



January/February 2011
Volume 10, Issue 1

WRITING CURRENTS

Peace River Center for Writers

PRCW Receives a Florida Humanities Grant

By Doug Houck

This year, the PRCW collaborated with the Visual Arts Center and the Charlotte Symphony to provide a program celebrating the Native American contribution to music, art, and literature. The events related to this program will span February through April, and encompass all of the arts, from writing to music to the visual arts.

To begin the program, the Charlotte Symphony has scheduled a special concert featuring the Native American flute player, R. Carlos Nakai, entitled "Two World Concerto for Cedar Flute and Orchestra." This concert will be held on the evening of Saturday, February 5th, with a preconcert lecture beginning at 6:30pm in the auditorium of the Performing Arts Center. The performance begins at 7:30pm. For ticket pricing and information, please contact the Charlotte Symphony at (941) 205-9743.

Continuing the spring program, Guy LaBree's paintings will be on display in the Visual Arts Center Gallery during the month of March. Guy LaBree was featured in Carol Mahler's book *Guy Labree: Barefoot Artist of the Seminole*, and his work captures a glimpse of Seminole life with a rare accuracy. A Public Reception and Dialogue will take place at the Visual Arts Center, located on 210 Maude St, on Wednesday evening, March 9, 2011. Together, Mahler and LaBree will discuss his work. There is no cost for this portion of the program, as it is being funded by the Florida Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Arts.

The Peace River Center for Writers will follow up with a Poetry Month Program and Reading that will be held on Thursday evening April 7, 2011. Elgin Jumper, published poet, essayist, artist, and member of the Seminole Nation of Florida will read and discuss his poetry. The program will be held in the Edison State College Auditorium and again, there will not be a charge as the program is funded by the Florida Humanities Council and National Endowment for the Arts. The public is invited.

2011 Board of Directors

David Abraham • James Abraham • Catherine Bukovitz • Shirley George • Dr. Douglas Houck • Dr. Janice Jaén • Sam King • Linda Mahshie • Amber Maksymiak • John Pelot • Natala Orobello • Carl Parrott • Mary Grace Patterson • Naomi Pringle • Dr. Thomas Rath

Board Alternate:

Michelle Fanslau

FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Thank You to Our Renewing Members:

James T. Kelly
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James Abraham

Welcome to Our New Members:

Patricia Allen
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Kathleen Clark
Michael B. Elkady
Marie Glasgow
George Hart
Stacy M. Hill
Donald Kennedy
Leonard "Dobie" Pasco
Carline Pierre
Steven Price
Chris Riccio
Kayla Rockower
Beverly Sears
Judith & Norton Sims
Kyle Smothers
Glania Sylvain
Tom Von Voigt

KIDS STUFF will meet on Saturday, February 12th, in room O-116 on the Edison Charlotte Campus. If you have an interest in writing for children, from picture books to young adult novels, this is your group! Laura Aldir-Hernandez facilitates. Please bring 8-10 copies of your manuscript or writing excerpt (please limit to 5 or 6 double spaced manuscript pages at a time) for critique. Writers without a ready manuscript are also welcome.

OPEN MIC AT FISHERMEN'S VILLAGE will take place on Monday, February 14th, at Fishermen's Village on the center stage. Grab a bite to eat at the Village Oyster Bar or the Village Fish Market, and enjoy the show! Beginning at 6:30pm, poets, writers, essayists, and songwriters from Charlotte County and beyond will take the stage to bring you two hours of pure creativity.

WRITER'S TEA, facilitated by Mary Grace Patterson and Arlene Kincaid, will meet February 15th in The Literary Suite, a gathering place for writers. For more information, call Mary Grace at 575-0739 or Arlene at 941- 625- 7312. The Literary Suite is located in the Herald Court Centre parking structure at 117 Herald Court in Punta Gorda. For information on the Literary Suite, please call James Abraham at 941-740-3071.

OPEN MIC 2 AT HAVA JAVA will be held on Friday, February 18th. Shirley George emcees. Located at 2711 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte, we begin at a **new time**, 6 pm, and the readings and performances run until 8:30pm. Bring your poems, stories, excerpts, and music; share, or just come to listen and grab a bite.

THE POET'S TABLE is a new critique group beginning Friday, January 28th. It will meet the fourth Friday of every month, at Mercer's Fresh Roasted Coffee, on 127 E. Charlotte Ave. at 4pm. Poets will workshop their poetry, toss ideas around, and send their work off to new publications each meeting. The Poet's Table meets in February on the 25th.

CRITIQUE CIRCLE will be held Monday, February 28nd, in room O-116. The group is limited to six readers, but there is no attendance cap. If you just wish to attend to give feedback, or get an idea of how a group critique flows, please come to check it out! Readers should sign up beforehand so we know how many will be participating, and should bring six to eight copies of their work. Bring pens and pencils to scribble feedback as well!

February 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
** Indicates a workshop		1	2	3	4	5 Writer's Tour of Babcock Nakai Concerto
6	7	8 **The Poet's Workshop	9	10	11	12 Kids Stuff
13	14 Open Mic at Fishermen's Vilage Valentine's Poetry- Grams	15	16	17	18 Open Mic at Hava Java	19 **Writing on the College Level
20	21	22 The Writers' Tea	23	24	25 The Poet's Table	26 **Crafting Memories— Memoir Writing
27	28 Critique Circle					

Last Time at the Board Meeting...

Six board members were in attendance, making a quorum: Mary Grace Patterson, Doug Houck, Tom Rath, John Pelot, Linda Mahshie, and Peggydawn Moran were there.

Doug asked Amber Maksymiak, a student of Edison, to join the board, which was motioned and passed. The board discussed a membership push, and that if we are to serve student members, they have to be the type who are really interested in the Center.

The board also discussed the members' meeting, Saturday, January 22nd. Story Boyle secured Spazzi Italian Grill as a location for the meeting. It will be held at 1 p.m. Fundraisers were discussed. The Babcock tour now has tickets; Story finished designing them, and Linda will print them. The Valentine's poetry gram fundraiser will be held again, because it cost the PRCW next to nothing, last year produced a quality product, and even though the numbers of participants were low last time, it was pure profit, and easy to repeat with better advertising.

The board discussed new workshop ideas, and 3 new workshops were decided upon. There are a number of adverts for our fundraisers that must go in to the newsletter: Babcock, Valentines, and the Moonlight Cruise. The Cruise has been set for March's full moon, and we secured the same discounted rate as we did last year, \$700 tax free due to our non-profit status. Linda brought up the Poet's Table, and we discussed holding it at Mercer's. Finally, the January Board Meeting was voted to be held on January 25th (a Tuesday) at 1 p.m., after the new board was voted on, and the main order of business at that meeting will be the officers.

Don't forget, the PRCW is now on Facebook! Search for "The Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College" on Facebook and "like" our page!

GOD SPOKE
by Joe Hendrickson

I opened heaven for you today
'Cause I like your faith and the way you pray.
I have always had My eye on you and
Always wondered what you might do,
I opened heaven for you today.
My son, Jesus heard what you said about Him
And related His joy to the throne
And He liked your faith and the way you pray.
God spoke to me today early at home
He liked my faith and the way I pray.

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or by appointment

February Workshops:

The Poet's Workshop

John Pelot

Friday, Feb 8

5:30pm to 7:30pm

Room D-108

John Pelot, Professor of English at Edison State College, will conduct a discussion about poetry with examples from the classics as well as the current poetry scene. He will also lead a critique session on participants' own, original poems. Participants should send no more than three pages of poetry to JPelot@Edison.edu as a "Word" attachment to their email, a week before the class. Submissions may be anonymous or the author announced: please advise in your email which you prefer.

This class is for beginner's and more advanced poets, any style or subject and theme. Professor Pelot holds the B.A. in English with emphasis in creative writing and a Masters in Fine Arts, with his graduate thesis in poetry from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Workshop: Writing on the College Level

Shirley George, Story Boyle

Saturday, Feb 10

11am to 1pm

Room E-113

Shirley George and Story Boyle will outline the basics of constructing an argument, some pointers on grammar, and show participants how to lend rhetorical strength to a paper. This workshop is useful not just to college students, but to anyone who needs to write an argument, or make a point using information. We will also discuss clarity and readability.

Crafting Memories—Memoir Writing

Mary Lundeberg

Saturday, Feb 26

7pm to 9pm

Room E-113

Mary Lundeberg will lead this one-hour venture into the craft of writing memoirs, a form of writing close to fiction in its narrative, and yet based on fact and memory.



All workshops will take place on the Edison Charlotte campus. Please call ahead to reserve a spot, as we must have at least three participants to run a workshop. Workshops without at least three participants will be canceled. Workshops fees are \$10 per hour for members and \$20 per hour for non-members. For more information, contact the PRCW at (941) 637-3514 or by email at prcw@edison.edu.

Fishermen's Village

is a Corporate Member of PRCW@ESC

Visit their web site at <http://www.fishville.com>

WRITERS IN THE WILD

"I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived." ~Henry David Thoreau

On Saturday, February 5, the PRCW will carry on that tradition, with a trip to Babcock Ranch. The picnic portion will begin at noon, with an open mic. Hot dogs will be provided.

At 2pm, the tour will begin of the backwoods of Babcock, aboard swamp buggies. Florida's oak hammocks are more diverse than many know, and this is a great opportunity to learn and be inspired!

Directions from the north: take I-75 to exit 164 to Highway 17; head north one mile to State Road 74 and go east 15 miles to State Road 31; then head south and look for the Tour Entrance 6 miles on the left. **Directions from the south:** I-75 to exit 143 head, east on Route 78 to State Road 31 and go north 9 miles and look for the Tour Entrance on the right.

Babcock Wilderness Adventures, 8000 State Road 31, Punta Gorda, Florida 33982

Tickets are available in advance for \$25. Call (941) 637-3514 to reserve yours.



Say it with Poetry...

On Valentine's Day there are many ways to say "I love you" to friends, family, or that special someone, but few are as unique as a poetry-gram with a

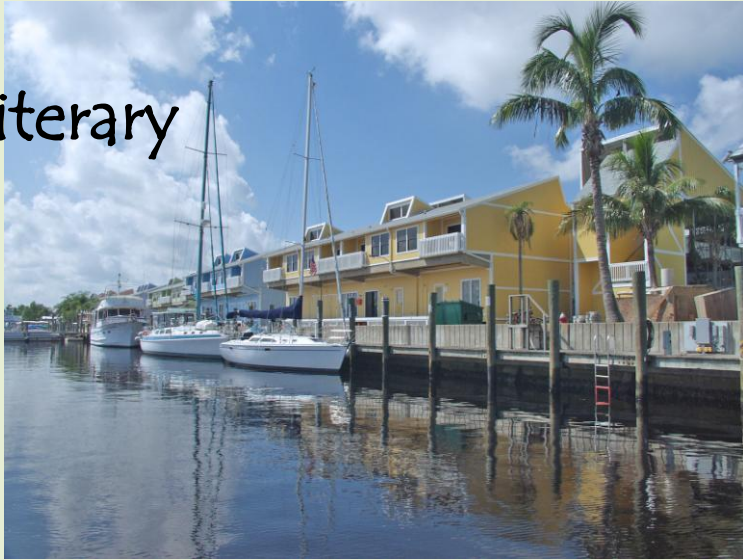
personalized message. This year, as a fundraiser for the Center, the Peace River Writers will deliver poetry-grams to the doors and telephones of you loved ones. All hand-delivered poetry-gram recipients will also receive a printed copy of the poem you commissioned, with your message at the top, delivered on Valentine's Day, Monday February 14th, 2011. Telephone poetry-gram recipients will receive their poem via phone call on Valentine's Day, and we will mail a copy to their home address anywhere in the country. Hand-delivered poetry-grams are available for \$10, and telephone poetry-grams are \$5.

Delivered poetry-grams are limited to recipients who live in the Port Charlotte, Murdock, and Punta Gorda areas. We will need your name and your recipient's name, address, and phone number to deliver the poetry-gram. Please limit your personal message to no more than 50 words. To send a poetry-gram, please contact:

The Peace River Center for Writers
26300 Airport Rd, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-637-3514 • prcw@edison.edu
Office hours: 3pm-6pm Mon-Fri



Peace River Moonlight Literary Cruise



Sign up now for the return of our Moonlight Literary Cruise. Join the Peace River Center for Writers for an evening of fun, poetry, frolic, and music on Charlotte Harbor under the light of the full moon. The Moonlight Cruise will be sailing with the Kingfisher Fleet, and depart Fishermen's Village at 7:30 pm, Saturday, March 19th, 2011. We'll catch the sunset and be out on the water to greet the full moon with an open mic. Our two and a half hour cruise will return to Fishermen's Village at about 10:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25

To reserve yours, call (941) 637-3514

**Peace River Center for Writers
at Edison State College**

26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, FL 33950 • Room B-114

Phone: 941.637.3514 • Email: prcw@edison.edu

Web Site: <http://peacriverwriters.org>

Or find us on Facebook!