



June 2010  
Volume 9, Issue 6

# WRITING CURRENTS

Peace River Center for Writers

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## About Voice— A Gradual Signature of the Messenger

By Linda Mahshie

Are poets their metaphors, rhymes, or rhythms? Perhaps their essences are the subjects conveyed.

Interpretations, symbolic representations, and imitations are what animal thinkers do best. We use these to understand, amuse, or bond. We are analysts of not only text, but circular events of existence, of anything that evokes response and longs for nimble fingers to weave them in dance— by thread, by paint, by pen; related, repeated. We deliver unique perspectives on arrangements of life's ornaments, and some may ask if this is a person's "voice" or search of their "voice."

How does one find a voice? Many have spoken. A voice is an agglomerate of tones, and once a person collects enough, distinct patterns are recognized. The base is the beginning of the pyramid... words are just rocks, dull, many, and heavy. As the pyramid grows to a point ideas filter through finer grains— mass narrows all while emotion and meaning heightens, as it is tall, it becomes spiritual and implies flight.

The compact piece that fashions the top is another rock without the base. Alone, the acme is haughty disconnected from earth, and from experience. It is suspended and expendable. "Voice", as a whole is what we build, use, and observe. Pyramids have had many meanings, as the shape simplifies and personifies thought, but not form. The form of "voice" is a fluid creature, it is all aspects of style combined; consider that all parts shift at various paces, and that some are tangible while others are not.

We misunderstand rituals; thus, humans seek continuity, safety, stability. The ideas that comfort us simultaneously inhibit development. Writing is a process of growth— it initiates transformation of self or others. Have I grown? Yes, I have, but not to my potential. Have I found my voice? It is always in progress, such as the self is. We misunderstand ritual... that ritual does not transform— when it does. The establishment of summer is not ritually on earth the same calendar day, or that seasons are predictable linear elements. Therefore, through these errors, we recognize a writer's "voice" as a peak in creativity that cannot further expand like the sea of galaxies, and is confused as something permanent!

Looking to nature as well as living with nature is necessary; sometimes books, studies, and calendars offer only theories to simplify life— these trick our minds in other ways, fills them with heaviness. The mind becomes the base of a pyramid a large stump without the miniature

*Continued...*

pyramid atop, yet both need the other to be pleasurable, awe-inspiring. Experience lies flat without narrative, and imagination is a diamond at the bottom of a well without tangible presence fabricated. It appears to be simple.

Listen to ways of others, attempt all styles, gather favorites, and merge them like lively pixels of a photo, cells on a spreadsheet, or fruits in a blender. The self will surface. Remember also— a “voice” is dynamic, and everyone possesses a voice when it is in use. There is only simplicity in acquiring a voice, but much effort practicing, and harvesting influence to become distinct.

**start close in**

start close in  
with a friendship  
don't be acting  
from afar

start close in  
and smile  
disarm your person  
don't be distant

start close in  
and talk about  
something easy  
don't scare anyone

start close in  
and shrug your shoulders  
don't act like you know everything  
you don't

start close in  
and take the first step  
or if you are in a wheelchair  
move up close

start close in

—Nancy Osborne

**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.**

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

# June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
**Indicates a workshop						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Summer Camp Begins	Board Meeting				Kids Stuff
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Open Mic at Fishermen's Village	Tiny Tea ** Brave New World of Publishing		** The Business for Songwriters (and Poets)	Open Mic at Hava Java	Critique Circle
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		** Image/ Metaphor/ Poem				The Village in Verse
27	28	29	30			

# June Activities

**Kids Stuff** will meet on Saturday, June 12<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 the business, and the critique portion of the meeting. Please bring 8-10 copies of your manuscript or writing excerpt (please limit to 5 or 6 double spaced manuscript pages at a time). Writers without a ready manuscript are also welcome.

## Open Mic At Fishermen's Village

will take place on Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, at Fishermen's Village on the center stage. 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. Bring your own work to share, or come to enjoy the show!

**Tiny Tea** will be held on June 15<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 3 pm in room O-118 on the Edison State College Charlotte Campus. Bring your work and some treats and join fellow PRCW members for feedback and idea swapping in a cozy laid-back environment. Tiny Tea is for Center members and their guests. Come enjoy treats, tales, and good company!

**Open Mic at Hava Java** continues this month on Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. Starting at 6:30pm, desserts, coffee and sandwiches will be available as we share our original works of prose, poetry, music, and more. Hava Java is located at 2711 Tamiami Trail, in Unit A, accessible from the south bound lane of US 41 between Tarpon Blvd. and Port Charlotte Blvd. along the access road.

**Critique Circle** continues on June 19<sup>th</sup>, from 10am until noon in room O-116 on the Edison Charlotte Campus, facilitated by Shirley George. Please call in advance to sign up, as participation is limited to six. Bring seven copies of your poetry, your short story, or your novel excerpt (a maximum of six to seven pages please), double spaced with numbered pages, and join a group of fellow writers in mutual critique. Attending the Critique Circle is an excellent way to get feedback and improve your craft! Please call the Center at 637-3514 or email us at [prcw@edison.edu](mailto:prcw@edison.edu) to sign up.

## Contact us:

**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)**



# June Workshops

## **Brave New World of Publishing**

**Doug Houck**

**Tuesday, June 15th**

**6pm to 8pm**

The publishing industry is changing. At one time, the industry was dominated by a few “big name” publishers. Books were set by linotype (hot metal) and printed on huge presses in big cities. National circulation determined profit.

The personal computer and internet changed this by ushering in the Age of Self-Publishing. Self-publishing made it possible to print, market, and distribute subject specific books to a limited clientele. The publishing industry experienced a tipping point in 2008 when, for the first time in history, the number of self-published titles exceeded the number of traditionally published titles. Barnes & Noble, Random House, Amazon.com, and other companies have invested in self-publishing firms.

Self-publishing firms exist to help writers publish their work. They print and prepare a book that is indistinguishable from other books on the market, provide an official ISBN, and place the book into the major distribution channels for bookstores, libraries, and online retailers to order. Leading self-publishing firms include AuthorHouse, BookSurge, iUniverse, Morgan James, Virtual Bookworm, and Xlibris. There are several others.

The workshop will discuss the art and science of the Brave New World of Publishing including the emerging world of the e-book. We’ll talk about concerns and practices, compare firms, discuss options, and go over some of the tasks required for getting a manuscript ready for submission.

## **Image/Metaphor/Poem**

**Story Boyle**

**Tuesday, June 22nd**

**6pm to 8pm**

Modern poetry, with the exception of the prose poem, is often a tight, dense image-rich medium for conveying an idea or feeling. With so few words to do the work, poetry gains power from the use of carefully selected images, metaphors, symbolism and dual meanings. This workshop will cover the ways in which the poet can manipulate these subtle techniques to create poetry that can leave the reader with something almost tangible.

## **The Business for Songwriters (and Poets)**

**Joe Hendrickson**

**Thursday, June 17th**

**6pm to 8pm**

Joe Hendrickson, veteran poet/songwriter, shares his experience and information on publishing, recording, submitting songs to feature film projects, copywriting, royalty companies, the music biz in general, if you are serious about being a songwriter, singer/musician, you do not want to miss this opportunity—this may be the best head start you ever had!

**All workshops are held on the Charlotte County campus of Edison State College. Please call (941) 637-3514 or email [prcw@edison.edu](mailto:prcw@edison.edu) in advance to register for a workshop; room numbers will be given at this time. Workshop fees are \$10 per hour for members, and \$20 per hour for non-members.**

## SHELL CREEK BOOKS

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### solitude

spidery shadows create a canopy of  
surreal ambiance of solitude

gray matter pulsates with chaotic chords  
composed of stinging symphony

sorrowful silence assaults memories  
of multitudinous merriment

crucial choice to remain in seclusion  
or to escape penetrating pain

—Shirley George

### We Remember--2005

Inspired by John Pelot's *Friday at the Cemetery*

Sun explodes on tall tombs this time of day,  
cannot reach vase to replace faded flowers,  
unable to touch letters or read—no shade to cool,  
concrete surrounds, void of grass.

We knew her. She was sister, mother,  
grandmother, great-grandmother, wife, aunt  
and more, a difficult one to love. Now with God—  
God will show her, with celestial clarity.

Remembering a warm autumn day, sharing memories  
and special moments, open air vestibule, cool marble floor,  
pastor's words, our poems, our voices echoing, our simple  
loving memorial to her—staging a family photo.

We said our good-byes, took our thoughts and left that place,  
with tombs high up and metal named plates held by sand  
and grass and stoic silk flowers at the end of the road,  
the place named Indian Springs Cemetery.

—By Patricia Cable Deeder

John Hackworth,  
managing editor at the  
Charlotte Sun, has  
offered to run a  
monthly column in the  
Our Town section of  
the paper featuring  
either a PRCW writer  
or news about PRCW.  
Submissions should be  
a maximum of 500  
words. If you have an  
essay, etc. that would  
lend itself to that  
format, please send it  
to James Abraham at  
[book-broker@  
hotmail.com](mailto:book-broker@hotmail.com) or call  
740-3071 for more  
information.

## **I Was a Willow**

I was a willow.  
Limbs bent and broken  
by perpetual pummeling  
from craven culprits.

I was a willow.  
Tornado winds destroyed  
solid birth roots  
obstructing essential growth.

I was a willow.  
Allowed humiliation  
from manipulative masses  
that sprouted low self-esteem.

I was a willow.  
But my weeping subsided into  
screams of rebellion allowing  
forgotten foundations to flourish.

I was a willow.  
I could blossom into  
independence  
and soar to serenity  
among a ubiquitous  
environment.

I was a willow.  
Now I am an oak,  
capable of withstanding  
habitable, and at times malicious,  
forces of nature.

Shirley George

Doug Houck and Story Boyle  
will offer proofreading and  
editing services throughout the  
month of June. Please call for  
information about fees, which go  
to the Center.

(941) 637-3514

## **I'll Meet You at the Rodeo**

If you ever go south of Sarasota,  
down where the coconut trees grow,  
if you ever down past the lazy Peace River, to Punta Gorda  
where we danced not so long ago,  
if you ever go to Arcadia,  
I'll meet you at the rodeo.

The time we had together was better than Boca Grande  
I'll never forget when you said I love you  
as we walked on the beach hand in hand.  
if you ever go south of Sarasota,  
down where the coconut trees grow,  
If you ever get to Arcadia, I'll meet you at the rodeo.

My cowboy hat needs a dustin'  
and my boots could use a little shine,  
but your love letters and phone calls  
are best for this faithful heart of mine.  
so if you ever go south of Sarasota,  
down where the coconut trees grow,  
and if you ever get to Arcadia, I'll meet you at the rodeo.

I could meet you at the railroad depot  
right next to the train track;  
we'd walk arm in arm to the rodeo arena  
and never look back  
so if you ever go south of Sarasota,  
a little east on 17  
there'll be bulls awaitin' meaner than anything you ever seen  
so if you ever go south of Sarasota,  
down where the coconut trees grow,  
and if you ever get to Arcadia, I'll meet you at the rodeo.

There's a motel we can stay in  
and they'll give us breakfast in bed.  
We'll tell each other I love you,  
just don't forget the words I said.  
If you ever go south of Sarasota,  
down where the coconut trees grow,  
if you ever down past the lazy Peace River, to Punta Gorda  
I'll meet you at the rodeo.

If you ever down past the lazy Peace River, to Punta Gorda  
I'll meet you at the rodeo.

—song lyrics by Joe Hendrickson

Thank You to Our  
Renewing Members:

Arlene Kincaid  
Naomi Pringle

Welcome to Our New  
Members:

Joellen Gantner  
Lacey Nayden  
Roger Strube

## Board of Directors

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**Dawn Thomas**



# Tiny Tea

By Mary Grace Patterson

May's Tiny Tea had a festive atmosphere. Paul Holmes read part of his exciting new story called "The Devil's Door," about a young boy who visits his grandparents in England. It vividly depicts their ancestral home, the surrounding forest, the woodland animals and resident fairies.

Arlene Kincaid read some cute poems, "Lucky Lady Bug," which she might develop into a children's story, "Farewell to Dr. Gayler," dedicated to retiring Charlotte County Public Schools superintendant Dr. David Gayler, and "Jim's Hearing Aid."

Mary Grace Patterson read her poems, "Kindred Literary Souls," "Morning Tide," and "Vermont Is on My Mind," thick with the imagery of that state. Mary is writing a biography of her great uncle, Clarence Bonnett, who was a balloonist and aeronaut during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She shared a few pages with those in attendance.

Joellen Ganter, a former librarian and retired teacher attended as a guest of Arlene. Now a new member of the Center, she offered a great deal of input and good suggestions.

June's Tiny Tea will be held in room O-118. Bring snacks, treats, and your writing to share! In honor of Independence Day, Tiny Tea will have a patriotic theme.

*Village in Verse*  
*Saturday, June 26,*  
*10 a.m. to 6 p.m.*  
*A Taste of the Village Event*

*Local authors, Music, Contests, and Prizes Family fun*

**10 a.m.** Meet and greet, opening words

**10:30** Face painting

Children's story hour with Mary Lou Williams, storyteller

**11:30** Children's poetry and prose competition

*Workshops*

**12:30** New Age and Archeology: The Search of Atlantis with Priscilla Hurd, author of "The 13th Goddess"

**Sharing Your Words: Reading your Work Out Loud** with Story Boyle, Poet

**1:30** Writing Community Histories: Making The Past Real with Diana Harris, author of "Englewood Lives"

**Make Your Pet a Leading Lady: Writing About Animals** with Maria Miller, author of "Rain Forest Blues"

**2:30** Writing For Fun And Profit with Joyce Schenck, author of "I've Become My Mother"

**Exploding The Enemies: Writing About Catastrophic Illness** with Deborah Seter, author of "Exploding The Enemies Inside Me"

**3:30** Adult Poetry and Prose Contest

**4:30** Mix and Mingle -- Live Music by Leslie DaCosta

All events free and open to the public

For more information contact Story Boyle, Peace River Center for Writers  
at (941) 637-3514.



## *PRCW's Summer Writer's Camp: Calling All Young Writers!*

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Words light imaginations on fire, express truths of the human condition, and are just plain useful in persuading or driving a point home. Each of these uses requires a common skill set to fully develop, and this summer, the Peace River Center for Writers will offer a unique camp experience to Charlotte County's teens in order to help them improve their skills as writers. Whether their goals are to hone their talents as poets, novelists, or editors, or to learn how to structure effective arguments, Writer's Camp will give them the tools to explore many facets of writing.

**Dates:** 8 weeks, on weekdays from June 7<sup>th</sup> to July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**Times:** 9am to 2:30pm

**Location:** Edison State College's Charlotte Campus, drop-off and pick up at room O-117

For teenagers ages 13-16.

\$125 per individual week, or \$800 for the full 8-week session.

For more information, please contact the Peace River Center for Writers at (941) 637-3514, or visit our website at [www.peaceriverwriters.org](http://www.peaceriverwriters.org).

Enrollment is limited.

Story Boyle, Camp Director

Wm. Joshua Byatt, R. Barron van Deusen, Instructors

