



affix PA DOC sticker here

- ♥ support incarcerated and detained trans and nonbinary people ♥
- ♥ build community through bars ♥
- ♥ organize for justice ♥

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.

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Brianna (from Tennessee)

Dear beloveds,

We're excited to share another issue with you, packed with community wisdom and beauty.

Reading your reflections got the outside collective talking about all the ways we see people fighting anti-trans laws, hate, and discrimination. We see the many ways you fight and organize for a better future on the inside, and we're likewise inspired by all the good work happening outside.

In the earliest days of Hearts on a Wire, our beloved trans elder Miss Major gave the collective some important guidance that helped us become who we are. Born in the 1940s and a veteran of the Stonewall Riots, Miss Major is still fighting with our community today. She just released a book, *Miss Major Speaks!*, and in October, joined hundreds from across the country to march in Orlando and demand that we protect trans youth. Miss Major is also a new mother! Her partner gave birth to their child in 2021.

People of all ages, genders, and backgrounds are organizing across the country for trans rights. Trans arts, culture, and politics are thriving in the face of oppression. Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia have elected trans people to higher office, and grassroots trans organizations are popping up all around the country.

We are inspired by the ways our community grows, survives, and thrives in the face of hardship. As trans people, we have amazing legacies that come before us, and your continued existence helps continue that legacy into the future. Thank you for everything you do to make this newsletter possible!

~ The outside collective

Correction from last Issue:

Unfortunately, an editing error in our last issue resulted in a few submissions being accidentally combined and misattributed. We apologize sincerely for this error.

AN IMPORTANT CHANGE, PLEASE READ

Dear beloved community,

We're announcing a big change this month.

Hearts began as a newsletter for incarcerated trans people in PA, and expanded to include people outside of PA on our mailing list. As Hearts has continued to grow, our mailing list outside of Pennsylvania has taken up a larger and larger portion of our limited resources. This has resulted in newsletters coming out less frequently. This year, multiple inside members raised the idea of returning to Hearts On A Wire as a Pennsylvania-only newsletter, towards the goal of publishing more frequently and focusing on issues facing PA inside members specifically. After consulting a wide array of inside members, the consensus was clear that this was the direction members would like to move.

It is our hope that this change will allow us to publish newsletters more regularly and enable our PA members to use the newsletter as a organizing tool to discuss, strategize and address issues that are ongoing in PA facilities.

If you are receiving this newsletter from outside Pennsylvania, this will sadly be the last issue you receive. We have included a list of outside resources that might help through this transition (pages 19-22). We will also no longer be publishing submissions from out-of-state.

We love all of our inside members, and are sad to see some of you go! Thank you for being a part of Hearts on a Wire over the last years.

If you are inside PA, you don't need to do anything. Just look for the next issue, hopefully soon!

With love and solidarity,

~ The outside collective

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ELDERS & MENTORS

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

Monica: I have to give my friend Jaina credit for inspiring me to transition. Because of her I learned I wasn't too old to do it. She was brave enough to be doing what I dreamed of. She was the spark. The strongest influence on me was my mentor Brandi Marie. Brandi taught me the effects of HRT, how to handle myself with the psychs, doctors, other staff and inmates. I am eternally grateful. Thank you. Another mentor who helped me was Mrs GeGe. She worked at getting our support group started, and an issue of LIGHT that Brandi gave me was like a bible to my transition. Mrs. GeGe led by example.

Right now I'm lucky enough to have a husband who treats me like the lady that I've become and keeps me safe and secure. I love him so much!

If I could pass advice to the future TGs in here, after doing 19 years, it would be to demand respect. You aren't here to be someone's cum catcher. Don't settle for less than someone who understands you are a lady. Also, respect others, the oldheads especially. You can learn a lot from us. And respect the cops in here. Stay off their shit list - remember they will always win those battles.

Tiffany Allissa Bradbury: The person who has been a significant role model for me is my Aunt and Uncle. My Aunt and Uncle have helped me just be me. The people in my life that have influenced/inspired me for my personal desires are the whole LGBTQ community. The elders of the community inside prison, I believe have set the foundation for me to grow to who I am today. I can learn to become more humble in everyday life. I define family for myself, by being there for one another. The way family shaped the way I feel about myself is by encouraging me to be who I really am today.

SHITTY LAWS

In Issue 34, we asked for submissions responding to the wave of anti-trans laws.
Thank you for all your thoughtful submissions!

Brittney Rose Werner: All this B.S. on the news about trans females being banned from their own sport is really making my blood boil. Like it's as if people are making us trans people (mainly trans females) out as crazy wannabe females, saying that it's all in our heads. Saying we are only biologically male is wrong. I refuse to be shunned or let anyone spread lies that aren't true. I'll be setting out into the streets to put forth facts that us trans females are not just bio-males but genetic females on the inside. Cis females come in first place everyday too, are we crying? Rant over #protest #biologicallyfemale FACTS

SHITTY LAWS, CONTINUED

DiDi @ Forest: It's such a shame to see a marginalized group of people be used as political footballs to gain votes and power. And what's worse is enacting legislation to erase a group of human beings who don't bother anyone and are just trying to live their best lives. Especially targeting our trans youth and our drag brothers and sisters. Now the government knows what is best for your child and is telling you how to parent and what you can and can't do with your body. It enrages me. First women, now trans youth. Politicians are not doctors. So don't act like you know what's good for me and my child. What I want people to know about trans people is we are people, human beings with emotions, hopes, dreams and amazing talents and abilities. Gender expression is a beautiful thing and not something to be feared. The thing I love about being trans is the family you gain and how it allows you to love openly and freely. It opens your mind to the endless possibilities. I want people to know that we are a family. If you come for some of us you come for all of us. To the kids in our community, don't let anyone tell you who you are or what's right for you. You get to decide for yourselves. No one else. And no matter what you decide just know that This family loves you and has your backs. Don't forget we are a beautiful people who don't fit in any one box.

Please vote. We need to get these people out of office who wish to erase us as a people and try to push us back into those dark closets we worked so hard to come out into the light and be a light for others embracing our truths. So please, please, please send a shout-out or send a prayer up for our Brothers and Sisters in the struggle and our Drag Kings and Queens who are being persecuted unjustly. Politicians have no right to tell a woman or a trans person what to do with our bodies or telling us how to raise our kids. They are mixing their personal beliefs into the job they were elected to do and pressing those beliefs onto the people and it shouldn't be like that. Please let's just use our voices as a collective and get the word out and let people know your vote is your voice.

W.F.: I love the way others show love and support for all the kids that are trans. I love you all and support you all with my love and support. Trans people are all human. We should always be human. If you don't like us, treat us as you want to be treated. What I love about being trans is having a community with other people that are the same and having love & support from others and the love we show to one another. Stay trans my sisters. I send my love & support. Stay strong wherever you are.

TRANNIE LIFES

Lizzy

Trannie lifes are so loveable
Our lifes are at risk
We get judged, labeled
for living our trannie lifes
why so much hate and judgment
we are humans too
so yes trannie lifes
do too matter

SHITTY LAWS, CONTINUED

Viktoria from VA: What I want more people to know about Trans is

- 1) I'm not your Fetish, I'm a person
- 2) I am not easy, cheap, nor do I sleep around
- 3) This is me. I'm doing this for me. Not to impress someone, or to game the system or make a dollar.
- 4) This is not a game for me, or a sexual fetish. I'm on meds that make permanent changes. I lived like this before prison, I'll do it out of prison.
- 5) Lastly, I'm a woman. Not a "dude with boobs" or a "chick with a dick." Which means I want to be treated like a woman. How would you treat your sister or mother? Or want someone else to flirt with your daughter or sister? With respect, right? I want to be seen no different as any other woman, and I feel that way, that I'm like anyone else.

WHY HIDE?

Eli Evans | PD3496

Feeling lonely and empty inside
Always having to hide
Who I am
Having nobody by my side
Who actually cares about me

I love who I am
People like me understand
Being transgender is okay
It's only human nature

Why hide who I am
When there's others just like me
In this lonely world
Ignoring haters
And living their life

Now it's my turn to embrace myself
To show the world who I really am
Forgetting haters
And being with others
Who are just like me

Kaitlyn Mae Santos: These Trans kids are our future & there should be no law telling anyone who they can or can't be. Everywhere and anywhere you are, you are loved & I will call you my Brothers & Sisters. Keep your head up, they cannot tell you what to do. You have a right to be who you wanna be, to be you, & not one person, even a politician, can change that.

I wish people would get to know us better instead of going off what other people are doing. They should try to know us as equal human beings.

I love everything about being trans. It is my decision & I finally fit into the Order of Things that make me belong on this planet. I love the way I look, a Big Fluffy Trans who is true to herself no matter what other people think. Big & Beautiful, I'm Proud of who I am.

The government is worried about the wrong things and passing these laws is one of them. They are not Doctors, they didn't go to med school. They have no right to choose what children really want. They need to worry about climate change, not banning trans kids from hormones or keeping trans people from playing sports. Trans people need to be free like everyone else.

SHITTY LAWS, CONTINUED

Anistasia Angel Narnor | Thee Queen & Lady “SHE-WOLF” | SCI Forest:

WHAT TRANS POWER LOOKS LIKE

MESSAGE OF LOVE & SUPPORT FOR THE KIDS IN OUR LGBTQI2+ COMMUNITY: Know that this trans woman & everyone else in our community fully loves, supports, encourages, & stands with you for & thru the good & bad times, & especially thru the bad ones! Know that it's perfectly fine & necessary to be & stay open, loud, & proud about what & who you are, & that hiding or masking it, or trying to live & act as something you're not is only the worst kind of prison, & suffocation that anyone can suffer. The more people hate, stand taller, prouder, & stronger—you have nothing to be ashamed nor feel guilty about! Eventually, the more of us who unite & do this will be the majority. One day, the haters will change their viewpoints, opinions & false beliefs about & against us and instead come to accept & welcome/co-exist peacefully with us.

SOMETHING I WISH MORE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT BEING TRANS: It takes a tremendous amount of courage, dedication & commitment—to openly be & thrive as a transgender. It takes raw guts, true inner strength & will power to rise up, smile, fight, and elevate above all the hating, opposition & oppression we constantly face & deal with. Many of us are a key source & living example of being role models & mentors to others, even those who are not in our community as I've learned & heard firsthand in recent years. We are the epitome of survival & thriving at its finest. So the haters need to stop hating & stop murdering us transwomen, cause we'll never become extinct. We rise, fight, love & unite more & more in multitudes! We're females & not males!

WHAT I LOVE ABOUT BEING TRANS: What IS not to love?! But for me personally, what I love most is no longer being in my worst prison & death sentence of being, acting, and living as something & someone I'm not in order to stay alive, and be more acceptable based on haters' insistence you're either/only born male or female. And I love to lead by example for my brothers & sisters of community. All my life I've been trans, but only since just before my 40th birthday did I determine & act on transitioning & being my true self in my outer body. I've never been more total, free, & at peace, & I have no regrets & don't look back!

WHAT I THINK & FEEL ABOUT GOVERNMENT TRYING TO PASS LAWS TO BAN PEOPLE FROM TRANSITIONING: Simply put, it's nothing short of DETESTABLE! This country is supposed to be & is constantly touted as the LAND OF THE FREE, & HOME OF THE BRAVE, yet the bigots & hypocrites who call themselves law makers constantly keep trying to enslave, oppress & eradicate us, & in so doing, show & prove they're not at all for “land of the free & home of the brave.” They, and anyone in the future like them, need to be removed from state & federal government power & need to be jailed & become outcasts themselves. Give them a taste of their own medicine, & a healthy dose of humble pie!

SHITTY LAWS, CONTINUED

Serena @ SCI Somerset: When it comes to transgender legislation in the news, we will occasionally hear reports of how conservative Republicans in “Red States” are attacking transgender rights by disallowing them to compete in assigned gender athletics, and banning gender affirming medications for minors. Even though these things are happening, there seems to never be any positive news about transgender issues. You never hear about progressive legislation expanding trans rights, nor do you hear of any increase of gender inclusive policies relating to bathrooms, locker rooms, pronoun usage, or LGBTQ literature. The only time this subject is a matter of interest is when there are anti-trans bigots in opposition to social change. Why do we have to only hear from the negative perspective of transgender issues by people who are cisgender and transphobic? In regards to trans athletes, why does the news media not broadcast stories, experiences, and testimonies of actual transgender athletes? It's because the news media is silencing them, making transgender people invisible, and allowing transphobic conservatives to attack and demonize them.

The reason why all of this is happening is because the news companies only care about one thing, and that is ratings. They love tension, opposition, and controversy because it makes for dramatic and juicy stories for the sake of entertainment. They don't realize or care about the harm they cause to marginalized people as they popularize ideas of hate and prejudice. Very rarely do people research and investigate matters that don't pertain to their everyday lives, or about people who do not represent themselves. Because of this, people became brainwashed to the pessimistic and dehumanizing narratives spouted by the news media. All of this is rooted in white supremacy, religious oppression, bias, and hatred. This whole polarized propaganda campaign must end, and the news should set a positive example of our transgender issues and allow our voices to be heard. But this can happen only if people stand up and fight for their own rights and freedom.



Pryme aka Philip E. Bornman II | Greene | HL7919:

I am bisexual not trans. Trans people are some of the strongest, most resilient, loving, caring, and kind people in the world. Always love yourself and know you are beautiful because you are. These new laws that are being passed attacking our community are wrong and unjust but we can bounce back from this. Don't ever stop fighting. STAND TALL AND RISE STRONG!!!

NAME CHANGE UPDATE

As many of you are aware, Pennsylvania has a law that prevents many people with felony convictions from legally changing their names.

We are writing with the final update in a name change case we have been following: A trans man, representing himself *pro se* in Butler county, filed a petition to change his name in February 2022. In May 2022, the Butler County Court of Common Pleas denied that petition. In November 2022, Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund (TLDEF) appealed the decision in Pennsylvania Superior Court. Hearts on a Wire signed on to an Amicus (friend of the court) brief in support of his appeal. The Superior Court determined that the petitioner had a right to a full hearing on the important constitutional issues he raised, and sent the case back to the trial court. After an evidentiary hearing on August 1, 2023, the court issued a decision granting the name change.

This case means that name change petitioners have a right to a hearing even if they are barred by the statute and, coming after similar victories in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, this outcome further stresses the injustice of the felony bar.

Another update of note: *United States v. Diamond*, 2022 U.S. Dist. Lexis 128445 (E.D. Pa.). In this case, a trans woman changed her name while incarcerated in a federal prison in New Jersey, where criminal legal involvement is not a barrier to legal name change. When the Federal BOP refused to update her name on its records, she sued to compel the BOP to recognize her new name and change its internal records. The Judge ordered the BOP to update its records to reflect her new name. Thanks for bringing this case to our attention, Egypt!

I LOVE LOVING YOU

Big Fox | LG1134

Since the day we met you made me feel like there's not a worry in this world. Your love is like the day you bring your first new born in a fucked up world. Thank you for allowing me to learn to love you. I'm so excited to continue this blossoming love we share, we found true love in a place that is meant to punish but I feel like this is a reward. I truly love loving you. Remember we B.A.D we ride together we fly high forever. Brittney Rose Marie Werner I will make everything as easy for us as possible. Baby I'd offer you the world but there are other planets. We're not perfect but we're perfect for each other. We had a rough start but nobody ever said love is easy. We will make it through our time in prison, and when we come home we will have made it through the worst part. I love you and it will never change. I love loving you. You're the best I will ever have. Rest in peace to our haters. And bless those who are in our corner

BETWEEN US.

Ms. Zoni

They always say don't tell no one!
Sound just about right. OK I almost
in that moment had to shame you
Because I know that the words are
completely just prideful at best, the
truth of the matter is you day dream
but your problem is why can't US.
JUST "THAT = PART" BETWEEN!

LETTERS & LOVE

Thanks to a certain someone just being herself and me not seeing her care what others think or say, I got the courage to start my own journey. She has no Idea how grateful I am that I met her and how much I Love and respect her for the person she is. I love my life now I am not Depressed anymore and I have Zero Anxiety and no longer need medication to cope. My favorite thing to do is put on my makeup. It gives me such a boost in confidence and it makes me feel sexy. I also have the love of a good man who is very Handsome and intelligent. He always puts me first which I'm still not used to. He was falsely convicted and got his sentence overturned, so he will be leaving soon. I'm both happy and sad about it. When I think about him leaving my heart breaks and I always say to myself for him to stay in here just to be with me is selfish and I'm not selfish. I would like to make friends with other Girls. To the other girls at SCI Forest that I haven't met yet I hope to meet you one day. If you see me stop and say Hi.

~ Tiffany Epiphany O'Shea | Andrew Eberts | NZ3780 | S.C.I. Forest

Dear HOAW:

Everyone keep your heads up, stay safe, and always be yourself fuck what others think be true to you just remember how you want others to remember you by when you pass away. Kayla I ain't forget about you I'm still here my wings have taken me many places but they have a place for you. Mike much love even after all the bullshit I'm still here. Dawn hope your case is good, wish you the best I keep you in my thoughts (kisses) Indy miss you, Lioness <3, Princess I'm at phoenix too can't wait to meet you! I want everyone else to know if I had room I would shout out everyone you are brave, strong and being true I love you all I know shit gets hard but we must stick together to build unity and fight for our rights be safe y'all.

I want to send a message to these kids in the community and world and that is that finding ourselves and being true and honest with ourselves about our orientations, genders and much more is a hard task sometimes but when we are, we can live happier lives. It's always going to be a struggle but thats where community and unity come together, when we do that we have a unified voice, we have strength in numbers, we can use them to fight for and further our rights as humans. Don't ever give up, you deserve to be who you are don't let no one take that from you, you matter, we matter to each other, despite our differences we can find common ground, lets stick together the best we can. ALONE WE DEMISE TOGETHER WE RISE

~ Ary | NP2097 | SCI Phoenix

A shout out to everyone in the H.O.A.W. community. Miley I miss you a lot. Stay safe y'all, Peace

~ Tiffany Allissa Bradbury | Thomas Arthur Bradbury | SCI Albion | MM2990

LETTERS & LOVE

First off let me say thank you Amber Flores. I manned up, got in contact with mommy finally, you were right she was fine. I heard you even though it was blunt; Sometimes one has to hear it raw and uncut. I send my love out to my peoples Nikki, Brittney, Randy, Slim, Rozay, Skills, Alexis, Miley, Naya and anyone else I missed love yall too. I am happier than I've been in a long time. Please reach out if you need support with mental health.

~ Robert Perez | LB0500 | SCI Houtzdale

Hey My Brothers and Sisters. I loved y'all's poems in the last issue. Keep up the good work. I need some advice on how to get put on HRT because I am being refused hormones by the system. Shout out to my sister Strawberry: I miss you girl, stay strong and know that I love you and I got your back always and that you are not forgotten. Love,

~ Tink Tink

Dear H.O.A.W. Family,

I was recently denied treatment for my Gender Dysphoria claiming I do not meet the criteria, and based on my mental health as well as my upcoming release date. However, I have been fighting for hormones for the past year and the Dr. that denied me has a history of bias against transgender individuals. Is there anything I can do? I filed a grievance and I'm currently at the appeal stage and in my initial grievance response the Dr that denied me said she will meet with me again but no date has been set for months.

Sincerely,

~ Kayla Shay

UNTITLED

Rosay

Penetrate my soul constantly.
Rip from me in
magnitude deprivation.
Replace w/ your intimate invigoration.
Invoke your love, kill my pain.
Untwine this divine sublime.
Read between the lines that divides time.
I know I'm a probable anomaly.
Truth not far from lie, I solemnly
swear do I ever?
Fact from fiction no in between
I compare them together.
Mind over matter
I'm deprived of rationality.
I focus on an enigma
that derives from hurtful fallacies.
A chance never given,
ripped from me innocence.
I condemned those who bare witness.
Face contrast I bare grimace.
I call for help no one listens.
So how do I surprise?
I face my own demise.
My actions despised from
gods way up high.
They mock me below these
salubrious heavens
Push me forward
only to remove presence.
I identified my wrongs, why haven't you?
Only if you knew what disquiet could do.
Heavy weight contender
I've been here before.
Fighting for a life I didn't ask for.
The fall is specious, I hit the ground, I
dissolve w/ reason.
I lie awake,
My heart still beats within,
life carry's on.

TO MY BOO

By Athena

Sexy Blue Eyes, long blonde hair
And a body that makes me
Stare, pink lips I want to
Feel Everywhere, lovely hands
That I want to Pull my hair
Scream my name if you Dare
Making love without a care
Sexy eyes Sexy hair and
A body that I want to touch everywhere
I think there's love in the Air

LETTERS & LOVE

Just received issue #34, and as always, I couldn't put it down. I missed "Top Chef" fin with y'all. :) But let me jump right into this jawn, bc I got 2 return a few shouts in this one, and AWWWWW BULLETT, why U ain't tell "ME" u was madly in love back then? Yes, it's me, the one & only original North Philly Baddie wit the crazy Fatty. :) Ion hav ur info to holla at u, but my number is at the bottom of this jawn, hmu.

INDY: U feelin my vibe hunh? Whachumean the "tall chocolate" comment was only a "small" part? :) Don't start nothin u can't finish, bc this is a marathon :) plus, u not bouta hav all ya lil fans coming 4 my neck! Ctfu, yeah, I did over 4 yrs in Fayette SMU, been to Green & Camp Hill SMU too, and the LTSU up Western and still beautiful. My fight is more mental now. Get out that twist baby. But until then, if you need sum company, holla at ya girl or get me ya info. Love n respect back to you soldier.

SKILLZ: I'm dying right now, bc u blew me right up! Lol I remember U. I was on Federal writ on L block and we use to bus it in the vent right? Yeah, that whole scene (me and my R&B flings) AND MOR will be in my upcoming book. Shhhh ;)

CHOCOLATE DRIP: :) Wit a name like that, how could I not shout you back. It's all about the Chocolate and that Drip. Thank you for the shout out, but I can tell u is a handful. :) U need sumbody 2 calm u down. Period! I say that w/ all love and respect Popi.

I know I usually say something more visceral when I write in, but I had to give my love back to where it came from. I see a lot of y'all was trippin off all the a.k.a.'s, but trust, every one of them has a story behind it, and every one was given to me by different Homies throughout my travels. In closing, I will say this: love yourself, get along with yourself, learn to be your own best friend FIRST, n I promise, U wil never be lonely. Write or GTL me.

Forever in the Struggle...

~ Nichole Monique Quiñones | DL1755

Shoutout to the LGBTQ community throughout the PA DOC. United we stand, divided we fall. Make sure we are there for each other. Stand up for your right and never surrender. Fight the fight. Shout outz to my LGBT community at SCI Houtzdale. Love ya! Stay TRUE.

~ "Rickie" | QN6556 | Houtzdale

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear HOTW, I'm glad to see you haven't forgotten about me skillz!! I'm on RRL solitary confinement / IMU (an alleged 3 year program at SCI Phoenix to supposedly get me off RRL). I'll believe it when I see it. I'm proud to see Alexis you still hold on to my last name, our hearts went through hell for each other. I hope we meet up again. Hellos to, Caitlyn Mae Santos, Joylynn, Nikki, and anyone who may remember me.

~ 50 Shades of Jay (RRL)

To the LGBTQ community in other institutions, here at Phoenix we have gotten together by way of the Deputy to have a SUPPORT GROUP, and we're evolving into something greater, and that is the LGBTQ+ inside community, beginning at our second meeting, we meet twice a month, with planned organized agendas for both meetings. We wish for y'all to speak to your official's in establishing the like, so when we do get our virtual (video conference) back, we will be on the same page as moving forward. love in solidarity

~ ceci

Dear HOAW,

Shoutout to Sleaz - I was never at SCI Greene so no. Alexis: Haven't seen your comments. I really miss you. My favorite sister who loved me no matter what. Britney, Nikki, Nino, Ms. Lorenzo. Love you loca, at Houtzdale. Jaylynn, you are never alone. You have a Trans family you can talk to, including me. I miss Bree, my sista from another mista. The dayroom hasn't been the same. To Jare Bear: almost 3 years together and I've made horrible hurtful mistakes. I hope in time you'll forgive me. Shoutout to Skillz, Kev, Deuce at SCI Huntingdon. 50 Shades of Jay: how are you? Hope everything is OK. I never knew they transferred you. Britney: think about yourself for a change. I know a lot has happened but if you ever want to talk sister to sister I am here for you.

Shoutout to all my brothers and sisters I did not mention. Love Always,

~ Kaitlyn Mae Santos | LJ0183 | SCI Houtzdale

RIP Diamond, i miss you baby girl. I'm locked down at SCI Rockview. People keep saying it's not enough of us, but less is more. Tyree Sanders' mentor piece in issue #34 brightened my day. Shoutout to Maxine Davis, this Ski Bop talking. That Bull Cork: listen cuzin I feel the same way. I'm patiently waiting too. Fuck looking for love and acceptance. Let love and acceptance find us. Much love Indy family. #transpower #youarenotalone

~ Mikal Askia AKA Ski | QP0539

LETTERS & LOVE

To my HOAW Fam: Feb. 2024, I will see the parole board. For my wonderful Husband Chilly Willy Diamond. Four years I'm so happy to be yours. I love you, hon. I miss you so much. Happy anniversary, hon! Sept. 3rd: Happy Birthday Nikki T. @ Houtzdale. Love you, girl. Hey Jasmine (my Maryland girlie girl). I miss our phone talks. Soon we can pillow talk, lol. Tea Cup, my lil sista. Love you and miss you, tell your man that I said what's up! Happy Birthday, Chelsea Manning xxox. Adam M. Thank you, always remember what I said. Anastasia, Tone Tone is the best for you. Whitney S., miss you girl. Love ya, Swing, DiDi, Lexi Love, Emmie, Sydney, Princess, Hey Queen D.I.V.A., Shaylanna Luvme, what's up!?! You right girl what you say! Bobby Bad AZZ AKA Deuce. Where's Kelli R.? Lol. Zoey, you would have laughed. See you soon! Until Next time. Z-z-z-z-z, out. Shine Bright Like a Diamond.

~ Miley S. Diamond

What's up Hearts On A Wire Fam,

Harlequin, yo. You were almost mine (thanks a lot COVID). I would have took good care of you. Shoutout to GG up at Albion, you'll always be my boo. And last but not least shoutout to Nikki Sin, I never forgot you from the first time I saw you in quarantine in CFCF. I wanted you then and I want you now. OK, don't let no one catch y'all frowning. Walk with y'all heads held up high.

~ C. | Calvin Gadson | LR3104 | Frackville

SOMETHING LIGHT

Makayla AKA ThiccA\$\$Tink

They know a Bitch Bad, and I'm all about a Bag
got these other Bitches mad, cause they fuccin what I had
Yeah I left him in the past, Boy I know her pussy trash
Make a hunnit then I dash, go and Tucc it in the stash
Diamonds Blinding when they flash, catch me swervin in a jag
Hunnit rounds up in the mag, I'm up now so do the math
He told me sit it on his face, now he grippin on my waist
Ask him daddy how it taste, while he eat it like a steak
and you know he licc the plate, But when he done I gotta skate
He gone throw a couple hunnits, watch me drop down to a split
They know a chicc Bad and I'm flier than a Bitch
Pretty Face long hair and they all say I'm Thicc
Light skinn wit the Bag you know I love Being rich
He say it's too Big but I bet I make it fit
Boy this kitty like a BMX cause I love doing Triccs

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear H.O.A.W.,

It's a Friday night, it's raining. I'm alone. I am here with my H.O.A.W. magazine, I'm reading all the letters from all the family. I wish I was stronger and brave enough to be the real me. Here at Coal, homophobia is rampant in staff and inmates. The disrespect I see from attacks on brothers and sisters is a disgrace.

I'm so lonely. I got separated from my heart, Shaggy @ Smithfield. I miss him so much. In December 2020, we became victims of COVID. I got sent to Huntingdon, got outed by staff, spent 8 months in the hole. Then another 10 months in the hole at Forest.

Shaggy, I wrote to your sis 9 or 10 times. I had/have no other way to get kites to you. I'm working on a commutation, still. Maybe we can be together again someday. I still love you a lot, so I hope so. Maybe you can find a way to get to me. What's going on with your health? I wish I could still take care of you.

I wish there was a support group here like there was at Smithfield. I asked about a support group at Huntingdon and staff immediately assumed I was trans and outed and tortured me. I wrote the Governor, Lt. Governor, [John] Wetzel, [Tammy] Ferguson, and a bunch of orgs and got no help. Smithfield was a safe haven. Huntingdon, Forest, and Coal are gay hell. Shaggy, I love you so much! Write me!

~ Rich/Maria | SCI Coal

Dear HOAW Family,

Big shout out: love to the Queens and Kings everywhere holding it down. To Greene: some know me by/as Six. Big Foot, you know me as Knowledge. Stay strong and hold y'all head. Mariah @ Mahonoy, stay out the way, we had our good and bad times, you still my homie. To my peoples @ Forest, Momma Ty and Poppa Run, love y'all, Savage, JB, Chocolate drip and Royal, much love, gang gang, be safe. Stay sucker ducking you too Mal, T-cup, ED, Sydney, Z-live papi, Diamond and Tone, Alexis, Puck, G.O., Mark. To the family @ Somerset: Lola Blu, Brittany, Gee Gee, Jammie Lemormen and anyone else I missed, keep your head up, stay safe and much love. Things is bad for me right now, when I get back I got y'all. To Munta, wherever you are, get with me, stay strong, and be safe. Nir @ Fayette, how are you? I know we ain't talk in a while, I never stop trying to get in touch, so never think that. We had our ups and downs, that never changed my love for you. If you can get in touch with me, till then, keep your head, stay safe. CR where ever you at, keep your head, no love lost.

~ Knowledge | Reginald Thomas GH0074 | Coal Township

LILY'S POEM

The Fairy Princess Witch
AKA Lily Taylor

If you wanna find her,
look into the eyes of a different face,
You'll see she wants out,
out of a prison of flesh,
she wants to blossom into a flower,
And be treated like a princess,
she so desperately wants to be her.

LETTERS & LOVE

Tons of shoutouts + love! Cork @ Greene, “Send Me a Queen” was EVERYTHING! I see you, baby. Your queen will come. Keep your head up. Ceci @ Phoenix, gorgeous lady, I saw you in LGF. Keep up the fight! Shadow @ Coal, beautiful shout out. Much love. Maurice Keener, your poem was sweet, but your story broke my heart. Keep your head up, baby. Queen D.I.V.A. Supreme, your shoutout had me CTFU. #Preach! Chea Rose, stories like yours break my heart, but keep me encouraged. Keep fighting, sweetie. ReRe, there’s love and support out there for you, stay strong, baby. Brianna Redmond @ Phoenix, sorry to hear of your struggles, but keep your head up. Indy @ Greene, I see them bars. Priscilla @ Houtzdale, I loved “A Feeling Inside Ourselves.” Siobahn @ Albon, “16 Tranny Bars” was #Truth. Damn Shannon, “The Real Girl” was beautifully written.

Before I continue, a special shoutout to Jacinda Lee Allenbough AKA Harlequin. You are loved, supported, and important and we need you here.

Welcome to the HOAW fam: C @ Frackville, Tank @ Houtzdale, Bobby Bad Azz AKA Deuce, and Iris Star.

Now closer to home (SCI Forest). Jennifer, live your truth girl. Lakisha, you can still be authentically you. Stand tall, girl. Swing, we were just in the RHU together, but I never got to holla at you. Keep your head up, soldier. Congrats Majik and Princess! Tone Tone, keep your head up, knucklehead. Lady She Wolf, I still love ya! Jersey Savage, be good my boy. Miss you and thanks for the love. Whitney Smith, never got to meet you, but I hope you’re well. Adam Malin, keep your head up, buddy. Knowledge, hope you’re good @ Coal. Love you. LOL, be good Chocolate Drip and Twin. Miley, glad we got to connect. Can’t wait to build more. Stay strong, beautiful. Rico GQ, Kodi, + Bickel can’t wait to meet you and everyone else I don’t know. Marky G., Marky G., come to the phone, come to the phone. JB and Zynnivea, I have no hard feelings over the RHU. Wishing you the best. Love to Schwanke, T Cup, Dilly, Steve, Ty, Run, Havo, Shrek, Lare Bear, Big Foot, Diamond, Tone, Pen, Twin, Lief, Didi, Bey, Gio, JoJo, Emie, Sydney, Ed, Nir, Juno Luz now @ Albon, Lefty, and Ant.

No matter what I may go through with members of my community. I wish you nothing but the best! <3

~ Kamdyn Alexis “Lexi” Love | William Byers | MW2525 | SCI Forest

A special shoutout to Anistasia, I seen your shoutout and if the words are true then I can only say I love you too. It hurts you’re not next to me with all that has happened. If we are to be together again, we need to talk, we are both hurt and need to come together and work through it.

~ Tone Tone | SCI Forest

LETTERS & LOVE

First Diamond Sis I'm Going to miss you baby
Girl and Ms. Samanta Cookie Tookie Girl can't
forget Them Crazy Conversations Ms Brother
from a Different Mother you know Sis Going to
miss you And last Auntie Mother Grand Mother
God mother Ms. Pennie Never Can I forget you
because you Remind me of my mother And you
was full of love and wisdom Hopefully you
having a Good time walking with your wings
Hopefully you meet my mother ms Brenda L
Turner and my Grandfather Bishop James Green
Coward you would love them And they would
love you I remember when you told me Continue
to be strong and Don't let Those who want to
see me fall and Hurt win Aunt I'm still standing
tall and still have my mind. I Miss you So much.
Tto All ms. Pennie Nieces Nephews Daughter
Sons Family and Friends yes we lost A Angel but
Know she's watching over us and in our Heart
one love.

To All my sisters and Brothers And Friends yes
we had ups and Downs Road blocks Death but it
Just shows us what life is And one thing I know
is one Day we all Going to be free And yes you
Going to fall Down but it's All about how you
Get back up that count the most. Though 9-1-23
or 9-2-23 I will max back out I want to say I love
all yall And I'm tired of being sick and Tired and
is it mean cutting people off I Am yes I'll still
love them but it's About bettering myself. Asia
Dawn Miley Maxine Unique Alexis Gigi Blue
Black Nikki Cork Corey MaKayla Ash Jerry
Skillz Slim Dink Tone Eddie Niara Dominique
Gino Westside Ceci Nia Maya Tyree Cree Post
Knowledge Ghost Kelly. Indy one love. B.R 2
star one love kisses and Hugs to all my family
~ Juicy queen bee

SEVEN DEADLY SINS

Tiffany Epiphany O'Shea

What Do I Know
about the Seven Deadly Sins,
well for starters
I'm Guilty of all of them.
Greed Makes me want it all,
Power, Money, it's the reason I Fall.
Pride always gets in my way,
I won't say Sorry to make things OK.
Wrath makes me quick to Hate,
and do things without thinking
to retaliate.
Lust makes me want you
and your Friend,
But just for your Bodies
again and again.
Sloth only Slows me Down,
I Always procrastinate
and sit around.
Gluttony tends to Fill me up,
with more than I need
and Drinks for my cup.
Envy Always Drives me mad,
and makes me want
what others have.
But what you don't think about
when you judge me
again and again,
Is that you are also
Guilty of them.

THE TRANS I FEEL LIKE

Lizzy

The trans I feel like is real
I live being trans
I don't know why
trans living is judged
us trans sistas will not give up
because we are true
to the trans we feel like it's true
the trans I feel like
always trans forever

LETTERS & LOVE

H.O.A.W. Fam,

I been an “OPEN” member of the community since 2018. (I have Jada AKA Rylie @Somerset to thank for that! Wassup Bratt...LOL) I saw ALOT I liked in #34! 1st off 2 cork @greene. I F**k with that “send me a Queen” & “The Love I once Had” was something I feel your pain on (she know who she is). 2 maurice did ur thing with “Aint No Woman Like A Transwoman” - BIG FACTS & 2QB@Houtzdale. “MY Backbone” let me know Love do exist...I want 2 shoutout those here @mahanoy who TRULY been in my corner...2 my Bro West hold your head up Bro be back on top soon...They Aint Steppin Like us! Oliver I’m mad I went 2 the hole....We was just startin 2 build & yr impressions had me LMFAO! Geno u a real 1 just know ya Bro Always got ur back...Dawn, Sage, Juicy, Ash wassup? Mariah...we had our ups and downs but I’m glad ur Happy...2 the rest of y’all keep ur heads up & If I ever hurt you I’m sorry.

~ Kash | SCI Mahanoy

Hello inside and outside collective. I want to say thank you so much for your support. I have never felt so welcomed in any place, Ever! At any time in my life! I love you all, I love this organization... I love us as a family, my family.

I am due to be released on parole (thank you God). I will be going to a half-way house in Philly specifically for Non-Binary and Trans people. I have many fears and anxieties about my Release Date so the only way I know how to release those feelings in a positive way is in yet another poem. I love you all.

~ Twinky Bear AKA The real Jailhouse Wife of PA

Hi! I want to just say thank you to our people at H.O.A.W. Hi! to my MAHANOY PPL. Dan, Messiah, Tori, Timber, miss you! Bran, I’m glad you still writing music. Miss you. Miss Juicy, Nice to have finally met you. Asia and anyone else I forgot, much love. Jerold it's not an airplane but look, “I love you!”, lol, lmfao it’s in print. Pease & Love

~ Ash Horan | Cornelius Horan | GZ4476 | SCI Mahanoy

To HOAW,

Whats up with my HOAW family I want to give a shout out to everyone. And everybody that gave me a shout out. Shout out to everyone I know who is or was at SCI Forest. A special shout out to my baby girl Ary who is here with me at SCI Phoenix. I love you Ary, You are my ride or die chick you already showed me love and your loyalty. And I got your back.

~ CR at SCI Phoenix

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Prison Book Program's National Prisoner Resource List. a comprehensive list of resources available in every state. Download the list at: <https://prisonbookprogram.org/for-people-in-prison/national-prisoner-resource-list/>

Get **Prison Book Program's** books at:

- **ONLINE FORM:** <https://form.jotform.com/221254873816056>
- **FORM TO MAIL:** <https://prisonbookprogram.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/08/website-request-form.pdf>
- Mail printed request to: Prison Book Program – Website Request, c/o Lucy Parsons Bookstore, 1306 Hancock Street, Suite 100, Quincy, MA 02169

Ultraviolet. “UV is a forum for discussion of issues important to the queer community, a source of information about political issues and actions.” Distributes nationally. To subscribe, write to 3543 18th St. #26, San Francisco, CA 94110. online: lagaiultraviolet.wordpress.com

SERO. National network of people living with HIV and a newsletter: *Turn it Up!* To subscribe, write to Sero Project, P.O. Box 1233, Milford, PA 18337. online: stayingstronginside.wixsite.com/turnitup

Prison Health News. A newsletter which includes news about trans healthcare in prison. To subscribe write to Prison Health News, 4722 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. online: <https://fight.org/prison-health-news/>

Black & Pink. An LGBTQ newsletter and penpal matching. To subscribe write to 6223 Maple St #4600, Omaha, NE 68104. Visit online: <https://www.blackandpink.org/>

LGBT Books to Prisoners. A trans-affirming, racial justice-focused, prison abolitionist project sending books to incarcerated LGBTQ people in all states except Texas. Write to 1202 Williamson St., Madison, WI, United States, Wisconsin. web: lgbtbookstoprisoners.org

Tranzmission Prison Project. Free literature and resources for incarcerated members of the LGBTQ+ community. Write to PO Box 1874, Asheville, NC 28802, USA. Visit online: www.tranzmissionprisonproject.org

Prisoner Correspondence Project. An LGBTQIA+ penpal project. in US and Canada. Write to QPIRG Concordia c/o Concordia University, 1455 de Maisonneuve Ouest, Montréal, QC, H3G 1M8, CANADA.

Visit online: www.prisonercorrespondenceproject.com

ABO Comix. A collective of creators and activists who work to amplify the voices of LGBTQ prisoners through art. Write for more info: 2520 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA 94612. online: www.abocomix.com



BOOK PROGRAM BY STATE

Prison Book Program has a list of individual “Books to Prisoners” state programs. You can see the list at: <https://prisonbookprogram.org/prisonbooknetwork/>

STATE SPECIFIC GROUPS:

Florida, Georgia, New York & Pennsylvania

Alyssa Rodriguez Center for Gender Justice. an 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.

- Write to Alyssa Rodriguez Center, PO Box 180198, Brooklyn, NY 11218
- online: www.arcgenderjustice.org

Alabama & North Carolina

Prison Books Collective. Sends books and zines, including LGBTQ themes, to incarcerated people in AL and NC.

- Write to Prison Books Collective, PO Box 625, Carrboro, NC 27510
- web: <https://prisonbooks.info/>

Arizona

Transcend Arizona. Grassroots group supporting LGBT community in immigration detention and prisons in AZ.

- online: <https://www.facebook.com/transcendarizona/>

California

TGI Justice Project. CA based newsletter called *Stiletto*.

- Write to TGI Justice Project, 370 Turk St #370, San Francisco, CA 94102
- online: <https://tgijp.org/stiletto>

Georgia

Freedom Overground. Freedom Overground’s “mission is to ensure the safety and dignity of the incarcerated & formerly incarcerated TGNC/LGBQIA+ community. Freedom Overground serves to amplify the voices of incarcerated TGNC/LGBQIA+ people by empowering them before, during, and after incarceration.”

- online: www.freedomoverground.org

TRANScending Barriers Atlanta, Inc. Support and advocacy for incarcerated trans people in GA. Visit online: www.transcendingbarriersatl.org

- Write to TRANScending Barriers Atlanta, P.O. Box 889, Winston, GA 30187

Illinois

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois. Support and advocacy for incarcerated trans folks in Illinois. online: www.transcendingbarriersatl.org

- Transformative Justice Law Project, 203 N LaSalle, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60601

New York

Sylvia Rivera Law Project. NY only newsletter, *In Solidarity*. SRLP also has a NY penpal project. web: <https://srlp.org/about/prisoner-advisory-committee/>

- Write to Sylvia Rivera Law Project, 147 W 24th St, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10011

Women's Community Justice Association - Fight for a safe, dignified and fair system for justice-impacted women and gender expansive New Yorkers. WCJA has a newsletter, inside/outside campaign to address prison conditions. online: www.womenscja.org

- Write to Women's Community Justice Association, 401 State Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217

Oregon

Beyond These Walls. LGBT penpals, advocacy, reentry support.

- Write to Beyond These Walls, P.O. Box 13006, Portland OR 97213
- online: www.beyondthesewallsgbt.org

Pennsylvania

Let's Get Free: The Women and Trans Prisoner Defense committee. *Daughters Magazine*.

- Write to *Daughters* % Let's Get Free 460 Melwood Ave #300 Pittsburgh, PA 15213
- web: <https://letsgetfree.info/2021/04/30/daughters-magazine/>

Texas

Trans Pride Initiative. Supporting trans and queer persons in Texas prisons.

- Write to Trans Pride Initiative, P.O. Box 3982, Dallas, Texas 75208
- Visit online: www.tpride.org

MonkeyWrench Books. Supports trans and queer persons in Texas prisons.

- MonkeyWrench Books c/o Austin ABC, 110 E North Loop Rd. Austin TX 78751
- online: www.monkeywrenchbooks.org

Organizacion Latina Trans in Texas. Trans deportation defense in Texas.

Write to Orcanizacion Latinas Trans in Texas, 7121 Harrisburg Blvd. Houston, TX, 77011

Visit online: www.latinatranstexas.org

Washington

Coalition for Trans Prisoners. "The mission of the Coalition for Trans Prisoners is to address the violence, denial of healthcare, and the violation of rights that incarcerated trans people in Washington State are currently experiencing."

- online:
<https://www.transjusticefundingproject.org/grantees/coalition-for-trans-prisoners/>



GIRL....HAVE SEVERAL SEATS

Twinky Bear

Lashing out in silence
Quietly raging inside
Ready to violently attack any wrongdoer
naysayer
or....
....just about anyone –
So much built up tension in my soul –
The most insignificant little thing's, I let bother me
Petty ass shit, on any other day wouldn't receive
a second thought
Unraveling by the nano-second,
my string unwinds
At this point in the game,
can't get into no trouble, depend's my life
Mommy and Daddy need me home...**NOW!!!!**
Struggling in a sea of calmness, bout ta drown
Emotion's crave conflict, yet there's none around
I'm a overfilled teapot
sitting on top of a unlit burner
No flame, no fire, except what's
brewing within me's the lurker
Self sabotage is the igniter,
but you really need to quiet her...
...Cause, a janky old rodeo clown's me as a fighter
You don't really want none,
....no you don't
Chill the fuck out....
if you slip up now on Easy Street,
you really will be a **punk**
Take ah breath....
Take a beat....
Girl, you trippin'...
have several seats!

LETTERS & LOVE

H.O.A.W.:

Shout out 2 Autumn (fayctte). SI love
her hope she home 'bout time. I'm not
mad at you. We can link on the
outside. I max in 2 But see them soon.

Shout out Twinky Bear you Fire I
don't rap no more, I would love 2
produce for you. Shaylanna B. I'm
feeling ur talk. Brianna UR Love
Sounds Tru But don't allow it 2 make
you make irrational decisions, go home
rather than max out I'm sure he
doesn't want 2 take ur freedom and
besides you can do more for y'all's
relationship on the outs Jus hold it
down. 5¢ what up.

Shout out 2 Mahanoy: Mariah, Dawn,
Asia, Haylie, Ash (who drew #34
cover) she fire wit the art. Sage,
Harley, Juicey, Dark Skin on A Block
you Fire and Short lightskin on B
Block you super fire it's the Walk 4
me.

Mic drop, middle finger, index peace.

~ ATM



8,2 the GRAVE

Twinky Bear

She ate her pain the grave
So much light about... yet she ate
Ridicule, misjudgment,
and a lack of empathy intake
Color orange, equaled happiness,
yet not enough shine...
so she baked
At 48, she ate to her grave
High blood pressure,
headaches, tummy aches
As I continue to eat, my ♥ heart breaks
Why did she gorge herself
when she wasn't hungry
Fear... abundant
Self doubt in abundance
My cousin also ate herself to death...
repugnant, redundant
Obesity, my family's "Plague"
Systemic racism, can't Flee
Over punished black man,
just like every other black man,
those black men are we
Parole dates quickly coming,
but not coming fast enough for she
Ridded myself of every
illegal jailhouse pleasure
Anxiety, so much within, can't measure
so threw out pornography
I oh so treasured
Emotions, like molecules,
rearrange themselves with-in
as volatile as stormy weather
Mommy cautioned bout our curse
unfortunately her kids heads were hard,
but their skin not tougher than leather
I ingest one bag of chips
two bags of chips
three bags...more snacks
Action of chewing, wards off panic attacks
Feel the fat getting thicker round my neck
my middle and my back
Day of freedom approaching
Sanities coasting, fear of reproaching,
their reproof...
deeper, fear of their public "roasting"

their reproof...
deeper, fear of their public "roasting"
Self sabotage... always in motion
Eat and eat and stuff myself like pig
Am I trying to eat myself to suicide, like my
sister and cousin did
Before, I was scared of the world... so I hid
Just about there... right now, I'm at the mid
Completion of jail time, finish line,
almost done my bid
Frightened of everything to come,
mostly failure, so I eat... again
Self secluded, self imposed...
trying to stay away from those felon men
Besides food and drugs...
men are my other fatal addiction
Empty sex
Overstuffed butt
Stretched beyond capacity
She was never known for her "Chastity"
Masculine boys
no hips... they lips, they call my name
Is my brain faulty, failing...
any intelligence remain
No one's yellin anything,
yet I hear the world insulting me
No tears dropping, no crying...
yet I'm internally wailing
If a dicks not in my mouth,
then it's chips I'm munching on, inhaling
So I sit here in the prison's dayroom, Fem,
stomach not right, (fat fish)
stuffed to her gills
Mad at myself for being, one
that's weak willed
Think I need help for these addictions,
the way I behave, the way I feel
Don't wanna end up eating too many chips,
Eating too many more inmate dicks
Getting caught up getting a misconduct
committing one, too many slutty tricks
In essence, failing my family & myself
Giving "OPS" permission to say,
she done ate herself to the grave, child!

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear Hearts on A wire

I want everybody who knew me as Blue Magic to know that is not my name anymore my name is Quan, my birth name. Bill/Lynn helped me realize that I can Be loved as myself. Bill/Lynn thank you for coming into my life You Complete me. Thank you for accepting my proposal of marriage I can't wait to come Home 2 you so we can Be in front of a Real Judge with our family taking our wedding vows.

~ Jacquan Richardson | SCI Houtzdale

//BEHIND THE WIRED FENCE//

Cecilia "Ceci" Ransome

To my TRANSGENDER community:

Everywhere I turn I experience coldness; My surrounding peers are suffering internally from the chill of not being allowed to be themselves, (PEER PRESSURE), while trying to TOUGH IT OUT in the eyes of their associates and private companions...

But I see their pain covered with smiles, when they huddle together for the support of warmth in imitated laughter, as my presence is strongly obvious but considered taboo to acknowledge me as I am -

A TRANSGENDER FEMALE, so I'm left alone...

Unfortunately they miss out on what someone different has to offer, as I see them suffering in silence with their struggled smiles, strong brotherly hugs and embraced Macho handshakes...

So I'm encouraged to leave them alone, and share myself with love for my community where I feel the warmth in support of my heat, which allows the flames from my torch to shed light on truth.

As Transgenders of the community, what do YOU have that's being smothered? Sometimes we experience so much pain in this world that the world misses out on the special abilities we have that's untouched and unfounded.

There are so many illnesses that there's no cure for; with new undiscovered medical diagnosis yet to come. No one should be denied the opportunity to bring something to the table as possible solutions... There are so many unanswered questions in this world, and to deny and fight against anyone for being themselves and different, as the (status quo), is to lose everyone the opportunity of HOPE in need of a solution...

(LETTER TO THE REPUBLICANS COUNTER PARTY)

LOVE & HATE, is like OIL and WATER, They just don't mix.

LETTERS & LOVE

hello hoaw family,

how is everyone doing? i'm good here. i loved everyone's entries in issue 34. shout out to harlequin, i'm so sorry to hear you lost your mother to cancer. my heart goes out to you. also i'm sorry your going through a rough time with depression. that's no joke. i got you in my prayers. know you're not alone. you've got family here for support. i'd love to hear from you. shout out to my special girl brittany, keep your head up and i'm thinking of you. i miss you and love you. wish we were still at the same spot. i think of you alot. we always had a great time chillin' with each other. nora don't give up the fight when it comes to getting approved for hrt. monica, you're great to have in my life. you're such a great friend. as for me, i'm trying to stay outta the way. back in march i was sent to the hole for some dumb shit they said i did which was steal from a very close friend. i've never stole in my life, why start now? alice i wanna say hello and we're looking for you at group, we've never really spoken but know you can say waz up, i don't bite. lol. well that's all for now. family stay well and i'm sorry if i've missed you on my shout outs but know i'm thinking of everybody. 1 love fam

~ cree | [james miller jm0652] | sci-rockview

Hey H.O.A.W. Family.

I've been getting the H.O.A.W. Newsletter for the past 4 issues. But never wrote anything I promise to write more in the future and to drop a couple barz on y'all from time to time cause ya girl really do this rap shit lol. Well my name is Mayayla or some people know me as ThiccA\$\$Tink. I'm a bi-sexual 25 year old transgender female at SCI Phoenix. I've been here going on 4 years and I've been on HRT for almost 12 months. I can say I've never been happier with life. The way my body is feeling out, all I can say is it's been a long time coming. It's so amazing and it has a girl feeling. I'm a mixed lil lightskinn thicc thicc lol. I love being transgender I honestly wouldn't have life any other way. Even the pain is worth it, bad times help me grow as a woman. To all my sisters, keep your head up and stay strong. Never let someone make you second guess anything about yourself. You're a star babygirl, everyone is special in their own way and people who say different are just special lol. No one can stop you from winning. If you want it, stay focused on your goals, brush the haters off, and never lose sight of what's important. Remember to love yourself, respect who you are, never lose your morals or your values, invest in yourself, and it will pay off the end. Be careful wherever you are cause there are some strange people in this world dead ass. Lastly s/o Queen D.I.V.A Supreme, I love what you said in the last issue you really had me weak asf maybe we can get to know each other better if you want. I like girls that like girls lol... let me get y'all feedback on this music tho ima start off light I can't give y'all too much too fast CTFU

~ Makayla AKA ThiccA\$\$Tink | SCI-Phoenix

LOVE YOU

Juicy Queen Bee

Love you I Do
Miss you I Do
Can not stop
Thinking about you
Your love lift me high
Takes me on a ride
Like an addiction
Can not get enough
Want more and more
Love you I Do
Forever I will
Stand with you

LETTERS & LOVE

A really loud shoutout to LGBTQ at all the SCP's and hope everyone is doing well. A special shoutout to a very good friend, Sage at SCI Mahanoy. I am havin' a hard time saying those three words to the one I'm with now. I feel so mad at myself for something that she never even did. Please understand, it takes time for a broken heart to heal. I am really hoping I am part of the family. Hit me up.

~ "Joker" | Curtis Foose | JU2418

P.S. Ya'll loved

To my Hearts On A Wire Family, Hello to all my brothers and sisters. I hope everyone is doing good. I am okay but not doing too good. June 29-23 I got called over to the chaplain's office, I got told that my mom passed away on June 27-23 and I have not been right since then. My mind is all over the place and all messed up. The one regret I have is not Cherishing every minute that I had with her. Now she Is gone and all I have left is the memories of her and for me that is not enough. I want her hugs and kisses only like a mother can do for her kids. Now I have no Family out there. At least I have my loving Husband and he has been there for me through all this and a lot more. To my husband I love you and miss you and I will go wherever you want to go out on the street, wherever we stop at that will be home. THANK YOU HONEY FOR EVERYTHING YOU HAVE DONE FOR ME. I also have my Hearts On A Wire Family that I can talk with and after I'm out maybe help out. THANK YOU HEARTS ON A WIRE FAMILY FOR BEING THERE TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT WHICH DOES NOT HAPPEN TOO MUCH IN THESE PLACES. love you all

your sister,

~ Jennifer

Hey Everybody I been Missing in Action for a while But I never stopped loving my Sisters and Brothers. To Daniel French all I can say is L-M-A-O! Savage What's up Bro? How you doing? I'm good just maintaining! Ty Katrina, and Didi whats up yall Remember we Run Forest Don't Let No Bitches take that from y'all!!!

A special shoutout to my Husband Shaimik Frezzell of 10 months! Can't Nobody Do it like you Daddy. You're my Everything. You give me so much power and strength.

~ Love, Mariah Lee Frezzell

LETTERS & LOVE

Shannon's poem that mentions self harm: honey I know how you feel. I feel the same, but we have to overcome those feelings, so be cautious. When we allow ourselves to get to the point where we want to hurt ourselves, we allow those who've already hurt to get the best of us. So keep your head up and stay strong. Whitney: yes you're right, at times when we are in these cells alone we all feel pain. As women in a male prison, we feel the most pain because we are hated on, but now that you are not all alone, you have a big fam within Hearts on the Wire, so when you feel alone and in pain, think of us and it will chase the pain away because you are never alone. Reach out to your fam in Hearts on the Wire. I want to respond to Harley Quinn: yes you have people here that will always help, but sometime when people give you advice you need to listen. If your lover left you, sometimes we have to look inside and admit our wrong and make amends and then hopefully if that person really loves you, they will give us a chance. I know from experience. Love, your sister,

~ Ms. Haylee Tee Tee | QB6902 | SCI Mahanoy

Dear H.O.A.W. Family:

I just want to give a shout-out to everyone and thank you for all the beautiful letters of love I enjoy and love reading them and so many are inspiring and encouraging! To Cork I forgive you I forgave you before you went to the RHU and I tried so hard to stop you from going to the RHU but the LT wouldn't listen I know you didn't mean to do that. Ms. Zone I love spending time and talking to you in the yard the advice you give and energy is so positive. Ms. Charlie I know we're only cells away from each other but I want you to know how awesome you are and I love watching you dance girl. Ms. Persephone get your butt out of the RHU we miss you girl and when I get you back here I'm going to keep you out of trouble! Ary, God I miss you Angel, and I finally got on the hormones. This is my last post before I go home my stay at SCI-Greene is finally over I max-out on March 17, 2024 but I will always stay in contact with H.O.A.W. and all the friends I made along the way there are so many positive people that I can't even name them all but please know I love you all. Each of you has made my incarceration a lot easier, thank you!!!

~ Kayla | Kevin Shay | LH1546 | SCI-Greene

I have some good news to share, Family: I am proud to say that I am the first trans member of the American Indian Movement Peoples Alliance (AIMPA). I am Executive Director of AIMPA's Free Bird Society, a branch for the LGBTQIA+2 community. We are fighting for our rights and our land and standing together to do this. If you want to get involved please contact me @Jordyn Pratt NR0059 SCI Benner Township.

AHO! Mitakuye Oyasin (We are all related)

LETTERS & LOVE

To my family HOA WIRE

I hope every one is (fighting the fight) because at the end, winners never lose and losers never win! I am really feeling a deep sadness; behind all this disrespecting DOC system when it comes to trans people (A) women in the making I must say am a very strong caring loveable human being! I show respect to any one no matter how they are I care less about what they may look like, are have in life, I pass no judgement. We are each other's keeper am the only lady on the block, I used to go outside work out, run, trying to keep mind, body (and soul) together but lately I been staying in this cell away from the disrespectful eye cutting, the low key homies talking BS about who I am as if they are better than (I) But at the end of the day! I realize that am a better person and at the end of the day, I hope the power because I have to understand losers never win, but I know Allah or God is using me and that there is a bigger picture, and that is I must always [show] others, if I can overcome hardship, then am on my path of holiness! To my family (H.O.A.W.) Be strong no matter what

“That-part” Always

~ Ms. Zoni #1

Dear HOAW Family,

I would like to shout out to my best friend Brittney Marie Hass that I met at SCI Greene Dec 31 2019, when we was in quarantine, then went to Camp Hill together then landed here at SCI Somerset and would meet up at church. If you still locked up I max out next year girl July 20 2024. I'm still at SCI Somerset. Raylin, girl. I still miss you. Don't know what jail you in but if any of my sister at PA SCI's know Raylin give her my shout out. I wrote her people and not heard anything. We get split up from Camp Hill I/A. Raylin, holla back ASAP, girl, and to the rest of my trans sisters in PA SCI's. Keep y'all heads up and when I'm home you can write me. Oh Tammy Timothy Schibe stay strong Be home to eric.

Love,

~ Kimberly Joseph Emmel | QA5959 | SCI Somerset

Hey HOAW family first off I'd like to send a shoutout to diamond at SCI-forest my name is Egypt we have a mutual friend by the name Rokko A.K.A. Chink-Chink he talks about you all the time and he loves and misses you! I want to give a shoutout to a new love in my life Munta. she is my everything she brightens my day when I see her even when I'm having one of my mood swings I can see her and be O.K. I love you baby boo! Shoutout to my sister Rosie, Heather, Reggie, Rokko, Maz, Stephanie and peace and love to the entire HOAW family and everyone in the LGBTQ community.

~ EGYPT ALSTON | Sci-Benner

LETTERS & LOVE

Hey Hearts fam,

When days are tough it's this family that is the source of my strength, my inspiration, my peace, you name it and I love my family! I want to give a couple shout-outs to some very special people. Indy - Thanks for showing my poem some love. You were actually the inspiration for/behind it. I feel like we're on the same level and share a vibe. I hope we meet one day as well. Sydney - Love you sis. I'm proud to call you my vanilla sister and the relationship we have. You are awesome. Dwayne - I really care about you and want nothing but the best because that's what you deserve.

Shout-outs to: Tone, 5¢, Greg, Kidd, ED, T-Cup, Miley S. Fletcher, Kells, Trina, & anyone else at Forest I didn't mention. Keep ya heads high and keep shinin'.

Love to all, ya girl Didi @ Forest

i use to be a state inmate at smithfield and greene. i live in pittsburgh pennsylvania now. i felt bad the day i got out of jail because everyone i knew in jail was my family, all my brothers and sisters who supported, accepted me and treated me like a queen. now i just feel lonely. i want to give a shout out to my family in the jail in pennsylvania along with much love to indy, my momma from sci greene, shaggy from sci greene but most of all ari from sci greene i miss you so much i hope you are doing well. i hope you come home soon. much love to hearts on a wire for always being there for our family and keeping the love growing.

your transgender sister,

~ rebecca tayler coltfire

Shout out to Miley I love you
Baby I can't wait for you to
be my wife. Keep your head
up you are better than the
bulliess. The girls on g Block
said hello. Shout out to Tea
Cup, Didi, Kid, Ms. Will,
Diamond, Anistasia, Chad,
Hockey Puck, Adam, Sydney,
Swankee, Swing, Black,
Whittany. Miley I will always
be here for you I love you
with my life and soul.

~ William Anthony Diamond

IN PAIN BADLY

Andrew | Coal Township

I am in pain really bad,
That it's destroying me inside.
It feels as if my heart and soul is being torn out of me,
As I fight it all it does is get stronger.
Why am I going through this pain?
Like nothing wants to love me or heal me!
There are a lot of times where I wish my life ends,
Because of all the hurt, rage, sorrow, and pain will
finally end as I rest in peace.
So to all my loved ones in Heaven,
You're always in my mind and prayers no matter what.
And to my entire LGBTQ family,
Always stay Blessed and find the happiness and Love
you all deserve and long for!

LETTERS & LOVE

Hello everyone, this is Royalty at Benner. If you're here, then you def know who I am. First, I would like to give a special shoutout to my hubby Money\$. I miss him dearly, the best man ever! Also I wanna tell everyone who's part of HOAW: I relate to y'all's pain, don't give up even when it's just you and you feel like your back's against the wall, because it only makes you stronger. Never change for nobody! Period. Stay strong, stay proud, keep your chin up and stay a bad bitch! Lol, AKA the Baddest! HUH

~ Royalty Reid | SCI Benner

Dear H.O.A.W Fam,

So I went on a wild strike and ended up with more street charges And still haven't left the DTU/RHU. As of now they have a minimum of 6 mth for my new charges + they are running concurrent. I'd like to give my shout out to Shadow, Keke, Joey, Jalyn, Blue Magie, Tank, Adam, do-do, Miley, Diamond, T-cup, Dede and everyone else in The Community around the world. Well Take Care.

~ Whittany Ann Smith | QH2193 | SCI Houtzdale

Hearts Fam:

What's up everybody? **Briana R. @t Phoenix:** Keep your head up baby. I hate seeing my fam mistreated. Especially our little brothers & sisters. Hopefully your new cellie will treat you right. Just Know somebody Loves you. **Ms. Juicy:** Yeah, we "suppose to be free" but when has that ever been a reality in the Divided State of Amerikkka? Love you Juicy. 'Tone trippin' again. **Chea Rose:** Just like with Briana, I wish I could be there with you. Keep pushin' shorty.

Now I wanna shout out some other song writers. I got bars too and y'all motivated me to send some of my work in: **Twinky Bear:** I ain't gonna lie, I'm feelin' ya vibe. Love the PLAY IT LIKE BASEBALL. I like that gutter girl, freaky talk too. Keep writing. **Cork:** That's creative. I like what you did in SEND ME A QUEEN. **Shannon:** THE REAL GIRL gave me goosebumps. You painted a vivid picture with your words. **Siobahn A:** 16 TRANNY BARS was my favorite in this issue of Hearts. The kids are reading, so I will keep it PG-13, But if I "just keep a buck" you know I'm tryin' to... ;)

I'm out y'all. I love ALL Y'ALL! I'm sending a song of mine in called: I'll Make it Right! Give me some feedback. Been a while since I made my Bars public, it was my first real Heartbreak song.

~ Antoine "Indy" Walker | KG7791 | SCI-Greene

I'LL MAKE IT RIGHT!

Antoine "Indy" Walker

HOOK: All day every day I see you running
through my mind / Time can't heal these
wounds, I feel your pain all the time. / All the
times I made you cry and everytime I told you
lies / Girl if I get the chance, promise that I'll
make it right [REPEAT HOOK x2]

Verses:

V1: I'm not sure where to start, I'm just speaking
from the Heart / For me the hardest part, is
knowing that I broke your heart / All of those
lonely nights, when I wasn't by your side / Baby
I just hope u know, u were always on my mind
[4] / I'm your armor in any fight, alive to your
worst pain / Your patience when you're
anxious, your courage when you're afraid /
Sorry that I've called u names, sorry that I've
caused u pain / girl give me one last chance, I'll
show u that I've really changed [8] / Promise
me u will be true, promise u I will be real / I
wanna grow as one with u, that'll make our
union TRILL / Baby I don't play no games but I
want u on my team / as I lay me down to sleep,
I pray to see U in my dreams [12] / late at night,
should I awake, I pray the lord it's to your face /
Deep inside my Heart, u will always hold a place
/ so lay your head down on my chest, listen to
my heart confess / promise girl to Love u right,
this time I'll do my best [16] / [Hook]

V2: U feel like I stole your heart, shattered all
your sweetest dreams / sold U broken
promises, had u livin' in a dream / I'm guilty as
charged, convicted in your heart / please don't
sentence me, to eviction from your heart [4] / I
can't serve that time, girl u know I'll lose my
mind / But I'll give u all my time, if u let me
make u mine / I'll give up my old life, if you'll be
my wife / I'll say I do to u, without thinking twice
[8] / We'll honeymoon in the clouds, make love
on a star / Bathe in the milky way, the rain will
be our body wash / I just wanna see u smile,
won't give up without a fight / Girl u are my life,
so it's only right I fight [12] / Fight, fight, for my
life 'cause i don't wanna lose my life / yes I need
u by my side, cause I know u ride or ride / Girl
I'll never say goodbye, 'cause I can't stand to see
u cry / It hurts to know I hurt u baby, I still got
that pain inside [16] / [Hook]

LETTERS & LOVE

What's good HOAW, this is my first time
writing although I have read several issues. My
name is Justin and I'm at SCI Coal Township.
Let me start by saying "God doesn't choose
the qualified, he qualifies the chosen." Life is
what we make of it and despite the fact we are
locked up, we should see the positive in
everything! There is indeed light at the end of
the tunnel and a silver lining, so be kind, be
cautious, and be courageous! Learn from your
mistakes and never allow them to become bad
habits. I've been on this journey of getting
closer to God for some time now. Living
proudly in the LGBTQ+ lifestyle, I've learned
we all must hold ourselves accountable for our
actions, carry ourselves respectfully with pride,
dignity, and integrity to flourish. Find peace
and love and ignore the hate! Shout outs to
my friends at Coal: Royal, Kelly, Dee-Dee,
Shadow (I miss you), Sam, Munta, Jinx,
Shawn, Rob, Mr. Greg, E (what up playboy),
dru, dro, Kaylyn (no hate), Alex, Ant, Jason,
and to all the queens out there holding it
down, the undercover (be courageous), and
the prettyboys like myself. All love!

~ *NYRICAN*

Justin Martinez | QN7842 | Coal Township

I love hearing the togetherness of the
community it's a true example of what
P.R.I.D.E. should stand for. To my heart
Chucky AKA Eric I love you till the end.

Proud

Respected

Individuals

Demanding

Equality

~ Justin Brenner

DAY

Juicy Queen Bee

Day is Gone and Night
is Almost Here
Another Broken heart filled with pain
No more complaining
not shedding Anymore tears

Building up An Army
with strong individuals
willing to stand united
Putting Away Differences
Fighting hate creed corruption
Standing for fallen soldiers
Rise up let's fight
Tear these walls Down
full of Corruption

File Grievances and Stand tall
never Giving up.
Make A Difference

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear HOAW:

When I reached out to Hearts on A Wire I felt like I can be me, and not have to pretend who I am. I want to tell all the Sisters at HOAW that we got to be strong even though times are going to be rough. But in the end we will be stronger. I firmly believe that fully in my heart. I am currently writing a book about what it means to be a transgender. It's a story about the struggles transgenders inside and outside of prisons, are going through. Thank you HOAW for everything you have done for everybody. May God Bless you.

Love,

~ Brianna

Roger Duncan #426539 | NorthEast C.C.

Dear Hearts on a Wire:

I enjoyed Issue #34, I seen a lot of names that I have not heard in a long time. Maxine, sis, I agree with what you said; no unity in Benner's Community, tell them like it is, sis. Penny AKA Grandma, Star. T, Ike, what's up, tell Slim in the kitchen I said what's up and I miss him. To my exes, JD, JR, Josh, I miss you all and I'm leaving July 12, good luck and stay safe, and I enjoyed our fun times (wink, wink). And last Micheal, my Doodle Bug, wherever you are, I will always love you. I still keep the box you got me for my birthday, and I will never forget when I would cuddle with you in bed, my big ole Teddy Bear. Hope to see you again, if not, just know you will always have a place in my heart.

Please anyone who has advice for the community here at Benner. There is just so much back biting, cheating, and if a member of the community pisses another off or does not want to have someone live with them, or another member of the community filing false PREAs. Filing PREAs 'cause you don't like your cellmate or another member took your man, disappointing to say the least. We have enough problems. Maybe the writers can give this community advice. Thank you all, peace out.

~ Pony Boy

LETTERS & LOVE

To Our Community (H.O.A.W.)

I have been going through bad moments. I know that I can really hurt men, (And boys that think they are men.). So I try to be nice to everyone. When I show interest in one man there are so many others who show hatred to me. I have come to the conclusion that men that show hatred are showing their affection in a harsh way. I want to give a shout-out to Treadway (Albion). Also to Precious. I know that you're in the Feds penitentiary. You were always there for me for connecting me with Swerze (my Goddess), and when I came out as a transgender. Yeah we didn't see eye to eye but there's more good to you than you think sweetie! And to my Teddy Bear, you hurt me so bad! I've spent night & day pacing back & forth with tears that almost drowned me. I miss you so much! Like I said & I mean... Always & Forever More

~ Alexis Mitchell | Albion

Family: I have a very special announcement: Ya boy is re-sentenced!!! Yep my life sentence is no more. I see the parole board in 2025!!! Love to ALL those who had my back. Especially my amazing God-send of a wifey Ms. DiDi! You are my pride & joy who's always been there. Thank you for loving me deeply & putting up with the craziness & not letting the negativity get in the way of us & what we have. I adore you, my family adores you. I love you & can't wait to put that ring on your finger boo. Kiss Kiss

~ Dwayne SMITH-Bey | SCI Forest

IT RIPS THE NIGHT

Mrs. GeGe

It's the randomness
of the madness
that leaves the masses in sadness.
Like Chernobyl,
there's nobody here anymore,
except the dead bodies piled up on the floor.
Amongst the rubble
lays a bible
that tells us to pray.
Can't find the words, what can i say.
And when i try to understand the confusion,
i hear the music playing in the background.
No one playing on the playground,
the streets are all empty
now there's nowhere to go.
I hear the bells ring out
but then i see the foe.
He was quick on the draw
i was hit as i began to fall.
Lucky as hell when he got the call.
I was on my feet now
the cops were on the prowl.
Got to run now
it's time for me to disappear.
I began to run, my heart was racing,
it was because of the fear. I prayed to God,
I thought he looked like Jason.
The cops began shooting,
they shot him right in the head,
the monster was dead.
Just when i thought it was over,
i had to rewind the track,
i pulled out my phone i was the holder
the cops were older
the day was colder
when they shot me it went through the bone.
They shot me in the back.
I am now gone, no coming back.
They never got the facts.
A body bag was my fate,
the ambulance was late.
I bleed out on the street
i never even had the heat.
Now my family is in despair,
life sure as hell is not fair.
Does anyone care?

LETTERS & LOVE

Much love, care, unity & support to & for all my proud & lovely sisters & brothers out there! Miley & Michelle, Where you ladies at, holla back at me! Shout outs to Shadow, Touch, Charli Manor, Stephani Morris, S.J., Tea Cup, Black Diamond, Tye, Ira, & many others whom I've come to know, bond with, & bust it up with over the decades.

SPECIAL SHOUT OUT & LOVE TO & FOR MY WIFE "ANGEL WHITE" I love & am with you girl! The time, season, & opportunity for us to bond, hook up & love/live fully together, finally became right, & now as you said, your years long wishes & dreams of me & us have come true, & here we are - life is much better, & we don't look back nor have any regrets. & just look at you shine now, with all the positive changes & improvements for the best in your life - shine on baby girl - I see ya!

finally, a note of encouragement to & for our community within these jails, & so much wisdom included - there continues to be too much unnecessary drama, smiling & greeting people face to face, but behind backs - trash talking, belittling, getting people to fight & locked up in the hole - trying to get people out the way with frivolous complaints & so much more. This is not what nor how LGBTQ+ community on the streets is like. & this is exactly how & why I mostly stay to myself, only talk to, hang out, & deal with very few. Let's work together, truly be & stay united, & clean up & stay rid of all the garbage & nonsense. We have too much hate, backbiting, oppression etc. from outsiders every day & night - all the extra stuff within our community shouldn't & doesn't need to be happening.

~ Anistasia Angel Narnor - Queen & Lady "SHE-WOLF."

Hello Everyone! How are my brothers and sisters holding up? I am in a rough battle and it is draining me! I have been in the hospital twice in very bad condition. First when I started having a heart attack in my bunk. The second was because I had a very severe panic attack. Shout outs to my right hand man/Brother Shadow: "I Truly Love and Miss You Dearly!" I pray for you every morning and every night along with your family. I am watching over Sam. Indy what's up with you? I liked the rap you and Keke did. Stay strong and keep faith. Shout outs to Kaylyn who is in pain and hurting. Don't ever put yourself down because you are Loved by me and everyone else in the LGBTQ community! I am here for you so remember that. Keke congratulations, and I'm happy you found the love and happiness you deserve! Samantha my daughter I will always have your back and be here to help you. Damn Tessa did you just forget? Well I hope you and your better half are happy, and I hope you'll introduce her to me some day. DeDe I pray that you are safe. You are loved and missed! I am lost in so many ways that it's killing me inside. I do not know what to do anymore. To my son I Love you very much and I'm here for you don't forget that! Peace & Love To All!!

Always,

~ Drew | SCI Coal

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear HOAW family, I hope every1 is doing as well as I am. To the family at Coal & any1 that had the pleasure of knowing Miss Pennie she will be missed. I will always remember how Momma Pennie opened her ♥ to every1 & pick people up who down.

Ash I love the picture u drew of urself that was on the cover of the last issue. To Ms. Tessa Rose I miss u girl. Remember to hold ur head up & don't let any1 pull u down. Gator I hope ur doing good at ur new spot. We went through a rough time at the end, but I still miss you. I hope u make better choices. You should stay to urself, be urself & live how u want to live in A+ way. I know u can do the right thing & be a good person. Sending my LOVE to u my buddy ♥♥

Ceci @ Phoenix I read ur article in Daughters. It really spoke to me. I wish we could all stick together more. So every1 out there be proud of who u are & hold ur heads up high.

Shout out to Brittany, Ash, Hailey, Sage, Shay, Simone, Shadow & everyone else around PA.

Dont let the system pull u down. Love ur friend,

~ Taz-Timber-Tyler Trewitz | NM4043 ♥♥♥

Lawsuit Alert: Looking for plaintiffs

The DOC's new tactic to deny transgender healthcare is to simply deny the diagnosis. If enough of us come forward we can come as a "class" and change everything.

This applies to every Trans Person in the PA DOC who wants transition-related healthcare. If you (1) Are requesting a GD eval and are being ignored or denied the eval; or (2) have been denied the GD diagnosis by the evaluator; or (3) Have a GD diagnosis, but are being denied any treatment; or (4) Have a GD diagnosis and have been on HRT but are being denied any additional treatment - Write to: Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project | 115 Farley Circle | Suite 110 | Lewisburg, PA 17837. Mention my name in your letter as this matter is already being looked into on my behalf...

Love, Munta Shawn Simms | JP4037 | SCI Benner

B3 MYS#LF

Kash SCI Mahanoy

(Hook)

Kuz they Can't Change Me
I'm Still the Same me
Sum Ppl Luv That others They H8t me
Ima Be myself Till The grave
that They place me
Can't be Nobody else I won't let
Nobody Br8k me...(repeat hook 1x)

(V) It Ain't easy when they H8
& u Locked Behind A g8
Kuz u Just Trynna m8k it Thru
While u w8'N on a D8
See They Tik Behind ur Back
But All Smiles in ur face
It happens All The Time
Watch em slither Kuz They Snakes
& I Ain't perfect But I try
Hurt Sum I made 'em cry
Did my Dirt & let 'em Down
Now I'm Worthless in their eyes
So if u hurt Along my Journey
I'm sorry 4 ya pain
I aint mean 2 cause u tears
So I'm sorry 4ya Rain
But I Gotta Live 4 me Now
Smile kuz I'm Free Now
Don't care Bout What they say
I'm just thankful 2B me Now...

(hook)

FOR THOSE WHO LOVE TO READ

Timber's Book Recommendations:

I would like to tell you about the *Sinner's Gin* series by Rhys Ford. If you like rock music, gay romance, cop thrillers, this series is for you. There are 6 books, each one plays off the previous one. *Sinner's Gin*, *Whiskey and Wry*, *Tequila Mockingbird*, *Slow Ride*, *Absinthe of Malice*, and *Sin and Tonic*.

Then there's the *Bad to be Good* series by Andrew Grey, which is a gay romance thriller. I've read 2 books from the series. Then there's the *Carlisle Cops* series, also by Andrew Grey. The books in this gay romance/cop thriller series don't have to be read in order but there are connections between them.

I know a lot of us are looking for erotic books and it can be hard to find LGBT ones. *Take Me There* by Tristan Taormino is a book of erotic short stories that includes stories about trans and nonbinary folks. In my point of view about 75% of the stories are good.

Cowboys: Gay Erotic Tales by Tom Graham is also a book of short stories. Even if you're not into cowboys this is a really good book.

I got most of these books cheaper through the ER Hamilton Bookseller (PO Box 15, Falls Village, CT 06031-0015).

A good place for magazines is Tightwad Magazines (PO Box 1941 Buford GA 30515 - send a SASE for a catalog). They have a deal - 6 one year subscription for \$28.

Whittany Ann Smith Recommends:

A good Book to read for the Trans woman is called *Redefining Realness* By Janet Mock. She has a lot of good advice. My fav quotes of her's is "You are not born a woman, you become a woman." She talks about how People can be what they want no matter what anyone says.

LIGHT BULB ON ATM

We as a community fight for a lot but what about things like protection? Or PREP?

In prison, Sex is going 2 happen regardless. People who use injection drugs (illegal) are provided with free syringes and Narcan 2 make it more safe. Narcan is even now provided in prison.

Why are we not receiving things 2 make it more safe? sounds like discrimination 2 me.

Fight for growth and longevity, not just the small things that are at ur feet.

ABILITY MOTIVATION ACTION ATTITUDE

Juicy Queen Bee

Let's begin in our community. You have to be able, to be capable, of standing up for yourself. But if you don't have the Ability to successfully move forward you won't have the Motivation, a reason to go forward. Because you can't fight the fight without a strong positive Attitude and, further, you need Action to go about.

How capable you are, How determined you are, How strong you are, will determine How far you go and How well you do it. With that being said these words apply to our everyday Lifestyle and walk. You have to have the Ability Motivation Attitude and Action plan to succeed and come out. Because people take advantage of the weak and I know you don't want to be eaten alive. So in life we all have ups and downs, face obstacles in our life and feel unwanted, unloved, hide in our shell, worry about what people may say or think. I am saying who you sleep with, what you do in your bedroom, don't determine who you are as a person as long as you're happy, who cares, it is 2023. Don't be afraid to come out the closet. Just keeping it real.

HOW TO GET YOUR LOVED ONE HELP AFTER YOU LEAVE PRISON

Miley S. Diamond

This is what I am gonna do for Chillywilly my Hubby;

- Talk to lawyers about appeal options for them; even if it's about just a sentence reduction;
- Start calling organizations, Judicial Committee members about their status in prison; and their sentence;
- Keep in contact with her/him regularly; updating them on your progress. Also we know how it is being left and alone; LOVE OVERSEES Everything.
- No matter what happens DO NOT GIVE UP!
- Be supportive, loving and be honest to them.

If they are doing a DBI sentence, there are organizations out there to get with like Coalition to Abolish Death By Incarceration (CADBI), Decarcerate PA in Philadelphia PA, LET'S GET FREE Pittsburgh, PA and so on. If you're serious, if you're in love with him/her and you want them home with you. This is the start of how to do it! I'm doing it for mine!

CADBI

Decarcerate PA
PO Box 40764
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Let's Get Free

460 Melwood Street #300
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

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 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

Amistad Law Project

PO Box 9148
Philadelphia, PA 19139

Abolitionist Law Center

P.O. Box 8654
Pittsburgh, PA 15221

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

ARC for Gender Justice

PO Box 180198
Brooklyn, NY 11218

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.

Amistad Law Project takes on impact litigation aimed at reducing incarceration in Pennsylvania.

Abolitionist Law Center takes on impact litigation aimed at addressing human rights violations in Pennsylvania prisons.

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.

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.

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, so it may take a while.

Black & Pink, and **Montreal Prisoner Correspondence Project**, are organizations that matches 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 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

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

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:

When dealing with a transphobic or homophobic C/O, what are some strategies you've used to keep yourself or others safe? What would you say to other trans people facing harassment from C/O's?

In a lot of bad situations, trans people are the only ones looking out for each other. How can trans people keep each other safe on the inside, both from close by or from far away? How have other trans people kept you safe in the past, and how do you hope trans people will keep each other safe in the future?

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.

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.

PA VISIT 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