



MIDWEST RAINBOW NEWS



NOVEMBER 2022

VOL. 2 ISSUE 11

"There will not be a magic day when we wake up and it's now okay to express ourselves publicly. We make that day by doing things publicly until it's simply the way things are."
-Tammy Baldwin, became 1st openly gay US senator in 2013

HOUSEKEEPING

DISCLAIMER

The ideas and opinions in the Midwest Rainbow News are solely those of our contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Midwest Rainbow News.

The Midwest Rainbow News makes no representations as to the accuracy of statements made by individual authors, including but not limited to legal and medical information.

By sending submissions to the Midwest Rainbow News, you are agreeing to have your submission published. We may edit submissions to fit our anti-oppression values and/or our own editing guidelines.

Missing your copy?

We had some trouble last month with several camps rejecting the newsletter due to the new mail policy, but we are working on fixing that! If you didn't get the first issue of Midwest Rainbow News last month, look for last month's and this month's coming to you from FL.

Midwest Rainbow News
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MAMA SAYS

November is here and who would have guessed it!! The trees have almost magically changed their coats to every fall color and the grass is mostly all brown. Yes, children of all ages, it is that magical time of year once again.

November 20th is Transgender Day of Remembrance. Let us all take some time to remember those who have fallen. Every one of us knows beautiful souls who have left us by natural causes, cancer, suicide, or other acts of violence. Speak their names, offer a prayer, and do not let them be forgotten!

This month and next month can be two of the hardest months for anyone serving time. Some of us isolate, wrapped in our own cocoon of depression. Those are members of our family who need us most! They need to know that they are loved, needed and appreciated!

For those still having problems receiving the News, please be patient. Our Co-Founder and Editor is working hard to resolve any remaining issues. I'm sorry I can't say more at this time, but rest assured that there are some very competent people working to solve the problem.

Our whole community is truly blessed in so many ways. We have so many people who are working hard for the betterment of our community. Unfortunately, I can't identify who or what they are working on, but know this, there are people out there who care.

I am truly thankful to have all of you, my loving extended family!
With a Mothers Love,
Patricia

FROM THE EDITOR:

Thank you to everyone who wrote to the Midwest Rainbow News this month. If your name is in the heart to the right, we received your submission but weren't able to publish some or all of it, probably because it was a personal message. We do not publish personal messages from or to our readers. Thank you for your time and creativity!

Special thanks to:



For writing us this month!

WRITE FOR US!

We are actively seeking material from our readers to publish in future issues. We will no longer publish messages from one reader to another.

We are looking for:

- Articles with accurate information about relevant DOC policies, legal developments, and current affairs (cite your sources!)
- Tips, life-hacks, and how-to articles that our readers would find useful
- Media recommendations – books, authors, podcasts, tv, movies etc. Preference given to free things. Write a little bit about why you're recommending it and/or what you got from it.
- Personal essays on topics relevant to our community, including but not limited to: mental health, personal growth, what sucks about being LGBTQ in prison, what's cool about being LGBTQ in prison, pride, shame, self-acceptance, friendship, liberation from oppression, dealing with difficult family relationships, etc.
- Good news – if you have something to celebrate!
- Reports from your camp on conditions for LGBTQ prisoners
- Responses – If you have something constructive to add to a particular conversation, you can write a response to a previously published piece

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO OUR PO BOX OR THE
BLACK-PINK GAZETTE TABLET CONTACT

IF YOU'RE A NEW SUBSCRIBER AND DON'T HAVE THE CONTACT ON YOUR
TABLET YET, PLEASE BE PATIENT. IF YOU'RE STILL MISSING THE CONTACT
AFTER A COUPLE WEEKS, WRITE TO OUR PO BOX.

CHOCOLATE DROP SUGAR COOKIES

Ingredients

- 2 (16 oz.) packages vanilla wafers
- 9 TBSP hot water
- 1 coffee mug hot cocoa mix
- 5 sweeteners or 8 sugar cubs
- 1/2 (3oz) ramen noodles don't use seasoning package
- 1 (12 oz) sundrop or 7up soda

Directions

1. Crush vanilla wafers as fine as possible (to a flour-like consistency if you can) and put in a large bowl.
2. Add sugar cubes or sweeteners and hot water and knead into a thick pliable dough. Put half of the ramen noodles into a cocoa bag and crush ramen into a fine powder, Then crush the other half and save the other half for something else.
3. Using another bowl combine ramen, hot cocoa mix, add a 1/4 coffee mug of soda and mix very well. Set the bowl aside for a moment.
4. Now divide cookie mixture into several pieces and roll it into balls. Place on plain white paper or a chip bag.
5. Using your thumb, press a dent into each ball. Carefully take the chocolate mixture and fill in all these dents, It's OK if some runs down the sides. You can use a spoon and flatten the cookies a little more or leave as is. Allow to dry for 2-3 hours before you eat them. Your time will be appreciated by most you give them to.

Happy Thanksgiving
Stay Warm and Safe this Winter
Michelle Sauce Queen Miller

HANG IN THERE, LITTLE CATERPILLAR

There are times when one comes into themselves. Many of us who live as how we are born do not really have true happiness. A true happiness evades us until a spark ignites a fire within and our real self emerges. Like a caterpillar that eats and eats, getting fat on the knowledge of life, and forms a cocoon to develop into its true form. We are like that caterpillar who eventually comes into itself, emerging as a beautiful butterfly.

To all of those who are still in your caterpillar stage. Emerging as your true, beautiful, exquisite, wonderful butterfly self is the most exhilarating thing you can ever experience!

Worry not what others think or feel, for there is a true family out here that will love, accept, and cherish you as the most special and beautiful person that you are!

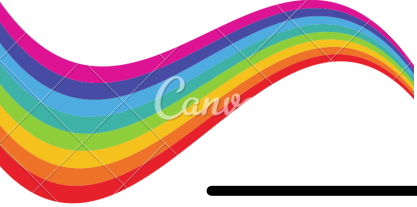
I have become one of those butterflies. My name is Skylar and I am trans and people love and accept me. And I have found a family that has chosen me as I have chosen them. Love yourself and we will love you even if you don't love yourself right now! Peace, love, and happiness is right here for you.

---Sky

SELF-CARE TIP FROM LEXIE

Make a nice smelling lotion by mixing equal parts Suave Cocoa Butter lotion or regular Suave Lotion, Sunblock or the Eucerin cream if you can get it, and Conditioner. I like pantene or suave morroccan.





RAINBOW NEWS RECOMMENDATIONS

Watch, read, or listen to something you think others might like? Write us with your recs and we'll include them below



LEXIE

There are three movies playing on TCM in November that are centered around LGBTQIA+ folks.

Boys Don't Cry November 26 9:15pm central.
A young transgender man explores his gender identity.

Brokeback Mountain November 27 9pm central
Two cowboys maintain a secret romance over many years.

Philadelphia November 20 9:15pm central
Fired by his firm, a lawyer with aids fights back.

DIAMOND

2 TV shows for the brothers and sisters who enjoy the dark side:

Chucky - Syfy Channel - Wednesdays at 8pm, currently on season 2
LGBTQ represented in the show as "Glen and Glenda" twins who are on nonbinary (Glen is glam and Glenda is grunge) and "Jake and Devin" a gay couple.

Interview with a Vampire - AMC - Sundays at 9pm, currently on season 1. A gay black man is turned into a vampire by his white lover in 1700's New Orleans

THE PRISON JOURNALISM PROJECT

The Prison Journalism Project is a great place for any prisoner to express their views while working to establish themselves as a credible writer and journalist. Many first time authors have been published on the Prison Journalism website. It only takes imagination and willingness to write your story. It is 100% free, costs you only time and dedication. Ask about their writing program and upcoming correspondence-based classes. For more information on how to get started, contact them at:

*Prison Journalism Project
2093 Philadelphia Pike #1054
Claymont, DE 19703*



A TRANS WOMAN FROM THAILAND BOUGHT THE MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT

Shoutout to Summer Breeze for the tip!

By Matt Moen for Paper Magazine

After almost two decades under Donald Trump's ownership, the Miss Universe Organization has been bought out by Anne Jakkaphong Jakrajutatip, who heads up one of Thailand's largest media companies, JKN Global Group. Making her not only the first woman, but also first transgender woman, to own the international beauty pageant, the move comes amidst a larger push by the Miss Universe contest to be more inclusive.

Trump sold his stake in 2015 after two television companies threatened to no longer broadcast the contest, following inflammatory comments on illegal immigrants during his 2016 presidential campaign. Needless to say, Jakrajutatip's acquisition signals a bright new era for Miss Universe. In addition to the new owner, Miss Universe also announced that it will be opening up the competition to married women and mothers who were previously barred from competing.

"The global reach of the Organization, its relationships with global partners and brands, and its wealth of content, licensing, and merchandising opportunities make this a strong, strategic addition to our portfolio," Jakrajutatip said in a statement announcing the news. "We seek not only to continue its legacy of providing a platform to passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds, cultures and traditions but also to evolve the brand for the next generation."

Last year's Miss Universe saw one of the competition's most inclusive runways to date with a couple contestants using the platform for social activism. Miss Singapore Bernadette Belle Ong memorably dazzled during the national costume portion of the night, wearing a long red and white cap with the words, "Stop Asian Hate," across the back. Miss Canada Nova Stevens also drew similar praise for her Wakanda-inspired gown, which was characterized as a "fight for equality" outfitted with a full-body armor and shield that signified "strength and resistance."



HONORING BLACK TRANS LIVES



By William Lukas for the Abolitionist Law Center in 2020

When we mourn for Aaliah Denise Johnson, Nina Pop, Tony McDade, Riah Milton, Dominique Rem'mie Fells, Mia Green, and every Black Trans life taken this year, we are reminded that prior to the Atlantic slave trade and New World organization of racial capitalism thru colonization, christianization, chattel slavery, and gendered labor division, Black Trans people existed and thrived in tribes across Africa and the Global South.

We are reminded that Black Trans people were part of the first rebellions against slaveowners and plantations against white mobs and police during Reconstruction and the Civil Rights Era – Black Trans people have been, are, and will continue to be leaders in the unfinished programs of Queer Liberation and Black Liberation.

We remember that it was Black and brown Transwomen, homeless queer youth, and “street queens”, who were the first to rebel against police terror in the Cooper Do-nuts Riot (1959), the Compton Cafeteria Riot (1966) and the Stonewall Uprising (1969).

Black Trans people are militants, organizers, healers, educators, and cultural producers who have been catalysts in the George Floyd Rebellion and ongoing Black Liberation and abolitionist projects.

Rooting ourselves in Black Trans history, survival, and futurity, we remember Frances Thompson. Frances was a Black Transwoman, free slave, and survivor of the Memphis Massacre of 1866. She boldly testified in front of congress, accounting her experiences of rape by white supremacists and police mobs during the Massacre. When Frances was arrested 10 years later on a “sumptuary” charge (for “being a man dressed in women’s clothing”), her transgender identity was publicly weaponized by the State to discredit her testimonies of sexual assault and survival during the Massacre.

The State used her as an example to deploy white gender hierarchies and invalidate the presence of white supremacy and police terror faced by Black communities in the American South and beyond.

Over 100 years since Frances was sentenced to die in a Memphis chain gang, the State continues to brutalize and silence Black Trans people. In February 2008, Duanna Johnson, a Black Transwoman was brutally beat by two police officers in a Memphis county jail. When the surveillance video of the officers beating Duanna with handcuffs over knuckles and pepper-spraying her in the face went viral on the internet, Duanna spoke out against the realities of police terror in local press and launched a federal civil rights lawsuit against the Memphis Police Department.

But nine months after the FBI opened the inquiry into the MPD and just weeks before her case was set to go to trial, Duanna was found murdered “execution style” near her home in downtown Memphis. Over 10 years have passed since Duanna’s murder, and the police still allegedly have no suspects, have made no arrests and have not determined a motive for her murder...

The degradation of Black Trans people by police is both flagrant and insidious. Police routinely assault Black Trans people in the form of racist and transphobic slurs, humiliating public genital searches, rape and extorted sex in lieu of being arrested for “unreasonable noise,” “disorderly conduct”, “loitering”, “obstructing vehicular traffic,” “public lewdness,” “failure to disperse”, “obscenity”, “public nuisance” and “solicitation”. These neoliberal “quality of life” citations and misdemeanors – foiled with contemporary neofascist “emergency curfew laws” – are used to target Black Trans people, specifically those who are poor, homeless, and/or sex workers, and/or have disabilities.

The pre-COVID-19 unemployment rate of Black Trans people in the United States was double that of all trans people, and four times that of the united states general population.

Transphobic workplace conditions under capitalism are coupled by extraordinary rates of domestic violence (deployed by family members and partners) and anti-Black transphobic hate violence (deployed by vigilantes and police). This exacerbates Black Trans homelessness and participation street economies that are criminalized by the State, thus funneling Black Trans people into captivity as part of mass incarceration and the prison industrial-complex. It is also important to note that one in three transgender people are sexually assaulted while incarcerated, with transwomen being 13 times more likely to be sexually assaulted in prison than cisgender people.

The State’s “solution” to “protecting” Trans people in prison is solitary confinement – a practice that is considered torture by the United Nations.

These are the words of Black Trans abolitionist and survivor CeCe McDonald.

“They wanted to force me to be someone that I wasn’t. They wanted me to delegitimize myself as a Trans woman – and I was not taking that. As a Trans woman – as a proud Black Trans woman – I was not going to allow the system to delegitimize and hyper-sexualize and take my identity away from me.”

On June 5, 2011, CeCe McDonald and her friends were violently attacked by a group of white supremacists in the Powderhorn neighborhood of Minneapolis – just two miles from where George Floyd was lynched by Minneapolis police. CeCe fought back and stabbed one of the white supremacists in self defense. She was incarcerated for 19 months in mens prisons following the State’s “official gender assessment” (despite international calls for her to be transferred to a women’s prison).

“I felt like they wanted me to hate myself as a Transwoman . . . prisons aren’t safe for anyone, and that’s the key issue.”

Since her release in 2014, CeCe has been integral in bringing to light conditions surrounding Trans prisoners and calls to make policing and prisons obsolete. As calls to “abolish police” and “abolish prisons” are opted and watered down to “defund the police” and “reform prison”, we are reminded that total abolition, community control, and collective care must be our platforms. CeCe reminds us,



HONORING BLACK TRANS LIVES CONT'D

“Police choose who they want to protect, they choose who they want to serve. Prisons don’t help our communities, police don’t help our communities. They make them worse . . . We keep each other safe.”

“We keep each other safe” is the anthem that pulsed thru the radical queer and Trans collective, S.T.A.R. — Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries. STAR was founded in 1970 in NYC by Latinx Transwoman activist Sylvia Rivera, and Black Transwoman activist, Marsha “Pay It No Mind” Johnson — both of whom were survivors of state violence and had been powerful forces in the Stonewall Rebellion and subsequent formation of the Gay Liberation Front. Sylvia and Marsha created STAR to address the immediate material needs of queer and Trans people in the face of state violence and regularly collaborated with the Puerto Rican Young Lords and the Black Panther Party. Sylvia and Marsha funded STAR primarily thru sex work and transformed abandoned buildings and hotel rooms into temporary communal living spaces — housing up to 50 community members at a time — “street kids”, sex workers, and homeless and formerly incarcerated queer and Trans people. Eventually STAR purchased a four-bedroom apartment — STAR House — to continue self-organizing projects in food and money distribution, educational events on police terror and Queer Liberation, a queer and Trans bail fund, and their own STAR lawyer.

“We always felt that the police were the real enemy. We expected nothing better than to be treated like we were animals and we were.” — Sylvia Rivera

In the most recent report on LGBTQ and HIV-affected hate and partner violence, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, found that 6% (or 3 of 52) of the documented hate violence homicides involving a LGBTQ victims in need of support, resulted in the police killing them.

Three of the fifty-two queer and Trans victims in 2017 who had called the police to receive relief during an act of hate violence, were then MURDERED by police responding to their calls.

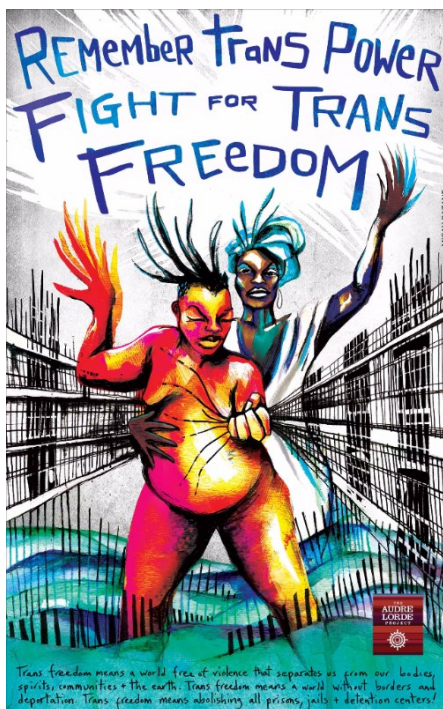
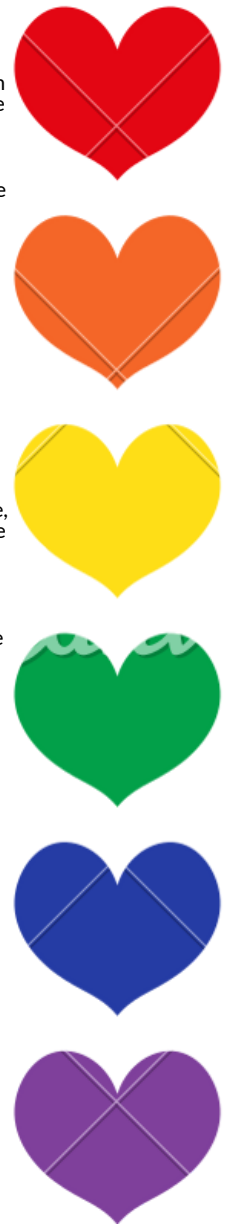
STAR folded in the 1973. Marsha was found dead in the Hudson River on July 6, 1992. Her death was ruled suicide by the police, despite eye witnesses accounts stating she was harassed by a group of men and a neighbor days before her body was found. The case was shrugged off by law enforcement and investigators who claimed they wanted little to do with “a gay black man”. Sylvia died 10 years later from liver cancer. Marsha’s case has since been reopened by the Manhattan District Attorney — her death being reclassified from “suicide” to “undetermined” in 2012.

We honor Marsha, Sylvia and STAR — legacies of militancy and community care in the form defense, housing, food and resource distribution rooted in abolitionist horizons now flow thru works of The Marsha P Johnson Institute, The Audre Lorde Project, The Okra Project, The Sylvia Rivera Law Project, INCITE! — and perhaps most notably during the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing Black Uprising: GLITS Inc.

GLITS Inc., was founded by Black Transwoman activist, sex worker rights advocate and survivor of state violence and incarceration, Ceyenne Doroshow. This summer, GLITS Inc. crowdfunded over \$1,000,000 to provide permanent housing and support Black Trans people recently released from Rikers. Early this fall, Ceyenne purchased an 11-unit, 3-floor building complex in Queens.

Thirty years in the making, GLITS Inc. held their ribbon cutting ceremony last week, celebrating the opening of the first ever housing complex by and for Black Trans people.

When we dream up worlds without police and prisons, and develop campaigns with absolute liberation as the shared horizon, we remember Frances Thompson, Duanna Johnson and all Black Trans people existing and resisting at the nexus of racial capitalism and cisheteropatriarchy. Thru a Black transfeminist analysis, we begin to finally understand the totality of violence that is inherent to police and prisons, and the colonial project that is the United States. We celebrate CeCe and Ceyenne, showing us what Black Trans Abolitionist Power looks like; we learn from you.





**Reach us at:
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LEGAL/ADVOCACY

NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH

Lambda Legal
C/O Help Desk
4221 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Missouri Cure
P.O. Box 28931
St.Louis,MO 63132

Liberation Lit (inquire for free books)
P.O. Box 45071
Kansas City, MO 64171

ACLU
906 Olive St., Suite 1130
St. Louis, Mo. 63101

LAGAI (Ultraviolet)
3543 18th St #26
San Francisco,CA 94110

Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20540-4660

Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services
925 S. Country Club Dr.
Jeff City, Mo. 66109-4510

Black and Pink
6223 Maple St., #4600
Omaha NE 68104

Centurion
1400 Edgewood Drive
Jefferson City, Mo. 63109

Transgender Law Center
P.O. Box 70976
Oakland, CA 94612

Prison Health News
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143



National Center for Transgender Equality
1032 15th St NW
Suite # 199
Washington, D.C. 20005

Slingshot (quarterly radical newspaper)
3124 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705



GLAAD
18 Tremont St Suite # 950
Boston, MA 02108

Prisoner Express (twice a year)
Prisoner Express
PO Box #6556
Ithaca, NY 14851



TGI Justice Project
370 Turk St # 370
San Francisco, CA 94102

LEGAL/ADVOCACY



Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL. 36104

The Midwest Innocence Project
3619 Broadway Blvd., Suite 2
Kansas City, MO 64111



MacArthur Justice Center
906 Olive Street, Suite 420
St. Louis, MO 63101

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