; Nephew; Blade; Link; Lor D, I love you all P ★'s. Chris, I love you hubby, be strong, I miss you so much, come home baby! Miley Selena, I love you too girl, Can't wait to see you! Watch the mail. Ms. Erica-R.I.P Girl.

♥ Jasmine Lynn Tetlow

425-231/2148583/MCTC
18800 Roxbury Rd.
Hagerstown, MD 21746



This is my first time here with y'all. I'm from Del Rio, TX, 36. I'm proud to be bisexual ☺. I been an artist for as long as I can remember, and tattooing for about 11.5 years.

Through all my years I lied and blamed others for my actions. I was sexually abused my whole life. Now in my life, I came to a point to be honest and come out and fight my abuser. I learned that I was not alone.

~ Mr. J

Santiago Esquivel
#01952447
1098 S. Hwy 2037
Ft. Stockton, TX 79735

Breaking the Outcry by Mr. J

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Fam,

I really got to say I am hurting for y'all ladies, when I see how down & depressed you are. I completely feel your pain, & you are absolutely right to voice the hardships we go through. Speaking for myself, when I see the HOAW newsletter coming through my door, I know it's all love. I know whatever I was doing is going to wait, because I'm about to read every word on every page. So maybe, keep the books next to your bedside for when you're feeling down some, just reach out & feel all our love & support.

Hell, I asked to be transferred to a Men's Facility & instead got sent to the female Max. I understand the turmoil we suffer. You are a loved individual, know this!

P.S. Rita at SCI Cambridge Springs, I love you ♥ I miss you more every day!

~ Dominic from the RHU

A. Barber | OU8963 | SCI Muncy

Dominic's Cookie Balls

- 2 packs chocolate chip cookies
- 2 packs strawberry or vanilla wafers
- 2 pudding cups
- 1 hershey bar

Smash cookies in bowl, add enough water to make moist.

Smash wafers, leave separate.

Leave chocolate in wrapper, in hot cup of water to melt.

Grab cookie mix, make patty in hand, make indent in patty, add scoop of pudding, make a ball out of patty.

I really like what sister Ms. Linda May Lee wrote. Thank you so very much. Second I would like to say thanks to Cricket from TX. I'm also locked up in TX at the Joe Ney unit. Be safe and show your love to all of the community of LGBTQ2S. Love y'all so much!

Hugs and kisses.

~ Karma

Hey To All My Hearts ♥

Stay strong, stay up 10 and always Remain sucka free.

I don't surround myself with Ignorance clowns or drama. I have no circle of Friends, more of a dot.

Shoutout to all the people who make these Issues keep coming - Adrian, Alex, Matt, Lena and Shaylanna Queen Diva for the cover. Shoutout to my sisters April and Keshun [sp?] I love and miss y'all. Shoutout to my favorite love Buckwild, everyone doing Time at Trousdale Turner as well as other prisons/jails. Big shout to Juicy Queen Bee, Jayme, Sky Love (Keep your head up in the hold)

I love you ALL.

~ Malaysia Monroe ~

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

I am a 55 year old transgender woman presently housed at one of the worst prisons in Florida (R.M.C). All transferring has been put on hold because of the covid-19 outbreak... so I'm stuck here until they resume transferring. Staff here speaks to us trans women using demeaning references to gender or derogatory comments about body or clothing, & use profane & obscene language or gestures. Nobody really knows what we go through... I have no outside support from and feel all alone & helpless.

My sisters, my sisters, I am here to attest to you that we are a people of Resilience and perseverance. Those who aim their words of hate our way are usually people who wish they could be like us. If you identify with any of the five letters in the LGBTQ acronym, you've done something that many people will NEVER do in their entire life. You looked in the mirror and faced your fear. You've accepted your truth. You were courageous and you conquered. And that's why you shine brightest in whichever crowd you're in. You allow your truth to be worn on your sleeve like a bedazzled bracelet, bold and beautiful. I am proud to call you family!

One thing i don't agree with is the constant arguing and bs that goes on between the family. Turning your back on someone because of their incarceration, sex, gender, age, crime, or any other reason, in my eyes, is cowardice. We are judged enough by those who won't or do not wish to understand us. Why do it to your own supposedly family?

~ DeDe

Hello family. I pray that the family that's doing time are doing ok and every one is keeping they head up don't let no one take you down. I have been reading what y'all write in y'all stories. Just know my prayers are with you 148%. You can also feel free to write to me. Love and respects,

~ KATO.

PS. Jessica Garza you NOT alone.

Keith Brown BD0455
PO Box 1050 | Solidad, CA | 93960

I would like to give a shout out to Everybody I EVER became cool with in these prisons, my release date is 6-2-20 and I plan to stay out and stay positive, and most of all be with my Fiancé Ms. Prissy who is home holding me down.

Shout out: to Bre'air, Skillz, B.R 2 star, Tyreek, it's all good "E". I'll see y'all on the other side. Stay safe. To everybody, esp. with this covid 19, I pray for everybody's well being.

~ Dink | SCI Phoenix

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Miley's Peanut Butter Confection

- 1 Jar peanut butter/ or 8 packets of peanut butter
- 1/2 Bag of sugar
- 2 Sleeves of graham crackers
- 20 Butter packs
- 2 Packs of oreo cookies
- Topping desired (my favorite is Reese pieces)

Crush graham crackers to dust in a bag. Melt butter and add into bag. Line a bowl with graham cracker mixture and heat for 15 minutes.

Melt peanut butter (still in jar or packet) Mix 1/2 bag of sugar with peanut butter in another bowl. Mix thoroughly but slowly until the peanut butter is soft consistency and all sugar is mixed in.

When crust is cooked pour in peanut butter. Smooth with a spoon.

Allow the whole pie to set for an hour or so.

Once pie is solid crush oreos to dust and sprinkle on top.

Add other toppings.

Slice and enjoy.

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

Hey, Fam this is your transistor writing from SCI Phoenix. Issue # 27 was a blast to read, and I am humbled and encouraged to know I'm not alone. Right now I am suffering, and the psychological and mental pain is so bad that it takes my breath away. Borderline Personality Disorder is no joke and it is really testing the limits of my endurance. My moments of sadness cripple me. Sometimes I wonder if I really am alone. HOAW gives me the boost of love and hope I need to trudge on. I'm really missing the man whom I fell in love with in spring 2018. He's moved on, but for the life of me, I can't seem to get over the loss of that relationship.

To Cree at Rockview: wish I could've gotten to know you. We shared blocks at one point in time. Congrats in coming out in full! To M.Armstead at Phoenix: I thought I met all the family here, and I don't know who you are. EB Unit sucks, and I'm all alone over here. I'm the only queen wearing bold shades of lipstick and people call me Joker. Don't me a stranger! I'm the friendly "beast" on the West! To my girls Nia and CeCe: We girls have gotta get together! Been trying to make my way to J, but so far, no luck! To Indy at Greene: Always a pleasure to read the good stuff ya write. I miss you. We had a blast at coal, even when we met in the hole. Keep up the positivity and keep up the good fight!

To all those hurting, suffering, and crying: I feel your pain. Together we will make this world better. Keep on fighting and surviving. To all members of the LGBTQ community: we need to have the attitude that when one of us is suffering, we all suffer. We need to combat oppression as one force and put aside petty feuds and differences. True unity keeps our oppressors at bay and makes them think twice about oppressing us. There's strength in numbers. Keep you heads held high!

~ Harley Quinn

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

By the time you read this, I will be just beyond my one year mark on HRT! And, I'm currently engaged in two battles with ADCRR. 1. For traditional bras at my unit. Policy says we can have them, but the unit says only sports bras. 2. For permanent hair removal. I'm seeing the Dr. in April to discuss it. And, I'm single again. :(It hurts, but life goes on.

shout outs: ♥Ravyn (AZ) - Welcome! So nice to see another AZ girl! ♥JaLynn Michelle - Girl, you wrote me, we've become fast friends, I love you! ♥Shaylanna Luvme - Thanks for the words of kindness. My like-minded people are all right here! ♥EJ Oney - So proud of you for embracing your Two-Spirit self. I'll keep an eye open for 2S support organizations and drop you a letter once I find something. ♥De De - Sorry Florida is being so bad! I'm always here for you. ♥Cricket - I'm with you 1010%. I recently had a CO use a homophobic slur at me in Spanish right in front of a nurse. I PREA'd him fast! That's where our power lies. ♥Harley Quinn - Thank you so much for the update! I will be following your case with fingers crossed! ♥Raven - Girl, you go! Congratulations!

Lots of love to every one of you! Until next time!

Jayne Elliot Patton

PRIDE

DeDe

I'm proud of who I am
of what I am,
what I like.

With pride I take a stand,
All who oppose take a hike.
I don't feel bad at all,
because they don't agree.
From weakness I won't fall
Nor tremble At the knee.

In numbers there is strength
those like me are many
who'll go the extra length.
LGBTQ plenty.
they think I'm all alone.
Look again we are one.

Hello Family,

In the last issue I seen a lot of Talented Artist and writers when we look at our life we see Hurt Pain and Trials and some of us Has been through a lot in Life. Issue #27 just like every other issue is true and powerful.

Shoutouts to Miley-No Cat don't Got my Tongue I love you Sis, Maya, Maxine, BR 2 star, King Chaos, Mariah-love you, Indy, Alex-Love you sis, Sasha Crazy Have love for you, all my brothers and sisters Shoutouts.And to a Friend BR 2 star I'm not mad. I forgive you and Glad we Departed on Good terms I pray for the best until we meet again No one is Perfect.

In closing being yourself is All that matters.

~ Juicy Queen Bee

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Hi Heart on a Wire-

I'm a proud member of the LGBTQ community. I been fighting for who I am for the past two years at Northern State Prison. I really haven't had nobody out there to talk to. Soon as I came on the unit that I'm on I met two people that is LGBTQ. It was nice to know I am not by myself. One day I was feeling low so I went to see mental health. I told her about my problem. She said listen, I understand have a gay son at home so I am going to tell you what I told my son. You are big, bold and fabulous so keep your head up. Just be who you are, never forget that. Ever since that day I tell myself I am just the Baddest Bitch!

Please take care and keep your head up. Please don't let no one put you down, be who you are. Forget the ugly minded people.

Love Sincerely,

~ Bootylicious

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

Shout out to everyone in the LGBTQ Community & all those involved with HOAW. Having a voice is key to fight for Equality. My condolences to the family & friends of Alicia Simmons, RIP baby'girl, surely you'll be forever missed. I wanted to say to Ms. Caitlin Mae Santos, I see you, yes you are a Queen of Pure Royalty. Ms. Santos, & without question all transgender women are supposed to be respected & seen as women, period.

~ King of Kings Nahmir aka
Real One | SCI Houtzdale

This is my first and hopefully last time in prison. I'm in Somerset. I would like to say thank you to my cousin for introducing me to HOAW. I think HOAW is so helpful to us LGBT++ people who are locked up behind bars, and it gives us light and hope for when it comes time for us to get out. I would like to give my heart out to all my trans sisters who have been killed and...in hopes that someday justice will be gotten for all my passed angel sisters in heaven.
#STOP KILLING BLACK
TRANS WOMEN

~ Brittney Marie Fetherson
AKA Cupcake | QA4783

BEING DIFFERENT IS POWERFUL Phil AKA Pryme

I look around and all I see is pain
Separated amongst us
But our pain is the same.
Life is full of Twists & Turns
Ups and Downs
And full of people trying to keep us Down
They say its wrong to be Gay, Lesbian or
Trans
But they Don't know How it feels
to feel so Different inside:
Like I'm Not who I'm supposed to be.
I'm BI and I hold my head High
with my Rainbow fist to the sky with Pride
I Raise my voice High
Letting the world know who I am inside
and out
No more Hiding
Its time to come to the forefront
and fight To Be Different
Because to be Different is Powerful...

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

I hope this finds everyone safe and well out there. I write to send my love and support to the movement. Each of our contributions are like links in a chain, made stronger by our connections to one another. To everyone whose letters I read in the last issue, I'm feeling your energy. We are part of a beautiful revolution. Let us never settle for less than we deserve, or let our circumstances silence us.

I'd like to respond to Jessica's piece in the last issue: "Is there anyone who cares?" Lift your head up girl! There are thousands of us that care, and empathize with what you're feeling. I've been confined to AD.SEG/SHU for eight years - and sometimes the shadows creep in, and I feel isolated and overwhelmed. So keep your chin up Jessica; we are much stronger than the concrete and steel that confines us; we are much more enduring.

Remain safe, and take care, both you and yours. Never stand down,

~ L.

Lee Doane #09B3551
Elmira Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 500 | Elmira, NY 14902-0500

1st i want 2 say shoutout 2 HOAW & your struggle ya had 2 do 4 us 2 continue receive that HOAW. i wanna give a major shoutout 2 A.L @Somerset, I really do appreciate you hearing my words, i've been in dark places home n it's hard 2 find "Real friends" n i want you 2 know that i'm here 4 you 2 homie.

~ Prettyboi Jay @SCI-Greene

TO THOSE WHO HATE

Monica | SCI Rockview | GB9963

We are all here together. We were created equal by the one we will be judged by in the end. Your tiny, insignificant judgement of people like me means nothing in comparison. But you still hate?

We are all here together. All locked down for Covid-19 and all equally vulnerable.

Remember rain falls on everyone indiscriminately from the Heavens. It falls on the good and bad, the rich and poor, the gay and straight, equally. But you still hate? We are all here together, wearing the same masks. The whole country is united helping each other. The good, the bad, the rich, the poor, the gay, and the straight. But you still hate?

We are here together. We wear the same uniform, so obviously we both fucked-up to be here. But you still hate?

We are all here together. Your judgmental hate still mean nothing to me why?

Because So many of your "homies" you think are straight have come on to me, so many pitch and catch. So many show off, stroking one off in the shower. They're all here too. Do you judge them? But still you hate?

We are all here together. We all wear the same masks, mine's just prettier. This won't go on Forever and the masks will come off. Your puny, pathetic judgements and opinions still will mean nothing.

Because under my mask is still the real me. The real Monica, True, Proud and Trans!

But under yours is still that masks you always wear to distract others. Your mask of judgement, hate, and prejudice. I think the real face under that is what you REALLY still hate. But do you still hate? We are all here together. I try not to hate, because all the real shit will come out in the end, to be judged by someone else above. We will all be there together too!

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love



SHIPS

Blue Magic

Relation“ships” and friend “ships” are all ships and whatever you put into them ships will tell if them ships will weather the storm or sink. Your life is the water and it’s not always sunny and smooth sailing and a lot of ships sink when the water gets rough, Who is really intentional when building relationships?

Just know ships built on things outside the person need those things to fuel the ship. When it’s gone, the tank is on E and the ship sinks. Build solid ships that are based around Qualities and values that are true to you, that go deeper than material things. love is the only way to grasp another human being in the innermost core of his personality. no one can become fully aware of the very essence of another human being unless they love that person.

Hello All,

I’m not Trans, just a gay man. I’m in awe of all your strength. You are truly some of the strongest and bravest men and women I’ve ever read about. I think anyone who is apart of the LGBTQ+ has thought or tried to commit suicide. That’s because of the loneliness and the isolations the haters want us to feel. **YOU ARE NOT ALONE** and **IT’S OKAY TO BE YOU**. Please don’t give in to such thoughts. I feel them everyday and I know its hard to fight it. But fight it you must. **YOU ARE LOVED**.

I know it’s hard to be different, or at least to feel different. Even more so, when your whole life people have been saying to be Queer, Gay, Homo, Trans, Bi or any other name is wrong. It’s hard enough for me to be okay with who I am, a gay man! Still trying to be. I’m not sure if its easier or harder to come out in prison. But you have to be you.

To EJ Oney, Two-Spirits, I’m not a Native but I’m with you and here for you. Stay strong. To Cricket and all of us locked up in Texas, I know your pain and suffer alongside you. Keep your heads up.

~ Jake

**STAND UP, STAY STRONG,
STAND TOGETHER, GAY PRIDE**

William (Jake) Jacobsen 01587274
9601 Spur 591
Amarillo TX 79107

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear HOAW Family,

After 19 months, they finally notified me they denied the GRS I was scheduled before I came back in. Still fighting for my shots they also removed me from to going back on the nearly worthless pill. My next battle is changing that M to a F on my DOC record - only place left that has a M. Despite all, Mahanoy has been one of the best thing to happen to me. More specifically, my wife Ashes is. I love you princess. Quick shout out to my crew here Ashes, Tone, X, Dawn, LeRoy + Fess and at Benner Stefanie (love ya sis), Zane, Darius, Chop, Heather, Gumby and Miller, Love ya all!

~ Leah Rose-Horan

As we remember the lives of our Trans sisters who are slain in the toxic streets of America we have to recall the civil movements pioneers of the 50-60s etc. We should defend ourselves by any means necessary

It pains me to know what we all go through. Stay fly, LIVE! Keep each other strong. Y'all all are truly my people. I send my love to the whole fam.

~ Solo the Solo Daddy

STATE OF THE UNION

Lisa Jackson

I only went out to get the paper, never expecting to die.
There was no time to put up my hands before the bullets started to fly.
I'm only 12 years old sitting in my class, thinking of the test I hope I'll pass.
Didn't know the kid next to me was having a difficult time,
so he pulled a gun and just for fun committed a horrible crime.
I was only going ten over the limit, it wasn't a horrible deed.
The officer drew down and took my life all because of my speed.
I was spending time with my favorite Aunt, she let me stay up late.
We were only watching movies, never guessing her fate.
We heard a rustle in the bushes, she stood to investigate,
the officer's gun come out he did not hesitate.
A single shot is all it took to steal her life away
And now I'm left with all my memories of that traumatic day.
They come to the arena to enjoy their favorite band,
never suspecting that under row two a planted bomb was at hand.
They only come to worship, that's why the sacred day was for.
But as they approached they noticed the swastikas painted on the door.
He went with his brown skin and his degree to apply for the job of his dreams.
They told him they suddenly had no Room on any of their all white teams.
She worked two jobs to feed three kids, they had need of a house of their own.
She sacrificed to save each dime but still got turned down for the loan.
Funds are always found for causes with political gain,
while so many children go hungry and our vets sleep out in the rain.
The prisons are full, not everyone belongs.
But no one wants to set them free, to right the corrupted wrongs.
The courts say we're free in who we marry and who we date.
Why then is there constant news of how we discriminate?
The farmers go broke, the jobs are overseas, recession looms at hand.
Whatever happened to the promise to make this a greater land?

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Aaaand, coronavirus. Be safe, I see people wearing gloves all the time (doesn't change that you're touching things). Eat right. Be smart, soap, water. Stay healthy or I'll kick you!

~ Viktoria in Petersburg

Shoutout to Go-Star. I miss you buddy. To my homies at Benner I love you & hope to see you soon. Brian I miss you & hope to hear from you soon. Heather I love ya girl, Eric I love & miss ya.

~ Jordyn JP Pratt NR0059



Greetings! Its good to see a place where LGBTQ & allies can share their voices. I was married to a trans woman. She (Tianna) was murdered in a hate crime. Respect, Love & support for the entire community. Stay Strong.

~ James May

#80107-083 | FMC Devens
PO Box 879 | Ayer, MA 01432

TRANS PAGAN

Michael "Michelle" R. Mallett

We look in the sky as love above us
When we feel vibes quell our emotions
See what takes place in this world of ours
Feel heart of mother nature in our bodies

Trans pagan feels the rites in our minds
Trans pagan condense in new matter ways!

We cry, pray and seek in ritual ways
of understanding the gifts given above
Life lessons must be learned and not push!
Feel to heart of life's most rewarding ways.

Trans pagan feels the rites in our minds
Trans pagan condense in new matter ways!

Take heart o merry ones that don't won't
Make amends with us as we with you
Work new ways of feeling who we are
Live in our world and see how we feel?

Hello HOAW

I'm a 56 years old, I been in the closet my whole Life. At SCI Forest I became close friends with people who showed me I could come out and be myself. Sydney, Pretty, De-De, W and a few others.

My family on the streets have no idea about my secret. I could really use All the advice I can get. Thank you all for your support.

~ John Lewis A.K.A "Shrek"
MQ2668 | Forest

To Hearts on a Wire:

I want to say what's up to my friend Jason Glaister and my friend Ms. Juicy Queen Bee,

~ Bad Boy John Bartleson NP4097

HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION is campaigning to change the law on solitary confinement.

They are conducting a survey to learn how incarcerated people in the LGBTQIA+ are treated during sentence.

Write to them if you are interested in filling out the survey or getting involved in their campaign:

HUMAN RIGHTS COALITION

PO Box 34580

Philadelphia, PA 19101

HOLD ON TO ME

Malaysia Monroe

When you Find someone good, hold on To Them
cause I Need you to Hold on to me
I wish you would stop Playing These mind games,
Treating me
like a Random Bxxxx cause That's something I'll
Never Be. Yeah I cheated, but you Fxxxx up too
Causing Trust issues and Problems between us
Wondering can we stay strong or move on cause
I made a promise but Ima keep that between us!
Regardless how people feel or what They Think of us
I Need you to hold on to me
We've been 23 days Apart and like Beyonce I'm
scared of lonely. Your Touch, your kiss, The Fights
And The Arguments, I miss it All...
When I told you Ima Ride with you tis The end
I meant it All From my soul
Hold on to me, cause Ima be ya lady
hold on to me, cause your my Baby
And When Times Are Ruff, and days are
Fxxxx up, Hold on to me
When your saying Malaysia, hold on to me
Kissing my lips, Hold on to me
Ima Always hold on to you, but baby hold on to me

NINE YEARS AGO

Caitlin Mae Santos

Nine Years Ago
I Lost the one closest to me
who was my best friend
That very piece of my heart
and my soul that I will
never get back.
Nine Years Ago
Losing a mother is the
toughest emotions in life.
Dealing with your pain
and expressing it are two
very different factors.
Nine Years Ago
I was going through the
toughest obstacles in life
and I could not even begin to
run the course
Afraid to move on from
the pain Nine Years Ago
Life cannot get any harder
But it will never get easier either.
Nine Years Ago
I was different
I was new
I have changed
Losing A lot
and gaining much more.
Lost my family
for being a Transgender woman
Lost my friends for my Crimes.
I regret my crimes
Nine Years Ago....
Nine Years Later
I'm becoming a woman
The person I am meant to be
I am happy
Me and my boyfriend are meant to be
Soulmates
DEAR TO MY HEART
Nine Years Later
Everything fits together
I love him so much
I Love you
DEAR TO MY HEART.
Nine Years Later

BOOKS & PENPAL RESOURCES

We received frequent requests from inside members of the Hearts on a Wire community regarding books and pen pal resources.

Books Through Bars provides small packages of free books to individuals incarcerated in the Mid-Atlantic region: Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, New York, Maryland, and Virginia. **Book 'Em** sends free educational books and quality reading material to prisoners and prison libraries in Pennsylvania. **Books For Prisoners at UCSD** sends socially conscious reading materials for prisoners nationwide.

Send a letter that includes your name, prisoner ID number, full address, any restrictions on incoming books, and types of books wanted. Make your request by subject rather than specific title or author, and provide several areas of interest if possible. For example, African-American history, basic math, carpentry, how to draw. Please be patient. These programs get many, many requests so it may take a while to receive the books.

Black and Pink

6223 Maple St #4600
Omaha, NE 68104

Prisoner Correspondence Project

QPIRG Concordia
c/o Concordia University
1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest
Montreal QC H3G 1M8
CANADA

Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project

c/o Boneshaker Books
2002 23rd Ave S
Minneapolis, MN 55406

Sylvia Rivera Law Project

147 W. 24th St., 5th floor
New York, NY 10001

Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project

1230 Market St #705
SF CA 94102

Books Through Bars

4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Book'Em – Pittsburgh

PO Box 71357
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Books For Prisoners at UCSD

w/Groundwork Bookstore
0323 Student Center
La Jolla, CA 92037

Black & Pink and the **Montreal Prisoner Correspondence Project** are two pen pal organizations that match incarcerated members of the LGBT community anywhere in the country. Another nationwide organization that matches incarcerated transgender people to pen pals is the **Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project**. Additionally, there are several state organizations. The **Sylvia Rivera Law Project** corresponds with transgender people incarcerated in New York State, and the **Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project** supports trans and intersex people incarcerated in California.

Hearts on a Wire appears on several resource lists as a pen pal organization. While we are aware how valuable it can be to have contact with people, this has never been a service we have provided, nor is it something we have the capacity to take on. We have worked to correct these wishful-thinking resource lists as we become aware of them, but we continue to get frequent requests for pen pal matching.

LEGAL RESOURCES

Several inside members again requested that we print a list of LGBTQ legal help resources.

PA Institutional Law Project

The Cast Iron Building
718 Arch St., Suite 304 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project provides assistance to incarcerated or institutionalized people whose constitutional rights have been violated within the institution.

Mazzoni Center Legal Services

1348 Bainbridge Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

Mazzoni Center has legal services for LGBT people in Pennsylvania, including discrimination cases.

ACLU Pittsburgh Office

313 Atwood St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

ACLU Philadelphia

PO Box 40008
Philadelphia, PA 19106

The **ACLU** sometimes takes prison conditions cases, but they are selective in which cases they take because they do “impact litigation.”

Impact litigation is strategic legal cases that have the potential to change the situation for other people in similar situations to the plaintiff.

Transgender Law Center

PO Box 70976
Oakland, CA 94612-0976

Transgender Law Center is a national organization that takes on impact litigation related to trans rights.

Lambda Legal

120 Wall Street, 19th Floor
New York, NY 10005-3904

Lambda Legal is a national organization that takes on impact litigation related to LGBT/HIV rights.

NCLR National Office

870 Market Street Suite 370
San Francisco CA 94102

The **National Center for Lesbian Rights** is another national impact litigation firm that takes on impact litigation related to LGBT.

GLAD

18 Tremont, Suite 950
Boston, MA 02108

GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) is a national organization that takes on impact litigation related to LGBT/HIV rights.

TLDEF

520 8th Avenue, Suite 2204
New York, New York 10018

Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF) is a national impact litigation firm that takes cases related to trans discrimination.

WRITE TO US! SUBMISSIONS

Rules & Guidelines

You can send us...

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

NEXT ISSUE:

Our current political moment is marked by the state's failure to care for our people during COVID-19 and the nationwide uprisings in response to George Floyd's murder. In what ways do you see a new future emerging out of this struggle? How big can we dream--a world without prisons? Without borders?

heartsonawire@gmail.com

Hearts on a Wire
1315 Spruce St
Philadelphia, PA 19107

1. If you contribute make sure you tell us exactly how you want to be credited [Anonymous? ID number? Chosen name? Facility?]
***** we will only use your address and/or government name if you explicitly tell us to do so *****
2. Please respect other people's privacy; only make disclosures about yourself.
3. No shade.
4. Your original work only.
***** we will not publish work that has previously been published elsewhere *****

We get more submissions than we can possibly print. We reserve the right to publish excerpts as well as make light edits.

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

Subscriptions are free for Trans people and allies who are locked up.

Our policy is not to add people who haven't reached out to us directly.

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

Donations accepted

Make checks out to Heart on a Wire, or email us for info on donating through our fiscal sponsor.