



NEWSLETTER #30 (revised)
Spring 1999

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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: 4/27/99

Board of Directors:

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



THE NEWS

Spring 1999

No. 30

Programs Scheduled: (See pages 2-4)

• Jay O'Callahan	Finding & Telling Stories (Full)	May 7-9, 7 p.m.
• Dick Crispo	Painting in the Wild	Jun 26-27, 9 a.m.
• Marlie Avant & Donald Mathews	Coming Alive! Creative Arts Retreat Weekend	Sep 25-26, 9 a.m.
• Brugh Joy	Weekend Study Group	Oct 29-31, 7 p.m.
• Donald Mathews	Dream Work Seminar Creative Arts Fellowship Creative Development & Dreams	Aug 21, 9 a.m. Monthly, 1st Sat-9 a.m. E-mail or as scheduled

I am excited to sponsor Dick Crispo bringing a workshop on the craft aspects of the creative process. Dick is a master painter and exceptional individual. For me, it is a chance to once again pick up a brush and enjoy the beauty of the Monterey Peninsula.

The Creative Arts Retreat Weekends continue with a different kind of program brought by one of our Directors, Marlie Avant. There is a special correlation between images and movements. Accessing them gives another useful creative resource we will examine. There will also be time for dreams, exploring and just plain relaxing! Come join the other Creative Edge Artist-Directors for a special weekend of sharing together.

There is still room in Brugh Joy's Study Group, but it will fill in a hurry so make your reservation now! (Checks are held until the early price date of each program before deposit.)

Notice the change in E-Mail address! I may be reached at Donald@creative-edge.org! Internet users, don't forget to check out the Creative Edge Web Site. There you will find a entirely different collection of poems, images and comments in Letter Box On Line! David Steiger has volunteered to give us a new look to be posted in May.

Send your work now for the next Newsletter, submissions are needed! DWM

New & renewed Members of the Creative Edge:

Patrons: Arlene Soto, CA.

Associate Members: Laura Carley, Patricia Ann Doneson, Lynda Hughes, Jack & Elizabeth Martin, CA.

Friends: Michelle Long & Joyce Rayner, CA.

We invite newcomers to our free mailing list— membership with your fully tax deductible donation is totally voluntary.

Newsletter Distribution: 1497 — Current Membership: 6 Patrons, 18 Associates, 6 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, mutual support and intimate sharing. Our shared stories, dreams and artistic expressions of all kinds then become a deep source of wisdom.

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

Creative Arts Retreat Weekends:

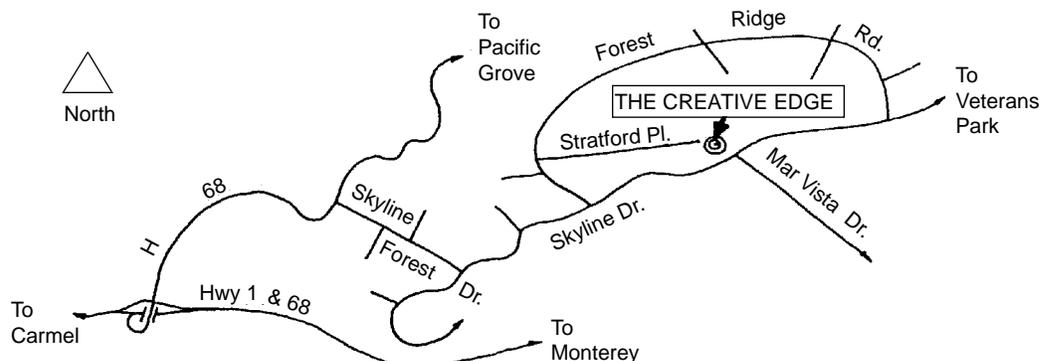
Explore with the core fellowship of Creative Edge Artist-Directors. Away from busy lives for either one or two days in a small intimate group, we leisurely seek the authenticity of our soul’s call. Although primarily a weekend of self discovery, we open to the power of collective energies and guest facilitators to bring and share their special talents with us.

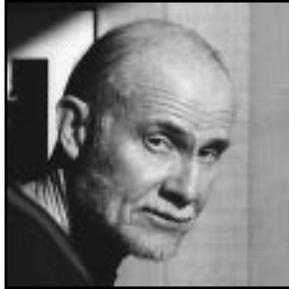
Forming a safe circle of support for dreams, sharing and contemplation, we use lots of free time to follow our personal muse with reading, writing and other creative work. Mask-making, paints and clay are available in the studio. Lunch is provided. Typically offered each year in the spring & fall, 9 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 Seminars:

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.

January—May & August—November:
9 a.m.- noon on the 3rd Saturday of each month,

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: \$25-35 each hour’s work.



Marlie Avant is an artist, actress and Founding Director of The Creative Edge. She is also certified as a trainer in the Halprin Life/Art Process, a movement-based expressive arts therapy program. Marlie learned to bring form & dimension to spirit by honoring her body, rejoicing in its earthiness and thus healing ancient wounds.

“We get up, we walk, we fall down, and it’s all a part of the dance!”

—Marlie Avant

As Mary Oliver says in her poem: “You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves.”

Forming a safe circle with the core fellowship of Creative Edge Artist-Directors, we will learn from each other by sharing personal discoveries.

Coming Alive: Opening to our Body Wisdom!

A Creative Arts Retreat Weekend September 25-26, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

In this one or two day creative arts retreat, we will explore our individual rhythms and mythologies using subtle movement, drawing, writing and dreams. In so doing, what most often is revealed is the richness and depth of our creative potential and our innate personal power to heal, grow and transform our lives.

Fee: \$95, Saturday only: \$50.
(\$80/\$45 prior to September 10.)
Lunch & simple art materials provided.

Computer Users:

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

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 all past newsletters and other materials are already available at the CE Web site! Downloading is quick and easy because of compression technology.

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

or call:
Donald Mathews
(831) 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.



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

—Jay O'Callahan

Jay O'Callahan has been creating and performing stories now for over 20 years. Time magazine called him “a genius among storytellers....” “A virtuoso,” echoed the Boston Globe.

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
May 7-9.**

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... Wanna dance?”

Fri.: 7—9 p.m., Sat.: 9 a.m.— 4 p.m. (with lunch),
Sunday: 9 a.m. — noon.

Fee: \$240 Limit 12.



“Our art reflects who we are and where we live.”

—Dick Crispo

Dick Crispo is a well known respected teacher and artist on the Monterey Peninsula. He conducts workshops around the world and represented the U.S. Government in Latin America as its American Cultural Specialist. He was selected as one of the top 100 authorities in the world in the field of Art History by U.S. News & World Report magazine in 1989.

Dick Crispo is the winner of 31 awards and a gold medal from the Italian Academy of Works of Art. He has had 73 one-man shows and his work is represented in over 300 private and 34 permanent public collections.

Raised in this area, Dick has developed over the years a keen sense of the place. He will guide us into his many secrets using demonstration, lecture and personal guidance.

**Finding the Spirit of the Land:
A Sense of Place
A Weekend Painting Workshop
June 26-27.**

This is an opportunity to enjoy the wild beauty of the Monterey Peninsula and particularly the rugged coast along Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove while we search for the spirit of the land in paint. If you have never experienced the joy of painting on location, this is the opportunity to begin.

This workshop is for everyone, beginner to professional with demonstrations, lecture painting on location and critique! Saturday lunch provided. A materials list is available. (Your choice of oils, acrylics or water colors!)

Fee: \$100 (\$90 before June 14.)



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

—Brugh Joy

W. Brugh Joy, M.D. is an extraordinary guide! In the dream realm, he follows personal images and stories to their mythical roots like a fine artist follows the mysterious trail of the muse.

By exploring the divine images, characters, and stories of our dreams and building personal relationships with them, a new profound resource is born in us for both creative expression and life's continuing adventure. This study group is for exploring the mysteries reflected in dreams & daily life.

His book *Avalanche: Heretical Reflections on the Dark and Light* tells of the dark and disowned portions of the human psyche.

**Accessing Inner Resources
Through the Heart Center:
A Weekend Study Group
Changed to January 21-23, 2000.**

Friday Evening: 7-10 P.M.
Saturday: 9 A.M. to 9 P.M.
Sunday: 9 A.M. to noon

Fee: \$385 (\$360 prior to December 15, 1999.)
Limited to 27.
Saturday lunch furnished.



I suggest, as many others have, we are entering a time of major transition fed by exploding technology. It is a fast moving river of change with many rapids of uncertainty ahead. To navigate safely, we need a collective vision of how to use these tools effectively as we are swept into the threatening rapids of unfolding world events. As crew members in a fragile vessel, we must also learn the skills necessary to work together as there is no turning back on the river of life with its accumulating knowledge. This challenge pervaded by complex technology demands extraordinary relationship and creative resources if we are to succeed. It is a time requiring careful examination at both personal and societal levels by all wielding a paddle if we are to reap the benefits of the coming millennium!

Technology touches almost every resource we depend on today as individuals and in community. As we prepare for year 2000 (Y2K) and the new millennium, a lot of attention is focused on potential disruption to life by old computer software and hardware—the Y2K problem. In the past, programming methods and computer chips were limited by existing designs and did not provide for major changes. Furthermore, the relationships of these complex buried instructions were lost under the many layers of new designs.

To discover and fix this problem, our society is reexamining almost every aspect touched by computers—particularly those at the very heart of logistical systems serving the world. It is a difficult and costly enterprise, evoking great fear and untold difficulties for many. However, at the same time, the transition offers unbounded possibilities for new life styles using the very technology causing the problem.

I suggest the Y2K process may be used as a metaphor for the state of our own interior life! In every one of us, there are hidden glitches from old outdated values and choices hidden below our present level of consciousness. *It is time for careful reassessment of our own capacity to make radical changes and lift our relationship and creative skills to a new level!*

The key emphasis here is on deeper self-awareness of personal process and building relationship with what we find, thus taking responsibility for developing a more deeply satisfying life. Clearly life calls on each of us to be more creative and foster relationships with exploding global interdependence. Many of my Thoughts on Creativity have focused on these areas. Now, two authors of recent books have given me new vision into the changing process taking place in our culture—the force driving this comparison with the Y2K problem.

Emotional intelligence has been identified by author Daniel Goleman as a significant element both personally and in contemporary society. (*Emotional Intelligence & Working With Emotional Intelligence*.) He suggests when examining competency in this area, the first step is knowing how we manage ourselves in the three areas of *self-awareness* (knowing one's internal state, preferences, resources and intuitions), *self-regulation* (managing one's internal states, impulses and resources) and *motivation* (emotional tendencies that guide or facilitate reaching goals). Next comes awareness of social competencies. This includes *empathy* (awareness of other's feelings, needs and concerns) and *social skills* (adeptness at inducing desirable responses in others). The attribute of emotional intelligence can be developed and is highly sought after in the new developing style of cooperative organizations. A careful honest look in each of these areas will often uncover old glitches and hidden talents!

**“Knowing others is intelligence;
knowing yourself is true wisdom.
Mastering others is strength;
mastering yourself is true power.”**

From: Tao Te Ching #33—Lao-Tuz
(Stephen Mitchell translation)

Harry S. Dent in his book, *The Roaring 2000's: Building the wealth and lifestyle you desire in the greatest boom in history*, describes the nature of organizations in the coming years. He says they will radically change because of their use of computers and the Internet for communications. Success for organizations will shift from those with managers in a top down hierarchy toward cooperative groups of employees using emotional intelligence, all contributing

creatively toward a commonly developed vision. Managers, usually a person at the top directing and controlling the work of a small group, must become leaders who inspire and support work being done more creatively by all—many members autonomously interfacing directly with clients without typical supervision.

Supporting them is a layer of similarly connected experts, researchers and manufacturing facilities inspired by the new style of leadership. In addition, employees no longer must physically gather together for work, they will connect using the new communication web—the Internet! Again, employees must have a highly developed sense of integrity and trust with each other using emotional intelligence. Everyone in the organization contributes at many levels, paying attention to both personal and organizational needs.

I feel what is overtaking us at the end of this century is a quantum evolutionary event. Our ability to personally ride these rough waters depends on our willingness to participate as agents of change using creative solutions in relationship with others seeking a common basis for our existence. I feel this process then becomes a new secular spirituality in action!



Carmel, CA

LEGACY

You sitting there

with your cat Sylvester,

**listening to Schubert in the pre-dawn blue-grey,
waiting for someone to share with you
your pain and the extraordinary quality of light.
For you see this light only as a-loneness,
and it reflects to you the purity of your non-being.**

**You got up early as a child, too,
and kept to yourself.**

**Your carefree bohemian mother saw an apple-cheeked tow-headed boy
with a stubborn gaze and an awkward tongue.**

**How could she know her careless abandonment would
teach you to hurt yourself and others blindly
and so masterfully?**

**I saw the unremitting need in your icy, veiled eyes
and feel their weight upon me still.**

**My early years were leaden, too, but in a different way:
slums, endless dull lessons, church, cheap clothes, dreary friends,
relieved by technicolor dreams, movies and museums,
fashion magazines & frequent boisterous, Slavic feasts.**

**Hungry for the life of the spirit & mind,
I grew haphazardly, an unwatered weed in a city dump,
relying on the vagaries of fickle weather.**

**I came to you desperately, too young, too soon,
fleeing boredom, casually offering my life & heart,
little knowing their price.**

**So preoccupied with your own pain,
How could you have noticed mine?
And then there were the mysteries of creation—
Art—now that was important!!!
And the usual urban distractions that keep us from our natures.**

**For me, a peasant girl raised in city squalor
there was so much art and romance, too, in
your New England mythos: the farmhouse in Vermont,
the red & gold autumn, the warmth of animals,
the historical reminders of colonial remnants,
the very sound of the Whitney as your middle name:
“You’d think he was an English lord.”**



I think of you there secluded, immersed,
so disconsolate with your engines idling,
dreaming of wild flight,
And even if I wanted to—
How could I amputate the stubborn part of me that broods?
You, spirit of negation, demon of doom,
Standing alone in the dying fire of New England autumn
Cursing the gods that tainted your genius
and dealt you a bitter fate.

Once a young Ariadne with the magic string of love to lead you
out of the inevitable labyrinth,
Now I think of you but rarely.
Now I know you denied my energies and gifts
as all men, who learned to hate their mothers in this doomed age,
must.

When will I be able to forgive you,
and be free to reveal to you who I really am?

Anya Kucharev

Carmel, CA

UNTITLED

What is there about you
That lights a flame in me,
cools me down in leaf-falling flight
and breaks me into beams of light
and song of sprouting bloom?

What is there about
my ship of fools that drowns
us both in wetness
and opens you
to freedom and fear?

This opening for you
is no lily
or Venus fly trap
or Treasure Island's chest.

It is my cosmic soup-bowl and
chamber of horrors,
a vessel for the hopeful,
a pot for new planting.

Gary Ibsen



Pilot Hill, CA

Thanks for being a bright light for me. My mental, emotional, physical and spiritual health is greatly improved. I feel like I've been down under and now I am back.

Thanks for the wonderful work you do and welcoming all who want the Creative Edge by The Way of The Arts.

Arlene Soto

Carmel Valley, CA

MID STREAM

**Emptiness
has set me in motion
again,
startled me roused the shadow that seeks
a way out.**

**Despair
has stirred the marrow.
In mid-stream
I count on
the irresistible sunrise
for promises.**

**Dawn offers
her tinted light wings
spreading
across the early sky.**

**I take counsel
from the venerable oak,
wise women,
lunar dreams.**

**Unsettled, I ride
a primordial current,
distrustful of destiny,
compelled
to drift
within midnight
passageways.**

CONGENITAL DEFECT

**At the bottom of my heart
is... a hole,
about one half inch across,
ragged at the edges
where sorrow leaks out
and mingles with
my bones.**

**I have tried to find ways
to heal it,
to sew a patch over it
or plug it with a gob
of happiness
but that never works.**

**It's part of me
and I would have to get
a whole new heart
to have one without a hole.**

**I think I was born
with the gap
so I would always understand
what it means
to lose something
you love.**

OLD BATTLES

**Quarrels
sharp-edged arrows
speed toward
the target,
winged wooden words
split the heart,
embed themselves,
soak up blood
and stiffen into scars.**

**I pluck you
from the wounds,
break your shafts,
bury your stone tips
in a mountain of love,
burn your splintered
timber in the fire
of my forgiveness.**

Laura Bayless



Reseda, CA

SOCIAL PAIN

social pain
erupting
through young bodies

stirred
in a system
fraught with
hollow promise, and
staffed by those
whose hidden wounds
bleed into
each needless move

meanwhile
the children
surviving
the unintended wrath
of each intervention
play quietly
in the side yard

NATURAL PARENT VISITS

Taking notes
In a room
Bereft
Of style or warmth
Alone, watching
Present, yet apart
From an intimate play
Painted with intense hues
Whose colors are often
Shaped
By life's endless circles
Meanwhile
Each of the players
May dimly see
The symphony
Resonating
Just beyond the senses

VANITY

Face Scarred
In patches of redness
Replacing
Scaly cancerous residue

Turns the vision
Slowly and painfully
From constant focus
On pale or tanned perfection

To the chest
Where
A small candle
Begins to light the way

VANITY II

Pervasive thoughts
And persistent urgings
From the surface of the pool

Keep life's focus
On tight bellies
And sculptured faces

Each hour spent
In the aerobic temple
Which quietly demands
Adequate sacrifice

Feeds the notion
That sufficient muscle tone
Will stay the need
The permanent shadow has
To walk in the light

NOW

All the wisdom
And everything learned
Over years of effort
Evaporates
As each new second
Becomes a part
Of indra's net

Larry M. Sheldon

Colorado Springs, CO

I received you last newsletter and appreciated reading all the varied approaches to life. One poem in particular spoke to me, ARE YOU HUNGRY by Julie Houy. I send to you my poem, NEW HORIZONS. It is in my book titled, *Songs of Silence*. I just know the book (available from the author) is my dream and I need to work on getting my dream out there.

NEW HORIZONS

I am Hungry —

Hungry for lilacs
and an early spring,

Hungry for rain
to fall on dried earth,

Hungry — for people
to fill the landscape
that my mind has created,

Join with them —
bathe in the vermilion
oranges of purple sunsets.

Search,
for the tree
that bears forbidden fruit.

Bite into the apple!
Taste the Pomegranate!

I am tired
of being safe.

So great —
is my hunger,
that I want to
devour myself,

And create a new me.

Patricia Ann Doneson
6227 Twin Oaks Drive, Apt. 2305
Colorado Springs, CO 80918



Portsmouth, NH

JANUARY 1, 1998
(From *Her Blue Body*)

The old demons
had returned
before the holidays,
swarming over her,
igniting
grass fires of anxiety,

but on that
first glacial morning
of the New Year,
she woke up
and it was
unthinkable
not to obey
the ancient heliotropic urge
to turn her face
to the light,

to lie still,
to observe

the crystal flowers
that bloomed
in glittering fields
on her window pane,

the gleaming double edge
of terror
and hope
that cut deep within.

Anne Dewees

Monterey, CA

MY GREATEST WISH

My greatest wish in life is change
Some folks might find this awfully strange.
Perception can be friend or foe
The choice is mine to sleep or grow.

It's comforting to stay the same
To not allow one's inner flame
To lead one to uncertain ground
Where one cannot feel safe and sound.

Each day I pray that I will see
The self I am more honestly
To know that in the past my fears
Have led to hurt and painful tears.

My growth is slow but right on course
It isn't something I can force
I let life lead me where it will
Its mystery is for me the thrill.

A mystery that in time unfolds
And blesses me with all it holds
I'm grateful to be on this Earth
And thank my mother for my birth.

LET ME LOVE YOU

Let me love you
from a place of safety
A place that gives you room
to breathe
to love me back.

Let me love you
from a place of trust
A place that lets you
live your life
without fear of losing me.

Let me love you
from a place of honesty
that we may travel
inside and out
together.

LOVE

For six long months
My soul was yours
Each day it waited
For your glance
Which did not come
Then sadly
It returned to me
Still trembling
From the aftershock
Of its awakening!

Duffie Bart



Soquel, CA

THREE BOYS IN THE RAIN

**Purposeful in comic solemnity,
walking in a row with a magic word;
tossing it over a shoulder, teasing it,
spitting it in wads of laughter,
kicking it rainward
with irresponsible toes and heels,
shouting it in Ping-Pong volleys.**

**They come to a hup-two halt,
regard the swelling river,
the silent conveyor-belt river,
in mock fisherman humor.
Even their matted hair is grinning,
their denims darkened
wet to the knees
in a soaked smirk.**

**Their magic word whips
restless in their fishing rods,
tickles wriggling in their torsos,
dances in soggy Addidas,
cracks hoarse in greenstick throats.
The day, the rain, the river,
the word, is theirs.**

**The next time they meet
the magic word
will have grown old,
used, taste of some time ago;
will have been hand-formed
into but another memory
of the time they marched
single file
on angelfood grass
in the rain.**

Donald Marsh

DOC, Tennessee Colony, TX

This one isn't going to dwell on the bad. Hell, I am fortunate to be alive and learning!

IT DAWNED UPON ME

**It dawned upon me ...
the world doesn't exist for me,
the wave comes and goes...
the ocean isn't worried about it,
I am just a wave
thus, the reality is ...
I am not that important
except when Ego tells me otherwise.**

**It dawned upon me ...
how blind have I been?
how have I avoided the Truth?
how have I lived in this glass house of Ego?
no one can exist alone,
we exist in the cosmic whole
as a wave,
no one is an island—isolated—alone.**

**It dawned upon me ...
the Ego is falso—the greatest falsity,
it is impossible,
Reality isn't that shocking...
every breath bridges you with the cosmos,
in deep sleep the Ego, your name,
your numbers are no more,
that is the Reality.**

*Chester HASS III DOC#327322 BC-1B-08
Coffield Unit Rt. 1, Box 150
Tennessee Colony, TX 75884*

Thank you for your letters and offerings. Keep them coming. Look for emerging themes that resonate with your own intuitions and creative works. I also invite you to comment on how these sharings facilitate your own life journey. (I will add your address if you approve.)

The Editor.