



Torch: United

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The official publication
of the Junior Classical
League Coalition of
Small States



Intros from the JCLCSS officers

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Salvete, omnes!

For the past six years, I have been a member of the tiny New Mexico JCL, so I know firsthand the struggles of living in a small state. Although we have just as much passion and love for the Classics as any other state, we often simply do not have the resources and membership to carry out some parts of the JCL alone. After attending my fourth NJCL convention in Troy, Alabama as the lone delegate from NM, I came back entirely inspired and awe-struck by the incredible camaraderie and kindness of the JCL. Having met so many incredible people, I felt that I had a truly amazing opportunity to build something that would help those states in the JCL which are the most vulnerable.

With the amazing support, advice, and aid of spectacular JCLers from across the country, the Coalition was born in the fall of 2017. We soon held meetings together and discussed how the Coalition could best support the small states. In late 2017, we elected Zoa Katok (NV) from a field of four amazingly qualified candidates as the first-ever Editor-in-Chief of the *Torch: United*.

The goal of the Coalition is to help support and promote the small states of the JCL, so if you or your state ever needs absolutely anything, don't hesitate to reach out and contact us. We are here to help you. Although your state may be small, always remember that you are a member of an immense community of brilliant and passionate people from across the country. Together, the small states of the JCL can prosper and grow. I cannot wait to explore our incredible possibilities together. Ad astra, mi amici!

Blue Skies,

Garrett Frye-Mason

JCLCSS Student Ambassador and Founder



Salvete, omnes!

When I joined the JCL about two and a half years ago, I fell in love. I already loved my first Latin class, but when I went to my first JCL convention, a tiny Nevada convention, I had a smile on my face the whole time and for some time afterwards. It was like I was transported to a wonderland. I saw and did awesome activities like grape stomping, watching a Quidditch game, yelling as loudly as I could for spirit, and witnessing the intensity of everyone's favorite sport: Certamen. But I also got my first taste of the camaraderie and brotherhood that is the core of the JCL. When I got home, I knew that I wanted to be a part of it for as long as I could.

I was overjoyed when my friend told me about the Coalition because I knew that it would bring this community of students from across the country even closer together. When I saw the call for *Torch: United* editor applications I jumped on the opportunity, for while I could never handle the more administrative roles of my state's board, I knew I could make a difference here. It has been an absolute honor to work on this publication, but especially because I got to meet so many of you. I love talking to you all and seeing the amazing stuff you submit, so please keep that coming for the next edition! I know I couldn't do this job without your help and support.

Curate ut valeatis,

Zoa Katok

Torch: United Editor-in-Chief

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State Updates 4

Minnesota

So far, the MNJCL has been very busy this year! We had a Parents' Night Out, for which we planned fun Latin-themed games and activities for the elementary school children while their parents went Christmas shopping. We also had a movie night, where we watched the 2016 *Ben Hur*. Minnehaha Academy later hosted *Ludi Romani*.

We are currently planning a murder mystery dinner for February and State Convention in March. We are hopefully going to plan a toga bowling event sometime this year too! Although Eagle Ridge Academy is currently the only chapter of the MNJCL, we have been working with other schools in order to hopefully start more chapters!

– Gillian Herbert, MNJCL President

Oklahoma

Earlier this year we had our fall forum, a mini convention that included lots of fun activities. We also had an infant crisis center bag decorating service project at our Classics day. Coming up next is our main convention on April 6th and 7th.

– Kayla Chung, OKJCL CoCo



From Minnesota's *Ludi Romani*

Washington, D.C.

On December 9, 2017, BASIS DC hosted its 4th annual Certamen. Although a bit of snow hindered some of the teams from coming, more teams came from every level than any other year, making it a success. Although many Virginia teams played, St. Albans, another school from DC, compete. We hope that in future years more DC teams will come as we are trying to expand the DCJCL.

We also held a hats and mittens drive this winter. We donated the items to Capitol Hill Group Ministry and we hope that our donations made a difference in the DC community this winter.

On March 3, we are planning on hosting a DC scrimmage Certamen at BASIS DC, where schools interested in playing can try it out, and schools already playing Certamen can improve their skills. We hope that schools across DC come and play in this low-stress, just-for-fun Certamen.

– Lena Cavicchia

Nevada

Nevada has been active and hard at work this fall and winter! In southern Nevada, we welcomed a new chapter from the American Preparatory Academy, which is also the site of our state convention on February 23-24! We also had the Southern Nevada *Amici Pratis* (Southern Nevada Friends at the Meadows) on October 14 at The Meadows School, and held our first Certamen tournament in years at Liberty High School on January 20.

In northern Nevada, Sage Ridge School held an informal Certamen event called Saturnalia Saturday. Two chapters attended. Middle schoolers played while high schoolers helped run the event. Part of the price of admission was at least one can of food for donation to the local food bank. The person who brought the most cans got an awesome prize. The event was a success for both attendance and donations.

– Josh Ocampo, NVJCL Triumvir
and Zoa Katok



Certamen at Liberty High School (NV)

New Mexico

Though a small state of the JCL, we are not lacking in passion to expand our influence in the NJCL and to support Classics in New Mexico. With a max of one hundred people attending our state convention, usually less, it is hard for the NMJCL to mimic the programs of the larger states, so this year we have put particular interest in making the program more tailored to New Mexico's small size.

We launched the first ever Toga Fun Run/Certamen Picnic this past fall. The 5K run was placed along the beautiful Rio Grande river. Because there is no Latin in New Mexico public schools (a travesty, I know!) we chose to base our Certamen rounds solely on mythology. Later, in traditional JCL fashion, the NMJCL tried to bring Classics into the holiday season with our Saturnalia celebration, complete with a toy drive and a sacrificial lamb cake. "Saturnalia in the Stacks," held in one of our chapter's school library, was a huge success, especially thanks to a talented member of the NMJCL who played with his band *Burying Caesar*.

The NMJCL has officially started planning our state convention. In our ongoing attempt to make a "New Mexican" JCL, our board members are debating potential changes to our normal competitions in the hopes of bringing in more people.

– Bryn Frye-Mason, NMJCL President

North Dakota

NDJCL has mostly been keeping with one state event a month. In October we had a Halloween dance. In November we played some intense *ludi*, during which we played some soccer, volleyball, and dodgeball (the favorite). We hope to start some training for National *ludi* soon, so we come back with some more hardware this year. In December we had Saturnalia parties. One of our local chapters did a tie blanket service project during their Saturnalia party.

Up next in North Dakota JCL is a service project at a local food bank, and close after that is our state convention in the beginning of March! Our state board has also been spending a lot of time planning for the upcoming 2019 Nationals held at NDSU in Fargo, North Dakota. We are all so excited to have everybody join us here, and we are working hard to make sure it is going to be the best it can be!

– Olivia Mineer, NDJCL President

Maryland

Maryland has been working on a year-long service project that benefits the children at the Johns Hopkins Children's Center. Students were asked to make as many origami cranes as possible to decorate with and also fundraise money to donate. So far, we have totaled up 2000 cranes and hundreds of dollars!

Recently we released the first ever MD academic award. This award serves not only as an incentive to maintain grades in Latin, but also a way to be a recognized scholar! The scholars will be awarded at State Convention in April.

All of the officers and members are currently preparing for the events that will take place during Convention! Be on the lookout for all of our pictures!

– Natasha Panduwawala, MDJCL President

Arizona

On January 20th, 2018, Gilbert Classical Academy hosted a Certamen event where students from multiple Arizona schools came together and competed against one another in this exciting competition. All of the students did their best and did an amazing job. Gratias to all the schools who participated: Candeo School, Basis Ahwatukee, and Gilbert Classical Academy.

Maximas gratias to Gilbert Classical Academy for hosting the event on their campus!

– Catherine Xia, AZJCL 1st Vice President



Cranes from Maryland's service project

Photos from YOU! 7



Burying Caesar live at NM's Saturnalia in the Stacks. – Bryn Frye-Mason, NM



I made a coil pot modeled after Ancient Greek and Roman forms.
– Claire Grady, NV



“Chariot racing” from Fall Forum
– Kayla Chung, OK



Greek Vase

Painting w/ Pumpkins!



Natasha Panduwawala, MD



Make way for the sacrificial lamb cake!
– Bryn Frye-Mason, NM



Certamen! – Catherine Xia, AZ



Southern Nevada *Amici Pratis* (SNAP)
– Josh Ocampo, NV



Get it...I made a torch...'cuz I'm
the editor of the TORCH
– Zoa Katok, NV



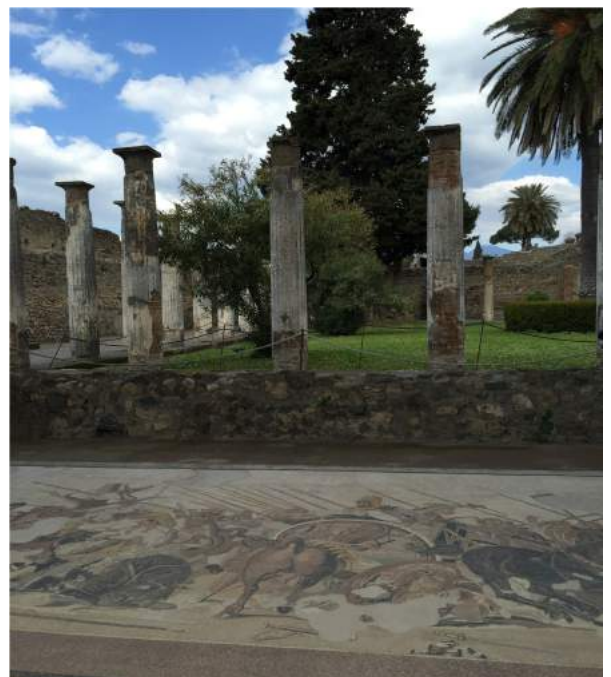
The flags of the Coalition
– Arthur Delot-Vilain, DC

JCLer Trips to Italy!



Almost exactly a year ago I took a trip to Italy that almost rivaled the spectacularity of Mrs. Frizzle's field trips. During this trip, my classmates and I had the opportunity to visit a variety of sights across Rome and even take a day trip to Pompeii. I chose some of the things that struck me as most amazing to submit.

First, of course, is your obligatory Colosseum photo. Almost every tourist has one; after all, it's hard not to take a picture of the dazzling open space. Second is a picture from the Baths of Caracalla. However large you think the baths are, nothing can compare to seeing them in real life. Remnants of the facility tower into the sky, and once-bright mosaics cover the curved floors. For some reason, there weren't that many tourists when we went, but I'd definitely recommend it as a place to visit. Third is a picture of a Thermopolium in Pompeii, and fourth is a picture of the courtyard in the House of Faun (you know you're rich when you have two peristylia). Seeing the layout and experiencing the scale of an actual house was pretty amazing.



Even though the trip wasn't to space or through the digestive system, it was an awesome experience. Being able to apply things that I've learned in Latin to interpret the carvings on buildings or to wow my parents with Roman trivia was extremely fun, and I'd recommend it to any student of Latin.

– Carolyn Wang, NM

JCLer Trips to Italy!

My super cool Latin teacher, Mrs. Kiely, and another cool guy (math teacher and Roman enthusiast), Mr. Thibault, took a few kids to Greece and Italy for eleven amazing days. I was one of the lucky kids on this trip, and I was nerding out the entire time (yes, “nerding” is a highly technical word). Among other places, we went to Pompeii, Rome, and Athens, which were all unbelievably wonderful. Here are a few pictures from the trip.

– Siena Hall, NVJCL triumvir



My Latin teacher and I at the COLOSSEUM. I was excited.



Picture of the Pantheon: pretty cool. Emperor Hadrian: extremely cool.



SENATVS
POPVLVSQVE
ROMANVS
heck yeah!



Constantine's Arch. He was also cool, but my personal opinion is that Hadrian was cooler.

A New Office

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Starting about one year ago, the New Jersey Junior Classical League, under the leadership of Consul Alexandra Pasamihalis, sought to undergo a noble effort in reaching out to other states and began making connections with sister JCL state chapters. In beginning this process, the NJJCL State Board formed a trial office which they deemed the Outreach Coordinator. This officer serves the board by reaching out to other states and keeping the state in contact with the national board. In its inaugural year, this office allowed for New Jersey to gain the chance to enjoy a bus ride with several other state delegations to National Convention and begin to reach out into the wide reach of other state JCL chapters.

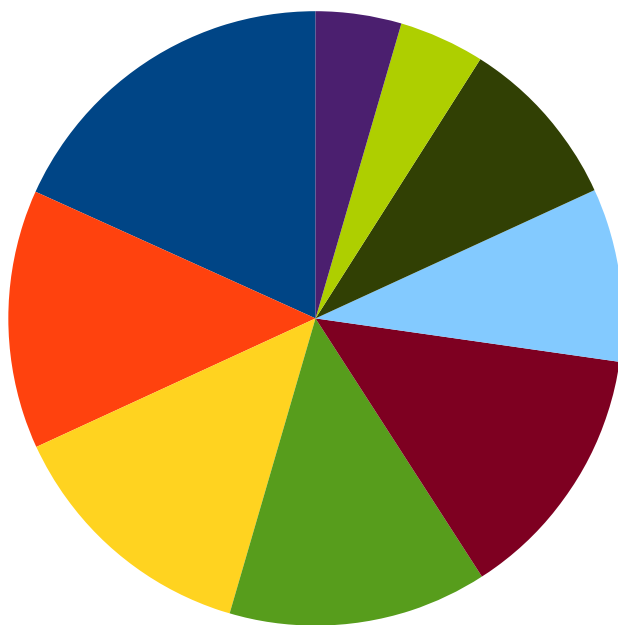
This year with, the initiation of the Coalition of Small States by several states throughout the nation, the NJJCL State Board, under the leadership of Consul Cisco Espinosa, jumped at the opportunity to solidify this office. Currently, an amendment is being written to officialize this position as part of the State Board, and they hope to share their experiences with this office with others this year at nationals. Carly Brosovich has succeeded Andrew String as the Outreach Coordinator and is now working on several projects and coming up with many innovative ideas to better connect the state with other JCL chapters. With the Coalition of Small States, she finds that her job has great meaning in serving as a contact for other states who are building up or just want to share good times. Looking to the future, the NJJCL State Board hopes that national unification becomes a more prevalent idea and that someday soon, all states may have their own form of an Outreach Coordinator in order to have a truly connected nation of Classicists.

Does your state's JCL have an interesting success story or cautionary tale? Tell us about it! Submit an article to jcl.coalition.editor@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please feel to contact the New Jersey Junior Classical League Consul or Outreach Coordinator at [njcl.consul@gmail.com](mailto:njjcl.consul@gmail.com) or [njcl.outreach@gmail.com](mailto:njjcl.outreach@gmail.com) respectively.

– Cisco Espinosa, NJJCL Consul

Survey Says... 12



- fio, fieri, factus sum
- sum, esse, fui, futurum
- possum, posse, potfui
- fero, ferre, tuli, latum
- volo, velle, volui
- eo, ire, ivi/ii, itum
- nolo, nolle, nolui
- malo, malle, malui
- aio, aiere

(22 responses)

“What's your favorite irregular verb?”

“Fio is doubly special because it's a semi-deponent AND it's not even a normal semi-deponent.”

“ALL OF THEM SUCK I'M SORRY
IT'S MORE TO REMEMBER.”

“Fio is basically the passive of facio
but it gets its own entire verb which
is so incredibly extra.”

(regarding possum)

“It's a pretty empowering verb :)”

“Fero has so many children
(compounds stemming from it) and
it is such a great parent.”

(regarding nolo)
“Do not want!”

“You know how Fe is iron on the
periodic table? My friends and I
always remembered [fero] as “iron,
irony, tulip, lettuce.” It's... ummm...
very strange... but it works!”

“I love 'eo' because whenever you see it used with the third principle part, it's just
an 'i' with an ending and somehow I find that really hilarious. I guess Latin nerds
have a warped sense of humor.”

National Contests 13

Salvete amici!

Let me begin by saying how excited I am to watch the JCL Coalition of Small States and the *Torch: United* grow throughout the year! Furthermore, it will be incredible to see members of the Coalition seize every opportunity to showcase their skills in national competitions. In this article, I plan to describe a few of the JCL's national non-convention contests and how you can become involved. For more details about submitting to each contest and other contests not mentioned here, visit <https://www.njcl.org/Students/Non-Convention-Contests>.

First up is Club of the Month. This competition is a great way to share how your club has been developing responsibility, fostering brotherhood, and promoting enthusiasm. This is the competition to describe what service projects, fun meetings, creative outreach, and more your local chapter has whipped up. To receive notifications about the Club of the Month contest, join the "JCL Spirit and Service" group on Facebook.

Next, let's talk about publicity! Publicity is anything and everything that a single person or a group of people does to bring fame to the JCL. This includes posters, greeting cards, bookmarks handed out in the school library, an article in the local paper, wearing Classics-themed clothing in public, radio broadcasts, and so much more. Keep track of the publicity your chapter completes throughout the year is essential! The deadline for the contest is June 1.

Finally, there's the Publications Contest and its two categories, state and local publications. Submitting to the contest is easy! Simply email editor@njcl.org with a copy of your publication by June 1, or contact me through that same email address to receive a physical address if you would like to mail your submission. Publications are judged on choice and variety of articles, presentation of content, effectiveness of writing, stylistic consistency, and frequency of publications.

To close, I encourage you to try something new! Have a get-together with your friends and make posters for publicity, or go the extra mile with a service project for Club of the Month. Do a little digging and find out if your local chapter has a newsletter or publication. If you do, submit an article or two. If not, try making one! (Email publications@njcl.org for ideas and advice for starting a local publication.) The JCL is full of so many opportunities for creative expression, and nothing is more exciting than watching everyone channel their passions in the name of the Classics.

I hope you have learned a bit more about the JCL's national contests and how you can participate. *Valete*, happy competing, and I hope to see you all at nationals this summer!

– Jade Woods, NJCL Editor

Photo Contest Results

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First Place:
Sophie Bell, NV



Second Place:
Bryn Frye-Mason, NM



Third Place:
Jared Tanjutco, NJ



JCL amici of the
animal kingdom

Pieces of Fiction 15

“My dear Atticus,” he wrote, in one of his unrecovered letters, “it has been too long since we have seen each other. Your time in

Cicero: An Exile Story by Arthur Delot-Vilain, DC

Epirus has robbed me of the great sense of satisfaction that comes alongside seeing you. Then again, I haven’t seen anyone in too long. Damned be that Clodius, that ignoble knave! The last time I wrote to you, I wanted to end this misery. Your pleas have kept me from doing so right away, but the thoughts still hang heavily on my mind.” His voice cried, “Oh! It’s no use! What am I do to in any case?” He had been exiled by that wench Clodius. And for what? For saving the republic? For doing what had to be done? Clodius hadn’t acted out of some noble calling and devotion to the Constitution. No, he sought pure revenge. Clodius was a tool, a slave to his own fury. But here Cicero found himself in exile, away from the hustle and bustle of the Roman life, and his Palatine villa. Nothing to keep him company but his thoughts and his letters. His thoughts often turned dark, and he was too distracted to write efficiently.

He was unhealthy, and often worked too late into the night, too early into the morning. He wrote and wrote, poetry and letters, all trash. Everything he wrote was terrible, and when the futility of it all crashed down upon him, he still kept cranking it out, for he knew that if he stopped writing he would succumb to those evil thoughts. He could not and would not stop, and he barely took notice when his candle burnt low and his sleeve caught on fire, for it meant light and warmth, and while his flesh burned, he kept writing. He was physically and mentally exhausted, his body was thinning, his bones showed. Whenever he took the time to eat, it was brief, for he had to continue fleeing those thoughts that chased him eternally. “*Rosae rubrae sunt. Dulcorum sicut mel es,*” he wrote. He cursed himself, he couldn't even write properly with correct grammar. Still he sat hard at work, trying to drown his demons with words. One night, he gave up. His flesh was charred, his clothes were on fire, he was burning his writing, and the futility came. This time he let it wash over him.

The thoughts came back, but a new idea came as well. He could just run. Horses roamed nearby, he could grab one and venture wherever he chose. He could go see Atticus in Epirus! He was thrilled by this idea. He smothered the fire, gathered up a few things, and rode out on a wild steed. He rode through the night, towards what he thought was Epirus. He braced the cold and faced the winds to be with Atticus. With the biting cold, he would be lucky to *(continued →)*

arrive without pneumonia. But unbeknownst to him, he had been riding too far north. The next night, when the stallion finally gave out, he had reached Ravenna. Here he was faced with a dilemma. Ride back, with another steed, and face more stinging cold, or march on Rome using known roads. He loved Atticus, but Rome was the safer bet.

On his march back, he went to Arpinum, his birth town. He looked out, and admired the little town that had produced such a great man as himself. He stole another horse from Arpinum, and rode up through Rome. Never one to miss an opportunity for showmanship, he rode down the Capitoline into the forum, and stopped at the rostrum. He announced, "*Salvete, est ego, Cicero!*" All who were listening gasped, and a praetor who happened to be walking by stopped. He unleashed his lictors, commanding them to seize the man. Cicero, stunned, froze and was carried to prison, all the while shouting his defense, and exclaiming to anyone who would listen that he was a *pater patriae*. And with the greatest irony, he was tossed in the very same pit in which he had thrown the conspirators five years previously. This was the last that was heard of Cicero, the courageous one, the vain one, the insane one, the loving one. In Epirus, Atticus wept for a month, and then was heard no more.



O Muse

by Bryn Frye-Mason, NM

O Muse, tell me the story of a man.
A man who saw a pretty girl, and did
not let her go till she had turned herself
into a tree.

Tell me the story of a man,
who left the woman who had given him
the means to kill the monster, stranded
on an island.

Tell me the story of a man
who became a man by telling his mother
to shut up while his father was away.

But Muse, can you tell me the story of a
woman?

Tell me the story of a woman who is not
used as
a plot device.

Tell me the story of a woman who is not
created
into some monster, simply for having
power.

Tell me the story of a woman who is a
woman.

You can't do it, can you?

Meme Contest Results

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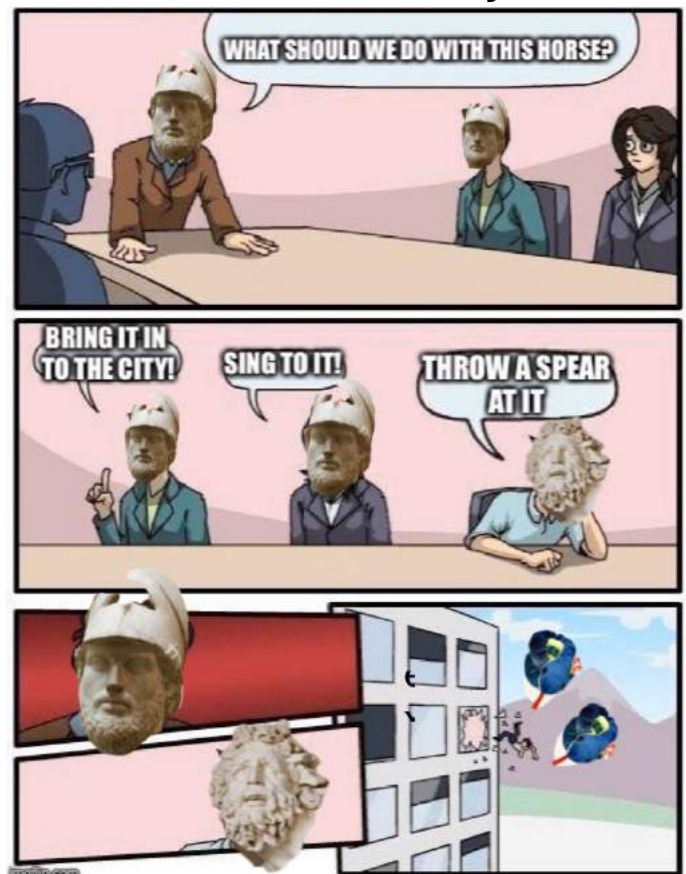
First Place:
Emily Redmond, MD



Second Place:
Grant Hussong, OK



Third Place:
Sarah Cahlstadt, NM

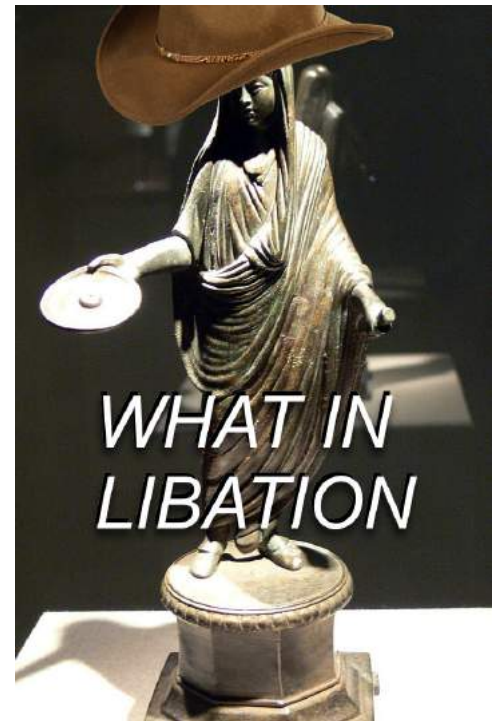


Honorable Mentions



Siena Hall, NV

Please submit to next
edition's meme contest to
ensure more lit editions of
the Torch: United!



Zoa Katok, NV



Garrett Frye-Mason, NM

Pieces of Nonfiction

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Mr. Serwicki had been giving his students vocab packets almost every week for the first six months of the year. They would prepare and study for the quizzes

A day of Certamen by Emily Krieger, NY

as well as they could so that they would be successful. One day Mr. Serwicki announced we would be attending a Certamen, a Latin competition, in Rochester. Everyone was so excited to go. There was a month to study and prepare, create and order t-shirts, and pay the registration fee. When the time came, it was an early March morning, the snow still freshly falling because after all, it's western New York.

All of us filed into the bus that would take us to Rochester with our bags packed and ready to go. We sang our declension songs made up by Mr. Serwicki as loud as possible. We might have begun to annoy the bus driver. Oooops!!! We also asked each other difficult questions to test our skills. When we finally got there, our teams were picked and we set off to round one of the competition. When we weren't in a competition, we'd take individual tests or play games in the gym.

The afternoon continued on, each round more exciting than the next. Mr. Serwicki had prepared us well. Later that evening the winners of the competition would be announced and the students who had the top highest grades on the tests would win an award. We waited eagerly as the officials to enter the auditorium for the announcements. Finally, they came in and began the ceremony. And the first place award for the Certamen goes to... EAST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL!!! We all stood up and cheered loudly. Mr. Serwicki congratulated us all as we ran to the front of the room for a photo.

The bus ride home was not as expected. There was no more cheering and celebrating. It was silent. Everyone was sound asleep, exhausted from the long, exciting day. Mr. Serwicki was beyond proud of all of his students; they were devoted to the task and they jumped at every opportunity given. It had been a great, successful day at the Certamen.

Thinking about *Julius Caesar* by Jessica Phillips, NY

“Friends, Romans, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him...Come I to speak in Caesar’s funeral. He was my friend, faithful and just to me: But Brutus says he was ambitious; And Brutus is an honorable man.” It should come as no surprise that after almost five years of taking Latin, phrases of monologue from William Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* have ingrained themselves in my mind. I’ve heard my Latin teacher Mr. Serwicki enthusiastically recite this speech more times than I can count and yet it still seems bizarre that the words will pop into my head at the most random of times. I consider myself to be an ambitious individual and as the future becomes nearer my ambition has not decreased. So, as I prepare to make the most ambitious of decisions concerning my future in college and a career, the line “But Brutus says he was ambitious; And Brutus is an honorable man” frequently pops into my head. I’m not sure why this line appears to me, it just does. I like to view it as a warning, while it is good to be ambitious you should never take on more than you can handle (don’t let your ambitions get the best of you) otherwise it can be detrimental to your future self, sort of like how Caesar tried to become a dictator and ended up being stabbed 23 times. To anyone who isn’t a Latin student it may seem strange to know lines from Shakespeare’s *Julius Caesar* but to me it’s normal and it provides me with a good rule to live by.

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*If you still want more awesome
JCL newsletter action, stay
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U.S., which comes out in early
March!*

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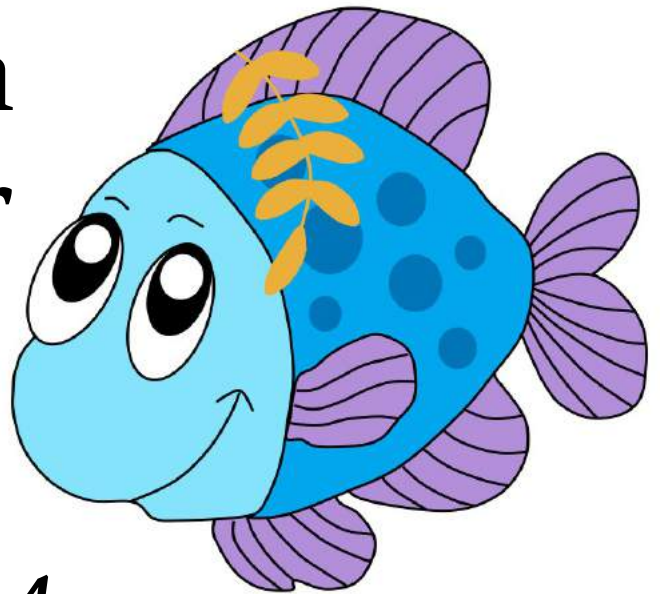
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We'll see you back
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