

Hearts on a Wire

Issue # 29 — Fall 2020

Letter from Outside Collective **2**

Reactions to the World **3-8**

Pride I Can't Breathe ♥ Niara **4**

One Nation ♥ Joe Vanderford **6**

Pandemic Struggle ♥ Maxine Davis **6**

I Have a Dream ♥ Harley Quinn **8**

Man is Still Learning

♥ Ceci Ransome **9**

Update: PA Name Change **9**

Being Non-Binary **10**

Quiz: Can You Respectfully

Date a Trans Woman **12**

Letters From You **13-36**

Transgoddesses ♥ Solo the Solo Don **13**

Sunshine ♥ Kevin Hakin Johnson **14**

Help Me ♥ Harley Quinn **18**

Bullied By Exclusion ♥ Twinky Bear **19**

faith Your True Self ♥ Alexis Mitchell **21**

Untitled ♥ Lee Doane **22** Toil ♥ Nir **23**

My HOAW ♥ Mx. Joseph May **24**

Untitled ♥ Bree/Seagull Quinley **27**

Count On Me ♥ Juicy Queen Bee **28**

Black Love

♥ Jaquan Blue Magic Richardson **29**

Brief Hearts on a Wire History

♥ Adrian **37**

Books & Penpal resources **38**

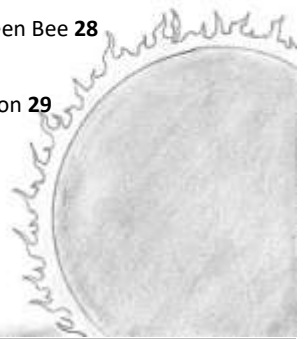
Strength Legal Resources **39**

Write to Us **40**



Be you

Love



♥ 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.

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

LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

Dear Beloveds,

We hope this finds you well during this time of upheaval, anxiety, rage, hope and change.

We have two policy changes to announce, both rooted in our core mission to interrupt the devastating isolation faced by incarcerated trans people:

First, we received notice that the printing of full addresses was causing this newsletter to be barred in a number of states and institutions who have policies against soliciting pen pals and/or against incarcerated people writing to one another directly. In order to not exclude our members in those places, we made the decision moving forward to print, if requested, legal name, inmate ID number, institution name, and state, but no more full mailing addresses.

Second, from now on we will only add people to our mailing list who tell us that they are trans or that they have some relationship to the trans community. We receive an overwhelming number of subscription requests. Some of these are from people we believe are simply signing up for every possible thing they can get in the mail without regard to content. While we understand the importance of getting mail, we have decided to reserve our limited resources (both time and money) for the trans community and our allies.

In loving solidarity,

~ The Outside Collective

REACTIONS TO THE WORLD

In our last issue we asked you for your perspectives on the nationwide uprisings in response to the murder of George Floyd and to the government's failure to care for our people during COVID-19. Thank you for all your thoughtful submissions!

Juicy Queen Bee: I know a lot of us are stressing wondering when this COVID-19 will be over so the DOC will Go back to Normal Activities, programs etc., where bag breakfast will be taken away and Grilled cheese will be Grilled.

I know we've been hit by this crazy. A lot of people are crying because they lost family members, friends. I never seen nothing like this. My concern was those who are elderly or weak Immune systems and family members like my mother making sure she did what The Doctor told her, staying in the House cause she has a oxygen tank.

You know this killing by police is just getting worse and then we act like fools allowing these pigs to continue to do them. And the question is where are police commissioners, Sgt Lt Captains going to be held accountable for not watching signs to see if their officers are showing psych problems, depression, anger, hate, family problems. When are people going to stop using a death to stand against the Hate, the Abuse, the corruption. Now I'm not against fighting for a cause because something isn't right. Since way before that, police been hating on African Americans, targeting Blacks, Hispanics, women, young men. From locking them up, beating them up, with the protection of Judges, District Attorneys and others. Yet citizens still find some not guilty 'cause the state didn't really want them to get convicted.

Juicy's Closing Statement to the Jury:

I want you to close your eyes for a minute. Take Mr. Floyd's skin color out, any crimes he may have done, picture him as a father, your father, your son, your brother, then I want you to picture yourself in his shoes, being denied treatment, asking for help, having an officer putting his knee in your neck, looking like he's taking a picture. Then picture his family as your family.

Now open your eyes. If you want justice today, you have the authority, power to let this former officer know "you must follow policy. You aren't above the law and now you must pay the price for a Life." You must find him Guilty for his crime and actions, Letting him know "right is right wrong is wrong and you have no power to take a life being a Judge, Jury and Executioner in one."

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REACTIONS TO THE WORLD, CONTINUED

Niara: Consequences provide the social forces of urban poverty. Consequently, the African American Black community marginalized [by] economic disparity has submerged. The ramifications have been the constant imposition of westernized cultural core beliefs. With racial ethnicity oppression civilization. The systemic repression and the diplomatic acquiescence has perpetuated pervasive structural compartments of our modern society. The racial brutality marked by George Floyd's gruesome demise sparked a national outcry and invoked a recognition of officials' accountability and reprehensibility.

With regards to moving forwards, I envision a society of compassion, peer accountability, without the justice system oversight, a discrimination-free society.

In light of the ineffective response of the doc toward Covid-19 sanitation and the constant threat of contraction remains prevalent. My fellow comrades, brothers and sisters, remain cognizant of social distance and handwashing.

Malaysia Monroe: Covid-19 has destroyed us all. Mentally and physically. From death to survival. From homeless to being jobless. This "new way of life" is simply crazy. A vaccine needs to be made.

Trump has done nothing for us Black Americans. Trump has showed he is only for "whites" and if you are any other color, Mexican, Black, Asian, or Native American, he is NOT for You. We do NOT need Trump in office. Trump needs to go.

I CAN'T BREATHE

Niara

If you take your foot off my neck I can,
if you take your foot off my neck I can live,
if you take your foot off my neck I can learn,
reality to make a change, if you take your foot
off my neck I can stop lurking for air for breath
of liberation, if you take your foot off my neck
I can begin to live and give society its worth,
if you take your foot off my neck I wouldn't be a
prisoner to the social forces of society expectations
of conformity, if you take your foot off our neck
we can shine like the Beacon in the darkness
and actually excel and soar like we're meant
to, that foots been on our neck since we came
out our mother womb we are here ready and
we demand you take your foot off our necks

The murder of George Floyd is simply another hate-crime that has been dismissed/forgotten. Please do your history. The police was started by the KKK. We need more prison reform. Everyone does NOT belong in prison, period.

Miley: It is with gr8 sadness that policing has come to people being killed in America, land of the free

REACTIONS TO THE WORLD, CONTINUED

home of the brave. all Black people are not criminals. All white people are not racists. This is what I thought about watching TV of the protests and riots. We transgender people have been murdered, abused sexually, mentally, physically. Transgender people in prison face unique and extraordinary vulnerabilities and risk of physical and sexual assault and harm transgender inmates are nearly 10 times as likely as the general population to be abused by other inmates and 5 times as likely to be abused by staff. My point is that this racism is not only on the streets, it is also in our prisons, jails, juvenile detention centers, foster care. Remember we incarcerated count too.

A lot of us are in a hard place not being able to see one another to support one another. Always keep your head held high, give yourselves a pat on the back and move forward. We need to focus on what we need to do to maintain ourselves in this time of disaster. Covid 19 has harmed our communities, our families, friends and others. But while we are all in a separate place. Let's focus on how we as Transgender people can fix the wrongs we've done to one another, when we were around each other.. Some of us argued with one another but now we want their comfort. We also saw I was harsh or hard on someone. Maybe I shouldn't have done that. I am one that has her faults. I am not perfect. No one is. Does it take such things to sit back and realize things like this? Sure it does. We all love one another, we all make mistakes. Remember that! In all the Excerpt and shout outs I see us all connecting, reaching out with love, joy and happiness. I also see forgiving one another saying Hey! I was wrong. That makes me smile, that makes me happy.

Taz: I honestly don't think the police should be defunded. I don't agree with the shootings. I think there should be putting some of the funding towards less Lethal options. There are Tasers, tranquilizer darts and other ways to subdue an aggressor then killing them. I would almost agree with how the UK does things. There, police don't carry firearms but neither do citizens. So yes there need to be changes to how police do things, but honestly I think the whole justice system needs to be worked on.



**LET'S KEEP
EACH OTHER
SAFE**

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REACTIONS, CONTINUED

Twinky Bear: I see a new future emerging out of the struggle. Because George Floyd's murder turned the mirror on the corrupt cops of the world. Because Covid-19 has brought uncertainty directly into everyone's face – rich, poor, black, white, old, young, even conservative Republicans. It has caused people to re-evaluate everything! Up until this point, nothing has made people call into question our behaviors, ethics, morals, and mortality in such a direct way. Yes. Death is in our faces. And social status and money play no part in anyone's "pardon."

That fact in and of itself should have brought American people together... Unfortunately, with a president as divisive as Trump, it has not! We've seen price gouging with things the public needs, such as face masks and sanitizing products. Ugly greed reared itself up at the worst of times!

With all that being said, LGBTQ, if we stand united, if we lift everyone up in non-judgement, we can rebuild America's broken systems (justice, finance, religion, etc.). We can take our country back, in love. This is an opportunity to win a losing war with non-judgmental compassion for humanity.

Jersey Savage: Uprising in response to George Floyd's murder: We can only bring change to the world we live in by action. Being Black is a problem to those who are racist. Being homosexual is a problem to those who are ignorant or in denial. It's time we stand up,

ONE NATION

Joe Vanderford

Our nation acts like an abused mate,
taking punches like normal touch.

Negative, is the overall fate
From a president that doesn't give a
fuck.

No death in vain, be vigilant
From KKK to P.D.s across the land
Hate mustn't be allowed to gallivant,
solidarity replenished, hope expands.

*Anna 'Joe' Vanderford # 145673
Shakopee, MN*

PANDEMIC STRUGGLE

Maxine Davis

As riots flow in our streets
Others wondering
what in the house to eat
'Cause refrigerator
and cabinets are bare

As we see those who are
in leadership that don't care
Choosing what jobs are essential
When in my opinion they all are
'cause they make our living.

With losing employment
and losing homes on the rise
Someone loses a loved one
as tears come down our eyes

But I say hold on to hope.
We been through much worse
so I know we can all cope
Stay focused.

Don't believe this pandemic will
instantly disappear by hocus pocus
And with this disease traveling the air
I just want people to remember
we can never over-clean
common areas we share

REACTIONS TO THE WORLD, CONTINUED

fight the ignorance, we have to love ourselves, each other. We have to show the ignorant, biased people that have hate in their heart our strength and we have to educate them on our lives. We have to display patience while we work for change. We have to stop killing, busting our guns. We have to grow up, be that man, be that woman that we know we can be. It was asked in issue #28 how big can we dream, a world without prisons? I say we have to not allow ourselves to be incarcerated. Love yall, peace.

Indy @ Greene: As a Prison Abolitionist and LGBT activist, I believe 100% that we can achieve a future without prisons and borders. My biggest regret is it took the loss of yet another Black Man in Amerika to raise this type of response. But I see this prisonless, borderless future is very much possible.

Prison wasn't the primary form of punishment until the 1800's, in the U.S. Prior to that it was like a precursor to punishment, i.e., branding, whipping, hanging, etc. Prison was seen as humane in comparison to the capital and corporal punishment inherited from England. But we are in a new era.

Just as Black Slavery in America became seen as a “peculiar institution” and was abolished, (although the reasons were more political/economic than moral) I can see the “peculiar institution of prison” being abolished. Just as in slavery, people invested in prisons are going to worry about the loss of money. Even if they don't really condone the horrors prison inflicts on us.

I would like to see more people getting seats in local government legislation who were born between 1985-2002. Our government needs new faces. Most of our current lead politicians: Trump, Pelosi, Sanders, Biden, etc., come from a time where the unconscious bias is always gonna be in the background of their politics. On all issues, really; race, sex, gender, class, etc. Those of us born and raised in the 90's, early 2000's, need to start filling positions in the Government.

If you push for complete abolition too fast, I believe that will make people back away. The time is perfect to push our agenda a lot further. The atmosphere is right for big reforms like sentence reforms, less prisons, and decriminalizing certain acts.

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REACTIONS TO THE WORLD, CONTINUED

Moccah McRay AKA Saguan Jones LG6805: It saddens me to see another Black life taken due to police brutality and race. We been going through this hundreds of years and are seeing the same results no matter how much we march or protest. Nothing will change. Politicians don't care. They are going to pretend for the time being but there will be no justice. We as Black folks need to constantly look over our shoulders. It hurts my soul to have to worry about my brothers, nephew, and uncles. From behind these prison walls I can't protect the ones I love. This word makes no sense.

Oowee: Don't think no prez has set up nothing substantial 4 folks of color dat I know of. Now this orange idiot wanna take us back to da 1600 & now he runnin' against another old wyte dude, we need new young blood ideaz. Don't get me wrong, underground railroad couldn't work w/out wyte folk, but it's tyme 4 change. Now we can speak out loud & freely arm ourselves w/books or armz. Ballots or bulletz!!

Tara Marissa Bryant: This COVID-19 Pandemic has opened a lot of eyes to what kind of world we live in. This world is anything but kind. When I was just a little girl I used to think America is the best place to live. But I was sadly mistaken. I'd rather live in Paris or Italy, somewhere people have respect for human life, where police brutality isn't the highest in the world, and I don't have to be white or rich to be something of value. It makes me sick. Welcome to America where your best option if stopped by the police is to pray, where being different could get you killed. I wonder when was America ever great? What could make America Great is Change.

I HAVE A DREAM

Tamara A. Allenbaugh
AKA Harley Quinn

I have a dream that all people are treated equally.

I have a dream that no one is judged or discriminated against based on the color of their skin, ethnic background, gender identity or sexual preference.

I have a dream that justice means more than the "lock 'em up and throw away the key" mentality that society seems to have.

I have a dream that prisons are non-existent, and alternative means of reparation and restitution are key parts of justice, and Restorative Justice is used.

I have a dream that all human beings have their needs met, where no human is forced to be without shelter, food and clothing.

I have a dream that all human beings are equal, and where no type of oppression are even heard of.

I have a dream that police are not needed, and crime doesn't exist. That all people live in harmony, and peace is truly practiced.

*#Justice4AllVictimsOfPoliceBrutality
#BlackTransLivesMatter
#EndFascism*

MAN IS STILL LEARNING

Ceci Ransome

An oyster has the ability to switch genders, as well as some other creatures. It's always the possibility that some of us have these genes, so we identify and allow ourselves to be true to ourselves, in spite of what society says is normal and abnormal. It is possible that most of the so-called "normal" population are the mutation without these genes.

Animals don't discriminate; man is the only creature that does. A lot of unanswered questions you can find in nature, where it's in a natural state of existence, and real, unpersuaded by man. Let the people who judge us, ponder that, and you google it. Knowledge is power, and ignorance can be led and misinformed.

You have to prove NOTHING to no one,. Just convince yourself that you are being the best you can be that makes you totally happy, if someone doesn't like you that's their prerogative. What's in their head is not your business, and we would like for them to be likewise, and with this, go love yourself more, and prosper and be you.

DISAPPOINTING UPDATE: PA NAME CHANGE STATUTE

Hearts on a Wire Outside Collective

We heard from a number of you asking for follow up on the *Porter v. Commonwealth* case discussed in Issue 27. This case was a constitutional challenge to the bar on name changes for people convicted of certain felonies, As it currently stands if you have been convicted of a felony involving harm to another person, (murder, voluntary manslaughter, sexual assault, armed robbery, aggravated assault, arson, kidnapping, etc), you are completely barred from getting a legal name change in PA unless you can get a pardon.

The case was dismissed on technical grounds on July 27, 2020. It was dismissed without prejudice, meaning it can be filed again if the problem is corrected, and the court did not give an opinion on the merits of the constitutional arguments.

We expect the case to be refiled with the technical problems fixed, or that another approach will be taken to get the court to make a determination on the merits.

We will continue to keep you updated.

BEING NON-BINARY

Reprinted from OutLife.org

Non-binary is an umbrella term to describe people who identify with a gender outside of the *gender binary*, and can be categorized under the trans umbrella term, although not all non-binary people identify as trans. The word non-binary describes a wide array of different identities which fall outside of the gender binary, and can be related to, or completely separate from male and female gender identities.

What is the gender binary? The gender binary is the assumption that all people are one of two genders, female or male, or woman or man. People who identify as a man or a woman identify as a binary gender, since they identify with a gender within the system of the gender binary. A non-binary person simply identifies with a gender that is not male or female.

What kinds of non-binary genders exist? There are many different genders which exist outside of the gender binary. Some non-binary genders and terms include but are not limited to:

- Agender: having no gender or being genderless
- Androgyne: identifying somewhere in between man and woman
- Bigender: having two gender identities, either at the same time or interchangeably
- Demigender: having partial connection with one gender (male, female, or other) eg. demiboy, demigirl
- Enby: slang term –**pronunciation of “NB” (for non-binary)**.
- Genderfluid: moving between two or more gender identities at different times, in different circumstances, etc.
- Genderqueer: a non-normative or queer gender, having no exclusive connection to any gender
- Multigender: having more than one gender
- Neutrois: neutral or null gender, similar to agender
- Non-binary: can be used as an individual gender identity for someone who is neither a woman nor a man, but does not identify further
- Pangender: **having many or all genders within one’s culture**
- Transfeminine or Transfem: a person assigned male at birth (AMAB) who identifies with a feminine gender, but does not necessarily identify as a woman
- Transmasculine or Transmasc: a person assigned female at birth (AFAB) who identifies with a masculine gender, but does not necessarily identify as a man

BEING NON-BINARY

continued

Pronouns: Pronouns, in relation to gender identity, are nouns that refer to another individual in place of their name in the third-person. Traditionally, a woman would be referred to as she or her and a man would be referred to with he and him. Some, but not all, non-binary people may choose to continue using the pronouns associated with their assigned sex at birth. Other non-binary people, commonly, use they and them as their pronouns.

I think I'm non-binary, do I have to use they/them pronouns? No, you can use any pronoun or combination of pronouns you'd like. In addition to she/her, he/him, and they/them pronouns, there are other pronouns including Ze/hir; Xe/xem; Hy/hym; Co/cos.

Non-binary people can choose to use one set of pronouns, but can also choose to use a two or more sets of pronouns, or even all pronouns.

Can non-binary people transition?

Yes! Just like any other trans person, non-binary people can transition as well.

What does transitioning look like for non-binary people?

Just like trans men and women, there is no requirement for how a non-binary person transitions. Non-binary people may opt to have surgeries to affirm their gender, such as breast removal or reduction, breast implants, or genital reconstruction. Non-binary people may also choose to transition with hormones, like testosterone or estrogen.

Some non-binary people may select only one method of medical or surgical transition, while others select multiple, or none at all. Some non-medical transition options for trans and non-binary people include selecting different pronouns, choosing a new name, or changing their outward presentation (hair style, clothing, makeup, etc.).

There are no rules for how a non-binary person transitions, they might choose to make little or no changes at all. **Regardless of a person's choice to transition**, it does not make them any less non-binary.

Who can be non-binary?

Anyone who does not identify as a man or a woman!



by Miley

CAN YOU RESPECTFULLY DATE A TRANS WOMAN?

Toph—reprinted from issue 14, Winter 2015

This quiz is for our transamorous readers (those of you who specifically fancy trans people). Thanks for loving us! Now please learn how to respect us. Hopefully this quiz will show you what your strengths and weakness are when it comes to loving trans women.

Content Warning: Since this quiz is designed to show people what is hurtful and offensive versus what is respectful and loving, some parts are transphobic by nature.

1. How should I refer to a trans woman?

A. shemale

B. however she refers to herself

C. tranny

2. In general, trans women are...

A. more feminine than non-trans men.

B. more masculine than non-trans women.

C. none of the above, don't stereotype.

3. The right word for a trans woman's genitals is?

A. lady penis

B. dick

C. I don't know. I should ask her.

4. If I like trans women does that make me gay?

A. no

B. probably

C. yes

5. A trans woman should tell me she is trans...

A. immediately.

B. when and if she ever feels like it.

C. when we start getting sexual.

6. I am a trans woman's type if...

A. she likes me.

B. I am the manliest of men.

C. I think I deserve her attention.

7. I would only have sex with a trans woman if...

A. she had bottom surgery.

B. no one ever found out.

C. she wanted to have sex with me too.

8. When I ask a trans woman about her body...

D. I never had to receive.

A. she should disclose whatever I ask.

B. Who do I think I am? Her doctor?

1. Respect her. She is in charge of her own identity, so whatever she says goes; “shemale” and “tranny” are offensive slurs. They devalue the fact that a trans woman IS a woman and these terms are used by people trying to hurt her. If you want to love her, do not use these words. B

2. Smash your stereotypes! She is not confined to sexist gender norms. Gender expression and gender identity are not the same. You can be a trans woman and still express yourself in a butch or masculine style. Trans women are NOT more masculine than non-trans women simply because they are trans. Don't be *transmisogynistic* (sexism specifically experienced by trans women). C

3. Having your genitals referred to by words associated with the sex you were assigned at birth can cause *dysphoria* (make one uncomfortable in one's body) and a lot of emotional harm. Respect how she refers to herself and her body. If you don't know what to say, then ask. C

4. Trans women are women. If you are a dude, then liking her is straight. If you're a lady, liking her is gay. If you're neither of those, liking her is just liking her. A

5. She does not have an obligation to tell you she is trans. Ever. B

6. Men do not deserve women's attentions. Nor are all women are into manly men, or even men at all. Couples don't need to be a man and a woman, nor even masculine and feminine. And again, men do NOT deserve a woman's attention simply because they are men. A

7. Don't let transphobia into your sex life. Don't put limitations on sex simply because she is trans. C

8. Unless she feels like it's important for you to know about her body, you don't need to know. Ever. You may be genuinely curious, but your curiosity makes her feel “othered,” exoticized, fetishized, and reminds her that she is different, not normal, and something to be ogled at. B

EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Hi HOAW Fam,

I want to thank you all for sharing your stories, they help me stay strong and know I'm not alone. Although I identified as transgender since 2011, I was not able to transition until I came to prison because of limiting factors like church, work, and especially my family. My family does not support my transition so I cherish my chosen family. Issue #28 was so inspirational and empowering reading everyone's coming out stories. I could see pieces of my journey mirrored in each story.

James May: I hope you're well and please tell everyone at Davens I said hi and send my love. I hope you are still writing, you have a real gift.

~ Ms. Venys Vaughn | FCC Petersburg Low

Shoutout to Cricket, Jake and Santiago from TX. Also shoutout to John, DeDe and Ceci. It helps so much to hear from y'all. Take care of each other with Love. Hugs and Kisses to y'all.

~ Ms. Karma

Right now I'm waiting in the hole to get transferred. I miss my Girl J! I love you very much, and can't wait to be with you. Stay in touch with my mom. Shout outs to Special, Pearl, Jessica and all the other girls out there.

~ Eric Rudolph AKA Slez
CK0358 | SCI Fayette-hole

Dear HOAW

I love my husband. He is my rock for life, we been together for 14 years going stronger everyday. I love you Drew, Love to my brother Shadow and my sister J-Low. I thank you for having my back all the time.

~ Dee-Dee | GO4986 | Coal

TRANSGODDESSES

Solo the Solo Don

Lil momma what it is? its Yolo daddy ya heard\ you lookin' good as dead meat to a scavenger bird\ I'm never thirsty, just cool as a snap back on a nerd\ And I love the way you matched your heel straps with your purse\ Detail is my thing. Hold up right quick\ let me find out, ya fine ass woke up like this\ All flawless like a sunset in early autumn\ or roses with a heart shaped box of whacha call its

Thick in all the right places bold and bodacious\ Never been a follower, you in ya own spaceship\ and that's why they hate ya, cause you ain't with the fake shit\ that ain't in ya nature but God gave you patience\ The devil is a lie if they said you ain't the truth\ Actions speak louder than words and that's the proof\ Tell 'em kiss ya gaff and the bottom of ya boots \ cuz there's no justification for all the hating they do

It takes a real one to recognize the difference\ like being spiritual ain't the same as bein' religious\ like if you love somebody you're willing to go the distance\ stand for something fall for nothin', you know, basic wisdom \ But I just wanna see shine bright like a diamond \ Haters will throw shade grenades cuz that their soul assignment \ But you the one and I need you to know that \ and if you know you bad mean mug when you throw that

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Hey Hearts Fam,

It's your sis DiDi @ Forest to always keep it real with you. I hope you all are in the best of health mentally, physically & spiritually. Rachel Honey. You really hit home & spoke the truth when you stated an experience we've all at one point or another gone through. "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." This couldn't be truer. From the bottom of my heart thank you for keeping it real. Indy @Greene boy you never cease to amaze me yourself w/ your words of wisdom & advice. I feel such a connection that I always look forward to the next issue of HOAW. The "Coming out" article was awesome, supportive & came from pure love that you have for this community. Thanks for the compliments on the poems. I try to be as real, raw & honest as I can, especially for our family. You're right I won't change for Anyone. To my girls @Forest Fidelity, SJ, Mariah you are the best. To my sisters Sydney & Miley S. Fletcher & GiGi I love you forever & Always. Stay True!!! To my mother Ty the Realest & Chillest Mom a girl could ask for I love you! To my new man Armani nothing compares to the love I have for you. I have you now & I'll love you forever. Everybody keep your head up!!! :)

~ DiDi XOXO

Dear Hearts on a Wire Family

I want to say Hi to my sister on my Block I don't know your Name but hope we get to meet in person. Shout out to Indy: How the "H" Playboy. To Ski my baby bro hope I get to meet you someday but we cool, take care of yourself and look after my love. To (R) at Houtzdale hope all is well, I was sad when you only posted one time. Don't be shy! Miley we're sisters for life, I love seeing your art. Hello to Harley Quinn, though we don't know each other I feel we be BGF 4-life. To my brother Brandon how you doin' out there, find that soulmate? Hope y'all still together. Bad Boy John I ain't forget about you, just lost a lot of my contacts. I don't go by that name anymore. My name is Rebecca Taylor Colfire-er but you will see I go by Miss OutLAW. So you met Ms. Juicy Queen Bee. She a good sister, just stay respectful to the family. I hope to see you submit some artwork to the newsletter. Shay how y'all Doing at The field Tell "L" I said sorry things did not work out. Solavion wherever you are keep ya Head up. Adrian Thanks for being there for me. Harley Quinn I love you girl. Love to all the family around the world and to those locked up keep strong and beautiful. Shine Bright

Your trans sister,

~ Rebecca Coltfire-er AKA Miss OutLAW

EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Hi to Chocolate Monica. Jessica Diana Garza, it was inspiring to read your remarks that helped me come out of my shell. Trans, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Lives Matter! Respectfully,

~ Keith Weber QD7237 | SCI Benner

SUNSHINE

Kevin Hakin Johnson

...it was through the darkness that I seen sunshine
wishing that I can go back and rewind...
holding onto lost hopes and a bowl of dreams
and now I am barely just figuring out what life means
Before...I always felt I had nothing to lose,
until I lost it all--
Now I got this time to rearrange my point of views
And its true that time changes you in its own ways
My concepts transforming with the grooves of this incarceration
in this darkness I'm able to absorb the sunshine rays
Now I reach out to the other side, keeping close in mind who
the people are in which I can confide...
Because I know the darkness and what lies within these shadows
which is why I try to keep my face looking out these windows to
what lies on the other side waiting for me
that's where my dreams go at night like a ghost I flight
When its dark I am still able to hold onto the sunshine light.
I've been able to learn so much through times of struggle & pain
And try to throw my knowledge to my people for purpose of gain
I'd rather see my people making it thaw to be here with me in chains
We need to open our eyes and see what life's really all about,
instead of life without,
Because you really don't know what you got
until its taken away from you
And you're left on your own to figure out what you're gonna do
Sometimes that's what it takes to open your eyes
And then you might see life differently, you're able to realize
And you're able to see through the darkness there is still sunshine
you just cannot let go, you can't let it take your mind
you'll see how everything changes with time
Just keep your eyes open and focus and don't be blind
And never ever let go of your sunshine!!!

*Dedicated to all Brothers and Sisters, Kings and Queens in the
communities Nationwide AND those who are imprisoned also.*

The past month and a half
has been stressful. My
grandmother passed away
(...rest peacefully) and I'm
back in the hole on some
bullshit. My mouth is
reckless (I admit) and I
refuse to let any one
disrespect me or anyone who
is gay or trans. I'm still
extremely blessed.

Shoutout to Buckwild. Bae,
we been together almost two
strong years. We've done it
all, we've seen some crazy
shit... You rode with me
when that dude was still on
me, and we "pounced" on
his ass. My whole heart loves
you more than you'd ever
know. Thanks Blue Magic
for the shoutout. Write.

~ Malaysia

Dallas Sarden #592206
TTCC, Tennessee



by Gabriel

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear HOAW,

Shout out to all my brothers and sisters out there standing up on behalf of all of us LGBTQIA. I feel so much pride knowing that I am not alone in standing up for who we are. I want to say thanks to Viktoria, Jayme, Shaylanna and Niara for how wonderful you **women are. I know we don't** know each other but I want to say you bring me joy.

~ Nala Golden Oak
MT9361 | SCI Fayette

To everyone, to the trans women, to the guys, whether I know you or not from my heart I send love. To the people I talk to @Forest wassup. To **"Bootylicious"** are you from Jersey cos you said **Northern State Prison. If so don't** be a stranger.

I want to say to everybody never forget to love yourself first. Period. Love yourself. Then you can seek companionship, the love of someone else.

To all my LGBTQ sisters & **brothers keep your head up don't** forget to smile.

~ Jersey Savage | SCI Forest

Shoutout to Alexis. Miss you girl, **wish they didn't move you. Get at** me,

~ Abel (Robert Winton)

I want to thank everyone for the shout-outs in the last HOAW. Thank you for the undying support. It means much more to me than you could ever know.

I was listening to Philly AM News Radio when the news came on about the brutal death of our beloved sister, **Rem'mie Fells. I never knew Rem'mie, but I felt the loss none the less. RIP Rem'mie Fells--Lost but never forgotten.**

Mama Ceci at PHX--Miss you, girl. My short time on J-Unit was a blast, and I miss **our talks at my door. I'm out on a staff separation soon, so please let Bam know I miss him and thanks 4 everything. Nia at PHX--take care lil' sis'. Will miss you.**

Arrelah at Greene- Sent a copy of my lawsuit and the grievance/appeals. Xander and Monica at Rockview-- Congrats! I know you both from Rockview and it's about time! Glad to see you're finally together.

You're a cute couple, and I am happy for you both. Indy at Greene-- Keep your eyes peeled for my words. Wish I could go back to Greene so we can chill, but due to a staff separation, that's not possible. :c Miss you, bro, and keep ya head up, aight? Reezy at PHX-- peace out. I really wish we could've gotten to know each other better.

Circumstances dictate another move, so take care, bro.

To All my brothers and sisters in this beloved community—Together, we will make the world a better place to live in. Unity must prevail here. We are a force not to be reckoned with. LGBTQ 4-Life!

Your trans sister in arms,

~ Harley Quinn

AKA Tamara A. Allenbaugh

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

XOXOX Letters and Love

Wuz up Hearts on A Wire!

I pray that everyone is holding up well through this crazy pandemic. I'm in the toughest fight of my life with my health. Becuz of it I'm in a lawsuit with the jail and I know they're going to retaliate against me. Indy my big bro wiz up with you? Stay with the faith and you'll see your path. Keke I miss u and I still read your letters and cards. I truly hope you are doing good and keeping out of trouble. Shadow my right hand brother I love you and I'll always be by your side. Thanks for being there when I needed you most, we will fight to the end! Juan I care for you and I want you to keep fighting forward. We all have reasons for living and I know what mine is, so you gotta find yours. Mercedes hey sister wiz up and I pray for you every day. Stay beautiful and don't come back. Frenchy I miss you and I'll always love you! You will always mean something to me, holla at your bro. Shout out to all my other brothers and sisters here at Coal: Ryan, Heather, Maryanne, Beondre, Nate, Jamie, Jash, Shea, Sam, JLo. Mama Penny I miss & love you deeply! Keep faith and stay strong. I'm sorry mama but I snapped out a few times during this stupid pandemic. Jess I hope you are back with your man. Ravyn in AZ it's a pleasure meeting you. You sound like a sweet woman, but fight when you got to. Keep your faith strong! Well Family I Love y'all And Keep ya Head Up! We are One in the Heart!

Peace & love,

~ Drew

Hey what's up to all my Brothers & Sisters! I want everyone to give each other a Hug & tell them that you love them as a friend. Happy birthday to me I'm now 23 years old. It felt like I just got booked in 2014 at 17! Time flies when you don't pay attention to it. I wanna give a shoutout to my Brothers Starwars, Moon, Twin, Pryme Star, Fatal Star, Swag Star, Knowledge Star & to all the stars I haven't met yet. A Big shoutout to David Irby (Hollywood) RIP I love you Brother & got you in my memories! Starwars I'll be seeing you at Fayette soon & Imma hit that population so have it ready for me. FYI people at Benner Township need to bring the community together better, stop warring with each other & love each other. The time I spent here has been nothing but that & I am embarrassed to call myself a member of the LGBTQ community because of it. But Imma continue to bring us together to the best of my ability! I love you all & write if you please.

~ Remy AKA 2 Star

Ryan Miller | ML0268 | Benner

Dear Hearts on a Wire

I hope all is well. I would like to give a shout-out to my boys Twin and Allen, and to Diamond and Dee-Dee. Mad love.

~ Dave

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Hope everyone is Corona-free and staying healthy. Alexis you're the best part of this world. Nothing compares to you.

~ Jacob Mitchell
LS2414 | SCI Houtzdale

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

A big shout out to the love of my life, Jasmine. She helped me become a better me. I love you Baby Girl. Shout out to all my Home Boys... Keep ya'll heads up and stay sucker-free in lollipops as Chop would say. Moon, Blue, Chop I am still here. Stay focused on what's important and that's getting home. Love ya'll.

~ Jesse L. @ Benner

Hello HOAW,

I have suffered all my 58 years with an overwhelming secret. Growing up, to come out as gay was to risk everything. I've seen gay folk tormented or beaten, and heard of some killed for being different. Watching my first lover die from complications of AIDS pushed me deeper into the closet and sealed the door shut. To come out as a woman was unthinkable. I knew who I was inside myself, but I knew of nobody like me.

Today, dying from HIV is rare, and there is more understanding coming from straight society. Today, there is even a way for my reflection to resemble my inner self.

On the street, I was taking hormones and feeling better than I had in my life. Then I found myself back in prison on a technical violation. They asked about my sexuality and I'm hiding in the closet again. I heard they could/would give me hormones if I come out. I'm tired of trying to front as someone I'm not. I just long to see a true reflection of how I feel inside.

Can someone please tell me how to accomplish that in here?

~ Nora

Norman Slater NU5138 | SCI Rockview

WON'T SOMEBODY HELP ME

Harley Quinn

Pain hits me like a freight train, taking my breath away. Overwhelming me, threatening to sweep me away within it's balks and fathomless waves. Thoughts of yesterday loom. The future seems to seal its doom.

Won't somebody help me?

Thoughts of suicide flood my every thought. Sweet surrender to the clutches of oblivion. Is there life after death? Or is there nothing? Worth the risk? Perhaps. Anything but this present pain. No Gain.

Won't somebody help me?

Flirting with death never felt so enticing. My heart races at the thought of oblivion. Death appears a friend of the sweetest caliber. Is this shrouded figure more than what he seems? Or is he just a sweet escape?

Won't somebody help me?

The will to survive is a strange thing indeed. I've spent to much time seeking this friend. Holding this friend so dear has kept me going all these years. Forsaking my dearest friend for another so sinister is tempting, but I will not take the bait. Survival- friends so dear I seek you. Still...

Won't somebody help me?

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUT OUTS

XOXOX Letters and Love

I'm writing because I want the LGBT Community to pray for me. I'm in love with someone that I know moved on. We met at SCI Houtzdale in 2014 he is still my everything. We promised that we will always love each other and will help each other out but it didn't work. My love is still here and I have not given up. Does he still think of me and have me in his heart? I miss you like Crazy Slim, and can't wait until I can see your face. Love always,

~ "SweetHeart"

HOAW Family.

I am currently in the hole for something I did not do. The video evidence came back inconclusive. I am SO ANGRY inside. They are kicking me out of Benner Township, hopefully my next stop will be Cool..

#GayIsAmazing #Moon

~ Hot Boy Munchiee

Anthony Taylor | KW5216

In Oct. 1980, I was a typical 12 yr. old boy, riding bikes, playing ball, but something was missing. I loved watching my sister put on make-up and clothes. Mom asked me what I wanted to be for trick or treat night. I said, a young lady, I got a lot of laughs for that, but I did get to dress up as a girl. My sister helped me put on my make-up and gave me a wig with hair down my back, a powder blue dress with white trim, pink and violet flowers. When my mom saw me her jaw dropped, I looked good, and the boy was gone. I felt good, and finally, I knew who that little boy was, a young lady. I dressed up as a young lady every year after that, that one day of the year I could be me. Love,

~ Miss TaMica Ellen

BULLIED BY EXCLUSION

Twinky Bear

I am used to abandonment.

Coasting through this sea called life on an empty battleship

Never knowing the feeling of friendship or security

Devoid of being held down, held up, or held at all

Always solo, single, cellin', housed alone forever solo.

Never knowing the feeling of having a team of my own, like Polo

No basketball team, no cheerleading squad

"My team"... it was to be considered golf.

By oneself, no one to watch...

I am a loner but not by choice

What I am rather is a victim of bullying by exclusion's passive aggressive voice

And oh how loudly these speechless assaults scream at me daily

Hurtful exclusion and loneliness, it never fails me

In the social structure of prison,

people of such higher moral authority,

they look down on me

But rapists, mass murderers are regarded as superior

While non-violent, non-confrontational, pro-choice, LGBTQs are considered inferior

To me, that's weird, that's dumb shit!

That line of thinking to me, that's queerier

What it all boils down to is the mind set of America's People, they're inferior.

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Shaylanna's Snickers Bar Layer Cake

- 1½ cup butter (room temp)
- 2 cups marshmallow fluff
- 1½ cups white sugar
- ¾ tsp lemon juice
- 2 king size Snickers
- ¾ cup Hershey's Kisses
- 2 chocolate Little Debbie's Cakes
- ½ cup cream from oatmeal cream pies
- 1-2 tbsp cocktail peanuts

Directions

1. Mix butter, marshmallow fluff, sugar & lemon juice. Mix 3-4 minutes until fluffy.
2. Break one Snickers into pieces. Transfer 2½ cups of cake (butter, fluff, sugar and lemon) into a separate bowl and add broken Snickers. Set aside.
3. Using a microwave, heat Hershey Kisses in a plastic bowl, 15 seconds at a time until melted. Let cool.
4. Put one of the Little Debbie Cakes on a big plastic bowl lid.
5. Spread cake top with all of the Snickers frosting.
6. Place the second cake on top of the frosting.
7. Cover the top with melted chocolate.
8. Heat up Oatmeal Cream until hot enough to pour (about 45 seconds).
9. Pour over cake and spread with a spatula, spoon or plastic knife.
10. Break remaining Snickers bar.
11. Arrange Snickers pieces and peanuts on top of the cake.

Dear Hearts,

Dominic no matter the time or distance that separates us I will be sitting at my window talking to the moon 'til the day after forever... When I say I am new I literally never realized I was QUEER (I am so empowered by this word) and I had a moment hysterically laughing and crying at the same time. I am no specific gender, it depends on who I see in the mirror when I first wake up so thank you fam for allowing me to be me.

~ R. Barber | Cambridge Springs

Aye ♥s on a wire fam. Hello from death row in Ohio. I love reading everyone's words in the newsletter. Shout out to my sister Jaci on DR at Chillicothe. I hope I'm transferred there soon. I know how alone it can feel in our situation. Also I'm looking for DIY make-up tips for limited commissary access.

~ Victoria Michelle

A warm and growing thank you to all who contribute to the HOAW newsletter. Special thanks and unending love to Caitlin Mae Santos, Monica, and Jasmine B for your coming out stories. I am a bisexual trans woman living in the dark. Very few people know, though I am slowly taking steps to let myself shine. Harley Quinn keep your head up girl you are not alone. Shaylanna it's the simple things like bras and panties that we are fighting for and need.

~ Michelle Precious Catanzato-Kane
G30845 | Represa, CA

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Alexis Mitchell I haven't heard from you since Feb 25th!! I love you and will never abandon you. You will always be loved by me. and not a day goes by where I don't miss you by my side. Life isn't the same without you. Take care and keep your head high. You're a beautiful Queen. Shoutout to Precious Gordon in the F.E.D.S. and Nikki T. in Houtzdale...
~ Fifty Shades of Jay (SCI Houtzdale)

YOUR TRUE SELF

Alexis Mitchell

I used to be held down by my own design,
I listened to everyone, lies keeping me behind the line.
I was beaten, bruised, and thrown away.
No more of this! I stand up on my own two feet today.
The lies I believed! I still feel the vibrations in my heart.
It's what allows me to cry, and be torn apart.
Do not believe the lies from all who brought you down
Because then the perpetual darkness
will always stay around.
The lies and hatred shown
From those do not deserve the time that you show
Because when we stand and smile –
that's when we soar and glow!
We are the faces of overcoming fears.
And the people hate...
Because like others say, true love is never too late.
Others will still bring me down
but I will stand above my past
Because my true self will forever last.
We are our own worst enemy
believing in the seeds once planted in our brain.
Maybe it's you that gives them the power over you
and their own personal gain.
We are beautiful! Keep that sparkle in your eye,
Because someone's watching over every step.
Show them that your heart is where your true self is kept.

Dear HOAW Family,

I'm hope we're all doing well during this lockdown. It gets stressful with no one to talk to. I read the issues I receive from cover to back. Your stories give me hope. A special shoutout to Taz. Your letter touched my heart. I've been through self harm. You ever need ears to listen I'm here for you. I know I don't know you (or anyone) but we're family that's all that matters. A big shout out to Stevie, Jack and Big Foot. Love you all and enjoy your writings. Special thanks to the family who has to work to read and print our stories. H., love ya still.

Stay strong always,

~ Shaggy

Terry Shay | DW5134 | Smithfield

Everyone who wrote poetry, each one really touched me in some type of good way. All the coming out stories were great.

I wanted to give you all an update, as you know I lost most my family for being trans, well last week my oldest sister e-mailed me and wants to set up visits and she said she's sorry for not staying by my side. God is great.

Shout out to Shaylanna "Queen D.I.V.A. Supreme." I'm still waiting to start by HRT. Spoke with psych and she said everything is on hold. I wish this COVID-19 would die off.

Your sister,

~ CREE

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

What's UP H.O.A.W. Family?

This Covid-19 has turned the world upside down. Although I'm sad behind life lost and sickness, America is in desperate need of a moral wake-up call! Black Lives Matter!!! ...What would America be without black people? What would America be without pride's rainbows? There would be no love at all! No music, no arts!

I encourage all of you LGBTQ's to continue to shine in these state prisons and even brighter outside. We are the future of America.

Thank you very much Indy for your shout out! You brightened my day and inspired me to write more. Keep in contact. Let's be friends.

Covid-19 has pushed me, an LGBTQ-plus inmate, further in to isolation, Because I am a person who suffers from several phobias already, I stay more to myself than before. I am single-celled and the only other inmates I am around are the ones on my block, it gets a little lonely. The very few other girls here at Frackville are on different blocks, I don't get to see them. I am trying to deal with this covid enforced solitude but it's hard. Plus my husband is soon to leave. Any advice on how to combat loneliness? Thanks family.

Love Always,

~ Twinky Bear AKA Jail House Wife

UNTITLED

Lee Doane

Hope chases
fear over the fence
that surrounds this place.
There are times it doesn't
make it through,
and it's not uncommon to
travel past a prison
and see these dreams-
caught up,
snagged, and
strung together
like hearts on a wire
casting struggling shadows
upon a barbed horizon
#09B3551 Elmira C.F.

First + Foremost Let me Thank You All from the Bottom of my Heart, For Putting out such a Fantastic Publication. It's Definitely something Needed For All The LGBT Folks In Prisons. As my Brothers + Sisters "Locked up" Know It's Far From Easy Being Different, HA HA, in Prison. To Make Matters Worse I Suffer with Bi-Polar + other Mental Health Disorders. So Besides Being a white "56" year old "Outspoken" "Queen," I deal with other issues as well. Currently I'm housed in a facility that Has Numerous Mental Health Dorms. Trust Me. It Can be Extremely Rough At Times! To All My People, I Simply Wanted to Say, Keep on Keeping on + Continue To Stand Your Ground. Lastly, Please Remember This. Jesus Christ Died For Homosexuals Too. Feel Free to Holla. Peace Be With you!

Love You All!

~ Ket Peacock AKA Pizza Hut "Prisoner for Christ"

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Hello HOAW

Special thoughts to Knowledge, T-Cup, Allen, Mariah, SJ and Carl. I really miss you Mariah. Knowledge - please get in touch with me. Huggs & kisses to Mariah & Knowledge.

~ Jessica

Adam Mallin | SCI Forest

I'd like to wish my VERY GOOD FRIEND Dink much love, GOOD LUCK and success out there after making parole from this place. STAY STRONG I will never EVER forget you and I will always LOVE YOU (XOXO)

~ m. armstead | SCI-Phoenix

Dear H.O.A.W.,

I am leaving SCI Rockview on Sept 3, 2020 and the real sad part is that I have to leave my one and only true love behind and that person is my darling angel Monica. But I must get things started out there for our future together. Our love for one another is very strong and I **wouldn't trade her love for anything in this world.**

To me, Monica is the only world that I will ever need to survive. And she already knows that I do support her 100%! She will always be my, "Monica P.K.".

Monica, I want to tell you that I will always love you! And that you will be with me everyday.

I look forward to you being my loving wife.

Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again,

~ Xander

Blessed be!

TOIL

Nir

They try to bring me down cuz I love another man.
Ones that hate on the law are my biggest fans.

They say it usually gets sunny after the rain,
but I seem to always smile, despite the pain.

Getting older, so in my mind I try to realize,
I am doing me. I refuse to live a lie.

I keep my hands on the wheel and continue to ride,
10 seconds free. Call it nothing but I feel pride

What I would do to give my family a hug and kiss.
I have dreams, but the demons don't want them to exist.

Sometimes I feel like I'm living in hell.
Someone called me faggot. He wants to sneak into my cell.

I was always told the truth will set you free,
but honestly, all I want to do is be me.

Free the real, take no pride in being fake or phony.
Be cautious who you choose to call your homie.

Stand for something, or for anything. You will fall,
and even when you do, you can still stand tall.

I'm not the type to follow. My only option is to lead.
I will never betray my loved ones, not for money or greed.

Life is a gamble, so let the dice roll.
Always remember -- you are in control.

They say truth hurts and lies kill.
It's never a flow to represent truth and be real.

Resist oppression. Walk with your head high!
We are stronger than we think because we're not living a lie.

We are persevering in pride every day!!!

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

I have mad love for and support everyone struggling with stereotypes and stigmas behind being gay, bi, trans. My goal is to end the physical violence and pain associated with fighting for one's beliefs. And I like to peacefully support those who find it hard to fight for themselves. You are all strong and amazing people and deserve to be treated equally and respectfully. I believe in being able to choose one's identity and forms of expression. Shout out to my friends Sasha and Juicy Queen Bee @ Albion, Chop and JD @ Benner, Kayla at Camp Hill, and Charlotte @ Mercer. I hope you all keep your heads up!

~ Andrew "Littlefoot" Torres | KQ0138 | SCI Albion

Dear H.O.A.W.,

Shout out to Rica AKA Fat Cat--I hope you've been listening to your Buddha and not your Booty. Also shout out to my G-mom Miss Bloom over in Muncy I still got love for you. Don't ever give up, hon.

~ Mort | LU5693 | Houtzdale

MY H.O.A.W

Mx. Joseph May

Dear my Love

A Letter to You

The Girl that stole my Heart;

Dear my soulmate

A Fact Not A Mistatement

You Are The Queen who Fullfilled My six senses;

Dear my Goddess

A Falling Star From the Heavens

Who Came Into My world with pouring Blessings;

To My Heart

I'm scared, But I know you are Brave

For opening up again To Let me Love once more;

To Your Heart I Stole

It Is My Treasure

To Love, Cherish, dedicate and Invest my time to keep

You safe Inside and OUT

THIS My sexy Beauty

Fire My Love For You

#S36890 | Wisconsin

Greetings HOAW

A big shoutout to All the people at HOAW that is making this possible for us. I want to say to Blue Magic, thanks my love for the shout out and keeping me in your heart, you will always have a friend in me. If this is Malaysia Monroe who just left Jimmy Autry, I'm still at Johnson SP and back in SEG. But I will Always keep my head high and the haters to the back.

I'm still on this Journey in the uncharted territories of the Dirty South of Georgia. A lot of Negative situations have came my way since my stay here. I will keep pushing forward and maintain.

Love you all, stay covid-19 free,
LGBTQ Lives Matter.

~ Sky Love AKA SHAWTY LO

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

Thank you for all the love and support. I'd like to give love and support back to all my LGBTQ sisters and brothers. Shout out to my wife Mariah, We been through hell and back but we still stand strong together. I truly miss you baby, I hope you're good. Know I'm holding it down. Jersey Savage what's up bro, Keep your head up.

Brothers and sisters stay strong, support each other.

Love,

~ JB AKA Daniel French @ Forest

Dear HOAW Family,

Since our last newsletter I made a RHU trip **and have had a few ups + downs. I'm filing PREA** against 2 people + since then my world was turned upside down. How do I stick up for myself when the DOC flips my world when I do what they say is right. Tho good has come out of it. I do enjoy the new **block I'm on. Had the pleasure of meeting Rica.** She helped me get adjusted to this block. She went home and I hope she keeps **her head up. I have also decided that I'm** coming out as trans. I always tell people to be their selves but now I am facing some hard things. I have put it off till I get my single cell lifted, which I hope will be done by oct. so if anyone has suggestions or advice, I would like to hear it. These are hard time for people like us and all in the prison systems, but keep your heads up and we will come through this stronger than when we started. Sending love to all. Blessed be ♥♥ Taz

Tyler Trewitz | NM4043 | SCI Mahanoy

I am a chubby MtF Transgender woman. For those who are coming out, Congrats! Always be true to yourself but also love **yourself cause the road's going to be bumpy. I'd like to share my** story in hopes it may help someone and 'cause I'm tired of being scared. We girls are supposed to love and help each other. Who cares if your sister or **brother's big or ugly, embrace** them and support them. Why must we hate and fight amongst each other then we must all deal with DOC, staff and inmates against us. How crazy does that sound. I have never been in the closet but I deal with the rapes, beatings, harassment, and so on. I am accepted by no one. Lately suicide has been running very hard through my mind. Why continue to fight a losing battle. I just want to find unconditional acceptance and love. So the next time you see that big girl before you judge them, put yourself in their place. Cause that next joke or that positive embrace can bring someone back from the edge or push them over. So **As for me, I'm at the ledge looking down trying to see what's best. To anyone out there who'd like** to contact me, look me up.

~ Angelica Michelle

Carlos Sanchez X53519
Florida State Prison

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

To all my transgender girls:
I had a very Rough week. I had my hopes on getting out on my mandatory parole November 2020 when they shot it down in the water. I had a place to go, everything was setup, I had plans to have my surgery to live as who I truly am. When I got the denial I fell completely apart. Now I have to delay everything until May of next year and remain behind these walls being harassed, verbally, emotionally, mentally. When disappointment happens my mind goes in over drive with my feelings and my emotions are more than extreme. I have broken down in tears for the past several hours nonstop and when I do I start right back up 30 minutes later. I am so ashamed showing that side of me as a woman in a men's prison cause they don't understand. I get criticized when I show my feelings. What can I do? I need to know how others like me take being shutdown by this type of problem I need the feedback.

~ Ms. Rachel Marie Whitted
#1212277
NNCC, NV

Dear Hearts:

I hope this finds everyone well, especially those inside. Stay safe and be vigilant in the coming months; Don't let the machine catch you sleeping.

I'd like to give a shout out to my friend Sergey Cindy. You are a beautiful person, so keep your head up and remain strong! Oogle Noogle and bunches & bunches. Always!

Remember peoples, our story doesn't end this way, so remain resolute and continue to advocate for yourselves. Let's keep this thing moving forward. Never stand down.

Much love,

~ Lee Doane | #09B3551 | Elmira CF



by Shaylanna Luvme

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Dear HOAW,
Shoutout to SkiBop @ Rockview.
We are so close yet far, love is
real here. Another to Eddie--it's
been some time since I seen you.
Keep your head up, soldiers fall
but warriors stand. To one of my
true sisters Juicy Queen Bee, sis
when are you gonna be free? Let's
not forget my other sis 'fore she
cuss me out--Asia @ Mahanoy,
countdown not long now. My
niece Chi-Chi stay strong. My
secret boo who I dubbed
President Trunk (no error lol).
My cookie crunch girl Zane.

~ Maxine @ Benner

Hello family,

How's everyone doing? I hope & pray All is
well. Please Be safe. There been a lot of cell
time going on doing this covid-19. I kinda
found myself in a Bit of a dark place &
falling off my grind. But y'all half to stay
prayed up & keep y'all mind strong. I know
god's got me 100% when I get to get to
Read everyone's story. I knew I had to pull
my shit 2gether ASAP. I wanted to tell Bree
I love your story thank you... And fancy I
miss you & can't wait to get to see you again.
You keep your Head up & tell you mom I
said hello. Y'all have a bless day,

~ "Kato"

Keith Brown | BD0455 | Soledad, CA

dear hearts on a wire

i just wanted give a shout out to the queens and kings lock up everywhere
stay strong keep fighting. i love you and stay on fighting the DOC

~ michelle lynn | sci benner

UNTITLED

Bree/Seagull Quinley

hearts on a wire
keeps me inspired
that's the electricity
we are all the wires

I love every one of you out there,
I'm a gender nonconformist with Fire
keep your head up
and make sure to smile
thank you Hearts on a Wire
you've been with me every year and mile
CA Medical Facility | Vacaville, CA

*"It's there
you just ain't find it yet."*

Everything you ever dream of is at your finger
tips. Never Give up Fam you can never find it
if you stop looking. I'm in the USP hiding that
I'm lgbtq so I don't get killed. I pray daily for
all y'all never Give Up. You are all queens and
kings. Bad bitches stick together and
remember what it feel like being the only lgbtq
in prison and what it does to your mental
health. Stay strong whoop whoop. I Love you.

—Korrupt DA Guru—

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Dear HOAW Fam,

By love and joy I read Issue #28, its was great to hear all fighting hearts Fam are doing, I have my own by haters, but just got off that mean and disgraceful people. Shout Out to you girls across the states, don't be weary, just do your best and bring them down in your fight for our rights, and for free trans may love be with us, TRANS LIVES MATTER!! As for Dominique that got put to her rest, may all love be with in peace.

Sincerely,

~ Michelle

Michael R. Mallett #407610 | Texas

COUNT ON ME

Juicy Queen Bee

When you feel

Like giving up

when you feel

Lost and confused

count on me

To help you

Get through it

When you feel

weak in your knees

when you feel

all hope is Gone

when you Need

someone by your side

Count on me to be there

For you helping you back up

Getting back on track

Giving you a friend

to talk to

Be right by your side

when you need me

Help you up when you fall

count on me

To always be

There for you

Friends for Life

Since we can not see eachother I will shoutout to my LiL' sis Sydney you sexy bitch. L.O.L. For the Lovely Jasmine L.T. in Maryland. Love the photos girl. You're hot bitch! (smile.) ! Nikki T. Whazzzz up? Uhuh. L.O.L. Shaylanna Queen Diva SUPREME Luvme. I got lots of Love for you, you're amazing Girl. Linda Lee Missing you Girl. Fidelity, Princess, DeDe on A., Zoey, Diamond "Katrina," Tyel, You always my heart girls. To the realNest my Girl Tea Cup. Love you too. Kiki you be cool. "K"? Chilly Willy I love you lots. Blue Magic, L.O.L. Miss you too! You're just too cool. Smile. Yo! CHOCOLATE MONICA, you put that shits down GirLLL! I like DAT! WCI Girl doing dat shit for real!!! To the Lovely Lady Mariah I'll miss you but I'll be in touch Las Niñas Diablas! Miss Ceci R, I got lots of respect and love for you. R.I.P. Dominique Rem'mie Fells. Sorry Alonda T. I'll keep you in my prayers. Yo Go Gloria B. Get that man you love. Dominic I'll switch with you dude!?! Get with your counselor I'll swap with you?!!

♥ Miley S. Fletcher | SCI Forest

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

♥ Hearts: The Best Family to have b/c the heart keeps us alive. Facts. I feel blessed these years I been in prison I met some beautiful and different people I keep close to my heart ♥

To say to my fallen brothers and sisters you all will always remain in our hearts, you all are gone but never forgotten. Gunna I miss you Bro. Shout out to my bro Slim, Tyree, Ed, Dink, Champ. "Peace" my boys. To the girls :) I love all y'all :) :) All y'all got different drip but all of y'all are beautiful all the same. If I ever made any body feel some type of way I do apologize, And I forgive you all who did me wrong.

Stay safe and be strong during this pandemic.

Peace,

~ B.R. 2 STAR @ SCI Fayette

BLACK LOVE

Jaquan Blue Magic Richardson

Black Love is the most powerful force on earth. nothing in life can compare when the love is Real and Genuine. Everything becomes clear when Black love is at its peak, unconditional and pure. we crave it like an addict Yearning for more. the feeling is so much better then sex: the sensation is one of a kind, a feeling of unlimited satisfaction with orgasms that explode in our minds. When you find a Black love who makes you feel this way never let them Go Because Black love comes seldom and for many its a love they will never know. if you're one of the lucky ones then I'm sure you already know 2 always keep your Black love near and never let it Go

MB3776 / @SCI Benner



I must acknowledge Adrian, I ♥ you. Shoutouts to Skibop, what's up; to my special man RR aka Butta, I ♥ you bae; to Lacy, it's all ♥; Rossie ♥ you; Momas ♥; Tara girl; Eddie hey boo; BR2star I miss you; Momma Penney I ♥ you; Ms. Lady, Ms. Rica, I miss you; JonJon I miss you ♥ stay true and to the rest of you I may not have met, god ♥s you all.

~ Peaches aka Niara

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Hearts on a wire,

I have never been involved in a community that cares for each other like you all do. I'm proud to be part of it! I came out to my family about being bisexual and a lot of my family decided they didn't want to be part of my life. But it's okay. I continue to push forward everyday. I agree with a lot of you it's not easy opening those doors to others who treat people different and it takes a lot of courage to let others in your life. Thank you to Shaylanna "Queen D.I.V.A." and Harley Quinn for giving me honest and helpful advice. You have my respect and that goes for the rest of the community!

~ *AKA Coda | SCI Forest

Hello Family,

SHOUT OUTS TO MILEY
SASHA MARIAH TWIN MAYA
ARON LOVE BLACK FRESH
TYREE L.I MAXINE BR 2
STAR CECE GIGI
MS.OUTLAW AND ALL
THOSE I FORGOT SHOUT
OUT TO ALL GONE BUT
NOT FORGOTTEN AND
THOSE KILLED BY COPS
AND THE CORONA VIRUS.

~ Juicy Queen Bee

Dear Hearts on a Wire

I'm 43 years old, Native American and am always willing to help other transgender people advocate for themselves. I've been on hormones for 3 years and am so happy I finally took the step and began my transition. It feels good to be myself and not have to put on the tough guy act anymore. Hello to Jessica, Blue Magic and Kate. Stay Safe everyone!

~ Evelyn Kay Brake

#BF2104 | Ione, CA

I am reaching out for some solidarity. I wish to proclaim loud and proud that I am bisexual, and am truly, madly, deeply in love with a transgender woman who is the light of my life. Until recently, I was in the closet, and I persecuted the LGBTQIA+ community. I can't express how sorry I am for hurting people. How can I begin making amends to this beloved community? Can I expect to be welcomed and embraced after I harmed people? I applaud all who have refused to hide, and have the courage to be their true selves.

I knew Rem'mie Fells' family, and it hurts to see her gone. I raise my fist high, and join the fight to end the senseless killing of Black and LGBTQIA+ people.

My beloved, take good care, and stay safe and be strong.

~ Kojo AKA Corey Bracey

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Dear HOAW Family,

Holla” to all my sisters and brothers locked down in PA and elsewhere. Miley, what’s up? Did you get my message? Shaylanna Luvme I got a kite 4 you too... and to those sisters in pain due to corrupt hate staff all over, please keep fighting, your strength gives me strength, I love you all.

In issue #27 I shared that I have a wonderful husband and that impact litigation was being prepared to bring policy change to aid the trans-sisters of PA. I am presently negotiating a settlement of an abuse lawsuit: *Hayes v Gilmore* 17-1327. I have incorporated gender expression and improper trans-health TX into the settlement. Aside from the financial considerations and the transfer to SCI-Benner which are approved, I am waiting final approval on “Gender Affirming, Art Projects,” and a wider variety of cosmetics, undergarments, pantyhose and sneakers. I am requesting policy change in that “Gender expression Items” be Removed From Commissary, DC-ADM 008, and put in 13/2/1 section 19 “TX for GD”. Then all gender expression items could be purchased from outside vendors, giving wider options.

I am waiting to receive final authorization. If approved I settle *Hayes v Gilmore*, withdraw *Hayes v Zaken*, and drop the criminal charges prepared to file against several racist/ transphobic staff @ Greene. I am dealing with someone who is reasonable so things look good. If the gender expression issues are denied *Zaken* stays and I will make a motion for class certification. Then any PA trans-female and trans-male can become part of the class with their own issues regardless of prison assignment.

Sadly this comes with a price. These racist/ bigots here @ Greene permanently separated me from my Husband (Roderick) for no other reason than retaliation. We never fight, argue or engage in sexual activity. An inter-racial couple based on love and respect is too much for hood wearing staff to tolerate.

With love in solidarity,

~ Ms. Linda May Lee

aka S. Hayes | MQ5447

Big Shout out to my husband Travis! I love you baby.

Thanks to the Heart on a Wire Community, Blue Magic, Maxine, all the girls you know who you are.

Love y’all,

~ Tara Marissa Bryant

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

H.O.A.W. Fam,
I missed you guys.
Everyone who submitted
writings on “coming
out”--I LOVED THEM.
Please continue to be
those big Big Bro/Big Sis
figures. We need that
guidance from each other
on a lot of issues. Taz,
Juicy, Drew, Natiley,
Harley Quinn, Jake,
Malaysia, Phil Jai,
Dominic, & Monica, I
especially like your
“coming out” entries.
Linda May Lee, I’m @
Greene too. We haven’t
had the chance to meet
but I’m in the Prison
abolishment movement &
LGBT activism. Let me
know the best way to
communicate with you.
Shaylanna--you seem to
be active in the fight.
Ski, Juicy, & Harley Q.
Love, Peace & Respect.
To my LGBT here
@Greene, if you ever end
up back here in the hole
with me, don’t hesitate to
speak... I’m here.

~ Indy

If you can, follow me on
Twitter @AntoineIndy.

Antoine Walker
KG7791 | SCI Greene

Bright Blessings & Merry Meet!

Since coming out and working on my transition,
people are starting to call me by my trans name:
Danni.

I’m in a Texas State Prison and due to COVID-19,
my evaluation with the Psych Dr. is on a temporary
(yet seemingly permanent) pause. I feel like a cat,
housed in a dog kennel; with a dog cellie.

I’m working on trying to get a peer support group
started on my unit for the LGBTQ community. For
we are as separated as TDCJ can get us. PLEASE.
Any TX inmates that fall under the
LGBTQIA2Spirit umbrella. Send a I-60 to Sgt
Florez at Safe Prisons. Tell her your desire & need
for a peer support group.

“Luv Ya’ll” to all my queens out there. Shout out to
Cricket, for introducing me to HOAW.

Life may not be peaches for me right now... But at
least I’m in the fruit bowl.

Blessed Be!

~ Danni

Daniel Griffin #1484045 | Texas



MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Dear Family,

I'm writing to thank all my sisters in the struggle as my time behind bars comes to an end. It's inspiring to see the love that we share and even though our reputation has me seeing red. I'm a lover of us. I'm fearless in my new journey and look forward to a fresh beginning.

I'd like to give a shout and heartfelt hug to Krewella, Ms. Hershey, Twin aka Cupcake, James St. James, Valentino Vengeance and Dir Monroe. To the man in my life Kyle, I love you more than you know. Thank you for all you do for me (and to me). You make a girl believe in herself. I will make sure to handle everything.

From my heart to yours,

~ Tayler Swift-Klein

Hello everyone! I've been on HRT since October 2017 after winning my lawsuit against County Jail Medical. I had been working on getting medical to increase my Estradiol for over a year. We recently had a new doctor start and I spoke to him about the whole situation. He actually listened to me and seemed to have more knowledge about treating transgender inmates than the last two doctors. And the new doctor didn't try to rush me out the door or blow me off like the last two either. I was able to get my Estradiol increased, so I'm happy.


Jolene, I'm glad to hear you have your foot in the door for hormones. Keep us updated on your progress; Jace C. Bonham, I'm happy to hear you received your Gender Dysphoria interview. If they diagnosed you with Gender Dysphoria, then they are required to treat you. 99% of the time they'll put you on hormone therapy. I hope you get on HRT. Jessica Diana Garza, I'm sorry to hear that your heart was broken. That's rough. I'm happy you aren't going to let that deter you. Someone who is going to love you for you. Next time take things slow and get to know each other. Before you emotionally invest in that person, see whether they're about games or not; Gigi, I'm happy to hear that you won your fight to get on hormones. I know how hard that fight was. I'm proud that you didn't give up; Shaylanna Luvme, I'm glad that you're still getting your voice out there and sharing your experiences with everyone; Linda May Lee, I'm happy to hear that you have found love and that that has gave you the strength you needed; and to all the other girls from the other states, Stay strong. Be you. Be proud. And please stay safe from COVID-19.

Your sister,

~ Ravyn

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX



I am a white pansexual gender-nonconforming transsexual female. Done 13 out of 18 years down in Georgia. I enjoyed reading everyone's pieces on coming out. I came out after I came to prison. Within my first 10 months I was raped twice which convinced me to go into hiding. I fooled everyone into thinking I was a regular heterosexual dude! Eventually I couldn't bear the discomfort of living a lie and I came back out with a "Fuck 'Em" attitude and ready for battle. Regardless of the bullshit, I am happy and at peace. I'm the first girl to get HRT funded by GA DOC after my friend Ashley won her case. Damn!! This stuff really works.

I'm looking forward to my life once I get out of here. Although it would be easy for me to "pass" and live "stealth," NAW, fuck that, Trans Pride!

I'm an advocate, I go from prison to prison bucking the system in our fight against the injustices suffered by trans women. My brand of activism is to help my sisters, promote respect for others and for self. I don't conform to the norms of "what makes a woman a woman."

I let it be known that nobody else can determine how to express my femininity or what womanhood is for me.

I seek true acceptance.

With love and Solidarity,

~ Kasey Renee, 1132628

#MeToo #GirlsLikeMe #TransLivesMatter

MORE EXCERPTS AND SHOUTOUTS

XOXXO Letters and Love

Hey all you sexy ladies. Shout out to my girlfriend Jaina going through a hard time **because of a messed up sentence. I'm having a hard time with PTSD/Anxiety/panic attacks.** When I came out at 14 my dad punched me and sent me to a **placement and I was emancipated.** I've been on my own ever since. From what I've seen us trans girls are so divided. I don't understand why we don't stick together as sisters and not let no men split us up.

~ Brittney Marie Featherstone AKA Cupcake

QA4783 | SCI Somerset

Thank you for all the strength and courage you provide to me and others! This is **first time being locked up and I'm headed to federal prison and scared to death.** Having a community helps big time. I love you all very much. I have always wanted to come out but feared rejection and reading your stories has truly been inspiring. I hope wherever I get sent to I can find some **help to transition to the woman I've always wanted to be.** I need to find a way to be truly me.

~ Racine

Thank you Hearts on a Wire for sticking with me and holding me down. Shout out to Mariah, DeeDee, Catrina, Bree, Sydney, Ms. Lah, Ms. Tattoo, JB, Savage, CR, Ty, SJ, Miley, Anistasia, Shaylanna Luvme, Chocolate Monica, Ms. Candy, Ms. Redds, Chi-chi, Ms. Terry, Big Shirley, Ms. Najee, Samantha, Linda May Lee.

~ Collis Henderson

JU1446 | SCI Greene

Because I transitioned from Male to Female (in an all Male prison) I suffer continuously from bias-motivated violence and intimidation. I hear homophobic slurs towards me. **By C/O's, Sgts, LTs, and captains of my building. My complaints and grievances are neglected.** When I tell them about the violence, intimidation, sexual threats, I'm told that I could be moved to Max or sent to the hole. I've tried confiding in the Medical and mental health staff. But it's a lose-lose, i'm always told "this is what you'll receive if you're transgender."

When anything happens to me (raped, robbed, exploited, or beat up) the staff will do nothing. No investigation, until I'm beaten dead or severely raped. By then it'll be too late!

Each day is a fight, and each day I'm getting STRONGER. I pray for my LGBTQI+ family who are behind the tortured walls of prison. We will get through the struggle.

~ Amani Renee Love

Anthony Lee Rodriguez | SBI-00750595 | JTVCC

FROM THE MAIL

Letters and Love OXXOX

Si en el contemporáneo mundo vivimos con la idea de que tenemos que “salir” o “come out” para que otros nos conozcan, es porque históricamente hemos sido oprimidos. Hemos sufrido la necesidad de “escondernos” por todo el mal con que la sociedad nos ha tratado. Reconoce que no estás “saliendo” de nada. Simplemente estamos retomando la identidad que la sociedad históricamente nos ha quitado.

Piensa en ti mismo(a) como ser humano. Ser humano es (existir) ser. La única condición para ser humano es: ser. La verdad es que no le debemos una explicación de nuestra vida a nadie. Ser transgenero, ser gay, ser lesbiana, ser bisexual, ser androgino, ser asexual, ser pansexual, ser intersex...es ser humano.

Deberíamos nosotros esperar una disculpa de aquellos que nos juzgan, los actores de tanta opresión hacia nuestras personas por no vivir conforme a sus propias ideas.

Un saludo de mi corazón a: L.I. AKA Joey--**Cheer up friend, don't let those negative thoughts bring you down. I can't possibly feel all the pain that you're going through, but I can relate to you in many ways. I send my condolences for the loved one that left. I am positive that the future has happy days in store for you. But you gotta stay here with us. You gotta be stronger than negative thoughts, and I know you are strong. You and I are capable of things we can't even begin to imagine once we know who and what we are: Human beings. I also look forward to hearing the good things you're doing for the community. Shout out to Nhan, my future husband forever. I love you Chiquito. We're almost there. I got you on my mind baby. Always. Shout out to Sarah my adoptive mom! I love you Sarah! My life would not be the same without you. You're the best mom ever...of like...the entire solar system!! Jess: I hope you read this sometime. Keep your head up pretty eyes. And I hope everything's ok with you.**

~ Tu chica, Ovis Anabel

Dear Family: First and foremost, thank you all for loving and supporting each other. Y'all are a beautiful force. To Zoey Carrasquillo you are amazing for owning you. I understand what it's like to lose the one you love. I am here for you.

~ Patrick Carpenter | 832016 | Airway Heights CC, WA

To HOAW – **Girls what's up? I really miss Swerve. Shout out to Fifty Shades on Jay, I miss and love you. Stay safe! Nikki T. I miss you, stay beautiful! Shout out to my man Black he treats me very good.**

~ Alexis Mitchell | FG2597 | SCI Albion

BRIEF HEARTS ON A WIRE HISTORY

Adrian

We received a request from Mrs. Gege for some Hearts on a Wire history from Adrian, one of Hearts' founding members.

In 2006, a small group of trans people and allies* doing social service work in trans communities began comparing notes on the ways that prisons and policing were impacting the communities we were connected to. It became clear that the unmet needs and barriers faced by our communities were tremendous and that there was no local organizing equipped to address this.

We sought help and support from experienced organizers.** We understood that breaking the isolation of our incarcerated community members was a critical first step to addressing health and safety issues from the outside. Initially, Hearts on a Wire corresponded directly with the people we were connected to on the inside and responded to urgent situations.

As we were in touch with more and more incarcerated community members, it became clear that the intense need for communication was not just between trans people inside and those of us on the outside, but also among incarcerated trans people incarcerated. This led to the creation of the Hearts on a Wire newsletter in 2010, which facilitates communication among our community on the inside as well as the distribution of practical resources and information.

The priorities identified by our community members inside continue to shape our organizing. In our early years, we conducted a research project to get a fuller picture of the issues faced inside and to set our priorities. This culminated in the publication of “This is a Prison, Glitter is Not Allowed: Experiences of Trans and Gender Variant People in Pennsylvania’s Prison Systems” in 2011.

Outside group sustainability has been an ongoing challenge for Hearts on a Wire. We have had several collective members die. We have seen many outside collective members come and go because of housing instability, mental health issues, and (re) incarceration. Others have relocated to pursue relationships, employment and educational opportunities. Right now, 5-6 people volunteer many, many, hours of work to stay in touch with and support 500+ members on the inside while also working, where we can, to address the other policy priorities set by our trans communities inside.

* Tyreef King, Hannah Zellman, Katrina Robinson, Pascal Emmer, Max Reynolds, Sabina Neem, Jaci Adams, and myself. (Adrian Lowe)

** John Bell & Waheedah Shabazz-El from ACT UP, Miss Major from TJIGP

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

NEXT ISSUE:

Visionary fiction, a practice developed by author Walidah Imarisha, asks writers to be “unrealistic in our visions of the future because all real social change has been considered to be unrealistic at the time people fought for it — until those people changed the world...With visionary fiction, we start with the question, What is the world we want? rather than What is a win that is possible and realistic? We can't build what we can't imagine.”

In an article published on medium.com, Walidah set forth a visionary fiction prompt for 2020:

“We must practice, joyfully and even playfully, imagining what lies beyond the event horizon society has embedded in our minds. So try this: Imagine it's 50 years in the future, and social justice movements have continued winning and advancing liberation. What would your life be like? What would your everyday routine be? You could write out your daily schedule, you could write a journal entry from the year 2070. You could write a letter to a loved one talking about the changes that have occurred over your life.”

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Contribuciones en español son muy
bienvenidos!

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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 and to make edits.

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