Let Me Tell You What a Poem Brings
for Charles Fishman

Before you go further, let me tell you what a poem brings,
first, you must know the secret, there is no poem to speak of, it is a way to attain a life without boundaries, yes, it is that easy, a poem, imagine me telling you this, instead of going day by day against the razors, well, the judgments, all the tick-tock bronze, a leather jacket sizing you up, the fashion mall, for example, from the outside you think you are being entertained, when you enter, things change, you get caught by surprise, your mouth goes sour, you get thirsty, your legs grow cold standing still in the middle of a storm, a poem, of course, is always open for business too, except, as you can see, it isn’t exactly business that pulls your spirit into the alarming waters, there you can bathe, you can play, you can even join in on the gossip—the mist, that is, the mist becomes central to your existence.

— Juan Felipe Herrera
2015-16 U.S. Poet Laureate
Herrera is the first Latino appointed to the position.

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Confluencia
A community gathering to share the experiences of different cultures via the written word and in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month.

October 5, 2015
Refreshments & Musical Performance • 5:30 p.m.
Open Mic • 6:00 p.m.
Readings • 6:30 p.m.

Playbox Theater
750 Chase Parkway
Waterbury, CT
Annecy Baez is a Dominican writer and psychotherapist living in New York. She is the author of *My Daughter’s Eyes and Other Stories*, winner of the Curbstone Press 2007 Mármol Prize. She is currently an Associate Professor of Clinical Social Work Practice at Touro College Graduate School of Social Work. Her literary work appeared in *Callaloo* (2000) and *Riverine: An Anthology of Hudson Valley Writers* (Codhill Press, 2008) among others.

Javier Campos is a Chilean writer and professor of Latin American Literature at Fairfield University in Connecticut. He is a regular columnist for *El Mostrador*, a Latin American newspaper and also writes for *Sociedad & Conocimiento*, a magazine from the Department of Economy at the Universidad Central de Chile. He has participated in several International Poetry Festivals throughout Latin America, including Nicaragua, El Salvador and Cuba.

Claribel Díaz lives in New York and is a Dominican writer and psychotherapist. Her writings include, *Consideraciones psicodinámicas acerca de la delincuencia*, (Hermeneias del Psicoanálisis Editorial, 1987) and the poetry collections: *Ser del Silencio/Being of Silence*, (Essentual Icon Press, 2003) and *Orbita de la Inquietud*, (Obsidiana Press, 2010). Her literary work has appeared in numerous journals such as Revista TRAZOS, New York, 2014.