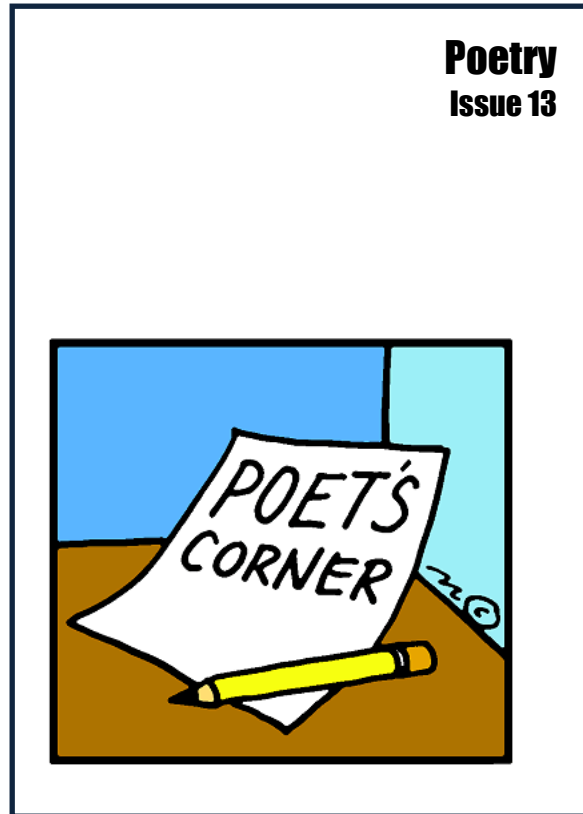


# Literacy Ventures in Tucson



## Laundry

By Lilian Mutwota

I wash the clothes  
 Inside the laundry room  
 Soap and softener and bleach  
 I wash skirts  
 And blouses  
 And pants  
 And shirts  
 And jeans  
 And T-shirts  
 And shorts  
 And socks  
 And sport shoes  
 And towels  
 And sheets  
 And blankets  
 And dresses  
 And sweaters  
 And pullovers  
 I am very happy to do the work



## Chinbteo Monsoon

By Leland Yazzie



We live in a valley.  
To the left is open plain.  
To the right is Black Mesa.

When monsoon comes, it does not pick a summer month.

When it comes it rolls by the mesa to the right.  
You can hear the birds flee from monsoon,  
squawking as they fly by. It sounds like wind.

The smell of wet pine and wet rain,  
wet primrose, globe mallow,  
make it smell sweet.

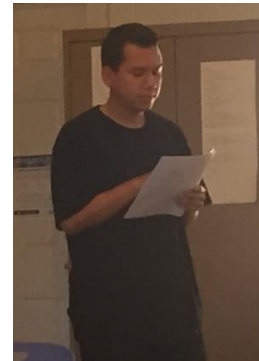
The air turns cold and wind blows.  
The hair on my skin stands as lightning appears in  
the distance as it echoes off the Black Mesa.  
The frogs start singing.  
The wash makes a loud train noise as it roars  
down and rain  
drop drop drop louder and louder.  
Horses are tapping their hooves in the pen and  
neighing loud.  
Lightning passes me by with a loud cracking.

That is how I know the monsoon is here.

## Life

By Chris Carrillo

Life is like a river it starts off slow  
and smooth very peaceful  
but so unpredictable it takes you places  
you would never imagine  
dragons and wolves howling at  
the pearl moon over night  
while the stars shine so bright  
along side the river  
the grass is so green  
the rain brought forth a  
magical fog amongst  
the trees the air turns so cold  
and wind blows rain drops in  
the distance.



## River

By Easlyn Williams



I Easlyn was born in Grenada where we  
had a large and beautiful river.

I never knew about bathing in showers.  
I always used to bathe in the river,  
and also wash in the river,  
and catch large crayfish in the river, and I  
used to go home  
and make a fire and roast the crayfish in  
the fire  
and eat them with salt and pepper,  
and they used to taste very nice.

It is only when it's raining heavy one had  
to be scared of the river  
because water comes down very heavy and  
muddy,  
and then one has to get out of the river  
very quickly  
because then it will be very dangerous.

## Jamaican Love Song

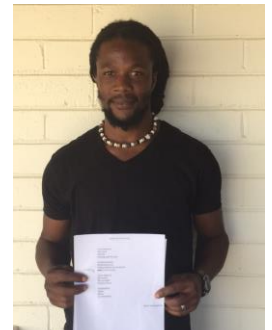
By Omar Cunningham

I love Jamaica  
The river  
The sea  
Fishing with friends

Gardening land  
Building houses  
Selling clothes on the beach  
Chilling in the streets

I love Jamaica  
My family  
My strength  
Positive focus

Redemption  
Rasta  
Music  
It is beautiful.



## From Chaos to Serenity

By Mona Culbreth

Moving from  
chaos to serenity.

When one  
rents a place to abide,

One desires  
to be free to come  
and go as one pleases.

Yet unbeknownst  
to one's security,

The harmony  
of peace and safety

Can be removed  
by the reception  
of depraved and  
evil deeds.

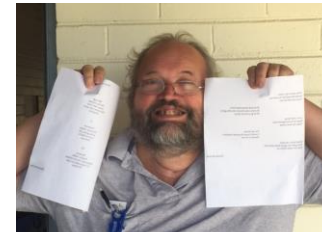
Yet as one lives,  
walks, and trusts  
in the liberty of the Almighty

He always  
comes forth with  
deliverance from  
said test of unsafe  
dwelling

To plant one  
in the place of  
His influence.

## Three Cinquains

By Charles Barlow



I.

Message  
Words, actions  
Hope, fear, love  
That some one cares  
Dispatch

zzzz

II.

Treasure  
Precious, items  
Gold, gems, art  
Love to find it  
Fortune

III.

Mystery  
Puzzle, riddle  
Unknown, secret, hidden  
It's enjoyable to read  
Problem