

Hearts on a Wire

Issue # 30 — Winter Spring 2021

Letter from Hearts 2

Visionary Fiction 3-6

I Imagine -Dylcia Alicia Snow 4

What the What! RTKL? - Mrs Gege 6

Reflections - Jessica Diana 7

Peace Birthed Through the Barrel of a Gun - Jai 7

Economic Recovery Payments 8

Untitled - Jessica Diana 8

Current Events

- Jennifer Rose 9

The Year 2020

Feel Like a War

- Juicy 10

Political Moment

- Mosca Loca 11

Untitled

- L. Charli K 11

Constitutional & Civil

Rights in Prison 12-13

Bi - Stephen Newmones 13

Letters & Love 14-35

Hand-In-Hand - Twinky Bear 15

I am Enough - Kayla Rae 16

My All My Love - Juicy 18

Left All Alone - Kyra Lee 19

Lonely Vampire - by Black Rose 22

IYELMIKY - Gi Gi 23

Love Is Jay-Sin Anodyne 25

A Mother's Love - Prettyboi Jay 28

Two Hearts - Monica 29

Your Worth - Lisa Jackson 30

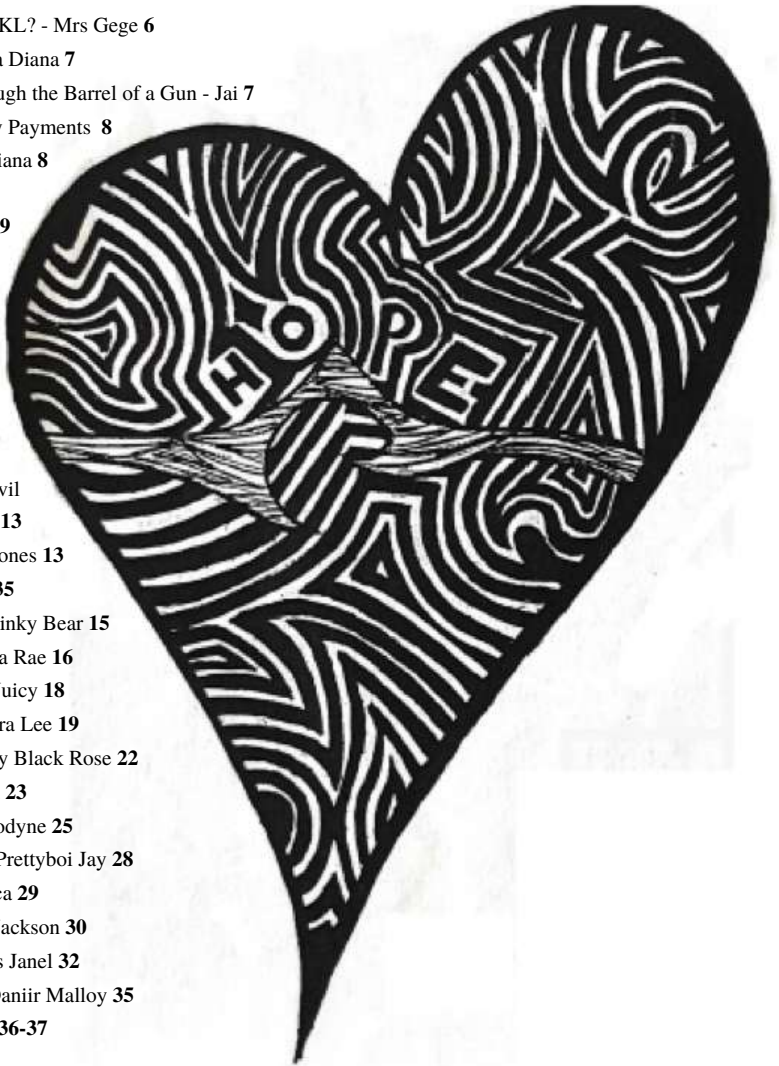
Safe Pleasure - Miss Janel 32

I Got a Message - Daniir Malloy 35

What Is Abolition? 36-37

Resources 38-39

Write to Us!



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

We are Pennsylvania-based trans and gender variant people, and allies, building a movement for gender self-determination, racial and economic justice, and an end to the policing and imprisoning of our communities.

Due to Covid-19, we are currently meeting virtually. Contact us for the virtual meeting information.

THIS ISSUE'S CONTRIBUTORS

Dylicia Alicia Snow | Fidelity
Jessica Diana Garza | Jai
Mrs. Lexi Love | Knowledge
Tiffany Alissa Shannon | Shadow
Bree Quinby | Mrs. Gege | Jojo
L. Jackson | Jennifer Rose | Miley
Juicy Queen Bee | Mosca Loca
L. Charlie K | Stephen Newmones
Miss Ceci | Ms. Linda May | Joey
Skyler Mullins | Dawn Guthrie
Twinky Bear | Ary | Rachel | Kuo
Starr | Kayla Rae | T | Big Foot
Brandon Austill | Kyra Lee | Char
Butt Butt | Joe Vanderford | Gi Gi
Eric/Alissa Hasbell | Jesse L
Justin J | Harley Quinn | Charli
Brittney Marie Featherstone | Indy
Rebecca | Black Rose | Precious
Lexi Love | Harley Rose | Ben
Monica | Natiley | Tiffany Alissa |
Jay-sin Anodyne | Cree | Rock
Grimnir Brandonburg | Shannon
Mariah Lee French | Natiley
Jennifer Rose | 6ix
Jacob Mitchell | Reginald Thomas
Nala GoldenOak | Sydney Hart
Prettyboi Jay | Day-Day | Spade
Pryme | Kashlee Vasquez | Drew
Sage Nicole | Ms. Janel | Ayana
Lisa Jackson | Egypt Ily Moore
Mrs. Jasmine Lynne Tetlow-Bolen
Ms. Rachel Marie Whitted
Allena Richie | Shadow | Armani
L-Star | Grimnar Brandonburg
Lyle | Grace Harris

Layout: Lena, Adrian, Tee

Copy Editing: Emma, Lena, Devin,

Lexi, Adrian, Tee, Sophia

Cover Art: Mrs. GeGe

LETTER FROM THE OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE

Dear Beloveds:

We hope this issue reaches you safe and sound.

As our inside collective continues to grow rapidly, we wanted to take this chance to talk to new members (and refresh longstanding members) about the structure of the Hearts on a Wire collective. We receive many letters referring to a Hearts on a Wire staff or office, but we don't have either of those things. Hearts on a Wire is made up of two collectives: an inside collective and an outside collective. We see ourselves as a family, not just members of an organization. Both collectives are essential to creating the newsletter.

Because the primary purpose of our organizing work is to promote the self-determination of transgender and gender non-conforming individuals who are in contact with the criminal legal system in Pennsylvania, and because we take leadership from those most impacted by over-policing and mass incarceration, Hearts on a Wire's inside collective is particularly important in shaping our mission, ethics, and priorities. The inside collective provides newsletter submissions, develops strategies for organizing our campaigns on the inside, and reports back about their efficacy and success.

The outside collective is made up of volunteers who meet every week. We get the newsletter together (transcribe, edit, format, etc.), send resources to inside members, and advocate for them. At our weekly meetings, we talk about the letters you send us, make minor decisions, and support one another.

We always try to get input from inside leaders when making major decisions. If you're interested in being consulted on these decisions, contact us and let us know! We're always excited to hear your ideas, dreams, plots, strategies, requests for resources, or anything else you can think to write to us about. None of us knows everything, together we know a lot.

Looking forward to hearing from you always,

~ the Outside Collective

VISIONARY FICTION

In our last issue we asked you to respond to author Walidah Imarisha's writing prompt for 2020 visionary fiction:

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

Dylcia Alicia Snow: I imagine a world where people are free to be themselves in any and every way. Where we can choose our lifestyle and not be forced to adapt to society's standards. Where Gays, Straights, Lesbians, Trans, Blacks, Whites, Asians, Latinos, Etc. Can all live peacefully without oppression or Discrimination. Where each and every individual can comfortably be themselves in their pursuit of happiness without Backlash from official Tyrants. Wars are unheard of, The term Cruel and Unusual is unacceptable as the 'Norm.' Torture is Abolished, in every form. Jails and Prisons are not used as warehouses for people unaccepted in society, and there's no such thing as the Prison Industrial Complex. People work in Unity as a Human Race to strike and survive. All labor is Equal to push forward and move in sync. People are not judged by the amount of money in their bank accounts, the clothes they wear or the color of their skin. We are free to enjoy the beauties of nature and the wonders of the Universe, uninterrupted as we enjoy the flowers and beaches, the raindrops, and morning dew, the mountains and ice caps, the forests and meadows, the sunsets and sunrises, the sun, moon and stars, the cold and chilly, the warm, hot and toasty... global warming and over pollution solved because liberation would prosper.

Jessica Diana Garza (Kern Valley State Prison): It is my fervent hope that one day there won't be need of prisons any more. That someday all transgenders will be allowed to get their sex reassignment surgeries and live in a violence free environment with a free home to everyone. A nice home that feels safe and cozy like a home. With a bath and shower, a bed room, a living room and a kitchen. And that everyone will be able to get SSI checks that will go a long way because they won't have to pay rent. And the best quality Health Insurance that will be partly paid for by the government. That way the doctors get paid well and we'll have the best quality Health Care. Mostly everything that makes people happy will be legal. And a lot of it free. So there won't be any need for crime. And trans people will have children. So everyone will be happy and free. That's my wish.

Continued on Next Page...

VISIONARY FICTION, CONTINUED

Mrs. Lexi Love: Jan 1st, 2070 Dear Diary... Damn to think 50 years ago that I might not see this day. To go from an incarcerated black male to a liberated transgender woman. To go from a broken home to having a loving husband of 40 years and a family to call my own. Wow. To see the end of movements like Black Lives Matter and Ban the Box because social injustices are over. Judgement and prejudice are over. To live in a world where each and every person is free to be who they are and to be perfectly accepted. Wow. The world hasn't come strides, it's come leaps and bounds to get to a place we never thought possible. To be truly...free. Death by incarceration? That's a thing of the past. Death by discrimination, by alienation...That's yesterday's news. To keep hearing over and over again "it gets better" and to cry out at night "WHEN?" Well the time has come... and life has never looked so beautiful.

Knowledge: Dear Journal, I can't never wrap my head around how much has changed since I was Frozen in 2020. It was Real crazy then - Trump lost to Biden in the pres. election; cops killing people on the Regular; people getting murdered in nightclubs, concerts, churches, movie theaters; Riots jumping off all over; Liberation Movements like Black lives Matter, Trans lives Matter, etc; COVID-19 killing people like the plague. To Being woke and unFrozen in this new world where everyone is getting along and at peace. I look around me every day and see people like me, Gay Black man walking around and just Being them without getting killed, disRespected, or Judged.

I IMAGINE

By Dylcia Alicia Snow

I Imagine, Not being Judged by hateful faces
I Imagine, Unity in ALL Races
I Imagine, Never having to Lose
I Imagine, Being Able to Choose
I Imagine, A Life without scars
I Imagine, Being free without Bars
I Imagine, A world with No Hate
I Imagine, Peace Amongst the Nations
I Imagine, Beautiful colors All around
I Imagine, A world Safe and Sound
I Imagine, Being who I wanna be
I Imagine, Freedom Actually being Free
I Imagine...

Tiffany Alissa Shannon: Maybe 50 years from now prison will be completely changed the whole way around. We may have a lot more things in the world to do, more places to see, and go. We might have the ability to live like fish, and swim around the great big Ocean. This is something that I wouldn't mind trying at all.

Continued on Next Page...

VISIONARY FICTION, CONTINUED

Shadow: Nyla Marie Vargas Gaines, My precious grand-daughter, I'm writing to let you know about this world today as opposed to the world I grew up in. This world today is so amazing, truly a world of freedom especially for us in the LGBTQ+ community and for all ethnicities.

No longer does this world hate everyone who is different and doesn't coincide with the old views of what is "normal." Law enforcement actually can be trusted to uphold the law rightly and protect ALL PEOPLE. No longer do we have to fear being murdered for no reason other than the hate of our colored skin, the hostile and oppressive mentality towards the LGBTQ+ community, where we were being beaten, raped, murdered, silenced, intimidated, abused, degraded, no longer exist.

Today, you live in a world where we live in harmony with each other. Respected and loved, seen as equals, Our right to "freedom of expression" is no longer a fabled illusion. You're truly free to express yourself without fearing vicious repercussions for your ideas in whatever form you express them.

So live well keeping in mind all the sacrifices we've made and honor those who lost their lives so that you can truly live in a world of freedom.



Keisha Jenkins was a 22 year-old trans woman murdered in Philadelphia in 2015

Dear Keisha Jenkins,

It's the year 2070, and you've been gone for about 55 years. I still miss you to this day, but your daughter grew up and got old. Things are better for us as trans women, and we really don't have to worry about being judged and targeted how we used to. People are always gonna have their beliefs but it is not how it was when we were young. I retired from my business and now I'm back just kicking it in Chicago. I wanna thank you for all the motivation you gave me. When I first came to Philly from the Windy City in 2012, I didn't know anybody but my cousin in the trans community. Girls used to throw me shade but outside of family you came into my life and embraced me, took me under your wing and showed me the way. And I'm glad you came into my life and I cherish all the memories we had. And I know one day imma see you again.

I love you.

~ Fidelity

Continued on Next Page...

VISIONARY FICTION, CONTINUED

Bree Quinby (#AV0665, CA Medical Facility): Bree of 2020, it's 2070 and I must say we've come so far, our president is an extraordinarily smart and beautiful Hindustani woman that won 85% of the country's votes from both parties. The crime rate has dropped 50% in 25% of the country due to the introduction of mandatory "therapy" for offenders of all crimes, and group therapy focused on changing the "prison mind," a group that was unheard of in California when we were in prison.

The "Black Lives Matter" movement exploded into the most well known and respected social advocacy organization in the Nation, and has incorporated the frequent nomination of awards for notable social justice advocates, and even activists, painters, and poets that are African American.

Do you remember when we used to eat disrespect for breakfast in prison? I just visited a girlfriend I met through a prisoner pen pal organization and there are cameras in so many places, all with audio recording. Correction officers, though strict and detached seeming, are so well behaved that it's a running joke that they are probably powered by artificial intelligence created by the American Correctional Association.

I wish you could be here to see it, the AIC is so clean, everything is electric powered, life is beautiful and everybody you interact with anywhere is just so kind. I wish you could've been born now, because you're taking your life back then really cut short your opportunity to be a part of something interesting and beautiful, the budding and blossom of human kindness.

WHAT THE WHAT! RTKL?

Mrs. Gege

Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law (RTKL) 65 P.S. §67.101 et seq. gives the public (including incarcerated folks) access to "Public Records" maintained by the Department of Corrections, and its entities. DC-ADM 003 Release of Information Policy governs how to access the information & what you can access.

It is easy to file an RTKL request simply use a DC-135A request to staff and send it to the RTKL Officers. Each facility has an RTKL officer. Types of request you can make:

- Financial information
- Inmate Programming Information
- Medical/mental Health Services
- Personnel Data
- Security Records
- Statistical Records
- Food Services
- Etc.

Note that if your request is large in response they could charge you for copies. However they will tell you beforehand so you can decide if you want to pay.

REFLECTIONS

Jessica Diana Garza

I was laying down on my bunk in my prison cell and I stood up to talk to my prison window and look out. Far in the distance I pondered the rows and rows of tall concrete prison walls. With their long coiling rows of sharp shiny barbed razor wire. I saw a prison guard standing inside of the Gun Tower with his long rifle on his shoulder. He was staring off into the distance looking for anything that moved to shoot at. Then I noticed the tiny little birds with their little hearts beating like fluttering butterflies in their tiny breasts. They flew about freely landing on the razor wire to rest their spindly little toothpick legs. And I wondered how little things so pretty and free could use their little feathered wings to fly them inside of such a big ugly prison. Why does anything so free want to land inside of the Belly of the Beast. The blazing hot sun beat down on the brown dried up parched earth. But the pretty little birds didn't notice. They seemed absorbed in their own little world as they tweeted their bird songs so happily. Their little wings fluttering to catch a breeze. And I wanted to go back to my comfortable prison bunk bed and lay down and stretch out to dream about freedom that for some prison inmates will never come. Maybe I can dream about sprouting big feathered wings and flying away like an Angel. Transgender. Because if I had wings I wouldn't fly around no prison.



PEACE BIRTHED THROUGH THE BARREL OF A GUN

Jai (Jordan Jones)

Peace was born through the barrel of a gun;
but the time for arms is paid and done.

We've chained the land, the wars are won.

We now seek peace that is void of blood.

I look to a day with the clearest view.

A day we're free of the "boys in blue."

When "protect and serve" doesn't conjure shame;

And our government officials can SAY HER NAME!

See, those barrels meant to secure and sustain,
have become no more than a political game.

Yelling "It's my right"--"Amendment 2 will stand";

While even our cops can't steady their hand.

An instrument of death will never bring us peace.

They're too often used in anger, and they only breed grief.

A much stronger symbol that one could bear,-

Try a knee to the ground and a fist in the air.

As the peace we know was born of struggle,

So too must rebirth spare the humble.

"By violence?"--no, but Revolution!

Civil unrest is our only solution.

See, if you want to make peace you don't talk to your friends.

You talk to their enemies and you take a stand.

You open your fists and you reach out your hands,

You make it your purpose to be the bigger man.

Peace, birthed through the barrel of a gun?

One day, perhaps we'll see the sun.

To at last proclaim that race has won.

When George can breathe and Ahmaud can run.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY PAYMENTS (STIMULUS CHECKS)

Hearts on a Wire Outside Collective

Incarcerated people who meet the eligibility criteria are entitled to all three of the 2020 and 2021 Economic Recovery (Stimulus) payments. To be eligible, you must be: (1) a U.S. Citizen, or lawfully present; (2) have a valid social security number; (3) not be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return; and (4) have income under \$99K (for 1st payment) and \$87K (for 2nd) and \$75K (for 3rd). Note that depending on your facility rules, the check can be reduced to pay fines and restitution.

Even if you filled out the 2019 tax form that was distributed in some prisons in the Fall of 2020, **if you did not receive one or both 2020 payments by January 15, 2021, the way to get them now is to file your 2020 federal tax return** and claim what you were entitled to, but did not get, as the **Recovery Rebate Credit – Line 30 of the 2020 Form 1040**. Filing 2020 taxes will also let the IRS know how to find you to get you the 2021 payment.



Art by L Jackson

UNTITLED

by Jessica Diana Garza

Putting False eyelashes and eye shadow on a girl's false eyes, the real game of life, of make believe begins in front of a Vanity mirror. Gender Dysphoria? But besides these obvious markers of a gender identity, some may consider her a counterfeit woman, a generic girl, so unlike a plastic rose, she's real. These effeminate woman's rose petals still blooming so real. While expressing her individuality, her authentic self. Her beauty within pressed like precious flowers, forever perfect, forever her. Her imaginative thinking beyond measure. As if her female transgender thoughts were a leaf caught in a river current. Delicately, like the brush of a falling leaf. Her insides stir gently, in anticipation, of meeting a perfect mate, Like a swarm of delicate fireflies. Deep inside, her nerves get drawn as tight as the strings on a musical instrument, while she puts on her make-up and dress. Touching the true essence of her soul, like a valuable perfume. What some saw as a worthless stone, is actually a valuable, beautiful, shining diamond. The transgender woman, the best of two worlds.

THOUGHTS ON CURRENT EVENTS

Jennifer Rose

The problems we're facing go back to the colonial foundation of the U.S., which is based on white supremacy, the African Slave Trade, and the American Genocide against Native/Indigenous people. It was continued with the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act by Congress and the 13th Amendment "Exception Clause," which prohibited slavery "...except as punishment for crime." There's a common misconception that after the Civil War slavery was "abolished" but it was merely reformed. Chattel slavery was replaced with our current system of mass incarceration and prison slavery. During the Southern Reconstruction under U.S. Federal Military occupation, the Ku Klux Klan initiated a campaign of white Terror against freed Blacks in the South. This resurgence of white supremacy and prison slavery was continued with the U.S. government / FBI Cointelpro war against the Black Panther Party, and allied revolutionary people's organizations during the 1960s and 1970s. We are now facing these same struggles of Black People, Latinx immigrants, Queer and Trans people, Women, and many others fighting racial / class / gender oppression in cities and streets across the U. S. The Amerikan fascist / white nationalist Trump Regime has sent federal police forces, like Nazi stormtroopers, into Portland and other cities in response to sustained political protests and Peoples Resistance since the murder of George Floyd by the Minneapolis Police pig.

i can see a new future emerging out of this struggle in many ways! First, the ongoing political protests in the U.S. have been sustained, unable to be stopped by constant police brutality and State terror. Additionally, white people in many suburban communities have also came out into the streets in solidarity and support of #BlackLivesMatter. There has been international solidarity with #BlackLivesMatter in the streets of London, Paris, and elsewhere around the world!

Furthermore, there've been anarchist and antifa insurgents engaging in direct action against white supremacy, symbolized in American and Confederate statues, monuments, and institutional names. There's a cultural shift and radical systemic change currently taking place. Trump is the last gasp of white supremacy and systemic racism in the U.S. The effort by Trump to stake his fading reelection campaign on the protection of Confederate monuments and other symbols of white supremacy is futile and doomed to failure.

We are now seeing the use of radical political ideas and slogans by many mainstream protesters and progressive groups, such as #DefundThePolice and #FreeThemAll, concepts that a few months ago were only taken seriously and embraced by abolitionists and anarchist collectives! We have also seen an effort toward Autonomous Zones and Community Defense against violent police aggression!

Yes, indeed! i see a new future emerging out of this struggle! A world without police and prisons! Without Borders! i see a new future that includes autonomous community Land Trusts, Black autonomy and social justice, Native Sovereignty, queer / trans / women liberation, intercommunal solidarity, mutual aid, and voluntary cooperation! A society without authoritarianism, fascism, coercive violence, organized hierarchy, racism, sexism, or other systems of oppression!

Yes we can! Keep dreaming! Keep protesting! Resist! #FreeThemAll #FreeHer #FreeOurPeople #NoJusticeNoPeace

THE YEAR 2020 FEEL LIKE A WAR

By Juicy Queen Bee

content warning: mention of suicide; sexual abuse, police violence

The year 2020 is one for the history books. We have seen several world-changing scenarios unfold—A frightful disease epidemic that quickly spread throughout the world, devastating economic consequences as nation after nation went into shutdowns to prevent the coronavirus spread, a worldwide travel collapse as many countries went into quarantine, and massive government intrusion into citizens' lives.

As this virus was going on, thousands of prisoners were released from jails (ostensibly to prevent the spread of covid-19 and to put those at serious risk out for health reasons). Right after this, prisons in PA went to cohorts of 8 people, then 16 people, then 32 people until it got to bottom tier, top tier, when the DOC put a restriction on movement to prevent spreads. Families was laid off work, businesses had to close down because of this epidemic, so many hospitals was overcrowded, we had a president more worried about opening the world back up so quick, thought he was untouchable, yet he and his staff get sick, have events without face masks, don't listen to his covid team, now again we're back at a second wave as his medical staff say.

Then riots jump off because of people being killed by police, George Floyd and so many others because of the voices not being heard. Not to mention corrupted normal background news war, famines, corrupt politicians and governments, genocide, crop failures, natural disasters and the like. You don't hear about all the suicides that happen in prison, sexual assaults, abuse, harassment by correctional officers...Baltimore State Attorney charged a group of correctional officers. The biggest business is prisons in PA. You have over 20 state prisons: Philadelphia on State Road have CFCF, the Detention Center, PiCC House of Correction, ASD and RCF. You have Muncy, Cambridge Springs, and it would be a lot of names if I name the male prisons and all the different counties that's in PA.

You have a president who is claiming the election was a fraud stolen from him which is not true whatsoever. Let's talk about Donald Trump, he is all about money. He is corrupted, a hot mess and don't hide it, mad he wasn't re-elected and lost to Joe Biden and Harris, a woman.

Now let's talk about what need to be fixed and talk about change the Crime Bill that was passed by Bill Clinton. Get back what has been stolen; individual's freedom, eliminating life without parole, closing down prisons, rebuilding society, letting families back together, holding police accountable. Furthermore, showing corrupted individuals who hold power they are not above the law.

Overturning convictions, pardon more 500 cases in the first term, build more schools by closing half of prisons in the United States starting with PA. Open mental health hospitals, make alternatives for prison, stop targeting poor black families, the African American family, men and transgender people and their rights, show what equality, respect, love, peace, and unity really is, no matter race, sexuality, straight, gay, lesbian, bisexuals, queer, transgender—we all want the same thing: to be treated equal.

Hopefully, like in 2008, when Obama was in office, Vice President Biden who was on the senate, passed Obamacare and other things in the eight years Obama and Biden was in office. Obamacare, legal marriage for us and the Supreme Court change work and discrimination and we ain't finish yet.

POLITICAL MOMENT

Mosca Loca AKA Fly

content warning: suicide; sexual assault, self-harm

Here at FCI Fairton, New Jersey we had a significant outbreak of the COVID-19. This came after we had been locked down for months, no movement. This is evidence that staff carelessly brought this infection in upon us. Then staff would place an infected inmate into a cell with an uninfected one. Then they had COVID. Then inmates started refusing cell mates. Then fighting, then suicide, then auto-orchietomy (self castration) by transgenders. Suicide watch has been full.

The prisons are overcrowded. Our lives are in serious threat of harm. The prison should release all nonviolent offenders. This would clear up some space for social distancing. I would like to see the end of jails and prisons. If we used the alternatives of home confinement, restorative justice, rehabilitation, on the job training, and education; this would reduce recidivism. Instead of paying millions on building new prisons and jails, we could pay for mental health services, health care, and long term education.

Then also respectable housing to help them get re-established, and food, clothing and transportation. Also get rid of "the box" that asks if you have ever been convicted of a crime. Background checks cause formerly incarcerated people to not get jobs, leading to recidivism. When society is "forcing" the choice by denying them the ability to earn a living, by denying them a chance at survival because of their past wrongs; it is now society who is to blame for all their actions. They get released from jail, prison, or "half-way house"; they are then faced with "the box", asking the criminal history question...not only employment seekers. This also appears on the rental application, on the school application; and the student loan application, and even the food stamp and social security application. This truly backs a person into a corner. If you're on probation or parole: the PO is coming down on you to get a job, and a physical address, and to pay your fines, fees and restitution; yet everywhere you apply denies you. You feel the PO is going to violate you, so you bail. Go back to earning a living, until they come and get you.

These things I speak from personal experience. I was arrested, charged, and convicted for something I am innocent of, and the federal government seized everything, destroyed my life, my family and me. They lied to secure a plea, on the promise of setting me free, then forced me into prison for a very lengthy sentence, and still torture me through rape, Raynauds, chronic pain, allergies and gender dysphoria. For reasons such as these, we have overcrowding, and inmates dying from COVID-19. I was "time served", however being an intersex and trans person who is entirely out, I was given the max, and then some.

The prison and jail system is modern day slavery, and should be abolished. Prosecutors and judges should not hold total immunity, and be held accountable. Law enforcement and corrections officials should not hold "qualified immunity."

Society needs to give an ex offender a positive reason to stay out of jail and prison, and to succeed. Our society needs a change, and now is the time for that change; can we spare any?

UNTITLED

by L. Charli K

Naked, reflected through
scratched stainless steel,

My body's curves
softening and filling.
Butterflies and bees
bound in my belly.

My hibernating self's
finally smelled spring,
Finding a path to this
transformative stream,

Circulating through
parched places inside.
Anyone looking will see
my fire and joy.

Yet this's just one step
along...

The rest is not a hill, but a
mountain.

My feet hasten.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN PRISON

PA Institutional Law Project



The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project (PILP) is pleased to announce a new project that seeks to address important issues faced by incarcerated people of marginalized genders (including cis women, trans women, trans men, intersex and nonbinary individuals).

PILP is a statewide legal aid organization that fights for the constitutional and civil rights of incarcerated and detained people in Pennsylvania, by providing civil legal assistance, *pro se* assistance, legal advocacy, and legal representation. For example, depending on the issue and availability, PILP could provide legal advice, informational materials, help you with suggestions on a case where you are representing yourself, write a letter on your behalf to a prison, or represent you in court.

Below is some information about some of the basic constitutional rights that everyone in prison has, and in particular, rights that may be most important to incarcerated queer and transgender people.

First, all incarcerated people have the **right to be safe from violence** from staff members and other incarcerated people. People of marginalized genders are at a higher risk of violence and sexual violence, and courts have recognized that prisons may need to take additional actions to protect them. Courts have found that when prison staff use violence maliciously and sadistically against people serving sentences, or if prison staff use unreasonable force against pre-trial detainees, this can be a violation of the constitution.

It can also be a constitutional violation when prison staff do not take reasonable steps to protect people from known threats of violence by other incarcerated people. The most important court case about this is *Farmer v. Brennan* from 1994. In that case, a trans woman of color was assaulted by her cellmate and the Supreme Court said that the prison violated her constitutional rights if the staff knew about the threats to her safety and did nothing to protect her from violence.

Another important constitutional right is the **right to adequate medical care**. Prisons are not allowed to ignore a serious medical need. Gender dysphoria is a serious medical need. Incarcerated people have a right to an individual evaluation of their medical needs, which may include consultation with specialists, hormone treatment, access to gender-affirming clothing and commissary items, and gender-affirming surgery. People with gender dysphoria may also be entitled to additional accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS IN PRISON

continued

These are certainly not the only constitutional or civil rights that LGBTQ incarcerated people have. For more information and case law, PILP recommends the *Jailhouse Lawyer's Manual*, Ch. 30: *Special Information for LGBTQ Prisoners*.

The Pennsylvania Institutional Law Project wants to encourage incarcerated people who have or are experiencing violations of their constitutional rights to contact the organization for legal assistance.

Although PILP supports incarcerated people from all over Pennsylvania, it currently has a special grant to focus on these issues for incarcerated people of marginalized genders in the Northeast region.

If you write to PILP, please include your name, your pronouns (optional), the name you are incarcerated under (if it's different), the facility you are housed in, and a description of the issues you would like assistance with. It may also be helpful to include whether or not you have filed grievances about those issues.

Please note that PILP has to evaluate each letter and potential client, and that PILP cannot guarantee advice or representation. PILP and its partner organization, the Lewisburg Prison Project, can only help people with civil rights violations related to the conditions of their confinement (medical, mental health, excessive force, etc.). PILP cannot help with criminal cases, sentencing, or parole issues.

You can write to PILP at any of its three offices: **Lewisburg** (P.O. Box 128, Lewisburg, PA 17837), **Philadelphia** (718 Arch Street, Suite 304 South, Philadelphia, PA 19106), or **Pittsburgh** (247 Fort Pitt Blvd, 4th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222).

BI

by Stephen Newmones

Hi, I'm Bi

Loving who I am conservative & shy
20-23 is when I'll be free

But inside I'm already there if you ask me
I'll forever wave my rainbow flag

Even though it took time to just accept who I am
People talked down a lot
like I was nothing but trash

Until I looked in a mirror and said
"Oh this why they mad"

I'm a beautiful fem dats soft spoken a lot
With a very kind heart so you can love it or not
We live in 2 different worlds, sis

I value myself more and dats no shade, miss
It's more to life than just the latest drama
Love yourself, but showing all these men the goods
is having

You give off the wrong persona
It's more to life than just relationships
Me and ambition go together
like papers on a paper clip
Without further to write I'm the one dats Bi
Loving who I am, conservative and shy



doodle by Miss Ceci

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear H.O.A.W. Family,

I hope all are doing well during these trying times. As for me, my world has drastically changed. 1st I am no longer at Greene. I am now at SCI-Benner. I signed the settlement paperwork on December 21st and arrived at Benner on 1-6-21. I so look forward to meeting the girls! :) While I cannot disclose the terms of the settlement publicly, I can say I'm working with my law partner on preparing a proposal to bring positive changes for the PA Transgender Population. The changes will include bringing 'Gender Affirming Property' under policy 13.2.1 – Section 19, Treatment for GD. This would give a psychologist power over our gender expression instead of administrators. The psych will be trained in transgender medicine. I am also compiling a Transgender Outside Purchase Catalog so we can purchase what we need to treat our gender dysphoria. Walkenhursts is one of the choices. Presently I have 10 pages of make-up that have name brands of eyeshadow, foundation, mascara, eye liners, eye pencils, BB cream etc. There are also 4 pages of bras and underwear (white, black, pink, lavender) as well as other female clothing. The catalog I am working from offers all these items, and more, in other prison systems. There will also be policy to allow gender affirming art projects for feminizing other personal property. During my meeting with the judge I made clear if the proposal is not accepted, I will refile my civil action. So far Benner staff and control office are willing to consider policy changes. Finally I would like to send love to Indy, Tamica, Ravyn and all who showed love in H.O.A.W. #29. To Miley I still have your letter and would love to hear from you, I send much love to my 'new' man, Little E. Leaving you at Greene broke my heart. I think of you every day and miss you very much. I love you baby. You are true, real, and the one for me. I hope to see you soon. To all those who are locked down in PA and elsewhere, I love and support you all. Together we are strong. I've been on the threshold of suicide many times. Today I can honestly say I'm glad I'm still here and can meet so many wonderful people. I am here if you need someone.

With love in solidarity

~ Ms. Linda May

Hi! Since I was 6 I knew I was different. I was told I would go to hell. So I hid from everyone until I found like-minded people. When I got locked up I met my fiancée Kattie who helped me come out to my whole family. She's everything I ever wanted in a wife. So all I can say is stay true to yourself.

~ JoJo

Dear Hearts on a Wire

I just read this magazine for the first time, I never thought something like this existed for the LGBTQs in prison. I was in tears with some of your stories. Indy stay strong, I feel your pain I lost my little sister in May 2019. RIP Kristi Walker, RIP Cheyenne Nichole Height! I am stuck in lockdown 23 hours a day because of Covid-19. The isolation is getting to me. I love you all and please stay positive knowing we have a family to lean on in tough times! LGBTQ 4 EVER! With Love

~ Skyler Mullins [#966594 | Bellemy Creek CF, MI]

"Sometimes just being yourself is the radical act. When you occupy space in systems that weren't built for you, your authenticity is your activism."

~ Miley

LETTERS & LOVE

Hello my HOAW family! I've been up to lots since I last wrote. With the help of P.I.L.P. I filed a civil rights case against the PADO for denial of adequate health care. To date, the PADO has never provided gender affirming surgery and I am looking to change this for me and all of us whose lives depend on this care. I finally met Mariah, she is such a cutie and I love that she is here! Hi Mariah!! L.I., miss you Big Star! Solo, I got your painting on my wall. I miss you! DeDe and Maya, hope you are well. Everyone else, love you all! Taz @ Mahanoy, I'm here for you if you need anything. I'm the blonde on D unit. Niara, hello love! Hope all is well. To my husband, I love you Papa Bear with all my heart! I love you all and stay strong family!

~ Dawn Guthrie | MQ7942 | SCI Mahanoy

HOAW & Family

I am reaching out to everyone because I need help. Pennsylvania is once again behind the times. According to PADO and PennDOT you cannot change your gender marker while incarcerated. I am getting ready to file a class action lawsuit for violation of the 8th Amendment and the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment. I would like to hear from anyone who would be interested in teaming up on this.

Please keep your head up, stay positive, keep fighting and always know there's strength in numbers.

With Love, Beauty and Pride.

~ Ary

Zachary Graham | NP2097 | SCI - Greene

NOTE FROM OUTSIDE COLLECTIVE:

You can send us messages to Ary on this matter and we will pass them along.

Hey Family: thank you for always being so supportive and keeping us up on the latest news.

~ Kuo

HAND-IN-HAND

Twinky Bear

Because they Hurt, the wanna kick me –
Beat me Down... Restrict me –
Drag my Name through the mud...Afflict me –
They to make me think that I'm Nothing... trick me –
All the while society and world keeps Tick....ing –
...tick tok, tick tok –
...tick tok, tick tok –
From the Age of 5 femininity was considered Bad –
Said Society ... Nothing I did was Right, said my Dad
All I wanted was someone open minded to talk to,
but Barbie was the only friend that I had –
She was such a source of comfort ...
But she was banned from Boyz –
Took away a child's toyz –
While sadly inserting the World's Hateful Noize –
From then on, to be "Social" was a place to avoid –
Now I am 43 years old, yet still a little Paranoid –
Shamefully this world loves to hate a person whose
only Crime is love –
To them, we all must fit
into their "one size fits all" glove –
No Blue Hair, No Panty Shorts,
No Pink Tutus or Black Skin –
From Mr. President, to Church Pastors,
to some Mother Hens –
Fucked up, that its still cool to kill Black trans
Women
Gay, Black, Mental Health issue... And a "Man?" –
We Ladies are the ones that the world can't stand –
Sorry, 4 and 5 year old LGBTQ kids coming up
I too don't understand –
What I do know is this...We can Survive it, We can
thrive it, But what we must do is walk together ...
Hand in Hand

Hearts on a Wire Family

Shout out to John @ RCI in Ohio. You got a dash in your numbers... feds? In any event, I get out May 2021. You'll hear from me. We got some things in common. Hang in there... Just want you to know you aren't rejected. Not even close.

Shout-out to Taci @ CCI. You've been on my mind a lot with this Covid shit going around. I've just been a really lazy bitch. When I get out, I'll be in touch more. I'm not rich, but I'm in your corner always. My release is soon.

Anyway ~ Love to all <3 ~Truly~

~ Rachel #398919 @WCI in WI

LETTERS & LOVE

Hello to LGBTQ+ fam out there, I really love to read all your letters, poems, and recipes. I would like to try some of the recipes. Shoutout to Ms. Linda Lee, you go girl, and I am praying that you win so us transgenders can feel more comfortable and be our true selves. Shoutout to Mama Pearl, Special, Bēbo, Jay-Tee, Grif, Black and Jessica, and anyone else that I miss. <3 you all and keep your heads up. I am stuck here on a block missing my sisters and brothers because we can't see each other and talk because of lockdown. Shout out to Slev, Zae and my girl GeGe, they were here and now have been transferred to other prisons. Get in touch. Victoria Michelle, I don't know what you're allowed to have there, but I use a color pencil and run it under warm water for eyeshadow - it works great. A shout out to all my other fam, . I sure do miss our groups and video chats that we had going on before Covid-19 hit us all. <3 you all and keep all your heads up and stay safe. I am celled up with this guy that doesn't like (or isn't even cool with) trans people and then he wants me to pay to stay in the cell, and in no way am I going to do that. So I wrote to Lts, Srg, Unit Manager and to the CCP Manager, and nothing came about it. So I wrote a letter to the Secretary of Corrections and waiting to see what's up. But the Lt, and UManager, said to me that if I don't get off the radar that they are going to put me in the hole. So I don't know what to do. Does anyone have any thoughts? I just wanted to be celled up with someone I can trust and get along with really well.

With a lots of love,

~ Starr AKA Brianna Redmond

[Brian Redmond | NU4252 | Fayette]

HOAW,

I'm 28 and started HRT 8 months ago. My poem I Am Enough I wrote in response to my family's response to my transition. I want all of the girls out there to know that **YOU ARE ENOUGH!** No matter what the LGBTQI community stands united and we are family. Follow your dreams.

I want to touch on the "Black Lives Matter Movement"... I am a white woman with a black husband and I want white people to know that we must educate ourselves. This country needs to see MAJOR changes. As part of the LGBTQI community we already know the hardships of discrimination and I feel we should blend our voices and force the nations leaders to hear us. We must demand change. My heart goes out to ALL the lives and families that have been affected by hate. I love you ALL. Peace out!

~ Kayla Rae

I AM ENOUGH

by Kayla Rae

So much more than what you see yet still
judged by
the cover not what's inside of me
I am enough
I'm beautiful and bold sexy and strong so
listen or not
I'll still sing my heart song
I am enough
Rejected by blood by others misunderstood
but I hold my head
high and keep loving me like I should
I am enough
Can the world accept what they don't
understand when you
don't conform to their plans so grand
I am enough
So I aint what or who you think I should be
too bad cuz
I keep being the me that I see
I am enough
To me it doesn't matter if I must stand alone
because to the
end I call love me all on my own
I am enough

LETTERS & LOVE

Love,

They say an angel may appear once in a lifetime and when it does you should hold on to it, cause it may slip away and never appear again; so I come to a full conclusion to hold on to you. Love, You rebuild my heart and redefine my mind, You help me overcome all my fears and cast away the past; Hope I've found in you, Trust I place fully in you and Faith I have in us. Every person pray for the day when they find that special someone; Their vision and need, reason to be. The one who covers their heart become the blood in their veins, Their oxygen, Thoughts and reason to look forward to tomorrow. Bae you are all those things to me and so much more, You're special in every way and have help me to develop into a better man. Your my BestFriend, BackBone, Heart and Beginning & End; Love your the one I never want to lose or be without, Life means nothing if I don't have you to share it with. I know now life don't stop cause we in prison and fairytales can be created even now, The past I have release; The present I've embrace and The future I look forward to. Love, You are the one who completes me and the angel I won't let slip away. So Love a.k.a (Ken Fisher) will you marry me? Truly I love you more then you could ever know, Just continue letting me show you everyday of your life MARRY ME LOVE!

Your Bae,

~ T. (SCI Albion) I Love You Pretty Eyes!

I see that many people struggle with the demons of who they are & others who don't accept them. My experiences made me who I am today. I may not have had a fair draw, but I'm alive & it could be worse. I've come to the realization that the world isn't fair. And no matter how good you are, no matter how much you give to others, someone is always going to hate you for no other reason than the fact that you breathe. You can't change people once they've allowed them to get twisted by hatred. But you can change how you deal w/ them. Walk away when you can & fight when you must. Whatever you do, don't give them the power to hurt you. Stay true to yourself & if they can't see the beauty that is you, it's their loss. Let the bitterness take them to their graves. Spend your time on what matters most. Being you & appreciating the people who see you for who & what you are. They're all that matters. The rest can go to hell. You guys are a tight community. Thrive on that. Keep your head up.

~ Brandon Austill | HD6211 | Houtzdale

Dear HOAW,

Shoutout to the whole LGTBQ +, all my brothers and sisters incarcerated, whoever is not accepted for expressing who they are, just know I accept you, the homeless, the underdog, the ones counted out, the ones that's constantly bullied, I hear you, I love you, the ones that don't fit in, the ones that don't feel loved, I love you, shout out to you all

~ Stephon Newmones | NQ0001 | SCI Albion

Dear HOAW Family,

Thanks for holding me down and keep doing what you're doing, continue to fight the good fight for the LGBTQ community. Shout out to Mariah Lee Smith, SJ, Br2star, Sydney Diamond, Brocco, JB Savage, CR, Twin, Miley, Anastasia the She-wolf, Ms Tattoo, Ms Tah, Knowledge, Will, Vin Diesel, IRA Ty, Ms Terry Shaggy, Ms. Brenney, Jessica, Adam Mallow, Shaylanna Divine, Dee Dee, Surpeus, Twinky Bear, Chocolate Monica, Cree R, Barber. And if I forgot anyone you are loved!

Yours truly,

~ Big foot A.k.a King Yetti

MY ALL MY LOVE

by Juicy

Thinking about you
Through sleepless nights
feel so wrong
to love you
My Heart Just won't
let me Give up
drowned in you
can not pull through
without having you
in my life
by my side

I'll Give you All of me
Just to have
one more night
with you by my side
I'll risk everything
to make you
Happy Smile
one more time

feel my heart
Hear it beat
racing a mile

See you clearly
vision of you
on my mind
I'll Give my all
Devotion Attention to you
Just to show you
I'll never stop
Give up on you
my lover my friend

*Dedicated to my friend my lover
you know who you are and all
my family*

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

Hello family. How are you guys (the outside collective and my fellow inside H.O.A.W. members)? I'm trying to hang in there. I just found out that my elderly father who just beat prostate cancer has contracted COVID-19. For a moment I felt completely defeated. I got down on my knees and talked to God. I am overjoyed to say that my dad was released from the hospital a few days ago. My first words when I found out the good news was "Hallelujah!"

I'm telling y'all this because I know how it is, as a LGBTQ upstate prisoner, we see a lot of dark days. In my personal experience, I take it all to the lord in prayer. God knew us before we were formed, so God knows our heart. If you have no one else in this world, remember kings and queens, God is always there, to not only listen, but to help as well.

Love,

~ Twinky Bear AKA The Real Jailhouse Wife of PA

Hello:

I'm a bit frustrated and have no meaningful outlets. I feel stuck in transition. I can't change my name because I committed murder. I can't get laser hair removal because I'm a lifer. I'm getting the run-around trying to get a wig. Most staff and some inmates don't respect my pronouns. Medical doesn't want to let me have surgery because they're cheap. I'm working on trying to get these done and will hire a lawyer at some point. I'm not giving up.

I caught the Rona and am having some long-term issues. But I'm tough & I'll get through it.

I hope that you're doing well Miss OutLAW. Thanks for the bras. I never would've thought that state-issued bras would be more comfortable than brand name sports bras. Shocker.

Be Kind, Be You,

Love,

~ Charli @ SCI Greene

Dear HOAW,

Times have been tough over the past year, I hope everybody is doing okay. Let's hope 2021 will be a better and fabulous year. Shoutouts to Papi, Keke, Mother Mocha, Lil Twin, Miley, Teacup, Ty, Jaavannn, my daughter Sidney, Pen, Savage, Knowledge, Danny, De-De, Mariah, Juicy, my girl Zoe and my big brother Armani, and Corey I didn't forget about you too.

~Fidelity Toyomi Richardson

LETTERS & LOVE

Hello Everyone!!! I am a 30 years young Transgender Female serving a life sentence inside a men's prison and working on my appeal. I'm in solitary so I don't get much interaction or communication with people and I'm the only outspoken LGBTQ on my unit, so I am shunned to silence because nobody talks to gays and since I'm trans they label me gay. Issue #29 was my first newsletter from HOAW and I want to thank all of you so much for the pieces you wrote. It was inspiring to see so much unity and comradeship amongst the LGBTQ community. You all have really created a family and line of communication with so much distance. Your writings put a huge brightness in my cell. You are all wonderful and I hope I will get a chance to get to know some of you. I want you to know no matter what you may be going through, you are special! If any of you ever need to talk I am here. I don't have a family of my own because I grew up in foster care and with a sentence like mine I don't have any friends left from the outside, so I'm hoping you'll all accept me and we can be family and friends.

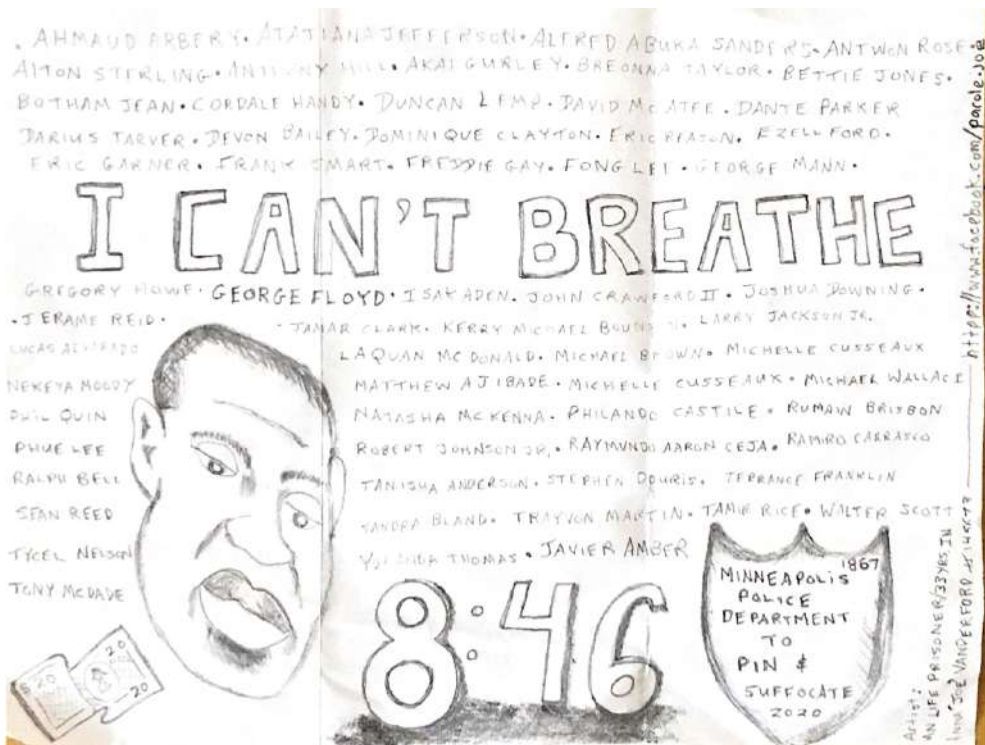
Much respect and love

~ Dylcia "Alicia" Snow ||| Dillon Gresham #LI39504 | Santa Rosa C.I. | Florida

LEFT ALL ALONE

by Kyra Lee

Sometimes I feel let down,
 Luck's not on my side,
 My mind is memories
 Of the things left behind
 I keep my troubles to myself
 Now
 This world don't need to know
 But I won't be surprised if
 One day it starts to show
 Going down that lonely
 highway
 Destination unknown
 Thought I knew where I was
 going
 But now I don't know.



LETTERS & LOVE

Dear HOAW,

I received the first of what I hope are many newsletters a day before my birthday and want to say thank you so much => I've known I wasn't alone but it's different seeing the proof. Prior to prison I'd just started to come out and my friends don't care if I'm Eric or Arissa. I swap back and forth depending on the day. I was blown away by the support and outgoing nature of everyone in the zine, it gives me confidence knowing I'm not alone. My situation when I get home seems uber complicated and having the support in here is helping me bolster my confidence for that eventuality. Texas doesn't have a lot of resources for people looking for support, and we're not allowed to write other units, where a few friends I've made since I've been down are. And most out of state resources don't deal with Texas prisons so it feels a little closed in, nothing I can't deal with, I'd just like an outlet to be more myself. Well I look forward to reading more in the future and one day maybe meet a few of you. Be good, be careful, be safe. =>

Love

~ Eric/Arissa Hasbell [#2288615 Bridgeport Correctional - Texas]

Dear HOAW:

Yo, Kojo... I forgive you bro. Stay strong, I'm glad to hear you being true to yourself... Angelica Michelle in Florida... I was in a dark place myself. You are NOT fighting a losing battle! Don't give up! You are Strong. Don't let anyone tear you down. I'm here for you if you need to talk... Ovis Anabel, you are right! Thank you for sending some real words my way. I would love to keep in touch, friend. Remy, you still my bro. Keep ya head up. Juicy Queen Bee, what's good sis? I miss ya crazy ass! (LOL). I'm ready to max out Oct 5, 2021! I know HOAW is only published a couple times a year, so I wanted to say, stay strong. I love you all. If you want me to keep in touch with you in the streets, write me before I go home. Joseph Breeland #HZ7922, in SCI-Fayette. I want to build in the streets, and be a voice for the unheard! That's for Nora at Rockview, Tamica Ellen and Linda at Greene, Angelica in Florida, Michelle in CA, and Sky Love at Johnson SP to name a few. I will stand by you and help the fight in the streets... #STARSMATTER #LGBTQLIVESMATTER LOVE YOU ALL! Get at me!

~ Joey- L.I...

Dear H.O.A.W

I was sentenced to 30 years in 2011 and filed motions and post-conviction and all got denied, but while I was housed @ Benner I wrote my judge a heartfelt letter and he granted a sentencing modification, so now I got a real good chance of getting time knocked off. So remember, it's never over... Shout out to my peoples at Benner, Blue Magic, Chop, Travis G, J.D. (Masteller) Moon, Tara, Nice, Maxine, Rico, Monster, I love y'all... Don't forget about ya boy. I'm back in Delaware doing good... Jasmine Baby I love you stay strong I'm still here...

~ Jesse L @ J.T.V.C.C.

A Big shout out to the Hoaw community. The love shown gives me some peace that happiness can be found in the midst of the world's crisis and our trials. 🎶 To my Day 1's I miss y'all let the haters hate! 🎶 (Lyfe Jennings - Haters)

~ Justin J-Rock Benner

LETTERS & LOVE

Hey, y'all.

Hoping everyone is staying safe and fabulous. Issue #29 was a blast to read, and the love and solidarity expressed brought tears to my eyes. SCI Mahanoy is a much better place for me. This coronavirus sucks, but I'm learning to thrive not just survive in whatever situation I'm in.

I have an update on my lawsuit: The judge granted the defendant's motion to dismiss, and I'm in the Appeals Court now. My case is: USCA 3rd, *Thomas Flick v. Timothy Miller, et. al* Case No. 20-3159. I've filed my appellate brief, and I think it looks good to have the case remanded for trial. I will do my best to keep y'all updated and informed.

Miss Outlaw: I'm glad I inspire you, girlfriend. Maybe someday we can meet. Nora: My heart goes out to you. Get on medical ASAP about your hormones. Dr. Preston at Rockview is excellent with the hormones. If you got them on the streets and received a diagnosis of GID, then it should be pretty easy to restart. Regardless of your decision, know you have a family who cares. I was at Rockview for 3 years. I don't think we met., but don't hesitate to reach out. R. Barber: I can totally relate. When I first came out as trans, it was a great relief to have a word for what I've felt for so long. It's an awesome feeling to be able to be oneself. You are beautiful and unique in your own special way. Don't ever let anyone tell you different. Michelle-Precious in CA: Thank you so much for your words of support. They mean so much to me, and are truly appreciated. Cree: I am so happy for you. You thought you were abandoned, but your sister came through. Yes, God is great! Keep fighting for your HRT. We would've gotten to know each other if it weren't for lies spread about me. Take good care. Coda: You're welcome for the advice, my pleasure. Ms. Linda May Lee: You go gurl! I was at Greene, and had to pull a stunt to get out. I know about the bigots who run the place. My heart goes out to you. If you do end up going for class action, I definitely want to be added (Thomas Flick LJ9467). Keep me posted. Indy: I miss you bro, and stay strong! If I forgot anyone, my apologies. You know I luv ya. I am so thankful to be part of this community which is full to the brim with love. Haters don't stand a chance! Stay strong, my family, and heads held high! As long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, ALL WILL BE WELL!

Peace out my beloveds,

~ Harley Quinn AKA Tamara Angelique Allenbough

Hey all you sexy mamas just want to give all of you an update about what's going on with me. I am now at SCI-Houtzdale on FB Block. It's really homophobic and transphobic I want off this Block so bad there's none of my LGBT community. I see parole in July of 2021 and hope to be released the end of November. I do have misconducts but not violent ones and I sent a letter to the parole board explaining why I should be released. Wish me luck. Jaina I miss you soooo much mama hope you're doing ok and keeping you head up I love you lots.

~ Brittney Marie Featherstone AKA Cup Cake



Art by Rebecca

LONELY VAMPIRE

by Black Rose

As morning begins I
sleep with no one
to rest with!

Woe, woe is m' nights
as darkness engulfs
the world.

Night time seems to drag
on yet still I walk Alone.

Yet at night I feel
something or someone
is feeling what I feel
deeper in me!

I scream to the moon
"My goddess
of the moonlight what is
going on with me?"

I love yet of another,
a tranny I have
no of & yet
I see no one yet I feel
It in me, & so I search for her
& find her not!

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear HOAW,

I'm a 29-year-old white transgender woman. I just started to get y'all's newsletters and I love everybody's stories. I been on hormones 4 1/2 years now and I love them. I feel beautiful.

I'm at the KSP in Eddyville, Kentucky. The COs here hate me. Last year a CO called me a N-word fag and beat the shit out of me. Me and my beloved soulmate Darius have been harassed. Now my man is in the hole for beating up 4 CO's and I'm on the yard all alone. All my family is dead. I really don't have no one. I think about killing myself all the time. Please help me.

Much love,

~ Kyra Lee XOXO ||| David L. Howe #245499 | Eddyville, KY

Shout out to my LGBTQ Community back at Forest, Mariah Lee Smith, Ira, Sydney, Ty, Ms. SJ, Ms. Catrina, Ms. Vine, Ms. Will, Ms. Tah, Miley, Anistasia the She-Wolf, Ms. Shawn, Magic, Swanky, Knowledge, Rocca, Hockey Puck, Ms. Cookie, JB, Savage. I love all of you stay in touch!

~ Big Foot | Collis Henderson | JU1446 | SCI Greene

My Dear HoaW Family,

First of all, I Love Each & Every One of you! It's been two years since I left PA DOC to the Feds, & believe it or not, I miss it. The grass is not always greener on the the other side. I was treated better & had more privileges as a Trans woman in PA. The Fed trans list is horrible... no make-up. To any girls I ever had a problem with, especially Alexis, Nikki & Miley, I apologize, & I wish you the best. Truly. Life is too short & precious to have broken over nonsense. I've been reading in the last HoaW issues, the pain & hurt in a few of my sisters. Please girls, take it from me, suicide is never the answer. After I come to the Fed I cut my own throat & both arms. God wasn't ready for me. They brought me back & it took me a year to somewhat recover. Today I can say I love myself, fully accept myself, & love life! & I am on the list for Bottom Surgery.

To all my family... Hang in there. We can get through this together. We have people who love & care about us. But it starts with loving yourself! I love all of you & hopefully one day we can all love & protect each other! Together, we are unstoppable & the opportunities are endless. Lite, my heart belongs to you. You have loved me unconditionally, even when I didn't deserve it. I love you more than ever. You will always be my one true love. Write me! My Gran passed away. Hey BR2star, Alexis, Bree, Fifty Shades of Jay! I miss you all. Indy, remember me from Coal? I think of your beautiful spirit. Skillz, Kev Johnson... everybody from Houtzdale, you've all touched my heart & have been a part of my journey. Nikki & Miley. I miss you girls! Thank you all. I miss you dearly. I'll never forget any of you! Last but not least -- Butter. I miss you & hope you are happy. You deserve love & happiness. I apologize & I miss you.

I love you all!

xoxo Precious xoxo ||| Abraham Gordon | 72384-067 | FCI-Cumberland | Maryland

IYELMIKY

by GiGi

I got some news today
It seems you've moved on
It's not your fault though
I was just as wrong

I had so much faith in you
and you in me
I wish it could be different
but it wasn't meant to be

You've taught me so much about the world and myself
so for that I thank you
for the wisdom and the help

I thought you were the one
I thought you'd take me far
There's someone else now
And he loves me just as hard

I loved you despite your flaws
the temper and the lies
I'll always be there for you
just make sure to hit my line

I'm not the girl you once knew
She's changed and evolved
I'm no longer scared
I can now stand tall

This is the end for us
I promise I won't cry
All I have left to say is
Thank you and Goodbye

LETTERS & LOVE

To My Hearts on a Wire family:

I have bad news. Morris (BAM) Parrish and Eddie Best who were in our family of SCI Phoenix both passed away in January 2021 due to Covid-19. They were good peoples, may they rest in power.

~ Anonymous

What's up HOAW,

Shoutout first and foremost to Whiteboy John cuz he was the first I seen to give me a shoutout. Also to Ed, Ray, Dew, Syd, Miley, James, Shadow, Miles 1 + 2, D. Perry, Tommy G, Diamond, Knowledge, Run, Sasquatch my baby a.k.a Mr Smooth, Bigfoot a.k.a. Cmurda, Storm, O, Smoke, Dilly, Lefty. If I missed anyone, I love y'all. I love what y'all do at HOAW. Thank y'all so much! Stay safe out there and as always...keep it classy.

With love from ya girl,

~ Lexi Love @ Forest

Let all the hate that comes to you just roll off you because at the end of the day the only thing that matters is standing for what you believe in and if we all got along with each other regardless we could be a stronger force than our oppressors. To Ms. Rachel Marie Whitted: What can you do? Stay strong and be you regardless of your situation. They can't hold your beautiful self in there forever. Some of our siblings don't get that chance girl so cheer up girly I know it sucks ass but things will get better. We have a chance.

~ Harley Rose

Hello Beautiful People

Shout outs to all my closest friends, miss you Zane :) you've always been a flaming heart my steady beating drum *big hugs.* To my 2 spirit sister Jaz hope you're staying out of trouble. To my Big Sis Asia in Mahanoy, I still have the index card we made in class, I truly miss your company. To Nikki I hope this reaches you wherever you are: You are a Queen. Finally to my dearest Friend Sassy Nia I miss you like crazy, you made me Laugh and Smile every Day, Creating an escape for me I have yet to Find Again, You are beautiful and one of a kind. When I left Benner what hurt the most is the possibility of not seeing you again. I pray that you are all safe and well.

~ Ben aka Brazil aka GQ

LETTERS & LOVE

Shout out to my guy who went home missing you bad. Best wishes to Cree, Cassidy, and Mrs. GeGe (long time no see). Hello to Britney, Hannah and Harley Quinn. Ms. Juicy you never got out into pop. here, would have loved your opinion on shit.

I'm a trans woman in a men's institution in PA. Question for anyone in a PA female lock-up. Do they provide state issue adjustable bras?

Can you purchase these on your commissary? I'd have to outside purchase these but being a 46B it's impossible to find. The sports bras on our commissary in larger sizes are all C-D (no support).

Jaina I am responding to your letter in the reissue of #26. I know how sincere you are about your surgery. I pray you get it if you haven't already. My prayers also that you don't hurt yourself! When I met you, I saw a lovely girl in your eyes. That is who you are in your heart, mind and soul. I know how important it is to you to have the outside match the pretty inside your heart. I just pray that others meet the beauty that's in you. I never would have had the courage to do what I do, if I hadn't met you. I'm not all girl inside like you, I'm a variant, but I'm all me. I owe that to you. Thanks and take care.

Nora: I've been at Rockview since 2005, and on HRT 2 1/2 years.

Relax, coming out and transitioning in here is safer and easier than outside. First, get a stack of request slips so you have a paper trail.

Write your counselor, Unit manager, block psych, the PCM (his name is at the bottom of the PREA posters--here he's also the CCPM) and the Psychiatrist. Ask your counselor or block psych who he/she is. Let them know you are coming out to administration as trans. Make sure to ask in the slip to the shrinks to be diagnosed with Gender Dysphoria. The staff here are mostly familiar with TG's. The psychs, the psychiatrist, and the MD who does the HRT know what they are doing. The staff, including officers, mostly are professional about it. The ones with time here have seen everything.

Get a current copy of DC-ADM008 PREA. I consider it a must for TG's. Section 19 is on trans and intersex. The PA Institutional Law Project can help you get one. Don't go PREA crazy, if you have a problem yeah, but if you file PREA complaints for nothing... "the little TG who cried wolf". That doesn't mean to just live with abuse, that shit needs to be told to staff.

From the beginning let every staff member who talks to you about transitioning know the goal is to be diagnosed and start HRT. Just be yourself, do it for you and you alone. You don't have to be like anyone else here or do something because, "the transgender who was here before did it that way."

We're in the same SCI so hopefully, if COVID ever ends, I'll run into you. Good luck and know you're not the only one here, there's a few.

My prayers to everyone that the virus doesn't invade your place, prayers to everyone who has it in their facility, and God Bless anyone who's left us because of it. May 2021 be better for all of us.

Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again.

~ Monica AKA:Mark | GB9963 | SCI-Rockview

Char's Mocha Surprise

*It's an easy no bake recipe.
God bless all of you. Stay on
the grind.*

~ Charmaine Pfender
007423 | Cambridge
Springs

Ingredients:

- 1 cookies (choc chip, whole pack)
- 2 pudding
- 2 chocolate bars
- 2 tsp coffee (dry)
- 3 tsp cappuccino (dry)
- Banana (optional)

Directions

Mix cappuccino + coffee w/hot water in a 1/4 cup
Smash cookies

Mix coffee mixture into cookies until you make a dough.

Make balls of 1" around then flatten to cookie shape.

Put a dollop of pudding on each cookie.

Melt chocolate and drizzle over all cookies

(optional stick a slice of banana in pudding)

Enjoy

LETTERS & LOVE

Angelica Michelle, your story touched me and compelled me to reach out. I hear you sis and I feel your pain...Being a big girl I have had it hard at times. I am a beautiful big bitch I don't need a man nor anyone else to tell me so. Never give anyone the power over you. FUCK 'EM. Unconditionally love yourself, unconditionally accept yourself. You got it poppin' sis, stay up. You hold all the aces! Shouts to Indy, thank you for your shout out and to Miss Outlaw, Malaysia, Harley Quinn and Juicy Queen Bee. A boss bitch can see her own. I would love LOVE to meet you one day. From your Big Sis in NC, love you 110% no matter what. A special shout out to my Loving husband Michael.

Love

~ Natiley AKA Strawberry

Dear Hearts on a Wire,

I've been trying to start my Hormone treatment. This prison is discriminating against me, not allowing me to start transitioning at all. All my family except my mom, my transgender sister, and her fiancé are still in my life. I was an inspiration for my now little brother Jack to become transgender. I would like to give a shout out to Nikki T, Miley S. Fletcher, Alexis Mitchel, Juicy Queen Bee, and all the other's that I did not mention. I miss my friends at SCI Houtzdale. My man Face I love you. Please Stay safe, Wear your masks, and practice social distancing. Love Ya'll.

~ Tiffany Alissa Shannon ||| Thomas A. Bradbury | MM2990 | SCI Albion

Victoria, my love, I love you more than life itself and dread the day I get released and have to be physically separated from you though my heart will be yours forever. No other woman has ever made me so happy. # Gori O Eternally curse

~ Grimmnr Brandonburg

Hearts on a wire,

Daniel ...Baby...I love and miss you...you're my Best friend and Husband...you continue to show me that your love for me is real. I'm holding you down as well. I wish I could come home to you. Shout out to my Bestie and little bro Giovanni... I miss you homie! Also shout out to DeDe...Bitch I knew it...you couldn't fool me! That's cute tho! Allen I'm not going to leave you out.....I got so much love for you and I hope you get paroled...you're still my BooButt LOL! I love you! Thanks to hearts on a wire. You're very supportive.

Love,

~ Mariah Lee Frech @ Mahanoy

Dear HOAW,

Hello! How is everyone doing? I wanna give a shout out to Harley Quinn. "I Have A Dream" was very touching. Are you getting moved to another place? I'd also like to send a shout out to Monica at Rockview. I miss when you were on the Block and we'd laugh. In mid-December I got real sick and they told me I got COVID. Just came back to my Block last night. I hope everyone is well and send my Love to everyone.

~ Your sister CREE

LOVE IS

Jay-Sin Anodyne

Love is Charity, the giving of the self to serve others,
Love is caring for others, letting them be themselves without judgment or stereotype.
Love is kicking in the walls of an antiquated society.

Love is permission to love who you will,
Love sees no race, religion, or gender,
Love only sees character.

Love is an action, not a theory.

(J. Bland 194445, MS)

LETTERS & LOVE

I am Jennifer Rose, a 51 y/o anarchist trans woman in California, cofounder of the Fireant Collective (anarchist prisoner solidarity) and proud member of TGI Justice Project and Red Roses (transfeminist prison collective) among other abolitionist collectives. Shout out to all the founders/organizers/ contributors of the HOAW collective! Also, a shout out to my close sisters, Nina McQueen and the Roses at Mule Creek, my son Keith “Kato” Brown at Salinas Valley (keep yer head up loved one!) and to my sister Jasmine at TGI Justice who I’m so happy for her being freed from captivity since April 2020! Be good, sis! I <3 u! Shoutout to anarchist/trans comrade, Marius Mason, i hope you recover from COVID-19! You’re in my thoughts:) i send love and solidarity 4-ever your way! And, last but not least, my lil sisters who i love and welcome always with all my heart, with great love and respect— Jessica Rabbit, I <3 u! To ALL the Goddess/ Queen sisters who i may not have named, I <3 u! Y’all keep your chins up! Walk with PRIDE as we are ALL beautiful & divine Transwomxn! Queenz up, haters down! :) “Wacc” i love you, babe! Anti fascist Prisoner Solidarity! Transprisoner Solidarity! Good Riddance to “Dumbass Donald” Trump

~ Jennifer Rose

<http://betweenthebars.org/blogs/490/>

#SchoolsNotPrisons #FreeThemAll #ClemencyNow #EmergencyReleaseNow #FreeHer
#SayHerName #BlackTransLivesMatter

Dear H.O.A.W.

Your magazine always brings a smile to my face. My heart belongs to Alexis. Keep your head high my beautiful kitten. I’m currently facing criminal homicide charges stemming from an incident at SCI Houtzdale. So things are way scary right now. I’ve been placed on restricted release, so I’ll be in the RHU 5 yrs or more!! My life is stressful and chaotic... Shoutouts to Skillz, China, Nikki T.

~ Fifty Shades of Jay ||| Jacob Mitchell | LS2414 | SCI Houtzdale

To my HOAW Family Much love and Respect. To the community here at SCI Forest much love. Let’s stop the hate and the pettiness it’s 2021. To my Bro Jersey Savage I am honored to call you my Brother (I am my Brothers keeper). To the one I Love, I worship the ground you walk on hope you see it now for what it is I love you William. Nir wherever you are we had our good times and Bad I Learned a lot being with you I Forgive you, hope you can Forgive me But this is our End we can be Friends. to LI wherever you at keep your head up and Be Safe. To the Star Family much love to my Sister KeKe that was at Green with me and my Bro Smook get at me sis. Harley Quinn GiGi some of ya’ll might know me as Si, Knowledge or Knowledge Star to everyone we all know our name and number lets Reach out and Show Love.

~ Reginald Thomas | GH0074 | SCI Forest

What’s Up Girls, How Are All My Sexy-Ass Babes doing? Shout out to Miss OutLAW, Rebecca Coltfire. I’m Not shy just on some fall back ish... I’d Love to Meet You I think You’re A Cool Woman. Hi Queen Bee Gigi Mariah Sydney Y’All Keep it 100% At All times.

~ Rock | SCI-Houtzdale

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear HOAW,

I just got transferred to SCI. Forest from Fayette. I hope I get to meet you Coda, Miley, JB, Jessica, and everyone else here at Forest. I max out on the 15th of June. I want to say sorry to my brothers and sisters at Fayette. Shout out to Starwars thank you for your friendship and showing me HOAW. I am proud to say that recently I was dis-owned by my step-dad because of me coming out as gay... But now he accepts me for who I am.

Love y'all,

~ Nala GoldenOak | MT9361

Hey! Hey! Hey! It's been 14 months since I've started hormones. I wish I could say it's been easy, but all I will say is that it's been worth it. I'd like to send a message to Buck, wherever you are. Well, it seems you've moved on. That's okay, I have too. I guess no word or contact will do that. I thought you were the love of my life. How wrong I was. I thank you for being there for me during a time that I really needed someone. You loved me before I started this journey. I can't wait for you to see the woman I'm becoming. I even got my name from you.... Kylie. And I'm still going to wear it proudly. You always have a friend in me.

To my Auntie Chan, I love you more than you know! You're the realest woman I've ever met! To my Teddy Bear, thanks for always being there for me. And to Devine.... All I can say is that I love you and thank you for being the strong man that you are.

With love,

~ GiGi @ Somerset

Dear <3's Fam,

I am so thankful for this family--you give me so much strength and comfort. I am a white/asian transgender woman on HRT at a federal prison in PA so if anyone has any questions about the fed system, especially transgender issues (treatment, commissary, etc) I will help any way I can.

They are offering us the covid-19 vaccine so we are hoping that operations can move a little closer to normal here. I hope this is true at all of our facilities. I wish I could offer advice on how to combat loneliness Twinky Bear but I struggle with it too. I just try to remind myself that things could be worse. In my unit I am the only girl--no idea about the compound as we have been isolated since March 2020 but I have no support system here and it gets to me. My heart aches for others to lean on and talk to rather than the constant jokes, insults, and requests for 'favors'. I'm just so thankful for my <3's family.

~ Sydney Hart @ FCI-Allenwood

Miley's Pizza Pockets

Ingredients:

1 pack (6) Tortilla shells
2 Provalone Bricks or
Mozzerella cheese Bricks
2 Pepperoni slices pack
1 Pizza sauce
2 Green olives pouches
1 Lasagna w/ Beef sauce
1 Harbanero spread (8oz)
1 bg. Nacho cheese chips
1 Garlic powder -- 1 onion
powder

Directions:

Shred the
Provalone/Mozzerella
cheese bricks into a bowl.
Cut olives in halves or in
fours into a bowl. Crush a
quarter bag of Nacho
cheese chips into a bag.
Heat Lasagna for 30 minutes
then place on table. Grab 1
Tortilla shell, Take Pizza
sauce spread with a spoon
in a circular manner. 3
Teaspoons of Lasagna
spread into mixture. Take
provalone shredded cheese
(or mozzarella cheese) in
middle of the Tortilla shell,
add a sprinkle of olives, Take
3 slices of pepperoni into
halves place them on top of
cheese, sprinkle crushed
nacho cheese chips on top.
With a dash of Garlic
powder a dash of onion
powder. Take left side of
Tortilla shell, spread
Haranero cheese spread on
inside and Flip the right over
it. Hold for 2 seconds Then
close each end the same
way. Put in heat for 30
minutes.

ENJOY!

LETTERS & LOVE

To tha whole H.O.A.W. I want 2 say that due 2 this Covid crap still goin on I lost a very #Important person in my life, my mom passed away on 8-2-20 @ 4:19 pm (that's my Birthday), this has put a deep hole in my life, even tho we neva really spoke she's tha mother who birth me n I will always love her with all my heart. My mind will neva be tha same or should I say (my life), this hurts me so much that @ times I think of bein were she is but I know she would want the best 4 me, im hurt'n so deep, Mom I wrote you a poem its called "A Mother's love," R.I.P. Shorty <3, I will miss you deeply. Please, everybody I need you...

~ Your son Prettyboi Jay

A MOTHER'S LOVE

Prettyboi Jay

I want to Congratulate you for being the best mother you could be. For nurturing, Raising & Loving me. For caring for me when I was too young to care for myself. For giving me the time & Patience that I couldn't get from anyone else. For giving me your loyalty & staying true to your word. And most importantly for bringing me into this world. You held me close in times of need, You forgave me & You didn't expect anything back. If life was a contest, You'll deserve the best mother achievement award for that, but life isn't a contest & No one can compare to you, because no degrees of kindness could amount to the things that you do. No degree of love Could amount to how special you are. And to me you are far beyond Above any star. To me you mean more than anyone or anything below or above. For nothing in this world could amount to #A MOTHER'S LOVE.

Dear family,
I would like to send Love, Peace, and Tranquillity during this covid-19, to All my brother's and sister's in the community. Shout out to my Bro, MC aka (fox) and a special shoutout to Alexis, Swerve, and Precious in the feds. i truly miss y'all.

~ Day-Day

I love how during this dark time everyone continues to stay bright and show mad love. This is truly a great family! I want to give a special shoutout to the most important person in my life... my infinite & eternal love Octévien. I love you baby and come January 24th we will be 3 years strong. This is only the beginning my Angel so Happy Anniversary!! Our team is unbeatable! I also want to shoutout my Homie Chop and Blue magic. I'm still here! To Tara and Miley, I'm no stranger lol Oh and Niiki I want to thank you for keeping the love of my life on your hip and making sure everything is alright. I hope y'all and your family stay safe and healthy as well as the rest of the HOAW Family in Benner and out in the real world. Much love. Peace !

~ Spade | SCI Benner

Dear Hearts:

I've been struggling mentally, emotionally & spiritually. I am finally to a point where I am able to Accept who I am as a person & Love me for me. I've gone back to practicing my religion and dealing with those in our community who don't bring Drama into my life. I wish we could all unite together, but for now our fractured family is as good as it's gonna get.

Shout out to my Bro Indy, keep writing. Huge shout out to Lena from the Outside Collective: You've been here for me thru some very Tough Times, I love you so much. Shout out to everyone else. Hold your head up.

~ Pryme @ Greene HL7919

LETTERS & LOVE

Dear HOAW,

I am new but am absolutely impressed and amazed with the contents. I am proud to see this supportive platform as a means to vent, communicate, and to simply express ourselves. Many may call me a 'newbie' or 'novice' not only to the prison life but to the LGBTQ Community. Unfortunately due to a stupid choice that I've made in 2015 I did 3 years in the county jail @ C.F.C.F. in Philly before the DOC decided to start giving me a tour through Pennsylvania—Phoenix, Camp Hill, Waymart, Smithfield and now Benner. I've been here since 01-28-21. From what I'm told this institution has a very large community and support group. I may not be able to take advantage of everything that's available here because of the pandemic restrictions but hopefully I get the chance to meet my brothers and sisters. To the community @ Benner is there anything that this newbie should know about? Can somebody give me the lay of the land? Don't want to overstep boundaries!

The down side of this move is that I don't have my king next to me. A huge shout to my fiancé Vonny. Hopefully you're on the next bus here. Soon enough we will reunite and live out our lives. La Reina y El Rey en este lucha eres inseparable! I love you dearly and can't wait to cuddle wit you again. You better 'behave' so that we can get home, get our dogs, and get the \$\$\$\$. We got goals & plans to fulfill and accomplish. Mimi sends you mucho besos y abrazos and says to stay strong.

~ @ Kashlee_Vasquez

TWO HEARTS

Monica

Yearning to feel that warm loving embrace
and your soft gentle touch upon my face
You're the sweetest love I now long to taste.
Those passion packed lips that softly kissed mine
And our tongues touched and then slowly entwined.
Our two hearts melted and our spirits combined.
My soul is with you now 'till the end of our time.
I'll tell you this, I'm all yours now, it's true
Though the distance now hurts, it makes me so blue.
Forever in my heart I still will always have you.
I miss your taste, your touch, your feel, your scent.
These feelings for you that some others resent.
Now here to you Babe, my heart is sent.
We will again hold each other close and so much more.
All day and night long our love passions will soar.
Our two heart and souls will melt as one, forevermore.

To All the friends of the LGBTQ community, And beyond.

I read your letters and realize just how blessed I am. I have been able to do me from day one. I see the looks, and hear the whispers, but don't care. I don't know where my audacity comes from, but I wish it to all who are holding back from being themselves. I may be in prison, but I have the choice to be me, and I'll take it. All of us have a choice. Not all are strong enough to take it. For whatever reason. But each of us is complete in our own way. Remember that! Know that! You are loved. I don't personally know each of you, but Love you individually. Shout out to Taz, Hey buddy! And To Mariah my besty. You can count on me loving you forever. And to the whole LGBTQ community at Mahanoy. You matter!

~ Sage Nicole ||| AKA Sherman Graham | Mahanoy

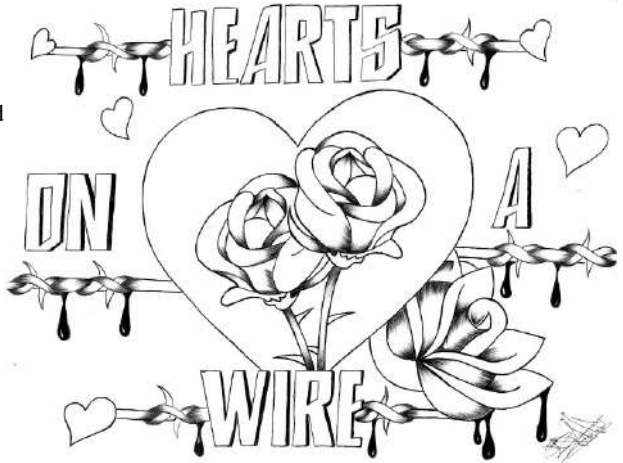
How is the family doing? I am still struggling with my health. I want to tell my future wife DeDe that I love you Beautiful! We are growing deeper in love. Stay strong and keep faith. I listen to We Belong Together every day. To my brother Shadow, Love you! Everybody: we need to stay strong as a community and not fight each other.

Peace and Love to All!

~ Drew

LETTERS & LOVE

I see that many people struggle with who they are & others who don't accept them. My experiences made me who I am today. I may've not had a fair draw, but I'm alive & it could be worse. I've come to the realization that the world isn't fair. And no matter how good you are, no matter how much you give to others, someone is always going to hate you for no other reason than the fact that you breathe. You can't help that. You can't change people once they've allowed them to get twisted by hatred. But you can



by Shayalanna

change how you deal w/ them. Never back down, but walk away when you can & fight when you must. Whatever you do don't give them the power to hurt you. Live your life for yourself. Stay true to yourself & if they can't see the beauty that is you, it's their loss. Let the bitterness take them to their graves. Spend your time on what matters most. Being you & appreciating the people who see you for who & what you are. They're all that matters. The rest can go to hell. You guys are a tight community. Thrive on that. Keep your head up.

~ Brandon Austill | HD6211 Houtzdale

Hey Hearts on a Wire; sending my love and hellos to all my brothers/ Sisters and more inside. Much love to all my girls and boys here at MaHanoy. Corona sucks, with the prison basically on lock down, very limited moving around, I understand and appreciate it, but still, it sucks. I make the best of it you know? Like I have sewed some really sexy outfits. Here's tips for making oneself look and feel sexy in prison; I call it a day at Janel's prison spa: First I shower using Dove soap from head to toes. I shave my legs, arm pits, and private area. I clean a girl out really good. I soak my feet in warm water in my wash bucket filled with salt, lotion and conditioner for a half hour, then I trim my toenails and do a pedicure using a piece of sandpaper. Then I lotion my feet up; they're so soft and look so nice. I use acrylic red paint, they look really sexy. I then use a mixture of lotion, melted cocoa butter stick and hair conditioner all over my body/skin, it works wonders. I use hemorrhoid cream around my anus to keep the vag tight... and on my face and hands to tighten any wrinkles. Then I put on my sexiest underwear and I make my lover happy, he loves Janel's spa day. So yah, feel free to use Janel's prison spa secrets, Love to ya. Rainbow Pride!

~ Ms. Janel OXOX

Hi fam

shout out to all my LGBTQ family all over the world. Love one another, and be kind to one another. Special shout out to the love of my life my queen Mariah. Hope all is well with you i truly miss you my love. be safe and get at your King!

Sincerely yours,

~ ButtButt

YOUR WORTH

Lisa Jackson

Some search the earth's rocks
for shimmering gold,

Others sail the oceans
pursuing wealth untold.

I need not scale mountains,
can forsake the storming sea;
To find my treasure trove
my eyes look beside me.

There is my rock, my reason,
my moor
never discouraged
even when I'm unsure.

It is said to find Love
Simply don't strive
you found my heart
* barely alive.

Both our hearts split in two
from so much hurt and pain
How could we ever hope
to dive in again?
Candle of hope lit up the way
Lips saying "come to me"
Arms welcoming to stay.

Tried to be insecure
Attempted to be scared.
It would not take root
where true love flared.

Your worth comfort, Soothe, heal,
Wonder how you already
know how I feel?

* I found you once bitten
yet ready to try
Defeating all obstacles
between you and I

Others may scoff,
they may even doubt
They've not walked in our shoes

Along recovery's route
As these eyes lift
your words from pages
I no longer live
surrounded by cages

A different time, a grander place
Leading the race
yet not part of the chase
Had to open up sooner or later
How could I know
your pain would be greater?

LETTERS & LOVE

Dede/Didi @ Forest I always seek your Articles/Entries first. Your realness, Honesty, and confidence drew me to you as your qualities mirror my own. You're motivation and I need people like you in my circle. Miss Outlaw @ Greene Hey Crazy Lady :) You following me? Much love. Harley Quinn— I didn't even know you were here! :(sorry I missed you! You know it's love always here. Twinky Bear @ Frackville The glimpse of your more serious side in issue #29 was very much welcome. Keep writing. Live in your head to deal with solitude. That's the best escape. I've been in solitary since 9-26-17, I know. TTYL. Beautiful.

Malaysia in Tennessee Keep showing them haters we not pushovers. Respect. Same goes for you Kasey Renee in Georgia and your Art was HOT! LOL! Remy& Cupcake

Don't be sad or ashamed. Infighting in our LGBT Family is very common. The best we can do is lead by example.

Families have problems but we still stick together... or should! Drew Keep your head up. Send Shadow my love.

Ravyn your advice was on point. It a must to get to know someone before you invest emotionally. Angelica Michelle in Florida Plz stay away from that ledge. You are loved and beautiful. There is beauty in us all. Some people just don't see it. I love you. Don't let the Haters win. Nir Loved Toil, Hope you write more Tara Helluva question "When was America ever great?" Only in thought. Never in reality. Love that Tara. Miley of forest We all need to embrace self criticism like you did. True change starts in the mirror.

Oowee Your entry was real but made me laugh. I follow you. Ceci Man is still learning.. I love it. That is True Anti-conformist thinking. Hope you write again.

~ Indy A.K.A. Antoine Walker, KG7791 @ SCI Greene

Shout out to HOAW and the outside collective without you everything would be a little grayer. To my girls Amber, Harmony and Breezy I miss yall keep your head up. To Bobby (xo) Harley Quinn and Adrian and Katrina. And to Molly I need you to come out so behave => Becca this separation is crazy but you're still in my heart. Lastly shout out to my homie: we followed each other from jail to jail and block to block over the last 7 years my loyalty runs deep

With Beauty Love & Pride

~ Stay AKA Kas or Kasper

LETTERS & LOVE

Hey Hearts,

I am #FREEayana! I've been receiving the newsletter for 3 years, and I am truly inspired by the resilience of all who brave their souls by contributing their stories. This is my 1st time writing in. Like most of you, I've been surviving in, and fighting the FBOP since 2010! i've filed grievances and been denied more times than I can count! A stone-cold merry-go-round! #TIMESUP!

Now back to my PA and USA trans sisters: Lets give it up for the girls in California State that won the landmark trans housing lawsuit! And let's give it up for our sister Cristina Iglesias (S. Dist., IL, 2019)! Ms.Iglesias has just been picked up by ACLU of Illinois. Her lawyer Mr.Knight has stated that the ACLU is trying to talk to as many Federal Trans inmates as possible. Cristina filed for RLE, Electrolysis, Gender Confirmation Surgery, and Gender Affirming Housing. So to my Federal and state family: #TIMESUP! If we all file similar grievances all the way to the top our rights would be realized! Once filed to the top, mail a copy of the denied grievance to your state ACLU office and reference the *Iglesias* and California cases, and ask if they can help you! There's power in numbers! Stay tuned!

Optimistically yours,

~ #FreeAyana

Shout out to my handsome fiancé Chris @ MCI-H in Maryland. I love you sweetie! I'll be home in Feb. 2021.

To my girl Miley, thank you and I'm smiling big bitch! I'm glad you like the "Buns In The Oven." LMFAO, Chris had the shirt made for me. To all my beautiful sisters, Porsha, Chloe, Leah; Shawnte, (Chanel I love you sis), Mia, Miley, Cardi B, Jesika, Pharah, Tootsie, Ms. Kenny, Kim, Myesha, Amber, sexy ass Ms. Kennedy (smile), Lexi, (Anita my beautiful daughter), GiGi, Liara, De'neisha, Alyssa, Sweet pea, Shay, Ms. Sincere Allah, Ms. Big Sexy. I send my love & support to you all. To my brothers Reese, Blade, Nephew, Link, my lil hateful son Lil Dee. I send my love & support to you all. Brother Larry I send my love. None of you will be forgotten, my phone is open for you all to call, this struggle is to be done together. I'm here for you. Love to you all. Chris & Miley get at me ASAP.

<3 Mrs. Jasmine Lynn Tetlow-Bolen

SAFE PLEASURE

Ms. Janel

I am with the HIV virus,
But undetectable,
With the meds and being
undetectable,
If an accident occurs your partner
has less chance of contracting the
virus...

I'm a very sexual being, love
pleasing a man or two LOL!!!
If one don't have a condom,
Improvise by using a double piece
of saran wrap,
I wrap my partner's penis
Leaving about a two finger space at
the top

For him to cum in,
Then I wrap the entire shaft of the
penis down to the base
I come underneath but around his
balls,
Up the crack of his to his
back/waist,

Then i tie it around my man's waist,
And he looks cute wearing it.
I take most of the men I play with
take an HIV test so I know,
And i only suggest swallowing if the
man's negative

Because we can reinfect ourselves
with a different strand of the virus.
If your man is negative the real fun
begins,

You still want to wrap the penis so
you don't possibly infect him,
Even though being undetected
makes it harder to pass.
If you want to feel his cum inside
you,

Have him pull out, tear off the
plastic wrap and have him cum on
your anus

And he can finger you with his
cum...safe fun y'all.
If your man wants to be penetrated,
same method for us girls
Wrap to protect before pleasure is
my motto.

I love performing oral sex...if my
man's negative and I see the
results, it's yard out girls.
This for my new girls and my old
girls, you're never too young or old
to learn new tricks.
Love, harmony and good safe sex
y'all.

LETTERS & LOVE

Hello HOAW family! First off, let us have a moment of silence to not just all the brothers and sisters we lost within the LGBTQ community to covid-19 but to all the loved ones we lost in general this past year. Now HOAW family I need some advice and feedback. I came out to my mom and two brothers a long time ago about my sexuality including my oldest daughter and I previously started my hormones in November 2020 however I have not told my dad yet, now he and my mom are still together and she's against me telling him because I am his one and only son biologically my two brothers are his stepsons so she thinks it would be too much for him to find out I am not only gay however I am a girl also. I feel as though I am ready to tell him for the fact of me not wanting to be surprised in three years if I make parole and pop up at their door with a chest full of breast to have the door slammed in my face. The reason this burden is so heavy is because my entire family accepted me with open arms so I'm stuck on the fence asking myself why wouldn't my father accept me even though my brothers, mother and oldest daughter accepted me? So HOAW should I tell him now or respect my mom's wishes and wait until I am released. Shoutouts to all my brothers and sisters @ SCI Benner especially to my husband Mazjin I love you babe and To all my brothers and sisters out in the world and around the globe and remember wear a mask, stay safe stay healthy and, stay well.

Love ,

~ Egypt Ily Moore ||| James J Alston | MP7734 | SCI Benner

To all my transgender girls,

I love all of your inspiring messages. They are very helpful. I've been on my hormone medications for about 3 1/2 years now and I feel very proud & sexy & beautiful of who I am & I won't change it for no one. I am going to be very happy when I get my surgery done. I've been working to change my voice to become more feminine & it helps. I just lost the love of my life to a major stroke after 18 years of marriage on 11-26-20 right on Thanksgiving. We had our plans set for our future but they were crushed. Her name was Darlene. I want to know if I should keep the plans we made together or give them up. Here are a few of them that we were planning to do: raise rabbits & buy two clydesdale horses. Also about 3 1/2 weeks ago I was sexually assaulted by a prison guard. He grabbed my breast & the prison officials will do nothing about it so I filed a PREA complaint & lawsuit & he also stares at me when I am using the restroom & verbally harasses me with comments like bitch show me your tits. What more can I do cause they refuse to transfer me and he is retaliating against me? Send me your feedback: To all my sisters that are still fighting to start hormone medications to be yourself believe me it is hard to do at first but it will happen soon. Stay strong Girls. love you all.

~ Ms Rachel Marie Whitted



LETTERS & LOVE

Much Love to Hearts on a Wire,

In the fall issue I saw a request for make up tips. Here, they refuse to sell makeup to transgenders. So I know the struggle. And Craybeline make up is only good if it looks legit! Here are some tricks for the pro look that we all desire. First you need a paint brush. Not just any, you need a fine one for liquid eyeliner. You'll need a black pencil approximately 4 inches long. Split it carefully in two by standing the pencil up in an erect position, holding a loose blade at both ends and cutting downward. Do not stand pencil on body parts. Use a table. The black lead is for later, it practically falls out if you just cut on the edge of one side as you split the pencil. Lay both sides of the split pencil to the side. Trip 3 1/2 to 4 inch piece of you or your friends hair about the thickness of the lead. Wrap the hair in thread securely and tie into a knot at one end and place between the two pencils. Glue together if available. If not wrap and tie with thread. Trim with sharp nail clippers. I have thick and thin ones of all shapes. Now you can make liquid eye liner by crushing the lead with a deodorant container or coffee mug until in a fine powder. Get all of the chunks crushed. Place in a toothpaste tap and add nine drops of water to 1/2 inch piece of lead. Let sit 6-8 minutes and mix well. Now you can do cat eyes baby girl. If you shave your brows, you can paint them by using brown. If its too reddish add a small amount of hunter green RoseArt. IT takes several coats for brows but we've got nothing but time. Coat eyebrows with thin layer of lotion applied with brush to keep from cracking. You can add a small amount of toothpaste (gel toothpaste only) to black liner and use as mascara by applying several thin coats with a q tip. It holds up good in wet climates too because the lead is wax based. Eye shadow can be achieved by taking a damp (not too wet) q tip and drawing all over it with desired color and gently applying by rubbing in the desired areas of the eye lid. And you can wet the tip of a red pencil and draw on the cheekbone, then massage into skin to achieve the look of blush. All liners and brow paint can be used by adding more water and works best if you make the night before. It gives the lead time to fully dissolve. But you can use right away. Have fun ladies and rock your new look. Keep me posted on your results. I'm always up to try new things and am open for questions. Inspired by Victoria Michelle's inquiry from Death Row.

+With Love+

~ Allena Richie | Joe Ney Unit | Hondo Tx.

I just got my first booklet of HOAW and I'm amazed at all the love and support our community are showing each other. We need that now more than ever. True story! To all my LGBTQ sisters and brothers, hold your head up. We are strong together. I love the strength y'all show. To Jersey Savage @ SCI-Forest Jersey stand up! Much love to you. My right hand Drew, I love you bruh we fam 'till I'm in a box. Juan I miss you son. Shout out to Mama Penny, Dede, JLo love you girl, Indy at Greene what up? Much love to Peeches AKA Niara. Twinky Bear AKA Jail House wife stay strong no matter what. It's hard to fight loneliness in isolation but I believe that whatever deity you may serve will open a door for you to be able to overcome the loneliness you feel. I believe in you. Angela Michelle, I'm sorry that you've endured such terrible treatment but don't give up the fight even if it feels like a losing battle--It not. Much love and respect you. To anyone who would like to contact me, then get at me. I would love to communicate with y'all. Merry meet, merry part and merry meet again.

Blessed be

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

LETTERS & LOVE

I Send My Love & Shout Outs To The Following...
Di-Di @ Forest I Love You Girl & I'm Glad We're
Finally Together I'm Holding You Down. Ty & Run I
Love Y'all More Than You'll Ever Know. SJ
Dominicunu What's up? Stay Sucka Free. Miley How
Have You Been? I Miss You. If You Don't Remember
Me Ask Di-Di Who I Am. Mariah Snow Ball @ SCI
Mahanoy I Miss You Sis I Wish You Were Here Still
"Pussy Face" Loves You Stay Safe & Sucka Free. T-Cup
@ Forest I Send My Love & Appreciation To you for
Making Sure Or At least Trying To Make Sure That My
Girl Di-Di Stays Out Of Harms Way & Trouble Thank
You... Anastasia @ Forest Stay Out Of Trouble &
Remain Strong. J.B. @ Forest I Love You Bro Stay Up!!
Jersey Savage @ Forest Stay Up!! Omar @ Forest Stay
Up & Thank You for Always Keeping Me On My Toes.
Five Cent Thank you As Well for Staying On My Behind
As Well... One More Shout Out To Miss Harley Quinn
'Won't Somebody Help Me' Twinky Bear 'Bullied By
Exclusion' The Things Y'all Wrote Were Extremely Real
& Truly Hit Home for Me Thank you...

In Loving Solidarity

~ Armani @ Forest

STARS!!! Stand up, stand tall...We love one another, we
lift one another. Everyday won't be the best days, but we
still don't leave one another. It's the love I have for the
LGBTQ's. #We Matter. I was in dark places, but I'm back
and better. Remy-- Go Star! I'm going to e-mail you as
soon as I get out on Oct. 5, 2021, OK? We going to
expand. I'm starting a chapter in the streets. I want to
team up with HOAW to start my own LGBTQ pen-pal
site for you all. My brother's passing taught me to love,
not hate. Ovis Anabel, Let's come together and bring this
community together! Indy, keep reaching out, that's what
we need! Zoe, I know you mad, but we grew alot. I'm still
going to be there for you. Kylie at Somerset... 9 more
months. You will see how real I am...Angelica Michelle,
I'm going to hit up what as soon as I can... Keep your
head. Stay beautiful. Knowledge, send me you and
Shadow's info. They took it. Angelica, do they got
mailing restrictions at FSP? I'm out! Love all of y'all.
Peace

~ L-Star (Starwars) SCI Fayette

I GOT A MESSAGE

Daniir Malloy

Desire and envy, it never gets old,
secret chapters of their stories
untold.
The show has to be silent, you can't
say a peak, when I'm around the
guys, you know I will not speak.
—I endure this journey openly every
single day, with my feelings you
think you got play?
Some of us clock out, the pain they
cannot bear, too hard to
comprehend why life is so unfair.
Ridicule and insults, that's usually
predated, slowly but shortly they
self-esteem faded.
Call me stuck up, throw your shade!
Tell me why you mad, cause you
want to get laid.
Do I look like a mannequin in a store
with a tag, well I might bust it open if
you throw me the \$bag\$.
I would like to inform the masses,
being different is not a curse, I can
proudly say I know my self worth.
You won't mask your issues and try
to bring me down.
I have been to the circus, I can
always spot a clown.
Overcome with passion, indignant
by senseless acts of hate, false
entitlement to judge cause they
can't relate.
Let's take our toil and turn it into
treasure, use our experiences to
help somebody else feel better.
I got your back, do you got mine?
For them haters we have no time.
Let's come together and thrive as
one, don't give up, our lives has just
begun!
Let your rainbow shine, oh so bright!
Know you are not alone in this fight.
Don't ever apologize for being
unique, I sincerely mean every word
I speak.
My shoulder is here when you need
to lean, your humanity is relevant so
choose your dreams. Persevere in
pride every day.

WHAT IS ABOLITION?

Hearts on a Wire Outside Collective

In the HOAW Outside Collective, many of us identify as prison abolitionists. We wanted to publish this article to share what that means to us! We also want to emphasize that we see our Inside Trans members as leading this collective, and acknowledge that not all of our members identify as abolitionists. And that is totally okay! We are hoping to hear your thoughts on this in the next issue of the newsletter. Check out the prompt on the back page.

**Excerpted & Reprinted from Mariame Kaba's article,
"So You're Thinking About Becoming an Abolitionist" on level.medium.com**

Prison industrial complex (PIC) abolition is a political vision, a structural analysis of oppression, and a practical organizing strategy. While some people might think of abolition as primarily a negative project — “Let’s tear everything down tomorrow and hope for the best” — PIC abolition is a vision of a restructured society in a world where we have everything we need: food, shelter, education, health, art, beauty, clean water, and more. Things that are foundational to our personal and community safety.

Every vision is also a map. PIC abolition is a positive project that focuses, in part, on building a society where it is possible to address harm without relying on structural forms of oppression or the violent systems that increase it.

Some people may ask, “Does this mean that I can never call the cops if my life is in serious danger?” Abolition does not center that question. Instead, abolition challenges us to ask, “Why do we have no other well-resourced options?” and pushes us to creatively consider how we can grow, build, and try other avenues to reduce harm. Repeated attempts to improve the sole option offered by the state, despite how consistently corrupt and injurious it has proven itself, will neither reduce nor address the harm that actually required the call. We need more and effective options for the greatest number of people.

An abolitionist journey ignites other questions capable of meaningful and transformative pathways: What work do prisons and policing actually do? Most people assume that incarceration helps to reduce violence and crime.

Facts and history tell a different story: Increasing rates of incarceration have a minimal impact on crime rates. Research and common sense suggest that economic precarity is correlated with higher crime rates. Moreover, crime and harm are not synonymous. All that is criminalized isn’t harmful, and all harm isn’t necessarily criminalized. For example, wage theft by employers isn’t generally criminalized, but it is definitely harmful.

WHAT IS ABOLITION?

continued

A world without harm isn't possible and isn't what an abolitionist vision purports to achieve. Rather, abolitionist politics and practice contend that disposing of people, by locking them away in jails and prisons, does nothing significant to prevent, reduce, or transform harm. It rarely encourages people to take accountability for their actions. Instead, our adversarial court system discourages people from ever acknowledging, let alone taking responsibility, for the harm they have caused. At the same time, it allows us to avoid our own responsibilities to hold each other accountable, instead delegating it to a third party — one that has been built to hide away social and political failures. An abolitionist imagination takes us along a different path than if we try to simply replace the PIC with similar structures.

Let's begin our abolitionist journey not with the question "What do we have now and how can we make it better?" Instead, let's ask, "What can we imagine for ourselves and the world?" If we do that, then boundless possibilities of a more just world await us.



by Six

BOOKS & PENPAL RESOURCES

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

Send a letter that includes your name, prisoner ID number, full address, any restrictions on incoming books, and types of books wanted. Make your request by subject rather than specific title or author, and provide several areas of interest if possible. For example, African-American history, basic math, carpentry, how to draw.

Please be patient. These programs get many requests, it may take a while.

Black & Pink and the **Montreal Prisoner Correspondence Project** are two pen pal organizations that match incarcerated members of the LGBT community anywhere in the country (and in Canada). Another nationwide organization that matches incarcerated transgender people to pen pals is the **Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project**.

Additionally, there are several state organizations. The **Sylvia Rivera Law Project** corresponds with transgender people incarcerated in New York State, and the **Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project** supports trans and intersex people incarcerated in California.

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

Books Through Bars

4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143

Book'Em - Pittsburgh

PO Box 71357
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Books For Prisoners at UCSD

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

Black and Pink

6223 Maple St #4600
Omaha, NE 68104

Prisoner Correspondence Project

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

Midwest Trans Prisoner Pen Pal Project

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

Sylvia Rivera Law Project

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

Transgender, Gender Variant & Intersex Justice Project

370 Turk St #370
San Francisco, CA 94102

LEGAL RESOURCES

PA Institutional Law Project Philadelphia

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

PA Institutional Law Project Lewisburg

P.O. Box 128
Lewisburg, PA 17837

PA Institutional Law Project Pittsburgh

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

Mazzoni Center Legal Services

1348 Bainbridge Street
Philadelphia, PA 19147

PA Innocence Project

1515 Market Street, Suite 300
Philadelphia, PA 19102

ACLU Pittsburgh Office

313 Atwood St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

ACLU Philadelphia

PO Box 40008
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Transgender Law Center

PO Box 70976
Oakland, CA 94612-0976

Lambda Legal

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

NCLR National Office

870 Market Street Suite 370
San Francisco CA 94102

GLAD

18 Tremont, Suite 950
Boston, MA 02108

TLDEF

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WRITE TO US! SUBMISSIONS

Rules & Guidelines

You can send us...

Letters | 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:

What are your thoughts and feelings after reading the article on prison abolition (page 36-37)? Is there anything you feel excited about? What scares you about these ideas? What questions came up for you? We want to hear it all!

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.** Note that since Fall 2020 we no longer publish full addresses as this leads to the newsletter being barred in many 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 reserve the right to publish excerpts and to make edits.**

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

PILOT PROGRAM

We are experimenting with virtual visits between inside and outside Hearts on a Wire community members. This pilot program is limited to **Transgender** members in **PA DOC** facilities. If you are Trans 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 get the ball rolling.

Hearts on a Wire
1315 Spruce St
Philadelphia, PA 19107