

## GOING THE DISTANCE

Strength, hope, and solidarity  
in a time of social distancing

“Going the Distance” will be a column in the *Benicia Herald* appearing once or twice a week. It will feature poetry and prose from local writers. This will be a place to give voice and speak to the fears, tensions, grief, inspiration, coping mechanisms and oddities we are all experiencing during this pandemic.



The term “going the distance” has several nuanced meanings. It can mean “to finish a project despite hardships,” “to endure an ordeal,” or, from the world of boxing, the more colorful “to complete a fight without being knocked out.” All of those meanings seem fitting to describe our current challenge.

Please email me writings you want to contribute: [msgast45@gmail.com](mailto:msgast45@gmail.com) Prose pieces should be 350 words or less. Poems should be 30 lines or less (including the spaces between lines).

We may not be able to publish everything in the *Herald*, but, hey, there might be a chapbook in our future—as we *go the distance*.

Thank you so much for all the writing you do. I look forward to hearing from you.

Mary Susan Gast  
27 March 2020