

The Branch

Happy Holidays Everyone!
December Meeting & Luncheon
Join us at 11 a.m. on Dec. 15th
at Meletha Everett's home



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

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President's Corner

I am looking forward to seeing all of you at my house for our annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 15th. Be sure to bring some staples to help the Metropolitan Ministries feed those less fortunate. They are always in need and at this holiday season even more so than ever before. They serve the entire Tampa Bay area which we also represent so it is fitting that we support them.

We had a good state conference, however, we will hold off reporting on it until January. Those that attended will join me in discussing all of the wonderful events and activities. At our January meeting we can give it the full attention it so deserves.

We want to wish those who are not able to get out this season, a very Merry Christmas and know that each one of you are in our thoughts all year long. We miss you at our meetings but we understand that your focus needs to be on getting well.

The Christmas season brings reflections of all our blessings throughout the year and the things we should focus on. Several years ago, we talked about our most memorable Christmas. This year, I thought we could think of something humorous that happened during the Christmas season and let's share it at our party this year. It doesn't matter if it was recent or when you were young. I know we all have funny things that have happened, so let's share with everyone and enjoy a chuckle and some laughter.



I wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a most Happy and prosperous New Year!
Meletha

December 15th Holiday Donations

Metropolitan Ministries: serving the poor and homeless men, women, and children in the Tampa Bay region. Please bring your choice of a donation to our meeting on the 15th.

Urgent Current Needs:

- Canned meats
- Canned vegetables/fruits
- Cereals (hot or cold)
- Grocery staples
- Cake or dessert mixes



If you prefer, Christmas Gifts MM needs:

- New clothing or items for babies
- New items for teenagers (girls & boys)
- Please do not wrap gifts



By Susan Weilbacher

December 15th meeting at Meletha Everett's
405 Green Arbor, Brandon, FL 33511
813.685.1675



Pen Women News

Carol and Chris Karow will be in North Carolina with family and friends for the holidays!

Eleanore McDade wrote: "I wish all my dear Pen Women friends a very Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Prosperous 2010! I am enjoying the wonderful changes of seasons up here in the mountains; it truly is beautiful up here with all four seasons. It's chilly now up in the mountains and it snowed Saturday, so-o-o beautiful! My love to all!"

Marcia Wilson recently completed her *Certified Natural Health Practitioner* certification. She will be studying for her massage license with a goal of sitting for the exam in early March. She will integrate Wellness Coaching with Jin Shin Jyutsu (a Japanese energy healing modality that she has studied for 14 years). This second business will be Transform 2 Harmony with a website of the same name.

Meletha Everett participated in the Great American Teach-In at Nelson Elementary. She had about 185 students observe her demonstrations. Four classes came at a time. They discussed painting and art while Meletha painted a hibiscus.

Meletha wrote: "Bill and I had two grandsons and one girl friend for Thanksgiving dinner. They came back the next day 'to do away with the leftovers' as one of them put it. Aren't grandkids great!"

Nelida DiLorenzo is back from a six week trip to visit her home town in Argentina. She is already busy with her art classes, preparing for upcoming shows and trying to do some painting in between all the rest of the things that come with the Holidays' season. Happy Holidays!!

Staci Backauskas' new book, *ego: A Primer*, is currently in preview at www.tlol.com/ego-a-primer. Written in a conversational style, it encourages readers to identify how the orchestra of thought we label ego drives them to make choices and take action. With thoughtful questions and insightful Haiku, the book guides those willing to explore the ways ego can be mitigated and managed. This is the sixth book Staci has published through her company, Jai Creations.

Susan Weilbacher's latest poinsettia painting (watercolor on aquaboard) fit perfectly on our front page!

Susan wrote: "Roxanne and I have been enjoying painting on these little boards—size 4" x 4", or larger. The watercolor moves in a totally different way and results can be surprising. Joyful holidays to all!"



Carol Karow and Susan Weilbacher

Penwomen, Carol Karow, Barb Routen and Debbi O'Reilly were able to attend Susan's Open House Art Show, and Roxanne Tobaison lent lots of moral support.

Girlfriends (and husbands too) from Susan's Christian Community helped her prepare, set up, assemble cards, cashier & bake goodies for her Open House Art Show for friends. "With my time constraints and health issues, I realized very clearly that I couldn't have done this show without my friends and family's generous help. I'm so grateful for their many hours of service! The show was successful, rewarding and fun! I hope to do it again next year."

Barb's Excellent Adventure at the NLAPW Florida State Conference

I went to the reception the first evening of the conference, and only one other Pen Woman was there. She happened to be a book agent with contacts in the major publishing houses in New York. How exciting for me, a writer! We had a nice, uninterrupted chat, and I learned a lot.

When someone asked me to be in a skit that night, my impulse was to run and hide; instead, I said, "Sure." I'm glad I did. It was a lot of fun and helped me feel part of the group.

Our state president, Kathleen McDonald, asked for help hanging the art show. I volunteered, although I had no idea how to do that. It was fun getting to know her and the other Pen Women who also helped, and learning how funny artists can be about what hangs where and why.

As a voting delegate, my attendance at the FSA meeting was mandatory. Kathleen, her husband, Jim (an attorney who gives the association legal advice), our national president Taylor Collins, Caroline McKeon, secretary Sheila Firestone, conference co-chairwomen Laura Vaughn, second vice president, and Anne Anderson, sat on the dais. Meletha Everett sat in the audience.

Jim McDonald said the 501 (c) (3) law says you cannot advocate for a given political candidate. It does not limit religious words and themes—after all, synagogues, mosques and churches have 501 (c) (3) status. Hallelujah! Praise God! ☺

Some of our members' work is religious in nature. That's fine. We can write and publish reviews in our magazines and newsletters about those works and the religious convictions of the women who create them. Decisions about publishing them are based on the quality of the writing, not the views expressed therein. You can teach *about* something to lead to a greater understanding without teaching *it*.

Kathleen said that as a 62-year-old white woman she represents the *current* demographic of NLAPW, but she exhorted us to be more inclusive of any and all women who are vibrant professionals in their arts.



Barb in jewelry making workshop—
painting and encaustic (pigment in
melted wax) design on wooden locket

Meletha won the 2009 FSA-NLAPW Individual Achievement Award and, along with all the other branch presidents, was presented a rose. I won my first journalistic award—second place in the Non-Fiction, Short/Published category of the 2009 Letters Competition for "Art Classes Help Female Inmates 'Escape' from Prison" about Minnette Webster's prison art program, from the April 28, 2007 edition of *The Tampa Tribune*.

Throughout the weekend women exchanged business cards, bookmarks, and samples of their artwork, writing and music. The chaplain, Sandy Fink, passed out laminated prayer cards at each meal and led a memorial for deceased members.

I made new friends, learned a lot from the sessions, created a necklace and wrote a poem. I'm already looking forward to the next state conference in 2011.

—Barbara Routen



Barb's finished locket (blue),
Susan's (green)

Photos courtesy of Susan Weilbacher

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 November 17th Meeting Minutes

President Meletha Everett called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and inspired us with words of thanksgiving. There was no flag, so we did not say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Member Sheila Blow introduced her guest, Maureen Bethke of New Port Richey, who is a visual artist. Guest speaker Dawn Johnson is deputy director of programming for the Tampa Museum of Art. Judy Freeman, former branch member, visited with us, too.

Virginia Halloway reported that the Temple Terrace Golf and Country Club agreed to offer a combination soup and Caesar salad for an additional \$1.50.

Shirley Adema moved we dispense with the reading of the minutes; Caroline McKeon seconded that. Caroline gave the treasurer's report bottom line and said Carol Karow twice added \$10 to the fees given to our speakers.

Minnette Webster reported that 60 pieces of her students' prison art is on display through December at the South Shore Regional Library, 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin. She said the Prison Art Program is completely out of money.

Our branch is sponsoring a January show at Center Place Fine Arts and Civic Association, 619 Vonderburg Drive, Brandon:

- ACTION: Meletha will distribute invitations that each member may mail.
- ACTION: Intake for the show will be from 9 a.m. to noon Monday, Jan. 4; Gunni Price and Carlene Earl volunteered to help with that.
- The Brandon League of Fine Arts will be in charge of a reception that will include a table at which authors may sell books, from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7.

The December meeting will be a party at Meletha's house at the regular meeting time Tuesday, Dec. 15th.

- ACTION: bring covered dish and some non-perishables for Metropolitan Ministries. Please consider inviting a guest to join the festivities!

Susan Weilbacher invited all to her house at 10:30 to watch Judy Freeman's short TV class. Dawn Johnson drew the winning 50/50 ticket; Sheila Blow won the \$4.50. Caroline reported that \$14.20 was collected at the meeting for the National Scholarship Fund.

In Dawn's talk about the Tampa Museum of Art, she said she would love to host a tour for the NLAPW-Tampa and do projects together.

The meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.
Barb Routen, Secretary

Happy Holidays to all!



Brigitte Mailahn

PW News just in . . .

Virginia Rhan-Halloway received the 2nd place award in Portraiture from the Florida Miniature Art Society (MASF) international competition 2010. The show opens January 17th at the Leepa-Ratner Museum of Art in Clearwater. Show closes Feb 7, 2010.

Virginia took 1st place in the same category at the MASF show in 2008. Both pieces are oil paintings on polymin.

December Birthdays (B) & Anniversaries (A)

12/17	B	Meletha Everett
12/22	B	Eleanore McDade
12/30	B	Robbie Miles