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INDEPENDENTLY PUBLISHED BY THE COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS SINCE 1989

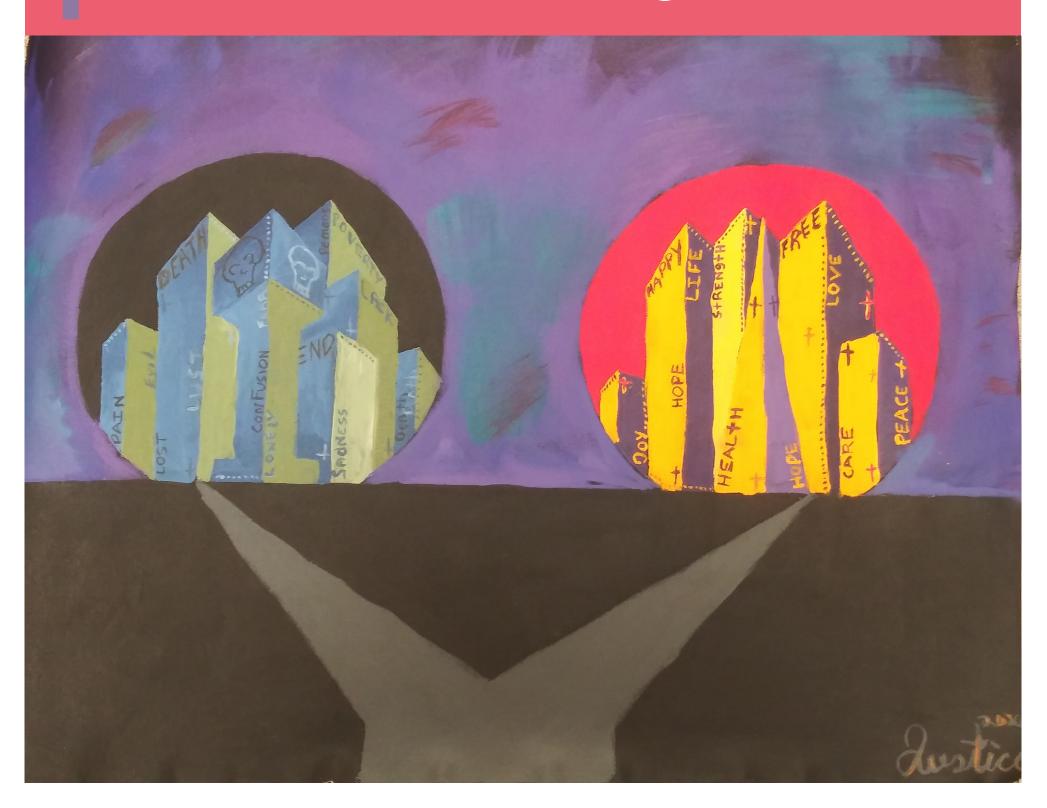


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AIMS TO LIFT UP THE VOICES
OF THOSE LIVING IN POVERTY IN SAN
FRANCISCO.



THE DIFFERENCE IS NOW I slan

slane delarge

AM

for too long,
I doubted my own wisdom,
let my visions be clouded by criticism,
left my decisions to my egotism.

I saw no escape, my mind in a prison, I was going insane finding my rhythm.

again & again losing myself in women, I have hurt more than I have forgiven.

I am writing when I should just listen knowing words are all I hear in visions.

the difference is now I am

growing to accept infinite transitions, rising & falling like the sky's process, hoping for nothing, expecting less.

power is in loving & loving to no extent. reinvent yourself time & time again!

remain in the moment, now is always when the flowing of love is the most potent.

no more reaching & hoping for what I deserve to come by floating.

coping with what I thought was worthwhile, knowing now it was not still brings a smile.

passion lives in me until my last breath, I will bring flowers for my final dance with death, take her hand in mine & let life end.

until then I will simply be because the difference is now I am.

UNTITLED

Rodney McClain

Dont be stupid

Man you see Kamala in the Whitehouse.

That opportunity is there for you and me all of us.

Blacks, whites, Asians, Mexicans, Native Americans etc.

Dont be stupid get your education.

The world is yours, sea to shining sea.

Just face it guys

Women are just as smart or smarter as you and me.

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COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS



SCAN ME

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The STREET SHEET is a project of the Coalition on Homelessness. The Coalition on Homelessness organizes poor and homeless people to create permanent solutions to poverty while protecting the civil and human rights of those forced to remain on the streets.

Our organizing is based on extensive peer outreach, and the information gathered directly drives the Coalition's work. We do not bring our agenda to poor and homeless people: they bring their agendas to us.

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STREET SHEET STAFF

The Street Sheet is a publication of the Coalition on Homelessness. Some stories are collectively written, and some stories have individual authors. But whoever sets fingers to keyboard, all stories are formed by the collective work of dozens of volunteers, and our outreach to hundreds of homeless people.

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WRITE FOR STREET SHEET

join our writing team. paid opportunities available for homeless & formerly homeless contributors. email us at qwatts@cohsf.org

LIVIN' AN DYING ON DEM COLD CONCRETE STREETS

Judy Joy Jones

livin an dyin on dem cold concrete streets virus ragin on no place to sit stand or pee not even a garbage can so i can eat

tonite may be my last on dem cold concrete streets

virus rages on no place to sit stand or pee not even a garbage can so i can eat

livin an dyin on dem cold concrete streets

THE UTOPIANS

Jess Right James

The Utopians

The season of giving has come to everyone
In the Kingdom of Heaven,
As keepers of the

Garden around us there is a glow, here is peace harmony And love,

We give praise for deliverance and the abundance from Above,

Wide open is Heaven's mandate titanic hope is at hand
Promising salvation to women and men,
Filling cups promised and granted, salvation has come to
The planet.

Words of the prophets are in the light, daily praising of god's creations
Key's our delight. We praise the despairing, the poor, and the blind be
Lifted, up. Praise the water, praise the leaders providing for us, praise the sky and
Earth giving us substance, Praise nurses and doctors in the Pandemic, praise
Food workers devoted to the mission. Praise the legislators giving stimulus
To the needy, praise the rich to be morally engaged, praise law men for doing
Their duty, praise employers setting aside discrimination. Let those
Around you enjoy the magnificent gift of praise, to lift minds and hearts to heaven
where all prayers are answered. There are no shortages praise is the answer,
come join with us in the luxuries. For thine is the kingdom, the power, the love,
the peace, and the light of the world.

Makonnen Collier

HE CONCRETE

I am not afraid of poverty
I learned at the age of three that oxygen wasn't free
And the expense of life was madness
That would forever be submerged
In a ice cold bathtub

If I watched my brother die would I freeze? Without feeling powerless I try to escape my right to frost By submitting to the inevitable

I hugged the ocean's waves
But I lost my mind at night
Survival is for the unfortunate
For sordid dreams to collapse by a broken family

I collected my whims in jars
And the moon captured my fears of governance
To be disregarded in history
Man without a home
A misery

HUMANITY

Tammy Martin

Being a Human

Not necessarily saying all people but the status quo.

Not just have to, want to exist a person in a functional individual in society.

Not just being, but functioning in a humane way. It's okay to say have a nice day, it won't hurt you That's called being a human

555 FOLSOM.

Audrey Benson

sun did start setting this mourning the Awake wake tumbled in from the gritty shores of yesterday. or next year

but brilliant i replaced the filament tungsten could not rival the peculiar light orange beams sprinting of skv of

hit pavement rubber soul from behind screeched. then slammed iron lazily the gray air beckoned albeit too absent the whispers of trembling and I felt it. Pacific the salty residue palpable in cracked lips

the men at the gate. they couldn't understand it so they asked me: are your nipples hard fuck you, i replied but gray is basically blue

and I think I remembered because the brassy notes did fill my scorched lungs and I saw you there on the shore. with them Mystics Vallie-gurls Surfers Cat-walkers Sinners Scott Sourdough Chesa Ahsha Airpods a real-estate Lord Ventriloquists plus other dead ones too

the whole sage-waving orchestra. seductively naive at first they were a few strokes to the left please. one squeaked can you please just give me five fucking minutes

but see that glorious body wave it: wanted my body. so sure i let that egyptian cotton he wanted my thread count 500 my boyish breasts sit on head was cool too like the room it had no floors. just stars and s cribb les on pages

but he dared tell me it was Dec 2020. even I how tacky understand can be time half light everyone stumbling around in the ever so slightly chins lifted towards still gray. all this talk of Camus' Plague the heavens?

whole peoples dis placed parchment unscratched see were set to exchange mighty you & me whispers enough to tempt San Andreas, electricity . palpable enough to implicate PG&E in the next disaster

but none of that happened so here we are pop-up merchant who with a sublime treasure display as the foreground for Ronnie's mural (power) sees my lens he wants a snap. suspends his body dotty behind the shutter (only he knows I'm dead) remnants of memory at 16, Mission

the seafoam quivered. a YIMBY did actually cry --- one less avocado for you. the shore people fidgeted with crumpled prayers from ripped pockets a valiant effort to upcycle wrappers and scattered lint

come back! they yelled you too can eat duck confit. we shall Upzone the pacific with a side of Crêpes Juliennes all you need is 40 pixels for streaming live try SFGOVTV much-furrowed eyebrows a terry cloth mask and some

they believed that water could be dug up too. that the silken could be pulled off in layers. a tissue box! whole performance was truly flattering quite but who knew? slight empathy cannot unsheath the drowned who've already been drowned

and as my brittle bones sunk down down in frigid down indifference i did regret that it would necessitate a sky of gray

but the ocean gets naughty Coriolis what the ocean wants I have been dead com. did you not dot since leave a voicemail? here is hard Being ohlone down

but thank god.

more room. for even more spectators.

to mock my corpse (should it appear) jettisoned as Zillow points them towards pearly Austin

all because: they decided that now they miss

the color orange

JAN 1, 2021

CHEAP

Alexander Gray

"Oh, God! that bread should be so dear. And flesh and blood so cheap!" [Thomas Hood, 1843]

I have 15 cents and the landlord with two beamers says it would be a hardship to reduce the rent.

I have 15 cents and the shirtless man holding a crystal to the bodega window needs cereal and milk (and a Mug Root Beer would be nice).

I have 15 cents and Mayor Breed's aide laughs at me open heartedly over the telephone line. I have 15 cents and the girl on the Golden Gate Bridge runs towards the brink to forget a band of tricoleur cloth thrown by the wind.

I have 15 cents and know where the Mayor lives but lying on the asphalt seems cliche.

I have 15 cents and didn't know you could eat heroin until I walked down Hyde Street.

I have 15 cents and give a man my Muni token on Harvey Milk Plaza.

I have 15 cents and wonder if the baby in the pram has had more money spent on its short existence than the entire life

of the man air drying his junk in the Dolores Park bathroom.

I have 15 cents and wish Mark, Jack, and Elon would jump in a lake.

I have 15 cents and where I come from we drove Fords and Toyotas, people knew the names of their upstairs neighbors and the houses are made of brick.

I have 15 cents and two lovers who killed themselves after an eviction.

I have 15 cents and think I shouldn't have to resort to these poetic tactics to make you care.

MISS ME BUT LET ME GO Rodney McClain

When I come to the end of the road. Here on Earth Please give me no rites in a gloom filled room. Why cry for a soul set free :)

Miss me a little but no too long please, Please don't bow your heads to Low.

Remember the love that we all shared. Miss me but let me go.

This is a journey worth remembering and we must all take someday hopefully I'll see you again miss me but let me go.

This was written for my Dad I Love and miss him. He taught me to work hard at anything you do it will pay out. He always had a smile and was a people person. We did a lot together I would not be as well traveled without home or well mannered if it wasn't for him. He taught me how to fish and hunt. We spent a lot of time fishing and brought a fish market. My Dad loved my special batter I'd make. My Dad out BBQed me all the time. But that's the only thing he had over me. Alot of the Poetry you'll be reading has my Dad's personality in them.

LIVING FOR THE LOVE OF YOU Rodn

Rodney McClain

Jan 28th 2020

I know I'm living for the love you Each and everyday I'm living for all your love. I can feel it everywhere I go through things And still Feel your love. Nothing can stop me from Living For the love of You No matter what the would goes through I'm Living For the love of You.

When I leave this world and join you in the next one I'll still be living for the Love of You! We all should be living for the love of You For I am you and you are me

Thank you for your Love. GOD

No Room

Tommi Avicolli Mecca

there's suddenly no room at the inn the shelter in place hotels no room for 2,400 homeless people high risk seniors sheltered for months no room not even a stable only a vague promise of permanent housing that always ends up broken like treaties no room for 2,400 homeless people now housed but soon to be back out on the streets in the dead of winter during the rainy season just before Xmas in the midst of a pandemic no room in far too many hearts

AMERICA IS STARVING

Tommi Avicolli Mecca

America's hungry it's always been hungry it stands every day bundled up against the cold masked and socially distanced in lines as far as the eagle can see outside food banks and soup kitchens hands always extended on the cold callous street there's little change trickling into the cup little compassion in the air America's food stamps have been cut there's no relief check in the mail unemployment's running out America's always been hungry these days it's starving

IRVING AND 5TH

Paolo Bicchieri

There's a magistrate in the fridge:

It's time to get rid of these old ass tamales.

Freezer burn babies of beef and cheese and I step into quiet wasteland. Not a desperate land for Mad Max. Just cold emptiness like Gravity.

Big, Snorlax man outside the market. Beard like Klaus. Finger nails that pulled flowers from Golden Gate Park.

N95 masks headed in and out as though tear gas wailed around like the Kashmir Valley. I've microwaved the leaf-wrapped vessels of my heritage – this nomadic neighbor will be ecstatic.

When I offer, he takes the folded brown paper bag, rubber banded like a deck of cards, and asks: "Do you have room?"

I pause.

"Do you have a room? For me?"

he spreads his hands up & down the street like a sultan's claim. "I see so much but so quiet."

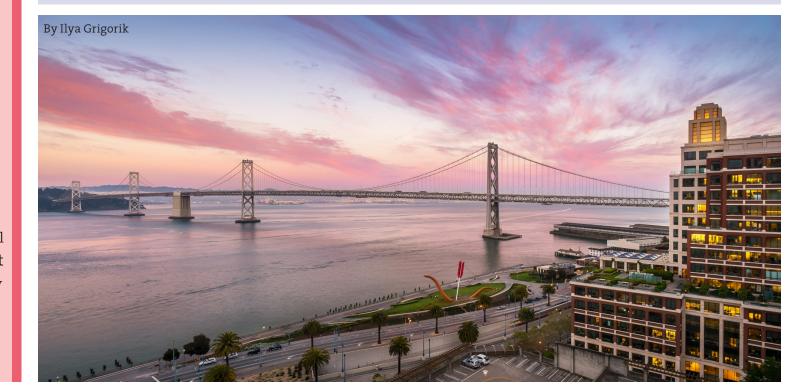
I tell him I rent, that my land lord is not nice.

His prayer-soaked, ball-player mitt hands collect rain-wet magazines written in Chinese from near his shoes.

"Do you want these papers?"

I nod & thank him. I go home and I'm sitting inside and I'm thinking about all the birthday cake I ate just a week ago, purple frosting on a fish shaped chocolate cake, and all the strangers who came to my home for the birthday party, room enough there for anyone who might praise me, and all the White-claw in the recycling bin the next morning, and the drugs those strangers gave me that I put up my nose like snowballs balancing on brass, til they melt, and I'm feeling like an idiot.

Like during a pandemic is when I finally bake blueberry coffee cake for somebody who isn't my high school girlfriend. Like I could take all the preserves on my family farm a few states north and dump them into the street and let the Sunset run rhubarb pink and it wouldn't be enough. Like freezer burn pieces of my abuela aren't even close.



Rodney McClain

The Smile has a radiance of Power. It can change the course of your life and others as well.

A Smile can be healing, I believe that it's an indicator of love and happiness. I'd like to see a day when the whole world smiles at the same time all over the world.

I think it's the cure for just about everything in existence we suffer from in this world.

I'm positive that the smile can bring us all together

It is the key to unity & Love and compassion to one another We can all make this world a better place by smiling



man on a bench

Tommi Avicolli Mecca

outside the café I was waiting for a friend checking my phone every couple minutes a small framed old man with bruises on your cheeks and forehead

you picked at a scab as you commented on the weather a man suddenly turned

the corner swinging his

bag at your face then spit on you calling you a "homeless

piece of shit" I yelled at him

told him to leave you alone he hurried across the street

through the heavy traffic a waiter came out

told you to move on

I asked why

he said customers had

complained

you got up and left so did I

METAL

Shadows of great metal walls have got me stuck in the maze.

I look in the east and see warm mountains, where does that light come from? How did I wander into rain and fog and cold?

I remember a day when I looked out from a high hill in the morning,

Thirsting for water, my bones and muscles and senses broken, I stood there.

Then I sang from my heart "come, Spirit, come" and my heart became the living sun.

There came to me a great knowledge then, saying, "Look for Me always."

When you go down into the valley do not forget but feel Me there always,

And I will raise you up." So I put on my torn, soaked coverings and went among the people.

For many months I carried a blessed memory, my heart on fire,

Saying, "Peace up here with Me, and peace down here for Us."

Everywhere I went, in everyone I passed, my father and mother smiled at me,

I saw my brother and sister and cousin. Inside my chest a sacred flame:

On every busy street and trail, one candle lights a thousand candles.

But now in my hunger, the coldest month still before me, I ask

And wonder and cry, "Where did I come from, which way is correct?" Where is the one Mind that touched me and brightened up the sky?

WATER

The Lord has heard my prayers, my fears and worry rise like smoke, He heard — And bids me walk on, down to the water, daylight thinking on the clouds. I have a mother on this earth, her name is Mar; a long month ends, I seek her, The moving, turning, quiet glass.

I am an old man, along the river my little things I take; at the end I lay myself down right where I began.

From me my sorrow empties out, into the sound of her swaying.

In the silence, she shows me the new man.

His eyes reopen, he is filled with love, the mother shares a gentle word: this is what it means for tears to overflow.

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2 0 Homelessness San Francisco Coalition

Frank: I carry the same thing: paperwork, toothbrush, now a skateboard, cellphone, deodorant, pens, notepad for writing down plans and stuff.

happening. Luckily, I have a truck so we can lay-down but it's difficult because we have all of our stuff in it and then we try and fit ourselves in it too. That's a challenge and

then you have people breaking into the car

Having to use a restroom when you don't have a restroom, that's hard. You have to

trying to take your stuff, that's too much.

Kelly: Probably, for me personally, it's accepting the fact that I'm living in a car. That is really hard for me. I didn't see that

On living in a car and "on" the street

a sweater, stuff that you put on, it gets cold out here pretty early. A change of clothes, or a poncho if it rains. And sometimes food, like snack food, and toiletries.

Worst thing about being without a place: ward to, it's just like an emptiness that you Kelly: You have no place to relax or feel comfortable. There's no place to look forhave, you're just there.

When it rains, that's not fun and sometimes it can be too hot too. You get looked at some type of way when you say that you're homeless. People judge you but they don't real-ize that you're people like everyone else. Frank: Weather can be the worst thing.

> want people to know that we are living in it because then security will tell you to move. So the hardest thing is to make sure people don't see you living in your car. We do our errands all day, leave our car alone, go ther

living in a car, is not letting anyone know you're living in it. That's the hardest thing. That's what we have to focus on, we don't

Frank: Literately the hardest thing about

put in work to get to a restroom

Hopes and dreams:

I'm hoping that this situation doesn' children together and that we can maintain last too long and that we find a home that our life and not ever worry about being in we are happy with and that we have our this position again.

it. We're not there all day like hanging out, we wake up early, try and accomplish our

goals that we have daily and then we go back to sleep, and that's it.

Kelly: We go back there to sleep and that's

Frank: All of our own stuff, our own cars. A good bank account, both of us have a good job. And I want us to have a baby once we get settled. And I want us to get married,

carry with me my important documents or whatever I'm working on, for example like a housing application. I also carry like gloves,

I have mostly like my paperwork, I

What you carry with you?



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Defendants.

Nominal Defendant

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BENSCOTER, deceased,

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The name and address of the court Is:

El nombre y dirección de la carte es):Stanley Mosk 111 N. Hill Street Los Angeles, CA 90012

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del

BENJAMIN D. GOLDSTEIN (SBN 231699) CRYSTAL Ğ. FOLEY (SBN 224627) NICHOLAS J. ANGELIDES (SBN 250127) demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

100 N. Pacific Coast Highway, Suite 1350 El Segundo, California 90245 SIMMONS HANLY CONROY

(310) 322-3555 ATE: Oct. 25, 2018 <u>...</u>

lelk, by Fecha)

Secmtario)

STEVEN DREW

Jeputy

Adjunto.J

JAN 1, 2021

Name: Kelly Cocking, Frank Sandoval Date: 29 March and 7 June 2017 Place: Compass