

letter to the editor

It is with a sense of loss and anger that I write to point out that some of my remarks in a recent "Chatham Opinion Line" regarding Blue Cross and Blue shield have been tragically confirmed. I complained about the mailing by which BC&BS flooded North Carolina, a mailing that was an unfounded attack on President Obama's Health Plan; it was also a mailing that focused on NC's junior Senator who, apparently, was pleased to receive the attention. But we now know that the NC Attorney General fined BC/BS \$95,000 for breaking the law regarding this type of mailing. Small potatoes but at least a laudable effort to protect the public. Scratch One!!

Second, in the same opinion piece I reiterated Paul Krugman's May, 2009 column in which he pointed out that BC/BS — and other insurance sellers — would soon move to raise their rates. Thus to no one's surprise, BC/BS just announced a 10-15 percent increase in basic fees for their "wonderful, public spirited," basic health plan

insurance. No doubt some of the increase will cover the cost of their legal fees, the NC Attorney General's fine and, of course, the cost of that prodigious mail campaign of last fall. What a lovely group! What makes me feel a great loss, fueling a pent up anger, is the fact that because of their uncanny perception of how to time and tell these massive untruths, they have actually convinced a lot of us — the bag holders — to believe that they are still Mother Blue — while raising their rates with a "smile on her face." Their next move, after the increase is approved, will probably be the funding of a string of BC/BS "tea parties," where Mother Blue will once again work her magic!

Since many of us have entered the season of Lent, which begins with putting ashes on our heads, the BC/BS example may be counted as a necessary suffering, a corporate pay-back for our sins!

Woe, O Woe are We

— Bill Sommers
Farrington Village

POETRY

Abwanderung*

By Roy Stawsky

Alamance County
what have you done?
Racial Cleansing
through
Racial Profiling
Broke families
broke lives

Done
subtly
and legally
smoothly
and cruelly

But you are not in good company in the History books

Solo otra página en
La historia de la infamia
You did it:
Abwanderung

You get what you wanted:
pretty soon
there will be no Hispanics left in there

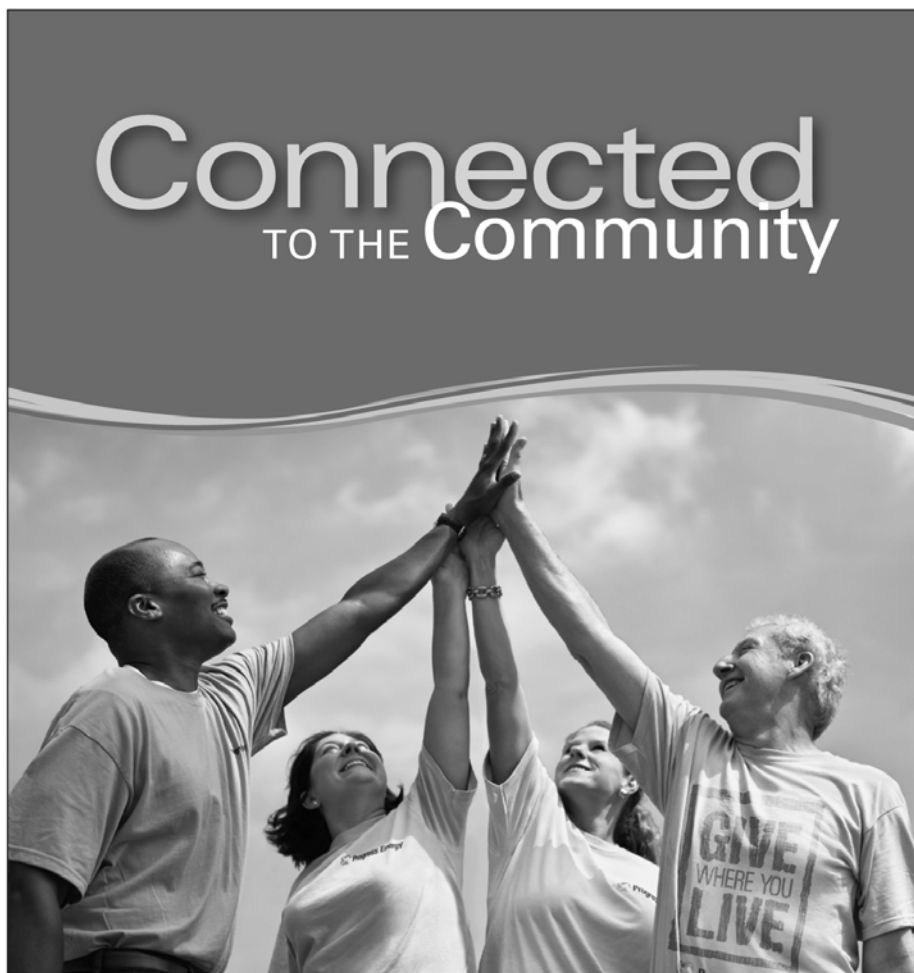
Now you will have to take care of your yard,
cook and serve your own food in restaurants
for minimum wages
build cheaply your houses
baby-sit
clean your bathrooms
and
teach Spanish to your children

* *Abwanderung* was the Nazi cover term for deportations to death camps (i.e. Jews from a given locality "voluntarily" migrated)

Roy Stawsky is an interpreter who occasionally works in Alamance County Courts.

Make your VOICE heard!

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LOOKING AT POWER IN A NEW LIGHT.



Judy Hogan to teach poetry, lifestyle

Judy Hogan, poet and free-lance writer, will be offering her workshop "Lifestyle Support for Writers and Artists" on Saturday March 6, 9 a.m-4 p.m. at her home in Moncure. Lunch will be provided. The focus will be on all the many ways that writers and artists can reliably get

their work done, including managing time, money, diet, exercise, so as to live in a healthy, self-confident way, with regular time set aside for creative work. In-class exercises will promote problem solving and free up creativity.

She is also teaching "Using the Tradition to Find the Poet's Voice," which started March 1 at CCCC in Pittsboro and meets Mondays 7-9 p.m. through April 26, skipping Easter Monday (April 5th).

Those interested may contact Judy by phone 919.545.9932 or email: judyhogan@mindspring.com

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