



# WRITING CURRENTS

Peace River Center for Writers

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## Autumn Thoughts By Doug Houck

As we once again approach the autumn season, I am tempted to pick up Donald Hall's *Kicking the Leaves* and once again delight in his sharing the experience of kicking the leaves coming home from the autumn football game or stacking the leaves around the foundation of his grandfather's house in New Hampshire. Nostalgia for the memories and experience of having once lived in western New York and downeast in the "great state of Maine" do not really translate that well to Southwest Florida as we prepare for our autumn season...the time of awakening from our doldrums of the summer.

The Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College is getting ready for a vigorous year of special programs, workshops, and activities. This will be a year to energize, socialize, connect, and celebrate the success of the endeavors of our members who share their work at our Open Mic programs at Fisherman's Village in Punta Gorda (second Monday of each month) and Hava Java in Port Charlotte (third Friday of each month). Several of our members have published their work and more are now doing so.

Special programs include our *Peace River Equinozio di Autunno*, a special pasta dinner that will be held in the cafeteria at Edison State College on Saturday evening October 2, 2010. Peace River Center Writers who have been published in the last two years will be on hand to display and discuss their work while we recognize and honor those who have contributed to the success of our program.

This will be followed by a Babcock Ranch Wilderness Adventures Excursion and Picnic on Saturday November 13, 2010. The initial hour and a half swamp buggy trip will depart from the Wilderness Center at 10:30 in the morning. This will be followed by a Picnic and Special Open Mic program in the Wilderness Center Pavilion. Poetry, music, and literary readings will celebrate the theme of "Old Florida" and our natural environment.

We will host *Celebrate Authors* as part of the Fisherman's Village annual *Festival of Lights* celebrating the Holiday season. Local authors will be provided with the opportunity to display and sell their work at Fisherman's Village on Sunday afternoon November 21, 2010. Music and readings will take place on the stage at Fisherman's Village. This will constitute a significant contribution to our holiday season.

Dot Minzer and the Peace River Writers will once again present a Christmas drama for children of all ages in the Auditorium of Edison State College at a date to be determined in early

December. This year's title is *The North Pole's Got Talent*. Members are at work writing the script, collecting gifts, and preparing for this unique holiday happening.

The *Illustrated History of Charlotte County* being published by the Charlotte County Historical Museum Society and prepared by Peace River Writers will make its appearance during the year. We will once again be offering our Moonlight Literary Cruise on Saturday evening March 26, 2011 and working with the Punta Gorda Visual Arts Center to provide a special program during March 2011.

A special series of ongoing workshops are being planned and scheduled. These will be offered at the Edison State College Campus beginning in September and continue throughout the year. Members and guests are always encouraged to attend our Critique Circle and monthly meetings of the Kids Stuff program and our Writer's Tea. This will be an exciting, interesting, and invigorating year. It will certainly be a year to energize, socialize, and connect as we continue to share our experiences, focus on writing, and celebrate the literary arts.

## SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

**KIDS STUFF** will meet on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 this adventure into the ins and outs of writing for children. 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, September 13<sup>th</sup>, and on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, at Fishermen's Village on the center stage. Grab a bite to eat before we begin at either 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. Come to perform or come to listen; we'll save you a seat in the audience... or some time at the mic.

**WRITER'S TEA** will start again in September. This is the same group as the "Tiny Tea," with only a change in name. It's an informal gathering of kindred literary souls who communicate their thoughts and feelings in verse and story. Attendees read their stories and poems, and if someone wants to offer input, it's gladly accepted. There is no critique requirement. There will be an assortment of herbal teas, and all are asked to bring some kind of munchies to share. Come and join us for an afternoon of lighthearted fun! The Writer's Tea will meet on Tuesday, September 14<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday October 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm until 3pm in room O-116 on the Edison Charlotte Campus.

**OPEN MIC 2 AT HAVA JAVA** will be held on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, and again on Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Shirley George emcees. Located at 2711 Tamiami Trail in Port Charlotte, we begin at 6:30pm, and the readings and performances run until 8:30pm. Bring your poems,

stories, excerpts, and music, and share them, or just come to listen and grab a bite to eat. Excellent food, good company, and a cozy atmosphere make this Open Mic night a success.

**CRITIQUE CIRCLE** will resume on Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, and will meet again on Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup> in room O-116. The group is limited to six readers so that everyone has time to present their work. 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!

Thank You to Our Renewing Members:

Marilyn Baruch  
Doug Lowndes  
Robert Taylor

Welcome to Our New Members:

Laurie Ruhl

## Board of Directors

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## Attention Members: Donations Needed for Christmas Program

Donations of new or gently used **toys, books, writing paper, notebooks, pencils, and puzzles** are needed now for the upcoming Christmas Program. These will be gifted to needy children during the performance in December. Monetary donations are also needed to help purchase two new bicycles as door prizes for disadvantaged children. If you would like to donate, please contact the PRWC at [prcw@edison.edu](mailto:prcw@edison.edu) or call Mary G. Patterson at 575-0739 (email [scooterpoohbear@centurylink.net](mailto:scooterpoohbear@centurylink.net)) or Arlene Kincaid at 625-7312 (email [mak36@embarqmail.com](mailto:mak36@embarqmail.com)).

**Don't forget, the PRCW is now on Facebook! Search for "The Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College" on Facebook to become a fan of the page.**

# September 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Reflections Opening	9	10 Board Meeting	11 Kids Stuff
12	13 Open Mic at Fishermen's Village	14 Writers' Tea	15 ** Reading Aloud	16 **Essaying and Assaying an Essay	17 Open Mic at Hava Java	18 Critique Circle
19	20	21	22 ** Reading Aloud	23	24	25 Nin Andrews Public Reading and **Prose Poetry Workshop
26	27	28	29 Reading Aloud Performance	30	** Indicates a workshop	

# October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Equinozio di Autunno
3	4	5	6	7	8 Board Meeting	9 Kids Stuff
10	11 Open Mic at Fishermen's Village	12 Writers' Tea  **I Remember	13	14	15 Open Mic at Hava Java	16 Critique Circle
17	18	19  **I Remember	20	21	22	23  **Self and Help Editing
24	25	26  **I Remember	27	28	29	30
31	** Indicates a workshop					

## **Last Time at the Board Meeting...**

In order to keep members better informed of the goings on at the board meetings, each issue of *Writing Currents* will now feature a "Last Time at the Board Meeting" section. If you wish to have your input heard, please attend the board meetings, or send your ideas for agenda items to [prcw@edison.edu](mailto:prcw@edison.edu). Board meeting dates and times appear now on the events calendar.

### **Tuesday, August 10th, 2010, 3:30pm**

The board meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm, with board members Doug Houck, James Abraham, Michelle Fanslau, Natala Orobello, Mary Grace Patterson, John Pelot, Janice Jaén, Natala Orobello, and Story Boyle (non-voting) present. Guests and members comprised Carl Parrott, Arlene Kincaid, Shirley George, Debra Paradise.

The first item passed was the organizing of a poetry contest, as suggested by Carl Parrott. Prizes, publication, and method of presentation were discussed. The committee heading contest organization consists of Carl Parrott, Shirley George, Mary Grace Patterson, and John Pelot.

Arlene Kincaid moved that a summary of board activities be included in each edition of the newsletter.

As critique is an important part of the writing process, Critique Circle will continue this fall. It will be a less formal group, without a facilitator, and open to all members of the Peace River Center for Writers.

The PRCW will once again offer paid editing services, with a discount for Center members. The fee schedule for the editing service will be set at the next board meeting, following a proposal by Story Boyle.

It was agreed upon to create a formalized business plan for the PRCW, as program offerings should be guided by the mission statement. The business model planning committee is composed of Michelle Fanslau, James Abraham, Doug Houck, John Pelot, and Story Boyle.

Arlene Kincaid, longtime maintainer of the PRCW scrapbooks, would like for members to clip and send her any press related to the Center for the scrapbooks. Means of displaying the scrapbooks were also discussed.

John Pelot proposed a fundraiser for October 2nd, entitled *Equinozio di Autunno*. It will take the form of a spaghetti dinner and awards ceremony honoring PRCW members who have seen publication in the last two years. There will be live entertainment. Volunteers and donations will be needed. A full proposal will be submitted at a special board meeting to be held August 27th.

James Abraham brought up concerns about workshop publicity, better outreach, and making more linkages with other local organizations. He also proposed setting aside an advertising budget and talking to the Sun Herald about publicity for events and workshops.

Future board meeting dates and times will be discussed at the August 27th special meeting; this meeting will focus on a limited number of specific concerns including the *Equinozio di Autunno* fundraiser and setting the board meeting calendar for the fall.

**Fishermen's Village**

**is a Corporate Member of  
PRCW@ESC**

**Visit their web site at**

**<http://www.fishville.com>**

## September and October Workshops:

### Essaying and Assaying an Essay

**James Abraham**

**Thursday, Sept 16**

**6pm to 7:30pm**

An essay is an argument, a point of view neatly couched in a series of words that march as one, like a mighty army surging purposefully toward victory. There are tricks, and techniques, craft, that will help your essay sing. Mastery of essay writing will make any writing done to convince, from marriage proposals to business proposals, sing with meaning. Ninety minutes. Come prepared to write. Room O-116.

### Reading Aloud, the Writer as Actor

**Story Boyle**

**Wednesdays, Sept 15-29**

**6pm to 8pm**

Writers are often called upon to read their work before an audience, and for some, the

experience can be nerve-wracking. Add to that the fact that a flat reading can dull even the most delicious prose, and the pressure can mount. Luckily, acting, public speaking, and other performing arts are skills just like writing that can be honed and developed. This workshop series will build upon prior offerings by Story Boyle, such that participants will not only learn speaking skills, but have an opportunity to practice and develop them while reading aloud excerpts from their own or others' creative work. The series will culminate in a free live performance created to showcase participants' reading abilities. Room O-117 and Auditorium.

### Prose Poetry

**Nin Andrews**

**Saturday, Sept 25**

**5pm to 6pm**

Acclaimed prose poet Nin Andrews will be offering a workshop on prose poetry prior to her Florida Literary Arts Coalition reading at Edison State College. In addition to authoring many chapbooks such as *Any Kind of Excuse* and *Spontaneous Breasts*, her poetry has appeared in national journals like *Ploughshares* and *The Barn Owl Review*. Please join us for this rare learning opportunity. Room O-117.

### Self and Help Editing

**Shirley George**

**Saturday, Oct 23**

**10am to 12pm (Noon)**

Your work is too valuable to submit for publishing before proper editing. After careful revision, self editing is your first priority. Help from your peers can save you time and money. Join Shirley

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George to learn techniques to edit for content, grammar and mechanics. Shirley is an English professor at Edison State College, and a freelance writer for the Charlotte Sun newspaper. Participants should bring at least six (6) copies of a work in progress. Room O-116.

**“I Remember!”**

**A Memory Writing Workshop**

**Dot Minzer**

**Tuesdays, Oct 12-Nov 9**

**6pm to 8pm**

Have you ever said, "Someday I'll write down stories about my life for my children or grandchildren," but never seemed to find the time? Have you ever wanted to create a written record of your life but didn't know where to begin? If so, this workshop is for you. Through imagery and memory triggering suggestions you will recall events from your childhood, your school years, your teen and young adult years and turn them into a written record of your life. You will also learn how to add photos to your stories to make them even more meaningful and memorable. At class end you will be on your way to having the story of you which you can either keep for yourself or give to your family as a precious gift. Room O-116.



**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](mailto:prcw@edison.edu).**

### **neighbors**

our neighbors are up north  
writing us about wearing polartec  
running their dogs through the woods  
eating michigan cherries

we are experiencing our very first  
florida summer  
wild skies helmeting the earth  
with dark royal blue clouds

rushing rains almost every day  
fullgrown greenery everywhere  
places to sit and watercolor  
landscapes to sit and pastel paint

new words in the poetry vocabulary  
expressing tropical heat and fruit  
clothing of less than more  
sandals and beachtowels

our neighbors' yard is lush  
and full and rich  
with indiginous plantings  
we are here enjoying it

—nancy seale osborne

### **The Traveling Authors of the Peace River Center for Writers**

Volunteer writers and readers are needed to go to a few local nursing homes once a month to read and share a part of themselves with the residents. Musicians and singers are also welcome! If you want to help, please call Mary G Patterson at (941) 575-0739 or email her at [scooterpoohbear@centurylink.net](mailto:scooterpoohbear@centurylink.net). The group will be called "The Traveling Authors of the Peace River Center for Writers."

## Swollen

The moon is a bright light behind clouds,  
Selene spreading good will as a candle burning.  
Her energy a pregnancy happening in a cycle  
the worth of it prominent in our lives and  
dreams.

This shine behind haze, muted, impressionistic,  
climbs above obstacles opaque in clear sight,  
flying high in the heavens to remind us  
of places other than ourselves.

—John Pelot

## Edison State College and the PRCW Welcome Prose Poet Nin Andrews



Edison State College and the Peace River Center for Writers in conjunction with the Florida Literary Arts Coalition are proud to announce that prose poet Nin Andrews will be reading for us on Saturday, September 25th at 6:30pm in the auditorium on the Edison Charlotte Campus. This event is free and open to the public, and the program will last until 7:30pm. Andrews will be available afterward for book sales and signing. Prior to the reading, the PRCW will offer a one-hour prose poetry workshop lead by Andrews. Standard workshop fees apply. For more information about the reading or the workshop, please contact the PRCW by phone or email at (941) 637-3514 and [prcw@edison.edu](mailto:prcw@edison.edu). For more information about Nin Andrews, visit the FLAC website at <http://www.floridarts.org/florida-writer-s-circuit/>.

From her bio:

Andrews is the author of *Spontaneous Breasts*, winner of the Pearl Chapbook Contest; *Any Kind of Excuse*, winner of the Kent State University chapbook contest; *The Book of Orgasms*, and *Why They Grow Wings*, winner of the Gerald Cable Award. Her book, *Midlife Crisis with Dick and Jane* was published in 2005 by Web del Sol. Nin Andrews' poems and stories have appeared in many literary journals and anthologies including *Ploughshares*, *The Paris Review*, *Best American Poetry* (1997, 2001, 2003), *The KGB Bar Book of Poems*. She received individual artist grants from the Ohio Arts Council in 1997 and 2003.

Join the PRCW for the next two meetings of the Board of Directors on Friday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and on Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> of 2010. The meetings start at 10am and run until about noon. Your input as a member matters. Come early, come late, come and be heard!



# Equinozio di Autunno

The Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College is celebrating the work and achievements of its members and friends at our Autumn Equinox, or *Equinozio di Autunno* Festival, which will be held at Edison State College Charlotte Campus on Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is a time to rejoice on the achievements of our members, reflect on our past, and prepare for the adventures and activities of the coming year.

## Schedule of Events:

**4:30pm:** Meet and Greet with light refreshments

**5:15pm:** Pasta Dinner in the Edison café

**6pm:** Introductions, Presentations, and Awarding of Certificates of Appreciation  
We will be honoring those who have made a great contribution to the PRCW over the years including Rich Simpson, Lynn Harrell, Madelon Becker, Kathy Futch, and Art Davis. Awards will also be presented to authors whose work has seen publication in the past two years, including James Abraham, Jan Britland, Paul Holmes, Doug Houck, Carol Mahler, Dot Minzer, Natala Orobello, and Joyce Schenk.

**7pm:** Program in the Auditorium

The program will consist of a live performance by Chris Corridino and the announcement of the winners of the *Legacy of 911* student essay contest.

Tickets are available for:

**Contributor:** \$25.00 per person

**Scribe:** \$55.00 includes the dinner, a one year membership, and a copy of *Summer of the Storms*

**Feature Writer:** \$75.00 includes the dinner, a one year membership, a copy of *Summer of the Storms*, and certificates for two free workshops

For tickets or more information, call or email the PRCW at (941) 637-3514 or [prcw@edison.edu](mailto:prcw@edison.edu).

## Reflections Literary Magazine Opening

On Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm Edison State College will be hosting a reception for the publication of their literary magazine, *Reflections* in the auditorium. Refreshments will be served.

## Did we miss you?

If your work has been published in the past two years and we missed it, please let us know! We want to let the membership know of your accomplishment! Please call or email us to we may include you at the awards dinner.

## Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College

**26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda,  
FL 33950**

**Phone: 941.637.3514**

**Email: [prcw@edison.edu](mailto:prcw@edison.edu)**

**Web Site: [www.peacriverwriters.org](http://www.peacriverwriters.org)**