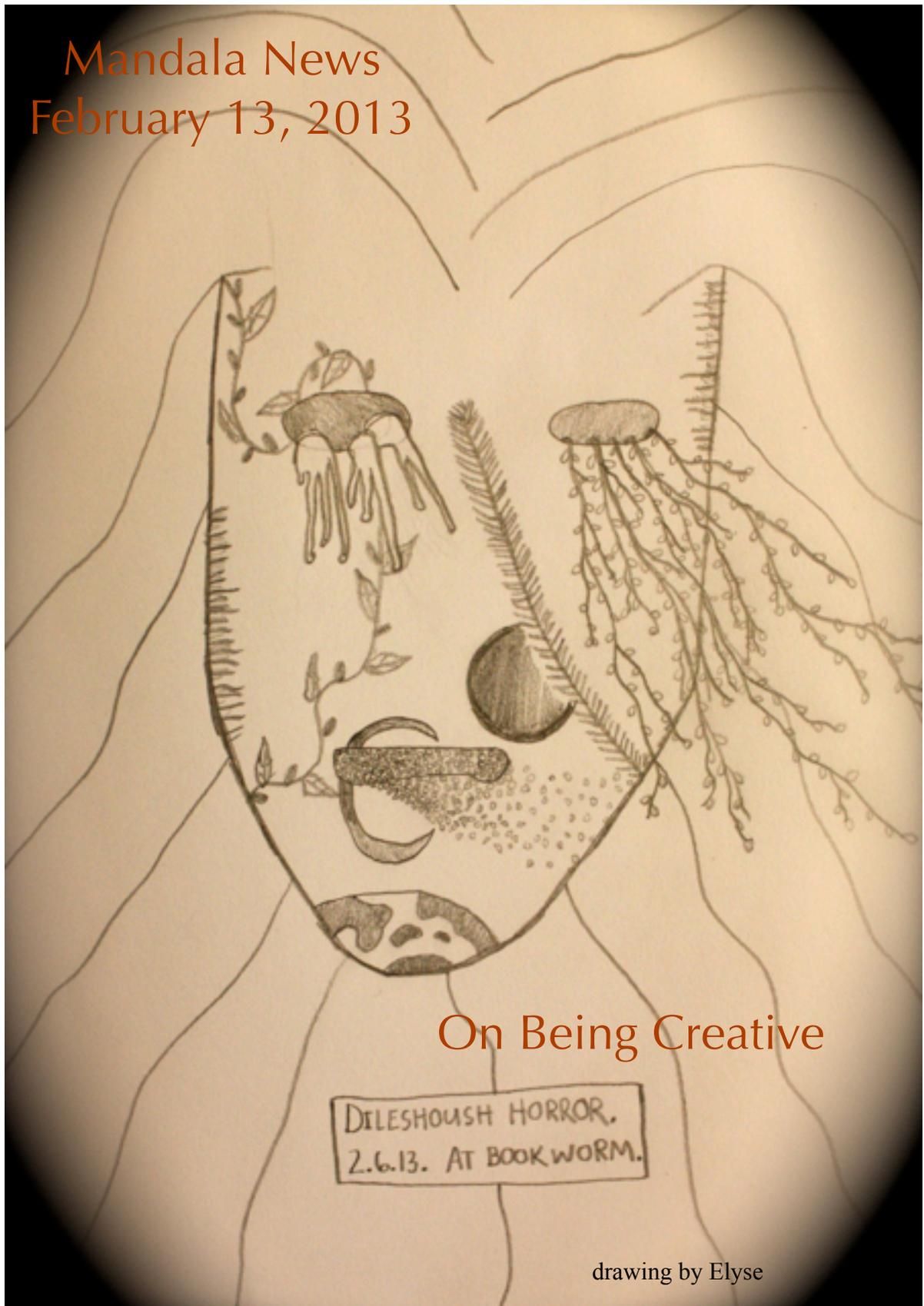


Mandala News  
February 13, 2013



On Being Creative

DILESHOUSH HORROR,  
2.6.13. AT BOOK WORM.

drawing by Elyse

## Creativity: Time, Trust, & Attitude

Unencumbered time, the freedom to do as one wants, often hides in the shadows, an unrecognized treasure. Life's stage with its action and limelight draws us and exhausts us, masking the real source of our creative strength: quiet solitude.

Recent research confirms that group problem solving such as brainstorming produces fewer creative ideas than individuals working on their own. What is important is the sharing of these ideas.

At Mandala we create open time when one's own interests can direct the use of time. We trust this time will yield worthy thoughts and products, although patience is often strained.

Our biggest impediments are attitudes of passivity, compliance, laziness, doubt, and even defiance. Some people are so used to being other-directed that they are at a loss about how to be self-directed.

One of our two rules is *Don't interfere with learning* yet this is violated constantly. People won't leave others alone. They want to talk with them or show them something, often with good intentions. Sometimes they are just plain distracting.

If we truly value creativity as a society, we need to practice solitude and provide practice with solitude for our children.

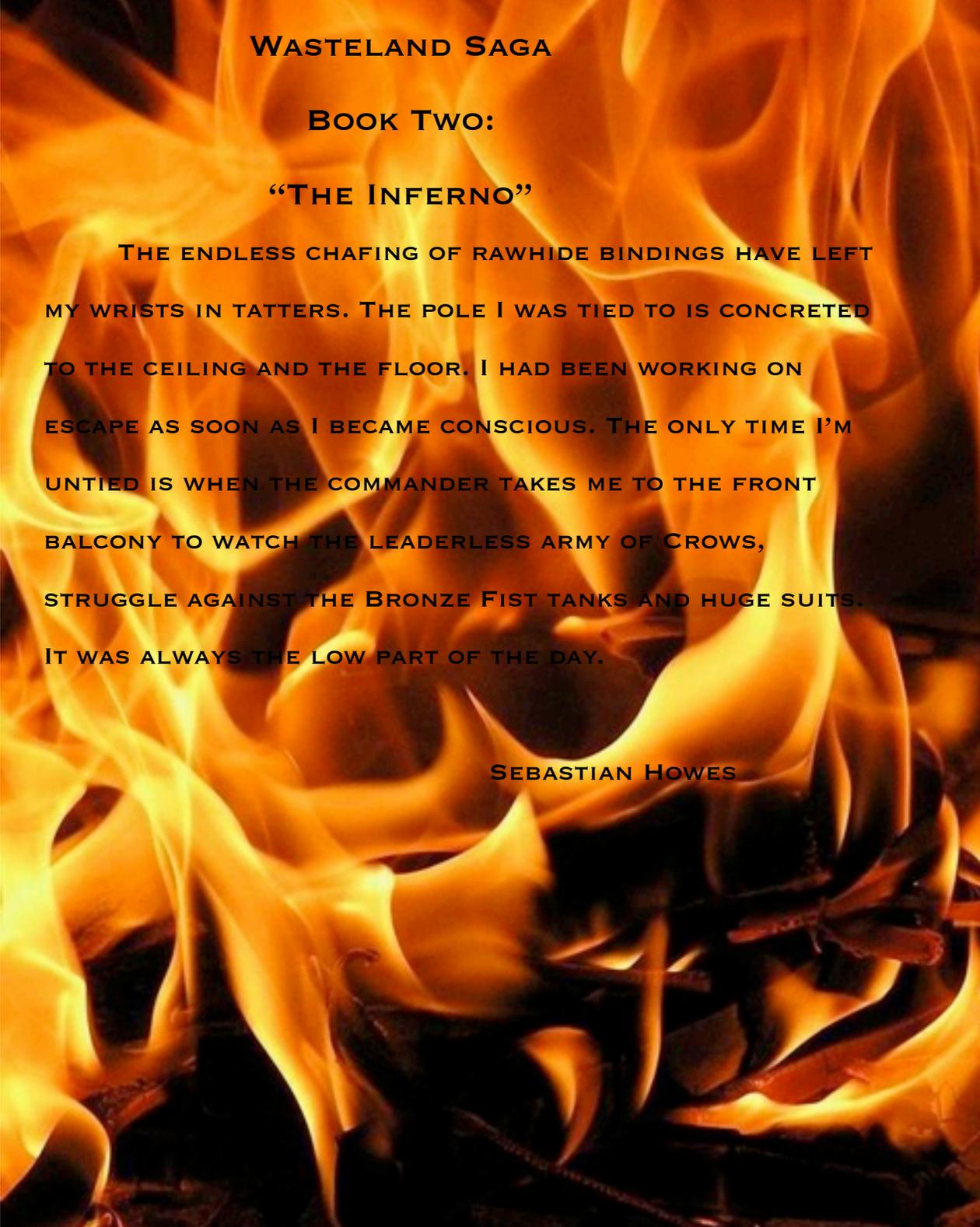
We also need to provide a "marketplace of ideas" where public discourse can test ideas and new connections can be made. Moving back and forth between the realms of society and self is the true dynamo of creativity.

This newsletter has examples of creative products and our **gathering on February 28th at 6:58** will be another opportunity to see the products of Mandala students.



*Greek temple by Erin & Lydia*





**WASTELAND SAGA**

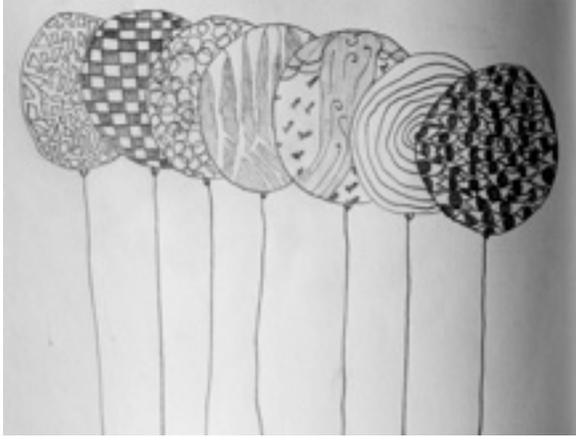
**BOOK TWO:**

**“THE INFERNO”**

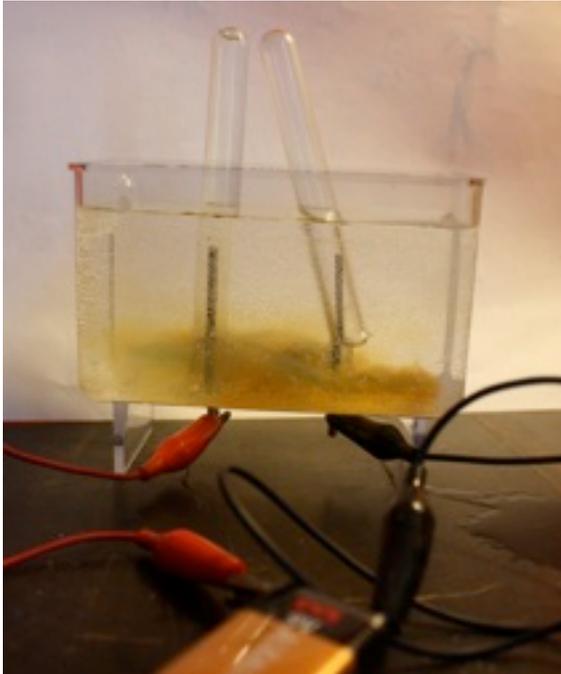
**THE ENDLESS CHAFING OF RAWHIDE BINDINGS HAVE LEFT MY WRISTS IN TATTERS. THE POLE I WAS TIED TO IS CONCRETED TO THE CEILING AND THE FLOOR. I HAD BEEN WORKING ON ESCAPE AS SOON AS I BECAME CONSCIOUS. THE ONLY TIME I’M UNTIED IS WHEN THE COMMANDER TAKES ME TO THE FRONT BALCONY TO WATCH THE LEADERLESS ARMY OF CROWS, STRUGGLE AGAINST THE BRONZE FIST TANKS AND HUGE SUITS. IT WAS ALWAYS THE LOW PART OF THE DAY.**

**SEBASTIAN HOWES**

*Sebastian arrives at Mandala about 45 minutes before many others and often uses that time to work on his saga, a story started during Nanowrimo in November. He was not given this assignment nor told to work on it. So far he has produced 34 pages with over 6,000 words.*



*Happy Birthday, Audrey!*  
drawings by Elyse



We split water into hydrogen and oxygen. The salt (sodium chloride, NaCl) we added to the water to allow a current was also split. You can see the result as green chlorine.



Our shoveled sidewalk lowered the **albedo** (reflectance) and caused more sunlight to be absorbed and changed to heat. We discussed that with polar icecaps melting, the albedo of the earth is lowered causing the globe to warm even faster than originally predicted.



## Tenemos Clue

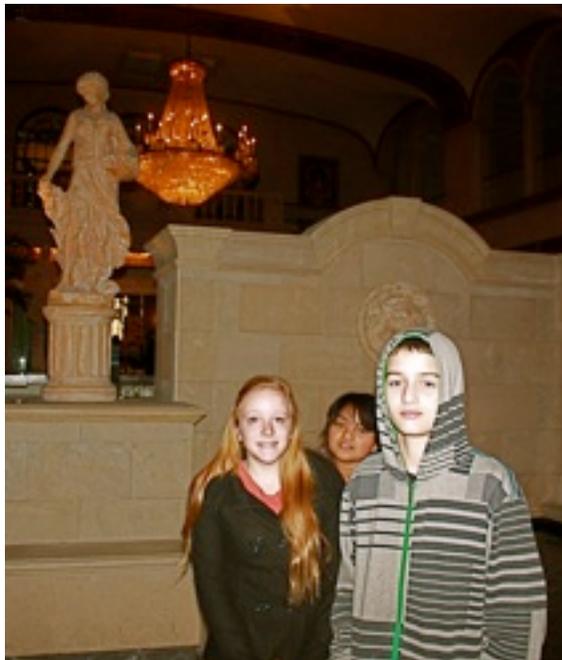
Margo invented a Spanish version of Clue to help interested students learn more español. She will soon leave for Chile and we will certainly miss her and her teaching of French and Spanish.

Our plan is to communicate through Skype while she is there so we can learn more Spanish and about Chile.



.....  
GATHERING  
FEBRUARY 28  
6:58-8:00  
.....

The cold weather had us finding new ways to stay warm. Actually, we were demonstrating how vapor not liquid burns. Find out more at our February 28th gathering.  
(Notice the safety goggles and fire extinguisher!)



## School Choice Week

Several of us attended a rally to promote school choice. The intent is to adequately fund students so they may attend any school their families choose.

This was part of a whistle-stop train trip that started in Los Angeles and ended in New York City.

One of the best ways to improve American education is to provide enough funding so all schools are available to children, not just the government-run schools. Then there would be rapid improvement as schools competed for students and teachers.