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CML News

A new year is upon us—2016! But before we venture ahead, we'd like to give you a few statistics from the past year. They might surprise you.

Of the 120 or so magazines, journals, and web pages we pore over to find the pieces we choose for your enjoyment, last year we deemed 266 pieces worthy of being recorded by our volunteers for evaluative purposes. Of these articles, stories, poems, and essays, 144 from 64 discrete sources were sent to the studio and recorded for the four issues that made up CML in 2015. This audio concert of ideas (logging in at a whopping 2,780 minutes!) covered a plethora of topics. That's like having your very own Royal Court Composer (with accompanying feast and jester) conduct a symphony in your living room! We hope you enjoyed it.

Highlights

Some topics appear often in the news. Our advantage is that we encounter many different viewpoints that allow us to see each topic from diverse perspectives. We relish these articles. In this issue our existing notions regarding migration, climate change, and the desire for vengeance to heal old wounds have been challenged and broadened by the immediacy and excellent writing of the pieces we chose to share with you.

Climate change is an issue that's crucial to the health of our planet and the fate of current and future generations, yet it is too often downplayed, and researchers who sound the alarm are too often belittled or ignored. In "Ballad of the Sad Climatologists" by **John H. Richardson**, the stark personal and emotional costs of being on the front lines of climate science are vividly captured. And without judgment, **Ghaith Abdul-Ahad** ("Some Tips for the Long-Distance Traveler") documents Syrian and Iraqi migrants striving for safety and normalcy as they journey from their war-torn and terror-ridden countries. In **Colum McCann's**

short story "Treaty" and the skilled investigative reporting of **Patrick Radden Keefe** ("The Avenger"), victims achieve a reckoning without retribution. Can the results be satisfying and redemptive?

Top Picks

In May 2015, *London Review of Books* published Pulitzer-winning journalist Seymour M. Hersh's provocative article "The Killing of Osama Bin Laden." CML considered using this 10,000-word piece but found it overly reliant on anonymous sources and passed on it, all the while searching for a balanced treatment of the quest for the truth about Bin Laden's death. This issue has it. **Jonathan Mahler's** "What Do We Really Know About Osama Bin Laden's Death?" examines Hersh's claims, weighing them against competing theories. We believe this article is worth your undivided attention.

And Special Thanks To ...

Our friend **Gordon Rothman** at [Gatewave Radio](#), who recorded an interview with CML editors Annie Kyrkostas and David Page to spread the word about CML to Gatewave's NYC audience. Gatewave Radio is available to the visually impaired in the New York City area. Call 646-202-1049 for more information about the free service.

Happy New Year from Pam, Annie, David, Mike, and Raquel!