

# The Voice

Issue #6 April 2017

*Vox populi nunquam  
confutabitur.*



## Aargh!

Okay, last month I said that we had a new staff member coming in to supervise the computer room. She has moved to another agency (CVI), with no hard feelings toward HOPE, so the journalism group is again a member-run group, and yes, I'm in charge again. All that I have to offer for anyone contributing to the newsletter is the opportunity to be heard.

I still did not get much in the way of contribution last month, though it was enough (*just* enough, I think) to put out the newsletter. I want to encourage all members to have something to offer. I do have a submission from Sweet P again this month; she'll be a regular contributor, I think; she just missed the deadline for the March issue. Please, folks, do raise your voices here. You wanted to try to put out a newsletter again, but it's not going to work unless people are making themselves heard.

On the brighter side, I did get some last minute submissions, including this month's success story, from Michael W, as submitted by Pamela Woodward.

--Scott J., editor



## SHOUT-OUTS

**THE GREATER YOUR STORM, THE  
BRIGHTER YOUR RAINBOW.**

## Fun Facts

- The football (gridiron) team at Gallaudet University invented the team huddle, in order to prevent the opposing team from eavesdropping on tactical discussions conducted in sign language.
- A Malagasy football (soccer) team called Stade Olympique l'Émyrne intentionally scored own goals in a game against AS Adema Amalamanga in 2002, resulting in a score of 149-0, in protest of a bad officiating call in a previous game; the stadium's box office was mobbed by irate spectators demanding refunds.
- Haiku poets working in most languages compose in 19 syllables, but technically a Japanese haiku has 19 *mora*e (or *on* to Japanese culture snobs).
- The chimichanga is, strictly speaking, not a Mexican item, it's Mexican-American, invented quite unintentionally at a restaurant here in Tucson, when a burrito was accidentally dropped into a cooking vat.
- Strawberries contain more vitamin C (measure for measure) than oranges.
- Potatoes contain more potassium (measure for measure) than bananas—if you leave the skins on the potatoes.
- It took over 60 years for Goethe to write *Faust*.

## April in history

- 24 April 1184 BCE (date traditionally given): Trojan Horse invasion.
- 21 April 753 BCE: City of Rome founded.
- 18 April 1688: The Germantown Protest Against Slavery, a written document that is the first organized protest against slavery in the Americas, is drafted by four Quakers in Pennsylvania.
- 15 April 1817 (200th anniversary): The American School for the Deaf opens. Gallaudet University (see also Fun Facts, left) was named in honor of one of its founders.
- 12 April 1861: Start of the Battle of Fort Sumter, the first battle of the American Civil War.
- 25 April 1874: Birth of radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi.
- 16 April 1889: Birth of Charlie Chaplin.
- 21 April 1918: Death of Manfred von Richthofen (the “Red Baron”) at the Battle of the Somme. He himself had made at least 80 kills in the war.
- 3 April 1922: Birth of Doris Day.
- 10 April 1942 (75th anniversary): Start of the Bataan Death March.
- 28 April 1945: Death of Benito Mussolini, shot by a band of partisans.
- 1 April 1957 (60th anniversary): The British Broadcasting Company broadcasts its famous “Swiss Spaghetti Harvest” mockumentary on the television show *Panorama*. This is still listed as the number one April Fool hoax of all time by the Museum of Hoaxes.
- 1 April 1992 (25th anniversary): National Public Radio announces that Richard Nixon is running again for President, years after Nixon's death. Number ten April Fool according to the Museum of Hoaxes.

# Success Story

## **Michael W.**

Is a Member of HOPE and has achieved many recovery goals.

### Accomplishments

Michael completed Peer Training, is a certified Recovery Coach, and currently mentors kids and young adults. He “completed probation living drug free” and is living independently, 4 years total.

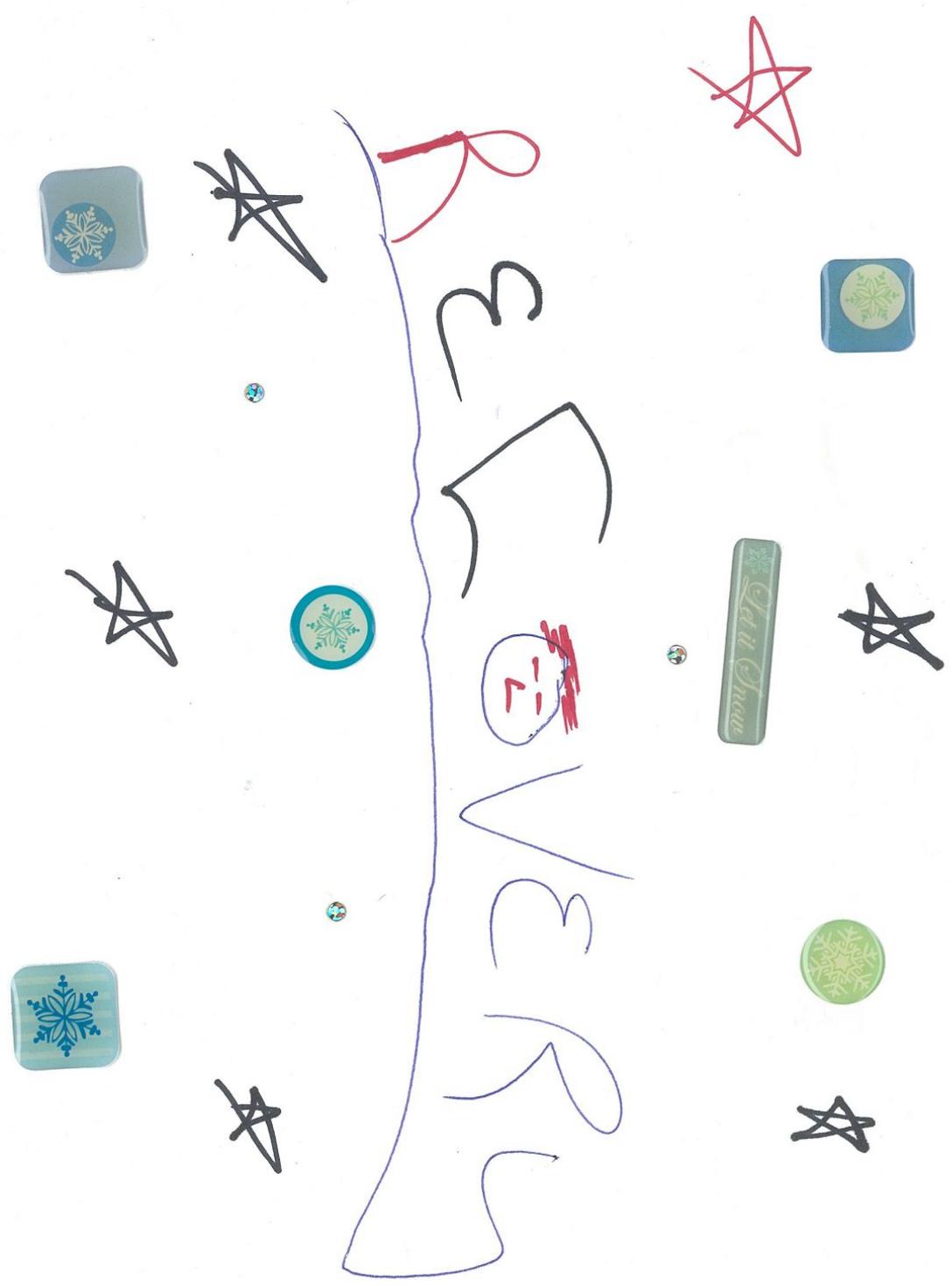
### Recovery and Coping Skills

Michael uses “manners and respect” toward others. Michael “loves people” and “just likes to talk to people.” Michael is supported by his pastor, family and “peers at mental health agencies” including HOPE and Community Bridges. “Faith is a big part of my life.” Michael’s sister is a “great influence in staying out of jail” and she was “real supportive when I was younger.”

### Advice to Others

“Be true to yourself.”

“Stay out of jail. Your choices can lead to jail.”



## The Puzzle of Love :)

By Sweet P.

How do you define such a complex feeling, action &/or emotion? It's tough because love can be a series of feelings. When you have love, balls to the wall, you have everything or a completion. Why is it that love can be an emotion or action? Why is it not noted that it's like an oxymoron? Wow, I could ask multiples of people what is love & all of them would be different. Not to mention the kinds of love. What happens to the chemicals in our minds when we mix the raw emotion like love? Teenagers go wild, babies need it to survive, adults never can decide whether they want it or not. The funny thing is unconditional love is imperative in any relationship. Friendship walks many lines of love so one must be careful. Although love is essential in any kind of relationship, some create walls that do not let love in.

I am a 46 yr. old\* woman who has toyed w/ love so many times. I don't want to give love to anyone freely. Love brings so many different obstacles, why would we jump those hoops for anyone? The freedom to love anyone is there, however if you don't love yourself then you really don't know the meaning of love to give. Why do so many of us ask what love is, because there are various loves. I say God the Creator gave us love in our souls to share with others. Our spirit carries a heavy load b/c we must do some soul searching to figure out what we need to survive. Henceforth, the spirit carries love & transfers those emotions to the soul. Your heart expresses love from within to share to others accordingly. So a raw emotion that is traveled within us must start from some or an ominous being. So here comes the Holy Spirit being a part of a trinity of love--you have God, Jesus & the Holy Spirit: they are placed upon us @ birth, we learn to love yet this condition (love) is already innate in all of us b/c of the Lord. I do not believe I'm an expert on this subject yet I have done my share of loving different people. I have come to this conclusion, love is like breathing, the two are combined & a true blue gift from God.

This is my definition of the Puzzle of Love  
Sweet P.

*\*This text is dated 02-02-15 --Editor.*

## Time Is

By Shauna S.

Ticking away at the moments that makes up a dull day  
But you fritter away the hours in an offhand way  
Kicking around on a piece of ground in your home town  
Waiting for someone to show you the way.

Getting tired of lying in the sunshine staying home to watch the rain  
We are young and life is long and there's a lot of time to kill today.

And then one day you find ten years have got behind you for  
 No one told you when to run, for you missed the starting gun

You run and you run to catch up with the sun but it's sinking.  
 Racing around to come up behind us again  
 The sun is the same in a relative way, but we're older  
 Shorter of breath and one day closer to death

Every year is getting shorter, never seems to find the time  
 Plans that either comes to naught or half a page of scribbled lines  
 Hanging on in quiet desperation is just the English way  
 The time is gone, the song is over, thought I had something more to say.  
 Home, home again  
 I like to be here when I can  
 When I come home cold and tired  
 It's good to warm my bones beside the fire  
 Far away across the field  
 The tolling of the iron bell  
 Calls the faithful to their knees to hear the softly spoken magic spells.

## I'm a Crazy Lunatic

By Shauna S.

I'm a crazy lunatic running loose in my head.  
 I try to make the change by re-arranging my thoughts till they're sane.

I lock the doors to my brain and threw away the keys  
 For there's a crazy lunatic in my head but it isn't really me.

If the dam of thoughts should break open  
 Many years too soon and your  
 Head explodes also from its thoughts  
 Then the lunatic in my head is me!

Time is ticking away at the moments  
 That make up a dull day.  
 I'm a crazy lunatic that frets  
 And waste the hours in an offhanded way.

## Culture Corner

## Gypsies, Tramps and Thieves

By Scott J.

Okay, Gypsies at least.

I mean the actual Romani culture, of course.

April 8th is International Romani Day, a day to celebrate Romani culture and raise awareness of social issues. This is a richer culture than it tends to be perceived to be.

**Endonyms and exonyms:** The term “Gypsy” tends to be discountenanced nowadays by most persons within the ethnicity; the term “Romani” (or “Romany”) tends to be preferred by those who identify with the culture. Some groups, such as the Sinti of Central and West-Central Europe and the Manouche (Manush) of Western Europe tend to identify more strongly as such, and don’t use the word *Romani* in the context of the culture itself, and will identify themselves as members of the specific group.

The English exonym “Gypsy” is derived from “Egyptian”, in line with a former (and erroneous) idea that they come from Egypt. Names in other languages (Spanish *gitano*, French *gitane*, and suchlike), are similar corruptions of the word for “Egyptian”. Other terms in various languages are derived from *athinganoi* or *atsinganoi* (singular *athinganos* or *atsinganos*), the name of a 9th century heretical sect of Greece (German *Zigeuner*, French *tsigane* or *zigane*, Italian *cingaro*, etc.). In most European countries the term “Romani” or “Roma” or “Sinti and Roma” in the case of Germany, is used in discussion of social issues. Romania is an exception, explicitly because of the similarity to the name of the country. In this article I use the terms “Romani” or “Roma” generally, combinations like “Sinti and Roma” some, and “Gypsy” sparingly.

The Romani term *Gadjo* (*Gazho* in some dialects, feminine *Gadji* or *Gazhi*) for outsiders appears to be derived from “gav”, a town or village, thus literally a “townie” or “villager”.

**Origin:** Little is known of their history before their first appearance in Europe in the early centuries of the second millennium, other than the occasional mention of the first recorded appearance of the Roma people in various parts of the world. The first Roma to appear in Europe, in the countries north of Romania, were vague about their origin, possibly alluding to Egyptian aristocracy. Anthropological, linguistic and genetic evidence traces their origin to India, in a zone extending from Punjab to Sindh. From there they migrated west across central and western Asia, arriving in Europe circa 10th-13th century CE.

**Language:** The language is usually called Romani or Romani Chib (Romani Shib in Western Kalderash); you may have come across the the term “Romanes” used by some, including some within the culture; this word is actually an adverb, meaning “in a Romani manner”—“Dav-duma Romanes”—“I speak Romani” or more literally “I speak like the Roma.”

For a long time after the arrival of the people in Europe the language remained a mystery. Many scholars attempted to link the language with Afro-Asiatic languages, especially Ancient Egyptian and Egyptian Arabic, following the then alleged origin in Egypt, to no avail. It was even believed that Romani was a constructed language. It was with later developments in linguistics in the late 18th century that the language was traced to the languages of India. The

language has acquired many loanwords from many languages, along with a few grammatical calques, but it is definitely classifiable as a Western Indo-Aryan language.

The language comes in many dialects, some of which can have several subdialects, varying in intelligibility from marginal to nigh-perfect. Most of the Romani words and phrases in this article will be in one or another of the Vlax (Vlach) group of dialects.

There is effectively no standard of writing. The oral tradition still remains an important element of the culture, with not much written material. Before modern times, on the rare occasion that it was desirable to write something, it was written phonetically according to the language of the surrounding culture. Romani has been written in the Latin or Cyrillic alphabets most commonly, in the Greek or Arabic alphabets to some extent, and in very rare instances in the Devanagari system. Various systems have been adopted by the World Romani Congress, but these have not been universally accepted. Except where otherwise indicated, this article uses a modified Pan-Vlax system.

Code-switching and “Para-Romani”: Speakers may use a form of “Para-Romani”, in which the speaker uses the main language of a country or region, admixed with Romani words and calques, with the grammatical rules for the main language in use. Para-Romani tends to be based on the more debased forms of the language.

In many countries there is outright code-switching, switching back and forth between Romani and another language, a few words in one language, and a few in the other, in much the same manner as one often hears English and Spanish mixed here in Arizona. Whatever their personal habits, speakers will use Romani in purer form in formal situations, or when speaking with foreigners.

**Religion and spirituality:** Most Roma are Christian or Muslim, and usually the same religion as the majority in the surrounding culture where they are, so this means a Muslim majority in the near- and middle-east and parts of eastern Europe, and Christians in the rest of Europe and in the Americas. Christians tend to be Orthodox in eastern Europe, giving way to Catholics and then to Protestants as one progresses westward across the continent. Pentecostalism is on the rise, particularly in parts of western Europe.

Roma were certainly Hindus in India, and some remnants of Hindu elements, including the tradition of Shaktism, in which a goddess archetype accompanies the god archetype, remain. This is reflected among the Christians often in directing prayers through the Virgin Mary or through her mother Saint Anne. The major patroness though, is Saint Sarah (Kali Sara or Sara e Kali, lit. “Sarah the Dark” or “Black Sarah”), a native of Upper Egypt who, according to legend, accompanied the Three Marys on a journey by raft to Gaul. There is a shrine in the village now called Les Saintes Maries de la Mer in Provence, which very probably had been priorly a Pagan temple, that has a statue of Saint Sarah. The origin of the statue is not known. The place is the destination of an annual pilgrimage, culminating in late May.

Romani are often reproached for not attending religious services. Most are not big on organized religion, and tend not to feel the need to worship in a church or mosque (or whatever institutional place of worship for that matter).

Mourning and death: There are traditions surrounding honoring the dead. Care must be taken to give proper respect to a deceased person, including proper funerary rites, for fear that the deceased may return or linger as a *mulo*, or ghost that may cause trouble.

Also important is the wake (*Pomána* in Kalderash), which is usually held on the same day as the funeral. Customs include a place at the table to be set for the deceased. The *Pomána* may be repeated every three months for up to a year.

“Romanipen”: Romanipen (Rromanipen, Rromanipe, Rromanimos, Rromaníja) is a system of thought and behavior, encompassing the laws of purity, conduct, and living that define the culture. It has been called a religion unto itself by some, and at any rate is practiced along with (or at least syncretized with) whatever other religion a person may practice.



**Flag:** Yes, Virginia, there is a flag, created in 1933 and adopted in 1971. It is divided horizontally into blue and green, with a red sixteen-spoke wheel centered (or in heraldic terms renderable as ‘per fess azure and vert, a cartwheel of sixteen spokes gules’). The field colors represent heaven and earth, and the wheel can be interpreted as a Hindu chakra wheel (it is placed in this flag in imitation of the 24-spoke ashoka chakra wheel in the flag of India) but can also be an actual cartwheel, to represent the Gypsy itinerant tradition.

**History:** The Romani people arrived in Europe some time around the 10th century, and spread westward from there over time, with the Sinti people present as far west as Germany from at least the early 15th century. At first they were treated with a more or less neutral stance but over time became second-class citizens. They became slaves in Wallachia (Romania) from the 14th century, with the first transaction of a Romani slave recorded in 1385, and remained slaves of business owners, private persons and the state until emancipation in the mid-18th century. Many of the slaves in Romania emigrated to other parts of Europe or to the Americas after emancipation. The Roma were ordered expelled from various regions and countries in Europe by various laws passed in the 15th and 16th centuries. Many “anti-Egyptian” laws in various parts of Europe (including the Egyptians Acts 1530 and 1554 under Henry VIII and Mary I, respectively, of England) were in fact “anti-Gypsy” laws. (A notable exception comes in the person of Stefan Razvan, of Romani descent and ruler of Moldavia for a few months in 1595.) Forced settlement of nomadic Roma continued until well into the 20th century.

Fascist era: The Roma of Europe suffered immensely under the Nazis and other fascist regimes of Europe in the mid-20th century. Statistics vary widely on the number of Roma and Sinti liquidated in the concentration camps, with figures given from 220,000 to over two million. A consensus among historians puts the number at about 500,000.

Canadian Romani rights activist Ronald Lee recalls a narrative in a bar in Hamilton, Ontario in his *Learn Romani* (University of Hertfordshire Press, 2005), from an elderly Romani refugee from Romania (say that ten times quickly), himself a Holocaust survivor, identified only as “Xúlyo”, in a section titled “An Episode in the Forgotten Romani Holocaust”, here given in the Romanian Kalderash dialect (contrasted with the Western Kalderash in the instructional parts of the book), and with an Anglicized spelling scheme:

*“Tu zhanes, manúshka, so nakhlo e Romênsa ándo maripe. O Antonesku [sic, keeping with the spelling scheme here] tradyas but, but Rróma katar e Romúnija kay Transdinistrya, tu zhanes kai sas kodo them? Sas ánde Ukrayína pashal o Bugo. But Rróma trádyila kothe. Nas le xabe, nas dóftorya, nas baráchi, khánchi. Múle but Rróma. Numa ashun! Kána avile le*

*Nyámpturya. Kidine but Rróma thai ladine le ándo vapóri ánde máriya, e Káli Máiya, pashal e Odésa. Hay thodine ándo vapóri hártiya, dêrzi, swáko fyal kova kai phabarel. Atúnci dine yag o vapóri, sa e Rroma andre, thai sa phabárdyile. Me zhanav. Wúni lêndar sas múrre nyámurya, múrre kak, múrre vêrya. Me zhanav. Me símas tsinorro shavorro kána nakhlo godo núma me zhanav ke chachipe. Chi xoxavav túke, manúsha. Sas o Hítler kai kerdyas gadala djúngali buki.”*

Here Lee also offers his own translation:

*“You know, Sir, what happened with the Roma during the war. Antonescu sent many, many Roma from Romania to Transdinstria, you know where that country was? It was in the Ukraine, near the river Bug. Many Roma were sent there. They had no food, no doctors, no barracks, nothing. Many Roma died. But listen! When the Germans came. They collected many Roma and loaded them into a steamer on the sea, the Black Sea, you know, near Odessa. And they placed inside the ship, newspaper, rags, every kind of thing that burns. Then they set fire to the steamer, all the Roma inside and they all got incinerated. I know. Some of them were my relatives, my uncles, my cousins. I know. I was a very young boy when that happened but I know it is the truth. I am not lying to you, Sir. It was Hitler who did this ugly deed.”*

(As a side note, in a brief exchange of email, I discovered that Mr. Lee’s wife is from Tucson, and that her father studied at our prestigious university.)

Xúlyo could not put a date on it, and I have not uncovered the steamboat incident in my research, but for reference the mass deportations from Romania to Transnistria under Ion Antonescu occurred in late 1942.

In Germany the Sinti and Roma people were subjected to all of the atrocities that any others suffered in the concentration camps. Heinrich Himmler leader of the Schutzstaffel (SS) at first advocated that the Gypsy people, with their origin in India, qualified as an Aryan race, but eventually lost the debate on the grounds that they had admixed with other races on the way to Europe, and was thereby persuaded to handle the “Gypsy question”. The Sinti and Roma were sent to the concentrations camps, Auschwitz and Birkenau, Sachsenhausen, Bergen-Belsen, Ravensbrück, Treblinka, everywhere. It one point the Lodz ghetto (then populated by Jews) was evacuated to set up a prison camp.

The Romani national anthem, “Gelem, Gelem” (“Djelem, Djelem” or other variations on various dialects, originally titled “Opré Roma”) was written by a holocaust survivor, Zarko Jovanovic, and set to a traditional melody in 1949, and adopted by the first World Romani Congress in 1971. Part of it runs:

Original:	Translation:
Sas-vi man jekh bari familiya,	I, too, had a big family
Mundardyas la e Kali Legiya	The Black Legion [Croatian fascists]
Aven mansa sa lumnyake Roma,	murdered them.
Kai putardile e Romane droma.	Come with me, Roma of the world,
	For the Roma the roads have opened.

Modern times: While restitutions have been made to other victims of the Holocaust and other atrocities of the Fascist era, but reparations have been slow in coming. The Federal Constitutional Court (supreme court) of West Germany declared in 1956 that the persecution of Gypsies was not for racist, but criminal-preventive reasons, thus hindering reparations for decades. Police raids on private homes, sometimes armed to the teeth, with little or no provocation, continued to occur for decades, especially in central and eastern Europe.

**Current issues:** Traditional gender roles remain well entrenched in the culture and it is only in recent generations that Romani women have come into their own power, with the male still being perceived by many as being the dominant voice. This has impact on issues of gender identity, and furthermore on issues of sexual orientation. There is a movement for LGBT rights in the community, but it is not much taken seriously by the more hidebound leaders of Romani society. Many of the “reformed Gypsies” who do not wish to be associated with the culture are LGBT. Traditional values, including the sanctity of the human body, and the female body especially, rooted in Romanipen, are usual explanation of this rift in the community.

On the external side, many communities still suffer from persecution and marginalization; again this is most prominent in eastern Europe. Schools are still segregated in many countries, and many other restrictions are still in force.

**Famous people:** This list may surprise you. People of Romani descent include: Charlie Chaplin, Robert Plant (mother’s side), Helen Mirren, David Morley, Ronald Lee, Romani Rose, Yul Brynner (disputed), Jill Hennessy, Fairuza Balk, and the list goes on.

**Coda:** So there you have it, at least the start. There is much more to this culture (or any culture) than can be squozen into a newsletter article. For further reading I recommend: *What is the Romani Language* by Bakker, et al, University of Hertfordshire Press, 2000 (not language instruction despite the title) and *The Roma Café : human rights and plight of the Romani People* by István Pogány, Pluto Press, 2004. If you can read German, I recommend also *Das Buch der Sinti* by Boström et al, Elephanten Presse Verlag, 1981; and the website of Documentation and Culture Centre of German Sinti and Roma <http://www.sintiundroma.de/> (ostensibly available in English but only the German has worked for me). Just as we seek to dispel some of the stigmas in our own community, let’s get confront some stereotypes elsewhere, eh?

