

The Branch

–Oct. Meeting & Luncheon–
Join us at 11 a.m. on Oct. 20th
at TT Golf & Country Club
RSVP to Dot by Wed. NOON 10/14/09

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

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President's Corner

The busy fall schedule is in full swing with all the demands of deadlines and upcoming holidays. We are all very busy and creative people and that is a good thing; however, I do have several requests and reminders for everyone. Please think about other creative people you know and ask them to come to our monthly meetings and talk to them about becoming a *prospective member*.

Let us think about how we can give back and share some of our talents with each other by volunteering to give a *workshop*. We will begin scheduling those after the first of the year.

Time is really flying by, and I hope everyone is preparing something for our *exhibition to be at Center Place in January*. We will need the name of your work(s) and all the information soon.

Our Tampa Branch is planning a *seminar presentation in February*. It will take all of our members pulling together and doing little jobs behind the scenes as well as helping the presenters with whatever they need. As voted, all of the money earned will be donated to the art program at the women's prison conducted by our own Minnette Webster. We are looking forward to this being a huge success!

I will be leaving for Washington, DC early Friday, October 16th. I think I will need some of those skates on my shoes like you see kids wearing in the mall. I arrive at Regan National at 9:00 AM and have the first meeting at 10:00 and another one after that. The board meeting will be all day on Saturday. I have my reports and recommendations ready to present. A lot of work goes on up there, and it is very rewarding talking and getting to know these women from all over the country.



I'm looking forward to seeing you at our meeting this month.

Meletha

Upcoming October Program

Guest speaker, Christine Taylor, is a novel writer. Her program is entitled *Through the Lens, A Time Forgotten*. This links an artistic eye of the photographer with the creative mind of the author. Although her stories are fictional, she does in-depth research to add a realistic touch and a multi-layer richness to her books.

Chris traveled to Georgia for research for her novel, *Secrets of Havenridge*. She will share photographs and facts about the hospital once called Georgia Lunatic Asylum, built in 1842, and stories about patients when mental health treatment was so very different.

Christine will have handouts and photographs to share. Join us on October 20th for this opportunity to view Christine's photographs of magnificent structures of a bygone era.



Pen Women News



Claire Gardiner has been very busy with *Bella Cucina Aprons* . . . in Italian, it means “Beautiful Kitchen Aprons.” Each apron is hand-made by Claire, and she has designed each apron style. No two aprons are exactly alike. All items have hand sewn detailing like lace, rick rack, rosettes, ribbons, and appliqués.

Please visit her new web site: www.bellacucinaaprons.com. Her site offers PayPal which accepts all major credit cards; her email is bellacucinaaprons@gmail.com.

Meletha Everett’s painting that was selected to be enlarged to 6’ x 17’ and placed on a tower in Brandon will be unveiled Nov. 4th. Everyone will meet at the Chamber of Commerce on Paul Drive at 9:00 AM for a reception before being bussed to the site at Brandon Parkway / Lakewood. There is no parking at the site itself. Meletha writes, “You are all invited to come and hear my knees knock.”



Sheila Blow reported on the opening reception of the Bethke Studios Show in New Port Richey earlier this month (photo left with member artist Mary Ellen O’Brien in the blue dress). Dawn Johnson with The Tampa Art Museum was the Judge and two Pen Women who were honored are: Mary Ellen O’Brien, 3rd Place and Sheila Blow, Honorable Mention. “No Naked Walls” donated frame shop gift certificates to each winner.

Staci Backauskas announces the publication of her latest book, *ego: A Primer*, which explain in simple language the forms, tactics, and strategies ego uses to convince us of our limitations. This valuable tool shows you how to recognize ego in your life and provides simple direction for returning to truth. You will use it again and again on your

journey – both as a guide for finding peace amidst the chaos and as a means to better understand the work of teachers like Eckhart Tolle, Caroline Myss, Wayne Dyer and Gary Zukav.

Staci is presenting a program on *How To Find The Peace Beneath The Chaos* at the Quorum Hotel on Westshore Blvd. on Tuesday, October 27th from 6-8:30 pm. For information, visit www.tlol.org/conversations

Stephanie Moreland recently became the writer for Houston Tourism at Examiner.com. You can see her profile and all of her articles here: <http://www.examiner.com/x-23227-Houston-Tourism-Examiner>

Stephanie writes, “If people can read my material and hit ‘subscribe’, that would be appreciated. Page views and subscriptions are the measurement of my success (and my paycheck too!).”



Susan Weilbacher shared a summer painting at the Tampa Branch August Writing workshop.



Brigitte Mailahn, NLAPW-Tampa Branch member and chairwoman of Artworks 2009, is happy with the turnout at the Artworks 2009 reception at Center Place Fine Arts & Civic Association.

What We Did This Summer

By Barbara Routen

We extended our sincere condolences to Gainor Roberts whose husband, George G. Cranston, passed away in May. **Gainor** put her energies into creating a new art studio in the former living room and illustrating the cover of Susan Harmon's book *To Hide the Truth*.

Carol Karow was excited to have painted "not a portrait!" in acrylics in Murfee, N.C. **Sandra** Cameron painted toile quilt blocks. **Virginia** Halloway said she had a problem knowing what to do, but something jumped up and volunteered itself. Two dozen eggs fell and cracked on the kitchen floor. She photographed the mess, cleaned it up and painted the still life from the photo (shown right). She also painted a miniature of two little boys.



Sheila Blow created window paintings, and her customer will feature them at a reception. **Marcia** Wilson wrote web copy for several new clients, taught a class, and spent two weeks in Jupiter, Florida. **Roxanne** Tobaison created a new wrist with plates and screws, with help from a surgeon, and painted "Dogs in the Park." She painted works for the FSA, Artworks 2009, the Gallery Hop and Brandon League of Fine Arts' Carrollwood show.

Mary Ellen O'Brien papier-mâché'd wine bottles and won awards at Carrollwood and Artworks 2009. **Staci** Backauskas met regularly with art and writing groups, doing everything from writing haiku to painting with acrylics and painting in the rain. **Debra** O'Reilly presented several workshops and continued to help people increase their chances of landing jobs by writing and tweaking their resumes.

Carlene Earl traveled to Texas, Oklahoma and Michigan and painted. **Nelida** DiLorenzo visited her sister and went to an art school for a six-week colored-pencil class. **Melinda** Albritton honed her abilities to work with colored pencils.

Meletha Everett worked on projects while her husband, Bill, was in hospitals during their travels. She covered purse-sized notebooks with scrapbook paper, made paper and accordion cards and painted miniatures of scenes in Jamestown and Williamsburg, Va., and Tampa. **Barb** Routen wrote and illustrated (with photos) a bilingual children's book, presented a workshop for the branch and spoke at a writers' group meeting.



Meletha Everett wins a guitar at the Brandon League of Fine Arts Artworks 2009 at Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association.



Melinda Albritton gets new member certificate from President Meletha Everett at the September meeting.

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

September 15, 2009 Meeting Minutes

President Meletha Everett called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., read inspiring words and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Four guests were introduced: Maria Adams, artist; Chris Kuhn, writer and editor of the skirt! Tampa Bay e-zine; Cheryl Kuck, artist and Tampa Tribune columnist; and Kim Hall, choreographer.

Two recommendations were unanimously passed: to donate \$25 to the outgoing state president and to donate \$10 in prize money per category – art, music and letters – for the Florida state convention. Motions to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept the treasurer's report were seconded, voted on and passed.

The brochure prototype, created by Staci Backauskas (text) and Dot Setlow (art) was viewed, discussed and admired. Meletha and members discussed outreaches, including Minnette Webster's prison art classes and a February seminar for the public. A fee would be charged for attending the seminar. ("\$5 is not enough," said Staci Backauskas.)

Roxanne Tobaison said she and Margaret Conte visited homebound member Marge Raus. Member Caroline Metheny has had neck and back surgery and needs prayer. Individuals in the branch will continue to sign up to send cards to members who are sick or homebound, including Marge Raus, Pat Tully and Caroline Metheny.

Meletha read "Winners" and a thank you note from State President Kathleen McDonald. Five branch members have been members for 30 years or more: Mary Ellen O'Brien, Pat Tully, Neva Enis, Marge Raus and Jonie Maschek, formerly of this branch, now of the Ruskin branch.

Former member Judy Freeman's videotaped pottery class will air at 7:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 12, on HGTV.

Barbara Routen agreed to attend the business meeting Saturday morning during the state convention. Tampa Branch President, Meletha Everett, presented Melinda Albritton a certificate of membership in the branch as an arts member.

The branch is asking interested artists to submit a new owl design for the cover of the yearbook. Members should bring designs to the October meeting and those present will vote on them. Designs should be in color on an 8 1/2" by 11" piece of paper and include art, music and letters. No text should be in the picture. This will prepare us to enter the next NLAPW state conference yearbook contest in 2011.

Any member may request a printed copy of the yearbook from Caroline McKeon. The branch saves \$350 per year by sending them out online instead of printing copies for all.

Guest Chris Kuhn drew the winning raffle ticket, which belonged to guest Kim Hall. Kim donated the \$12 back to the club.

Meletha adjourned the meeting at noon. The table topic discussed over lunch was "What action do you take to keep your creativity from being derailed?" After lunch members share how they spent the summer.

Barbara Routen, Secretary



Brigitte Mailahn

~ REMINDER ~

October 20th Meeting & Luncheon

Please join us for a special October meeting!

Date: Tuesday, October 20th

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club

October Birthdays (B) & Anniversaries (A)

10/4	B	Marjorie Raus
10/4	B	Angela Santos
10/9	B	Sandra Cameron
10/18	B	Minnette Webster
10/24	B	Judy Johnson
10/28	A	Meletha Everett
10/30	B	Caroline McKeon