



February 2010
Volume 9, Issue 2

WRITING CURRENTS

Peace River Center for Writers

Kids Stuff in Full Swing

By Story Boyle

2010's first Kids Stuff meeting began with a bang. Laura Aldir-Hernandez, a new member, took the helm as facilitator, and attendees of the year's first gathering were a mix of fresh and familiar faces. The aim of Kids Stuff is to provide an outlet and support for area writers who focus on children's stories, whether they be picture books or young adult novels.

Support was in abundance. Laura, a long-time member of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators, brought to bear an arsenal of web resources, from message boards to databases, on publishing for the children's market. A lawyer by trade, she has spent the last few years going to conferences, workshops, classes, and, of course, reading and writing, as she is an aspiring children's author herself.

The results were measurable. After introductions were made, all the attendees who brought manuscripts had an opportunity to read them aloud and receive feedback in a positive upbeat environment. Following the critique session, Paul Holmes, Dot Minzer, and Laura Aldir-Hernandez offered discussion on the types of publication available to aspiring authors, the things to consider when choosing between professional and self publication, and the benefits and drawbacks of each method.

Kids Stuff will be continuing monthly throughout the year, meeting the second Saturday of each month. If you missed this year's first session, all is not lost. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, February 13th, from 10am to noon in room O-116 on Edison State College's Charlotte Campus.

If you're considering attending, please remember to bring several copies of any manuscript or writing excerpt you would like to share for group input. All genres for children are welcome— from picture books to young adult, from magazine articles to children's nonfiction. Keep in mind that excerpts and submissions should be kept to a maximum of five to six pages, to ensure that everyone attending can receive feedback on their work.

If you haven't a ready submission, Kids Stuff still has a lot to offer. With discussions of the process of writing for children and steady information about the field, there is something for everyone, no matter your experience level. Please keep in mind that due to the critique-related portion of each session, participation is limited to ten. If you'd like more information about the group, feel free to contact the Center at 941-637-3514. Office hours are from 1pm to 5pm Monday through Thursday and from 1pm to 3pm every Friday.

We look forward to seeing you there!

February Workshops

All workshops are held on Edison State College's Charlotte Campus at 26300 Airport Rd, Punta Gorda, FL. Please sign up in advance by calling the office manager at 941-637-3514, or by emailing her at prcw@edison.edu; room numbers will be given at this time. Workshop fees are \$10 per hour for members and \$20 per hour for non-members.

The Workings of Word

Dawn Thomas

Wednesday, February 10th

3pm to 5pm

Would you like to learn more about Microsoft WORD, or just brush up on your WORD skills? Then this is the workshop for you! Join Dawn Thomas and learn how you can use tables, text boxes, formatting skills, and more to make your documents look like they were created by an expert.

Workshop canceled, later date to be announced

Naturalistic Poetry

John Pelot

Saturday, February 13th

1pm to 3pm

John Pelot will lead this session exploring the poetry of Robert Frost, the Romantics, and other poets, all well known for their verse set in a rich vision of nature. The workshop will go on to cover ways to enhance your own pieces with an eye to the natural world.

The "Story" in Storytelling

Carol Mahler

Tuesday, February 23rd

6pm to 8pm

Most fiction and many narrative poems employ the elements of "story": setting, character, plot, point of view, and theme. Up until the mid-twentieth century, writers felt assured of success if they were able to simply tell "a good story." Using Florida folk lore and oral storytelling techniques, this workshop will focus on how to develop these elements of the narrative tradition in your own writing.

(workshops continued on the next page)

Writers' Boot Camp
Natala Orobello
Saturday, February 20th
10am to Noon

Do you try to write, but can't seem to find the time? Natala Orobello will continue this workshop series to motivate, organize, and prepare you to write your first novel, biography, autobiography or play. The essence of these sessions is to get one on one motivation and inspiration to each member, and give all participants a continued structure to keep up the practice of writing. An excellent tool for the beginner or veteran writer alike, the "Writer's Boot Camp" can help give you the support to step up to your writing endeavor and face it down.

Keeping a Writer's Journal: A Private Gold Mine
Joyce Schenk
Friday, February 26th
10am to Noon

This two-hour workshop will focus on how to set up and maintain the writer's most important tool, a Writer's Journal. Your one-of-a-kind storehouse of memories and observations can form the basis for enough writing projects to last a lifetime. Join freelance writer Joyce Schenk, a long-time journal-keeper and journaling instructor, to begin your own version of this unique resource.

The PRCW is now on Facebook! Search for "The Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College" on Facebook and become a fan of the page! Invite your friends to do the same. Events, photos, author bios and more are all soon to come!

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



February 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 GROUND HOG DAY	3	4	5 <i>Members Meeting</i>	6
7	8 <i>Open Mic Night</i>	9 <i>Board Meeting</i> <i>Memory Writers</i>	10	11	12 LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY	13 <i>Kids Stuff</i> *Naturalistic Poetry
14 VALENTINE'S DAY	15 PRESIDENT'S DAY	16 <i>Tiny Tea</i>	17 ASH WEDNESDAY	18	19	20 <i>Critique Circle</i> *Writers' Boot Camp
21	22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	23 <i>Memory Writers</i> *The Story in Storytelling	24	25	26 *Keeping a Writer's Journal	27
28					* Workshop	

February Activities

The *Members' Meeting* will be held on Friday, February 5th on the Edison Charlotte Campus, in room O-116 and the adjoining cafeteria. Beginning at 5pm, PRCW members will vote on membership to the Board of Directors. The Murdock Grill will offer entertainment and all you can eat Mediterranean food for \$16.95. Come make your voice heard!

Open Mic will take place on February 8th, 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. We'll save you a seat in the audience... or some time at the mic!

Kids Stuff will meet on Saturday, February 13th this month. If you have an interest in writing for children, from picture books to young adult novels, we've got your group! Join Laura Aldir-Hernandez and other Peace River Writers as we learn the ins and outs of the business and critique each other's work. Please bring several copies of your manuscript or writing excerpt (please limit to 5 or 6 manuscript pages at a time.) New writers without a ready manuscript are also welcome.

THANK YOU TO
OUR RENEWING
MEMBERS:

Janice D'Errico
Carl Parrott
Peggydawn Moran
Maryann Mize
Mac Martin

WELCOME TO
OUR NEW
MEMBERS:

Rachel Winkless
Laura Aldir-Hernandez

Tiny Tea will now be held on February 16th, from 1 to 3 pm in the **Encore Tea Room**. Please note the change! Bring your work and join fellow PRCW members for some great feedback and idea swapping. Tiny Tea is for Center members and their guests. For directions contact the Center. Come enjoy treats, tales, and good company!

Critique Circle continues on February 20th, from 10am until noon in room O 116. Please call in advance to sign up, as participation is limited to six. Bring six copies of your poetry, your short story, or your novel excerpt, double spaced, and join Shirley George to go over your work among a group of fellow writers. This is an excellent way to get feedback and improve your craft!

Memory Writers returns this month, and still has room for a few new members. Group participation is limited to ten. The Memory Writers meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of February (the 9th and the 23rd) from 1 to 3pm. For more information, please contact Peggydawn Moran at 575-8648.

nana talks to a friend

"please don't yawn
when i tell you
i have a perfect
grand daughter!"

(nana's friend yawns)

"well, not exactly,
completely perfect,
but darn near it!"

(friend yawns again)

"if i told you
my grand daughter
was a little white dog,
would you stay awake?"

(friend's eyes pop,
eyebrows lift,
mouth smiles widely)

nana slowly puts
grand daughter picture
back on the shelf.

nana sighs
and thinks to herself:
well, never mind!
I THINK SHE'S
PERFECT!
(doggonit!)

—Nancy Seale Osborne

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Secretary

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Catherine Bukovitz
Peggydawn Moran
Jan Murphy
Natala Orobello
Mary Patterson
Dawn Thomas

Mountain Man's Pleasure

Creek-side surprise
Intoxicating mist
Overnight delight
Impulsive tryst

—Patricia Cable Deeder

Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College
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Web Site: www.peacriverwriters.com

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OR BY APPOINTMENT



The Stars, the Moon, and Us

Stars, bright sequins in the sky,
scattered against the blackness of night.

Glittering diamonds, pinpoints of light.

Moon full and bright, suspended in
ebony sky, casts its golden beams
on you and I.

As we embrace the beautiful sight,
balmy breezes caress us with sensual
delight.

Hand in hand we'll walk across years
of time. Our hearts beat as one, for
I am yours and you are forever mine.

—Mary Grace Patterson

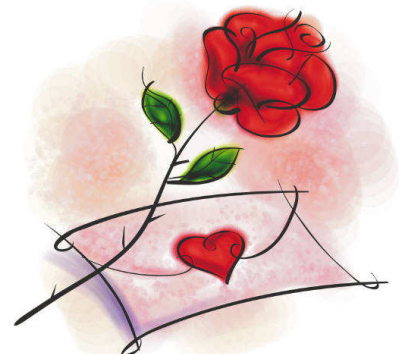


Say it with Poetry...

It's Valentine's Day, and there are many ways to say "I love you" to friends, family, or the love of your life, 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 be delivering poetry-grams to the doors and telephones of those you hold most dear. What could be sweeter for your sweetheart than receiving a knock at the door to have one of our members read a love poem sent by you? 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, Sunday February 14th, 2010. 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 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 to your dear ones, please contact:

The Peace River Center for Writers
at Edison State College
26300 Airport Rd.
Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941-637-3514
prew@edison.edu
Office hours: 1pm-5pm Mon-Thurs, 1pm-3pm Fri.





La Literatura de la Luna:
A Moonlight Literary Cruise

Charlotte Harbor
by moonlight,
with a song in the
air...

Sign up now for “**La Literatura de la Luna**,” our moonlight literary cruise. Join the Peace River Center for Writers, and our friends the YRI group, as we once again offer an evening of fun, poetry, frolic, and music on beautiful Charlotte Harbor. “**La Literatura de la Luna**” will depart from the dock at Fisherman’s Village at 7:30 pm on Saturday evening, March 27th, 2010. We’ll catch the sunset and be out on the water to greet the full moon. Our two and a half hour cruise will get back to the dock at Fisherman’s Village at about 10:00 p.m.

Bring poetry to recite, short stories to read, and food and drink to share. We’ll be sailing with the Kingfisher Fleet on their 65 foot vessel, *Good Times Too*, which can accommodate up to sixty-five people in the heated, enclosed lower deck and another fifty or so people on the covered upper deck.

Reservations can be made by calling Story Boyle, Office Manager for the Peace River Center for Writers at Edison State College, at 941-637-3514. Office hours are from 1:00pm until 5:00pm Monday through Thursday and 1:00pm until 3:00 p.m. each Friday. Tickets can also be reserved by e-mailing the PRCW@ESC at prcw@edison.edu. Tickets cost \$25.