

Street Sights

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'Through It All!' Beverly Schley—Poetess

By Pastor Brian Archibald

I met Beverly through a brother of mine named George who happens to be the producer of my Cable TV show. She's from Boston Massachusetts, but currently resides in Fall River. At 51 years of age, Beverly has become quite the survivor. At nineteen she lost her mother due to some very unfortunate circumstances. In fact, her mother's tragedy was what triggered her passion for writing poetry. Her first of many works is named after her mother, 'A Mother Remembered,' which will be featured at the end of this article.

Her six books are a collective body of works that deal with everything from her own mental health issues to the experiences of abuse that she has had the opportunity to have been the sounding board for other women who have gone through the horrors of being abused. Her works also contain many of her personal struggles as she matured into the beautiful and talented woman that she is today. As I spoke to her, I found out that her focus in her writings goes very deep. The message in her writings is that of empowerment, as well as the hope to

educate people from her personal experiences throughout her life.

As a poet and writer, I could feel the sincerity in her voice as we spoke. The passion that was and is her focus. The emotion that she has put in her work shined through as she explained to me what each of the works that she shared with me meant. Her poems, I could tell, were written with power, and came from deep within. She is a quintessential example of women like Sylvia Plath and the late Dr. Maya Angelou.

There is a sincerity in her words, and a simplicity that rings out each message clearly and distinctly. Her messages are potent and pure. Her words are captivating. Each weight that she has carried over the years has given her the mental fortitude and creative enrichment to be able to leave a literary imprint on those who are privileged enough to read it. Which I hope that this paper is going to share with you throughout the issues to come.

It was amazing to sit and talk with this woman who is so accomplished but hasn't had

the opportunity to share her wisdom with anyone but the few people that are close to her. I personally know this struggle because I too have had my own personal struggles showcasing my creativity. If it wasn't for *Street Sights* allowing me to do what I do for this amazing paper, I would be in the same position as Beverly. Unseen, and unheard. And this is why we are doing what we are doing here at *Street Sights* with the POETRY SLAM.

We are trying to create an opportunity for you, the voiceless, to be heard. To be counted. To be given the chance to let the community here in Rhode Island and other surrounding communities at large know how you feel. To give an ear to the truth of your struggles and challenges, and victories. Like Beverly, who has struggled so long, and waited so long to be heard, THIS PAPER IS YOUR CHANCE! MAKE YOUR VOICE COUNT! This is what we are here for. Show us who you are.

The truth of what you are capable of. Use your talent to shine like the sun on a warm summer day for everyone to see. That way you can tell the world.



A Mother Remembered

By Beverly Schley

This wonderful person that I am about to describe, Is a beautiful person both from the out and inside, She had four daughters and a grandson of whom she would boast, Everyone in the family felt like they loved her the most, When she smiled like the sun, her face would come alive, It would shine with all the happiness that she had on the inside, She was my friend and my mother, the strongest woman I ever knew, A mother remembered, my angel, and God's angel too.

Meet Beverly, a survivor and poet whose words resonate with power and sincerity.



POETRY SLAM

DEADLINE MAY 15TH

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

If you haven't already read Steve Ahlquist's article on Governor McKee's amendment to his FY2025 budget proposal to support housing stability and tackle homelessness in Rhode Island please do (published 4-24-24).

EXCERPT: Governor level funds the state's homeless response system - advocates are cautiously optimistic. "...we've been doing this over and over again and it is never changing," said Eileen Hayes of Amos House. "Until we get out of this loop, we are not going to solve homelessness."

Last week advocates and people experiencing homelessness stood outside the offices of Rhode Island Governor Daniel McKee and demanded that he declare a State of Emergency due

to the state's Unsheltered and Unhoused Crisis. A press conference scheduled for Tuesday at the State House was initially going to highlight the need for \$30 million to fund Rhode Island's homeless response system at the current level. Governor McKee had initially proposed cuts that would have created a catastrophic scenario that would have eliminated approximately 1,000 shelter beds, exacerbating the current, record-high, levels of unsheltered homelessness.

Recent data collected by the state's Homeless Management Information System estimates that 529 Rhode Islanders experienced unsheltered homelessness at the beginning of April 2024, a 645% increase in unsheltered homelessness since January 2019. But all that changed when on Monday,

Governor McKee submitted an amendment to his FY2025 budget proposal to support housing stability and tackle homelessness in Rhode Island. The amendment also proposes the creation of a permanent funding stream to address these areas in future years.

"The Governor's budget amendment proposes important resources aimed at continuing support for Rhode Islanders experiencing homelessness," said Secretary of Housing Stefan Pryor. "We look forward to working with the General Assembly, homeless service providers, municipal leaders, and others regarding this proposal."

Read full article here:
bit.ly/RIGovFunds

OUR MISSION

Street Sights serves as a forum for advocates, homeless, and formerly homeless people, students, state officials, and the general public to share accurate and honest information about issues relating to homelessness. Our goal is to shed light on a subject not often addressed and, to some degree, ignored.

CONTACT US

To submit any articles, photos, artwork, poetry, advertisements, or comments please contact us via Email: streetsights@gmail.com, Phone: 401-499-3596, or Standard Mail: Street Sights 162 Orms Street, Providence, RI 02908. **All Articles are due by the 20th of each month.**

ADVERTISE WITH US

Street Sights is the only homeless magazine and resource guide in Rhode Island. Your contribution will help our friends continue to receive updated information. If you have a business or organization and would like to advertise see our prices below (we offer multiple months discount). Please call us at 401-499-3596 if you have any questions. **All ads are due by the 20th of each month**

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Opinion articles represent the opinions of the people who submitted them. We welcome your opinion pieces (up to 300 words). We do not publish material we deem to be racist, sexist or classist. *Street Sights* reserves the right to edit material.

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Homeless in RI: Opening of Providence pallet shelter community delayed

Pallet shelters stand assembled on a lot located off Victor Street in Providence on April 17, 2024. The community, called “ECHO Village,” was initially scheduled to open at the end of the first quarter of 2024. Residents likely won’t move in until either May or June. (Christopher Shea/Rhode Island Current).

**By Christopher Shea
April 19, 2024, RINewsToday**

Corralled within the on-ramp to Route 146 South stand 45 empty white one-room cabins, adorned with blue doors and little windows. But the first residents to occupy them won’t arrive until either May or June.

Welcome to Smith Hill’s newest subdivision: “ECHO Village.” These tiny cabins, also called pallet shelters, will soon serve as the state’s first community of temporary shelters for people experiencing homelessness. The village will be managed by Warwick-based community development corporation House of Hope.

When the \$3.3 million project was first announced in January, a Rhode Island Department of Housing spokesperson said ECHO Village was scheduled to open “before the end of the first quarter” of 2024. But crews are still awaiting final approvals from the city of Providence as it hooks up shelters to the electric grid and sewer system, said House of Hope Executive Director Laura Jaworski said.

Josh Estrella, spokesperson for the city of Providence, referred questions on the shelter’s approval process to the state’s Department of Housing.

“We are still doing site preparation that’s needed,” Housing Department spokesperson Emily Marshall.

“These things sadly take time,” Jaworski added. “But we’re continuing to make forward progress, which is good stuff — we’re really anxious to get this online.”

Funding will come from State Fiscal Recovery Funds and Community Development Block Grants, as well the city of Providence. The project remains on budget as of Wednesday, Marshall said.

While ECHO village would be the state’s inaugural pallet community, Rhode Island is not the first to have such a shelter. Other pallet villages were established in Boston, Massachusetts in 2022 Burlington, Vermont in 2023.

Each 70-square-foot cabin is meant for single occupancy, but couples can share a unit if they request a second bed. That small space is by design, Jaworski said.

“They’re not meant to be someone’s forever home,” she said. “It’s a safer, dignified space. People can decompress, which is really important. As human beings, we are not meant to constantly be in a state of fight or flight.”

The cabins will have electricity, with charging outlets for smartphones, but no plumbing. The village will have a community room, along with ADA-approved combination bathroom/shower facilities and a laundry room. House of Hope staff will work out four office structures to provide case management, housing application assistance, job training, substance use recovery and mental health services.

The pallet community will be located on Victor Street in Providence’s Smith Hill neighborhood — about a block away from the Foxy Lady, a well-known strip club. A Housing Department spokesperson in January said the location was chosen because it was close to transportation options, amenities, and services.

“You drive past the Foxy Lady to go to the State House, Smith Hill, Providence College, or the highway,” Jaworski said. “It’s not like we’re in their parking lot. If it just happens that we get some ambient light, then so be it.”

The only concern Jaworski said she initially had about the location was that it was in the cloverleaf of the on-ramp to Route 146 South.

“That to me felt weird,” she said.

But Jaworski said the land would otherwise go unused in a state that needed to create more shelter space. Over 1,800 people in Rhode Island were experiencing homelessness on a single winter night in 2023 — up 14.8% from the prior year, according to figures from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“I couldn’t sleep at night waiting for housing to be developed,” she said. “I felt like I had a responsibility and to use my role here to push and advocate for emergency shelter — we could make this work.”

Once it’s up-and-running, Jaworski said she expects ECHO Village to operate “for a few years, at least.”

“But ECHO can’t come online in a vacuum,” she said. “It can only be successful if we’re adding more housing in places where we’ve underdeveloped.”

Individuals and couples will be selected to live at the site through the state’s Coordinated Entry System — a calling system designed to ensure people experiencing housing insecurity have “fair and equal access” to shelter.

RIPTA, Next Wave Rhode Island Partners to kick off comprehensive public input process on the future of the Providence Transit Center

Upcoming series of ‘Transit Talks’ public engagement sessions will provide several accessible opportunities for Rhode Islanders to share their opinions as this long-term project progresses.

RIPTA PRESS RELEASE

Providence, Rhode Island – Continuing a commitment to executing a robust and fully transparent planning and development process, the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) and Next Wave Rhode Island Partners (Next Wave Partners) are seeking public input on the development of a new, state-of-the-art transit center in Providence.

The first in a series of “Transit Talks” public engagement sessions related to this project will be held on Monday, May 13 from 4 – 7 p.m. at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence. At this session, representatives from Next Wave Partners and RIPTA will discuss the project’s overarching objectives of enhancing ridership experience and expanding service.

“The development of a new transit center is a significant, long-term endeavor and a major investment in our economic and environmental future,” said Governor Dan McKee. “For a project as far-reaching as this, it is critical that we make every effort to involve the public at every step of the process. I encourage all Rhode Islanders to share their input and opinions.”

The interactive event on May 13 will provide RIPTA riders and members of the community with an opportunity to share their opinions and feedback on a new transit center, as well as their priorities regarding amenities that a new, modern, state-of-the-art transit center should provide. Translators will be available on-site to support individuals who speak Spanish and Portuguese. Refreshments will be provided.

“Rhode Island is overdue for a revamped, modernized transit center that can offer the

centralized location and state-of-the-art amenities our riders expect and deserve,” said RIPTA interim Chief Executive Officer Christopher Durand. “Working alongside the Governor and the experienced professionals at Next Wave Partners, we are confident we can deliver a project that will improve riders’ experience and ultimately advance Rhode Island’s ambitious climate goals. We look forward to engaging the public over the next several months as we move forward.”

A consortium comprised of Marsella Development Corporation, Gilbane Development Company, Plenary Americas, Gilbane Building Company, CUBE 3 and Jacobs, Next Wave Partners was selected in August of 2023 by RIPTA to design and construct a new transit center in Providence. RIPTA’s Board of Directors voted to approve Next Wave Partner’s engagement on January 30, 2024.

The new transit center would serve as RIPTA’s central bus depot, providing millions of trips annually, and considering anticipated growth, the transit center will feature a state-of-the-art temperature-controlled passenger arrival and seating area, staff break areas, and amenities including multi-modal accommodations for bicyclists.

Using a progressive public-private partnership (P3) model, RIPTA and Next Wave Partners will work together in two phases to complete the new transit center, a common model for larger infrastructure projects. This approach will ensure RIPTA has input at all stages of the development and can access the private-sector funding and expertise needed to successfully deliver a project of this scale.

“We recognize the vast, long-term significance this project will have on the entire state, and we are proud to have the opportu-

nity to work with RIPTA and Governor McKee’s Administration to bring the vision of a brand-new transit center to life,” said Christopher Marsella, President, Marsella Corporation, on behalf of Next Wave Partners. “We look forward to speaking one-on-one with current RIPTA riders, Providence residents and other community stakeholders as we continue to assess potential sites.”

RIPTA and Next Wave Partners plan to host additional public engagement sessions over the course of the spring and summer. In an effort to reach individuals who are not able to attend these in-person sessions, outreach will also include a statewide survey to collect additional input and feedback.

Dates and locations of upcoming in-person sessions and summaries of all public input will be made available in the coming weeks. Visit www.RIPTA.com/TransitCenter for more information and updates.

About RIPTA: The Rhode Island Public Transit Authority’s mission is to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective transit service with a skilled team of professionals responsive to our customers, the environment, and committed to transit excellence.

About Next Wave Rhode Island Partners: Next Wave Rhode Island Partners is a consortium comprised of leaders in Rhode Island’s development sector, including Marsella Development Corporation, Gilbane Development Company, Plenary Americas, Gilbane Building Company, CUBE 3 and Jacobs. Next Wave Partners was selected in August of 2023 by RIPTA to design and construct a new transit center in Providence. RIPTA’s Board of Directors voted to approve Next Wave Partner’s engagement on January 30, 2024.

BUS UPDATE

By Patricia Raub

The bus service cuts have been delayed, acting RIPTA CEO. Chris Durand reported to the board on April 25th, since driver applications have risen due to the recent pay increase. If enough new bus drivers are behind the wheel by August, the cuts may not be necessary at all.



Dear friend of RIPTA:

As we've discussed in previous newsletters, we are currently working to bring a new transit center to Providence. While still in its exploratory phase, we recognize the long-term significance the next steps of this project will have on the entire state - and we are committed to working through this process in a fully transparent, collaborative manner.

That's why we need to hear from you.

Beginning with a public engagement session scheduled for **Monday, May 13 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Amica Mutual Pavilion in Providence**, we are working with Next Wave Rhode Island Partners to officially kick off a comprehensive public input process related to the transit center project. The interactive event on May 13 will provide RIPTA riders and members of the community with an opportunity to share their opinions and feedback on a new transit center, as well as their priorities regarding amenities that a new, modern, state-of-the-art transit center should provide.

In an effort to make this event as accessible as possible, translators will be on-site to support participants who speak Spanish and Portuguese, along with a sign language interpreter to assist those who are deaf or hard of hearing. We also plan to share a recording of the event's formal speaking program online and in this newsletter.

This public engagement session will be the first of many we are planning to host over the course of the spring and summer. Stay tuned to [RIPTA.com/TransitCenter](https://ripta.com/transitcenter) for a full schedule of public events and more information.

For now, we hope you can join us on Monday, May 13 at the Amica Mutual Pavilion to add your voice to this critically important state project. We and our partners are here to listen, and we look forward to continuing to strive toward creating a more efficient, more accessible, more sustainable transit system that works for all Rhode Islanders. Please [click here](#) to RSVP.

Sincerely,

Christopher Durand
Interim Chief Executive Officer



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**Join MHARI at the State House
on May 1, at 1 PM in the State
Room (2nd floor) to kick off
May is Mental Month.**

Millions of Americans and thousands of residents of Rhode Island are living with mental illness. Each May, MHARI, and individuals, agencies, and organizations across the State and the country, observe Mental Health month. We do so to fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support people with mental illness and their families.



*Rest In Peace, Stan Kapelewski,
our Founder.*

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR WRITING ON THE WALL?

Submit your poems or artwork by:
Email: streetsights@gmail.com
Regular mail: Janice Luongo c/o
Street Sights, 162 Orms Street
Providence, RI 02908.

You must include your name,
email address or phone number.

**All articles and poems
are due by the 20th
of each month**

The Path

By Ellen Evans
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Recovery is very personal. I'm talking about some aspect of your life that has taken over. Some facet of who you are that is blocking who you want to be. You might not even know yet who that is, but this mask of who you have become can stop you from ever finding out.

The word recovery is most frequently used in reference to an over-use of narcotics and alcohol but recently has been expanded to cover gambling, eating, and more. Addicts use their substance of choice to numb themselves from the realities of life, with the abuse becoming a method of self-medication.

While the addict may be chasing his unattainable initial high, the alcoholic may be telling themselves that this drink is their due after the day they have had (whether good or bad). Where the gambler is looking for his "one big win", the overeater is bingeing on comfort foods.

The keystone to most recovery systems falls into the framework of a 12-step program, in the control of, or abstinence from what was once formerly abused. Included with this is a tremendous support network in place, with other peers willing to offer a hand just like someone offered them. With the general population knowing more about the existence of such programs, and the increasing number of addictions they treat, any addict stands a better chance of recovery than ever before.

In this regard, however, recovery from mental illness travels a different path. First, there is still a great stigma in our society for those suffering from invisible illnesses, including invisible physical illnesses—Chronic Migraine, early stages of Multiple Sclerosis, Fibromyalgia, and even Arthritis are treated with disdain. With mental illness, however, it is only very recently that it is "okay to not be okay", thus depriving us of the broad support system available to those with addiction issues.

Our form of self-medication is when we take unauthorized control of our prescribed drugs. We get tired of the side effects, whether physical, emotional, or both. Sometimes, we just grow weary of having to take the medications again and again, with no end in sight. Even setting up the weekly or monthly medication tray can become a heavy burden.

So, we decided to stop. At first, we feel fine, (due to the success of the remedy), reinforcing our notion that the meds are no longer necessary. Most psych meds require three to six weeks to clear the system. By the time they do, our particular behaviors have returned strongly enough that we can no longer recognize just how unwell we are.

It is critical that those of us with mental illnesses do not become complacent, thinking, "Well, at least I'm not an addict." Each of us responds to different situations in different ways. Measuring our individual condition to that of another can be deceptive at best and harmful at worst. Although our battles may be divergent, they are no less severe. Reaching the destination of recovery requires focus, commitment, and determination, regardless of the path we choose to get there.

The Only Answer

By Alex Davidowicz

Wish on a star, you won't get far.
Wish on a rainbow, you won't grow.
Crossing fingers leads to danger.
Reading cards will break your heart.
Answers don't come from this world.
Only confusion and pain unfurled.
The only solution is to pray.
It's never a waste of time or day.
A short conversation with our Creator
Will surely determine what happens later.
All other sources are null and void.
They are useless and should be destroyed.
Talking to Jesus is the greatest thing.
Let Him take you under His wing.

POETRY SLAM

**DEADLINE
MAY 15TH**



May 15th is the deadline for submitting your poems to the poetry slam. On Friday May 26th we will announce the winners of the slam at Betterlives RI dinner at Mathewson Church around 4pm. Please make every effort to attend and support all those who submitted their works.

Mother Earth

By David Eisenberger

Mother Earth still spins each day
On a cycle since the very beginning
That we'll have those four seasons
Hopefully we'll get to realize this
Each day we're killing her slowly
Right now with all the abuse we give

Everything that we've done to destroy
A paradise will come with consequences
Right now that very day's approaching
That what we'll have..will truly disappear
Hopefully Mother Earth will be kind to us!

Behind the Mask

By: Anonymous

I did not face the monsters in me
The monsters living in my Soul
I did not want to see them
or care to take a look
And letting them be known

I lied and kept the secrets in the dark
without bringing them to you
You were a light of truth and honesty
And I failed to be someone who was true

The consequence and the result
was so painful to me back then
I did not see that I would be
what I they are to me as I see them

My words and actions
were not in alignment
creating the karma that I would sow
And in the harvest that would come
The weight weighed a ton
with the shame that I now behold
I believed that you could help
But I could not look in the mirror
Too scary of an image
and too painful to know
while the waters were not any clearer

My actions that harmed first concealed
were of selfish hands that were bold
And to you it was finally revealed
And your trust in me I sold

I was not able to see how I was
Pretending to be who I was not
To you I was not anyways

especially when things fell to rot
I thought I could do better
And sadly, I did not
And you were someone who cared
Someone who cared a lot

I failed to look at myself
If only I had done better with honesty
That would have said more
than any other words
And I would have set myself free

The monsters in the closet took over
giving you a heavy blow
To your heart and trust in me
And the kindness that you showed

I could have done better
but better I did not know
Instead, I took from a high place
of your time and trust
And in the end
I feel low

I acted from a wrong place
the demons under the mask
You might even think I am evil
or maybe that I am bad

I would agree that a place in me
There is some truth to be had in that
When I refused to look at my demons
That were living under the mask

I lacked the awareness to see myself
With honest self-reflection
And to be honest with you
And let that be true
And move in the right direction

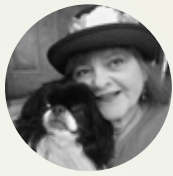
I do feel the river of regret
leading me back to the source
of my oldest pain
my heart lit up in flames
where I was set off the course

This aching shame won't leave me alone
But it is this feeling that I feel
that is leading me back
back on the path
helping me to heal

If only I knew to do better
And what was expected of me
Then you would still be here to help
And the better I could be

Now I take the loss
of the falling of the tree
To die in the ground of remorse
And I pray that I will be better
When I am reborn
And set a much better course

It is truth they say that sets us free
I now need to embrace the truth
For at the end of the day by being honest
We will have nothing to lose.



Soul Purpose By Shelley Turner-Riley

“Good Grief!”

Who does not think of Charlie Brown and his friends, with this phrase? Is it meant to sub for a “swear word” or even as a way to not break the Second Commandment, to not take God’s name in vain? Is there such a thing as “Good” grief? And are there consequences for not grieving?

None of us get through this life without some kind of loss. In May we hold up mothers in many situations, both joyful and sorrowful. on Memorial Day, men and women are remembered not just for their uniforms and medals, but for the roles they played in our lives. My prayers are for the families and friends, of every veteran who died and those still alive and wounded. As always, I men-

tion the “silent” wounds which are not without manifestation. Sadly, many still have not grieved. Trauma that is stored builds; grief that is stored can explode. In all of us.

“Good” Grief may apply to mourning and/or repentance. Phases of grief include outrage (“How dare this happen to ME?”); questions and anger; and readjusting to life without the loved one. At some point, we hope to get through by grieving until we are “spent.” We can hold the person’s memory with more tolerance, then gratitude for the time spent. Everyone has a different timeline through grief, as God intended, to help us find relief. In Ecclesiastes, we read there is “A time to mourn a time to dance.”

In the Psalms, David often expresses his

grief—sometimes it is about life itself. In Psalm 22 he wrote words that Jesus used on the Cross. “My God, why have you forsaken me?” Forsaken is about abandonment. These words may target a painful memory. David’s dialogues with God cover many feelings.

Repentance is more than “feeling sorry”. Who among us has ever said “WHAT have I done ?” With an “!!!” No excuses will help, we have tried them all. We knew we could have stopped it somehow. Where do we go from here?

This sounds like the Apostle Peter; having been told by Jesus that he would betray him three times, somehow the rooster crowed. Peter had sworn he did not know the Galilean. Where does one go after that? Luke’s account says Peter “wept bitterly.” He was “spent.” There was room in his heart for Jesus’ ready forgiveness.

In a film by Hospice, a chaplain discusses her care for terminal patients. I cannot forget her advice: “God is big enough to handle anything we can possibly throw at Him.” Don’t we all need a safe place, for the pain to rise and the tears to flow? Even if it is music or a trusted person... critter?

There is a song I have not heard in years; somehow it reminds me of the many stories that come to us through the poems, the sharing, interviews and probably across the tables at Matthewson St. on. Sunday. These are words from “Love’s Divine” by Seal:

“Then the rainstorm came over me, and I felt my spirit break. I had lost all my belief, you see, and realized my reality. But time threw a prayer to me and all around me became still. I need Love. Love’s Divine. Please forgive me, now that I see that I’ve been blind. Give me Love. Love is what I need to know my name. ... well I try to say there’s nothing wrong. But inside I felt me lying all along. But the message here was plain to see. Believe me..... promise me you will forgive me and not forsake. ‘CUZ LOVE IS WHAT I NEED TO KNOW MY NAME.”

“God is Love.” 1 John 4:8. “I have called you by name.” Isaiah 43:1

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<p>Vegetables Choose a rainbow of colors if you can.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single serve 100% vegetable juice Cherry tomatoes, carrots & cucumbers (store well at room temperature) Salsa & canned vegetables
<p>Dairy Choose low-fat when available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry or Evaporated Milk Shelf stable milk or non-dairy alternatives Hard & processed cheese (store well at room temperature) Cheese crisps
<p>Protein Choose lean meats, nuts, and beans when available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nuts and seeds Peanut butter Canned fish (tuna, salmon, sardines) & chicken Canned beans & bean dip

This material was funded by USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



If You Don't know, Now You Know By Pastor Brian Archibald

To Infinity and Beyond!

I was blessed to have a conversation with a brother of mine named Gerald. He is a 62-year-old gentleman who currently lives here in Providence, RI. I asked him if he wouldn't mind sharing his story about how he overcame an insurmountable circumstance and allowed the power of God and a recovery community to get him through something that otherwise could have taken him down a road that so many of us have traveled and haven't made it through as yet.

On March 14th, 2023, Gerald suffered the loss of his wife. At the time of her death, Gerald only had sixty or so days clean. One could only imagine the knife that pierced his heart on that day. She was his everything. His brother, his friend, his encouragement, and more. As we spoke on the phone and more than once during this interview, I could hear and feel the hurt and the pain of loss that he was feeling, even to this very day. So much so that it made me think of the current passing of my mother and the hurt of loss that affected so many people. It was right then that I could see his face even though he wasn't there where I was. I heard the tears as we went on and this awesome individual struggled to share what was so personal and dear to him.

I think that the most impressive thing that he shared with me was that even with this horrible event that happened to him, Gerald did not once think about picking up a drink or a drug. In fact, his main concern was when he went deep down inside of self and asked, "What do I do now?" The most important thing that he could think to do was to call his sponsor in recovery. That evening Gerald and his sponsor spent the entire night until the wee hours of the morning grieving. Gerald was in and out of his sorrows the entire time, and one can only assume, for days and months after through today.

As we went on and spoke about the death of his wife, he shared with me the day he reached his sixtieth day of recovery. "It wasn't something that I was thinking about," he told me, but his wife knew, and on that

day, she made sure that he knew that she was proud of him. That she was in his corner. She gave him accolades for his accomplishment, and though it may not have been a big deal to him at the time, she made sure that 'he knew' that what he had accomplished, even on a small scale, was a big deal to her. That in and above itself was a big reason for him to soldier on with his recovery.

About three weeks after the passing of his wife, Gerald started going to The Church of the Master. It was there that he found his Spiritual peace. As he kept up with his attendance at the Church, Gerald found that many other members of the Church had been through the struggles of addiction, alcoholism, and loss just as he had, and it was then that he knew that he was home. After a few months, Gerald became an intricate part of the Church. Volunteering on Saturday mornings during the feeding that the Church did, and doing his best to be there whenever he had the opportunity.

At the time of his wife's passing, Gerald had no idea where or how he was going to survive. His income was almost nil, and he was persistently waiting for his victim's fund to come through. It was then that God and the men and women of Narcotics Anonymous showed up. These men and women took it upon themselves to raise enough money for Gerald to pay his rent for the next two months until he could pay it himself. This is what community, love, and caring is all about. When it comes to a situation like this, we come together to stand for one another in the midst of this kind of tragedy and do the best that we can for the individual in need. This is the type of thing that encourages and represents who we are as a people and the depths of what we can do when we take the time to understand and be there for our brothers and sisters who are struggling.

As the interview came to a close, I asked Gerald what the most important thing was that he could pass on to someone who is struggling like he was back when his wife passed. He told me that the biggest things that he did were to keep himself around positive people

who could support him the right way and give him the type of encouragement that he needed, as well to stay focused and involved with his recovery process and remain rooted and grounded in the Lord Jesus Christ.

I just want to pass this on to everyone whether or not you are in recovery. Whether you go to Church or not. I want to not only ask you, but I want to encourage you in every way that I can, that you find a 'GOOD' support system. People who you can count on to be there during your struggles. No matter how unimportant you may think your situation is, or how unimportant you might personally feel.

The bottom line is, at one point or another, we all need each other. We all need to know and be able to rely on each other at some point in our lives. Why do you think that God created women? It says it right there in the Bible in the book of Genesis 2:18, (and no, I'm not trying to get all religious on you. It's just a fact that needs to be shared.) "It's not good for man to be alone." so even thousands of years ago, God saw that there was a need for man to have companionship. What I'm saying is that WE ALL NEED EACH OTHER. No matter how you might feel about humanity, or one particular individual or the other. The reality is that everybody needs somebody. To infinity and beyond!

So if you don't know, Now you know!



Gerald, 62, found strength in community and faith.

From Roots to Canopy

By James Logan

Beneath the expansive sky that blankets the world, in the shadows of life's vast bridges, my story continues. Like a seed buried in darkness, I was unseen and unnoticed, a mere whisper of potential in the fertile silence of hardship. There, in the solitude of the shadows I walked through, I found a silent teacher in the echo of every footstep I tread. Telling me; "Follow me and I will give you rest."

Each day, as the sun cast golden beams onto the paths I could not yet walk, I clung to the promise whispered by the spirit, a scripture that became my mantra: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). This verse was not merely words; it was the very breath of hope that sustained my spirit.

This is my testament—not of a journey completed, but of a transformation ongoing. It is a story of roots deepening, of growth through the cracks of life, and of the emergence into the light of understanding. It is a call to those who still feel the cold shadow of the bridge I once laid under and to those who dream beneath the burden of their own trials.

In the cradle of earth, beneath the vast ex-

pense of a merciless sky, I lay like a tiny seed in the dark, harboring a spark of potential that the cold, harsh world had yet to extinguish. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). Clinging to these words, I prayed beneath the weight of my circumstances, yearning for the sun's warmth to come.

As the rains of adversity descended and the tempests of life roared their defiance, something within me stirred—awakened by the promise of growth. I was tender and small, my aspirations fragile like the first sprout pushing through soil. Yet, with each challenge, I reached deeper, embracing the trials as paths to strength. The light of dawn's forgiving rays bathed me, and with each new leaf of experience, my wisdom unfurled.

In my seasons pass—each one etching a ring of growth around the trunk of my spirit. I faced winters that seemed endless, storms that threatened to uproot my very being. But "those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31). These words became the wind beneath my wings as I struggled against the gales.

From a humble sprout to a sturdy sapling, I grew. The challenges I faced sculpted me, crafting resilience into every fiber of my being. There were moments when the darkness seemed insurmountable when the cold bit deep into my core. Yet, each struggle was a step upwards, each setback a lesson that prepared me for the next leap forward.

Now, standing as a mighty oak, my branches stretch towards the heavens—a testament to the power of persistence. My roots, once unsure and faltering, now dive deep into the earth, drawing strength from the promises of my God. Under His canopy, I can begin to offer hope to those weary travelers who tread the path I once walked.

I am not merely a survivor of the cold dark; I am a beacon for those still lost in its shadow. As I stand here, the bridge that once confined me to the shadows has become a distant memory. It is not a barrier but a landmark of how far I've come, a reminder of the depths from which I soared.

To my brothers and sisters still out in the struggle, remember the oak that stands tall once started as a seed in the dark. You are equipped with an inner strength, endowed by your Creator, ready to burst forth into the light. The journey may be fraught with peril, the nights long and unforgiving, but each morning brings Joy and renewed strength.

Hold fast to the promise of your own becoming. Embrace each challenge as the oak embraces the storm—rooted in faith and steadfast in the face of adversity. Know that the sanctuary you seek may start from within, a sanctuary built through faith, resilience, and He will give you rest.

"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). So, rise each day with courage, for you are not alone in this journey. Together, we grow towards the light, each of us a beacon in the darkness for those who follow.

With love and solidarity, may we all embrace the dawn, ever resilient, ever hopeful, and forever united in our journey toward new beginnings. God Bless!

The Curse of the Superman Building

By Noah Schwartz

The architect who built the Superman building was its first victim. George Frederic (no 'k') Hall started his last will and testament by saying he was working on a huge project and he was afraid it was gonna kill him so he was filling out his will. I don't know if that's a common thing to do. But he was right. He didn't live to see it open.

Mr. Hall died on September 5th 1928, and the building opened on October 1st He, his wife, and his parents are buried close to H. P. Lovecraft's family plot. I don't know if it's possible to explain what kind of a year 1928 was. Zeppelins filled the sky over Rhode Island in

those days. Spiritualism was big back then. They were regularly holding seances in the White House in Washington D.C., Houdini was the most famous person of his epoch, and King Tut's tomb was discovered in that decade.

Just about all the machine tools for war, and all airships, were made in Rhode Island, thanks to Samuel Pomeroy Colt and his Industrial Trust Company. God took the second part of the curse personally. On September 23, 1932 a bolt of lightning struck the industrial trust company building, knocking off the head of one of the four 20' stone eagles, which fell over 400 feet narrowly missing hitting two men who were sitting in a car in a dark alley together trying on shoes.

PAWTUCKET:

Holy Family Parish
195 Walcott Street (401)724-9190

Salvation Army Pawtucket Corps' Food
Pantry 102 High Street (401)723-9533

St. John the Baptist Food Pantry
69 Quincy Avenue (401)722-9054

Living Hope Assembly of God
100 Broadway (401)723-2039

Woodlawn Baptist Church
337 Lonsdale Avenue (401)724-6390

Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center
75 Benefit Street (401)724-7170

St. Matthew Trinity Lutheran Food Pantry
690 Newport Avenue (401)723-5632

WARWICK:

Westbay CAP Market Place 211
Buttonwoods Avenue (401)732-4660 ext.140

Cornerstone Church Food Pantry
1990 Elmwood Avenue (401)781-6121

St. Rita's Church Pantry
722 Oakland Beach Avenue (401)738-1800

PROVIDENCE:

John Hope Settlement House Pantry
7 Thomas Whitten Way (401)421-6993

Our Lady of the Rosary
Food Pantry Wed Sat
17 Traverse Street (401)453-0174

SVDP St. Raymond's Church
1240 North Main Street (401) 351-4224

St. Edward Food & Wellness Center
1001 Branch Avenue (401)621-3827

Camp Street Ministries Food Pantry
190 1/2 Camp Street (401)421-5474

Mt. Hope Neighborhood Association
199 Camp Street (401)521-8830

SVDP Holy Name of Jesus Food Pantry
99 Camp Street (401)277-9053

Community Food Share First Unitarian
Church 1 Benevolent Street (401)457-7149

Community Action Partnership of Prov
Interim House 49 Trenton Street
(401)831-4570

Providence Assembly of God Pantry
353 Elmwood Avenue (401)461-7210

St. Charles Pantry SVDP
178 Dexter Street (401)273-1108

Interfaith Food Ministry
95 Hathaway Ctr #61 (401)461-1773

Salvation Army Providence Corps' Food
Pantry 386 Broad Street (401)831-1119
Dinner 4- 5pm

South Providence Neighborhood Ministries
747 Broad Street (401)461-7509

West End Community Center Pantry
109 Bucklin Street (401)781-4242

Assumption of the BVM Church
791 Potters Avenue (401)941-1248

Operation Compassion Church of God
297 Elmwood Avenue (401)275-2326

Louis and Goldie Chester Full Plate Kosher
Pantry 100 Niantic Avenue (401)621-5374

St. Peter & St. Andrew Food Pantry
70 Pemberton Street (401)272-9649

Gospel Tabernacle Outreach Pantry
45 Oakland Avenue (401)454-0988

Church of God Shalom
145 Chad Brown Street (401)421-5112

Pantry Rudolph Tavares Community Center
263 Chad Brown Street (401)455-3890

Federal Hill House Pantry
9 Courtland Street (401)421-4722

PICA Olneyville Food Center
261 Manton Avenue (401)521-5639

SVDP St. Anthony's Church
549 Plainfield Street (401)943-2300

Silver Lake Community Center
529 Plainfield Street (401)944-8300

St. Thomas Church
65 Fruit Hill Avenue (401)272-7118

CRANSTON:

Edgewood Pawtuxet Food Closet:
Transfiguration Church
1665 Broad Street (401)461-3142

Haitian Baptist Church of Rhode Island
12 Lincoln Avenue (401)944-1440

SVDP Emergency Food Center
181 Princess Avenue (401)946-5291

NORTH PROVIDENCE:

Tri-Town Community Action Agency
33 Maple Avenue (401)519-1916

Allendale Baptist Church
545 Woonasquatucket Avenue (401)231-7669

EAST PROVIDENCE:

East Bay Community Action Program
Pantry 100 Bullocks Point Avenue (401)437-
1000

JOHNSTON:

St. Robert's Food Closet
1804 Atwood Avenue (401)231-4987

St. Rocco's Food Pantry
926 Atwood Avenue (401)743-3983

RIVERSIDE:

Good Neighbors
55 Turner Avenue (401)433-0045

BE SURE TO CALL IN ADVANCE
FOR ANY INFORMATION AND
APPOINTMENTS AS SOME THINGS
ON THIS LIST MAY BE OUT OF DATE

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CONTACT US AT STREETSIGHTS@GMAIL.COM

RHODE ISLAND MEAL SITES

BE SURE TO CALL IN ADVANCE FOR ANY INFORMATION AND APPOINTMENTS AS SOME THINGS ON THIS LIST MAY BE OUT OF DATE.

Providence Area Meal Sites

BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	
SUNDAY	Matheson Fellowship Breakfast 7 am - 9 am followed by Camp-style Family Breakfast 9:15 am - 10:30 am	St Anthony Parish 1st and 3rd Sunday 12:30 - 1 pm Judy's Kindness Kitchen at Crossroads (Sept to June) 10:30 am - 11:00 am	Salvation Army 4 pm - 5 pm Closed first Sun. of the month Food Pantry every Wednesday 9 am - Noon Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm
MONDAY	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	St Patrick's 4 pm - 5:15 pm doors open at 3:30 pm Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm Reaching for the Fringe 5 pm - 6:30 pm	St. Patrick's 4 pm - 5:15 pm doors open at 3:30 pm Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm Reaching for the Fringe 5 pm - 6:30 pm
TUESDAY	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	City Meal Site, Inc. 4 pm - 5 pm Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm
WEDNESDAY	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	Impact Center/Assembly of God 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm
THURSDAY	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	St Charles Church 3:45 pm - 5 pm Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm Victory Assembly of God 5 pm - 6 pm Last Thurs. of the month
FRIDAY	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm McAuley House 11:15 - 1 pm Good Neighbors 10am - 1pm	Better Lives RI 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm
SATURDAY	Church of the Master Meal site 15 Valley St 9 am - 10 am (Opens at 7 am) Closed July and August Contact: Joyce Kennedy 353-1476	Amos House 11 am - 12:30 pm closed first Sat of month Church beyond the Walls 2 pm St Edward Kitchen 12 - 1pm (2nd & 4th Sat starting 10/18)	Epiphany Soup Kitchen @ St. Stephen's Church 2:30 pm - 4 pm Providence Rescue Mission 5 pm

Northern RI / Blackstone Valley

BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER	
SUNDAY	Help the Homeless RI 12 pm - 1 pm (Bouley Field) Help the Homeless RI 1 pm - 2 pm (Pawtucket - when winter shelter is open) St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church 12:30 pm - 1 pm (3rd Sunday of the month only) St George's Episcopal Church 2 pm - 3 pm	Help the Homeless RI 5 pm - 6 pm (Pawtucket - when shelter is closed) Matthew 25 Center hosted by The River UMC 4 pm - 7 pm	Help the Homeless RI 5 pm - 6 pm (Pawtucket - when shelter is closed) Matthew 25 Center hosted by The River UMC 4 pm - 7 pm
MONDAY	New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm (rear entrance) Pawtucket Soup Kitchen Bus Stop 11:30 am - Roosevelt Ave 11:45 am - Collyer Park	Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5 pm - 5:30 pm	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am
TUESDAY	New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm (rear entrance) St John the Baptist 11:30 am - 12:30 pm (doors open at 9:30 am)	Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5 pm - 5:30 pm Feed My Sheep 4:30 pm - 5:30 pm (3rd, 4th, 5th Tuesday only)	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am
WEDNESDAY	New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm (rear entrance) Pawtucket Soup Kitchen Bus Stop 11:30 am - Roosevelt Ave 11:45 am - Collyer Park	Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5 pm - 5:30 pm Matthew 25 Center hosted by The River UMC 4 pm - 7 pm	United Baptist 12 pm every 2nd & 3rd Wednesday each month
THURSDAY	New Beginnings 11:30 am - 12:45 pm (rear entrance) Pawtucket Soup Kitchen Bus Stop 11:30 am - Roosevelt Ave 11:45 am - Collyer Park	Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5 pm - 5:30 pm St. Luke's Episcopal 5 pm (1st & 3rd Thursday)	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am
FRIDAY	Pawtucket Soup Kitchen Bus Stop 11:30 am - Roosevelt Ave 11:45 am - Collyer Park	Pawtucket Soup Kitchen 5 pm - 5:30 pm	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am
SATURDAY	Matthew 25 Center 11 am - 2 pm	Park Place United Church 4 pm - 5 pm	Salvation Army 4 pm - 4:45 pm Community Baptist 4:30

Newport County

BREAKFAST	LUNCH	DINNER
SUNDAY		Salvation Army 4 pm - 4:45 pm
MONDAY	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am	St. Joseph's 11:30 am - 1 pm
TUESDAY	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am	Emmanuel Episcopal 5 pm first Tuesday every month
WEDNESDAY	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am	United Baptist 12 pm every 2nd & 3rd Wednesday each month
THURSDAY	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am	MLK Center 11:30 am - 1 pm
FRIDAY	MLK Center 7:30 am - 9 am	Salvation Army 4 pm - 4:45 pm
SATURDAY		Community Baptist 4:30

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