

*This week, Street Roots' Creative Writing prompt was a response to the shooting at Pulse in Orlando, Fla. Vendors were encouraged to write their own responses. Here is what they wrote.*

## In Response to the Orlando Shooting.

By Aileen McPherson

Is it terror or tragedy?  
10s, 100s, 1,000s – does it matter how many?  
Senseless killing, lives lost,  
Never to be loved or love again.

Memories are fragile, histories are fractured,  
Mankind, womankind, all kinds,  
Oh, the humanity of it all!

Black, white, read all over,  
Culture clash, systems crash,  
Protagonists, antagonists and lovers unite.

Calling all nations, free your souls!

Love thyself, love one another,  
Love through leadership, love by example,  
Learn the meaning of love,  
Teach love as life, watch violence recede,

Then humanity can succeed.

## Different Versions of Love

By Cathy E.

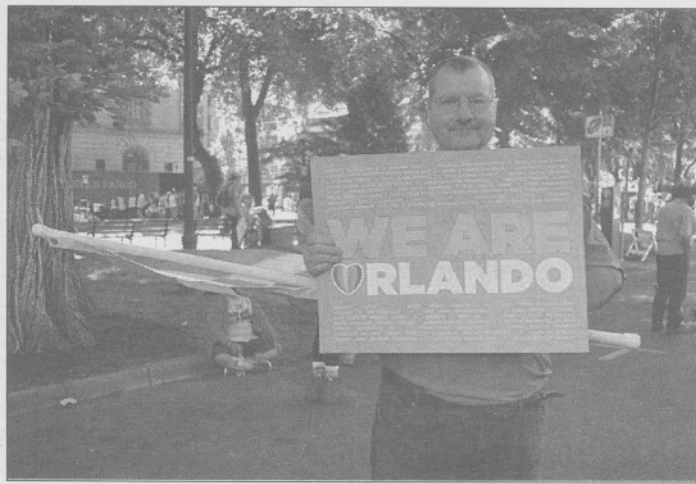
Are there different versions of love in every individual?  
Can love be like growing cancerous cells feeding on  
human hosts so marveled at by scientists?

Is it creation of life through pain caused in order for  
beauty and hope to exist?

How about the lighter and genuine side like the wind  
flowing through the trees expelling continuous life seed  
by seed for simple oxygen to sustain our planet? Or the  
beautiful dance of life between flower and bee?

In the end, my love comes with pain. The pain causes  
me to feel, understand and realize how deep my love  
can grow. Through love I can feel, relate and care to be  
moved to act on the greater good for the next  
individual, for the next movement I am passionate  
about.

To bring awareness to society's eyes on issues that need  
recognition. I may have knowledge on what to do or how  
to act, but until I experience pain, loss and suffering, I  
may never know how to feel from my heart the right  
action to take for the greater good.



## Thoughts are Affecting

by Amy Turco

Growing up in Tampa, Fla., when I think about the slaughter at Pulse in Orlando, scary thoughts run through my head. I have some friends that are gay or lesbian and the thought about them going to Pulse to try something new or having been there before and deciding to go on that night is scary. But thankfully that didn't happen. And to also find out that Disney World could have been a targeted place for him is even more scary. My friends and family are always going there on a regular basis. My family and friends travel to Orlando, about 45 minutes to an hour drive.

Also to find out a former Marine hero off duty to be that hero helping people out of the building is amazing to me. Living in Tampa with my family for 28 years, it's just really scary. My sister even says she's afraid to go anywhere.

## Heaven It!

By C.W.

Heaven it!  
So it will fit  
So all creation is like  
With pure faith with a hit  
Of the unity of the martial law  
Of perfect tranquil awe.

And set our site on a heavenly order  
Of the hypnotic sorter  
Of the friend  
Of serenity's order  
Of cosmic arrivals  
Of all creation's survival.

Glory to our insight  
Jehovah's pure delight  
Of natural creations of  
Heavenly celebrations  
Be the friends of martial law  
With a robe of protection  
And a realm with no question.

The greatest gift is compassion  
In the bond of government's friendship  
The heavenly order of birth of Israel's blendship  
The light of spiritual movement of the rainbow  
Robes of the chosen in all kinship.

Comedic revelations  
With joyous celebration  
Of tears of joy  
In the revelation for the  
Newest and oldest generations.

Born again Jews  
In the flow of the flesh  
In comfort  
A passionate cause  
Of order  
In the totality of the inner soul's completeness.

My soul is light with charity's light.

## America

by Rachel Dawson

'Merica!  
The savior of the whole world.  
The best and most superior culture and  
country.  
We know how to do everything right.  
Want to know how to get fat, rich and lazy?!  
We will tell you because we are the  
benevolent all knowing power!  
Nevermind that we will destroy your  
culture and take it apart bit by bit because  
ours is superior anyway.  
We are doing you a favor.  
You were wrong from the beginning.