



Stone Soup

The Magic Continues...

Central LAWP finished its second Invitational Summer Institute on July 2, 2001 with some of Los Angeles' finest writing teachers. The 21 Fellows met for the first time at the Orientation meeting on June 8th. When the staff walked in our "smart room" (KH-C2091) and felt the sizzling energy of the teachers, we knew we were in for another terrific year.

During our first day together at the institute, Carolyn introduced the "name game" ice-breaker. We stood in a circle and introduced ourselves with an alliterative adjective along with our first names. We all went around the circle memorizing each other's names, which seemed more difficult than the year before. Our fearless director, Bob Land of-

fered to be last, not realizing he would have to repeat all 24 adjectives and names. Bob mentioned that he spent all year thinking of an appropriate alliteration to his name. He didn't want to make the same mistake last year when he inadvertently blurted out an adjective that was funny yet unfitting for our beloved Bob. Do you remember what it was? I'll give you a hint: It started with a "b."

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Central LAWP In-service News by Denise Ross

During our inaugural 2000-2001 school year, Central LAWP produced two series of Saturday in-services. The first was conducted at

Nightingale Middle School (Jenny's alma mater), during the rainy months of January and February. To help 6th, 7th and 8th grade teachers pre-

pare for the Performance Assignment, our own Memo Arce and Marci McMahon presented strategies for helping students

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Calendar Highlights:

- November 15-18 - NWP/NCTE Annual Meeting, Baltimore
- December 15- CLAWP Fall Renewal
- Upcoming—Saturday In-services at Plummer Elementary

Director's Corner *Bob Land*

A New Beginning

By the time you read this, our second summer institute will be over, but I write this as we are just beginning. Once again, Joan Cottich led us through the "This Is the Room" exercise--remember? Here's what two of the fellows wrote.

. . . In this room, we have not known each other long. But long enough to give and forgive and be safe. This is the room where the tables are too hard, the light is too bright. The softness

and warmth are internal, not external. . . This room is not old



enough to have built its own metaphors. The delicate threads are still only a webbed framework, not yet a colorful tapestry. But the richness of the colors has been revealed in flashes. . . Each of us dances with many threads to weave together into a finished whole. (Gurupreet Khalsa).

This is the room where we chosen ones are to write. An ordinary place that many pass by without glancing, it sits tucked in a nondescript hall. This is the room where some of our fears will surface, secrets will be told and hearts will be wrenched. What room is this? It is a spot where brilliance is discovered, and self examination is thrust to frontiers unknown. This is the room where the anvil clangs and wordsmiths are born. (Beatrice A. Jordan)

Remember?

In-service *continued from previous page*

write about heroes, while Bob Land and father-to-be Eddie Munoz looked at assessment and how to work with English Language Learners. We were also fortunate enough to borrow Bob Presnall from the Bay Area Writing Project and Kristi Agliolo and Moker Klaus from UCLA.

In May and June, we presented a three-Saturday series at one of our partnership schools, The Accelerated School. You probably read about them in TIME Magazine recently where they were recognized as one of the Schools of the Year. Fellow Joy Hunter is a fourth-grade teacher there, and we spent some quality time in her very impres-

sive classroom. Eddie gave teachers strategies for working through difficult texts. Remember his great ice cream cartoon? Natalie Gaither from

the Alhambra School District and Larry McKiernan from the UCLA Writing Project and Carolyn's writing class at CSULA presented on Writer's Workshop and working with English Language Learners.

The responses to each of these presentations were overwhelmingly positive. Jenny and I facilitated the workshops and gained so

much from the experience, both in terms of the strategies we acquired and the presentation models we observed. A big "thank you" to all who made our first staff development ventures such a huge success.

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2001 Fall Renewal

COME TO THE EDGE

Come to the edge.
We might fall.
Come to the edge.
It's too high!
COME TO THE EDGE!
And they came,
And he pushed,
And they flew.

*Christopher Logue
(23 November 1926-)*

We invite all Fellows, past and present to join together for a day of renewal and friendship. Mark your calendar for the second annual **Fall Renewal** scheduled for **Saturday, December 15 from 9:30 to 3:30pm**. Our guest speaker is Barry Spacks.

To give you an idea of the quality of our presenter, last year's renewal guests were Joni Chancer and Gina Rester-Zodrow, authors of *Moon Journals*. (They were also our 2001 first day guest presenters!)

As we head into the holidays, hustling and bustling to do

our last minute shopping and what nots, we offer this creative opportunity to slow down, reflect and write. We hope that it will be a time, where ineffable moments and fleeting thoughts can be captured. We hope to meet you at the edge.

*It wouldn't be the same without
you!*



A poem from a third grade Classroom:

Untitled

I am from a land of Playstation
Where you play with no Nintendo
See the T.V.
and do nothing else
I am from grapes that can be eaten
And my juice is so good
You can make grape juice
I am from under the sea
With fish and whale
And friends.
I am from the sky
With the birds and the clouds
And you can lay down and sleep
I am from the lights
of my classroom
I shine so bright
With colors.
—Luis Erazo, Age 8



Summer Institute *continued from page 1*

The staff would like to thank the 2001 Fellows for another successful summer institute:

Massively Reading **Marga**, Nice **Natalie**, Bold **Beatrice**, Cautious **Carol**, Respectful **Rebecca**, Just **Joseph**, Nonsensical **Neal**, Active **Allison**, Melodious

Mary Eileen, Self Reliant **Sarah**, Restless **Rosa**, Dawdling **Debra**, Bewildered **Brenda**, Demanding **Deborah**, Loquacious **Linnea**, Responsible **Rachel**, Sensitive **Sylvia**, Pondering **Peter**, Magnificent Driving **Monica**, Surprising **Stephanie** and Grumpy **Gurupreet**.

Congratulations! In case your wondering Bob's adjective for this year, he dubbed himself Belletristic Bob.



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"Never a day without a line."

**Visit NWP online at
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Share Your Stories in *Stone Soup*

Stone Soup invites you to submit your story about classroom practice, student's work, opinion pieces, essays, news and updates about yourself or a colleague. Photos are also welcome. For submission, please forward an electronic copy via email or diskette. Please include your name, address, phone number and email address. You can send it to The Central Los Angeles Writing Project, c/o CSULA (Dr. Carolyn Frank), 5151 State University Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90032-8142 or email us at lawp@calstatela.edu.

Learning to Write - A poem by Alma Orta, 2000 CLAWP Fellow

New and unused pencils
pressing mightily
on crisp white thicklined pages
of a newly unwrapped journal book.

Lines--
wavy, straight, thick and narrow
written down
as sweat
comes down
little foreheads.

Chewed on chipped away pencils
pressing hard on
thick lined pages
of a crumbled up and overused journal
book.

Carefully constructed letters—
straight and circular, up and down and
across
perfectly formed
neatly aligned
by
small
fingers and hands.

Bitten on, broken and worn out pencils
pressing steadily on
old and tattered journal books.
Carefully spaced and beautifully
aligned words



adorn the page.
Words become part of sentences to be
read.

Sweat pouring down foreheads,
and aching fingers and hands
become overjoyed smiles
feelings of pride and joy.
As precious moments
are recorded every day
by the hearts and souls of children
as they learn to write....