



Hearts on a Wire



Issue # 34 - spring 2023

♥ support incarcerated and detained trans and nonbinary people ♥

♥ build community through bars ♥

♥ organize for justice ♥



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LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

We are Pennsylvania-based trans and nonbinary 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.

Contact us for meeting information.

THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS

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Tyreef | Tyree Sanders
Twinky Bear | Tone Tone | Tone
Teddy Bear | Tay | Tank | T
Swing | Slez | Skillz | Siobhan
Shannon | Shane | Shaggy
Shadow | Samantha | ReRe
Quincy Williams | QB
Queen DIVA Supreme
Priscilla | Princess | Pooh Bear
ogP | Nikki Sin | Ms. Zoni
Ms. Tessa Rose | Ms. Peacock
Milly | Millie | Miley Fletcher
Michelle | Megan Lynn Duane
Maya | Maxine Davis | MAJIK
Lovie | Lola | Lizzy | Lexi Love
Laskia McKinney | Lakisha | Keke
Kaylyn | Kayla | Kate
Karina PRIME | Justin Schwanke
Jersey Savage | Jennifer | JB
Jasmine Lynn Tetlow
Jacinda Lee Allenbaugh | Juicy
Iris Star | Indy | Goose | Gator
Dorian | Devin | Deuce% | Dayna
Cree | Cork | Chocolate Drip
Chea Rose | Ceci | C
Brother Randolph | Brittany
Brianna Redmond | Brandi Marie
BR2STAR | Big Fox
Big Big Big Knowledge
Arro | Anistasia | Andrew Spedden
Amir | Ambrr* | Em

Cover Art: Sadly we could not locate the author of our beautiful cover art but we thank them for sharing their incredible talent with us all!

Dear beloveds,

Spring has sprung and summer is on the way. With it comes issue #34 <3 As always, we're so excited to put together such a robust collection of art, poetry, essays, and love.

Some news from the outside collective: we've continued to support inside collective members throughout PA thanks to help from the Trans Resilience Fund and from our former fiscal sponsor, the North American Syringe Exchange Network. This effort, as well as the publication of the newsletter, the PILOT' visitation program, responding to mail correspondence, and much more were made possible with the support of new and old outside collective members. Former inside members Brandi and Najee continue to join us, and Ms. Zynnieva, who was just released from SCI Forest, is hoping to join outside collective meetings as well.

On the Trans Day of Visibility in March, HOAW was happy to rep our work at multiple events in Philadelphia. Tyreef, an outside collective member who works at the William Way Center where we meet, spoke at one event and MC'd another. During a TDOV event at William Way, outside collective members presented submissions from the last newsletter and spoke about our work. While visibility is not granted equally to all trans people, we were glad to have the opportunity to amplify the voices of Hearts members on the inside.

In some ways, this feels like a difficult and ominous time for trans people in this country. Increased visibility has put a target on our backs in new ways. It's not easy to stomach the onslaught of malicious legislation, and even harder to hear news of trans people lost to violence here in Philadelphia.

Still, the heart of Hearts on a Wire beats on, and remains a vital beacon of resilience. Thank you for being a part of it!

In loving solidarity,

~ The outside collective

IMPORTANT UPDATE: NEW MAILING ADDRESS!

Our mailing address is changing!

Due to upcoming construction at the William Way Center, which is where we have held meetings and received mail for several years, we are in the process of relocating.

From here on out, until otherwise noted, **please send all HOAW submissions, letters, and other mail to:**

**Hearts On A Wire
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143**

Make sure you address the mail to "Hearts On A Wire" — mail addressed to individuals or other names may not be properly sorted and received. We appreciate your patience as we transition to a new mail reception system!



Art by Queen D.I.V.A. Supreme

REMEMBERING THOSE WE'VE LOST

In Issue 33, we asked for submissions that shed light on the role mentors play in shaping queer and trans communities.

Twinky Bear: Before coming to prison I didn't have any mentors, elders in "the Life" or really anyone in the LGBTQ community to talk to, let alone receive guidance from. Part of it was my own social anxiety and PTSD from past experiences. I felt very judged and misunderstood. My Parents were always as supportive as they had the capacity to be. Thank GOD when I came to prison I was introduced to Hearts on a Wire by someone on their way out. Hearts became my chosen family and I found a bestie and new sister in Lola. Grateful is how I feel. Reading fellow inside/outside members' writing has influenced me by making me realize my known experience is not the only experience life has to offer. My personal desires have been awakened by a new optimistic outlook on life's possibilities.

Lexi Love: Those who know me know my obsession with RuPaul Charles. Being from a kind of small town, being LGBTQ wasn't shamed per se, but it wasn't really talked about and it certainly wasn't celebrated. When I first saw RuPaul's Drag Race, that was really my first exposure to queer culture. As Ru mentored the queens, a lot of the messages resonated with me as well. I felt as if Ru and the queens of Drag Race helped me become more comfortable with me and my own identity and my own place in the queer community. I'm still looking for that in-person trans role model.

The community in prison, while not always friendly, has at least validated my identity as a woman. It ALWAYS shocks me when someone new addresses me as "she/her" or at least asks how I identify. That gives me hope that the world as a whole will someday accept me for me. I think we need more community members to step up as leaders on the inside. Family for me is tough to put into words. It's more I know it when I see/feel it. I don't feel as though I've found my "family" on the inside yet, but I remain always open and on the look out.

While life inside often seems to mirror an episode of Pose or The Real Housewives, when it comes down to it we're all just trying to survive and thrive. In the moment we may think it's cute to throw shade at the girl who's lacking makeup skills or whose undergarments look like they've seen better days or the newcomer who is still trying to figure out where they fall on the LGBTQIA2S+ spectrum, but I live for the moments where I can reach out a helping hand. I don't think I meet the age requirement for elder - on the other hand with the way we're dying I may be an elder already - but that's what I aspire to be.

MENTORS

Tyree Sanders: My role model is this community cause it gives me Hope, Strength and pushes me to fight. When I came to jail I was a 15 yr old kid from Philly who certainly wasn't with the same sex thing. In the decades I been down I have built friendships and heard many people's stories. I have seen the hate people have towards our community turn into Love and advocacy for the community. None of this is possible without those before us taking a stand. I see what trans women endure and I tip my hat off to every one of you. Now brothers have join the fight. Y'all are my role model and let's keep the gloves on and continue to fight until we are equal to all the rest. So keep making a difference and many will follow guaranteed. That what a role model is and that what each of y'all from (A to Z) is to me...

Lakisha: I was trapped in a male body and always wanted to be female growing up. I was married to a wonderful and beautiful Trans woman who brought me out of my shell to make me blossom. After we divorced, I went back in my shell due to all the drama.

PLAY IT LIKE BASEBALL

Twinky Bear AKA The Real Jail House Wife of PA

Empty, Empty Hallowed out simply –
All alone, grown, bumped around, still pimply –
Black hole of a soul, Desperations in me –
Tired of explaining it, I'm tired of defending –
This hurt and this pain's mind bending –
Done roughed it through eight round's / hope
this is my last inning –
Trying to slide into home base, trying to slide
into a new beginning –
If the "ump" yells 'SAFE!' I'd be winning

This is where I'm at y'all, planted on 3rd base –
Nervous, heart pounding Enemy ready to give
chase –
Have to be strategic and conscious of my pace –
Fear is, I'll get out and fall flat on my face –
Key's preparation and patience, must develop
a taste –
For reflection, introspection, detection and
attention deflection –
How though? Their radar's on me –
Red DOT's on zoom, like jazz I am she –
Black trans girl, fat butt, long hair, and a felony –
In they pants I got 'em swelling, see –
Oh wait, concentrate ... Here's my chance
to run –
But Lord. I still need direction / time's ticking,
I'm under the gun –
I'm going for it
God don't let me fail and become a homeless
bum!

REMEMBERING THOSE WE'VE LOST



RIP Miss Pennie

Hearts on a Wire is sad to inform the community of the passing of Miss Pennie, one of our longtime leaders on the inside. This loss is a huge blow to the Hearts on a Wire community.

Miss Pennie. passed away suddenly from heart failure on November 28, 2022 at SCI Coal Township.

Our heartfelt condolences go out especially to the many daughters she adopted over the years.

From Pennie's daughter Kaylyn: Pennie was a loving and caring mother and teacher to the children she helped and guided along the way through life. Pennie lived a long life always surrounded by her friends and family. Walk with your mother amongst the heavens. I pray you're happy and smiling as you look down from the heavens. You will always be the queen who left a crown that no woman can ever fill. Pennie you will never be missed or forgotten. May you finally rest in peace, from your family and children who you helped raise into grown women. We will all miss you. Thank you for always being there to help and teach us. Thank you for all the love you shared throughout your life. RIP Miss Queen Pennie.

REMEMBERING THOSE WE'VE LOST



RIP Diamond Jackson-McDonald

Diamond Jackson-McDonald was killed on Thanksgiving day in Philadelphia. She had a smile that would light up a room and was the glue that kept her family together. She was 27. Our hearts go out to her family, and in particular her spouse Milly, who says: “I miss you so much you helped me become the person I am today and I love you for that, no one can take your spot in my heart, may you rest in peace my Queen.”

RIP Mar'Quis 'MJ' Jackson

Mar'Quis 'MJ' Jackson, a Black transgender man was killed in Philadelphia, on December 12, 2022, his 33rd birthday. Mar'Quis was an advocate and activist in Philadelphia's transgender community.



RIP Samantha James

Samantha James, known on the internet as Cookie Tookie, passed away December 3, 2022 from heart failure. She was 44. Cookie Tookie was a Philadelphia-based rapper, comedian, and YouTuber. She was best known for her advocacy on behalf of Black Trans women.



NAME CHANGE APPEAL UPDATE

As many of you are aware, Pennsylvania has a law that prevents many people with felony convictions from legally changing their names. The Trans Legal Defense and Education Fund (TLDEF) challenged this law as unconstitutional in 2022 and won in lower courts in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Since then, a handful of people with felonies have been able to follow suit and change their names.

A trans man, representing himself pro se in Butler county, was denied a name change because of his criminal record. His case is on appeal to the Superior Court, and TLDEF is representing him in his appeal. Hearts on a Wire signed on to an Amicus (friend of the court) brief in support of his appeal.

On February 28, 2023, the Superior Court held oral arguments in the case. No one from the PA Attorney General's office appeared to oppose the appeal. On April 17, the Superior Court remanded that case to the trial court for a full hearing that includes the constitutional issues.

This is not the resounding win we were hoping for. However this decision means that that Court of Common Pleas judges should conduct hearings where there is a felony, rather than simply tossing these petitions, as happens now. For the petitioner's sake, we hope that the Butler County judge grants his name change on remand. We will continue to keep you informed.

ALYSSA RODRIGUEZ CENTER FOR GENDER JUSTICE

Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice (ARC) is a new organization connecting jailhouse lawyers and advocates working for gender justice in NY, PA, GA, and FL. Members get pro se legal information and support for their advocacy campaigns. Currently, we're working on a newsletter and a guide to getting laws passed. Several members of the Hearts on a Wire community are involved in this project.

Are you fighting for trans rights, women's rights, or freedom from gender-based violence? We'd love to hear from you! To join our mailing list or learn more about membership, write us at:

Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice
PO Box 180198
Brooklyn, NY 11218
garkles@arcgenderjustice.org

CAN'T SAY YOU WEREN'T WARNED

Maxine Davis

I want to speak on the topic of outing people as abusive. Speaking from extensive experience as an individual who has been with Hearts since near the beginning, in most cases this is a defense mechanism due to feeling abandoned and helpless. A lot of individuals want to use us as Sex objects or sex toys to be played with or to fulfill a fantasy, then sat on a shelf or be thrown away. Unless we agree to just a fling, you damn right I will even the battle ground especially when I pour out my heart and past out, not to mention I warned you of my vengeful ways. yes I am calm but will quickly go to drama queen. Yes I Keep to myself cause just like family extended family is also full of shit.

MY RAINBOW

Michelle

There was an unreal rainbow in prison, as many say don't exist, then why did I find a person with a flawed understanding of his life? I just happened to be sitting by myself in a T.D.C.J dayroom, then he came to ask something, I was not sure why he asked me.

Then I was told to sit and listen to my gayself. When a week later he gave me a kiss of endearment, I took it as a rough answer to what I know about myself in sexual concept terms. My rainbow lit up and I was on a ride of false love, with a self-harm type of person. He wanted me to go on psych medication, then we got together as lovers and would be in an open relationship for 13 years, until he swallowed a handcuff key and passed into the next life of death. My rainbow is gone due to evil in prison. We have no one who would do anything to keep alive and well as I have.

I wish a preventance could better stop this from happening to the people living in a prison setting, as to help understand the LGBTQ+ community find a more reasonable way of self-love and working with others as loveable people.

WHY JUDGE PPL

Lizzy

We are always trannies
But still are not loved
or even accepted yet
tell us why this is
we know we deserve better
we are trannie sistas
we stick together always
because we don't give up

...Q AND A— AMBRR*

Why rainbows have color?
Nature science!
'y can't earth stop and turn
another direction?
Next question...
Is homosexuality OK?!
LGBTQ+
People are normal –
It's just human nature....

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear H.O.A.W Family,

I just wanted to give a shout-out to everyone. I enjoy and love reading all the letters of love. I also want Ary to know that I will never give up and I will always love her. I remember every promise I made and I intend to keep them all. Just know I know it's hard at Phoenix but I got a vote sheet pending for permission to write you. Stay strong Angel we will be home soon, I love and miss you so so much. To everyone else that I know, and don't know: smile. Times may be hard, but you're loved.

~ Kayla | Kevin Shay | SCI-Greene

Hey fam,

Today I was talking to a gay friend of mine and he asked why people hate him. I said because most people are afraid to live their truth. They hate the fact you are confident enough to do just that. They hate themselves more for living a lie. I want to spread my love to all the queens and kings out there. Even when we disagree and fight don't mean we hate each other. We have enough people hating us for living our truth. Kayla Shay I am sorry hopefully you can forgive me. I was wrong. Let's love each other and stop the hate. So everybody out there: keep living your truth. Much love.

~ Cork | HJ3719 | Cornelius Crawford | S.C.I. Greene

Shout out to the Hearts Outside Collective. We appreciate all that you do. Thanks for the silicone article. Extremely informative. Much love.

Juicy Queen Bee Ford, thank you for always keeping us informed. I'm sorry you're going through that in the county. It's pathetic that in 2022 we still have to fight for something as basic as healthcare. Keep up the good fight.

To anonymous, The Queen's English is a must have. I'm trying to get copies out at Forest as I come across them. Speaking of Forest, shout out to y'all. Hope everyone on the west side is good. T-cup, Big 'Mena misses you. See you soon girl. And I look forward to meeting the community here on the east side now. I don't think this new administration is having us, so we really have to show some solidarity here y'all.

~ Alexis "Lexi" Love AKA Big 'Mena | SCI Forest

Peace:

I have made it a point to befriend anyone who shows respect and has a zeal to make change. The beautiful Transgender people I have met while incarcerated have changed by perception. Shoutout to Nino, Niara, Tita, Maddie. I am blessed to have friends like this.

~ Brother Randolph | Randy

LETTERS & LOVE

As I'm sitting here on this bed Wednesday morning, I'm thinking of the things I'm thankful for, COMMUNITY. I am so PROUD to be part of the LGBTQ community, where I'm accepted and loved for being myself. We are a community of mixed colors, acceptance and love, which creates a rainbow.

We are Beautiful and Proud to be us, so wherever one may find themselves, take a minute, and breathe in the love that embraces us, and hold your head up, because we're in a place where people love us.

And let's not forget the ones who are no longer physically with us, for when we celebrate, we celebrate them also, so remember, on our day of celebration, celebrate someone for their existence that passed away, even if you never met them, therefore they live.

My love, LGBTQ Community. For ones who don't know me, I'm Ceci, a transgender woman of color confined for 40 years after being assaulted. I'm not bitter, because I found and allowed myself to be true, and I gain strength, pride and support from the LGBTQ community and community leaders. Why I'm sharing: because no matter where you're at, and feeling down, someone, somewhere, will smile in the face of adversity, blanketed by their community, we have ours, (embrace the love :))

I love you all...

~ Ceci

I want to give a Shout-Out to my Loving Husband (Tyree, "T"). Baby I want you to know how much I love you. And please know "Nothing and No One will ever come between us." Our love is too strong. You are the love of my life and I can't wait to start our lives together.

Love You Always and Forever,

~ Lovie | K.F. LB7689 Albion

My Beautiful Wife Princess @ SCI Phoenix, stay strong Baby Girl, #3-18-2020.

Your Husband,

~ MAJIK @ SCI Mahanoy

Send Me A Queen

Cork at S.C.I. Greene

Lord send me a queen like Harley Quinn
Lady She Wolf, Juicy, or Megan Lynn
Where love at? Alexis I need a Starr
Someone unique & precious, for her I'll go to Mars
Or even Egypt be your lil secret
Escape all the drama me and Kisha
Run thru any forest to find a Didi
Sip hooch out of T-cup for a Kiki
Gave you every diamond for a Diamond
Kayla Shay you a star so keep shining
Ms. Ro Siggie we ain't met yet welcome to Greene
Got a taste for strawberry & peaches & hunny
Cali boy Drew can you be my snow bunny?
I mean no disrespect at all if y'all taken
But this king need a queen Lord I'm patiently waiting

I MISS YOU (ARY)

Kevin Shay (Kayla)

I miss you so much,
I even miss your touch.
I think of you every day,
and cry you flew away.
I hate the fact God gave you wings,
because my Angel flew away.
I know one day we will be together again,
so I'll wait for that day to begin.
I'll be missing you until then,
I love you till the end...Ary <3
A.T.B.N.

For many many years they tried to make us believe that our voices didn't matter. Now I know that's just more of their lies. We have so much talent in our community and I'm here for it all. Been really really all over the place emotionally. Up one moment down the next and so on, it could be the hormones or just that I feel fed up with the shit we as trans women in prison have to go through. Also, I'm missing my husband who the system separated from me over a year ago. To Baby Love back at SCI Frackville, ya baby cakes misses you like crazy. Anyway, of the few joys I do have is music and television. I have been writing new song lyrics (so for them I am truly appreciative to God for) and the new series "Interview with a Vampire" on the A.M.C. network. It chronicles the love shared between an interracial gay couple through the times, who happen to be vampires... Girls you're going to love this one! Where the Brad Pitt/Tom Cruise classic (movie) gave vague references to the homosexual relationship between their two characters, this series goes in deep. In reality more along the lines of the Ann Rice Novel in which it came from. Also returning to T.V. is the interracial love story between the two lead characters in the "Chucky" series. If season 2 is as good as season one was, we are in for a treat!! Black and white, teen love, gay.... Reminds me of my time in the Boy Scouts of America! I was such a fast little girl.... (LOL)
TTYL,

~ Twinky Bear AKA The Real Jail House Wife
of PA

This is my first time writing. I know some of you at Forest knows me, but for those who don't, Ever since I was a kid I did not understand the out of place feelings I was having. Come to find out there is female inside that comes out when she wants. Shout out to my husband I love you and miss you.

~ Jennifer AKA Greg

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear H.O.A.W,

Hello Hearts on a Wire family, I just wanted to say Whatz up Brittany Featherstorm, Juicy Juice, and LaLa keep yall's head up.

Jessica Diana Gaarza, Honey I love love love your poems and artwork. I'm That Bitch by Tammi Unique Rose... FIRE. You got bars, Bitch... So do Summer Breeze, we need to get in the studio Ladies.

WE ARE TRANNIE SISTERS

Lizzy

We know we were meant to be
We live the life each day
We are trannie sistas
We won't quit til we win
It's our life we real with it
We are trannie sistas we rock
We are normal people too

LETTERS & LOVE

Hey HOAW family:

Shout out to all my sisters & brothers at SCI Forest. To Anistasia, I hope you are happy. I was always 100% for us as wife & wife and I still love and miss you. Now I'm single & looking.

~ .5¢

Wassup, Hearts family, I have some amazing news! I'm maxing out in March & I can't wait! I definitely feel what Martin Luther King once said, "Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, I'm free at last." I want to thank the hearts family for being such a united fams! I will continue to be a part of the family upon release! Now a few shout-outs!

[At Coal Township] Shadow (Snuggles) miss you bro, Ms. Dee-Dee & Drew, stay true, Niara (Peaches), love y'all + keep y'all heads held high!

[At Greene] Indy, wassup boy, keep ya head high!

[At Forest] Twin, Dilly, Kodi, SAVAGE, Papi, Sydney, Stasia, Knowledge, Black, RJ, Miley, Diamond, Z Live, Puck, AJ, Meech, Kid, Havo, my big bro Gio, Gregg, Speedy & all the rest I've missed. Just know for some of us, there's a light at the end of the tunnel and for those who have a lot of time, HOAW will always brighten your world.

To my Amazing Soulmate, Mr. Canaan French (JB): This year has been tough on both of us, but we remained strong & true through it all. Since we've been together I've been the happiest woman alive & I want you to know it's because of the love you give me!

I know me going home is taking a toll on you, but remember we'll be together in 5 yrs! Just stay strong & remain true! Remember, you hold the key to my mind, body, heart & soul within your heart! Hugs & Kisses.....Baby-Butt!

~ Mz. Zynniva French "KeKe"

Hello Family: I feel what Jessica Diana is saying. I have some birds that nest on the bench by my cell. They bring me comfort and warmth when I am feeling lonely. Fight for yourself and others, be safe, Keep it Real and keep loving yourself.

~ WF

UNTITLED

Jacinda Lee

Tears fall from my eyes, and I
drown in pain. Mental anguish fills me.
Is there anything to gain?

When I've lost everything dear to me;
that which matters the most. I don't want to
hurt anymore, no matter the cost.

To love is to hurt. And I simply
cannot risk it. Loneliness has me in her
grasp; I'm at the bottom of the pit.

Don't mind my walls, and my defensive
air. No one will ever hurt me again,
so don't bother to care.

LETTERS & LOVE

hello hoaw family,

how's everyone doing? i hope you're all doing well the best you can. shout out to nora @ rockview, i'm so sorry to hear about the doctor not letting you get hrt. please don't give up the fight. i spoke with you @ our support group & i'm very sad to hear your whole story. yes you can fight it. they can't deny you for wanting hrt. i wish you the best of luck & please let me know how you make out. shout out to dexter @ rockview. i didn't know you are a member with hoaw. i miss seeing you in the yard. i know you don't like the cold. come out & chill with your home-girl. i also wanna say i loved everyone's stories in this #33 issue. can you believe i've been on hrt for 14 months? i feel pretty good on them. waz up monica, miss you as well. i agree with you, the doc needs to let guys out who are up in age & are not considered a threat. our prisons are full to the max & they're still bringing guys/girls in, when is enough gonna be enough? i'm happy for you when it comes to your man. everyone needs to be loved. speaking of love, i got a really good man in my corner. has anyone heard from harley? i seen she didn't place anything in the last issue. well stay safe & well. just had a birthday. the big 41. i send my love to you all.

1 love!

~ cree | SCI Rockview

To Alexis Mitchell: I'm now part of Hearts on a Wire and want you to know I'm missing you and will always stay with you and everything will be ok.

~ Teddy Bear

NL4976 | SCI Albion

To all Trans women and men: as a trans woman in a "men's" prison, I know how hard it is. We need to become One Big Family, help one another to stay safe. I want to say hi to my Girlfriend Kana, I love you and miss you a lot. I hope you go to Logan prison. Girl be Safe.

~ Samantha

Larry Morse K84124
Taylorville, IL

THE REAL GIRL

Shannon

Note: This poem mentions self harm.

There is a girl who is exquisitely made.
On her lips and her eyes are the perfect shades.
Silky and long, she has put up her hair,
So that everyone can see the necklace she wears.
And like those of a starlet, her delicate shoes
Compliment her purse in matching hues.
This beautiful woman wears a fabulous gown,
All dressed up for a night on the town.
But on this gown is a large spot of red,
And in a pool of her blood, this beauty lies dead.
Oh what could have caused such a horrible scene?
It all becomes clear when nearby objects are seen.
There is a long sharp knife and some rags on the floor,
With the couple of things she could bear no more.
This precious creature only wanted to feel right,
And though she didn't mean to die,
She died happy that night.

SO WHAT

Whittany Smith

So what
what does it mean
to be alone
in this cell
so what
what does it mean
to be in pain
in this cell
Look,
I see outside
the animals are free
but I'm caged up
in this cell
like a wild animal
all alone
by her lonesome
her man's down the hall
and people nag her
to see her booty
when these clowns
that are the reason
for this pain
so what
what does it mean
to have a broken heart
so what
what does it mean
to hate so much?
Look,
I see the news
the hatred today
on our fellow citizens
that our president
doesn't give a damn
about
Why does it seem
these people in power
have hatred against us
who voted them
against us
so what
what does it mean
to be alone
in this cell
so what
why does it seem
we start here every time.

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear H.O.A.W.

Hi, this is my first time writing H.O.A.W. I just wanted to say hi and say to all my sisters and brothers that “the struggle is real, but it is only temporary.” Whenever you are being harassed, discriminated against, feeling depressed, angry, and blue, say to yourself “this shall pass too.”

Always be you, love yourself cause no one can be you or love yourself like you can. No one can make you feel inferior unless you let them. Don't ever let them.

Your sister,

~ Iris Star

Dear HOAW Fam:

Love y'all! To all my trans brothers and sisters, I love y'all. I'm a born fighter mentally and physically. I look up to you all. To continue to be yourselves daily with all the hate is a true show of strength.

Shoutouts—DiDi at Forest: love that poem. We seem very similar mentally. Hope we meet one day. Shadow at Benner: if it's meant to be, we'll link up one day again bro. I was gonna call you a.k.a. but turned the page and saw Nikki and all her a.k.a.'s which brings my next shoutout:

Nikki Sin a.k.a. Nikki Nasty: I'm feeling your vibe. I promise, the “Tall, chocolate” comment was only a small part... :) But for real, I'm on lock down for giving them hell physically and civilly too. So, keep that energy. Much love and respect.
RESISTANCE

Last but not least at Keke: Love you sis! I realize how much I miss you each time you write. Remember that hook you wanted me to put a verse on? I'm sending it in. Hope you see it before you max out!

Love,

~ Indy

LETTERS & LOVE

H.O.A.W,

I really don't write much, not sure why, but as I read Issue #33, I was moved by the outpour of love and encouragement, yet saddened by the situations we've endured. I have said in times past that we will never completely stamp out the ignorance of man. We're hated because we're feared and we're feared because we are not understood. Humanity has a long history of destroying that which they do not understand. It's sad but true.

But "we" are beautiful. "We" are unique. "We" are brave. "We" are strong. And we are strong because "we" are love. My kings and queens, let not our hearts be troubled because love conquers all. I know the pain we bare and the secret tears we cry. I know the despair and the feeling of loneliness that threatens to crush our souls but precious hearts, you are not alone. We are the image of what humanity seeks to have. The joy and freedom and courage to be "us." So I encourage you to continue being brave, beautiful and unique. Let our love light this world. Shout out to Slez at Huntingdon—it's me Shadow who was at Greene with you. I'm at Coal Township. Miss you man. Shout out to Timber and Kiki (Care Bear), my nephew Knowledge (Love you Neph.) Rest in power Pennie. Drew, Dede, Kelley, Justin, much love. And to the love of my entire life, Munta. I love you baby with every fiber of my being. You are the angel I've waited my entire life for. I never really knew what love was until I found you. True story! You are my "Moon." To all the queens and kings out there, stay strong, stay smart, stay beautiful, stay focused, never hopeless.

Love,

~ Shadow | Raymond B. Gaines III | HE7253 | SCI Coal Township

To all my sisters,

Hope you are all doing well as we finally dig our way out of this lockdown and back to some sort of normality. I am now 1.5+ years on hormones, and life is amazing now. It is so wonderful to read everyone's submissions, and all the shout-outs people give, makes me wish I knew more than the handful of people I know. But I see parole in 3 short years (after 12 long ones) and hopefully I get out so I can go bring my talents to help Hearts be the vital connection that we all need.

#TransPride

~ Siobhan | Steven Accor | KD5402 | SCI Albion

Dear HOAW: Shout out to the LGBT Community. Keep your heads held high, don't let no one keep you from flying high. Love Always,

~ Pooh Bear

...DISAPPEAR— AMBRR*

I hear voices: ECHOS!
Hanging on w/ me.
E'erytime i run,
Voices catch
me.
CLING —
Kisses are memories:
Wash o'er me;
Won't disappear....

POPCORN

Twinky Bear AKA The Real Jailhouse Wife

Yellow and plump –
Juicy wit bumps –
Buttery and nutritious but society says...“That ain't right” –
I'm just ah simple corn on a cob –
I'm popcorn as well –
Pick one!they all yell –
But I am, who I am –

The world says, “NO! You can't be both, that's not truth!” –
“You must be generalized....Must be categorized –
You can't be corn chowder –
You're really not the cream of corn you think you are –
– Might be a corn chip, but you're no corn kernel –
As a child playing with Barbies, they'd heckle and whisper....
.... “Oh, she definitely sweet corn –
Bitch, you ain't no cornucopia,” they'd say –
Ya hair's too nappy, ain't no Indian in ya family, child –
Constant judgment –
Corn flakes, they consider me because well... I'm flakey –
Reads my court ordered psych eval –
I sing out to the world, “I like D.L. men (I know, I know....
....such a bad habit) But my parents don't hear me though –
They say, “We love you just the way you are.” And I know
this to be true, but –
Their form of love entails no discussion of the subject
Of “Gay”....silence....We never dissect, we never mention –
Their comfort level means “Cornelia's” not in existence –
But she lives on –
Isolation's addictive –
Wanna crawl back in sometimes.... I've been “shucked” –
Can't believe I'm saying this, at times I miss it –

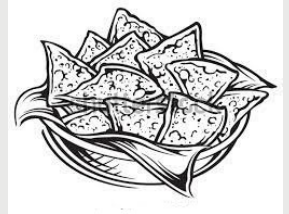
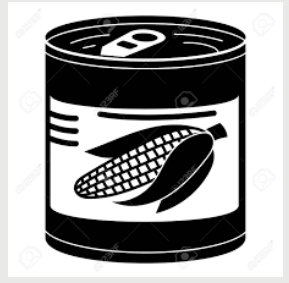
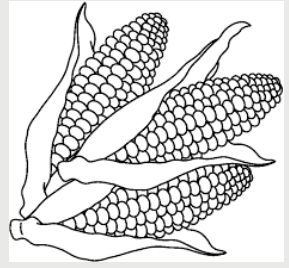
Been called corny by classmates, fellow inmates (when
....I won't suck), even jilted ex-mates –
Been ravaged down to my husk by this joke of
A sitcom called....Life (and her castmates) –
And all because my nibblets are not the same as theirs –

Some are sweet –
Some are savory –
Some are airy and light –
Some are fried and frittered –
Some of us are just fried.....

I'm calling for the annihilation of all “Cis” entitlement –
Without it, a “cis” farmer, when harvesting....
Would without question, see the value of his crop –
Would not toss any to the side because they
....Are misshapen or irregular –

He would pick me, he would brush the dirt off
me, he would hold me up to the light and say:
She can be many things,
She's valuable,
She is Orville Redenbacher Popcorn...

Honey!



LETTERS & LOVE

Yo H.O.A.W Family,

It's ya boi, Da one and only: SWING. Check this, I've got a question for all my brothas/sistas. Is there anyone who currently resides at the SCI Smithfield Institution, or was there, who knows the names of some of the officers on their CERT? Right now I'm in the middle of a lawsuit against the PA DOC for an excessive use of force incident. Anybody that can help me, I'll look out, real talk

Dis a shoutout to one of the realest brothas I know. Da man Rico GQ. Look bro I know we had our up/downs but it is what it is. You a straight up dude and don't take no crap from anybody. Just like me and that's why you got a friend for life in me dawg. Listen, no matta what happens or where you at, keep your head up and stay strong. I love ya bro, holla at me.

Also I want to say what's up to the following people: stasia/5¢ thanks for tunin me in, my girls teacup/DiDi at Forest stay positive and out of trouble, Miley/Diamond keep on rockin til the wheels fall off. Jo-Jo, Schanke, Emie Jessica and Wittany. I love all of ya. Tiffany Alissa happy belated b-day and I'm sorry to hear about being dumped. Holla at me girl what's up? Also to all my H.O.A.W. brothas/sistas one love. PEACE

~ SWING/Frank Piccolo | MY1504 SCI Forest

H.O.A.W. Family,

how yall doing, to my brothers + sisters yall keep your heads up. i want to shout out my beautiful wife Mz. Zynniva french AKA Honey love. I want to say i love you with all my heart baby, thank you for standing by me thru the hard and bad times. I'm happy that your home and you still holding me down out there. Its crazy how people didn't have faith in us now look you on the streets holding me down. Keep up the good work baby i got your back. tell the family i send my love. remember its us never them.

~ JB AKA Pretty Boy

To all my sisters at Forest, #1: Kid, keep your head up; #2: Sydney you are and will always be my #1 sister; #3: Tye, you always keep it real with me; #4: Di-Di, you and your husband was always there for me and was never wrong about anything; #5: Ke-Ke, you always keep me on my toes and help me out a lot. Now to Shewolf, as a woman I am sorry. I still love you, miss you, and would do whatever to take you back, you was right. I am single again because you told me it wasn't going to work. I want to start the new year off right, what do you want to do...

Still here,

~ Laskia McKinney at SCI Forest

LETTERS & LOVE

To my Husband Majik @ SCI Mahanoy: Baby I love you with all my heart and soul. You are the best thing that ever happened to me. I cannot wait until we are on the streets together. So many have tried to come between us but here we are 3 years later. Happy Anniversary sweetheart (3-18-2020)!

Love, your wife,

~ Princess | SCI Phoenix

WORDS OF WISDOM FOR THE COMMUNITY

Big Fox | LG1134 | SCI Houtzdale

We can't hold what we're responsible for until
We accept what we're gonna do for others

It's hard to be a happy person
When you know you're not being a decent one

Don't let your troubles break you down
Be thankful for everyday, every single
day. Because you never know when it will
be your last. Accept what you lose
EMBRACE what you gain with all
your heart

Hello to all of us out there that is trying to understand the feeling that we really just have the right to be “self” and sometimes that alone can make others around us very unhappy. I am no problem-solving trans therapy, but I realize that conflict will always hope to take away our individual identity. In part that's what the DOC system does. It only demands loyalty to economic and political power. Remember that “God” or “Allah” is consistent of all ladies and women in prison or outside on the streets (transforming us into a oneness of being our best at all times). KeKe, my little sister mad love. when you do get out, just try nothing more OK ;-) T-Cup mad love little sister, you know the business keep it moven likeness (Always) (Helen I LOVE you mom) We will one day all look back to this moment in time and say to each other “remember that song” (It look like we made it). That is what we will be singing! Moms you're never forgotten. From me to you mom, thank you for having me.

Forget me not,

~ Ms. Zoni

Dear HOAW Family:

Hello all my lovelies, my beautiful trans sisters and handsome trans brothers, I love you all to the moon and back. Shout out to my beautiful lover Jennifer Marie, I miss you and can't wait to get home. To my lover Christopher, locked down at Hagerstown, I love you and miss you. Get home to your girls. Miley Selena, smile girl I miss our talks. Shout out to Blade, I love you Brah, P* always, Classy Draggin. To Anita, Reese, Porsha, Leah, Shautee, Nacho, Ms. Kenny, Gigi, Mira, Sweetpea, Pharoah, Ms. Jaz, Ms. Ty, Jazmin, Jasmine, LA, Haffy, Amber and so many more, if I missed you I am sorry. I love you all.

~ Jasmine Lynn Tetlow

LETTERS & LOVE

Hey HOAW,

I am a BI Black male currently at Frackville State Institution. This is my first time writing to y'all. I got this Newsletter from a friend of mine and fell in love with it. I'm all for the LGBTQ Community. To my Trans Family that's locked down, keep your head up. I see the way the staff treats y'all. Sometimes it's really messed up. I see why some of our family throws in the towel but continues to be strong cause if you don't love yourself who will. Shoutout to G.G. I miss you Alice @ Rockview and I think I saw the first Trans woman I ever met back in 98. I was madly in love down in CFCE. If this is the Shawn Quinones that was down there back then. Hey baby it's Bullett. I worked on the block you was on when you came down for writ. Get with me <3

~ C

WHAT YOU GONNA DO

Hook by Keke, Verse by Indy

Hook:

What you gonna do, when I kiss you baby now?
What you gonna do, when I lay ya body down?
What you gonna do when I freak you up and down?
What you gonna do when I permanently lock you down?

Verse:

I'm a treat you like the Queen that you are
And sit you up in the clouds amongst a throne of stars
If you lock me down, I'm a love you right
All I ask in return is that you fukk me right
We can rent a yacht, then sail the Pacific
I love everything about you, let me be specific
Ya swag exotic, ya ass exquisite
You stay true to the game and you play your position
I ain't gone lie, girl you got me sprung
I ain't never had a chick do what you do with ya tongue
You ain't even gotta ask you know I'm a hold you down
Since the first day I met you, you turned my life around
I'm a give you a ring, I want you as my wife
I don't need time to think, it's me and you for life
When it's time to do our vows on our wedding day?
Ain't no doubt in my mind this is what we gonna say...

[Hook]

Hello to all, wishing you happy holidays to you and those you love & care. Shout out to DiDi, leaf, t-cup, geo, millley, tye, Ru, Jachien, and anyone I forgot to mention. You know who you are and love to you all To my wife Anistasia Angel Felizze, we had some tough times here with those we've lost. We are getting through it together and our love grows stronger. Each new day is more special with you. I see you and I can't help but smile. You're the honey in my tea, the sweetness to my cinnamon toast, the joy in life. I love you now, I love you then, I'll love you forever. My life with you is one I'll always share. My heart beats for you alone. My joy is because of you. Miss you, love you.

Always,

~ Tone Tone | SCI Forest

LETTERS & LOVE

Hello to all my family out there,

I want to share my experience dealing with psych to get on hormones from the DOC. I am hoping it will help others jump through this hoop and get what they need.

In my experience, the psych does not have a sophisticated understanding of gender, so to get hormones I focused on the most stereotyped part of my experience. I told them "I knew that I was a girl since I was 3 years old, I preferred to play with girls' toys, my whole life that I wore women's clothes under my boy's clothes. I never came out because of fear of being hurt or killed."

~ Brandi Marie

Shout out to my Big bro Snake, I miss you. Cree I miss you. S/O to all the Queens up Somerset. S/O to Tink & Sosa. I miss y'all, it's not the same out here without you. S/O to BR2Star and a big S/O to Lioness. I know you're on the other side and I'm always happy to see you. I's always here for you girl. S/O to All my sisters & brothers all around.

~ Love Milly AKA 300

What's up family!!

This my first letter in HOAW #shoutouts to Whitney, Lorenzo, J.R., Blue Magic, Nikki, Jaylen, @SCI-Houtzdale, as I continue to fight the good fight with SCI-Houtzdale's Administration, CLO's, and Medical with these Lawsuits (pro-se) "on my own." In conclusion I am fighting criminal pending charges, I was charged with in mid-July of the 2022 year, as I sit in my cell in the RHU. I'm about to go on WRIT/ATA on this very day to do a "JURY SELECTION," which Jury Selection begins December 8, 2022. I don't believe in luck, and if there is any, I don't need it. Therefore I love ALL YALL in the community no matter the hate, envy, or jealousy. If you get to know me, I'm easygoing, my fight is and will continue to be against THE POLICE! Love YALL MAN!!

**#FIGHTINGTHEGOODFIGHT!! #SEEKINGJUSTICE!! #GETTOKNOWME!!
#NEVERSTANDDOWN!! #STANDYOURGROUND!!
#YOURPENISMIGHTIERTHANYOURSWORD!!**

~ Tank | Ernst Scott | ND3723 | SCI Houtzdale

A shoutout to the best thing that happen to me, Love A.K.A. Mrs Sanders. You're perfect in every way baby, I'll fight for us til my last breath. Bae I hate this jail. I ride by myself and will never entertain anything. My goal is getting home and I'm very close. So no need to worry, cause the mistake of yesterday is not today and all I need in life is you. I miss you Bae.

~ Tyree Sanders | SCI Camphill

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear H.O.A.W,

To Whittany, I'm sorry to hear that people won't call you By Whittany. This is only Because they're lost and stuck in their ways. Plus they Might be mad cause we're taking over everything, and they'll be left Behind. I see you Whittany Smith. Shoutout to special girl Jessica at Fayette and gigi at Somerset. I still have love for you no matter where you're at. Whittany Smith my old head is there, name is Van from Pittsburgh as I am. I like to say sorry to Ms. Tiffany Alissa Bradbury that her man left, but you'll find someone that truly loves you. Just be patient and your king will come. (Happy belated birthday from Slez). I have a question for Abel - were you ever at Greene? If so, my name was 'E' - Now, Dawn Guthrie, I have a question for you. When you were at Fayette, why didn't you tell me you liked me? I didn't find out until it was too late. Take care. Twisted, sorry about your problem, I wish that I could be there to help. I would be your celly and you'd be safe. Ms. Kaitlin Mae Santos, are you the one who was at SCI Greene and we were cellmates for a couple of days? If so, let me say that that thing was good.

I'm on laid back time. I have 30 years in. I'm waiting in SCI-Huntingdon hole to be transferred. I don't know where I'll land, but anything is better that this dirty rat ceiling and walls falling apart. Rats come in your cell on you. Everyone take care.

~ Eric Rudolph AKA Slez | CK0358 | SCI Huntingdon

Thanks to all that come together and take time to put this newsletter out for us. It makes a difference in our lives, and I'm sure every subscriber feels the same way. It is always good to hear the love people show for each other and the information, advice, and progress we are making as LGBTQ community. We must work hard until we're free of incarceration, discrimination and oppression. Thank you all for the courage you give me to make decisions for myself. Peace & Love,

~ B.R. 2 STAR

Dear HOAW Family,

Shout out to the LGBTQ community at SCI Greene. It's great to see you all, let's stop judging one another and come together and stand together. Yins are very great people. Would like to see family come together.

~ Tay | SCI Greene

NO BACKING DOWN

Lizzy

No one will make us change
We are trans inside out
No Backing down for no one
We live to be way we are
Nobody will call us out
Because we stuck together
We're not backing down
We love each other
No backing down

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear H.O.A.W,

Shout outs & love to all of my brothers & sisters in the community, Miley S. Fletcher, DiDi, Tye, Tea Cup, Havo, Vampire, Fidelity, etc. at SCI-Forest, Kayla Lasahi at Florida Wakulla CI who's so in love with my She Wolf name, hang on and stay strong sis, there's a bigger and better life and love for you, no need for suicide baby girl! It's only a matter of time, how long or short it takes for the bigger, better, and more to come or be found.

And special love and shout out to and for my beloved husband and soulmate Anthony Tone Tone Felizzi a.k.a. Vampire, can you say "Real life version of *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans*?" We're Vampire & Wolf, mates & more - that's us! I love you so much baby, & all that you bring to the table, how you love, treat, respect, care for, etc. me and how richly and deeply you continue to change my life for the better and most. And our beautiful lil girls/daughters, my daughter Nadia and yours Alexandria.

Love, heart, hugs, and kisses!

~ Anistasia | Angel Felizzi | "Queen Lady She Wolf"

Shout out to the bros: Twin, J.B., Ed, Knowledge, my bro Chocolate Drip, Schwanke, "Royal," Kid, Gio, Emmie, Mal, Havo, Rich, and if I missed you, love all y'all. Now to the queens: shout out to Sydney, Diamond (KeKe aka sniccums), Ty, Dee Dee at Forest, T-Cup, and Miley. Forest was crazy but I guess I miss y'all LOL. Also shout out to "Will." To Mariah* aka Hennessy at Mahanoy: where you at sister? Big bro worried about you. Now B.R. 2 Star - Solid Nir at Fayette and Tex, if I see y'all meet y'all I'll speak. Solid Nir this Jersey Savage I'm at Fayette now. Love to every queen and every king. Hearts On a Wire - Peace and Love

~ Jersey Savage | Dimitric Ceasar #MY4640 | SCI Fayette

Dear Hearts On A Wire,

I want to give a shout out to my trans sisters at SCI-Benner. You're all beautiful. First off, don't let anybody put you down. To Keith Weber, I have love for you too. I miss you and got bad news. Riley passed away in the hole. Weber, I hope you can come back to Benner. I changed since you been gone. Well, respond if you can Weber.

~ XOXO Megan Lynn Duane XOXO MB0920 | SCI Benner

Dear HOAW Family:

A big What's up to the entire LGBTQI community. It has been a helluva journey and struggle for me. Shout out to the Mahanoy family. Ace, Dray, Cash & Leroy. Dawn, I apologize. Sage Nicole, I love you! Hi Harley! Everybody stay strong, I love y'all

~ Tone

LETTERS & LOVE

I would like to shout out to the woman that has made me powerful, strong, and the Real me. My whole life, I was in a cave with massive steel doors that I thought no-one could get open. I know in no way shape or form am I perfect. If I have to go to war to keep your love baby, ain't no doubt in this world I will. I want you to know my love. I need you like we need oxygen. When we come home, please I pray, come home to me. Shout out to Brittney Marie in Houtzdale. I am sorry, you know what I'm talking about. We gonna make it, we're soulmates. Also remember baby, we B.A.D. Forever. Baby our first kiss is 7/2/21.

~ Big ox | LG1134 | SCI Houtzdale

Shout out to all my brothers and sisters out there. I want to thank Everyone at hearts for your pilot program and all your hard work and dedication to make sure that we have a newsletter. I want to give a special shout to my sister Cree. I miss and love you baby gurl. Be strong, keep your head up, and know I'm thinking of you.

Love always,

~ Brittany | SCI Albion

Hey Family...

I enjoyed Issue #33. I had to get a copy off of my neighbor because for some reason, I didn't get mine. As always, the letters and love had me ctfu, lol'in, wishing I could be there to offer advice, and just smiling to see how this forum is flourishing. Y'all kids be carrying on here. :) Miss Juicy, sorry to hear about your setback. But you bouncy girl, so you know it's all about the get back up and go :) It's crazy how I read this jawn, and see how it's all these girls and guys in these other spots living they best life under the circumstances, building bonds and doing what we do best, making the best outta bad situations. As for "Looking for Information" concerning the female clothing, I actually spearheaded the changes in policy regarding that issue, and there are bras and panties on ALL commissary catalogues, even in the RHU, for male and female designated facilities. The only thing that has changed since I came back from the feds is there are no longer womens' size sneakers on there. Finally to you Ms. "That Part" Big Sister Ms. Zoni... U BETTER MF WORK SISTA for your testimony of being alive. You and I both know they want all of us dead or damn near, so you keep defying your odds Sis, and know that I am here cheering for you with love and respect. To all you babies, old girls, Kings & Queens, stay real, be your true self and don't let anyone steal your joy. You are worth this life. And special beyond explanation. Until next time...

~ Nichole Monique Quinones AKA Nikki Sin | SCI Albion

AIN'T NO WOMAN LIKE A TRANS WOMAN

Maurice Keener

You are not broken
not a trinket
or a token
and your heart is
just open
full of love
so i'm hoping
that you see you
are a diamond
and your soul is
what i'm mining
there will be a time
for freaking and grinding
but for now you're just
shining
never been sprung
like this
is it your touches
or your kiss
in the abyss I
miss
The feel of your
soft skin and hips
you are more than
just a girl
you're the moon
naw you're the world
and as I transition
to a Real man
girl let me hold
your hand
I'm your #1 fan
ain't no girl like
a trans

*I was in a 10 year relationship
with a trans woman, Lady J. My
love. She got depressed, felt like
there was no way out of prison
and left me all alone.*

LETTERS & LOVE

HOAW:

So I'm in Houtzdale, just to let everyone at Forest know. Here is WAY different than Forest. I went from 180 days in the Hole to 300 days. My shout out list: Keke, Miley, Diamond, Emir, T-Cup, Zoe, Twin, Psycho, Jo-Jo, Rick, Piccalo (Swing), Austin, Two Loud, Adam, Shadow, Tennessee. And Last but DEFINITELY not least QB. I will miss you when you leave and be heartbroken. But like you said, I have your heart. When I come home to you, you better not fill my sugar tank up so much LOL. Also hi to anyone I forgot to mention.

~ Whittany Smith | QH2193 | Houtzdale

Dear HOAW Family,

Thank you so much for re-posting the Abuse Checklist. I just got out of an abusive relationship. He stripped me of nearly all my friends and homies. He would not let me leave, he was physically violent towards me, and the icing on the cake is that he was cheating on me. I filed PREA on him and even though the institution did not believe me, they did grant a separation. Seeing that Abuse Checklist was a Godsend. It let me know that I'm not alone nor the only one who has been through this. As a trans woman, it can be very isolating, especially when you don't have anyone to turn to. Now I am in SHU awaiting transfer possibly, but I am FREE. I don't have to deal with him and I will not deal with anyone like him. My glow and my smile have returned and even though it was rough, I learned a lot and am stronger. To all my family out there, if you see red flags of abuse, run, don't walk, away! Never let someone treat you as less than, we deserve love and to be happy. Know you are not alone, I am standing with you.

~ Venys La'Vaughn Davis

#88647007 | FCI Petersburg Low, Petersburg, VA

LETTERS & LOVE

Hello, family! I hope and pray all of you are in the best of health and spirits. Fam, I'm not doing well at all, and need support. I lost my mother to cancer, and within a couple of days lost the man I feel in love with broke up with me. I am struggling to hold on, and every day is agony. Depression is swallowing me whole, and I've never felt so alone. My heart hurts. I didn't know I could hurt this bad. Love truly hurts. So family, I desperately need some love and support.

Shoutouts: To the family here at Mahanoy: I'm grateful to be in a facility where I have genuine friends. Dawn, Mariah, Timber, Ruth, S.J., Mama Simone, Haylee, Torric, and all the family. To my ride or die sista, Cris, I am amazed by your strength, loyalty and endurance. I am so proud to have you by my side. Indy @ Greene, what up? Miss you bro! Jada @ Somerset: I wrote you, get at me! Need your help! Ary: Wrote Michelle in Ohio - stay waiting! Cree: hey, get at me! I can write you, I just need your name and ID#! Angel in CA: I treasure your friendship, and am so fortunate to have you in my life. Catch me, I'm falling! To family everywhere: What doesn't kill us only serves to make us stronger. Unity above all! Together, we will go far. Haters will hate, and we MUST rise above. Much love,

~ Jacinda Lee Allenbaugh AKA Harlequin | Thomas Flick | LJ59467

Hi, Family! I go home soon (I won't forget y'all). I've met my "Forever & A Day." To my Boo Thang: You've made the RHU a peaceful time, I open my eyes everyday and thank God I'm afforded a chance to see u again! Shout out to Juicy Queen Bee, keep your head up... I found out Trans Girls really are the Best...Peace, Pride, & Joy...Your New Friend,

~Q.B...717...Houtzdale

Dear HOAW Family,

It's me Queen D.I.V.A Supreme! I'm back bitches! Now let me spill that hot tea! First I don't have a girlfriend (But I'm always lookin), and I'm the only girl here. These assholes have tried to get me out of this spot because they think I'ma go after one of they homies or bros, but they be coming at me. But they pockets ain't fat enough and plus I only deal with other trans girls so they can miss me with their bullshit :)

When I was sick, one guy bought me tea and soup, thinking he was going to get a shot at me but I stopped that shit right away. Ain't nothing in prison free if a trans girl ain't giving it to you. Some of the gay guys is alright but these undercover brothers all want something in return and I'm worth more than some tea and soups. So girls know your worth and don't let these gay-for-the-stay dudes get in the thickness for cheap! Get your coins!

Alright fam keep it real with yourself and don't let the haters win. Peace, love & pride,

~ Queen D.I.V.A Supreme | Shaylanna B. Luvme, 07B2775 | Attica C.F.

LETTERS & LOVE

Hullo HOAW, this is my 2nd time receiving the magazine - thanks a lot. I believe that the older LGBTQ+ ought to help guide the younger so here's to you Mr. Drew Boy Cali: Concerning that type of surgery with the perineum area of males. If the gossip is true the Thai doctors could do such a thing. Nonetheless, it would be of looks only. You see, the surgery consists of nerve endings and a cavity. Trans women from the mid-80s to date have it better than the ones from the past. They use the sack in the surgery to line the vagina and make lips – the best prep is warm salt water. About Megan's law: some sick-o changed his name, went back to the streets and murdered a girl named Megan. So now the common law name change is no more for prisoners. I got my name in summer, 1989. I am a pre-op trans person at 57: 4/25. I've been on HRT since 2019 – I have breasts like a high school chick. So you know...Nora, you must file a grievance, take it all the way through the prison channels. Then file a 1983 with the courts. Take it to 6th circuit courts. It falls under the cruel/unusual act. They owe you the bare minimum of HRT – unless you are an all day lifer. Childe, it is better to be real with yourself. Yes! You pay a small price for being out and about – you'll be better off out. “NINO” Robert Perez...dude you need to snap out of it!!! You're your own BEST FRIEND — Hullo...MAN UP!!! Your mom is living her life. The phone calls cost. You can make something of yourself even in prison...Rico GQ – you sound HOTT!!!! At Phoenix: “James” STAY STRONG!!! Monica, we are ALL doing life! HOAW, thanks for having me.

~ AMBRR* FLORES | #D-196450 | MI-DOC/1CF | You all are beautiful!

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

I'd like to take this opportunity to say something about the recent influx of “My” much beloved LGBT Brothers + Sisters, appearing in television commercials. <3 Hot Dam y'all! It's about Time. Need I say more? Peace be with you!

PS. To the most special man this old sissie has ever met, much less fell head over heels for Mac, I must say one thing. You are without a doubt my very own Knight in Shining Armor! Real talk!

~ Ms. Peacock “Aka” Queen B [Prisoner for Christ]

Oct 31st 2022 “R.S.P” | Ket Peacock 1001298101, Rutledge State Prison, Georgia

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

I want to give a special shoutout to a very special friend Miley. I cherish our friendship.. You have taught me a lot about relationships. Miley has taught me how to be caring, supportive, kind, and loving. Miley, you are a very special woman to me and always will be. I support all transgender people around the world. Love your friend,

~ Adam Mallin | SCI Forest

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear HOAW Family,

I write from the confines of the MN penal system. I am a 30 y/o Native and hispanic trans woman forced into a messed up system. I got arrested, convicted and sentenced to 2 years. Twelve horrible, traumatizing years later, I am down to 4 months. In that time I have been beaten, raped, harassed, and discriminated against from inmates and staff alike. All because I'm not afraid to be me and stand up against injustices. For all of our family out there who feel alone, that no one will understand, you're wrong. I thought that way for many years. Someone showed me I wasn't alone. I had everything ready and then I got two letters. My homegirl Riley and my new love Mx. Lexi Starr, you both saved my life that night. I will never be able to repay you. If I get through to even one person, all I ask is for you to pay it forward. Share your experience. You never know who might need to hear it.

Nora @ Rockview, I'm sorry to hear the DOC betrayed you. Keep your head up and keep fighting. Crazy J, I know how it feels to be forced apart from the one you love due to retaliation from the DOC officials. It's just another way to abuse, harass, and single us out. You will see each other again. For everyone who has shared in the struggles we face, all we can do is continue to fight. In the end, we WILL win. Our struggle now paves the way for those who come after. To all of the LGBTQIA+ family, WE! ARE! STRONG!
In peace, love, and solidarity, many blessings to everyone.

Your sister in the struggle,

~ Chea Rose | Government name: Joseph Frestedt | 237806 | MCF-Stillwater

THE AWAKENING OF SELF

DEUCE%

DAMN.....I CAN'T FOCUS ON WHAT IS IN FRONT OF ME

MISERY THAT HANGS OVER MY HEAD LIKE AN ANGEL'S HALO.

PARANOID THAT EVERYTHING I WORKED SO HARD FOR WILL GO TO MY ENEMY...
PROTECTION FROM CLOWNS WITH PAINTED FACE PAINT ON THEIR FACES THAT
DOESNT COME OFF..

SIGNS OF A WEARING DOWN LIFE....AND ONLY YOU CAN SEE IT.....
AND AS I SIT IN THIS CELL THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING I'VE DONE WRONG
IT MAKES ME REFLECT UPON EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE I'VE CAUSED HARM.....
IN LIGHT OF THE MISERY I'VE CAUSED WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU.

ALL OF A SUDDEN YOU HEAR NOTHING BUT SILENCE.....
AND AS MUCH AS YOU WANT TO SAY SOMETHING, THERE IS NOTHING BUT
LONELINESS AWAKENING

LETTERS & LOVE

I have been in medical suffering from an attack. My hand is broken. I'm Trans and the abuse is around. I am still waiting on a date for surgery that I need on my hand. It hurts all of the time, I cant even call my daughter. I don't have no support from the outside and my so-called family don't want nothing to do with me because of my lifestyle. I would love to give a shout out to JB - CR - Keke at SCI Forest and Ms. Whittany I love y'all and miss y'all. Again I support the LGBTQ community thank you for issue #33. I am trying to contact a lawyer so I can start a lawsuit on the D.O.C. because of my hand being broken.

~ Quincy Williams | KL4519

Dear H.O.A.W. Family,

I transferred out of SCI Forest, went to SCI Somerset where they placed me in the hole July 1 to October 3rd awaiting transfer, so altogether I did 6 months with no write up. Now I'm at SCI Coal Township, closer to home. My prayers go out to every and anyone who knows Ms. Pennie (may she rest in peace), and anyone who lost some dear to them. Shoutout to everyone here at Coal Township that I chill with and the ones I still haven't met. Big Big Big Shoutouts! Let me start with my peeps at Forest: Momma Ty & Run, Sid and Ed, Royal & Leem, Lil Mark, Keke, to my boys Chocolate Drip, Jersey Savage, JB (Love that n**** love em back). Now to Somerset, Brittany, stay out the way (Queen & Slim) Smile...lola. Blue, I did not forget, I'm on what I said I was going to do. GeGe sorry I did not say hello, we was on the same pod, I was in the 12 cell on B pod with Brittany when she was in one cell. And anybody else I missed OR wherever you are, keep your head up. Wise Nir I still have love for you, no love lost, keep your head up. Ms. Mariah the same with you, keep your head up and stay out the way. Love all H.O.A.W Family, stay strong and safe,

~ Big Big Big Knowledge | Reginald Thomas | GH0074 | Coal Township

I CAN'T BREATHE

Ms. Zoni

Mr. George Floyd cried out for his dead mother. Perhaps he knew he was about to meet her. Faith holds stronger when the unthinkable this happened without any warning. Last night I was in a deep sleep and a fear came over (me). The thought came to mind Is this my last moment in a cell alone? There was a pain deep in my heart. To kill someone just because we are not the same color and they always say how much they believe in "god." "REALLY?" Fool me once, now you can't fool me at all.

LETTERS & LOVE

Hey, Hearts people!!! I'm currently in PEX Medium (Petersburg, VA), and in SHU. I hope all is well with you all, and shout out to ALL (yes, I mean ALL) LGBTQ+ family members!!! I send this message: you are not alone! Live on! We're counting on you to help us grow! Be stronger! Help others! Rise against discrimination! Rise above with love, team! Each one of us! Let us never forget who we are in ourselves, each other, and in God. He loves us all unconditionally! Let no one get away with judging you!!! You have a voice! You have rights!!! Speak up, family, RAISE YOUR VOICES!!! We are ONE!!! Let's band together more and more—we got this!!! For LGBTQ+ rights, and the family's own love, spirit, and equality,

I am...Karina PRIME <3 | LGBTQ+/trans, and more 4 LIFE!!! XOXO Mwah!!!

Shoutouts: love and respect to Tiffany B! I only have about a year before I see the parole board. To my wonderful man, Chilly Willy Diamond, I love you with all my heart, my soul, and my life. You're so great and wonderful to me. To the lovely Nikki T, love your new photo on the DOC website, lol. Your hair's up in a bun. What's up Blue Magic. I heard Baby Blue is back in the county. Love you both, lol. Tea Cup lil sis, miss you and love you too. Byron-on-on-on! Lol. DiDi, Anistasia "Shewolf," Kid, Kiki, Ms. Will, Royal, Shadow, Armani, Black Diamond "Katrina," Swankeee, you go girl, the real twin on D block, AdamSwing, Chad, Tyler, Shadow, the real knowledge, Spade, Hockey Puck, and Sydney! Lots of love for all of you. Ooops okay Savage! You too. I also want to give a shout out to all the queens and kings in Florida, Texas, California, and everywhere else. Mariah, miss you. How's Mahanoy? Zoey, you go bitch. You don't need him. You're out, live your life. Stay out of prison! Ms. Gigi, I've been trying to get a hold of you. Love you lots. Rico GQ of Forest, love ya lots too. A very special shout out to my older sister Heather. Love you with all my heart girl.

Love you all,

~ Miley Fletcher | BZ2211 | SCI Forest

I'd like to thank Monica for sharing her dilemma of loving someone with a life sentence in issue #33. Sadly, I too have been sentenced to die in prison for defending myself almost 30 years ago. I can honestly admit that I am not the person who committed said offense today. Hopefully things will change allowing parole for those of us with life sentences. I'd like to shout out: 50 Shades of J in Phoenix (get out of that RHU); My Houtzdale Hustlers, Blue Magic, Stace on da case & Slim along with Nino (keep your head up Player); Nichole (with all those different AKAs) in Albion, you probably don't remember me but how can I ever forget that Boyz II Men story you told me in Graterford hole back in the day ;-); Slez, I'm in Huntingdon now; Dee @ Benner, you know we already stay in touch and for anyone else I missed, charge it to my mind and never my heart.

~ Skillz | SCI Huntingdon

MY BACKBONE

QB | SCI Houtzdale

To: *Boo Thang aka "My forever & a day"*

I found the corner
stone of my foundation
now that I found love
there's no more chasin'
It takes a strong back
to withstand all the
hate you receive
You showed me it okay
to believe... Times
are hard for you & me
on the outside is where
will be...People judge
because they are scared
You held me together
while down...Yes, I'm
going home...You are with
me so please stay
strong...

To: Hearts on a wire,

My name is Ramon Rivera and I am a Trans and I go by ReRe, and I have just read your issue #33. I know C.R. and J.B. I would love to give them a shout out. Your issue #33 made my day or my week. My father just passed away on xmas. He was my only support that I had out there. I never knew my mother and that my poppy is gone I have nobody again. I am Trans and I support our people. My dad was real stressed out because of my being in prison. I have a brother out there but we don't get along because I am gay and my dad was the only one there for me. I can't even call his sister my aunt. She is the one that called the prison to let me know that he passed away.

~ ReRe

To whom it may concern:

My name is Richard Parks but I now go by Ms. Tessa Rose. I am a transgender woman housed at SCI Greene and I would like to give a shoutout to all of my brothers and sisters at the SCI Coal Township and a shout out to my one true love of my life Ms. Jonaisha Jones at the SCI Houtzdale.

~ Ms. Tessa Rose | KS7010

LETTERS & LOVE

HOAW Family,

This is my first time writing! But it won't be the last...! My name is Bob = AKA = Deuce. I've been part of the LGBTQ(QIA) family for over 30+ years! One of the greatest days of my 51 years on this earth, walked into my life almost 6 months ago and left footprints on my heart for good She has been not only a part of my community family but also a key component in my real family in the world...My Mother & Pops consider her my personal champion, best friend (BFF), and all around advocate 4 keeping it real (all the time)...So Linda Mai is beyond compare or reproach so anyone who says anything different, holla at the champ!!

~ Bobby Bad Azz -AKA- Deuce | Sincerely always staying true | Deuce = AKA = Bob = AKA Bad Azz

LETTERS & LOVE

Hey family and friends at HOAW,

I have been here at SCI Phoenix for a little over a year and I found my soulmate. We have been together now for 6 months and have had our ups and downs with things but we are not going to let anything or anyone come between us. My man is so loving, caring, honest, faithful, sexy, and handsome. And he could have had anyone else, but he picked me to fall in love with. I love you Will, my husband, my soulmate, the love of my life. I promise you, Will, that we will be together in here and on the streets. Because I found and fell in love with him, I am going to stay here to max out my case to be with him. I don't want to be anywhere without him.

I am doing alright. I have had a really hard time at this place. I went to the hole (RHU) over some bullshit and got treated bad in there. They wouldn't let me out for showers, and didn't want to give me my meals, and meds. They put me in a cell where I couldn't see anyone or anything at all. They put a dude in my cell after he told a CO, Srgt., and Lt. that he was going to kill me. So I tried to move and they would not let me. So I had to tell them that I was going to hurt myself to get moved. And I did a grievance and they denied it and said that I was in the wrong to say I wanted to hurt myself to move. So I got out of the RHU after 30 days and only took 1 shower the whole time. I had to bird bath. Then they put me on a block where I really didn't know anyone. Now I will be getting the one and only person I want as my cellie. I hope and pray and I am going to be so happy and comfortable with him.

Now I want to give a shout-out to all my friends and family here at SCI Phoenix. They are Lioness, Ceci, Mikey, and my husband Will. Now to those at SCI Fayette, they are special: Pearl, Grif, L, Topcat, Black, Jessica, Reb, Redio, Toney, and whoever else I met there. I pray that you all are doing good and having a great as can be time...with all my love to you all. Be safe and smart and keep your heads up.

Yours Truly,

~ Brianna Redmond | NU4252

Hey family, I just heard about Roe v Wade being overturned. We need to fight to keep our rights for LGBTQ+ people. I hope we can keep fighting for our rights in more ways than one. Shout out to PA for fighting strong. Here in Texas, things are getting bad in lots of ways. Let us keep Pride and Rainbow flag high in our lives.

With love,

~ Michelle

Dear HOAW, Shout out to Timber, Ash and Haylie.

~ Abel AKA Gator | Robert Wilson NP5906

LETTERS & LOVE

Abigail No More

I am making the decision to openly announce that I am BI-SEXUAL. During this previous year I have slowly revealed myself also to my fellow peers, hanging around openly with the LGBTQ+ community members. I wrote letters or spoke on the phone to my biological family. Although I did receive some shade and negative hateful responses, surprisingly I also received overwhelming support and love that far outweighed the bad. My grandma Mimi exclaimed in her distinct Italian accent “como Ricky Martin!”

Dear HOAW family!

I'm currently single and screaming. I'm in the RHU for pushing play on a clown. Don't know if they kicking me out or not! Queenz on the west coast be on the lookout for Chocolate Drip! Apply that make up and that eye liner cuz I'm coming to snatch up all the baddies!!!

I got to give a special shout out to MUNTA – you touched me and I would give up everything I own to put my cape on and save the day for you. I would love to show it's still some solid n***** around. I want to say a lot more to you, plus I'm going to give you this lawyer info! To all the other queenz out there, stay strong. Shout out to Ms. Nichole M. Quinones @ Albion, Tiffany Alissa Bradbury @ Albion, and Alise @ Houtzdale! I'm looking for a shout out back... Before I go to show my guy Twin some love.

~ Chocolate Drip XOXO SCI Forest

Dear HOAW,

First and foremost, major shoutouts to all HOAW collective members who make it possible keep our LGBTQ community strongly together, and allow us to reach out to one another. Thank you and a billion more thank yous. Second, I shoutout to my family here at SCI Houtzdale - the bruhs Blue, Lyfe, Slim and Crazy Eddie and all the queens, Nikki, Brittany, Bree, and lastly my “Ryde and Die,” baby girl Jaylynn Quinn Carter: No matter what, you're always going to be my “Harley Quinn,” and I your “Joker.” Third, I'm currently in the RHU with a small 90 days, I have to say it's nice to have peace of mind. Once my RHU time is done, I plan on staying in the bucket and make them give me a z-code. Last, shoutout to all my Kings and Queens all over the state or nationwide, free or locked behind these prison walls. We have to stick together and us kings have to protect our sisters. With that, I send peace and love to everybody. Your brother,

~ Amir - King of Kings | SCI Houtzdale | One Love Y'all!!

LETTERS & LOVE

Hello all. I hope all are doing well. I have been waiting to get surgery for a few weeks. We had a fellow inmate pass away. A lot of us miss him.

Well hello Rich at SCI Forest. Shagster misses you a lot and hopes all's well. I haven't received any of your letters. My love for you is still strong. I send my love to all of HOAW family.

~ Shaggy

Terry L Shay | DW5134 | SCI Smithfield

Dear Folks at Hearts On A Wire,

The color white contains all colors. As a prism refracts white light into all colors, a snow flake diffuses the light who comes at Christmas into red and cold (Yule), green (life ever new, though buried 'neath snow), purple (penitence: self-examination, to rid our heart, mind, spirit, will of all that is unaligned with the light's heart, mind, spirit, will).

"Penitent" is the root of "penitentiary," for we imprison ourself when we choose anything that is the opposite of the light, including: addiction, arrogance, entitlement (demanding and insisting on privileges and our own way), gluttony, greed, hoarding, lust, status, pride, self, victimhood, wrong perception of the light, self, and others (including erotic/sexual objectification). The light can not, is not, will not be truly, fully at home with anything by which we imprison ourself.

Living for My Enjoyment puts us in the Prison of Instant Gratification: (Ego) M.E.! + P.I.G.

What values do we choose to live in? During this season and throughout our life, we are wise when we search ourself deeply, rigorously, thoroughly, unafraid of what we might find, unafraid to change and be changed, recognizing and eliminating all distractions, that we and our values may be transformed, aligned with the light, liberating us, through penitence, from the prison of self. Happy Christmas,

~ Andrew Spedden

LGBTQ inmates of SCI Forest: Why are we as a community not united? United we stand, Divided we fall. Get with the program people. Please lets learn to love and heal each other in times of need.

~ Justin Schwanke | MB2157 | SCI Forest

BROKEN HEART

Tone Tone | SCI Forest

A Broken heart for those
we've lost.

Memories of times gone
part, the love that everlasts
wishing to get back the
laughs.

As the holiday come &
pass we shed tears &
laughs as we remember
those who've passed

AMERICA THE "SUPPOSED TO BE FREE"

Ms. Juicy

First, I cannot begin to fathom the hate, murder, greed, mental illness, racism, sex discrimination, shootings in school, unequal justice facing our communities, family, and younger generation. In this country that's supposed to be the precious land of the free, look at me, I can't sleep because I'm afraid of being oppressed, killed, abused by police and correctional officers. I can't be free to live my life without being targeted.

So much racism, murder, and greed surrounds me. It feels like earlier days, being called a n****r, mistreated by caucasians. The law isn't for all it's only for some. They've tried to trap me and have me bowing down, but I won't get off track, won't stop fighting the fight, spreading my wings, standing my ground, waiting to be free.

THE LOVE I ONCE HAD

Cork | SCI Greene

The Love I Once Had by Cork S.C.I.
Greene (HJ3719 Cornelius
Crawford)

The love I once had loved me I
questioned why
The only answer I'll get is a kiss and
a smile
The love I once had held me down
Was the only one there every time I
turn around
The love I once had showed me
the way
The road to happiness every single
day
The love I once had I miss so much
As I run for a kiss just a simple
touch
The love I once had love was so
true
Because of me the love I once had
is loving someone new
P.S. I still love you Pat

As many said, we need unity in and out of prison. Yes, we'll disagree on things, but in the end we all want to be free and have justice for all, not some. But the leaders have to be accountable like Donald Trump and some blacks get away with murder in high ranks and government officials.

Look at the supreme court: Justice Thomas, when he was being confirmed, in the Anita Hill incident, if he wasn't married to a white woman he still would've been sworn in. And look how he voted in supreme court cases with women's rights and prison issues.

Look at John Wetzel, he care nothing about us. Look how many blacks on RRL, even some of our own, he don't even care about what c/o 's do, how covid 19 is being treated, all this split cohort's aint stopping the spread, inmates still being transferred, staff still coming in sick. He along with the white race wants us locked down, to control movement, and the DOC uses covid 19 to restrict movement and close chow halls. They're not releasing those seriously at risk, just causing them to get sick and die. This is why we need unity not just among the LGBTQ but as a whole.

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear Hearts:

I really wanted to thank you all at HOAW for keeping me connected with all my family throughout the system. A special shot-out to my family at Coal Township. Big B, Harlo, Shadow, JP, Lo & Rob, I miss you. Kaylyn, I love you. I can't wait to get back.

~ o.g.P | SCI Fayette

COMMISSARY AND CATALOG ISSUES

In Issue 33, Kaylyn asked for insight into what folks in other facilities are able to order from commissary and catalogs (Currently people at Coal Township are forbidden to order women's clothes off the catalog). She asked whether folks in male-designated SCIs in Pennsylvania are able to order women's clothes off their commissary catalog, and for those with experience filing grievances against the DOC on commissary issues to share their experience.

Shaggy at SCI Smithfield: Gender affirming clothing and cosmetic items are still on our commissary catalog and can be ordered.

Jennifer: People at Forest can buy female clothes and makeup but there is not much options.

Dayna: Under Department Policy DC-ADM 815, (Personal Property, State Issued Items, and Commissary/Outside Purchases Policy), Trans Women will be issued (free of charge): Bras (3 each); Female underpants (5 each); and a Nightgown or Pajamas set (not both). DC-ADM 815, Section 1, Sub.Sec. A.4.

Bras, underpants and women's sneakers that are on the Approved CI Catalog are available on Commissary. DC-ADM 815, Section 2, Sub.Sec. A.4.b.

Bras are approved for outside purchase for Trans Women (when their size is not available on the Commissary). See DC-ADM 815, Section 2 (Attachment 2-E)

You can also have one pair of earrings at reception (post style only, no gem stones). DC-ADM 815, Section 3, Sub.Sec. A.3.

Female-designated SCIs offer the same clothing on their Commissary Catalog. The only additions to their catalog is craft/art items.

Four times per year, the Central Commissary Committee will consider additions to the Approved CI Catalog. Inmates must submit their requests to their institution's Inmate General Welfare Fund (IGWF) Institutional Staff Representative

A FEELING INSIDE OURSELVES

Priscilla | SCI Houtzdale

Suffering is the indelible truth that things are not getting easier. Our struggles define our outlooks on life. They determine just how jaded we become from the experiences and people we allow into our lives. However, in your pain you can find redemption.

Everyone has a past. Things that blast them between the eyes. Old grudges and shames. Regrets that'll rob you of sleep and leave you awake until you fear for your sanity. Betrayals that make your soul scream so loud that you wonder why no one else hears it. In the end, we're all left alone to dwell in that private hell. But life isn't really about learning to forgive those who have hurt you or forgetting your past. It's about learning to forgive yourself for all the heinous and hurtful shit you've done and for being human, for making mistakes.

Yes, people will betray your expectations and let you down. But the harshest lessons come when we put our trust and hearts into the hands of the wrong person and they tear us apart. And while we may hate them for it, the one we hate most is ourselves for allowing them into our private sanctuary. "How could I have been so stupid? How could I let them lie to me, deceive me?" We all go through that. It's humanity's shared consciousness of pain and misery.

If we're fortunate, we find one person who'll forever hold our trust and keep it sacred against all who'd harm us. The one soul who'll restore our belief that people are kind and decent and that life, while decrepit at times, is still the most wondrous gift anyone can know. But until that blessed break in forever comes, we have to remember that home isn't a specific place or person. It's a feeling inside ourselves.

16 TRANNY BARS

Siobhan A at S.C.I. Albion

It's another one, from that "other" one //
You know what I am, a chick with a gun //
Makin' mo'fuckers fall in lust, but they always tell me just //
Gotta keep it on the low, don't want my peeps to know //
That it's you I'm feelin', got my mind reelin' //
Is those titties real, lemme cop a feel //
But I gotta be on point, can't be caught with a joint //
Cause my homies'll clown, they don't know I get down //
But as for me, I'm out and proud, screamin' it loud, standin' out in a crowd //
Livin' with no regrets, takin' all bets //
Like a game of Pokémon, how many I can catch //
Gotta catch 'em all, let the bodies fall, while I stand up tall //
Against all the hate, only my family can relate //
So to all you haters, just keep it a buck //
Be honest to yourself, you just wanna fuck //
And you DL gangstas just make me sick, actin' like you ain't ask me to suck your dick //

BOOKS, PUBLICATIONS & PENPAL RESOURCES

Books Through Bars provides small packages of free books to individuals incarcerated in PA, NJ, DE, NY, MD, and VA. They are currently prioritizing requests from PA. **Ithaca College Books Thru Bars** and **Providence Books Thru Bars** send free books nationwide. **Book 'Em** sends free educational books and quality reading material to prisoners and prison libraries in PA. **Books For Prisoners at UCSD** and **East Bay Prisoner Support** send socially conscious reading materials nationwide. **Tranzmission Prison Project** sends books to incarcerated LGBTQ folks nationwide. **Prisoners Literature Project** ships free books to every state except TX. **Prison Library Project** ships free books to all states except HI, ME, and MI.

Send a letter that includes your name, 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 requests, it may take a while.

Black & Pink, and **Montreal Prisoner Correspondence Project**, are organizations that match incarcerated members of the LGBT community anywhere in the country (and in Canada) with pen pals. **Black & Pink** also has a magazine. **Let's Get Free** has a magazine available to folks in PA prisons.

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 CA - their resource guide *A Transgender/Gender Nonconforming Guide to Parole Preparation* may be available beyond 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. Hearts has worked to correct these wishful-thinking resource guides as we become aware of them, but we continue to get frequent requests for pen pal matching.

Books Through Bars
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Ithaca College Books Thru Bars
PO Box 113
Brooktondale NY 14817

Providence Books thru Bars
42 Lenox Ave
Providence RI 02907

Book'Em - Pittsburgh
PO Box 71357
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Books For Prisoners at UCSD
w/Groundwork Bookstore
0323 Student Center
La Jolla, CA 92037

East Bay Prisoner Support
PO Box 22449
Oakland CA 94609

Tranzmission Prison Project
P.O. Box 1874
Asheville NC 28806

Prisoners Literature Project
% Bound Together Books
1369 Haight St.
SFCA 94117

Prison Library Project
915C W. Foothill Blvd PMB128
Claremont CA 91711

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

Let's Get Free
460 Melwood Street #300
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Sylvia Rivera Law Project
147 W. 24th St., 5th floor
New York, NY 10001

Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project
370 Turk St #370
San Francisco, CA 94102

LEGAL RESOURCES

PA Institutional Law Project Philadelphia

718 Arch St., Suite 304 South
Philadelphia, PA 19106

PA Institutional Law Project Lewisburg

P.O. Box 128
Lewisburg, PA 17837

PA Institutional Law Project Pittsburgh

247 Fort Pitt Blvd, 4th Floor,
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Mazzoni Center Legal Services

1348 Bainbridge Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

PA Innocence Project

1515 Market Street, Suite 300
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ACLU Pittsburgh Office

313 Atwood St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

ACLU Philadelphia

PO Box 40008
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Transgender Law Center

PO Box 70976
Oakland, CA 94612-0976

Lambda Legal

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

NCLR National Office

870 Market Street Suite 370
San Francisco CA 94102

GLAD

18 Tremont, Suite 950
Boston, MA 02108

TLDEF

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

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

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

Pennsylvania Innocence Project only takes on direct appeal and PCRA cases from factually innocent individuals incarcerated in PA who have been wrongfully convicted.

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

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

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

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

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

Incarcerated Writers Initiative at Columbia is currently accepting submission for Journal publication.

- Fiction (5,000 words)
- Poetry (5 pages)
- Nonfiction (5,000 words)
- Visual Art (5 pages)

more information at <http://columbiajournal.org/iwi/>

Incarcerated Writers Initiative

Heather Gluck
Columbia Artists/Teachers
415 Dodge Hall
Mail Code 1804
2960 Broadway
New York, NY 10027

SUBSCRIBE

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

If you want our newsletters, please **ask to be added to our mailing list** and **let us know how you are connected to the Trans community.**

We will **not** add people to our mailing list who have not reached out to us directly.

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

GETTING OUT IN PENNSYLVANIA?

Get in touch!

We do our best to support our inside members in reentry. Let us know when you expect to get out, where you are going, and what you need.

PILOT PROGRAM

Our experiment with virtual visits between inside and outside Hearts on a Wire community members is going well. We currently have more requests than we have capacity for!

If you are **Transgender** in the **PA DOC** and you want to try out a visit with an outside member, please write to us and let us know so we can add you to the waitlist.

Hearts On A Wire
4722 Baltimore Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19143

WRITE TO US! SUBMISSIONS

You can send us...

Letters | Shoutouts (keep it short and sweet) | Original Artwork Recipes | Interviews | How-to articles | Ideas | Articles responding to current events, prison policies, and this newsletter | Original Poetry | Book Reviews | Contribuciones en español son muy bienvenidos!

Next Issue:

There's never been an easy time to be trans, but the wave of laws trying to ban people from transitioning is heartbreaking on a new level. At the same time, so many amazing trans people (on the inside and the outside) have been standing up for us and showing everyone what trans power looks like.

- A lot of these anti-trans laws are focused on trans kids. Write a message of love and support for the kids in our community.
- What's something you wish more people knew about being trans?
- What do you love about being trans?
- What are you thinking and feeling in general about the government trying to pass these laws?

Guidelines:

- If you contribute make sure you tell us **exactly** how you want to be credited [Anonymous? ID number? Chosen name? Facility?]. **We will only use your location and/or government name if you explicitly tell us to do so.**
- We will no longer publish full addresses as this leads to the newsletter being barred in some institutions.
- Please respect other people's privacy; only make disclosures about yourself.
- **No shade.**
- 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 are trying to get a lot of voices into the conversation.
- **We prioritize writing by trans and non-binary authors.**
- **We reserve the right to publish excerpts and to make light edits for length and clarity.**

