



WRITING CURRENTS

Peace River Center for Writers

Our Mission

To help people develop skill in using the written word in any form. To provide effective and timely support for writers. To provide educational, literary and informational services and events. To encourage dialogue and communication among the public at large. To help promote a strong sense of community in Charlotte County and in Southwest Florida.

Peace River Center for Writers, Inc. is an independent, non-profit public organization that offers assistance in all kinds of writing, and to writers of all backgrounds.

About Us

The PRCW is an organization dedicated to writers and the written word. Through an array of educational and informational programs, services and events, the Center aims to provide support for those wishing to pursue the craft of writing in any form.

As a community-based non-profit organization, the Center fosters a close relationship with the people of Southwest Florida, but our goal is to reach out to writers everywhere. Click on the links above to find out more. Successful writing is hard work, but it does not have to be just you and the proverbial blank sheet of paper. The Center wants to bring writers of all kinds together. Whether you are a published writer or a complete novice, a journalist or a marketing rep, a novelist or a paralegal, we think you'll find a congenial home with Peace River Writers.



Kelly Youngquest entertains Fishmanvillagers during a summer Open Mic.

State of the Center

First, thank you new and returning members. Without your support we could not continue. Also, thanks to my wonderful wife, Martha, for creating this newsletter.

Most of the board members have returned from various journeys and are ready to resume full operations for the Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College. With the Center's largest board (14 directors) and new members joining, PRCW is ready to continue serving the area with new workshops, visiting writers, critique groups, open mics, and other events on campus, Fisherman's Village, and other areas throughout Charlotte County. During our Board of Director's meeting, Tuesday August 23, your board will, no doubt, come up with more.



This year, due to many reasons, the directors decided to take it slow during the summer. We did have some events, of which you will read, but many of our continuing services took the summer off. Although Story Boyle is greatly missed, we've had some help from Edison student Casey Sutton and our long-time, super-excellent accountant Madelon Becker in the PRCW office. During the first part of the break Doug Houck supervised the office and since then I've spent quite a lot of time working on our Center's business.

We are about to renew our relationship with Edison State College and are very happy to do so. The facilities and support the college brings will insure we will be there for you, our community of members. I remember one evening, before PRCW, watching Carol Mahler MC an Open Mic at the "Summer Mood" cafe (now, sadly closed). There were students from my creative writing class and members of Carol's "Allbooks" group. Youth and wisdom, so different in many ways. However, once they began reading, what seemed like polar opposites combined. As each reader chose the next from Carol's magic hat, the audience marveled in the sharing of feelings, ideas, and words spoken. I'll never forget that moment because, at that time, I witnessed two very different generations coming together, even if for a little while. I hope to see much more of this in the coming year.

Thanks for your support,
John Pelot

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New & Renewing Members

Welcome to our new members: David M. Bryce, Sara Dorato, and John T. Johnson.

Thank you renewing members as well:

Arlene S. Kincaid, Dr. Janice Jaen, Roland E. Edwards, Rachel Nellis, Robert J. Taylor, and Clarissa C. Thomasson.

YRI

"You wrote it you read it" is still happening nearly monthly, on Friday nights at various locations. This spring and summer we had readings at the homes of Copey Copenhagen, Tina Pond, Michael Haymans, and the Pelots. Debra Scott, a former director of PRCW and always a great help, is the informal facilitator for this group of writers, musicians, and artists. They have been meeting for nearly twenty years and you will not want to miss Halloween at Debra's particular place of business.



The Copenhagen's place.
What a treat.



Story and Captain set sail on a full moon boat cruise with PRCW folks and friends.

Call for Volunteers

The PRCW will miss Story Boyle but hopefully she will return for a visit, maybe teach a workshop or help facilitate a critique group. Right now we are looking for members interested in helping lead our sessions known as "Critique Circle". Please refer to our calendar for dates and times. If anyone is interested in continuing the "Poet's Table" please let a board member know and we will discuss this at the next meeting.

We also need volunteers for our Open Mic program at Fisherman's Village. The second Monday of each month, at 6:30 PM, we meet at Center Stage in the middle of the Village and read poems, short prose, essays, have music and sometimes singing as well. We need members willing to MC these events. We'd have a new "guest" MC monthly.



Harpoon Harry's recedes as Moon Light Cruise moves forward in early evening on the "Good Times Two"

Stacy Hill

Stacy grew up in harsh times outside of Detroit, a split family and the eldest daughter she had to be strong. Her love for writing and art was the only gift she received from her biological father. It was her escape and the way she was able to express herself truly. After moving to Florida as a teen Stacy felt ripped from her friends and began keeping a journal which led to poetry and drawings of her new experiences. A hard life pursued but she prevailed.

Now a mother of four and grandmother of one she passes down the tradition of art, writing and poetry to her children who seem to enjoy it as much as she does. Stacy continues to write but has found her true calling in writing in the form of Slam Poetry. She writes with passion and flare as she speaks on subjects that are close to her heart.

Stacy is currently a student at Edison State College where she is finishing her last semester before transferring to USF in spring to pursue her Masters in Psychology. She is also a member of PRCW and has a Facebook group dedicated to artists of all kinds called *Creative Minds...Creative Hands*.

Amber Maksymiak

Originally from Homestead, Florida in 2007, Amber, her husband and three children are happy to make Port Charlotte their home. Edison State College is one of the reasons for this. After completing a paralegal program with an A. S., Amber went for an A. A. degree and is now working on her Bachelors in Education. Her numerous honors upon earning her second degree - Tutor of the Year, Outstanding Graduate in Arts and Sciences, one of two nominees for the President's award, the highest award bestowed on a graduate - attest to this student's scholarship and pure tenacity. We are proud she is a director and secretary to the board of the PRCW.

And we share her with Edison's Academic Success Center, Meadow Park Elementary, and Cub Scout Pack 310.



Tommy Von Voigt

Another talented Edison student, Tommy is multi-talented. As a musician - lead singer/writer for "Bad Magistrate", he is living proof that hard work pays off. Von Voigt is also a talented writer, auto mechanic, and artist. Recent news is the band will play in St. Petersburg for "Rib Fest" at the Marriott Renaissance Hotel Vinoy. Somehow this is no surprise for this renaissance man. Besides, "Rib Fest" is huge!

Mental Cross Roads

by Arlene S. Kincaid

I have arrived at a large scary cross roads,
and my mind is carrying some heavy loads.

I need to stop, think, and rest.

Now which road to take, is this a test?

There's Brain Freeze Terrace.

Think I've been there many a time,
which may started way back in my prime.

Confusion Boulevard is a frightening route, too.

Makes me tired just trying to figure out what to do.

One sign points to the left – Senior Moments Highway.

If I can remember, I'll take that route another day.

How about Memory Loss Trail; which way to turn?

Oh, for my younger memory, I simply do yearn.

Alzheimer Alley, now where will that go?

Even if I turn there, do you think I'll know?

I find other people at that cross road intersection,
trying hard to decide where to go and in which direction.

So when I talk with family and friends,
and notice the same brain signs,
I wonder, what do you think,
are we all about to lose our minds?



Hemingway's writing room as reflected in a mirror. Key West, Florida.



Michael Haymans, playn' and a singn'
at Fishermans Village

An Interlude With The Wind

As the orange sun shown
in the blue clad sky,
I called to the wind
seeking it's cool refreshing presence

Softly it came, caressing my warm
skin
as it whispered hushed lullabies
through leaves and limbs

It swept across the lake
creating glittering diamonds on it's
surface
Long green blades of saw grass
swayed in
melodic rhythm under it's spell

Varieties of birds sang plaintive songs
as they flew gracefully through the
green woodland forest

My spirit was renewed as I enjoyed
the tranquil communion of mother
nature
and the special gifts offered in this
peaceful
time and place

By Mary Grace Patterson

Silently, The Banshees Waived

The day before
On a distant hillside
Across an open valley
Like discarded toys of a child
Rotting, bloating in the sun
Lay the enemy dead

At midnight I rose
To stand my watch and to stare
Into the cold blackness of the night
All was still, all quiet across the valley
Moonlight filtered through fleeting clouds
That was when they first came out

Gossamer forms in the mist
Shapeless, shimmering, moving
Always moving without a sound
An eerie mingling of moonlight and shadow
Never drawing near never out of sight
Silent mourning filled the air

I cradled my rifle close to my chest
Lightly stroked the steel of boxed grenades
Caressed the bandoleer draped over my shoulder
Comforted by the solidness of cold metal
I stood guard, alone in the night
And watched the dance of the silent banshees

Heedlessly, the gauze-like figures
Continued their ethereal communion
Swaying softly in the gentle breeze
Curtsying one to another tirelessly
All through the night
Until the morning dawn

Stock still they patiently stood in line
Then, gradually, faded into the tombstones
At the foot of the hill where I stood my watch
Those spectral figures, so free in the night
Now still, unmoving in the soft morning light
Safely hidden in the stone, beyond the reach of war

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Dobie Pasco reading at Fishermans

Summer Happenings

- Open Mic, June 13
MC—John Pelot
- YRI, Debra Scott
- Open Mic, Hava Java,
MC—Shirley George
- Veteran's open Mic, July 11
MC—Michael Haymans.
- Open Mic, August 8
MC—Dobie Pasco



An Overview of Selfishness

Feeling overwhelmed...
lost in this world of
chaos and confusion...
feeling misunderstood, miss
interpreted

Just want to be held not under pressure
just want to be loved not forced to love
just want to relax
not worry.

Children walk the halls of the house,
ears closed, eyes shut and
selfish
hearts a glow
simple requests
not met
such a disappointment.

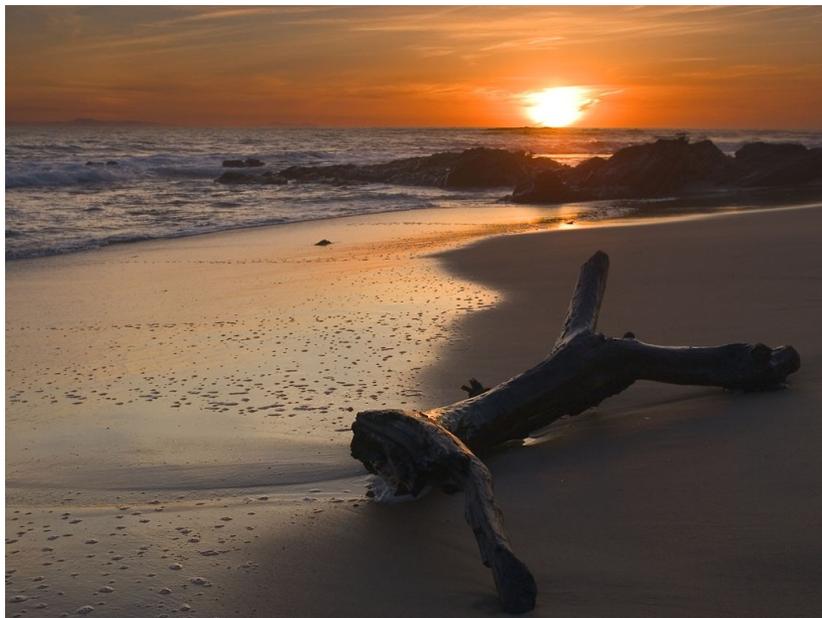
Barefoot
just get dirty,
clean hands no more
washing, rinsing, wiping, cleaning
while others are
pre-occupied in their own
little worlds.

Help nowhere to be found but
in the loving hands of him
keeping pressures
off his heart I bear the weight
more and more

Under construction
mind, body, soul
re-evaluating
family, love, spirit
epiphany come a many times
in the cold night

Distance
loss of control
distance
they ask for more than I can give
distance
wanting time, wanting things
distance
can't supply all requests
distance
close my mind
distance.

Stacy Hill



Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College

Fall Program September through December 2011

Monthly Writer's Breakfast

October 1st,
November 5th, and
December 3rd.
9:00A.M.

Members and guests are invited to participate in the Monthly Writer's Breakfast. Meetings will be held in the *Closer to the Vine* Restaurant on Sullivan Street in downtown Punta Gorda. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast while reading and discussing your literary endeavors.

No charge except the cost of your breakfast.

Kid's Stuff Program

Second Saturday of each month
10:00 A.M.—12ish

The Peace River Center for Writers has just the thing for both aspiring and established writers of children's books. Kids Stuff! It's a critique group for authors who are writing or wish to write children's books. They are held in Room 116 at Edison State College.

There is no charge for PRCW members. Nonmembers may attend while deciding if they wish to become members.

Prose Writing Workshop

September 24th,
October 15th,
October 29th,
November 12th,
November 26th
10:00 A.M.— 12

Doug Houck and Joyce Schenk will offer an ongoing Five Session Continuing Prose Critique and Writing Workshop. The workshop will focus on writing the memoir, short story, novel, or work of nonfiction and preparing it for publication.

Cost is \$20 a session for PRCW members or \$75 for all five sessions. Nonmembers cost is \$40 per session.

4. Poetry Writing Workshop

Tuesday September 6
Tuesday October 4
5:30P.M. (other dates & times TBA)

John Pelot and other area poets will offer an ongoing Five Session Continuing Poetry Critique and Writing Workshop. The workshop will focus on writing poetry and preparing it for publication or entry in the Second PRCW Poetry Contest. The group will meet on Tuesday September 6, at 5:30 for "Writing Poetry Naturally" and Tuesday October 4 for a continuation of the class: "Poetry Critique" where the poems written after the first session will be discussed in workshop format. There will be three more writing poetry sessions by guest poets with dates and times TBA.

Cost is \$20 a session for PRCW members or \$75 for all five sessions. Nonmembers cost is \$40 per session.

Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College

Fall Program September through December 2011

Journaling Workshop

Joyce Schenk will offer a two hour single session journaling workshop from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Thursday October 6th.

Cost is \$20 for PRCW members and \$40 for nonmembers.

Celebrate Authors Program

November 27th

Time

The annual PRCW Celebrate Authors program will be held at Fisherman's Village on Sunday afternoon November 27th. Authors will display and sell their work as part of the holiday season event at Fisherman's Village.

Cost is \$10 if the author provides their table and \$25 if we have to provide a table.

The Writers Tea

Aug. 16

Sept 20

1 to 3 P.M.

Will be held the third Tuesday of each month at Artisans on Herald Court and Olympia in Punta Gorda. Writers of poetry and stories are invited to join us in a relaxed atmosphere to read their writings. Listeners are welcome to attend also.

Herbal Teas will be served. Guests are asked to bring munchies of some kind to share.

If you have any questions, you can call the Tea facilitators: Arlene Kincaid 625-7312 or Mary Grace Patterson 575-0739. A special thanks to James Abraham bookbroker, for extending an invitation for us to use his facility!

For our Sept Tea, we are asking anyone who would like to participate, to write a poem or story about happenings in Sept, such as Labor Day, 9--11, or the beginning of fall.

Free of charge.

Special One Hour Workshop with poet Gerry LaFemina

November 7th

Time

Place

Gerry LaFemina will offer a one hour workshop followed by a reading on Monday afternoon November 7th. He teaches at Frostburg State College in Maryland and directs the Frostberg Center for Creative Writing. Gerry has published three chapbooks and four books of poetry.

Cost of the workshop is \$10 for PRCW members and \$20 for nonmembers.

Open Mic Programs

6:30P.M. Fishermans Village

6:00P.M. Hava Java

PRCW will continue its Open Mic programs at Fisherman's Village on the second Monday evening of each month and at the Hava Java Restaurant in Port Charlotte on the third Friday of each month.

Free of charge.



Fishermen's Village

is a Corporate Member of PRCW@ESC
Visit their web site at <http://www.fishville.com>

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“There are two kinds of writers: those that make you think, and those that make you wonder.”

- Brian Aldiss



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