

The Branch

–January Meeting & Luncheon–

Join us at 11 a.m. on Jan. 20th
at TT Golf & Country Club
RSVP to Dot by NOON on 1/14/09

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

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President's Corner

I hope everyone had wonderful holidays. Happy New Year! My celebration was dampened by the flu which wasn't much fun. I don't recommend it!

Staci conducted a lively and productive discussion from the member surveys about our membership and fundraising at the December get-together. She will present a wrap-up about all the items discussed. By the way, Staci has volunteered to fill the vacancy of first Vice President. We are so happy to have her on board.

I hope each of us in the New Year of 2009 will be inspired to be more creative in the things that we do both for ourselves and also with our branch. The workshops our members are conducting are off and running. We have Digital Photography scheduled for February and March is a watercolor pencil workshop. It has also been suggested that we might continue the workshops during the summer.

I visited Marge Raus a couple of days after our meeting and took her a poinsettia in a pretty pot. She was so pleased that the branch thought about her. It is always a pleasure to visit with her because she is so interesting.



Minnette Webster had a scare with her heart in December. She had a cauterization and a new stent put in. It was a scary time for her, but she is doing fine now.

I will be going to DC the week before our meeting so I will be able to give you an update on things going on at National. I return the night before our meeting. I am looking forward to seeing everyone! *Meletha*

Positive Intentions for 2009

Let us look forward to a year that is filled with renewed hope. Envision our world leaders working together in cooperation, creating positive change, developing new technologies that will create environmentally safe, clean, and efficient energy, and most importantly peace and financial reform for the countries of our planet.

Please extend special prayers to our Pen Women and family members who have suffered from poor health or illness, and may they be blessed with healing and health for the New Year. May health, love, joy, fellowship, and prosperity be embraced by all!

Marcia Wilson

New Year Haiku:

There is a place that
Only you and no one else
Can fill. Embrace it.

Staci Backauskas





Pen Women News

Eleanore McDade writes: I had a wonderful time this Christmas and New Year! My daughter Linda and son-in-law, Ron Ludwin, surprised me and came up to the mountains to spend the holidays with us all up here! Their car was loaded down like Santa's sleigh! We had a wonderful time; no one even came down with a cold. This mountain air is invigorating.

My writing classes continue (winter session) next week, and I shall also be painting in the morning on the same day at OASIS (Older Adult Seniors In Service). A great "happening" up here for seniors who want something to do besides read by the fireside during these cold winter days.

Lenny Freeman will be one of the January featured artists at the Carrollwood Cultural Center. Her prints and woven prints are on display now. You are cordially invited to the opening reception with Lenny and Candace Knapp who is also exhibiting her sculptures:

Opening date & time: Friday, **January 14th** from 7 to 9 PM

Location: 4537 Lowell Road, Tampa, FL 33618

Phone: 813.269.1310 www.carrollwoodcenter.org

Lenny's' exhibition dates: January 2 – 15th

Meletha Everett reported that her son came in just before Thanksgiving for a few days before going to Ethiopia for a year. He is a Lt. Cornel in the Army Reserves and was activated. He will be teaching their officers skills such as strategy and leadership so they will be able to protect their own country. This is a first for the United States and she is hoping that it is successful.

Meletha recently held a *Color Mixing Workshop* for a group of artists. She participated in a group exhibit from the Brandon League of Fine Arts and also worked with a group of volunteers to get the Miniature Art Paintings ready for the January Florida International Show.

Meletha hosted three parties this holiday season at her home and they were each wonderful.

Roxanne Tobaison is one of 5 artists exhibiting in the Winter Exhibition at The Jacey Gallery.

Location: 4802 Gunn Hwy Suite 114, Tampa, FL 33624

Phone: 813.960.5400

Exhibition through March 2, 2009

Staci Backauskas dropped off the 71 pounds of food collected at the holiday luncheon plus a cash donation to Metropolitan Ministries. They extended their thanks to everyone who participated.

From Texas, **Stephanie** Moreland extends her wishes to everyone for a peaceful and prosperous New Year! She will be starting some contract PR work for a new marketing company called The Warrick Group. It's a Houston-based marketing firm that represents a myriad of clients including charter schools, law firms, retailers, restaurants, etc. She wants to grow with the company in the upcoming years in the hopes that it will lead to a full-time position. She is excited about the opportunity to sink her teeth into a new project and get in on the "ground floor" with the company—plus she is also excited about the extra income!

Susan Weilbacher writes: I'm s-o-o-o happy with our new kitty, Sassy! She is 7 mo. Old, Persian, blue and cream fur, and just the sweetest little ball of fluffy you ever saw! She has a wonderful disposition and will be a great fit with our kooky family. YaY!! I just took a nap with her, and she slept with her head on Kevin's pillow. When he came in he just laughed and laughed...and Jenny giggles at the way Sassy rubs against her. This kitty plays fetch...and I'm not kidding! If you throw her a paper wad, she chases it with relish then returns it to you so you can throw it over and over. Me, I just love the company! She's sitting by me in my office (which I will have to dig out and kitty proof).

Well, God bless us all with a happy, healthy New Year. Shirley, I hope you are well now. I'm going to have to lay low and rest this week and get my strength back after the holidays. Love to all.



Photos from The Tampa Branch Holiday Celebration on December 16th



Gunni Price, Roxanne Tobaison, and Melinda Albritton



Gainor Roberts, Brigitte Mailahn, and Barb Routon

Manifesting and Creating Your 2009

These questions were passed along to me in an email from a friend and professional soft-skill trainer. I do not know the author Robin Blanc Mascari; however, I agree that these are some great questions to ponder as we begin fresh this year. (rbmascari@mac.com)

1. What would you like to be your biggest triumph in 2009?
2. What advice would you like to give yourself in 2009?
3. What would you be most happy about completing in 2009?
4. What major indulgence are you willing to experience in 2009?
5. What would you most like to change about yourself in 2009?
6. What are you looking forward to learning in 2009?
7. What do you think your biggest risk will be in 2009?
8. What about your work, are you most committed to changing and improving in 2009?
9. What is one as yet undeveloped talent you are willing to explore in 2009?
10. What brings you the most joy & how are you going to do or have more of that in 2009?
11. Who or what, other than yourself, are you most committed to loving & serving in 2009?
12. What one word would you like to have as your theme in 2009?

As the guest speaker at our January meeting, I will share some of the techniques that I have used to set positive intentions. I will share examples and some new techniques that I have discovered. My wish is that you choose a format that speaks to you from your heart ♥, and will compel and inspire you throughout 2009!

Marcia



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.

Going Green

by Eleanore C. McDade (summer 2008)

If you found Lou Laux's articles on Global Climate Change interesting and informative, here's my "spin."

We read and hear daily about saving the planet, conserving water, fuel, land, and forests. Recycle everything under the sun, plant trees, build a windmill, clean up the environment.

One day, driving in the forest not long ago, I came across an old rusty garbage truck. It was overgrown with foliage. I was intrigued. Why had it "died" then? Who had it belonged to? No county authority would just abandon its property. It must have been a private company. What critters had taken up housing there? Was it empty (of garbage) when it made that final run?



In this recycle environment, scrap metal is at a premium. I was surprised a collector had not already removed this heap of metal. Of course, it would have to be hauled off piece by piece. You know how big a garbage truck is.

Someone may already have tried and found it to be still full of old decaying garbage. Would this then be called "piece meal?"

I must confess, I still read the "Comics" well, just a few. Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! The July 4, 2008 comic said: "We need the energy a black hole can provide, but no one wants the black hole in their sector."

Evil Doctor Mel's response: "A classic case of NIMBY." Brewster's response: "What's a little green clay character got to do with this?" Dr. Mel: "NIMBY means "Not in my backyard!" The evil Dr. Mel then shows his black hole to Brewster Rockit and says "I'm letting the concerned environmentalists tour my black hole. Once they get a closer look, it should solve the problem."

The next picture shows everyone and everything in its path being sucked into the black hole. Dr. Mil: "See? Problem solved."

Now, wouldn't it be something if we could put everything we no longer need nor want into a black hole which turned it all into energy that could be funneled into driving planes, trucks, trains, cars, billions of megawatts!" The whole world could "Go Green!"

At this writing, the only one I know who is living a totally green life-style is Leonardo DiCaprio. He drives a hybrid, powers his L.A. home with solar panels and when in Manhattan, uses a bike to get to his "green" condo. Now here's a guy who can well afford to be chauffeur-driven in a Hummer Limo that gets eight miles per gallon. Gulp!

Uh oh, got to go, the wind has stopped blowing, my turbines have stopped turning and the lights just went out.

~ REMINDER ~

January 20th Meeting & Luncheon

Please join us for our January meeting and luncheon.

Marcia Wilson inspire you to create meaningful intentions for 2009.

Date: Tuesday, October 21st

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club

RSVP by NOON on Wednesday the 14th

Dot Setlow d3dbyrd@hotmail.com



Brigitte Mailahn

January & February Birthdays (B) & Anniversaries (A)

1/4	B	Stephanie Moreland
1/15	B	Barb Routen
1/15	B	Virginia Holloway
1/15	A	Virginia Holloway
1/30	B	Claire Gardiner
2/3	B	Miriam Vidal
2/5	B	Pat Tully
2/29	B	Lenny Freeman