

Community Writers Reading

"Art is completed by the viewer." Marcel Duchamp

"Writing is a way of saying you and the world have a chance." Richard Hugo

Program

1. Marcille Ansoerge *"Trip"*
2. Deborah Lincoln *"The Irishman"*
3. Wendy Kunkel *"Quite a Pleasant Fellow"*
4. Lynn Rouske *"The Wolf"*
5. Butch Freedman *"Heritage"*

Intermission

6. Chris Spence *"Been Here the Whole Time"*
7. Peggy Lindquist *"The Creek"*
8. Wendy Burroughs *"Blue-Ribbon Ride"*
9. Christine Inglis *"The Object Speaks"*
 "The Gift of a Son"
 "The Crab Apple Tree"
10. Steve Quinn *"Seeing Past Red"*

Welcome to the third public reading of the Cape Meares Writing Group. We hope you enjoy the stories, both real and imagined, that we will read for you this evening. The pieces have been developed over the last 10 weeks both in our weekly group sessions and at the writers' desks at home. Some claim that writing is a solitary affair—the writer scribbling away in her garret, apart from the world. Emily Dickinson ensconced in her parents' attic. But that's not the only, or even the healthiest, way to put pen to paper or fingertips to keyboard. Working with a group of like-minded and fair writers in a supportive environment is, I believe, both more effective and productive. The writer benefits from the feedback of the group and improves their work through succeeding drafts. Many of the pieces that will be read tonight have gone through numerous drafts and re-writes. As Ernest Hemingway said, "The first drafts of anything are garbage." (Actually Hemingway used a more colorful descriptor.)

One of the lessons a writer must learn is to be open to criticism—as long as it's well-intentioned and fair. And then to use that feedback to improve the work. It's not always easy. Egos can get in the way. But in this group defensiveness was left at the door. There was always a sense of collegiality and warmth. We also laughed a lot. No reason writers need be dour. Our group of 10 people from Cape Meares and other local communities formed a tight and mutually supportive bond—a connection that helped us forge the stories you will hear tonight. We hope you enjoy.

Butch Freedman

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