

**Press Release: *Undesirable: Race and Remembrance***

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**GROWING UP IN THE BARRIO COMES  
TO LIFE IN COLLECTION OF POEMS  
BY ROBERT RENÉ GALVÁN**

*Undesirable – Race and Remembrance* is a collection of poems by Robert René Galván, inspired by a boyhood raised in the heart of Texas, days spent between his folks' home in San Marcos and family in San Antonio. René has a way not only of shaping the meaning of words but how he wants us to see and feel what he has seen and felt: in this book, his memories become ours.

Born in San Antonio, he now lives in New York City, a noted Chicano poet and multi-talented musician. He is the

product of a legacy fashioned by Galván's antepasados who survived the Great Depression, the WWII years, the decades of discrimination and deprivation—a communal memory that he treasures and preserves in this book.

Two recent poems by René have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and one other for the Best of the Net competitions for 2020.

Galván tells of his elders riding on aging trucks to harvest a few dollars from the fields in the '30s and '40s, of his writer father filling his ink pen, its "barrel, incandescent as opal," of the childhood home bought through a white friend so his family could buy it, even of the relentless reach of racism when recently a white man cursed him for being brown in a NYC supermarket.

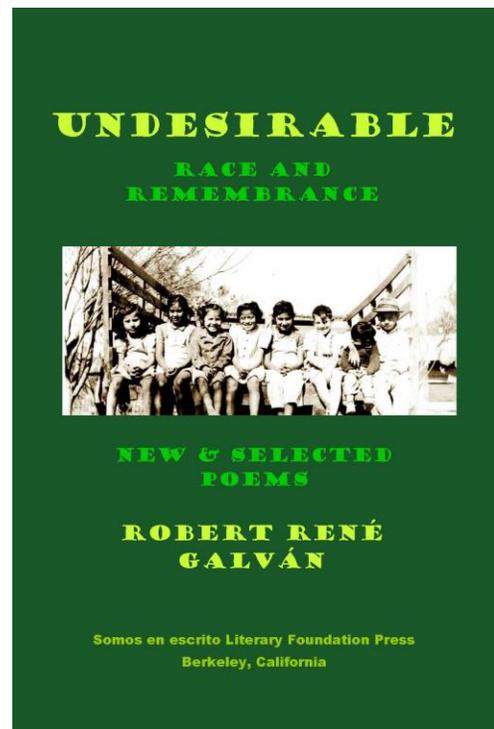
The subtitle, *Race and Remembrance*, speaks to the dark undertones of the obras in his book; the cover hints at the seemingly fun trips his elders made from Texas to California to harvest the grapes, pick clean the beet fields, and whatever other crop farmers were hiring workers to pick.



The cover photo shows his mother, Eva Mireles Ruiz, third from the left, with some of her siblings and cousins, seated, legs dangling, on the bed of Abuelito Toño's truck, which carried the family to California and back as migrant workers. His Aunt Belia is far left and his Uncle Reyes (of the poem, "Hero") is on the far right.

An earlier collection of poems titled, *Meteors*, was published by Lux Nova Press (1997). He is also featured in *Puro ChicanX Writers of the 21st Century* (2020). Another book of poems, *The Shadow of Time*, is forthcoming from Adelaide Books in 2021. Other poems are found in *Adelaide Literary Magazine*, *Azahares Literary Magazine*, *Gyroscope*, *Hawaii Review*, *Hispanic Culture Review*, *Newtown Review*, *Panoply*, *Somos en Escrito Magazine*, *Stillwater Review*, *West Texas Literary Review*, the Winter 2018 issue of *UU World*, and *Yellow Medicine Review: A Journal of Indigenous Literature, Art and Thought*.

Copies are available in print and e-book formats from online booksellers, but we ask that you support your local bookstores.



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