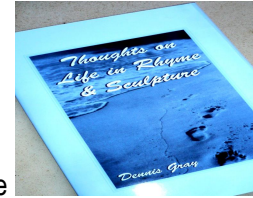




## Just in case it matters to you:

CLIENT / CONTACT BULLETIN 10-04



- WASTING TIME, KEEPING PERSPECTIVE AND AVOIDING 'USELESS AGGRAVATION' are some of the 27 essay-poems from Dennis Gray (aka Dennis Duitch), in his newest book *THOUGHTS ON LIFE IN RHYME AND SCULPTURE*. "Introspection which touches our own sensibilities, making one pause and reflect on what's important, meaningful and true about our own lives"... "Touching upon facets of daily life in a very profound way"... "Kudos to Mr. Gray" read some of the many positive Reviews. *THOUGHTS* is now available in bookstores, at [www.DennisGraySculpture.com](http://www.DennisGraySculpture.com), and from Amazon.com at [http://www.amazon.com/Thoughts-Life-Rhyme-Sculpture-Dennis/dp/0533160839/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1261093474&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.com/Thoughts-Life-Rhyme-Sculpture-Dennis/dp/0533160839/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1261093474&sr=1-1)
- 'STRATEGIC CHANGE MANAGEMENT' TOPS THE LIST OF "RISKS that could stand in the way of strategic objectives," based on a survey of finance executives by Corporate Executive Board. "The upheaval of the past year and desire to seize opportunities during the recovery will make for a lot of changes, including mergers, acquisitions and divestitures. These shifts leave a lot of room for controls to fall through the cracks and can create new liabilities." Also high in likelihood of risk is Fraud – "widely thought to pick up (or be revealed) in down times and easier to commit at companies that are short-staffed and under pressure." A recent survey by KPMG found two-thirds of executives reporting that "inadequate controls or compliance programs...enable fraud and misconduct to go unchecked." DCG has served clients in precisely these areas for decades, at fees which are exceptionally cost-effective for the protection of business assets and profitability, even survival. Courtesy consultation meetings are now scheduling thru February. [JRNL OF ACCOUNTANCY and CFO.com – Jan, 10]
- THE OUTLOOK FOR JOB RECOVERY REMAINS BLEAK. The 'signs of recovery' purported by politicians and media are so far invisible to the employment market. Today, there are "more than six unemployed Americans for every job opening and competition getting more intense despite the resumption of growth," with around 6M people now out of work for over seven months – the highest rate in sixty years! Our total labor force drop is "unprecedented in the post-war period" – more than 1.5M workers before even counting those who've given up and stopped looking. Moreover, after the internet-bust recession in 2001, "it took four solid years for employment to regain its peak, with jobs so scarce that wages stagnated even as the cost of living rose... Since householders are now virtually unable to borrow, families will have to make do with less, and reduced spending is likely to make the economic recovery even more uncertain." [THE ECONOMIST – Jan 16, 10]
- "POST-9/11 AIRPORT SECURITY HAS BEEN DEvised FOR OUR PSYCHOLOGICAL COMFORT rather than our physical safety." Today's color-coded alarms and "shoeless grannies shuffling through airports" are comparably absurd to security measures of the 1950s – when "duck and cover drills prepared kids for a nuclear attack by cowering beneath wooden desks to safely shield from radiation." Twenty years later, Americans "could laugh in the face of existential peril; a 1982 documentary *The Atomic Café* used archival footage to depict such nuclear preparedness as national security's homage to Lucille Ball... Perhaps someday we'll muster a similarly cheeky response to the era of doofus bombers" and cumbersome airport procedures applicable to *all* travelers, in order to maintain 'no profiling' political correctness. "Real security would come from a focus on keeping bad people, instead of bad things, off planes." [THE WEEK – Jan 15, 10]
- THE 2010 CENSUS IS NOW UNDERWAY UNTIL APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup>, with nearly 11% of the 120M questionnaires to be distributed in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Vietnamese versions. Since this 'count' is the basis – for the next ten years – of apportioning seats in the House of Representatives and distributing federal funds, as well as drawing boundaries for state legislatures and local school boards, partisan politics will of course prevail. "Jigsaw-puzzle gerrymandering is now elaborated by computers, not pens, but the guidance still comes from shameless politicians." [THE ECONOMIST – WORLD IN 2010]
- THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK: "***We are all stupid, just on different subjects.***" – Mark Twain