

Walnut Street Journal

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Edition Two

The Walnut Street Journal is the literary magazine composed, edited, produced, and distributed by the students of Salem High School.

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Artwork by
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Artwork by
Raegan Wilson

Martin Luther King Contest by Ke'Asia Anthony

Brad Paisley stated, “Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one.” Though, in 2020, things went downhill for the world. During the pandemic, the lives of many people changed. Not only has COVID-19 impacted everyone, but Black Lives Matter has been a real eye opener. Black Lives Matter is a movement of protests against police brutality and racial violence against black people. This movement is important to me for a few reasons, and there are ways I can spread the word.

To begin with, Black Lives Matter to me because colored people in this world are suffering due to racial conflicts.

With me being a black young female, it hurts to see that other black people have to deal with violence. Not only has it happened today, but it's been going on for several years now. Black people want justice for the inappropriate actions. People we look up to as a rescue are hurting and taking the innocent lives of the black population. We call them the Police. Police brutality has been a major issue affecting black lives. For example, George Perry Floyd Jr, an African American male, was killed by police during an arrest because Floyd gave a counterfeit twenty dollar bill to a store in Minneapolis.

Martin Luther King Contest (continued)

A New York Times article states, "Our video shows officers taking a series of actions that violated the policies of the Minneapolis Police Department and turned fatal, leaving Mr. Floyd unable to breathe, even as he and onlookers called out for help." Protests began in Minneapolis as black people sought justice for Floyd's death. It was a tragedy, and the news spread across the whole world, making Black Lives Matter become more popular. If a white person were to commit a crime, they wouldn't have received the same consequences like a black person would have.

It's unfair that black people get treated differently from people of other color. It's important to me because I don't want to experience any violence because of my skin color. As of today, white people who are supporters of Donald Trump decided to storm the United States Capitol with guns and haven't been harmed. But when black people walked the streets demanding justice and equality, they were met with violence and death. A very unfair world to live in. Black Lives Matter will become more heard than ever. This movement will grow highly once I make ways to spread it.

Martin Luther King Contest (continued)

Without causing disruptions to the world, I can spread the Black Lives Matter movement in positive ways. First, I can create a peaceful march. This means we walk the streets without rioting or damaging any property. I can start an organization on Facebook for Black Lives Matter, in which black people meet together to make a change to the world we live in. Also, clothing will be sold presenting a Black Lives Matter slogan. Last but not least, I can make soul food platters to feed the black community. These are brilliant ways I can spread the movement along with keeping black people together.

On the whole, it's hard being a colored person in today's world. The Black Lives Matter movement is all about standing up for what's right versus wrong. I strongly support this movement, and will continue to pass it down to the future generations.

Artwork by
Anna Buzby



I am Shane Harris

I am unique and distinctive.

I wonder about unity

I hear a crowd of 17,000 plus

I see a tv, with a hockey game
playing

I want to commentate

I am unique and distinctive

I pretend to commentate

I feel sort of confident

I touch the microphone

I worry about anyone thinking that I'm
biased

I cry at autistic abuse

I am unique and distinctive

I understand life's a mess right now

I say that it takes passion and positivity

I dream about a more "United" States of
America

I try to entertain to the furthest extent

I hope that I'll make it...

I am unique and distinctive.

Artwork by
James
Sanders





Artwork by Fashia Comerford

Barriers Will Crumble by Renee' Watson

Most people have a similar childhood growing up, playing with toys, running around the neighborhood, or playing a friendly game of basketball. I did most of those things, but with caution. Barriers are placed around me. Barriers only certain people can experience. A barrier we all try to knock down day by day. I was taught what to avoid from time and time again. Do not play with toys that look like weapons. Do not cover my face, in any situation keep my hands out of my pockets all the time. None of my other friends had to worry about these problems.

Their barriers in life were a hill compared to my mountain.

Barriers Will Crumble (continued)

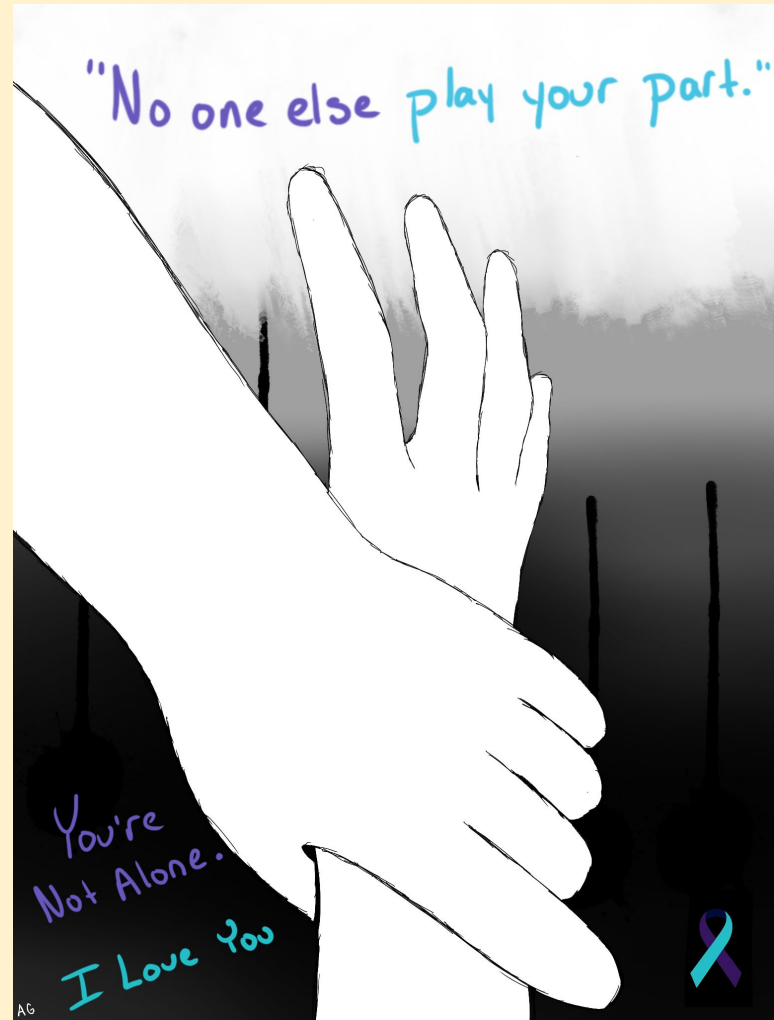
The obstacles we have faced were clear to the naked eye, but ignored by most. Aging from a child to an adult, my fear grew as well. From being made fun of, to fearing what is supposed to protect us. To stress our concerns, through these times many people gather to spread the word. Posters are placed from town to town, from country to country. Uniting people across the globe, through a pixelated screen spreading the message.

Barriers Will Crumble (continued)

Here is my message: I have experienced the harsh views of the world. I'm a woman of color.

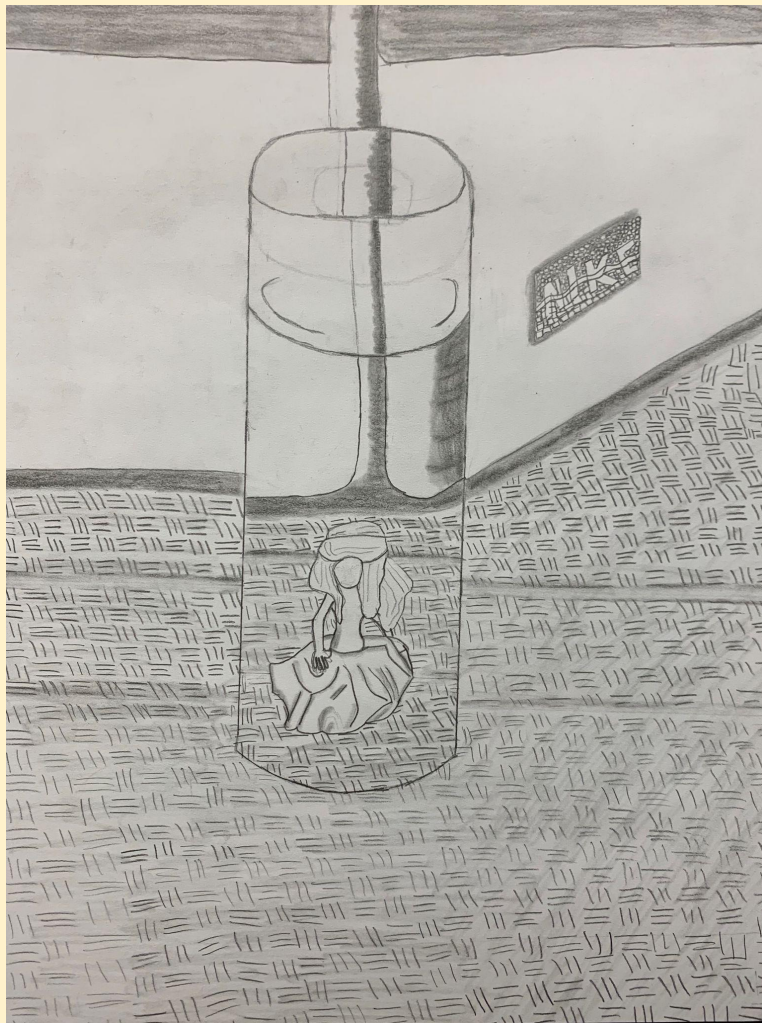
I'm proud of myself from head to toe. These barriers are put in place to stop me, I'm here to knock them down for the next generation of people of color will not have to face them. I'm not alone in this process. Together we can change the view of the world.

Artwork by Alex Gomez
Created for the Martin Luther King
Art and Writing Contest





Artwork by
Lee Coleman



Melvin Ramsamy Cruz