



March/April 2011
Volume 10, Issue 2

WRITING CURRENTS

Peace River Center for Writers

"Celebrating Native Americans in Florida"

This year, the PRCW is participating with the Visual Arts Center, the Charlotte Symphony, and the Arts and Humanities Council in a inter-organizational arts endeavor to bring to Charlotte County a program, "Celebrating Native Americans in Florida," in honor of their oft unrecognized presence in the humanities. The story of "art" is often incorrectly seen as the story of the Western world, discounting the voices and narratives outside this perspective. However, as we move through the 21st century and the globe becomes more connected, these narratives have been shown to be vitally important to our narratives of self and community on a global scale. Please join us in this celebration!

The first event, a concert by R. Carlos Nakai, kicked off the program at the beginning of February. March and April will continue the celebration with events featuring the artwork of Guy LaBree and Seminole poet Elgin Jumper. An exhibit of Guy LaBree's paintings will begin on March the 9th, at the Visual Arts Center, located on 210 Maud Street in Punta Gorda. The exhibit will be ushered in with a reception by LaBree himself and Carol Mahler, founder of the PRCW and author of *Guy LaBree: Barefoot Artist of the Florida Seminoles*.

Continuing the program, the Peace River Center for Writers will be welcoming Elgin Jumper to the Edison State College Charlotte campus on 26300 Airport Road in Punta Gorda for National Poetry Month on Thursday, April 7th, at 6:30 pm.

All of these events are brought to you free of charge thanks to a grant from the Florida Humanities Council, and with great thanks to our print media sponsors, The Charlotte Sun Herald.

**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!

Thank You to Our Renewing Members:

Dorothy Brooks
Shirley George
Martha Pelot
Sharon Shatney
Jeff C. Young

Welcome to Our New Members:

Joan Cooke
Vonna Cranston
Sam King
Mary Lundeberg
Michael Lynn
Miles McNeill
Kimbly Rhodes

MARCH AND APRIL ACTIVITIES

KIDS STUFF will meet on Saturday, March 26th, instead of the normal date, at 10am until noon in room O-116 on the Edison Charlotte Campus, due to the Edison's spring break. April's meeting will occur on the 9th. 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, March 14th, and Monday April 11th 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.

THE WRITER'S TEA, facilitated by Mary Grace Patterson and Arlene Kincaid, will meet March 15th and April 19th at 1pm until 3pm 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, March 18th and April 15th. 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 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 March on the 25th and in April on the 22nd.

CRITIQUE CIRCLE will be held Monday, March 28nd and **Tuesday** April 26th in room O-116. The group is limited to six readers, but there is no attendance cap. If you just wish to

(continued)

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!

March and April Workshops:

The Art of the Short Story

Story Boyle

Tuesday, March 15

6pm to 8pm

Room O-116

What makes a short story? A contained form of fiction, the concerns of writing a short story differ from shorter forms—like flash fiction—and longer forms—like the novelette and novel. Published short fiction author Story Boyle will help you use these differences to best effect in your writing.

An Hour with Dinty W. Moore

Dinty W. Moore

Saturday, March 19

4pm to 5pm

Room O-117

This workshop is **free** to the public, as part of the Florida Literary Arts Coalition presentations during the 2010/11 year. Join us before our Moonlight Literary Cruise to pick the brain of author Dinty W. Moore. Visit his website <http://www.dintywmoore.com/>.

Folklore

Gerald Hausman

Saturday, April 2

11am to 1pm

Room O-116

Join local folklorist, storyteller and author Gerald Hausman for this exploration of using folklore in fiction. Visit his website at <http://geraldhausman.com/>.

Exploring Playwriting

David Abraham

Mondays, March 21,

April 11, and April 25

6pm to 8pm

Room O-116

In this three-part workshop, actor, director and playwright David Abraham brings to bear his years of theater experience in discussing the concerns of playwriting. Through the course of this workshop, participants will have the opportunity to write, refine, and finalize a one act play.



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.

March 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
** Indicates a workshop		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Opening of Guy LaBree Exhibit with Guy LaBree and Carol Mahler	10	11	12
13	14 Open Mic at Fishermen's Village	15 **The Art of the Novel	16	17	18 Open Mic at Hava Java	19
20	21 **Exploring Playwriting	22 The Writers' Tea	23	24	25 The Poet's Table	26 Kids Stuff
27	28 Critique Circle	29	30	31		

April 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
** Indicates a workshop						1	2 **Folklore
3	4	5	6	7 Reading by Elgin Jumper	8	9 Kids Stuff	
10	11 Open Mic at Fishermen's Village **Exploring Playwriting	12	13	14	15 Open Mic at Hava Java	16	
17	18	19 The Writers' Tea	20	21	22 The Poet's Table	23	
24	25 **Exploring Playwriting	26 Critique Circle	27	28	29	30	

Last Time at the Board Meeting...

The new officers of the Board of Directors were elected at the January 25nd board meeting. The board elected the following officers:

Doug Houck, President
John Pelot, Vice President
Amber Maksymiak, Secretary
Same King, Treasurer

Between the January board meeting and February's, long time board member Natala Orobello resigned. Since the February board meeting, James Abraham has resigned. We would like to thank them for their service.

At the February 22nd board meeting, Catherine Bukovitz, Douglas Houck, Shirley George, Sam King, Amber Maksymiak, John Pelot, Carl Parrott, Mary Grace Patterson, and Story Boyle were present.

Author Dinty Moore will not be visiting the other Edison Campuses as part of the FLAC tour, due to conflicting events there. Instead, his attendance on our literary cruise was discussed. A workshop conducted by Moore to precede the Literary Cruise was discussed. A tentative time of 4:00-5:00 was agreed upon for this workshop. Since the last board meeting, four (4) potential workshops have been declined. The Academic Writing workshop was canceled due to market issues. The Academic Success Center at Edison provides similar workshops, free of charge.

The April Poetry Contest will be advertised in the newsletter, announced at the Open Mic nights, and flyers will be distributed. Carl Parrott, John Pelot, and Shirley George will judge the contest. Poems must be submitted by April 8th, and the winners will be announced at the April 15th Hava Java Open Mic. Poets can submit their poetry for a fee of \$20.00 for four poems, using postal mail or email. Fees must be received by the submission deadline for consideration.

John informed the board that Humanities Grant Program is running smoothly. Grant funding will provide Dinty W. Moore lodging following the Literary Cruise. The need for wine and appetizers for the reception to follow the Guy LaBree event at the Visual Arts Center on March 9th was discussed. Mary Grace will follow up on the possibility of discounted wine, and John will give her a count of how many bottles/boxes will be needed.

The Valentine's Day Poetry Gram fundraiser yielded a profit of \$30.00. The possibility of providing poetry grams for birthdays and anniversaries was suggested.

Story has begun the initial preparations for a summer camp program, working with Edison Collegiate High School to survey the interest of students. Upon receipt of completed surveys, a proposal will be presented to Edison. As of now, the summer camp is structured into three different weeks, each week presenting a different topic (fiction writing, nonfiction writing, and poetry). A fee of \$75.00 per week with additional weeks discounted to \$60 is currently being considered.

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Collectible

A collectible you are not;
one of many and on a glass shelf.
Nor are you cloned twice or thrice
in repetitious editions, limited.
No other is there like, in all the world.
I love you; and treasure you as such.

—Karen J. Hillelson

PRCW Poetry Contest!

Entry fee: \$10 for 1 poem
\$15 for 2 poems
\$20 for up to 4 poems

Prizes: First place- \$100
Second place- \$50
Third place- \$25

Judges: Carl Parrott
John Pelot
Shirley George

Contest rules:

Winners will be announced at the April 15th Hava Java Open Mic. Deadline is Friday, April 8th.

Any poetic form is accepted, however, each poem should be 36 lines or fewer.

To enter, mail your check to:
The Peace River Center for Writers
26300 Airport Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950

And either send your poems with the check, or email your poems to prcw@edison.edu

By mail: Please include a cover sheet with you mailed poems that states your name, address, phone number, and email address, along with the names of your poems. DO NOT include your name or identifying information on your poems themselves. Each poem should display only the title and the poem. They will be judged anonymously, and matched by title to your cover sheet.

By email: Please use the body of your email as a cover sheet. It should state your name, address, phone number, and email address, along with the names of your poems. DO NOT include your name or identifying information on your poems themselves. Each poem should display only the title and the poem. They will be judged anonymously, and matched by title to your email. Send poems as an attachment in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .odt format. Poems entered by email will be held pending receipt of your entry fee.

All entrants will receive receipt of entry, via mail or email, stating the poems and entry fee were received.

**The Peace River
Center for Writers
is on Facebook.
Events, photos,
ideas and more!**

**The Peace River Center for
Writers Board of Directors**

President: Dr. Douglas Houck
Vice President: John Pelot
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David Abraham
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Michelle Fanslau
Shirley George
Dr. Janice Jaén
Linda Mahshie
Carl Parrott
Mary Grace Patterson
Naomi Pringle
Dr. Thomas Rath

OLD PICTURES

Old pictures show me holding
a can or bottle of beer-
old pictures show me when
I was young and crazy-
in my early years,
old pictures of my cars
and me having fun-
my youth has passed,
and I still can have a blast!
old pictures tell a lot.

— Joe Hendrickson

Brother and Me, Huntin' Rabbits

Man, he could th'ow a rock
He was tall for his age
A skinny kid with freckles
Always wore a crooked grin
And he could spot a rabbit

That's when he'd th'ow that rock
We lived outside of town
Raised chickens, a few ducks
I fed 'em while he was in school
We'd hunt rabbits when he came home

Them ole rabbits never had a chance
Too young for school myself
I waited at home for him ever' day
Then I'd just tag along
And he'd let me carry the rabbits

Then the war came along
And they sent him a world away
Oh, he came back safe all right
But, too old for th'owin rocks
One time he told me

Not long afore he passed
'bout he killed two men one day
I'm sure they weren't the last
Never again saw him th'ow a rock
Or heard him talk about the war

Two's too many for some, I guess
I know it was for him
But, you shoulda seen him th'ow that
rock
And bring that ole rabbit home
Never was nobody just like him

—By Carl L. Parrott

Mathemaku for E. E. Cummings, No.1

meadow) winter
-|sci(1)ence|
13 5 1 4 15 23
-(little lame balloonman)

—Bob Grumman

A Note from the Editor...

I received this letter via email from another member, who had in turn received it from someone else. I found it entertaining and useful critique of the problems so many of us have at an open mic—myself included! That said, enjoy this honest letter and its rhymes puns. Many thanks, also, to I. M. Bick!

—Story Boyle

Dear PRCW Members,

Having attended poetry slams, writer's groups, open mikes, I've become so aware of the beauty of the written word, dream thoughts, the metaphors. Now, this is a plea, not a negative criticism, for I am really without portfolio.

The art of weaving words and memories on our looms of life, the thrill of sharing them with our peers, the euphoria of the applause and kindly encouragements, all are substance to keep one writing.

You, who write, have wrestled with words and thoughts to which you must have attached importance, let us hear them!

Your words, their beauty, their meaning so laboriously put to paper, should reflect a certain importance. Since they are worth sharing, then surely they are worth hearing. Please let them be heard.

(continued)

I See the Shack that I Call Home

I am sixty and still confused like I was ten
Except the time for sleeping is nearer than
Jolting memories take me back along a path
Strewn with thistle and wild pink roses.

My dreams are reminiscent of Poe
Dreary, macabre stories of long ago
The symbolism too much sometimes
Steep steps to the basement of my mind.

Decades marked by challenges overcome
Fear of speaking, swimming, climbing
Closed in places – narrow margins
Tremendous horizon at the water line.

How long the road before the fall?
One mile or thirty until the call.
And I'm ready, I think on sad days
Until the joy of Julia's smile.

Then I dig my feet into the soil
Acknowledging my body – ignoring my
soul

I am sixty and still confused like I was ten
Except the time for sleeping is nearer than.

—Natala Orobello

How? Quite simply. Project your voice, enunciate clearly, speak or recite at a slower pace so that without a microphone, tired old ears can hear, understand and appreciate them.

So many times, works are recited or read in a hurry, words slurred, gushing out beyond comprehension which sound like mumbling and hardly audible. I have been told you should speak to the farthest corner, or to the person in the very last row.

You're not carrying on an intimate conversation; you're conveying to the listeners, your audience, the world. Words that want to be heard.

So, I humbly suggest my thoughts somehow be transferred to all writers, not exactly in so many words.

My good friend, Greg Garious, always complained I waste words, but perhaps the essence of this piece will be considered by all.

I applaud many times, yet have not heard the words. I do so to encourage my writer friends and to give them reason to continue writing. I, as well as all listeners, deserve to hear, to understand, in return for our encouragement.

Sincerely,
I.M. Bick

In Search of

—the perfect stimulating sentence
exceptionally creative phrases
colorful adorning adverbs
most powerfully added adjectives
properly placed prepositional phrases
hilarious howling hysterical humor
a provocative erotic edge
wondrous words striking a magical scene
shocking suspenseful twists and turns
an enthralling enterprising ending
offering to
an approachable agreeable audience

—Patricia Cable Deeder

Love Abounds

In the crystal of a snow flake
Is the miracle of life
Filled with peace and wonder
Devoid of fear or strife.

As the rain drop
Trickles down the window pane
To merge with another
Love abides - refrain.

When the sun rises
On the ocean of our dreams
In awe we ponder
On life's winding streams.

Leaves fall in abundant shades
Fluttering slowly to the ground
And on the quilted blanket
God's Love abounds.

—Natala Orobello

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

**And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,
They danced by the light of the moon
The moon,
The moon,
And they danced by the light of the moon.**

~Edward Lear

Moonlight Literary Cruise

The Owl and the Pussycat Went to Sea...

Sign up now for our spring **Moonlight Literary Cruise**. Join the Peace River Center for Writers for an evening of fun, poetry, frolic, and music on beautiful Charlotte Harbor. We will be sailing with the Kingfisher Fleet's 65 foot vessel, *Good Times Too*, and will 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 music, readings by author **Dinty W. Moore**, and an open mic. Our two and a half hour cruise will return to Fisherman's Village at about 10:00 pm. Enjoy our potluck buffet with a bit of whimsy.

**Tickets: \$25
To reserve yours,
Call (941) 637-3514**

With thanks to our print media sponsors, The Charlotte Sun Herald.



The Peace River Center for Writers
at Edison State College