

The Branch

–March Meeting & Luncheon–
Join us at 11 a.m. on March 17th
at TT Golf & Country Club
RSVP to Dot by Wed. NOON 3/11/09

The National League of American Pen Women, Inc.
Tampa Branch #88

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President's Corner

The weather certainly doesn't *feel* like spring today. The brown carpet that was once green lush lawn and the bare shrubs in my yard do not make it look like Spring is around the corner. However, Mother Nature bounces back quickly so we will soon see the colorful Florida landscapes that enrich our souls.

Congratulations to our Strawberry Festival winners! It is exciting to see our members' involved and taking advantage of area opportunities. The state conference and art exhibit is coming up in the fall and it is not too soon to be working on something to submit.

Gainor did a marvelous job on presenting the digital workshop for us at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. Thank you so much Gainor for sharing you knowledge with your fellow Pen Women.



Marcia's January program spurred so much interest that we have scheduled a workshop on Friday, March 27th. The title will be "Manifesting Your Visions." I hope as many of you that can, will plan on attending. These workshops help us to grow in different directions.

In April, I thought we would host a "Paint Out." Write down your location suggestions and give them to me at the meeting so we can choose one.

Our branch is blessed with so many members with expertise in such a wide range of fields. If you would like to facilitate a workshop, please let me know and we will try to arrange it.

Hope to see all of you at our March meeting and don't forget to keep inviting friends and/or prospective members! *Meletha*

Manifesting Your Vision – Friday Workshop, March 27th

This will be a six-hour interactive workshop with Marcia Wilson.

Introduction and Inspiration

Creating Your Vision Circle

Speaking Your Vision (each shares her work with the group)

Date: Friday, March 27th

Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Bring: magazines to cut and share, double stick tape or glue stick, scissors, and a bag lunch

Nominal Fee: \$3.00 to cover poster board and extra supplies (2 sheets creates the circle)

Location: Meletha's house; we will spread ourselves out on her lanai



Please email mkwsolutions@verizon.net or call Marcia to enroll (813) 980-0298. Confirmations are needed so that Marcia can purchase the poster board and make the Vision Circles in advance.

NOTE: Marcia will correspond with each person prior to the workshop, so please *register early*.



Pen Women News

Brigitte Mailahn paintings are hung at the Shimberg.

Tampa Realistic Artists will have an ATC Swap on April 3rd entitled "Life in a Garden." Cards are due by March 27th and this event is open to everyone.

A *Peoples Choice Award* will be awarded. A preview is on display at the Old Hyde Park Art Center, if you are in the area, please, check it out. Out of state artists will also be participating.

Carlene Earl provided the **Strawberry Festival Winners**. Thank you to our members who represented our organization and congratulations to all of our winners!



Professional Oils

Brigitte Mailahn; 1st Place

Professional Watercolors

Nelida DiLorenzo; 1st Place

Miniatures (Adults)

Peggy Little; 1st Place

Angela Santos; 2nd Place

Carlene Earl; 3rd Place

Carlene Earl; 4th Place

Debbi O'Reilly is relieved and happy to tell us that her business website, ResumeWriter.com, has been revamped and should be up and running later this month. Many thanks to Caroline McKeon for her valuable editorial and web-development assistance. Deb also had the pleasure of speaking about resumes and job-search to a highly motivated group of people at a recent careers workshop which took place February 14th at Nativity Catholic Church in Brandon.

Meletha Everett worked on the silent auction and membership renewable for the Brandon Arts Council Arty Party. She is the membership chair.

Meletha will be doing a one day watercolor workshop the day before our March meeting. She submitted her painting for the competition held by the Hillsborough County Expressway Authority; the results will be announced in April.

Nelida DiLorenzo reported that fellow Pen Woman, Roxanne Tobaison, judged at the Zephyrhills Art Club on Friday, March 6th.

Sheila Blow shares a meeting announcement:

Central West Region Florida Committee

National Museum of Women in the Arts

Date: March 14, 2009

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Location: New Port Richey Library, 5939 Main Street,
New Port Richey, FL 34652
Aviary Room, Second Floor

Phone: 727-853-1279

Visitors Welcome; *Optional* lunch out follows meeting.

Shirley Adema is still on the mend since her recent surgery. She starts treatments at Moffitt this week (March 5th). Shirley extends her gratitude to everyone who has sent her get well greetings.

Donation Request: Is there anyone who has an extra **vacuum cleaner** they could donate to my art class at the prison? (Or, do you know someone who might have one to donate?)

We are in need of one because the new art room has carpet. There is an inspection coming up next month and the warden is insisting that our room be spotless. Thank you for your assistance and for your help to spread the word. Many thanks, **Minnette Webster; 689-8041** or email minnetteart@verizon.net



Photo from the *Digital Camera Workshop* on February 27th



Gainor certainly captured everyone's attention at the recent *Digital Camera Workshop*!

Meletha writes: *I think we all came away with a lot of information running around in our heads. Now we just have to file it in the proper place so we can pull it up when we need it.*

Florida Penguins?

by Susan Weilbacher

Barb Routen and I recently stayed at the Dickens House B & B (my favorite spot for resting and recharging creative energy) for a mini vacation and spent a gorgeous day at Fort De Soto Beach in St. Pete. While we wandered around the boat docks taking photos for her writing and my painting reference, I struck up a conversation with a young man fishing. I pointed out the tall blue heron waiting patiently about five yards behind him. He said "Oh, yeah... when I catch little fish, I throw them to the penguins."



The penguins?! Barb and I did an exemplary job of managing not to laugh!

A half hour later we hit the beach, which was crowded with people. And the first thing we saw was a little boy chasing the seagulls yelling "Duckie, duckie, duckie!!" Barb and I couldn't contain ourselves at that point! Barb commented, "What beach is this?"



Heading home later we noticed that most of the license plates on the cars were from Canada or very Northern states. Still, when was the last time you heard of a penguin wandering our beaches?

www.dickenshouse.com

The **Tampa Branch of the NLAPW** meets the third Tuesday of each month from September through May.
Location: Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club, 200 Inverness Avenue, Temple Terrace, FL 33617

We gather at 11 AM to socialize and our meeting starts promptly at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is \$7.50 per person. Please join us and bring a guest. Reservations are requested by the Thursday prior to the meeting.

NLAPW Tampa Branch
February 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:28 a.m. by President Meletha Everett. She read some inspirational thoughts and said grace. We said the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Guests, Bobbi Dugas (photographer), Julianne Papp (writer) and prospective member Melinda Albritton (artist), were introduced and welcomed.

Secretary Barbara Routen had an amendment to last month's minutes—that Melinda Albritton had been approved by the branch to be considered for membership by National but was not yet accepted. A motion was made and seconded not to read the minutes.

Treasurer Caroline McKeon gave the financial report. She said National currently pays a member \$5,000 per year to maintain the website. She said "I'd charge \$500 a year to [do that.]" Caroline believes we should help each other and the organization without remuneration or for a discount.

Staci Backauskas shared results of the membership survey .Caroline added "web design" as a skill and asset she brings to our branch.

Barbara and Staci agreed to start a Public Relations Committee and develop a list of goals and tasks. Caroline and Staci agreed to start a Brochure Committee to make a brochure to introduce people to the NLAPW. Caroline said she would print the first 100 copies of the brochure for free.

Meletha asked "a bouquet of cards" to be sent to Minnette Webster and Shirley Adema. Caroline asked for a volunteer treasurer for the March meeting; Dot Setlow volunteered. Barbara won the 50/50; Roxanne Tobaison won chocolates. The meeting ended at 12:07.

Debora M. Coty presented "A Writer's Journey: Traversing Pinnacles and Potholes on the Road to Publication." She used a well-timed PowerPoint presentation, props, a contest and humor to tell her personal story about her inspiration, writing process, and marketing strategies.



Reading well-written novels and how-to books about grammar and punctuation taught her to write. She met with a writing mentor and writers groups. She developed a website, newsletter, bookmarks, and a business card with a whimsical cat on it. She aggressively sends releases to the press. She presented much that could help all of us improve our Pen Women businesses.

Meletha won a gift basket by making the best guess of how many chocolates were in Debora's jar. (A reference to her upcoming release, *Mom Needs Chocolate*.)

The presentation concluded and everyone departed at 1:20 p.m.

Barbara Routen, Secretary



March 17th Meeting & Luncheon

Please join us for our March meeting and luncheon. It's St. Patrick's Day, so wear green and celebrate with the Irish!

Date: March 17th

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club

RSVP by NOON on Wednesday the 11th

Dot Setlow: 813-238-0127 or d3rdbyr@gmail.com



Brigitte Mailahn

March & April Birthdays (B) & Anniversaries (A)

3/18	B	Dee DeVane
3/20	B	Carlene Earl
4/5	B	Peggy Little
4/10	A	Brigitte Mailahn
4/25	A	Robbie Miles
4/30	B	Susan Weilbacher