

## Get Ready for 2010 Census

By Phyllis Makuck

Throughout the United States, preparations are underway for the 2010 Census. All states have opened regional and local offices. Officially, April 1 is Census Day. That means new census figures will represent the number of people residing in the U.S. as of April 1, 2010. The count will include all citizens and non-citizens of all ages, races and ethnic groups in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and area islands.

For each residence, one person will complete one questionnaire, list all the people living/sleeping at the address as of April 1, 2010, and provide all census data for those individuals—age; date of birth; gender; race; Hispanic origins, if any; other residence locations, if any; and whether or not the person is related to the person completing the questionnaire. Completed questionnaires are to be mailed to the U.S. Census Bureau's National Processing Center.

Since spring of this year, regional census workers have been verifying addresses. The remainder of the process will be as follows:

- Fall 2009 - Recruit applicants to be census-takers in 2010.
- February-March 2010 - Mail or deliver census questionnaires to households.
- April-July 2010 - Visit addresses that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

• December 2010—Deliver population counts to the President. By law, this is when census data used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives must be ready.

• March 2011 - Deliver data for state redistricting decisions. Date set by law.

In addition to serving as the basis for apportionment and redistricting, census data will affect other functional areas of state and local government. Census numbers determine the annual allotment of more than \$300 billion of federal and state funding to communities. The numbers also influence many community decisions. As the National Census Bureau states: "The census is like a snapshot that helps define who we are as a nation. Data about changes in your community are crucial to many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build new roads and schools, or where to locate job training centers."

There has been a U.S. census every ten years since 1790, when the population count, taken by census workers traveling on horseback, was 3.5 million. At last count, in 2000, the U.S. population was over 281 million.

Completing a census form takes only about ten minutes and is not just a good thing to do, it is required by law. Your confidentiality is protected by the same law: "All Census Bureau employees have taken an oath to protect confidentiality and are subject to a jail term, a fine - or both - for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household."

If you would like to work as a census taker, want more information about the 2010 Census, or would like to see a copy of the 2010 questionnaire, go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>. You may also contact a local Census Office in Greenville or Fayetteville.

## Coastal Poetry

By Barbara Milhaven

*"Peter Makuck's poems are as beautiful and well-made as the best poems of his contemporaries. What sets them apart from and above virtually all of them, however, is their ethos, their attentiveness to the world outside the self and their capacity to love: people, creatures, landscape. Makuck's poetry shows us not only how to see but how to live."*

- Jonathan Holden

Peter Makuck has achieved acclaim and awards for his literary work: poetry, short stories and essays. Among these honors are a nomination for the Pen/Faulkner Award in 2002, honorable mention in *Best American Short Stories*, having his story "Filling the Igloo" selected for *The Best of The Southern Review* and another, "The Trouble with Smitty," listed in *The Best Essays of 2000*.

Peter seems to specialize, though, in writing inspiring poetry. Many of his poems are devoted to nature and life in and around Pine Knoll Shores and eastern North Carolina—some from his own life's experiences. Especially applicable to residents of Pine Knoll Shores are two of his published books of poetry *Off-Season in the Promised Land* and *Against Distance*. That walk along Bogue Sound or to the ocean beach will take on an entirely new picture vocabulary after seeing it though Peter's words.

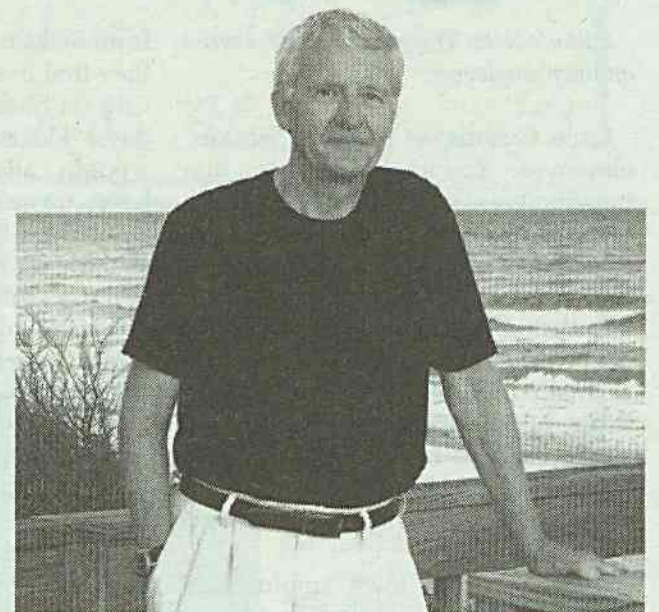
Peter Makuck was born and raised in New London, Connecticut, another coastal town. He studied at l'Université Laval in Quebec and received his B.A. from St. Francis College, majoring in French and English. Peter indicated that immersing himself in French while in Canada enabled him to teach French successfully for two years before going on to graduate school where he took a PhD in American literature from Kent State University. In 1974-75, Peter was a Fulbright Exchange Professor

at Université de Savoie in Chambéry, France. He was also a Visiting Writer at Brigham Young University in 2000 and was founding editor of *Tar River Poetry*. Since 1976 until his recent retirement, he was a professor of American literature at East Carolina University.

Peter took part in the poetry readings in this year's Spoleto Festival in Charleston, S.C., and will be featured in the Carteret County Public Library's planned month-long Celebration of Poetry in April 2010, pending a positive response to a grant for this special event.

His poetry books are available at Carteret County libraries, the gift shop at the Beaufort Historic Site in Beaufort and Beach Book Mart in Atlantic Beach.

Reading Peter Makuck's poetry is like



a pictorial conversation with nature and life's everyday experiences. Betty Adcock, referring to Peter Makuck's *Off-Season in the Promised Land*, says:

*"In free-soaring lyrics, Peter Makuck casts deft nets for the moments that are nearly impossible to name, that disappear the way the fox in one poem vanishes 'like smoke into smoke.' Moving with reverence and precision, the poet captures both 'the sea's unkeepable blue' and the 'light that is always available.' Makuck is a master of praise, meditation and mystery. This is his wisest and most beautiful collection."*

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