

## **Winds of Chance**

by *Claudette Cervinka, June 2018*

*Ellis Island, 1886*

*Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), 2018*

born somewhere,  
by chance

perhaps brown, white,  
red, black

perhaps undocumented,  
perhaps not

morning factory raid  
trapped, handcuffed  
accused of being Latinx

ripped away  
leaving a wake of torn  
families

threat of deportation to a  
foreign land  
dark wait, not knowing  
when or if

lives converted into a  
death of the living,  
no longer seen nor heard

wet pillows of those left behind,  
bones hang limp  
without direction  
confiscated into terror

Texas, Tennessee, Ohio . . .  
badge of the law of the landed  
but not that of humanity

by chance  
despair  
replaces seeds of  
dreams

eyes swollen in disbelief as  
wails and moans crest in the  
rooms of the school,  
peel the veneer of equality

in the trajectory of the seventh  
cycle of the wind  
ICE echoes  
give me your tired  
your poor . . .

community gasps,  
supply trucks roll,  
presence of hearts  
in motion

lunchbox idle, the guitar  
lies silent now, the  
chill of the empty bed  
in what had been home  
the 20 years

this place  
where even the winds  
are silent

*Claudette Cervinka is a member of Davis Friends Meeting (PYM)*

“ICE Came for a Tennessee Town’s Immigrants. The Town Fought Back,” by Miriam Jordan,  
<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/06/11/us/tennessee-immigration-trump.html>