



**NEWSLETTER #25
Winter 1996-97**

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The Creative Edge: The Way Of The Arts is a nonprofit public benefit corporation formed in January, 1989. It operates under IRS Code 501(c)(3) for the educational purpose of sponsoring programs that introduce and develop for individuals the inner creative process used by experienced artists of all fine arts disciplines. In particular, these programs have as a foundation the belief that expression consciously based on intuitive material from the psyche and expressed in one or more channels of artistic endeavor supports healthy development of both the individual and the society. Furthermore, the underlying creative principles are the basis for a healthy way of life.

Issued: 1/2/97

Board of Directors:

Marlie Avant
Donald W. Mathews
Kyla McCollam
Barbara Rose Shuler
Patricia Waldin



THE NEWS

Winter 1996-97

No. 25

Programs Scheduled: (See pages 2-4)

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| • Illia Thompson &
Donald Mathews | Creative Arts Retreat Weekend
(Writing and beyond) | Feb 8-9, 9 a.m. |
| • Jay O'Callahan | Finding and telling Stories († February 20) | March 14-16, 9 a.m. |
| • Donald Mathews | Creative Arts Fellowship
Dream Work Seminars
Creative Development & Dreams | Monthly, 1st Sat-9 a.m.
Monthly, 3rd Sat-9 a.m.
E-mail as scheduled |

† Interview on Barbara Rose Shuler's Discovery Radio Program—KAZU (90.3FM) at 7 pm.

If you value the hard copy newsletter distributed by the US Postal Service, I would like readers to consider support of Creative Edge (CE) by becoming an official member at a level you can afford. If 20% of those on our newsletter distribution became Friends of CE (272 readers), we would almost cover costs! The full amount of your membership is tax deductible because there are no perks—only the satisfaction of being a part of a worthy public service as described in our charter. Realize the whole CE project is done as a volunteer effort. There are no paid salaries, only compensation for outside presenters from their workshop fees.

The major CE expense is printing and distribution of free hard copy newsletters around the world. It costs almost \$1000/ mailing or \$3000 each year at the

present time. Therefore, I would like to encourage use of electronic mail distribution for as many of our readers as possible because it costs CE nothing! I really believe in this new electronic mail system! It helps build community, tying together people from around the world—without huge material or monetary expenses. Our Web site receives about 450 visits each month where a new Letter Box On Line is updated monthly with reader's submissions. However, there is a learning curve with this new technology. Not all electronic service providers allow the necessary file attachments for automatic distribution of our newsletter. (American On Line does within its service.) I hope to explore these developing possibilities with you based on your response to the enclosed questions. **Take a look at the bottom of page 3 and please respond to the SURVEY!**

DWM

New & renewed Members of the Creative Edge:

Patrons: Laura Carley, Salinas, Don & Lou Mathews, Monterey and Arlene Soto, Pacific Grove, CA.
Associate Members: Richard Bernhart, VA; Dianne Borowski, OH; Sarah Lambie, OR; Johnny North, IL; Eleanore Berman, Lynda Hughes, Ann LaCroix and Cryste Willcox, CA.
Friends: Joan Bockelmann, NY; Elizabeth Whitten, VA; Marilyn Beck, Jacquelyn Gates, Anya Kucharev and Eleanor Rogge, CA.

We invite newcomers to our mailing list — support with your fully tax deductible donation is totally voluntary.
Newsletter Distribution: 1363 — Current Membership: 6 Patrons, 25 Associates, 15 Friends.



“If you look for the truth outside yourself, it gets farther and farther away.”
—Tung-Shan

Background:

Our thoughts and imaginings are fed continuously by our emotionally guided six senses. Mystically, we receive dreams and intuitions to evoke our imagination. Therefore, along life’s way, we perceive and store a whole range of personal experiences and visions triggered by these processes.

Like creative artists of all kinds, we all have within our psyche this rich flowing wealth of personal and collective history and unexamined mysteries of creation. As a resource, it is a full treasure chest waiting to serve our glorious response to life. When we chose to manifest our unique expressions and bring them into the world in support of life, we fulfill our soul’s gift to community, Spirit or to Divine Creation.

Our urge to express from the heart through our natural ability to sing, dance, draw, tell stories, write poetry,

and make other highly creative expressions of all kinds from this personal wealth, provides a way to find, and meaningfully travel, the inner and outer roads of a rich life experience.

Instead of critical judgment, when we have appreciation and curiosity about our own and each other’s personal process, a door opens to imagination, inspiration and our soul’s deeper longing. An open supportive group with deep respect for each person’s journey gives sacred witness, provides safety and trust for intimate sharing.

It facilitates spiritual and mystical aspects of life where meaningful collective themes spontaneously emerge. Thus we gain strength to share the universal joy and pain of being human and courage to creatively participate in service to life.

Community Projects:

The Creative Edge supports various programs and collaborative efforts in the community where the creative process of individuals and groups is enhanced. Donald Mathews, the Executive Director, is available to advise or facilitate various interdisciplinary groups for special projects. He provides information, inspiration and emotional support from his wide variety of experiences.

Creative Arts Fellowship:

The monthly Creative Arts Fellowship is a public gathering seeking self awareness and presence through a practice of contemplation, creative sharing and mutual support. Our stories, dreams and artistic expressions of all kinds become a source of wisdom.

This free living room group for all skill levels is facilitated by Donald Mathews with those interested in sharing their creative work and process from a personal point of view. Bring an image, poem, song, story, dance or other creative expression that intrigues you. Meetings: the first Saturday each month, 9 a.m. till noon. No fee.

Creative Arts Retreat Weekends:

Explore with the core fellowship of Creative Edge Artist-Directors. Away from busy lives for either one or two days in a small intimate group, we leisurely seek the authenticity of our soul’s call.

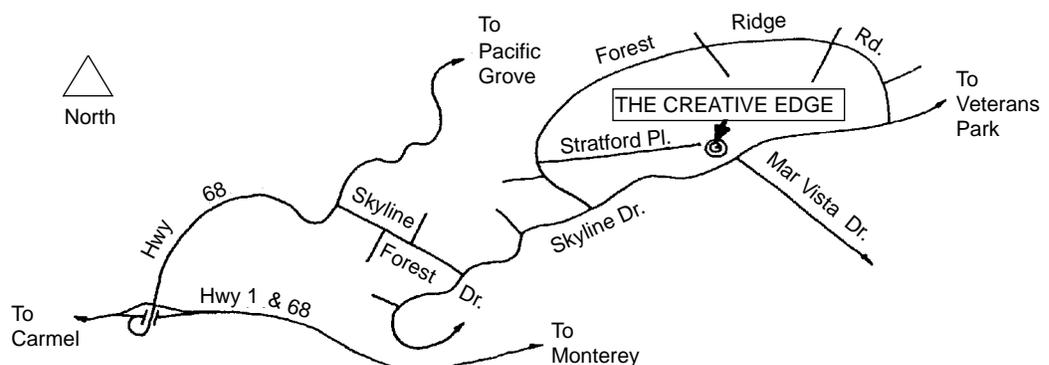
Although primarily a weekend of self discovery, we open to the power of collective energies and guest facilitators to bring and share their special talents with us.

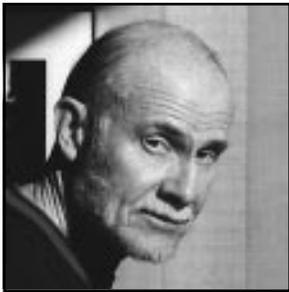
Forming a safe circle of support for dreams, sharing and contemplation, we will use lots of free time to follow our personal muse with reading, writing and other creative work. Mask-making, paints and clay are available in the studio. Lunch is provided. Offered spring & fall, 9 a.m.—5 p.m.

Special Workshops & Seminars:

Special workshops and seminars are scheduled throughout the year with different facilitators. Call for information or addition to the mailing list.

Reservations are made by sending your check payable to The Creative Edge. There is a \$20 handling fee for refunds.





Donald William Mathews is an artist, educator and Founding Director of The Creative Edge where he teaches and edits the newsletter. He has diverse degrees and professional experience with teaching credentials in education, management, fine arts, engineering and mathematics. He has studied and gained wide experience in various psychologies and other disciplines searching for a deep understanding of the human experience, creativity and spirituality.

“Come with me into the great hall of my heart. I will light the candle of my thoughts and I invite you to light yours.”

—Donald Mathews

In particular, he has been involved over the years with the Association of Transpersonal Psychology and Process Oriented Psychology. He facilitates trust and intimacy in order to find wisdom from individuals and groups based on his continuing journey learning from life. Married over forty years to his musician wife Lou, they have three daughters and seven Grandchildren.

Monthly Dream Work Seminar:

By experiencing the vital images and wisdom of each other’s dreams shared as our own, we gain an in-depth understanding of our selves and our common human experience. Limited to eight venturesome people seeking spiritual depth. Meetings: the third Saturday each month, Jan—May, Aug—Nov, 9 a.m. until noon. Sliding scale fee: \$10-15 or \$8-12 each in a series.

Creative Development & Dreams:

Donald Mathews responds to personal questions involving development of one’s creative process through artistic expression and the use of dreams as an intuitive resource (E-Mail, Telephone or other exchanges). This usually involves an intimate exchange seeking hidden talents, thus activating the individual’s deeper resources. Sliding scale fee: \$10-35 each hour's work.



Illia Thompson, author of *Moments* and *Gracious Seasons*, teaches creative writing at Monterey Peninsula College and is a journaling workshop leader throughout California. She also leads groups in Mexico and aboard cruise ships.

“Tis quite the dare to be happy, to open one’s heart after dismay”

—Illia Thompson

Illia is dedicated to sharing her knowledge and love of writing. She is a master at creating a safe and supportive place in which to learn. She inspires simplicity, clarity, and passion as groups recognize the treasures of keeping a record of their lives in a new way.

Writing and Beyond—A Creative Arts Retreat Weekend: February 8 - 9, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

In this one or two day creative arts retreat, we

will experience the power of written words as they become springboards for further artistic explorations.

Forming a safe circle of support with the core fellowship of Creative Edge Artist-Directors for sharing and encouragement, we will start with gently guided writing experiences about the little visited rooms of memory, dreams or fantasy. Sharing leads to further inspiration! Then, using some different form of creative expression that fits us, paint, clay, collage, or whatever comes to mind, we will extend our creative themes. Finally, we will learn from each other by sharing personal discoveries.

Lunch & simple art materials are provided. Fee: \$95, Saturday only: \$50. (\$75/\$40 prior to 1/24.)

Important Readers Survey:

Please fill out and mail to:

The Creative Edge
8 Stratford Place
Monterey, CA 93940

Circle or fill in blanks
Y=yes
N=no,
A-anticipate soon
U-unsuccessfully tried

Adobe Systems Inc. provides an ideal cross-computer program for distribution with their PDF file format. PDF files are read by Adobe’s free Acrobat Reader (AR) software available for download at <<http://www.adobe.com>>. (There are links to Adobe from the CE Web site.) This system works on all types of computers and gives an easily read presentation adjustable in

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Computer: Y N A U **Type:** Mac PC Other **Word processor program type:** _____
Printer: Y N A **Type:** B&W Color **Modem:** Y N A U **Speed:** _____
E-mail address: _____ N A U
I visited Internet sites: Y N A U **I visited the CE Web site:** Y N A U
I downloaded the free Acrobat Reader: Y N A U **I downloaded CE PDF files:** Y N A U
I would like to try receiving CE newsletter by E-mail: Y N A
Name: _____ **Comments:** _____

format with a menu click for different size screens. Buttons allow viewers to conveniently jump around to different pages. Images are in color! Desired hard copies may be printed on your own printer. PDF files with past newsletters and other materials are already available at the CE Web site! Downloading is quick and easy because of compression technology.



Jay O'Callahan decided to explore the use of sound, rhythm and movement. Then he began telling his stories touring the United States as well as performing in Europe and Africa. Jay has been creating and performing stories now for over 20 years. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife and two children.

Time magazine called him "a genius among storytellers.... O'Callahan who believes that storytelling is a kind of music, with the storyteller as the instrument, has advised... 'Be brave enough to use silence'."

"A virtuoso," echoed the Boston Globe. "He can turn a word into a thousand pictures."

According to The Sun of Lowell, MA: "Jay O'Callahan introduces us to characters who put us back in touch with what is really important. His people are full of wonder and courage and common sense."

Jay O'Callahan crafts the details of ordinary life into extraordinary stories containing deep spiritual wisdom. There are no gimmicks or clever tricks opting for the quick response so often found in today's entertainment. Rather, with artist's imagination and attention to authentic detail, he brings to life his personal

perception of experience in telling the unfolding story. Then, combining his intimacy with the audience's deeper experience, participants discover their own stories.

Finding & Telling Stories A Weekend Workshop March 14—16

In the warmth and trust of a special Monterey home, Jay will give a small supportive group the opportunity to experience this highly unique creative process. We will playfully examine rich stories hidden in our memories. "We are beings in a universe that is alive with creativity, with wonder." says Jay. "Rocks are wonders, trees are wonders, and so are we! Wanna dance?"

Friday: 7 — 9 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. — 4 p.m. Lunch provided.
Sunday: 9 a.m. — noon.

Fee: \$230 (\$205 before February 15).

The Monterey Public library
presents a separate performance
March 13 at 7 p.m.
Call (408) 646-3933 for information.

"Each human being is a galaxy... Yet we live most of life superficially, unaware of our vast inner world."

—Jay O'Callahan



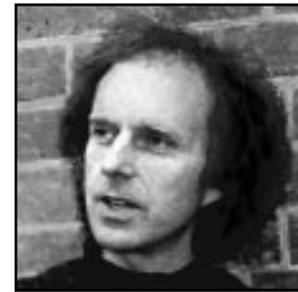
"Always this energy smoulders inside, when it remains unlit the body fills with dense smoke."

David Whyte



"Dreams are our greatest and truest teachers, as they reflect our basic aspects in constantly creative variations."

W. Brugh Joy, M.D.



"If we did not know it—we are constantly in the presence of the muse!"

Ashley Ramsden,

Mail to:
The Creative Edge
8 Stratford Place
Monterey, CA
93940

or call:
Donald Mathews
(408) 373-7809

Registration Form:

Name: _____ Telephone: () _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Amount enclosed: \$ _____ E-mail: _____
 Please register me for the _____ Seminar/program. Date(s): _____
 Please send: Map Motel information Back copies of Thoughts on Creativity (\$5)
 Information flyer for the _____ Seminar/program(s)
 Please accept my donation. Friend (\$5 plus), Associate Member (\$25 plus) or Patron (\$100 plus)
 Please change my mailing address. Please remove my name from your mailing list.



At the recent Association of Transpersonal Psychology Annual Conference (Pathways Through Change: Nourishing Soul In Society) I again found myself looking for clues for personal life direction—my soul's longing and my salvation.

From experience as an artist, I know if I follow what catches my attention as I process a question or project, I will be attracted to what holds the secret answer or direction. Interpreting the mystery of what my attention has found is my difficult work—just as it is in my dreams. Then, with new consciousness, I must experience the essence of what has been discovered in my life.

In this case I was attracted to Robert Bly's new anthology of sacred poems. It was the title that caught my eye! Later it was this one Kabir poem that resonated most deeply with the attraction. This poem by Kabir brought to mind Joseph Campbell's famous line: "Follow your bliss!" And, I know to follow one's bliss usually takes risk and work! Hard work! It is always the hard work of self-discovery and change where salvation is hidden. And, often our bliss and blessings are hidden in a neglected aspect in our life where longing is deeply buried.

For me it was the realization that I have been neglecting play, missing good strong physical exercise. Since my back surgery a few years ago, daily walking replaced rigorous games of squash as my only physical exercise. Although very meaningful to me, I was sitting many long hours at the computer making excursions into cyberspace to develop the Creative Edge Web pages. (There is both good news and bad news to be reckoned with in everything!) Then, I remembered how much I used to enjoy golf, but was always jealous of the time required for it. Well, now I could selfishly chose to make the time for myself. Somehow, this choice felt right!

At first there was instruction from books. Then, excursions to the driving range. Without a companion, I discovered I was holding back, shy about starting. I invited old friends to come with me. Finally I plunged in by myself! like life, nothing happens until you set a starting time and show up on the first tee!

Now, I am finding room for more joyful play—specifically playing golf for the pure pleasure of the experience. It is simply releasing my busy mind to momentarily enter the wonder of my body and feel its physical presence again. In this sense, golf clearly is not productive. It is a risky challenge where I can easily make a fool of myself in front of others as I begin again to re-master the craft. It requires work on the driving range and putting green. It requires a healthy relationship with myself

when difficulties arise—and they do! Golf, like any other endeavor, always has its frustrations. But for me it is a spiritual practice because it pleases my soul! I don't expect it to rule my life or lead me to neglect my other important involvements. I know this is the right path for me now because I feel the powerful energies of life behind my commitment. I feel renewed and redeemed as I follow this exciting pleasure. I have also found new companions. I know it does not help the world around me, rather it lights up the world within me! Thus I feel able to be more present in my relationships and other activities.

As we uncover and release the many complex layers hiding our true passions, the energies of life and soul, bliss floods our being

and radiates to the world and others around us in a profound way. I think all of us are inspired when we encounter this kind of radiant person. Passions of the soul are spontaneous and fluid, not to be fixed or held tightly, for they frequently change quickly when they are allowed to live. However, we often get caught, unconsciously fixed, in outdated life patterns or stories that no longer serve. We easily can succumb to their seductive power, rather than being vulnerable in transition to new possibilities.

We are often blind to ecstatic soul's greater potential—a potential of joyful play and highly creative relationship with both self and others. So risk your life and "plunge into the truth" of who you really are! "Follow your bliss" and know it can be a wonderful creative teacher. The intensity of your longing will lead you to your divine nature and the Guest we call God (Essentially meaning "to be!").

The Time before Death

**Friend? hope for the Guest while you are alive.
Jump into experience while you are alive!
Think... and think... while you are alive.
What you call "salvation" belongs to the time before death.**

**If you don't break your ropes while you're alive,
do you think ghosts will do it after?**

**The idea that the soul will join with the ecstatic
just because the body is rotten—that is all fantasy.
What is found now is found then.
If you find nothing now, you will simply end up with an
apartment in the City of Death.
If you make love with the divine now, in the next life you
will have the face of satisfied desire.**

**So plunge into the truth, find out who the Teacher is,
Believe in the Great Sound!**

**Kabir says this: When the Guest is being searched for,
it is the intensity of the longing for the Guest
that does all the work.**

Look at me, and you will see a slave of that intensity.

—KABIR

(From: *The Soul Is Here For Its Own Joy*
Sacred Poems From Many Cultures—Robert Bly)



Monterey, CA

On the second full moon in July this poem came.

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON!

**Pearl in water glass
or moon in paint water?**

Carolyn Berry

North Olmsted, OH

I am working the night shift tonight and had a chance to read Newsletter #24. I was quite touched by Skip Kadish's letter, especially the line:

"...for that matter when will the turning point come when one needs less and less food sustenance and compensate with more and more spiritual sustenance."

You see I struggle daily with an eating disorder and am having a particularly hard time tonight. Consuming too much food is a problem for me. Skip's words really hit home, so much so that I wonder if his words will become a turning point for me toward more sane food consumption and more spiritual sustenance? How I hope and pray this is so.

I would love to visit California again. I dream of returning, of walking barefoot in the sand near the ocean. And, of course, then I could attend a Creative Edge workshop!! In so many ways a trip to California is impossible but dreams have been known to come true and I will dare to dream. Perhaps, "The time has come the walrus said..."

WINTER'S NIGHT

**A winter's night
Air so cold and crisp
It bites.**

**Frozen landscape
Crunches, crackles, dazzles
Shades of white.**

**A cloudless sky
Stars so bright
They glisten.**

**Murmurs of
A winter's night...
Listen.**

SPRING'S WORLD

**Spring, the scent
Of blossoms
Lingers,
Caressing the moment.**

**Damp, dew-filled
Mornings
Easing into sunny
Afternoons.**

**Gentle breezes
Coaxing buds
Crocus' smiling
Reaching for the sun.**

**Spring's world
Alive with new life
Created in silence
In winter's womb.**

Dianne Borowski

Aptos, CA

I enjoy receiving your Newsletter and the poetry from people's souls. In my critique groups I find other's quick to find errors, before absorbing the nuances of my inner life. Hence this offering.

**Beneath this adult
Facade
My Inner Child
Cries out
For your approval**

Adoree J. Corder

Newbury Park, CA

I would like to share this with you... The design evolved out of many things—I had been fooling around with wish-bones and their shape and whalla; there she was the universal connection... love... the common denominator.



Katherine Stadler



Salt Lake City, UT

SALIDA

i am riding behind
to cross the border
the juncture
the edge

approaching vastness
emptiness
looking out

and knowing
unable to live
like the last half
of my life
cold feet

touching
feeling the Earth

taking turns that lead
to what
may not be
part of me again
ever

childlike
climbing over rocks
to see the other side
dangling over
flat red stone
gravel falling
down
the aperture opens

i am older
a new chance
a new hill
toward some kind
of
fortress

motion
mountains
and energy
inside
finally leading
me
home.



... We are all patterned
after nature
forever spiraling
toward wholeness
shadowing
beauty ...

Ingrid Maria Middleton

Carmel Valley, CA

**THE MERIDIAN BETWEEN
DESOLATION & BLISS**

How easy to raft on fluid
thought, inhabit an empire
conceived in theme and space
of nothingness.
How hard to live
in the bloody noise,
the scabrous rut
of ordinary dimension.

I rake pastures of memory,
seed reason and imagination
with hue and scent,
borrow a password
to prophesy tomorrow.
Rambling between
surface and spirit
I linger somewhere
in the cosmos
of reflected ecstasy.

I journey on slipstreams
of quicksilver language,
drifting from forest
to fortress
in unmeasured time,
composing ballad and
daydream
of topaz light
and ebony stillness.

WHO IS IT

Who is it who asks
that I remain behind
when others have gone off
early
to eternal afterlife obscurity
and I am left
with bittersweet recollection.

Who is it who asks
my purpose, begs
for rebuttal to the torment
of living.

Who petitions me find
radiance in the ordinary,
depth in shallow reality...

Outside my window
in the planter box,
one sprig of cilantro
shimmies,
stirring the air
around its stem
while the rest of the plant
remains still...

Who decrees air
give privilege to just one leaf
on Saturday morning...

(Inspired by Jane Kenyon's "Who")

Laura Bayless



Rockford, IL

DEATH OF THE DEATH WISH

**Make a whistle from my thigh bone
when I die,
let the eagles hear the laughter
from my bones.**

**Let this be a surprise to everyone,
how death is a song,
and sorrow makes way for soaring,
well into the evening sun.**

Robin Heerens Lysne

Pendleton, IN

(July) The world turns, seasons change, life goes on. I've been transported to a new prison, lower in security. I had to relinquish my musical equipment. Due to strange concerns they are not allowed here. At first this was unsettling. But, now I am finding myself almost driven to draw. I guess once you find the autonomous pleasure of being creative, and expressing yourself in a tangible means, there is no stifling the urge... is there?... Sure, I will miss my guitar, but my creativity has lots of outlets. That was my favorite, but now maybe I'll just venture into a new area I haven't been into before. Who knows? Can't control what's outside of our grasp.

(October) The greatest tragedy of prisons is their senseless debasing, debilitating operational structure. Programs offered are nothing but placating ones, generally conducted by persons' without skills... A very good book on this problem is Criminal Justice, A Community Approach by Dr. Charles P. McDowell. Rather amazing is his perceptions as they are right on the mark.

Do not be too saddened by my situation. I am fortunate enough to possess skills (meditation, eloquence, tenacity) which allow me to cope. Doing the time does not scare me—it's nothing but a word. What's terrifying is the prospect of release. If my musical skills are in top form I can easily eke out a living. But six years without adequate practice? I'll be lucky to make pocket change on street corners...

Bottom line—I'm an extremely well-read 35 year old guy with no formal education beyond the High School level. At age 41 on my release, I will have no

credible work references and a record of 14 years of incarceration. I am not eligible for any assistance from Social Security nor Unemployment, though I work everyday. I'm completely uninterested in Welfare. I refuse to do crime, I will not beg. My prospects seem pretty damm dim to me...

I don't fit in here either. I get piles of letters from all kinds of people like you, doctors, lawyers, musicians, corporate executives, house wives, college students... I stay alive by reaching outside the walls (fences now). Finding meaningful conversation is difficult at best...

Spiritually we only "evolve" by consciously striving to do the right things and continually correcting behaviors which are less than our potential (again by careful introspection). For now, I cannot worry about tomorrow too much, yet I still think the system is overdue for change.

*Jeffrey (Levi) Ford #901024, 20-B-3C DOC/ISP
PO Box 601, DOC/ISP, Pendleton, IN 46064*

Ashlaand, OR

LEAVING HOME

**A thousand times
have I flown this byway
littered with long lost thoughts.
A thousand summers
of sprinklers and Joel
are dandelion seeds on air
bobbing and brewing beside my path.
The prospect of experience
draws me from my umbrella
in to the storm.
Droplets of times to come
splash along my brow
and gush along the gutters of my psyche.
A thousand days of autumn leaves and horse-play
spiral and gyre
into life's hurricane
and I am set free
in to the warm inviting rains.
I'm leaving home.
When a year seemed to last forever
and we washed down our days
with lemonade and ice cubes,
adulthood peered at me
from light years away.
But now it is here and I am ready.**

Sarah Lambie



Michigan City, IN

(July) Exciting things are happening all over this country. There are institutes for the development of the human person. But then there's the Creative Edge... You're not trying to put forth a product that will turn our hair green on the first rinse, or fit any bolt only to realize it doesn't work on the metric scale, or even an object you wear over your heart that will help you win the lottery.

For some reason as human beings we are apt to look outside of ourselves for our answers. I think what you are trying to say to us... is "let's go back to us." That we have so much potential as human beings, to see, and to feel, and to touch, and to smell, in a way that we've never dreamed of. You are trying to show us what we already have within ourselves (internally) but we've forgotten how to do it, (tap the creative nature). These are things we want to be doing, if we care about ourselves and love ourselves.

I learned something really unique when Levi (Ford) was around me here. We think to be a grown-up we must be independent and not need anyone, and that's why we're all dying of loneliness. But the greatest experiences in my life, (I'm learning) are when lives intersect and two human beings are able to really communicate as Levi and myself did...

I am blessed with a loving family committed to caring, sharing and understanding for which I'm grateful. I believe sincerely that if there is at least one person in this world whom we can touch, totally unabashedly and unashamedly, we will never die of loneliness. It doesn't matter who it is, woman to man, woman to woman, man to man, just someone you can go to and lay it on the line with who will listen. Someone you don't have to hide from. someone to whom you can say "these are my feelings" and they say "good, It's all right). "This is me" and That's OK...

In closing, I believe your message is clear. My personal creativity, which is change and growth, is available and all I have to do is take the responsibility and grasp it.

(August) I just can't seem to find the words to express how WONDERFUL it was for me to hear you say that I have it right re: my last letter to you. I just don't know why people in here want to stop growing just because they are incarcerated, like you said "fear" is indeed "THE BIG KILLER" and for a lot of people it stops the growth process that is essential to maintain a constant forward upgrading of ourselves. I do think that our survival as human beings demands our attention "of ourselves individually"... and when our creative

side that is in all of us has been confronted it would not be a surprise to me that a familiar phrase you hear a lot in doing what you do would be, "Wow, I didn't know I had it in me." The product of that is that the individual relationship with themselves is nurtured and begins to grow. Once that happens, the ball will roll and it is the most wonderful journey ever imagined. It takes a process that will get us close to ourselves (such as the Creative Edge) so that the fusing will take place. I sure do hope that people see what is before them and what is in their grasp (with work).

Robert Burgess
#954722 A-413
DOC/ISP, PO Box 41,
Michigan City, IN 46361-0041

Monterey, CA

MERLIN, THE POET MAGICIAN

He stands before us

**This passionate, aged man with long flowing white hair
reading excerpts of poetry that I can not hear
so absorbed am I in gazing at his physical presence.**

**A book of poems in his left hand
shaking vibrantly as he reads**

**His index finger of his right hand extended vertically
and**

shaking to stress the importance of his message to his audience.

**His long, flowing, white hair shines in the light,
moving about as his body vibrates in passionate reading.**

**As I gaze at him, I am transfixed
I closed my eyes and open them again
and see**

**Merlin, the Poet Magician
standing before me!**

Rowaine Kram



Daytona Beach, FL

Thanks so much for the newsletter and for including my poem in it! Enclosed is another poem. It's a little strange but I was undergoing a strange period of events here when I wrote it.

HALLOWED ALLEGORY 6/25/96

**And the majestic trees bowed to an irate wind force.
No longer would they protectively pelt Mother's shell,
No longer would the crickets harmonize their cadence love song.
Natural selection and migration fought denial to no avail.
The crocodiles shed no more tears, for they were..."No more".
The crabs molted not, for a new breed of species was born.
Mutation left nothing to flourish in a macrocosmic miasma,
And the once great planet shifted and shuddered and sighed and cried.
Turning back towards natural symbiosis was no longer a hopeful concept.
The epitome of greed and disconcert became a futile fate,
And the cosmos itself lamented in shame.**

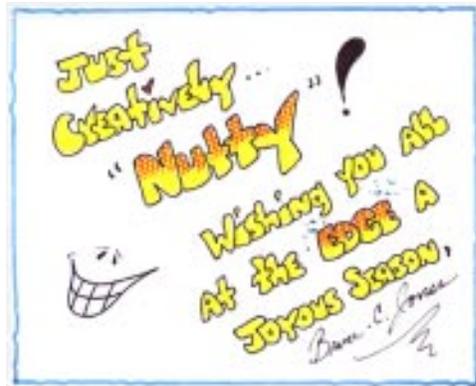
**To reap what one sows was a grim shadow of cause and effect.
Our self-direction and spirituality left nil to be desired.
Survival was an esoteric virtue invoked upon scavengers.
Action and reaction became decadence presiding ethereal gloom.
Our heart's intentions turned prey to our mind's wanton lust,
And the world bowed in prayer before the book of life.
Then sin became a void on our latent abode,
And the end threatened birth to a beginning of a magnitude unknown.**

**But alas, a whisper turned force of an ultimate host,
Through sheer will, bred with faith came the holiest of ghost,
A destiny revived...lifted by the hand of hope!
In lieu of these thoughts I now conquer despair,
Thought becomes form and I can feel that woman's touch,
My child's sweet laughter and the family things I miss so much.
The world no longer rides my shoulders
For a might harness gifts my soul.
Wrapped in sweet surrender, so very tender to the touch,
T'was the moment God appeared to me and He loves me...
O so much!!!!!!**

I owe the Creative Edge much gratitude for instilling a greater sense of inspiration and self esteem for me. After a lull of creativity over many weeks gone by, I'm now drawing and doodling little fantasy images for my nieces and nephews and it helps me recover from my woes.

I have this little vision of going to hospitals, etc., some day , to draw and create little healing renderings for sickly or terminally ill children. I get the idea while drawing for some children at the visiting park here. They were absolutely enthralled by the act and we all shared the love of and the power of creativity in progress.

(Continued)



Bruce Jonas
Tonka Work Camp

Fort Wayne, IN

When we were at Hawkshead with David Whyte, I was the “elder” of the group. As we were walking to the last “circle of stones” you asked me some questions about my husband and his death. It made me aware of some “unhealed” spots. so when we got there, as I sat and lay on the ground I opened my heart and asked the Creator to do the needed healing—I needed more help—I didn’t know how. We were there a long time meditating. When we left as I walked back to the van, my body felt so light. I felt my legs could carry me anywhere and I strode back as fast as anyone else! It felt wonderful. I couldn’t have done it without your questions to make me aware of unresolved pain.

Jean Havens

Red Feather Lakes, CO

Being dangerous, i.e., creative, is of necessity and by definition destructive. There is nothing creative that is not destructive to someone. In the spiritual and psychological realms, this is especially so. No new perspective comes without the loss of a previous one and in that loss is the destruction of some portion of one’s views of the world and place in that world. It won’t ever happen any other way.

I enjoy getting your newsletter and am always looking for the dangerous edge that poetry contains. No two people ever hear the same phrase or melody in the same manner and that is to me one of poetry’s most valuable presents, i.e., it offers each of us the opportunity to realize our separateness. And that is a very dangerous and, potentially, highly creative place.

Ken Fleming
Castle Mountain Views
traveler@verinet.com

Pacific Grove, CA

Your newsletter means a great deal to me—a wonderful antidote to all the “getting and spending” of our world. A great reminder of things beyond the material aspects of our existence.

Eleanor Rogge

Thank you for your letters and offerings. Keep them coming. Look for emerging themes that resonate with your own intuitions and creative works.

I invite you to comment on how these sharings facilitate your own life journeys. (I will add your address if you approve.)

The Editor.



Address Correction Requested

The Creative Edge: The Way Of The Arts is a nonprofit public benefit corporation formed in January, 1989. It operates under IRS Code 501(c)(3) for the educational purpose of sponsoring programs that introduce and develop for individuals the inner creative process used by experienced artists of all fine arts disciplines. In particular, these programs have as a foundation the belief that expression consciously based on intuitive material from the psyche and expressed in one or more channels of artistic endeavor supports healthy development of both the individual and the society. Furthermore, the underlying creative principles are the basis for a healthy way of life.

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Check out:

◆ A New Dream Group—Coming January 18 !

**◆ A Creative Arts Retreat—Coming February 8-9 !
(Writing & Beyond with Illia Thompson & DWM)**

◆ Jay O'Callahan—Coming March 14-16 !