



Creative Workshops
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Creative Workshops March 2011
Writing Newsletter
Re-story and re-imagine your Life and Work

Dear writers, story-tellers readers

This month's letter could be subtitled "Thinking on the page, word by word rather than in the tumbled altogether head, brings clarity out of confusion."

Words on a page set actions in motion. Words like the circus strongman, can lift a ten ton lorry of worry. Words written on the page are the footprints of the animal that leads us out of the jungle of thought... imprint by imprint out of the mud and slush; they guide us out of Bunyan's "slough of despond," out of the quagmire.

So here was John Berger whom I read in the 70's (*G, Ways of Seeing*) on the book sale table. A joyous rediscovery of a new book by a known author. The flyleaf blurb in *Here is Where we Meet* (2005) informs of a unique literary journey where "a writer's life and work are inseparable; a fiction but not a conventional novel, a narration in the author's voice but not a memoir, a portrait that moves freely though time and space..."

In his journey though many of the cities of Europe, John encounters his dead as they mingle memories. In Lisbon he meets his long departed mother. As they speak high above an aqueduct, she comments on a scene below:

Let's hope only for what has some chance of being achieved! Let a few things be repaired. A few is a lot. One thing repaired changes a thousand others.

So?

The dog down there is on too short a chain. Change it, lengthen it. Then he'll be able to reach the shade, and he'll lie down and he'll stop barking. And the silence will remind the mother she wanted a canary in a cage in the kitchen. And when the canary sings, she'll do more ironing. And the father's shoulders in a freshly ironed shirt will ache less when he goes to work. And so when he comes home he'll sometimes joke, like he used to, with his teenage daughter. And the daughter will change her mind and decide, just this once, to bring her lover home one

evening. And on another evening, the father will propose to the young man that they go fishing together . . . Who in the wide world knows? Just lengthen the chain.

Words can begin the act of reparation, of repairing. In line with the theme of this letter, here is my recent version. (Writers often invoke fishing as a metaphor for aspects of writing)

Fishing out the Knots

in the 3 a.m. sea, sitting
on the shore of the waves of sleep
brooding over the dark ocean
my spool of thought snarls into overrun.

my thumb burns as I clamp
too late, the reeling sea-ward spin.
I sit with a fishing line
in a kelp nest tangle.

rising to write down the first word,
I prize the knots and unravel
line by line, across the sand.
in a cursive letter loop.

in the spool formed of thumb and fore
I cast true through the rod flick of a pen.
and ray by ray, as I rewind,
dawn creeps along the gut.

In her book on writing *Bird by Bird*, Annie Lamott reminds us of this for as we write word by word, an alignment arrives. Lamott quotes "the Gulf Stream will flow though a straw provided the straw is aligned to the Gulf Stream and not at cross purposes with it."

So let's untangle those night thoughts.

Announcing the Story Apprenticeship Series 2011-2013

We are all apprentices in a craft where no one ever becomes a master (Ernest Hemingway)

In the spirit of the apprenticeship tradition, I'm offering longer courses alongside the half/one day workshops. Many have asked for a more systematic in-depth approach to the craft of writing and story. These apprenticeship courses involve face-to-face workshop tuition with email/phone follow up support. This in turn leads to a shared publication featuring the writing of all those who participated and will culminate in a celebratory launch. Courses come with 8 copies of a book featuring your writing (+8 pages per writer)

Initially I will run the series in Johannesburg and Cape Town and Durban. If there is sufficient interest from another centre, then I will accommodate other venues in the course.

Scheduled for 2011: **SAS1 - Once Upon a Journey: Writing your Life Story** begins May- publication Oct) 13 folk subscribed so far - the course will run

For detailed flyers please contact me.

Dorian's March Storyshops/ Writeshops/Conversations

If you want any of these workshops in your area speak speak.

Western Cape

Southern Suburbs, Cape

1. The Joy and Call of Stories: Find the Storyteller inside is in process with 12 folk
5,12 March (sessions -3 and 4)

and 2 Sat 2 April **Spirit, Myth and Archetype A Writing Workshop** R480 (see blurb 3
below) venue TBA

Gauteng

2. Linksfield Ridge Johannesburg

Yin-Yang Brains and Hearts: Bringing the Gender Story to our Lives R 480

Sat 26 March 2010 14.30 – 18.00

*In Chinese philosophy, the concept of **yin yang** describes how polar or seemingly contrary forces are interconnected and interdependent in the natural world, and how they give rise to each other in turn. Opposites thus only exist in relation to each other.*

women and men? boys and girls? feminine and masculine? questions and more questions

- how do we differ...how are we similar? are we socialised?
- are there female and male brains - what does brain theory say?
- who is the person beneath gender?
- what of Jung's internal feminine/masculine - his anima/animus metaphor?

In this story-shop we consider and explore these questions. Turn them upside out and inside down, We work in an experiential and interactive way as we consider individual and collective stories. Come and explore the presence of words through stories that link women and men. Experience how stories echo in the spaces in-between.

Who should attend? All who wish to work consciously in their personal and professional life. All who engage with people around energy, relationship, stress and change.

Venue Karin Geldenhuys's home 28 Hannaben Street, Linksfield Ridge

3. Johannesburg

Spirit, Myth and Archetype A Writing Workshop R560

Sun 27 March 2011 10.00 - 15.00

My task of tasks is to discover what myth I am living. (Carl Jung)

In this workshop we explore our life stories in relation to the patterns that lie beneath the surface. The workshop offers insights into how myths and archetypes move within and influence our lives. We work in creativity, imagination and words. We use writing as a means of opening new ways of being and seeing. Living our mythology not our pathology.

Who should attend? This workshop is for anyone who wants to

- write creatively
- explore how imagination changes reality
- understand their lives at a deeper level
- change the story they are living

- replenish their power and energy

Bring writing materials and a light lunch to share. I'll provide tea and coffee.
Venue; TBA any ideas?

KZN

Plan to be back in early April

Namibia

4. Windhoek

A visit planned 13-21 March under the sponsorship of Carl Schlettwein Foundation, Basel to facilitate journal keeping workshops for education students. Will also be available for a story telling evening.

Ongoing activities (some repeat info here)

Mentoring – one-on-one

“You make me sound like myself” (various clients) Walk with me in words. You put on one shoe, I wear the other. Memoirs, mindful adventures, work in the word... genres tumbling out of folk on the one-on-one path. Such a richness of story here.

Email Courses: Writer’s/ Poet’s Voice Course – one-on-one tuition

Some folks respond to structure, assignments... if so, ask and it shall be negotiated. Here is one possibility: Do you love reading and writing? This one-on-one apprenticeship aims to take you further up the writing mountain and offer you a deeper engagement with your craft. This course is structured in the nature of an ongoing conversation with a few chosen writers or poets, (ancestral or alive) with me and with yourself. I encourage you to keep a journal to record your observations and reflections.

Speaking Engagements

Be still when you have nothing to say but when genuine passion moves you, say what you've got to say, and say it hot. (D. H. Lawrence) Last August I created and presented a myth of the Berg at the Drakensberg Sun for Southern Sun executives. What are your needs?

Development Work

During 2011 I will be working for Diakonia facilitating life story workshops for stress and trauma debriefing counsellors.

Bosman and Nasrudin under starlight

This season I will be a story-ing ...a summer evening, wine, cheese, breads and tales for the telling. This kind of evening is a bit like the old days - singing around the piano at home. - Except I use stories and creative activities to get folk interacting and to prompt conversations. Themes... Chinese, South African, Mediterranean, Arabian nights. Spending quality time. Any rhyme or reason – birthdays, TV fatigue, the art of conversation.

Corporate Work

The Halo and the Noose, the Power of story-telling and story listening in Business Life R195

Want to source a 100 plus stories? co-written with Graham Williams (Graysonian Press). We run corporate story workshops based on our book. Roma Howard, a training practitioner in

leadership and team effectiveness, writes:

*I was utterly captivated by *The Halo and the Noose*, and now regularly recommend it when I am facilitating my *Train the Trainer & Presentation Skills* courses.)*

For orders: from the authors or Graysonian Press Inspirational books that change the world www.graysonian.com 0836101113

We've established a website in order to offer *The Halo and the Noose* as an eBook, and to create a Member's facility for those who are serious about their story-telling and listening prowess in business. Members can access various resources, audio streams, article archives, their own newsletter, questionnaires, communicate with the authors and will get ongoing offers. The site is <http://www.haloandnoose.co.za>

In response to a growing demand we offer an eWorkbook, discounted to members (*Story Matters @ Work*) that contains many new stories and exercises covering elevator, personal, business issue, corporate, crucial conversation and other stories.

Friends at Work and Play

Elma Pollard: Write for Earth email based writing course

Learn the art of eco-journalism with energy and passion. Offer your voice to help craft a better future. More information at this link <http://thegreentimes.co.za/index.php?id=63>

Aneta Shaw: Creative relaxation in a small group context

Enhance personal growth and honour your soul through creative techniques. Aneta is a clinical psychologist and hypnotherapist, has integrated years of experience and life in other countries with ancient ways of being in this world.

Aneta 082 686 8118 or 021 8555415 aneta.shaw@vodamail.co.za

Hugh Hodge: As-you-write-it

Hugh, the Off-the-Wall Poetry MC and New Contrast Ed, runs a Saturday morning - 0930-1230 - class in creative writing from his home and the homes of participants, The course, As-you-write-it, is themed on the seven ages of (wo)man; over seven Saturdays. Cost R250 per Saturday or R1000 for all seven if paid up-front. Booking essential to Hugh (hahodge@gmail.com) - quorum 3, full house 8.

Juliette Gyure : Coaching

Far Sight Change and Transition Coaching cc provides a framework, creative processes and support mechanisms for people negotiating significant changes and transitions. I have a passion for co-creating innovative pathways to change, transition and transformation with my clients. For a free consultation contact me, Juliette Gyure, on 0726353818. (I am based in Durban)

" If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies"

Anne Haarhoff OWL (Order, Words, Language)

Need a top class sharp eyed editor and proof reader? Oh so most highly recommended 044 873 0547 ah1948@gmail.com 078 2733963

Writer-sites and News (see site news on my web. see new web address dorianhaarhoff.com)

May the tangle unravel, word by written word

Dorian