



# 2017 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Writing, & Multimedia Contest



**Megan Cercone**  
**11th Grade Art Winner**  
Dover High School, Dover

Laurie Wallick, Teacher  
Teresa Alberts, Principal

### **The Tree of Reality**

The tree has always been the symbol of life, and the tree I have painted for this contest is no exception. The top of the piece exhibits a vibrant, multicolored background featuring a tree in the foreground. It contains the lifelike color of green, as a real tree would be colored. In the center of the tree, the branches create the outline of a heart, as Martin Luther King, Jr. placed love in the center of his daily life. The vividly colored image on the top of the page signifies what one beholds when looking at society; a happy and equalized community thanks to Dr. King. But a certain type of person is required to observe the facade, and that is what drives out hate. On the bottom of my painting, the tree from above is reflected, but instead it is portrayed with dark and gloomy colors. This is discovered when a person looks deeper into society and sees the racism and hate that still remains; consequently, peering past the disguise is the first step to driving out hate. As a high school student, this is how I choose to drive out hate in my life: by seeing beyond the pretty appearance of humanity to first and foremost identify the hate.



## Driving out Hate