

It's time to **DOWNLOAD** our Spring Issue!

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CML News

The world is moving fast, and there are so many voices and opinions clamoring for your attention. We know how difficult it can be to sift through it all; nobody really can. It's why we spend most of our days searching for important and interesting words to share with you. It's why we wish you enough time to listen to CML at a leisurely pace. So consider the articles, stories, essays, and poems we choose for you as a life raft in an ever-rising sea of information—an island of beautiful human voices to linger among.

Highlights

If we casually analyzed 54 years' worth of our archived pieces by looking at each issue's tables of contents, we would see titles that point to the "hot topics" of times gone by. In our early decades there were articles about space travel, nuclear energy, poverty, drug use, the environment, international relations, education, race relations, business, animals, food, travel, and lots of politics. Our most recent topics don't seem that much different, although the ideas and opinions related to them are often far different from those expressed a half-century ago.

With "Slavery's Trail of Tears" by **Edward Ball**, and in excerpts from "Citizen" by award-winning poet **Claudia Rankine**, we showcase the growing body of literature on the African American experience. These pieces invite us to inhabit the lives of others and to consider the past from new perspectives.

Top Picks

Charles Siebert has a gift for exploring relationships among humans and animals. In "Of a Feather" he marries the seemingly disparate ideas of treating post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and the rehabilitation of formerly neglected and

abused pet parrots. It is good news for the many veterans battling this challenging condition, as well as for these highly social and intelligent birds.

The four stories in this issue don't sugarcoat the ubiquitous (and sometimes juicy) human tendencies to greed, lust, and lying. What would life be if not for our shadow sides? *We* might not readily admit our own less-than-holy thoughts, but we do enjoy it when talented authors give us a peek. **Richard Bausch**, in "The Lineaments of Gratified Desire," is particularly skillful at this. **Nicole Cullen** ("Long Tom Lookout"), **Emma Duffy-Comparone** ("Plagiarism"), and **Patrick de Witt** ("The Picketer") add their wonderful offerings to the mix.

And to balance any bruised pride, we offer "Guided by Voices" by **Robert S. Brunk**. His personal musical journey of shape-note singing has three added audio selections to soothe the soul. It is truly an otherworldly experience.

And Special Thanks To ...

Gertrude B. of Merrick, NY, who enthusiastically told us, "You do the best, best work! LuEsther would be proud."

Happy Spring from Pam, Annie, David, Mike, and Raquel!