



So it was May 13th at 7 o'clock, when we became evicted from the place we were living in. Even before that evening, the fear [had sat] in, but I was prepared because I knew it would happen because of the situation in the house. It was my choice then to be homeless because I would not be without my partner.

All the fears and all the doubts and everything that is so confusing in my head and in my heart, became different when I met PFA [parks for all]. There was hope, even after we were swept by the government, by the authorities. I already trusted the people that had spoken to me. Even going to the hospital, going to all the places in time, they were there for me. Even just to talk about it. Just how I feel about being homeless for the first time in my life, at age 72. Hope sets in again, I started trusting people. And I started [becoming] interested in how I can be instrumental in finding ways to end homelessness. I admit, I am homeless. But I am not a criminal.

It was so cold in the tent, but still I would be stronger than usual. I grew up being protected until I became a widow and even before I became a widow, but I then could just make a call and make things peaceful for myself again. I started thinking about how homeless people could live, because I never knew how it was until I was one of them. Now I understand it better and I am hoping that one day, someday the government will understand that we are not criminals. We are just human beings looking for a place to stay and to survive. You know many things were destroyed when there was a sweep. But PFA put me somewhere where I could be at peace for a few days and a few nights, having decent food to eat, not fearing that the police, or any other authority would come in and take it away.

They are not just there as PFA, but they are now my friends, and eventually became a family that I can trust. I am getting better now, even going to the hospital, because they were there giving me rides, making sure I can get to my appointments. Being homeless and being disabled are two different things but I have no fear, there is always hope, because they are there.

You know it doesn't make sense, when people are suffering and all of the authorities and all the ones in these positions making decisions are still making good money, even more. Who is paying for all of those? The people who are working. Don't they understand? People need people. You can't buy love, you can't buy happiness, you can't buy freedom, you [can't] buy time. Everybody has to be together, become a community. You know love is give and take. Yesterday is gone forever, tomorrow may not come for any one of us, we live for today but we need help from each other.

We just can't say, "hey, I got the money, I got the power." Who is going to be punished? The people that are already suffering? What about the authorities that are making mistakes also? What is going to be happening to the people who were deported but did nothing, were just working? When I came to America, it was the land of opportunity. What happened? Was it the people who ruined it? Or was it the ones that are in the positions [of power]? The one below the people that are in those positions are getting punished, but are we punishing the ones up there?

Like the park, the park is public, I am one of the public. Even the dogs are being threatened. I mean they are dogs, they have life, they have the right to live. They are also created by God. You know, just like anybody else that is breathing out there has the right. But nothing is being done.

They were promising housing in all [of] this. But a friend of mine with a heart problem is now on the third floor, having a hard time going up and a hard time going down. Another friend, who has been waiting for two years, they finally found him housing but now he can't get it because he lost his ID. What is wrong with just saying, "okay, we'll try to figure out how to get you your ID back." No, every promise to us that was made, is the opposite of what is being done. It's like it goes in one ear and blows out the other.

How hard it is to understand? Have a little pity, have a little mercy. Be a human being. Or let's exchange shoes. I'll be in your position and you be in mine. Maybe you'll understand then.



We use certain words to name things that are often invisible- systems that sort, cage, or discard people. Naming them helps us see clearly and build differently.

July's Word: Disposability Management

Some people are treated as if their lives don't matter - not because of anything they did, but because the system has marked them as "surplus." Disposability management is the active, organized way that carceral capitalism handles those it cannot profitably exploit: through incarceration, neglect, environmental poisoning, and containment,. It's not neglect; it's design.

Examples:
A chemical plant built in a Black neighborhood - residents get cancer, the plant stays.

Homeless sweeps that push people from block to block, never offering housing.

A prison built in a poor town because the state guarantees a certain number of beds

How to Spot disposability management:
A community experiences predictable suffering (early death, incarceration, illness), and the only response is policing or silence - not resources.

Insight: Not Neglect. Design.
Closing: We built the garden where no one is treated as disposable.
- Free Store Community Notes

IS IT OK TO JUST TELL PEOPLE YOU STRAIGHT UP FORGOT THEIR NAME? - FROM: Q

This month, life has gifted me the following lessons on this subject:

- If you have only ever met the person before at a large party or gathering, it is not only okay to reveal you've forgotten their name, but probably a fun conversation starter if you play it off humorously.*
- If you have been neighbors for years and have previously known their name, you're going to have to ask around the neighborhood using context clues such as "has a big sweet pup" or "drives the Subaru covered in bumper stickers."*
- If you are on a first date, ask them to put their contact info and/or social media handle into your phone and go from there.*
- If they are your coworker and you have known them for more than a week or two, buck up and dive into the email list or shift schedule, because asking now is, unfortunately, rude.*

Love,
Lucia <3



communities that currently exist in disparate spaces? Just as browsing the library as a kid laid the foundation for future passions, the work we do figuring out how we share books are the seeds for how a forest of shared resources can look. The work we do connecting different types of libraries together is the groundwork for building coalition. By manifesting a library of entanglements, we are giving shape to our interconnected realities to create the futures we envision. And that is something worth checking out.

There will be friction and setbacks, books will get lost, and there will be disagreements on how much structure is too much. Do we maintain a database of books? Do we create physical check-out cards? Do we have volunteers distribute books that have been spread to different parts of the city? As we chart out what an inter-library loaning system looks like, we're also digging into the real work: what does labor and compensation look like, examining the lines of personal and collective property, and more! It might bring up tough questions like, is it praxis to let someone dog ear bookmark my book? But these are also the questions that we need to work through as a community to get to answers on how we share resources equitably, how do we build bridges between

a certain level of complexity and nuance. Or that said structure has to be centralized. Instead, it can be a mishmash of various scopes and rules, individuals and communities, coming together. Some libraries might be open on a full moon, others might be particular about which books they are loaning out. This negotiation might require building out a few limits or rules, but that too is part of the process. In fact, that is actually one of the most valuable things that comes from building alternative infrastructure. Not tactics that is only possible when a multitude of minds are co-creating a system together, but it also means that there are many hands that are directly building and maintaining this system. The knowledge and work is shared, everyone is engaged in the process of figuring out what they would like to see in a library, and what it would take to maintain it.

So from there, we can build our own inter-library loaning system. We can start to entangle our different collections of books. We can have a bookshelf at our local cafe that interacts with someone's personal collection. And then that can be mixed in with books that an event series curates, or an art collective maintains. This challenges the idea that an institution has to be in place to build out a structure or system with

And so suddenly, the idea of building this alternative infrastructure, this system that previously seemed daunting to manage and felt like it required the facilitation of the state, is now something that many of us are already doing, in big and small ways. The beauty of the libraries that we are already putting into practice is that we're already doing it, it is already embedded in the ways in which we socialize and build community. The task is not to make anew but to give language to what we are already doing, to iterate and improve upon it. It provides a little structure to allow the ways we are building to flourish and connect.

What might it mean to build our own library, not necessarily as a replacement for existing libraries, but as an alternative, as many alternatives? When we build our own libraries, we get to build them in ways that meet the hyperlocal needs and wants of our communities. They can be the little free libraries where people can just drop off or take a book. It can be someone's highly curated collection of books on fish, or someone's eclectic selection of underground music zines. A library is when you loan a book to a friend and ask them to scribble notes in them—or maybe a library is when you ask them to make sure to treat the book like it's your baby.

The worlds that the library provided became a gateway into the hobbies, passions, and politics that I have now. The value of the library became clear and seemed obvious. But, what does it mean and how does it change when the state holds the keys to this world? Even in an ideal situation where we are not worried about funding cuts, or government censorship, the true reality of a state-supported project is still one that is often bogged down by the bureaucracy of the systems it is inevitably beholden to.

Growing up, my mom would drop me off at the library for hours to just roam around. The library became a babysitter. I would get on the computer and start messing around with the games, or gather every animal book I could find and lay them all open on the floor, a spontaneous zoo before my eyes. As I got older, I slowly gravitated towards different sections of the library, taking a deep dive into the world of comics or a detour into the world of art history. Through travel guides I often went travelling to different countries around the planet. Sometimes I would just pick a random number on the Dewey Decimal System, and see what awaited me, everything from philosophy textbooks and self-help books to antique catalogs.

What does it mean to imagine beyond existing infrastructure? While there are certain systems we can easily identify as targets to dismantle, whether it's the carceral state or the exclusionary museum space, there are others that still feel valuable or worthwhile to preserve, like, although not without flaws, the post office or the library, which make them an ideal site for re-imagining.



TOWARDS A LIBRARY OF ENTANGLEMENTS

By Alex Wen

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS:
YOUR PHONE

You have a reasonable expectation of privacy in the contents of your cell phone and thus a right to privacy under the Fourth Amendment. To preserve your right to privacy, refuse consent to search it by saying “No, you may not search my phone.” However, the state may be permitted to require you to provide access to your phone for a search if it is not password protected through the use of Face ID or fingerprint. To avoid this you may want to disable biometric security features. Using a six-digit passcode that only you know and is difficult to guess, offers more protection by enabling you to better preserve your right to privacy regarding the contents of your phone.



WE'VE HIT OUR INITIAL GOAL!
WITH OUR FUNDS, WE'VE BEEN ABLE
TO GET:

SHOVELS
AND TOOLS

FOOD &
DRINKS

PET FOOD &
VET SUPPLIES

MEDICAL
SUPPLIES

LET'S CONTINUE TO RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT
MUTUAL AID EFFORTS IN CARACAS

VENMO:
@DUCKSFLOAT

FREE
FOOD

ALBANY PARK
COMMUNITY
COOLER

STAY
COOL

Located at 2959 W Lawrence, on the right of the building.
Help feed your community and bring or pick up free food in the community refrigerator!

hiding from the state *by nina*

a fluorescent sun
mocks me
if this were a plane, they would have turned
the light off by now.

i pull the threadbare barrier
over my eyes.

SHOW ME YOUR HANDS
the radio shouts

can they see me?

i'm not being uncooperative.
your kind kill Black people.
the radio is defiant.

i'm sorry
my veins whisper,
this message pulses in my blood,
the blood they took.
can you hear me?

the radio turns to silence.

perhaps,
out there,
the sun has traded places with the moon.

it seems today that all you see
is violence in movies and sex on tv
but where are the good old-fashioned values
on which we used to rely?
LUCKY THERE'S A FAMILY GUY!

the radio laughs.

i succumb
to the tiny hole in the blanket.
a piercing blue
meets my gaze.
an obsidian orb.
for where the sun goes,
the moon must,
also.

so they can see me.

i bury myself deeper
and through the tired threads
the fluorescent light
gives way to dappled stars.



WHAT SHOULD NO ONE DONATE?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

BIG 'OLE WORK ANIMALS USED TO
PULL OLD FASHIONED BUGGIES

1 _____

CREATIVE

2 _____

TO RUN YOUR CAR

3 _____

TALL BUILDING

4 _____ 5 _____

SLIMEY SEA MONSTER

6 _____ 7 _____

MORE OR...

8 _____ 9 _____

APMA MENTAL HEALTH GROUP:
A TALKING CIRCLE

APMA is inviting community members to participate in a Talking Circle to take place at the free store. Scheduling is to be determined. It will offer an opportunity to decompress, process, and speak with mental health professionals who are members of APMA. If you are interested please reach out to apmutual@gmail.com with your name and the days of the week you are most available to meet.

WANT TO BUY AN AUD?
\$2,000 PER SENTENCE.

CAR AUDIO CUSTOMS

2959 W Lawrence
Contact our friend Luis here for all your
car audio/car breathalyzer needs:
(872) 227-2878 or CarBreathalyzerExperts.com



ROASTED
AUTUMN BISQUE

SERVES: 8 (MULTIPLY BY 5 FOR 40)
POTS NEEDED: 3

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 acorn squash (or comparable squash) | 1 large onion or 2 medium |
| 3 ears of corn | 1 lemon (ideally preserved) |
| 1 head of kohlrabi | Olive oil |
| 2 heads of garlic | Salt and pepper to taste |

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 400 degrees
- Cut acorn squash in half, scoop out seeds, and place flesh up on a baking pan. Coat with olive oil. Take one head of garlic and wrap it in aluminum foil, and pour some olive oil over the top before twisting and sealing shut. Place it on the pan with the squash
- Put baking pan in for 45 minutes or until squash flesh is fork tender
- Start boiling a pot of water
- Use a knife or mandolin to slice corn kernels off of cob- add corn cobs to boiling water for stock
- Put corn kernels in separate bowl for later
- Slice onions into strips and put in pan over medium low heat, for 15 minutes or until onions begin to caramelize. Save onion ends and peels and add to stock
- Mince garlic and add to onions
- Peel kohlrabi and chop into cubes .5-1 inch in size-add to pan with onion- add generous amount of salt and pepper
- Cook until kohlrabi becomes translucent, about 10-15 mins
- Take squash out of oven and let cool for a bit- then scoop out flesh into a separate bowl.
- Heat a deep pot with olive oil and add squash , cook for 10 minutes stirring occasionally
- Strain veggie stock into separate bowl
- Add stock, corn kernels, and halved preserved lemon and cook down a bit, 15 mins
- Remove lemons and use immersion blender until soup is smooth in consistency
- Combine with onion/kohlrabi mix



FREE STORE SEED LIBRARY

Did you know? Dirt makes your brain happy! Studies show that contact with microorganisms in soil (like gardening and playing outside) can boost mental health, immune function, and promotes gut-brain health— acting as natural antidepressants with the power to improve mood, reduce anxiety, and even enhance cognitive function. Wanna grow food and flowers? Need some seeds to get your garden started? We got you! Come by the free store (days/time that free store is open) and ask about our free seed library. Together we can feed each other and nourish our connection to the land. Have seeds to share? Come by on Saturday open hours to spread the wealth and grow our seed library 🌱🌻