

SOUTH TEXAS VIRTUAL ACADEMY

# PHOENIX NEWS

Issue no. 4 A New year, New Us issue 2023



Beia Davila



Francisco Pesina



Work in progress "sushi shop in neko village"-  
Camila Rojas



Young Martin Luther King Jr.

# Life of Martin Luther King Jr.

## By Joseph Martinez



Martin Luther King Jr statue.

**Early Life and education:** Martin Luther King Jr. was born in Atlanta, Georgia, U.S. during January 15th, 1929. Throughout Martin Luther King Jr.'s upbringing he noticed how the northern half of the country's population would mix races peacefully. But the southern half of the country segregated people of color from white people. This caused Martin Luther King Jr. to grow resentment towards segregation. For education Martin Luther King Jr achieved a Bachelor of arts degree during 1948 from Morehouse college in Atlanta, Georgia. After achieving a Bachelor of arts degree during 1951 Martin Luther king Jr. earned a divinity degree.



Montgomery Bus

**Montgomery Bus Boycott:** The Montgomery bus boycott is one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s first large commitments to taking down segregation. The Montgomery bus boycott was a full boycott of the public bus system to end segregation. This was due to the Rosa Parks incident where Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat for a white colored passenger. Therefore, Rosa Parks was arrested for breaking the City's segregation law. As a result, Martin Luther king Jr. rallied the African American Community against the Public transport system. Thankfully due to the actions taken by Martin Luther king Jr. to rally the African American community together the public transportation system was desegregated one year later.

**Hardship:** After a massive success for the desegregation of the public transport system Martin Luther king Jr took it upon himself to set up the Southern Christian Leadership Conference or SCLC for short. This organization allowed Martin Luther king Jr to operate through the south to deliver any message he had to every southerner. After a few campaigns in the south Martin Luther king Jr looked toward India and Africa for advice on how to break away from segregation. Another protest happened during 1960 where he and 33 other colored people were arrested for protesting segregation at a store, thankfully the charges were dropped. Unfortunately, he was sentenced to Reidsville State Prison For repeated minor traffic offenses. But with the help of President John F. Kennedy, he was freed.



Martin Luther King Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr. Jail photos

**Final Years:** After enduring Many hardships Martin Luther King Jr died April 4th, 1969, due to a bullet wound. After a while the killer of Martin Luther king Jr was caught on March 10th, 1969. The murder of Martin Luther King Jr was James Earl Ray a white man who pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years of prison time. Upsettingly James Ray recanted his plea and died on April 23, 1998, without having been punished. Fortunately, Martin Luther King Jr's death came with its dues. After Martin Luther king Jr death happened the Martin Luther king Jr holiday was enacted, and many statues were made for him. The government also started passing many laws that soon ended segregation.





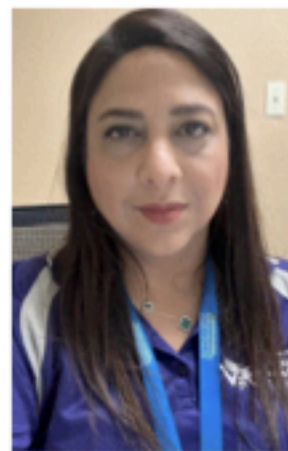
## Virtual Academy Staff that's on "fire"

Journalism students take the time to get to know some of the VA teachers



### Mrs. Galnares Spanish

Interview by Camila Rojas



Ms. Galnares is the Spanish teacher at Virtual Academy, and has a great love for different cultures and strives to learn as much as she can about them to pass the knowledge to others. Some things that she enjoys is taking walks to shops ( finding the occasional "Artifact" of different customs) and parks for fresh air, she also likes collecting as many coffee mugs and old dollar bills as she can. She says that collecting dollar bills from different places is very interesting and even more, knowing that they're not being made anymore.

As the Spanish teacher, she informs others of things they might have not known that pique her interest, like the endangerment of languages in Mexico. She has been to Cancun and experienced seeing different cultural dances. If she could travel anywhere in the world she would travel a bit more in Mexico and go to the museums there to learn more about different cultures and collect hardcover books. She would also travel to Peru to explore its history. Her resolution this year is to be healthier and has maintained that personal promise.

### Mr. Adrian Cantu, Paraprofessional

Interview by Joseph Martinez

Mr. Adrian Cantu is our very own virtual Paraprofessional Teacher, celebrating 1 year in his current position this coming February. Before his current position, he was a Substitute Teacher for a full year and a half. During the interview, Mr. Cantu shared his favorite food was creamy delicious chicken alfredo pasta. Due to the ease of cooking this Italian meal, his superb ability to make the pasta taste so good, and having access to his favorite meal anywhere he goes.



After this mouth watering conversation we returned to a pleasant chat about his career and if it was what he expected. It's interesting to discover that the students that have the opportunity to work in collaboration with Paraprofessionals who like Mr. Cantu enjoys wholeheartedly what he does are in for a treat in learning. Mr. Cantu describes his job as keeping him on his toes as it can be full of surprises and unexpected work that piles up. But all the work he does is well compensated when he visits Des Moines, Iowa. This favorite vacation spot is due to its serenity and beauty that has casted a spell and returns when possible. Now we have arrived at the final part of the interview in which we discussed what or who is his inspiration. After quietly deliberating his answer he arrived at the conclusion that his parents and teacher who he went to school with are his motivation to keep on going in life.

### Mrs. Dulce Ybarra 6th grade Math

Interview by Krishna Chengankal

Mrs. Dulce Ybarra is the Math teacher at South Texas Virtual Academy. She is a very innovative and creative teacher. She likes her students to enjoy what they're learning and make real-world connections. She has been teaching for 20 years so far and has taught several subjects over the years, including reading,



science social studies, and GT. Ms. Ybarra says she prefers to teach math because she enjoys it the most. Ever since she was little, her father was always teaching her math and quizzing her on it. She grew an attachment to math this way. She says her favorite topic to teach in math was geometry. She says that it is a fun topic to teach and can make real-world connections with it. "When we were in class face-to-face teaching, I would have them create a city, and I would give them prisms and other things to build it. Mrs. Ybarra is a doctoral student so she sadly does not get much time to have any hobbies or anything. She said, "I guess my hobbies would be... doing my homework." Mrs. Ybarra says that when she really just wants to relax she just watches TV. She also has a degree in art but has no real time to sculpt or paint.



# Roast or Rave Reviews

Staff of the journalism class either roast or rave about trending pop culture



## Avatar: The Way of Water Review

by Krishna Chengankal



Avatar: The Way of Water is a long-awaited sequel to 2009's Avatar. It is a story about another world called Pandora and in Pandora live the Na'vi. Though the planet's environment is poisonous, humans must link their minds to human/Na'vi hybrids called Avatars to safely explore Pandora.

The protagonist's name is Jake Sully who is a human but uses an avatar body and wishes to protect his family.



The villain is a human who links into an Avatar and pursues Jake as an order from his leader. The movie is visually spellbinding. Watching it in 3D is breathtaking because everything looks so natural. At some point, I stopped getting impressed at each scene because my eyes got used to the beautiful environment. The story has compelling with twists and turns and is a good watch overall. I would highly recommend this.

**Rating: Rave** **A solid story and beautiful CGI**

## Lizard Wizard: The Magic Age In The Land Of Astoria

Review by Latte Rojas

Lizard Wizard is a fun board game to play with family and friends. It is about the players being lizards who are wizards trying to obtain more lizard wizards to become pupils at their schools. The game mechanic revolves around learning and casting spell cards to obtain more wizards, towards, and familiars.



The winner is decided by whoever has the most points given by combining magical practices to schools. The game is extremely visually appealing because of the traditional oil and acrylic art made by Annie Stegg Gerard, who illustrated all but the dungeon cards in the game. Lizard Wizard is a magical experience and sticks out from many other games with its whimsical and enchanting gameplay.

**Rating: Rave** **Stunning Art and Fun for all ages**



**Places to purchase:**  
Barnes and Nobles,  
Amazon and Board  
Game Geek





# Things to do in the RGV

Looking for something to do during the weekend? Check out these upcoming events!



## Storytellers & Legends

Looking for something to do in February? Well you're in luck! The Storytellers & Legends event is happening on **Feb 20 from 8:00 am - Feb 26** to 5:00 pm and will be held at 2425 Ruby Red Blvd, Mission, Texas 78572, United States. There you can meet many famous authors including, R.L. Stine, Dav Pilkey, Max Brallier, and many others.



## Car Festival at Mcallen Convention Center



Do you like the Fast and the Furious franchise? Be sure to check out Mcallen's Car Fest on **February 3rd**! More information at <https://www.mcallencarfest.com/>



## Charro Days in Brownsville Feb. 18th-25th



Interested in learning more about the Mexican Heritage of the RGV? Charro days celebrates the rich history of the Valley. Charro Days has been around since 1938. Some of the events that take place are a parade, a baile, and a carnival.

Be sure to check it out!



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# Say No to AI Generated Images

Camila Rojas Speaks about the current dispute happening among artists and how you can help them

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In 2019 AI generated images started to get some traction, but it was soon forgotten. In 2022 Google had released an image generator to be used for testing purposes only and to use it you would need permission



by one who already had so. During this time Dall-E 2, the second version of the AI art generator Dall-E, had shown extreme ability to create stunning images. Not a while later more Image generators became open to the public, such as Stable Diffusion, Midjourney, and Lensa AI being some of the most popular. This was just the beginning of an Artistic war.

## AI Generated Images and How They Work

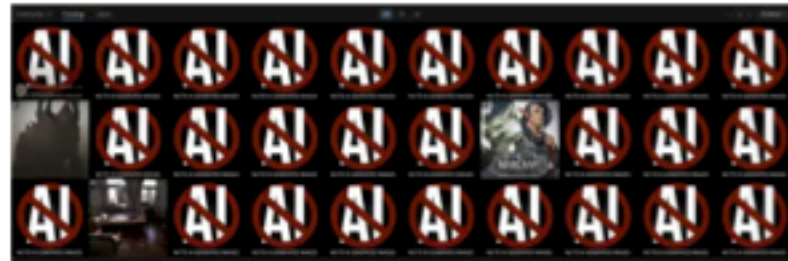
AI generated Images are made by typing a prompt into an AI image generator and outputting one or more images that resemble the prompt. But how does this work? Every generator has a database, which is an image imputer where images get scraped (a term used when AI image generators gather content from the internet) and tells apart common patterns found in the images relating to the prompt, it then re-organizes part of the paintings to fit the patterns. They are made based on the images, the prompt, and the seed number, if all these things are the same, anyone can generated the same image.



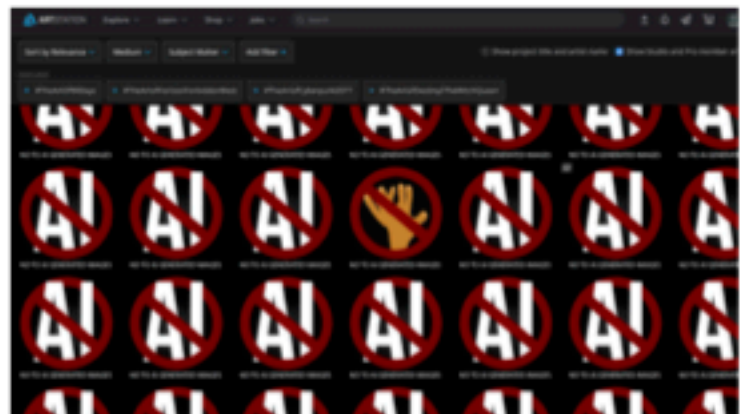
There are more than 9 million images in the Database. This would all be okay if it weren't for the fact that these images came from copyrighted sources without the consent of artists and the images were allowed to make profit by anyone who made them. Quoting Dall-E 2: 'you own all Input, and subject to your compliance with these Terms, OpenAI hereby assigns to you all its right, title and interest in and to Output.' With this the dispute started.

## The First Protest

In early December Riot games story board artists that goes by the name Jon Lam put out the "NO TO AI GENERATED IMAGES" protest image after Artstation, a site where artists can post their work for portfolios and get hired for jobs, had exhibited a piece made by AI and knowing very well it was. Millions of artists started reposting the protest image on Artstation and it flooded the trending homepage with the voices of angry artists.



screen shot of just the first 3 rows of millions filled with protest image.





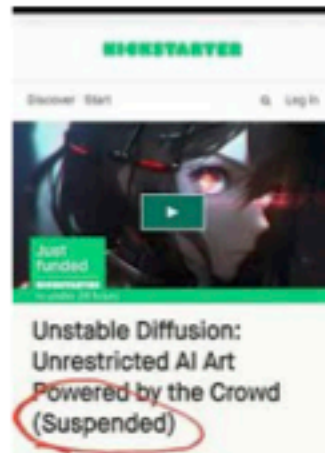
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# Say No to AI Generated Images cont.

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Artstation has taken down all protest images saying it violates their terms, while not clear which ones they say it was considered spam. Some Artists have gotten creative with the protest images and have drawn pieces to avoid getting marked, and still have been taken down.

Artstation has become clear with their intentions as they said they support AI generated images, but recommend artists not to place them in their portfolios, but will not restrict it.



Artstation had said before that they were not giving their users' pieces to AI generator to be scraped but then came out a few weeks later with an opt out system, where you can prevent your images to be fed to AI and remove them from the database. It proved useless though as AI has found ways to go around this.



Artists have said to instead add an "opt in" system where the artist can choose to have their work imputed as long as they receive royalty fees and a business license is put in place, Artstation has not listened to this and many have now left the site

In addition to disproving what they said: a Kickstarter project named Unstable diffusion. (An image generator for NSFW art) stated to feed the database with Artstation works.

## Hope

With all this it may sound hopeless but artists have had many wins, some being: Copyright does not give protection to AI generated images, this was made clear after a comic lost its copyright protection when the USCO (United States Copyright Office) learned it was made entirely by generated images, stating copyright protection will be revoked, as it is not made by a flesh and blood individual.

Artistic works must be created by humans to use copyright protection laws. One of the biggest benefits we have is the Concept Art Association's (an advocacy organization for artists working in entertainment.) copyright lawsuit fundraiser against AI generated images, the fundraiser needed 270,000\$ and has already gained 220,000\$ with 4.2K donations as by now. They have already begun the lawsuit and are taking the dispute to DC. On a small side note Getty images (stock images) is suing Stable Diffusion for scraping their images that have copyright.

## Takeaway

Unethical AI has caused much abuse to artists, as they have been cyber bullied and mocked. It is important that we remember to be respectful to others and to progress our technology and society with good morals.



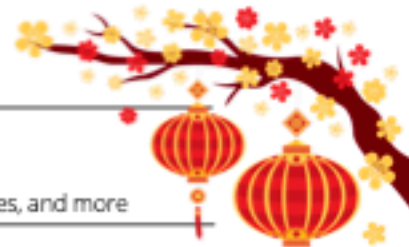
## How to help Artists?

- Donate to the Concept Art Association
- Donate to the fundraiser campaign by MeFu for ethical AI in EU
- Tell others about the unethical AI generated images and raise awareness
- Support artists you like by commenting on their works and sharing it with others.



# Latte's Cafe

Jump into the world of culinary fantasy where Latte recreates recipes from books, tv, movies, and more



January isn't just the home of New Years, but Chinese Lunar New years for the Mid Autumn Festival. The most eaten treat on the Lunar New years is the mooncake. Mooncakes are round pastries with a rich thick filling that can vary depending on tastes. Mooncakes are very diverse and so it's perfect treat to appease anyone. A Folklore about mooncakes is that the Yuan Dynasty was overthrown by smuggling messages in mooncakes. The most commonly eaten mooncakes are lotus seed paste and red bean paste, then inside may contain a salted duck egg. Since many ingredients are hard to find here in America, I will make snowskin mooncakes, which are custard filled mooncakes and instead of a waxy bread the crust is made of mochi. It's simple to make and delicious.

Time: 1 hour

Yield: 4 - 8 servings depending on how large you want them

Difficulty 1/5 (very simple for any beginner)

## Ingredients:

- 1 whole egg
- 3 egg yolks
- 65g melted butter
- 160g milk
- 40g cake flour
- 100g sugar
- 25g milk powder
- 35g glutinous rice flour
- 35g rice flour
- 25g wheat starch (you can use corn starch)
- 30g sugar
- 135g milk
- 18g sweetened condensed milk
- 18g vegetable oil

## Steps:

1. Whisk the egg and the 3 egg yolks until there are no clear visible egg whites.
2. Add the melted butter the 160g of milk, make sure the milk is not too cold, or the melted butter will clump up.
3. In a separate bowl mix the cake flour, 100g of sugar, and milk powder.
4. Pour the wet ingredients into the dry ingredients and stir.
5. Pour the mixture through a sauce pot, you can put it through a sieve to take away any flour lumps
6. Put it on low heat and stir constantly, the liquid will get thicker, make sure to not stop stirring or it will unevenly cook or get burned.
7. Once it starts unsticking from the pot and clumping up, take it off the heat and put it in a container with cellophane without air so it doesn't get dry. Let it chill for 3 hours.
8. Mix the remaining ingredients in a microwavable bowl very well.
9. Cover the bowl with a lid or plate and place in the microwave for 1 minute and 30 seconds. It will come out half done, get a silicon spatula and mix it up, then place in the microwave for one minute.
10. Take it out and mix it again then again in the microwave for 30 seconds.
11. Let it sit for 5 minutes then knead till it becomes smooth.
12. Separate the pieces into balls, then let it sit in the fridge while separating the custard into portions as well.
13. Roll the snowskin flat and put in the custard paste, then wrap it with the snowskin. You can use a mooncake mold to get the mooncake shape, but if you don't need one.
14. Repeat for every mooncake, then get any flour (I recommend glutinous rice flour) and cook it till it becomes an off white, powder the mooncakes with the flour then enjoy with tea.



Image by Souped Up Recipes



# What's your inner zodiac animal??

Find what Chinese zodiac you are based on the year you were born?



## Year of the Tiger

1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998, 2010

You are sensitive, emotional, and capable of great love. However, you have a tendency to get carried away and be stubborn about what you think is right; you're often seen as a "hothead" or rebel. Your sign shows you would be excellent as a boss, explorer, race car driver, or matador.



## Year of the Rabbit

1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, 2011

You are diplomatic and detest conflict. You can be evasive and sometimes tell others what they want to hear instead of what you are really thinking. If others need advice you will offer them good counsel. You stay clear of the limelight, but always enjoy the good things in life.



## Year of the Dragon

1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000, 2012

Full of vitality and enthusiasm, you are a popular individual (even with the reputation of being foolhardy and a "bigmouth" at times.) You are intelligent, gifted, and a perfectionist, but these qualities make you unduly demanding on others. You would be well-suited to being an artist, priest, or politician.



## Year of the Snake

1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001, 2013

Rich in wisdom and charm, you are romantic and deep-thinking, and your intuition guides you strongly. Avoid procrastination and your stingy attitude toward money. Keep your sense of humor about life. You would be most content as a teacher, philosopher, writer, psychiatrist, or fortune teller.



## Year of the Horse

1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002, 2014

Your capacity for hard work is amazing. You are your own person and very independent. While intelligent and friendly, you guard against being egotistical. Your sign suggests success as an adventurer, scientist, poet, or politician.



## Year of the Goat

1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003, 2015

Except for the knack of often getting off on the wrong foot with people, you can be charming company. You are elegant and artistic, but the first to complain about things. Put aside your pessimism and worry and try to be less dependent on material comforts. You would be best as actor, gardener, or beachcomber.



## Year of the Monkey

1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004, 2016

You are very intelligent and have a very clever wit. Because of your extraordinary nature and magnetic personality, you are always well-liked. You, however, must guard against being an opportunist and distrustful of other people. Your sign promises success in any field you try.



## Year of the Rooster

1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005, 2017

You are a hard worker, shrewd and definite in decision making, often speaking your mind. Because of this, you tend to seem boastful to others. You are a dreamer, a flashy dresser, and extravagant to an extreme. Born under this sign, you should be happy as a restaurant owner, publicist, soldier, or world traveler.



## Year of the Dog

1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018

You will never let others down. Born under this sign, you are honest and faithful to those you love. You are plagued by constant worry, a sharp tongue, and a tendency to be a fault-finder. You would make an excellent businessman, activist, teacher, or secret agent.



## Year of the Boar

1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995, 2007, 2019

You are a splendid companion, an intellectual with a very strong need to set difficult goals and carry them out. You are sincere, tolerant, and honest, but by expecting the same from others, you are incredibly naive. Your quest for material goods could be your downfall. You would be best in the arts as an entertainer, or possibly a lawyer.



## Year of the Rat

1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, 2008, 2020

You are imaginative, charming, and truly generous to the person you love. However, you have a tendency to be quick-tempered and overly critical. You are also inclined to be somewhat of an opportunist. Born under this sign, you should be happy in sales or as a writer, critic, or publicist.



## Year of the Ox

1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021

A born leader, you inspire confidence from all around you. You are conservative, methodical, and good with your hands. Guard against being chauvinistic and always demanding your own way. You would be successful as a skilled surgeon, general, or hairdresser.



## CHINESE ZODIAC ANIMAL SET



鼠

RAT



牛

OX



虎

TIGER



兔

RABBIT



龍

DRAGON



蛇

SNAKE



馬

HORSE



羊

GOAT



猴

MONKEY



雞

ROOSTER



狗

DOG



豬

PIG

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# Meet the Phoenix Journalism Team!

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## Meet Joseph Martinez

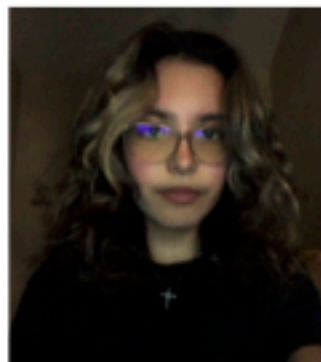


Joseph is a 10th grader with the Virtual Academy. He likes to play video games to pass the time. Joseph's favorite game is called Hearts of Iron 4 also known as HIO4.

Another pass time of his is watching movies. His favorite movie is Wall-E.

## Meet Bianca Olivares

Bianca is a sophomore at the Virtual Academy. She likes to listen to music and watch anime. Bianca also enjoys going on walks and watching Netflix with her sibling.



In her free time, she likes to dye her hair any color from the rainbow.

## Meet Camila Rojas



Camila Rojas who prefers to go by the name "Latte", is a freshman from Virtual Academy. She enjoys everything fantasy and has a passion for creating art and playing violin. As a Multi-Hobbyist she enjoys many activities, some include cooking, writing, video games, board games, collecting art books, sword fighting, watching shows, and learning about different crafts.

## Meet Krishna Chengankal



Krishna is in his freshmen year with the Virtual Academy. He enjoys reading, gaming, watching anime, and riding his bike. Although he watches a lot of anime his favorite is One Piece.

## Meet Raziell Garcia

Raziell is a sophomore at Virtual Academy. He enjoys video games and walking/playing with his dogs. His favorite food is lasagna and his favorite class is History. One of his favorite topics to study are the Egyptian Gods.



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If you are interested in contributing to the Phoenix Newspaper please contact [roberta.zamilpa@stisd.net](mailto:roberta.zamilpa@stisd.net)