



# Tenth News

Special Literary Edition  
Volume VI—2016

**6th Annual Community Connection**

***POETRY***

***and PROSE***

***Competition and Awards Ceremony***

## **Welcome to the 2016 Literary Edition of the *Tenth News*.**

In this special edition of the Tenth Congressional District Democrats' monthly newsletter, we publish the poems, essays, and short stories of the young writers who won recognition in the Tenth Dems' Sixth Annual Poetry and Prose Competition. First prize in each category (poetry and prose) was \$150, with \$100 for second prize and \$50 for third. The six prizewinning entries are published within, as are six additional pieces that the judges selected for honorable mention.

With a report of the event and a photo essay, we also acknowledge all of the young authors who attended the 2016 Awards Night and read their poems, essays, and stories aloud to the audience of peers, parents, community members, and Tenth Dems volunteers.

A grassroots organization that supports Democratic causes and candidates, Tenth Dems believes that politics should be about more than just elections. That is, politics should be about making our communities better places to live.

The Annual Poetry and Prose Competition and Awards Ceremony is just one way in which Tenth Dems works to make our communities better places to live. As Democrats, we highly value the arts and take particular pleasure in giving young people in our community the opportunity for creative expression. We are also pleased to be able to provide an audience for these talented young authors.

Finally, Tenth Dems acknowledges the significant contributions to our 2016 Competition and Awards Ceremony by our judges, published poets all—Shanica Bell, Herb Berman, Judy M. Dozier, Mary Jane Gabrielsen, and Lois Baer Barr, who chaired the panel—all of whom read with care and attention every one of the more than 200 entries before selecting the prizewinners, and Waukegan notables Dulce Ortiz and Marc Jones, who presided over the Awards Ceremony with charm, sensitivity, and good humor.



# Our 2016 Poetry + Prose Competition Winners

*First Prize, Poetry*

**Alanna Phillips**, Zion-Benton High School  
“America”

*Second Prize, Poetry*

**Ezau Calderon**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“Not Me”

*Third Prize, Poetry*

**Brisa Franco**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“All You Saw Was Brown”

*Honorable Mention, Poetry*

**Joshua Avila**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“Ballad of Injustice”

*Honorable Mention, Poetry*

**Nicolas Dominquez**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“Price of Rice”

*Honorable Mention, Poetry*

**Emmanuel Donoe**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“The Injustice of a Dollar”

*First Prize, Prose*

**Angye Zamudio**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“Justice”

*Second Prize, Prose*

**Uziel Acosta**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“Can’t Wait”

*Third Prize, Prose*

**Luis Pacheco**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“Why Me?”

*Honorable Mention, Prose*

**Kendrick Bautista**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“Custody”

*Honorable Mention, Prose*

**Anayell Herrera**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“To Make America Great Again”

*Honorable Mention, Prose*

**Joshua Washington**, Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School  
“Injustice exists everywhere”



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\* Event Photos *by Steve Rosenzweig*; Cover Art *by Laura Saret*; Literary Edition Design *by Nancy Goldberg*

# At Awards Night, Young Writers Do Justice to Poetry and Prose

by Adrienne Kirshbaum

What would you say if you were asked to write about "Justice," about what the word means to you and how it has impacted your life? That was the assignment given to the more than 200 high school students who entered Tenth Dems Community Connection's 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Poetry and Prose Competition. And on Thursday evening, April 21, at the Ramada Inn Waukegan/Gurnee, a sizable audience made up of family, friends, and members of the community were privileged to hear readings of original poems and essays by a dozen or so of these bright, sensitive students.

Competition participants attend Waukegan, North Chicago, Zion-Benton, and Cristo Rey St. Martin de Porres high schools. They are freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. They wrote about their own lives, the lives of others, things they'd seen, historical events, and events they'd only imagined. Their writings revealed a social conscience and sophistication far beyond their years.

A panel of published authors judged the entries blind *i.e.*, stripped of author identifiers. There were separate competitions for poetry and prose, with first, second, and third place prizewinners in each category awarded \$150, \$100, and \$50, respectively. Prizewinners also received framed certificates, as did six students who earned honorable mentions, three in each category. At Awards Night, all participants also received a book bag and water bottle.

The evening's emcees, Dulce Ortiz and Hon. Marc Jones, invited the young authors to the podium to read their works. Both were so warm and friendly that even some of the students who at first were reluctant to read to the audience were won over and decided to take part. In a room decorated with flowers, banners, and famous quotations about "justice," these young people stood at a podium and read with poise and feeling.

Both volunteer emcees are lifelong residents of Waukegan with long and impressive records of service to their community. Both are members of the Latino Coalition of Lake County, and Dulce Ortiz serves on the organization's board. Marc Jones, who serves as a Waukegan Park District Commissioner, has the distinction of being only the second African-American elected to the board in the Park District's 99-year history.

The volunteers who judged the students' work also have impressive backgrounds. Lois Baer Barr, Associate Professor of Spanish at Lake Forest College, has published works in both Spanish and English. Lois has been nominated for the Pushcart Prize for both fiction and poetry. Shanica Bell is a Christian minister and author, she edits a magazine and hosts an Internet radio show, and she is the CEO of a media marketing firm. Herb Berman is a lawyer and labor arbitrator and co-founder of the Library Poets, a poetry workshop sponsored by the Deerfield Public Library. His poems have been published in many literary journals. Mary Jane Gabrielsen is also a co-founder of the Library Poets and an editor for *East on Central* literary journal. Her poetry is published in *The Avocet*, and she has most recently collaborated with five other writers on a progressive novella.

The judges were invited to read original works during the course of the evening, and those who were able to attend gladly complied, to the delight of the audience. Judy Kaufman, Editor-in-Chief of *East on Central* literary journal and a longtime judge of past Community Connection Poetry and Prose competitions, gave opening remarks.

But the night belonged to the student authors. One by one, they came to the podium and read their works. The audience couldn't help but be moved by their performances. It was clear that these young people had talent and intelligence, and that the theme of "Justice" had inspired them to write great things.

# 2016 Poetry + Prose Competition



## "Justice"

We live in an inequitable world that seemingly refuses to know peace. Many live oppressed and persecuted for reasons that we have yet to find just. Our world, however, cannot be changed by the mere thought of it. But it is through the persistence of every loving individual willing to fight alongside one another in national movements, and that will make human progress possible and allow our world to be tranquil. This change is inexorable, slow in process and through countless movements, but inexorable nonetheless for it is in our nature to alter that which we find to be unjust; thus making the continuance of human progress a certainty.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi became known as a national father figure for he led India in a nonviolent movement against the tyranny of Britain. Those in India, especially the lower class to which Gandhi renamed Harijans ("children of God"), lived in immense poverty and fear because of the oppression from the British empire's reign over India. They were subjected to be minorities in their own country, and were expected to be obedient to a government that was outside of their nation. There was also a great amount of tension between Muslims and Hindus for each refused to accept the belief and practices of the other. Gandhi did not want his people to live under the arbitrary ruling of Britain, and to be at war against one another for religious beliefs. He therefore initiated a movement that united Muslims and Hindus in a fight against Britain reign over India. He led India through a series of nonviolent protests and hunger strikes that resulted in the arrests of more than a thousand protestants, including that of Gandhi's. This persistence ultimately earned India its independence from Britain in 1947 however, and restored a justice and peace within India.

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Martin Luther King Jr. was an individual that began a movement that united brothers and sisters of all races and religious beliefs, to fight against something that was morally wrong. African Americans and minorities were persecuted and discriminated against for centuries prior to the 1960s. They were prevented from having the lawful rights a human deserves, because of the color of their skin, by men of white complexion. Martin Luther King Jr. saw the injustice that had been occurring for far too long, and he vowed to make a change. He began a movement known as the Civil Rights Movement whose sole purpose was to give every human under the American flag human rights. This proved to be a fight of endurance and sacrifice, for it caused many riots and deaths along the way, including that of Martin Luther King Jr. in April 4, 1968; although this was a nonviolent movement, those whom persecuting the individuals in the movement refused to be so. Those who passed did not die in vain however, for every minority in the nation were ultimately granted lawful and human rights equivalent to that of whites, through a series of Acts.

We see through the movements led by Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., and countless others in our history, that human progress, in the words of Martin Luther King Jr. himself, "is neither automatic nor inevitable. Every step towards justice requires sacrifice and the tireless exertions of dedicated individuals". These were two men from different parts of the world that led national movements for distinct reasons, but whose ultimate goal was the same: to bring peace to our world. Both movements are prime examples of how the fight for justice produces suffering and requires persistence from every individual involved. These movements are human progress nonetheless, for they become one step closer towards making the world a tranquil home to every human.

**Angye Zamudio**  
Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School



## "Can't Wait!"

The sun and I got up about the same time. As I got ready for school the sun scratched away the darkness with its bright nails. On my way I was scared of what I might see, questions were rushing around my head like water in a water bottle. "Is there going to be a riot? Am I going to get arrested because of what I believe?" I also remember what my older brother told me about when he went. He told me he saw a young daughter and son getting pulled by their mom as they were trying to run after the bus that their father was on.

When we first arrived at Broadview Detention Center I remember seeing people standing with garbage bags at their feet. I got off the bus and went to speak to them. I asked, "What are those bags for?" And they said, "It is clothes that they can put in a box: be provided for the detained people about to be deported." I was so sad to hear that these people's clothes would be put into boxes, searched, and then handed to security. These detained people were treated like criminals. I went from sad to mad in a heartbeat. After we finished talking to the families outside of the door we were joined by other schools and other people who came to Broadview for the prayer visual and speech.

Standing there in prayer with everyone, as we were singing one of the songs, the large 10ft tall fence opened. This fence has black cloth on both sides, you can't really see through and at the top was the razor blade sharp, curly barbed wire. A big yellow school bus came out. Ironic right? A bus once used for transporting people to schools, out of ignorance, is now transporting people to O'Hare Airport to go back to their home country. The men and women, mothers and fathers on that bus are asked before boarding if they want a coat on or off. Why? They are shackled by the wrist, the waist, and feet. Once on the bus, the shackles are locked to the floor. If this doesn't make you cringe, then I am afraid of what might. This country is so unfair and unjust. Yet I still wake up each day trying to spread love and peace. I cannot wait to see us all stand together in a free, fair and just world. It will happen one day. It must.

***Uziel Acosta***

Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School

## "Why Me?"

Diego, a senior in high school, was a basketball sensation that played for his school in Houston, Texas. He was in the top fifteen in the country, and 5th in state. He won state two times when he was playing for his school, and had great potential going into college. He was signed with the University of Texas and was expected to do great things there.

Diego was pretty big at his school. He had A's and B's his first three years in high school and had a couple of C's his senior year, but overall he was a great student. Even though Diego was doing good in his academics, he had bad influences when it came to his friends. He had friends that were gang members and also had cousins that were affiliated with gangs. One day one of his friends asked him if he wanted to play a pickup game with some of his friends at the park. Diego said yes and asked what time they had to meet up. His friend said at 6.

Diego went walking to the park and when, he got there he saw his friend. He was standing with two other guys that he didn't know. Alejandro, his friend, asked if he wanted to play a pickup game with his friends. Diego played on Alejandro team and they went against Alejandro's two friends. After they had played a couple of 2 on 2 games they rested for a bit. Out of nowhere a car parks near the basketball court. A guy' came out with a gun and yelling at them, "What you guys doing in this part of town?!". They started shooting at Diego and his friend, but Diego hid in a bush. Alejandro pulled out his gun and started shooting back. He shot and killed the man that started the shooting, but the driver in the vehicle started shooting at Alejandro. After many missing shots, he finally hit him and he fell onto the floor. The guy drove off and left the scene. Diego went to see if Alejandro was okay. Alejandro was gushing blood from his stomach. It got on his

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white shirt and dripped onto the court. Diego picked up Alejandro's gun and threw into the bushes. Heard sirens so he started to panic. Police cars and ambulances surrounded the park. They saw Diego and went to help him.

After the cops made some investigation they found the gun that Diego threw in the bushes and immediately arrested him. Diego's fingerprints matched the fingerprints on the gun. He was sentenced to life in prison, for the killing of 2 teenagers at a park. Because of injustice Diego couldn't fulfill his dream of playing professional basketball. Diego stayed in prison for the rest of his life wondering why he went to the park that day.

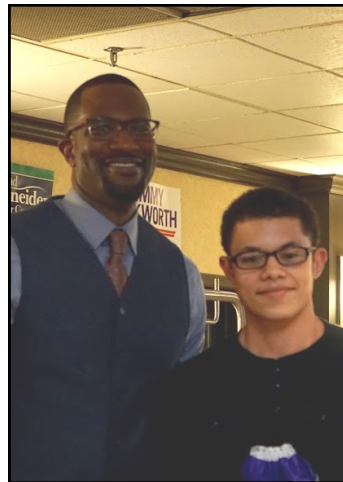
***Luis Pacheco***

Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School



It is **JUSTICE**,  
not charity, that  
is wanting in  
the world.

Mary Wollstonecraft



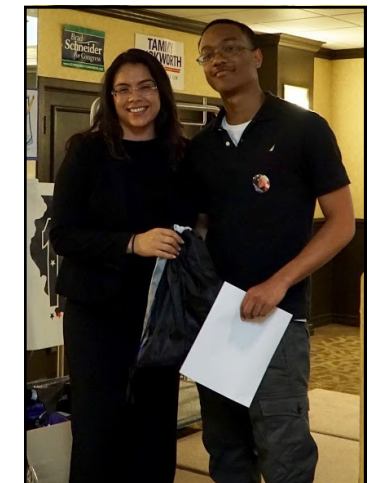
The hope of a secure  
and livable world lies  
with disciplined  
nonconformists  
Who are dedicated to  
**JUSTICE** peace and  
brotherhood.

Martin Luther King



Observe good faith  
and **JUSTICE** toward  
all nations.  
Cultivate peace and  
harmony with all.

George Washington



## "Custody"

Children, children are the cause of many arguments but the main reason we fight over them is custody. The majority of parents want to be able to see their kids, their posterity grow and mature, but injustice gets in the way.

Once there was a man and his name was John. Him and another lady, Patricia had a baby. The thing was that the baby was uncalled for and their hookup was a one time thing. So when the baby was delivered and John was called by Patricia that it was his baby he was utterly shocked he didn't remember doing anything with Patricia. So he got tested and the baby was his so he had all these emotions going through him. Confusion, anger, and joy he didn't know how to feel. He always wanted a child but he didn't know he would be a parent so soon. But problems arose when Patricia wanted full custody of the child since she wasn't together with John. The thing was Patricia was not fit to be a mother. She was in a bad economic state and from what it looked like she was just looking for the child support money. So they went to court and the final verdict occurred, Patricia took full custody. John was infuriated he thought the verdict was pure injustice. John prayed for Justice; he really loved his child but what Patricia was doing was wrong. So after about 1 week Patricia told John she could no longer take care of the child so she gave the child to him John thanked God for proving justice can be served outside the court, and him and his child grew happily ever after.

***Kendrick Bautista***

Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School

## **"To Make American Great Again"**

Henry David Thoreau once said that, "justice is sweet and musical." Unfortunately, the melody of today's society sounds nothing but "harsh and discordant." Throughout the course of history, we as a society have failed to emphasize the importance of just behavior and treatment of all people despite race and ethnicity or other physical differences. The political climate observed through the current presidential election is a perfect example of how discrimination and injustice continues to perpetuate.

The presidential republican candidate, Donald Trump, aspires to, "make America great again," by targeting Mexicans, Muslims and other groups deemed inferior and threatening to the United States. He claims that Mexicans are "rapists and criminals." As a Mexican-American, I find this to be an insult and extremely unjust. Hearing such harsh comments on media fills me with anger and disappointment. How can an individual feel immense hatred towards specific groups when our society has fought so hard to overcome segregation and discrimination? In the mid-eighteen hundreds, our society witnessed a major change with the abolishment of slavery. In the 1950's civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King Jr. lead boycotts and peaceful protest to continue advocating for equality. Today, the republican candidate, Donald Trump wants to take all that away and turn people against each other.

My parents are not rapists and criminals neither are my relatives and peers. They are people who work hard to make a living and accomplish their dreams. My parents immigrated to the United States so that I could have better opportunities and a bright future. According to current research, 17% of the U.S. population or a total of 54,213,000 is Mexican. This group or any other group should not have to face racism and discrimination because despite the color of our skin or national origin we are all human. In the attempt to "make America

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great again" why don't we begin by addressing this major issue in society? Not one person even if you are president should have the power to impose cruel and unnecessary discriminatory laws. Even though people will always have their own views, we as a society can make a difference and put an end to injustice by becoming more involved in activist groups and raising awareness about the importance of the issue. While this may not be an easy task, we cannot allow individuals to manipulate us like puppets who have no autonomy. If we do not put an end to this, violence and hatred will continue to exist and future generations will suffer the consequences.

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**Anayell Herrera**  
Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School

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## **"injustice exists everywhere "**

Injustice exists everywhere in our world today. I have experienced injustice myself. But, what is justice really? If you look it up, it is defined as a "just/fair treatment or behavior." Some examples of when this definition has been violated include police brutality, racism, immigration, human trafficking, and corruption, among others. I have witnessed and/or heard about all these issues at some point in my life and have advocated to eliminate injustice in our society.

First, Donald Trump, like many government leaders around the world, has been an embarrassment for the United States by criticizing a lot of people for being different or having different ideas. I say this because in the speeches that he has given suggested Mexicans, Muslims, or Asian are criminals or are bad people. This is not justice and since he does this with people around the world, pretty soon everyone will hate the United States. Also, in places like Mexico and India, there is a lot of corruption. For example, the Mexican government kidnapped and murdered about 40 students for speaking their minds and have robbed the people's votes to stay in office. Therefore, I believe that there is injustice in many places around the world. Martin Luther King, on the other hand, spoke against all of this. He said he had a dream that everyone would be treated equally and live happily to America in the 1960s against segregation. Although, his speech needs to be applied in our society today since there is still inequality and injustice.

Today, there are deportations of immigrants, police brutality, human trafficking, and racism. All of these things have been done in our society and we don't even realize some of them sometimes. For example, human trafficking has been occurring when people trick other people in going somewhere usually in hopes of being successful. Afterwards, these people are not given what they were promised but treated as slaves for physical or sexual use for no pay. This has become like modern-day slavery and people don't realize the injustice that happens in their society. In addition, police brutality and racism has occurred although it shouldn't. Even after slavery was abolished, there was segregation; and even though segregation

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has been outlawed there is still racism among whites, blacks, and Latinos. The only way we can change this is by advocating.

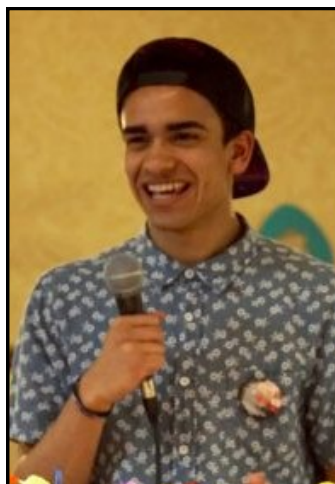
I have been advocating against these issues and immigration for some time now. Martin Luther King said, "Human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable... Every step towards the goal of justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals". I believe that I have fulfilled Martin Luther King's formula to solve injustice by being a part of Uknighted at CRSM. Through Uknighted, I have been able to go to Washington DC to learn and talk to my state representative about social justice issues like immigration, climate change, and police brutality. I have also shown sacrifice and struggle by going to walks for justice and have had to wake up early to pray in front of a detention facility where people are going to be deported from through the Father Gary Graf Center.

Overall, I believe that we can all fight for justice in our way. Some people that have fought against injustice include Malala, Oscar Romero, and Nujood Ali. They were all threatened with death if they continued to resist against their government, but that didn't stop them. Therefore, although it seems like hope has been lost at times, we should follow Dr. King's model and follow our dreams of creating a more just and peaceful world.

***Joshua Washington***

Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School

# 2016 Poetry + Prose Competition



There is a higher court than courts of JUSTICE and that is the court of conscience. It supercedes all other courts.

Mahatma Gandhi

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**“America?”**

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America. America.  
God shed his grace on thee,  
for thy walls are red  
from great bloodshed  
and these eyes no longer see.

America. So beautiful.  
Your lakes now burn with fire.  
Your men have fled this  
great bloodshed they call  
your peace a liar.

America. Crowned America.  
God mend thine ev'ry flaw.  
Your women have bred  
children have been led  
to love the black crow's caw.

America. America.  
God shed his grace on thee.  
His people do cry  
His people do die  
to be free. O fin'ly free.

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**Alanna Phillips**

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Zion-Benton High School

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## "Not Me"

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I wake up and see "the man" out the window } } }

homelessness and ravenous starvation is what I see } } }

but I close the blinds because it's not me } } }

as I walk to school this is what I see } } }

a hispanic man being stopped by the police } } }

I turned and saw no apparent reason to be detained yet there he remained } } }

but i turn forward because it's not me } } }

I get to school and this is what I see a white kid bullied by 3 } } }

but i turn around because it's not me } } }

I get to US History and we talk about a man } } }

a man with a dream of deporting 11 million from their land } } }

And I say why do I care'? I am a US citizen, it won't affect me } } }

School ends and I walk home } } }

serene dangerous city gave me an ominous feeling } } }

I turn to see the police driving slowly by me } } }

i see him stop next to the old tree he comes out and ask this } } }

You gang banger? no sir. don't you disrespect me! } } }

Puts his hand by his gun and points at me } } }

I turn to see "the man" looking at me but turns around and that's the last thing I see } } }

bang } } }

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***Ezau Calderon***

Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School } } }

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**"All You Saw was Brown"**

You took one look into my dark eyes, it took one second to think of some lies  
All you did was drown out my cries  
Because you were too ashamed to help because I am not one of the "highs."

But it's not like it matters.

You felt the texture of my skin,  
And to your surprise, it was thick instead of thin.  
You look at my brown skin, and with a sly grin, you said that it looks like buckskin.

But that's not important.

You feel through my hair, my long, dark hair that would never be fair.  
You always see me on my knees in prayer.  
Yet you tell everyone to beware, because I will "bury you without a care."

But that doesn't matter.

Sure, I am brown, but look around. You **see** us, living in the ghettos of downtown,  
And for that you suspect that we would reach under your nightgown...

But that is no problem.

You look at my dark eyes. And become ashamed because I'm not one of the highs.  
You see my brown skin and compare it to buckskin.  
You feel through my dark hair, telling people to beware for I will bury them like I didn't care.  
But it's not like it matters, because you saw what I am:

BROWN.

***Brisa Franco***

Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School



JUSTICE  
 DELAYED  
 IS JUSTICE  
 DENIED.

WILLIAM E.  
 GLADSTONE



Freedom and **JUSTICE** cannot be parceled out in pieces to suit political convenience. I don't believe you can stand for freedom for one group of people and deny it to others.

Coretta Scott King



**"Ballad of Injustice"**

We see our justice system getting out of hand  
 We blame them for the misfortune they bring.  
 Families want them to pay and give them commands  
 Screw the police is what they sing.  
 We don't know what makes them so quick to shoot  
 The unwarranted self-protection  
 The perfect imperfection.  
 If it's just our rough attitude friendly enough  
 To make them question our pursuit.  
 It takes more than one bullet to kill this bull moose  
 If a bullet isn't enough than what is.  
 The arm that has the power to abuse,  
 Or the serpents sharp tongue that let's  
 Out a vile hiss.  
 Bullets staying cozy under the warmth  
 Of skin.

***Joshua Avila***  
 Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School

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## "The Price of Rice"

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What is the price of rice nowadays?

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Around \$0.35 per pound, right?

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What is the price of life? I think Its priceless

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What is the price of Tamir Rice's life?

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Now, I ask you again What is the price of Rice? Again, I say it's priceless

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So why is it that Tamir was killed,

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and the cop didn't pay *the* price?

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He didn't get charged for the Rice

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Shot in two seconds flat

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He was only twelve

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They were supposed to serve and protect

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but now they attack

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They didn't even think twice

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Now, I ask you again

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What is the price of Rice?

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**Nicholas Dominguez**

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Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School

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**"The Injustice of a Dollar"** } } }

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A cancer most terminal  
To the heart of humanity  
A sickness so transparent  
It fogs our own sanity } } }

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Questions that plague millions  
Will I eat today?  
Will I provide today? } } }

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Society looks down on you  
For being poor economically  
But never notice how you're rich symbolically } } }

{ { { } } }

The life of poverty  
Outside looking in  
Exists a bitter lack of empathy  
Lucy's got the world by the tongue  
"Sorry, I've got no change"  
A disheartening monstrosity } } }

{ { { } } }

I was once asked how much a dollar cost  
Apparently too much to pay  
For us a dollar is everything  
So will I eat today? } } }

{ { { } } }

***Emmanuel Donoe*** } } }

Cristo Rey Saint Martin High School } } }

## Our Judges

**Lois Baer Barr**, who chaired our judges committee this year, is an Associate Professor of Spanish at Lake Forest College. Her writing in Spanish and English has been published in journals and anthologies. Her short book of poetry *Biopoesis* won first prize in a chapbook contest and was published by *Poetica Magazine*. She's been nominated for the Pushcart Prize for both fiction and poetry.



**Shanica Bell** is a Christian Minister, Author, Publisher and Editor in Chief of *Life in the Overflow Magazine*. She also hosts an Internet radio show on Blogtalk. She holds a degree in Business Administration and is the C.E.O. of a media marketing firm, MediaBurst Designs, in which she specializes in ministry. Shanica currently resides in Kenosha, Wisconsin, with her three children.

**Herb Berman**, a resident of Deerfield, is a lawyer and labor arbitrator. He is co-founder of the Library Poets, a poetry workshop sponsored by the Deerfield Public Library. His poems have been published in many literary journals.

**Judy M. Dozier** is an associate professor in English and Chair of African American Studies at Lake Forest College, where she teaches African American literature and black studies. Judy is a former advertising writer who also writes fiction. She's seen her short stories and poetry published over the years. And there have been two play readings, both awarded. Presently she is at work on a manuscript focused on black women leaders.



**Mary Jane Gabrielsen** is co-founder of Deerfield Library Poetry, a weekly workshop since 2008. She is an editor for *East on Central Literary Journal*. Her poetry is published in *The Avocet*, and she has most recently collaborated with five other writers on a progressive novella.

## Our Emcees

**Dulce Ortiz** has called Waukegan her home for most of her life. Her mother immigrated to the United States from Mexico with the dream of making a better life for her two children. Raised under the guidance and support of a single mother, Dulce learned the meaning of perseverance and hard work. She's currently the Human Resources Manager at Waukegan Township. Working at Waukegan Township instilled in her an appreciation for community involvement and a passion for public service.



After graduating from Robert Morris University with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Dulce knew she had to pursue a path that would help bring the critical issues of her community to the forefront. She became involved by volunteering her time and efforts in various organizations such as the Waukegan Youth Football Association, The Waukegan Youth Wrestling Club, Waukegan Main Street Promotions Committee, the Coalition to Reduce Recidivism, Relay for Life Greater Waukegan/Far North Shore, and the Clean Power Lake County Campaign. In addition she serves as the Vice-President of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Lake County, she serves on the board of directors for the Coalicion Latinos Unidos (Latino Coalition) de Lake County, Waukegan Main Street, Women Interested in Government Services (WINGS), was appointed to the Waukegan Park District Recreational Advisory Board and previously served on the Kiwanis of Waukegan Board of Directors.

For the past 10 years, Dulce has been involved in numerous political campaigns to elect Democrats on the city, county, state and federal levels. She served three terms as precinct committeewoman and is active with the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats.

**Marc Jones** wears many hats. An employee of Waukegan Township for 12 years, he currently serves as the Director of the Waukegan Township Eddie Washington Center. Mr. Jones was elected as a Waukegan Park District Commissioner just about one year ago. That made him the second African-American elected to the board in the 99 history of the Park District.

Mr. Jones is also a member of:

- Lake County Coalition of the Homeless
- Lake County Behavioral Health Court Treatment Collaborative
- Latino Coalition of Lake County
- Board of Shelia Daniels Christian Academy, Beach Park
- Parental Advisory Board, School District 60



Marc Jones is a life-long Waukegan resident and graduate of Waukegan Public Schools. He has not admitted to being a poet himself, but he did graduate from Western Illinois University with his B.A. in English Literature, so there's always the possibility that he finds some time in his busy life to write.

## About the Community Connection

Members of the Illinois Tenth Congressional District Democrats are hard at work in the community to show 10th District residents that Democrats believe politics should be about more than just elections. In 2010, we launched the Community Connection office in Waukegan to serve the daily needs of district residents.

From holding classes on job interviewing to providing a connection to relevant services in a time of need, the Community Connection is a place for people to go when they have a problem or need advice. It's a place to gather, work on solving problems, and build stronger communities.

The Community Connection works with other local organizations to sponsor programs and provide education, access to services, and general support to the district. We are a volunteer organization and welcome your talents and desire to give back and help others. Join us to work with people who share your dreams and who want to build better lives for themselves and their families.

If you liked what you read in this Literary Edition and are interested in volunteering to help organize the 2017 Poetry/Prose Competition and Awards Ceremony (or to help out at the ceremony), please email [volunteers@tenthdems.org](mailto:volunteers@tenthdems.org) or call 847-266-VOTE (8683).



Community Connection

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