

Interfaith Center for Racial Justice (ICRJ)

“... invoking a community of respect and Justice”



33rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration of Macomb County Spoken Word High School Poetry Contest

Theme: Love is Spoken Here

Overview: Macomb County high school students are invited to write an original poem and submit a video recording of their recitation of the poem that conveys an interpretation of the 2020 MLK Holiday Celebration theme: **Love is Spoken Here.**

Dr. King spoke of love as the only way. “We must discover the power of love, and when we do that, we will make of this old world a new world, for love is the only way. There is power in love.

Go to www.icrj2018.com/mlk2020 to read excerpts from Dr. King’s speeches about loving one another.

Rules and Regulations

Eligibility – High School students in Macomb County

Time Limitation –Roughly two minutes will be permitted for poetry readings.

Presentation of Poems

- Contestant will record a recitation of the poem.
- Contestant will introduce herself/himself by stating in complete sentences:
“Judges, Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is...”
 - Name (first and last) and Age
 - Grade
 - School and City

Deadline for submissions – Monday, December 16, 2019

Contestants must send the written poem in addition to a video recitation. Upload a video recording of the poem to the Internet (e.g., YouTube) and email the link and contact information (name, phone number, school, teacher’s name and email address) along with the written poem to mlk2020@gmail.com

Finalists will be announced and contacted by Friday, January 3, 2020

Contestants will be evaluated on the following criteria:

The poem:

- Is based on the 2020 MLK theme (Love is Spoken Here)
- uses powerful language and strong imagery
- provokes an emotional response in the reader/audience
- encourages the reader/audience to thought or action

The recitation:

- Composure (self-confidence, audience appeal)
- Voice quality (audibility, articulation, inflection of voice)

The poem and recitation must conform to your school and district policies regarding appropriate language and content.

The decision of the judges is final.

Prizes

- Cash Prizes: 1st- \$75, 2nd- \$50, 3rd-\$25
- Selected poets will receive 2 tickets (winner, guest) to the 2020 MLK Holiday Celebration, January 20, 2020
- One or more entrants may be selected to perform at the MLK holiday celebration
- Selected poems will be featured in the 33rd Annual MLK Holiday Publication

Understanding of Publication: All contest materials are the property of the Interfaith Center for Racial Justice. By submitting a video, you confirm that you understand that your video, whether a winning entry or not, may be used by ICRJ in whole or in part, royalty free, in any printed or electronic media and in promotional materials, including fundraising and online publications.

For more information, contact:

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