



**HIGHER
GROUND
AUSTRALIA**

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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – January 2024

WELCOME

Happy New Year and Aloha from the centre of Waikiki, Hawaii, where we are on an extended holiday. Arriving just before Christmas we vowed to relax, reduce our presence on social media, and to catch up on some much-needed sleep. Hawaii is just on the ‘other’ side of the international date line, which means that it is 21 hours (or nearly a day) behind Australia, so by the time we catch up with the news at home, it is old news, 😊 well, almost.

Propping here in Waikiki for an extended stay has its advantages. Last week, I was surprised to learn that our friends Bill and Mary Schott would be visiting Waikiki as part of their Crown Princess Cruise around the Hawaiian Islands. We met for lunch and enjoyed catching up on the latest John Denver news.



I thought I would get a head start on writing this newsletter since I didn't quite fulfill a reasonable quota in 2023. It's a long time before Aspen in October happens, but I am sure there are people making their first preparations already, so I will keep my ear to the ground and pass on any snippets I hear.

Despite the passing years, John Denver is still very much loved and listened to; one only needs to follow the many tribute artists to see how popular they are. Perhaps in this world of unrest and uncertainty, we are yearning for the words of peace and celebration of our surroundings and what Mother Nature has provided. That's my explanation anyway.

As our holidays come to a close, schools and places of employment reopen after the Christmas break, I want to wish you all every happiness in 2024. I hope that your dreams come true, and that life is good for you as globally we navigate a very contentious year politically, economically, and socially.

I will be travelling through the southern states of USA for a few weeks before visiting friends in Canada from

mid-May 2024. This may potentially be my last trip for a while as I have to take on more family responsibilities and weave through the challenges presented by an ageing parent. I hope to be able to catch up with some of you on the way.

For those in Australia who will be travelling to the Tamworth Country Music Festival between January 19 and 28, there are some performers worth seeing. Jason Owen will be performing with Tania Kernaghan on Australia Day, 26 January, and I am sure that a few John Denver favourites will be included. Darren Coggan will have already performed his Poems, Prayers, and Promises John Denver tribute show in Tamworth by the time this newsletter reaches you. However, he has put together a concert tour of Australia and tickets to many of his concerts are already available.

Colin Lillie, the Scottish husband of our favourite politician, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price will be appearing with Billie-Jo Porter between 20 and 23 January. Whilst there probably will not be any John Denver songs in their repertoire, their Americana songs and storytelling performances are not to be missed.

On Australia Day, 26 January 1988, John Denver performed at the Sydney Opera House for Australia's Bicentennial celebrations. He wrote and performed the song, Sing Australia, which is a celebration of our nation, John's adopted favourite place, and which provides an excellent overview of our history. To me, through this song, he touched on the true essence of what Australia was then and is today. Thirty-six years after that performance, there are people who want to remove our national holiday from the calendar and are being assisted by government, councils, and supermarkets and it is yet another way of trying to divide our nation. Again, I reflect upon on John's words from Sing Australia

*And in this celebration,
a brief two hundred years,
the cost to build a nation
in blood and sweat and tears.*

*And if we stand divided,
divided we shall fall.
But if we stand together,
we shall conquer all.*

Happy Australia Day.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGhFtWaiYM>

HIGHER GROUND AUSTRALIA FACEBOOK PAGE

I seem to be locked out of the Higher Ground Australia Facebook page and despite many attempts at getting access, I keep getting the same stupid message. If I cannot log in, I think I will have to open a new page. It's very frustrating, and I certainly do not want to lose the number of followers I had, so I am not happy 😞.

HIGHER GROUND AUSTRALIA

Since COVID-19, we have not had the chance to regroup, particularly to celebrate John's music in October. At this stage, we are not going to organise any formal gatherings going forward. However, our tightknit group here in Australia keeps in regular contact and, where and when possible, catch up.

This newsletter will continue to be released as regularly as possible and our website and Facebook pages are still regularly updated and available.

Website: www.hgavic.com

Email: hga.vic@gmail.com

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/higherground.australia>

VALE JIM SALESTROM

James (Jim) Kevin Salestrom passed away after a long battle with cancer on 22 November 2023 at the age of 67.

Over the years since John Denver's passing, Jim was part of the big Wheeler concerts, performing with a lineup of members of John's band members. In 2012, we were witness to 'the battle of the guitarists', when Jim appeared from behind Steve Weisberg, standing in front of him and blocking him from view. Steve responded by stepping in front of Jim and so it continued to the end of the song. Neither missed a note, but I never worked out whether it was a game they were playing, or whether Jim had inadvertently stepped in front of Steve and Steve responded in kind.

Jim was also a member of Dolly Parton's tour of Australia in 2016. I happened to be at the concert in Melbourne when Dolly was removed from the stage because her microphone was not working properly. Someone must have relayed a message to the band the Dolly was going to be a while because Jim stepped forward adjusted the microphone and started to sing.

Australians love John Denver's music and Jim knew all the songs, and perhaps a small little John Denver set would have gone down extremely well in the Rod Laver Arena, but that is not what happened.

Jim sang...

A long long time ago...

Yep, he sang Don McLean's American Pie – all twenty-seven verses...OK, I know there are only eighteen, but add the choruses and the repeats and it is the longest

song in history and I was never so glad to see Dolly tripping out on stage on her impossibly high heels and laughing about her batteries going flat.

Jim will be sadly missed.

OLDIES BUT GOODIES 2024

As our favourite performers from the 1960s and 1970s dwindle, we should take advantage of seeing as many of them as possible whilst they are still on the concert circuit. Australia will welcome Judy Collins to a number of venues including The Port Fairy Folk Festival in March. Graham Nash is also included in the lineup for the festival and will also be touring Australia from early March.

James Taylor is touring Australia in April 2024.

Without sounding morbid, if you want to see any of these performers live in Australia, now's the time to book tickets!

ASPEN IN OCTOBER 2024

Aspen in October 2024 dates are:

2 October – 7 October 2024

Laurie Stowers has advised that due to some changes to the original Aspen in October Facebook page, she has created a new Facebook group called Aspen in October. If you have not yet accepted her invitation to join the new group, please click the following link to join her new Facebook group, which will keep you in touch with everything that is happening in October 2024.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/7fEV5SJGLARoULJf/?mibextid=K35XfP>

Since the Mountain Chalet in Aspen is undergoing a large renovation, the accommodation and many events have been moved to nearby Snowmass Village. The Mountain Chalet Snowmass is located at 115 Daly Lane, Snowmass Village CO 81615. I'm not sure about availability at the hotel at the moment, but it would pay to call them to see about availability or book into one of the nearby hotels.

If you are interested in the history of the hotel and its recent sale, click the link to read the following article.

<https://www.aspentimes.com/news/historic-mountain-chalet-in-downtown-aspen-sold-to-new-ownership-group/>

It is all going to be very new and very different for the regulars who travel to Aspen each year, but no matter where it is held, it will be fun. Thanks to Laurie who has worked very hard to make this happen.

JOHN DENVER TRIBUTES IN AUSTRALIA 2024

A number of Australian tribute artists have been performing over the course of the year.

Keep an eye on **Jason Owen**, who has been performing in regional NSW and the ACT.



<https://jasonowenofficial.com/>

Darren Coggan has a number of concerts coming up in Sydney and in regional New South Wales over the next few months. He has extended his tour to include parts of Victoria. Check out his website to see whether he is performing his John Denver tribute near you.

<https://www.darrencoggan.com/gig-guide/>

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FAAAAR OUT: JOHN DENVER IS STILL FLYING HIGH 26 YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH

His plane crashed on October 12, 1997, 25 years after his biggest hit was released.

By Gil Asakawa October 29, 2023



Most people can sing the chorus of “Rocky Mountain High,” John Denver’s folk-rock Top 40 standard released just over fifty years ago, in October 1972: “The Colorado Rocky Mountain high / I’ve seen it rainin’ fire in the sky... Rocky Mountain high, Colorado.”

The song became so pervasive that the Colorado Legislature finally voted to make it the second official state song in 2007. (Good thing, too, since you’d be hard-pressed to find anyone who can even hum any of the first official state song, a 1911 piece of schmaltz called “Where the Columbines Grow.”) Lawmakers passed the resolution even though there was some snickering about the word “high” being a drug reference, as suggested by one of the last lines, “Friends around the campfire and everybody’s high...Rocky Mountain high (high in Colorado).” Republicans consoled themselves with the explanation that the word reflected the state’s quality of life, not a state of intoxication.

Throughout the fall and into 1973, “Rocky Mountain High” was ubiquitous on Colorado and national airwaves, though it wasn’t as big a hit as the previous year’s “Take Me Home, Country Roads,” which climbed to number two on the pop charts and in 2014 was made the official state song of West Virginia. (See the biggest songs in 1972 below.)

In his autobiography, *Take Me Home*, Denver wrote that when he was camping and caught the annual Perseid meteor shower, he was almost done recording his next album, which was going to be called *Mother Nature’s Son*, after the Beatles song he covered on the record. But the meteor shower inspired him, and as “Rocky Mountain High” came together over the next

couple of weeks, Denver’s guitar-playing friend Mike Taylor came up with the acoustic guitar-picking that opens the track.

As he says in the song’s first line, John Denver was “born in the summer of [his] 27th year” — but Henry John Deutschendorf Jr. was born in 1943 in Roswell, New Mexico (the focus of so many captured alien myths...or are they?). He was the son of an Army Air Force pilot based there at the time, and from there had a nomadic upbringing as a military brat.

He learned to play guitar on an instrument handed down to him by his grandmother in Oklahoma, and was studying architecture in Texas when he decided he’d rather be a musician. The folk scene was exploding, sparked by Woody Guthrie, Harry Belafonte, Pete Seeger and the Weavers, and others. Like his generational peers — members of Peter, Paul and Mary, Simon and Garfunkel, and the New Christy Minstrels — Deutschendorf wrote songs and played them on the guitar, singing along in his clear, emotive voice.

He headed west to Los Angeles, where he was told that his name wasn’t star material. He swapped Deutschendorf for Denver, the capital of his favorite state to visit, at age twenty. He was chosen to replace Chad Mitchell in an established folk group, the Chad Mitchell Trio, in 1965.

While touring with the group, Denver was introduced to activism by another act on the same college and folk-club circuit, comedian Dick Gregory, who was becoming vocally anti-war and criticizing U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Denver joined the protests and participated in an anti-war demonstration in Washington, D.C. In his autobiography, he credits being in the trio as the catalyst for his political conscience.

In 1969, the Chad Mitchell Trio changed its name to Denver, Boise and Johnson because no original member was left. But the group dissolved not long after, and Denver went out on his own as a solo singer-songwriter.

That summer, the summer of Woodstock, Denver’s manager got him a solo recording contract with RCA Records, and he promptly released his first two albums, which didn’t exactly light the charts on fire. But that’s when Denver’s songwriting — rather than his performances — brought his first taste of real fame.

In 1966, Denver had written a song that he titled “Babe I Hate to Go,” which was a plaintive farewell to a loved one. He recorded demos but didn’t release the song, and instead gave it to friends and family members as a gift. His producer suggested that he change the title to “Leaving on a Jet Plane,” and then passed a demo to Peter, Paul and Mary. In 1969, the

folk trio's version became a number-one hit. Denver had included the song on his first album, *Rhymes & Reasons*, but it never charted — though he continued to offer stirring live renditions throughout his career.

With his 1971 album, *Poems, Prayers & Promises*, Denver began to hit his commercial stride; the release rose to number fifteen on the album charts and included his first big hit, "Take Me Home, Country Roads." That song, co-written by Denver and Bill Danoff and Taffy Nivert, with a catchy melody and Nivert's haunting harmonies, became an instant country-folk standard. (Danoff and Nivert soon married, formed the Starland Vocal Band, and recorded one of the ickest singles of the '70s, "Afternoon Delight.")

That album also included Denver's first ode to his new home: the song "I Guess He'd Rather Be in Colorado." By Christmas of 1970, he'd moved to Aspen with his first wife, Annie; it would remain his home base for the rest of his life. Denver released another album in 1971, *Aerie*, which reflected both his residency in Colorado ("Starwood in Aspen") and his newfound interest in the environment ("The Eagle and the Hawk"). But the album wasn't a major hit.

His next one, *Rocky Mountain High*, cracked the top ten, making it to number four. Although the title track didn't go higher than nine, it soon became Denver's signature song.

A teenaged Jim Salestrom idolized John Denver in the early 1970s. As the musician writes in his 2021 book *Just Passing Through: Stories From the Road*, he got a preview of "Rocky Mountain High" when Denver played at Red Rocks Amphitheatre as a headliner for the first time in the summer of 1972. (Between 1974 and 1989, Denver played seventeen more times at the venue.) Salestrom was sixteen and in a band with his brother when he got a gig helping manage the sound at Red Rocks for a John Denver concert. He was setting up microphones when someone asked if he needed help; he turned around to see Denver himself. And before the show, he was asked to head backstage as the crowds started to settle into their seats. Denver wanted to show off a new song.

"They played that new song during the sound check. John was so excited about it and so stoked to do it that he invited a few of us to come with him behind the rocks where he played it again," Salestrom recalls in the book. "That night when John played the song for 9,000 people, they knew they were witnessing something really special. As he played 'Rocky Mountain High,' a full moon came up over Denver. At the time, Red Rocks had no stage roof like it has now. And this giant harvest moon came up over the stage, behind John, and everybody went nuts. They all knew, and I knew, too, that this was a special song."

Denver's reign at the top of the charts was surprisingly brief, given the longevity of his legacy.

His period of number-one hits on the top-pop charts lasted only from 1973, with "Sunshine on My Shoulders" and "Annie's Song," to 1975's "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" and "I'm Sorry." Still, he had number-one country hits and adult-contemporary hits, and was named the Country Music Association's Entertainer of the Year in 1975.

He was now pushing interests beyond music, too. His 1975 album, *Windsong*, included "Calypso," a tribute to pioneering ocean environmentalist Jacques-Yves Cousteau, with whom he'd gone scuba diving. It was the flip side of the 1975 number-one single "I'm Sorry," and as the A-side started fading, radio stations began playing "Calypso" and kept the single alive. That release marked Denver's last time at the top of the charts.

He'd already begun starring in a series of TV specials, though, including live performances filmed at Red Rocks. His 1975 *Rocky Mountain Christmas Special* was the highest-rated show on ABC that year and earned three Emmy nominations. Denver guest-starred on various TV series and soon was cast in the 1977 Hollywood comedy *Oh, God!* with co-star George Burns.



As Denver headed into the 1980s, his reach as a pop-culture icon spread far beyond music.

By then I was a card-carrying rock critic (and Westword's first culture editor), which meant I could never admit to liking his often saccharine music ("Thank God I'm a Country Boy," sung in a hokey Southern accent, was particularly insufferable) — but it was hard not to admire his cultural impact.

Even if he did make the phrase "faaaar out" pretty uncool.

Just when "Rocky Mountain High" made its debut fifty years ago, my family had arrived in Colorado from Japan (by way of northern Virginia). My dad, a career federal employee, had taken a job with a new government agency created by soon-to-fall President Richard Nixon called the Environmental Protection Agency, and he was assigned to its office in downtown Denver. We arrived that September and stayed in a Motel 6 off Wadsworth and West Sixth Avenue for a few weeks until our house in Lakewood was finished. The song was in the air everywhere and all the time.

"Yes, 'Rocky Mountain High' fit the timing of our drive to the Rockies and visually described the move," recalls my older brother, Gary. He called a good friend back in Virginia and asked if the song was big there, and he said it was. Although we'd already relocated to Colorado when the song was released in October 1972, many people have credited "Rocky Mountain High" with inspiring them to move to Colorado.

And years later, I learned that "Rocky Mountain High" is one of the American songs cherished by people old and young in Japan, whether or not they can speak English.

Denver built a huge international fan base with his television appearances as well as his music. He was guest host of The Tonight Show multiple times, and thanks to his longtime friendship with Jim Henson, he appeared on numerous Muppets specials as well as two popular Muppets holiday movies, A Christmas Together and Rocky Mountain Holiday. He even hosted a six-part series for the BBC called The John Denver Show.

Denver's popularity helped create a bully pulpit. He formed environmental and humanitarian charitable organizations. They included the Windstar Foundation, founded in 1976 to protect 1,000 acres of land in Snowmass (it was shut down in 2012) and Plant-It 2000, intended to plant trees all over the world. He was also a founder of the Hunger Project.

But when politics collided with pop, the results weren't always pretty. Denver asked to be part of the 1985 recording of "We Are the World," the song written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie to raise funds for USA for Africa. But he was turned down because the song's producers thought his inclusion would hurt the song's credibility.

Still, Denver continued his charity work, which included fighting hunger worldwide. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan, whom Denver had publicly criticized, gave the singer the Presidential World Without Hunger Award.

He wrote "Gold and Beyond" as the theme song for ABC's coverage of the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics, and also served as a ski commentator for the games. He hosted a special for Earth Day in 1990, In Partnership With Earth, and was featured in documentaries about the environment, including a moving PBS special, Let This Be a Voice, that focused on Denver's commitment to environmental issues and was narrated by Peter Coyote.

It was released after John Denver died in 1997, 26 years ago last month, and 26 years after the release of his most famous song.

Denver's love of flying killed him. He'd been taught to fly by his father, and he was so enchanted by flight that he worked with NASA and helped establish the

Citizens in Space program. He wanted to be the first citizen in space but was turned down for the Challenger space shuttle flight in favor of schoolteacher Christa McAuliffe. The Challenger exploded upon liftoff, killing everyone aboard.

Still, Denver kept flying. He was an experienced licensed pilot who could handle all kinds of aircraft. On October 12, 1997, he was piloting a plane he'd just bought that was designed for solo flight and crashed into Monterey Bay. After a memorial service in Aurora, his ashes were spread across the Rocky Mountains.

The State of Colorado ordered all flags to be lowered to half-mast when John Denver died. In 2011, he was the very first inductee into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame, marked by a concert at Broomfield's 1STBANK Center starring Olivia Newton-John, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and others.

John Denver is enjoying a resurgence today, 26 years after his death. "Rocky Mountain High" is played outside in Larimer Square and during hip DJ sets in intimate clubs.

Author G. Brown, who interviewed Denver and helped found the Colorado Music Hall of Fame, worked with the singer's estate to go through his personal effects for exhibits at the Hall, which was originally at the 1STBANK Center and is now at the Trading Post at Red Rocks.

"I went through all these artifacts, and it's really kind of a fun exercise to go up to Aspen," Brown says. "It was like Raiders of the Lost Ark: Pry open the slats, and inside was all sorts of just amazing stuff." One item he recovered from Denver's home was a bust of the musician that wasn't a great likeness but had been made by a fan.

"We put it on display at the 1STBANK Center on a little pedestal. Then, I think it was after a Halloween show, some drunken idiot walked out with it," Brown recalls. It was never found.

Brown is now running the Colorado Music Experience, a website that serves as a hub for multimedia music history, with podcasts, videos, profiles and books. He looks back on John Denver's career as a reporter, not a music critic, and he doesn't agree with beating up on Denver's hit songs. "I never wanted to play the rock critic game," he says. "I wanted to be a reporter. I could have my rock critic's card taken away, but he was the guy who was reaching people with his music. That's what I cared about. There were plenty of people willing to call him a square."

Instead, Brown celebrates John Denver's success. "There's never been anyone like him who's been so ubiquitous," he says. "Not just records, but movies, TV shows, the Muppets, Sinatra, and big opera with Placido Domingo. He was an international star who did

the work going to China and Russia, every corner of the Earth. You know, that's not fake. That's the real deal."

So was his music, Brown adds, even if it didn't appeal to critics. He wasn't trying to be the Ramones. He had string arrangements on his songs that some may consider sappy, but they complemented his perfect pitch. He even toured the world with his string section.

A musical revue of his songs hit the stage in 2006; DVDs of his 1970s specials are hot collectibles today.

When Brown interviewed Denver, the star wasn't upset by criticism. "He wasn't pissed at the people that called him Mickey Mouse or the Ronald Reagan of pop, but he was pissed at how it disparaged his fans," Brown recalls. "The people who have gotten married to one of his songs or played his music when one of their children was born...I mean, that's what he tapped into. So he wasn't cool. There's plenty of uncool people in the world. He was, in his time, one of the top five recording artists of all time, but the point is that his music touched a lot of people."

Even me. As a retired music critic, I can now agree that John Denver did an amazing amount of good for the world in his short time on Earth. He put his sincerity, success and enormous wealth to use. And even 26 years after his death, that good work continues. His legacy is his commitment to social justice and the environment, as well as the songs that fans still revere today.

Faaaar out.

https://www.westword.com/music/john-denver-rocky-mountain-high-anniversary-death-15171778?fbclid=IwAR1zKdLADs3Gtg2xchXFRFs8S-jiyT_r5bODfFMFL8cGhliZVZ51JfMknng_aem_AeGt0mkFaf00hgOTdRjFzxn8rZ4P_Ocg8XAPhIwzZtzuqYMUM A1Z_0wOixS970N10&mibextid=Zxz2cZ

CHRIS COLLINS AND BOULDER CANYON

Chris Collins and Boulder Canyon will be performing *The John Denver Tribute* show on 27 April 2024 at the Strand Theater 119 North Main Street Zelenople PA. There will be two shows - 2pm and 7:30pm. Tickets are available through www.thestrandtheater.org

JOHN ADAMS BAND

John Adams has announced some changes to his band and management. Please refer to his website for more information.

John Adam's *John Denver: The Tribute* show is scheduled for Saturday 12 October 2024 at The Newman Center 2344 E Iliff Ave Denver CO. Tickets go on sale on 3 May 2024.

<https://johnadamsband.com/>

RADIO PROGRAMMES – WILLIE HOEVERS

Willie Hoevers of the Rocky Mountain Foundation for the Performing Arts has worked tirelessly to promote John's music through the foundation and through his regular radio programmes.

In 2013, Willie launched his fortnightly online show, 'The Music of John Denver' for American Veterans radio, which is available globally on www.avradio.org

Watch this space for other syndicated shows. For more information, please contact Willie willie@rockymountainfpa.org

<https://rockymountainfpa.org/home>

ASPEN IN OCTOBER – 2024 EVENTS

Keep checking the new Aspen in October Facebook page for news and updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/7fEV5SJGLARoUljf/?mibextid=K35Xfp>

Events are already being added. You can also contact Laurie through the page if you have any questions.

TRIBUTE ARTISTS

Check out your favourite tribute artists.

CATHY GIANFALA CARRIERE

<http://www.cathygianfalacarriere.com/>

MARK CORMICAN

<http://markcormican.com/schedule/>

JIM CURRY

<https://www.jimcurrymusic.com/future-concerts/>

BACK HOME AGAIN

A tribute to John Denver.

Tom Becker is a former member of the Legendary Folk Group, The New Christy Minstrels, and has gone on to appear with Grammy Winners and Music Legends including Ray Charles, Jerry Lee Lewis, Willie Nelson, Gregg Allman and Jerry Jeff Walker.

<http://www.johndenvertribute.net/schedule.htm>

CHRIS COLLINS AND BOULDER CANYON

Chris Collins & Boulder Canyon has scheduled shows next week on 25 and 26 January in Colorado Springs. Please check the website for details.

<https://www.johndenvertributeband.com/>

CHRIS WESTFALL

<http://www.chriswestfall.com/inConcert.php>

CHRIS BANNISTER

<http://chrisbannisterthemusicofjohndenver.com>

BRAD FITCH

Cowboy Brad has a lot of concerts scheduled for January, February, and March. On Sunday 4 February

2024 he is performing his John Denver Tribute show at Silver Star Theater Mesa AZ at 5:30 pm.

Check his website for all his forthcoming shows.

<http://www.cowboybrad.com>

WILL KRUGER

<http://www.willkruger.com>

Check out Will's forthcoming performances at

<https://www.willkruger.com/schedule/>

RICK SCHULER

<http://www.sunshinerick.com>

TED VIGIL

<http://www.tedvigil.com>

JOHN DENVER PROJECT BAND

<http://johndenverprojectband.it>

RON MATTHEWS

<http://www.ronmathews.net>

For more information about tribute artists around the globe, check out our website; www.hgavic.com

Happy Australia Day – January 26 2024



Some material included in this newsletter has been derived from the public domain, such as the internet and printed media. Articles and reviews are the opinion of the individual writer and as long as the content is of a reasonable nature and it is appropriate, it will be included. Organisations mentioned or featured in this newsletter are included to educate and inform people of their role and purpose. HGA does not profit from including the names of any organisation in this newsletter.

This newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.

The Peace Poem

(John Denver)

*There's a name for war and killing
There's a name for giving in
When you know another answer
For me the name is sin
But there's still time to turn around
And make all hatred cease
And give another name to living
And we could call it peace*

*And peace would be the road we walk
Each step along the way
And peace would be the way we work
And peace the way we play
And in all we see that's different
And in all the things we know
Peace would be the way we look
And peace the way we grow*

*There's a name for separation
There's a name for first and last
When it's all for us or nothing
For me the name is past
But there's still time to turn around
And make all hatred cease
And give a name to all the future
And we could call it peace*

*And if peace is what we pray for
And peace is what we give
Then peace will be the way we are
And peace the way we live
Yes there still is the time to turn around
And make all hatred cease
And give another name to living
And we can call it peace*

