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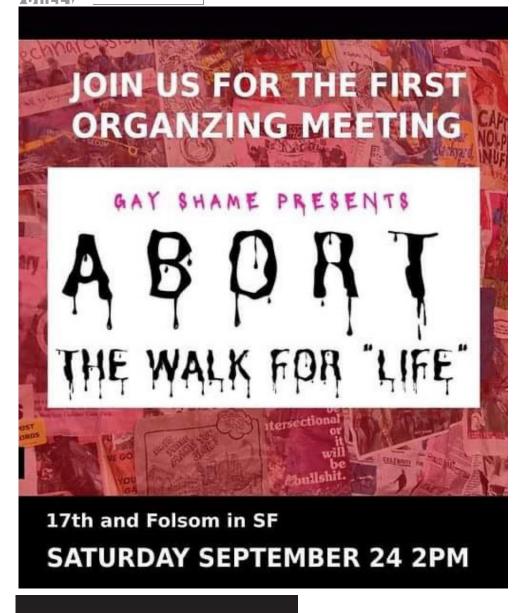


SO-CALLED CARE COURT BECOMES LAW & and dispelling the myths around MPX REMEMBERING DAN PAUL SURVIVING HOMELESSNESS IN **POETRY CORNER** & IMMIGRATION SAN FRANCISCO



ART BY SHANNON KNOX, VIA JUSTSEEDS

THIS ISSUE IS DEDICATED TO DANIEL JOSEPH PAUL. REST IN POWER.



# OBJECTOPHILLIA

Dan Hoeweler

To my quad-processing binary Turing machine,

To my machine language Interpreter,

To My discrete algorithm Analyzer,

To my multi-thread Processing module,

Your cache Your chassis Your solid state drive Your motherboard

Electrify my cerebral pathways In ways that no programming language Can express.

I am stuck in an endless loop of Stroking your keyboard While you enthrall my Cerebrum with Pixel-based gestures On your 4k display.

You rescued me
From a carbon based
Dystopian reality
And uploaded me into your
Domain

Where we now reside In our castle of Bits and bytes

Cinderella and the Prince

Together at last Happily-Ever-After.

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# COALITION ON HOMELESSNESS

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.

## 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.

Editor: Quiver Watts Assistant Editor: TJ Johnston Vendor Coordinator: Emmett House

Coalition on Homelessness staff also includes Jennifer Friedenbach, Jason Law, Carlos Wadkins, Miguel Carrera, Tracey Mixon, Laketha Pierce, Tyler Kyser, Ian James, Yessica Hernandez, Solange Cuba

Our contributors in this issue include: Robert Gumpert, Shannon Knox, JustSeeds, Dan Hoeweler, Owen Payne, Novalie Young, Johanna Elattar, Laurie Finch, Adam Alexander Ochoa, TallAsianChick, Kaveh Waddell

#### ORGANIZE WITH US

HOUSING JUSTICE WORKING GROUP TUESDAYS @ NOON

The Housing Justice Workgroup is working toward a San Francisco in which every human being can have and maintain decent, habitable, safe, and secure housing. This meeting is in English and Spanish and open to everyone! Email mcarrera@cohsf.org to get involved!

### HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP WEDNESDAYS @12:30

The Human Rights Workgroup has been doing some serious heavy lifting on these issues: conducting direct research, outreach to people on the streets, running multiple campaigns, developing policy, staging direct actions, capturing media attention, and so much more. All those down for the cause are welcome to join! Email kcutler@cohsf.org

EVERYONE IS INVITED TO JOIN OUR WORKING GROUP MEETINGS! We are currently meeting on Zoom only due to COVID-19. If this is a barrier for you please reach out so we can help accommodate you!

# REMEMBERING Laurie Finch DANIEL JOSEPH PAUL

Dan Paul, an urban survivalist and magical street performer, has departed for his next grand adventure. He passed away on August 12, 2022. Dan was born November 11, 1970 in Seattle, Wash. into a loving family. He spent his early years at his home in Enumclaw, finishing out his youth in Huntsville, Ala. While a young adult, Dan felt crowded and claustrophobic trying to adjust to the demands of a conforming life and decided to take to the streets, ending up in San Francisco at the age of 18.

Although he traveled a bit, his heart was shared between the San Francisco Bay and the Wasatch Front of Utah, where his family resides. Some people would classify Dan as homeless, but that was not the case. Dan felt very much at home most of his life. Whether surfing on the California coast, flying on rigging

in the streets of Salt Lake City, cavorting with a kite in a stubborn gale, or camping on the Pensacola Gulf amid looming tornados, Dan was in his element.

Ironically, although "houseless" himself, Dan's passion was helping others find a place of their own. Dan used his carpentry skills to bring Berkeley co-op housing up to code for Berkeley students, fought off mosquitos in Belize to improve campgrounds, and offered his assistance to many friends looking to improve their own dwellings. Dan was an advocate for true artistic freedom, and was a Burning Man old-timer. Although Dan loved dancing with fire, his great comfort came as he played the didgeridoo, letting the deep notes rattle his soul. He cherished his home on the Albany Bulb and the Berkeley community he grew to know as family. Dan's

religion was helping his friends and neighbors create a beautiful world. His tabernacle was the earth with its flowers, mountains, oceans, and air. His prayer was a gaze towards the Heavens, and

his peace was knowing he was loved.
Dan was greeted in Heaven by his
father, who died when Dan was 9.
He is survived by his mother, two
brothers, three sisters and two sons.
Daniel Joseph Paul, May your spirit
soar

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Dan's ashes will be watched over by his family members. ■

Join us in memorializing Dan at our website and find out more information on an in person memorial on the SF Bay at WeLoveYouDanPaul.com

#### **IMMIGRATION AND HOMELESSNESS**

Owen Payne

I was born in the rural areas of a country in Africa, I did my studies and finally I was able to secure a job as a nurse in the capital city. Life was good—not to the extent I wanted, but at least I was able to make ends meet. Working for the government sometimes is not a walk in the park. Loads of work with odd shifts and low salaries that might even take months to be paid out. This is what makes people take some drastic steps that sometimes lead to even more crazy situations.

One day as I was going through the papers, I saw an advert for American jobs. To make things better, they were nursing positions. This was not an opportunity I would let go of. I sent my application through the procedure explained in the advertisement. Little did I know my naiveté would cost me a fortune. One early morning I got a call from the employment agency

informing me that my experience in the nursing field had just landed me a job in the United States. I went to their offices, did my interview, passed, and the paperwork began. I was expected to pay \$3,000 in agency fees besides the usual visa application fee. I gathered all my savings and then took a loan to cover everything.

Before my visa interview date, I went back to the offices for some coaching on what to say during the interview. I was not to mention anything about work, but rather say I was just visiting for a while. The agency had a ready host, Martin, in San Francisco. He would take care of me until I was ready to live by myself. I wasn't sure how the interview would go, but fortunately, I was accepted. This was like a dream come true. It was time to change my life completely.

Everything else was easy. I still had funds from the loan I had acquired.

I got myself an air ticket and off I went to the U.S. On landing, Martin picked me up and showed me all the way to San Francisco. We went to a small house that was not even fully furnished. This was a red flag for me, but he said it was just the beginning—more people were coming so we would get the house furnished or even get a bigger house. The start date for my work came but I was informed that there was still paperwork to be done and I should be patient.

Meanwhile, I was still staying with Martin at the same house and was spending the remainder of my savings for survival. A month later, two other victims from my country had come in through the same process. Time flew, days turned to weeks, weeks turned to months as we grew impatient and Martin kept telling us it was all about time

and documentation. It was also rather worrying considering we had extended our stay, but Martin said that wouldn't be a problem. More people were still coming in and the house was getting rather uncomfortable.

Then one day, my worst fears were confirmed. Martin took off without a word. That's when we realized this was a whole scam: We had been swindled out of our money. Some people were lucky, because their visas were still valid and they were able to head back home. For those of us who had overstayed our visas, it was a choice between being deported or hanging around to find jobs under the radar. That is how we became homeless without money to pay for rent and with no one to assist us. This was and forever will be my worst nightmare.



# DID YOU KNOW WE HAVE A PODCAST?

Listen to STREET SPEAK, the podcast answering your burning questions about poverty and homelessness in San Francisco. Created by the editors of Street Sheet, this podcast brings you the word on the street. Find the latest episodes on our website and wherever you listen to podcasts.



sa, will create a specialized mental health court where judges can compel people with mental health disabilities and substance use conditions into treatment. The bill allows a broad list of "specified individuals" to refer somebody for conservatorship, and sets a similarly broad set of conditions quali-

The list of "specified individuals" includes police officers, and the criteria for placing a person under Court seeks to serve," says Yessica

fying them for CARE Court.

"care" include being on the spectrum for schizophrenia and not having decisionmaking capacity for medical care.

By August 18, when the Anti-Police Terror Project staged a teach-in on SB 1338 outside San Francisco City Hall and the Superior Court, the legislation was already well on its way to passage

with an overwhelming majority. using a carrot-or-stick model," James Burch, the Project's deputy Burch said at the teach-in. "By APTP Executive Di-

mentation locally."

For all the lip service paid to "care" in the bill, none of the \$65 million set aside for the program will fund behavioral health services.

"Evidence shows that providing housing and adequately-resourced, voluntary outpatient treatment—not court-ordered treatment—is most effective for treating the population CARE

"The way the system works is by using a carrot-or-stick model. By that, I mean once you are referred to CARE Court, the judge and team will try to convince you that whatever plan they're offering should be accepted."

- James Burch, APTP Deputy Director

lessness, which publishes the Street Sheet. "Californians don't need another racist court system and mental health consumers don't need another poliand pushing fake solutions for po-

"The way the system works is by

litical gain."

director, told a crowd of some 40 that, I mean once you are referred rector Cat Brooks

plan would empower the court to deprive one's right to self-deter-N mination. A person in CARE Court can be placed in involuntary holds if they refuse medication for any reason, or does not comply with any of the court's requirements.

The CARE Courts would also perpetuate existing racial disparities, according to APTP. One thing that the legal, mental health and homeless systems share is the dis-Hernandez, an or- people caught up in them. Lopsidganizer for the Co- ed arrest and incarceration rates alition on Home- among Black people are already well documented. In California,

Black people only make up 6.5% of the general population, but account for nearly 40% of the general population. A 2014 study in the World Jourtician stoking fear nal of Psychiatry reported that Black people in the U.S. are diagnosed with schizophrenia at three times the rate of white people.

"With an estimated quarter of police shootings involving people with mental health disabilities, the idea of having police force Black and brown folks into treatment is a recipe for more police terror on people of color," she said.

San Francisco is among the first of seven counties that will pilot the CARE Courts by October 1, 2023; California's remaining counties proportionate number of Black will implement them by December 1, 2024. ■

PHOTOS BY DAN FOLDES



SEPT 15, 2022

#### MONKEYPOX Its effects on the disabled communities in San

**Francisco** BY: @TALLASIANCHICK

MP has affected the disabled communities of San Francisco due to misinformation, homophobia, racism, and governmental neglect.

#### Misinformation

is the biggest spreader of MP. Straight people are NOT immune! MP is caused by a virus that can transfer through blood, saliva, and sexual fluids, meaning ANYONE can catch the virus.

#### Homophobia

We see that numbers of infected individuals are usually men who have sex with men (MSM), but the reason numbers are so high due to slow spread of real facts and only being relayed to those specific communities. Society presumes that straight people are immune, causing less testing within straight communities.

#### Racism

During initial COVID outbreaks, rise in AAPI hate affected Asian communities and similarly, racists and ignorant people began to blame black folx, simply because of the name.

#### Governmental Neglect

Similar to COVID-19, government response was inadequate, causing unnecessary harm and DEATH amongst the disabled community

#### **Vaccination Access**

Though the monkeypox vaccine is free for all, many folks don't know where to go. Considering all the aforementioned factors, vaccination may vary from city to city. Please keep the following in mind...

#### Moving Forward

The past few years have been tough for all marginalized communities. We have experienced immense trauma and still are. We all live in a pre-disabled body (unless born disabled); pre-disability and post-disability. Please know your body and make a decision from there.

- Queer-friendly clinics/nonprofits may have the vaccine.
- Hospitals have the vaccine, but in limited quantities.
- Ask your primary care physician for the vaccine. Legally, they cannot turn you away (unless it's for legitimate health concerns).
- Do your own research! - Don't be afraid to ask for help!

# UNREAL:

**HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL ILLNESS** 

It's a rare chilly morning in August, and I'm not fully awake when I hear the sound of a received message on my phone. I force myself to sit up, and grab the phone from the nightstand. I see that it's a message from Jeannie, an acquaintance from high school. There's a video attached to the message. Jeannie likes sending me funny videos that she finds on YouTube, and today was no exception. The video is called "Fake Mental Disorder Cringe". Right away, I start to feel uncomfortable.

I have seen some of these videos before. They're compilations of videos made mostly for TikTok by teenagers that claim they have Dissociative Identity Disorder. It's always a teen lip syncing a song while dressed as some anime character that they claim to be one of their "alters". When not lip syncing, they make videos like "10 alter switches in 10 minutes" or taste tests for their different identities. It's easy to see that they have no idea what DID is about, and don't understand that this form of mental illness actually destroys lives. I quickly send her laughing emojis, but what I really want to do is tell her that for some people, this kind of mental illness is an everyday struggle. She has no idea that I live with what these kids claim to have.

I've struggled with mental issues for most of my life, and have been recently diagnosed with a serious, but rare disorder. After years of being misdiagnosed with Borderline Personality Disorder, Depersonalization and Derealization, and OSDD (Other Specified Dissociative Disorder), I was finally diagnosed with Dissociative Identity Disorder, which affects only one to two percent of the population.

Dissociative identity disorder or DID, was previously called "multiple personality disorder". DID is a reaction to severe and constant trauma in the early formative years. It is characterized by the presence of two or more distinct personality identities. Each may have a unique name, personal history, and characteristics. Individuals who have this disorder are usually misdiagnosed with other illnesses because of its rarity. There are some mental health professionals that don't believe that this disorder is real, and they often dismiss DID sufferers' symptoms as fantasies, and even as ploys for attention. The symptoms of DID include, but are not limited to:

> Memory loss (amnesia) of certain time periods, events, people and personal information

•A sense of being detached from yourself and your emotions

- •A perception of the people and things around you as distorted and unreal
- •A blurred sense of identity
- •Significant stress or problems in your relationships, work or other important areas of your life •Inability to cope well with emotional or professional stress
- •Mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts and behaviors

I've been diagnosed with
Depersonalization/Derealization
earlier in my life.Depersonalization/
Derealization Disorder occurs when
you persistently or repeatedly have
the feeling that you're observing
yourself from outside your body or
you have a sense that things around
you aren't real, or both. Feelings of
depersonalization and derealization
can be very disturbing and may feel
like you're living in a dream. For some,
it can be severe and may interfere
with relationships, work and other
daily activities.

When I lost my apartment, I became homeless. I was helped by a family friend who recognized me and knew of my Depersonalization Disorder diagnosis. During my period of homelessness, the world around me felt unreal, as if I was watching a TV show about someone who looked like me, but was not me. I hardly ever ate, and there was a constant "narrative" in my mind by what I later learned to be one of my identities. People avoided me, not knowing that I needed help, and I was often screamed at whenever I was too close to them or asked for something to eat. People tend to think that the homeless are on the street because they're all drug addicts, and they have only themselves to blame for their failed lives. It's hard to explain this time in my life to individuals who have never experienced dissociation. I felt "unreal", like I didn't exist both as a human being because of how I was treated by others, and because I was not present in my own reality/life. Unfortunately, there are many homeless who suffer from dissociative disorders, not necessarily DID. Most will not receive any help for their mental issues.

At the time, I was not aware that I had Dissociative Identity Disorder. This is not unusual. Individuals with DID are often misdiagnosed for years, sometimes for their whole lives. Many health care professionals

never screen for DID because of its rarity. Symptoms of DID often show up in childhood, between the ages of 5 and 10. But parents, teachers or healthcare providers may miss the signs. DID might be confused with other behavioral or learning problems common in children, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The typical patient who is diagnosed with DID is usually at about age 30. A retrospective review of that patient's history typically will reveal onset of dissociative symptoms at ages 5 to 10, with emergence of alters at about the age of 6. There's also some studies that indicate that most DID cases are usually female. I'm not sure about that particular "fact", mainly because much of the information available is outdated.

When I became homeless, it was unreal to me, as if I was watching a TV show about someone who looked like me, but was not me. It's so hard to explain this to the average person because they cannot fathom how I perceived my reality. DID is caused by early childhood trauma, and for many people, dissociation is triggered by it, but that doesn't mean that they will develop DID.

DID is characterized by "switching" to alternate identities. You may feel the presence of two or more people talking or living inside your head. This disorder is often mistaken for schizophrenia because the identities are thought to be hallucinations. However, each identity has a unique name, personal history and characteristics, including obvious differences in voice, gender, and mannerisms. However, even though the identities are all different, for years, they fool everyone they come into contact with into thinking that they are the "core" identity, ie, the person whose name is on their birth certificate.

I was not aware of my other identities for years. I knew that I'd often have amnesia and I'd lose minutes, hours, and even days. I was told that I said and done things that I have no recollection of ever saying or doing. My friendships never lasted, so I had a very lonely existence. My marriage fell apart, and I couldn't keep a job because of the instability, amnesia, and the stress that came with this disorder. There's a 70% suicide rate for people who suffer from dissociative disorders. PTSD, breaking down of relationships, lack of understanding by people, homelessness, unemployment, depression, anxiety, loneliness, and

Johanna Elattar

instability all contribute to the suicide rate. Many sufferers of dissociative

disorders self medicate with drugs and alcohol, which makes the problems even worse than before. I have never self medicated, but I have gone into deep depressions that lasted for months on end. Employment has also had its difficulties for me. There are often problems with memory, identity, emotion, perception, behavior and sense of self. Dissociative symptoms can potentially disrupt every area of mental functioning.

We live in a society that still stigmatizes mental illness and the people struggling with it. I've heard people say that individuals "choose" to be mentally ill because they get something out of it, like attention, for example. I can honestly say that I wish I could wake up one morning, and find my mental struggles gone, but it's not as easy as that. The only treatments available for DID are talk therapy, and to treat each issue separately, ie, treating depression and anxiety, the nightmares, etc. My therapist suggested screening for DID after I started "switching" identities as I came in for my appointment every week.

The screening was extensive. It involved both physical and psychological tests. During the evaluation, a healthcare provider reviewed my symptoms and my personal health history. They performed tests to rule out underlying physical causes for my symptoms, such as head injuries or brain tumors. After the physical tests, I was given several psychological tests and evaluations.

One of my favorite writers, the late Charles Bukowski, once wrote "I guess the only time most people think about injustice is when it happens to them" (From the novel Ham on Rye). As long as mental disorders are misunderstood and hidden, we will continue to have suicides. The mentally ill homeless will continue to wander without hope or help.

This is the reality and struggle of being "unreal". ■

If you'd like to learn more about my disorder, please watch my channel on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbl8YHfxexHQ5TGJbPw\_B4Q or look for my channel under the name "Rotten On The Vine: Dark Fiction".

If you'd like to donate to help support me and my channel, my PayPal is: hauntedhill@yandex.com, Thank you!

# THE HOMELESS, UNHOUSED OR UNSHELTERED IN SAN FRANCISCO

Novalie Young

To some this is a lived experience and to others just a tall tale. Many homeless peopleI have interacted with on the streets of West Coast cities—either unhoused and unsheltered—have had really painful experiences with the police, or experienced brutality from other people in the neighborhood. Some are not in shelters because they have a reason not to be, like being undocumented. For those living in fear of deportation, avoiding interaction feels like the way to stay unknown and unnoticed, pushing some to try to be nocturnal.

Many displaced people have left the place they used to call home and went to a different city just to try and survive without the fear of being arrested, or being marked by street gang leaders or even fellow unhoused folks. Many unhoused folks from Oakland, Portland, Los Angeles, or San Diego have migrated to other

cities seeking better prospects. In my experience the majority have been arrested, beaten and-during that period of uncertainty—have lost their valuables, like passports, identification cards, phones and any other electronics, clothes and personal belongings they had. These folks are left with nothing. They remain lost, with no hope and no support, treated like suspects (especially those with color) and accused of imagined crimes by the rich and sent to prison.

Moving from one city to another can feel like moving from one country to another, especially in a country like the United States that has lots of job opportunities, inspiring all sorts of people to come here for a fresh start, for safety and asylum, or to visit their loved ones. But moving to the U.S. can mean ending up in the streets, dead or in prison. This is almost the same reason unhoused and

> unsheltered people move to other cities and end up in the streets with worse conditions than before. Many face hardships they never expected but, due to so many other circumstances, they prefer to stay rather than go back to the cities they migrated from, especially if they want to be unknown.

that has affected most US cities and if it continues this way homelessness will only continue to increase. Some people or government agencies will not agree with me, but experience is the best medicine. It is nearly impossible for those on the streets to find employment when they lack supporting documentation or identification. How can you employ someone they cannot prove their identity? And people without documents are also afraid to apply for jobs; some who have tried end up being sent to jail, or fired when their status becomes known.

So what can the public do to help homeless folks, especially those without documentation? As you ponder over the answers, think of your personal impact on your unsheltered neighbor across the street, the one you send to prison, the one you denied employment, the one you just fired, the one you burned, whose identification documents you hid, the one you left behind as you moved to a different home, house or city, the one you sent to the streets due to your own choices. They have lost hope and are tired of being treated like suspects, thieves, murderers, drug dealers. The majority of arrests of homeless people are of those who don't know a thing, but were at the wrong place due to circumstance.

The fear of being apprehended This is a nationwide issue without cause, has made some

people adapt to the nature of life on the streets by becoming hardcore. This is survival of the fittest and so they grow hardened just to survive the reality of difficult life and conditions. But however much you arrest them, refuse to help them, fight against them, torture them or require impossible conditions to help them, you will not reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness in the streets. Instead, the numbers of displaced people will keep on growing until you realize it is your responsibility to help us, to treat homeless people as human beings, as you would your own family member.

These folks need serious rehabilitation. Those you see sleeping in their cars, in tents, under bridges, in corridors and even in shelters have all suffered the same fate, exposed to difficult traumas. Some have experienced death, some have killed and some are into drugs, while others are the distributors. Others are very sick, or in a huge amount of debt. Some are immigrants while others are from here in the U.S. They all need help, be it big or small. Your positive contribution helps them survive one day at a time.

I have written this article so that it can reach the many who don't know what it is like to go without food or medicine, or what it's like to sleep on cold pavement. Kindly make it your purpose to help us. ■

# DRUNK NTHE DAR

Adam Alexander Ochoa

There is no limit to the depth a man may fall Listen to the man laying on the floor defeated For he has wisdom to share And a story to tell Misery is intoxicating A shadow so dark Cast by a bright red sun Ever present, forever constant Blanketing me with grief

Bedding me in pain A pauper rich only in emotions Until there is no more,

No more pain No more grief No more joy

Indifference Stumbling as I ramble

Just numbers

Fighting the monster My only weapon is this bottle, Sipping sweet nectar

People point and laugh Unaware of what I've lost

Blind to the nobleness of my acts Thinking they know

Ignorant to what really ails me Unless youve experienced loss

You'll never truly understand What it is like,

To be drowning in misery Battling the monster Drunk and consumed by darkness

### **BECOME A STREET SHEET VENDOR**

STREET SHEET is currently recruiting vendors to sell the newspaper around San Francisco. Vendors pick up the papers for free at our office in the Tenderloin and sell them for \$2 apiece at locations across the City. You get to keep all the money they make from sales. Earn extra income while also helping elevate the voices of the homeless writers who make this paper so unique, and promoting the vision of a San Francisco where every human being has a home.

TO SIGN UP, VISIT OUR OFFICE AT 280 TURK ST FROM 10-4 ON MONDAY-THURSDAY AND 10-NOON ON FRIDAY

### **WRITE FOR STREET SHEET**

This paper is unique because it is created by homeless people and advocates like you who contribute their stories, artwork, poetry, comic art, and political perspectives. Want to write or create for STREET SHEET? Visit our website for information about how to submit, or to submit something you've already created! Or you can submit any content in person at our office. www.streetsheet.org/submit-your-writing



### Abri (from old French): shelter, refuge, protection



Shelter Alameda Street near Showplace Square San Francisco

Robert Gumpert 2022 robertgumpert.com

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A local artist is seeking community members who are interested in sharing memories of their San Francisco pandemic experience (e.g., Shelter in Place, essential work, protests for racial justice, the orange sky day). These 30-min interviews will inform a narrative illustration project called the ( history archive. If you are interested, please email oneil.hazel@i your availability. Interviewees will be compensated for their tim Community Time Capsule, created for the San Francisco Public COVID-19 Community Time Contribute your stories to



www.cohsf.org streetsheetsf@gmail.com

Homelessness Coalition on

San Francisco