

The Branch

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

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Happy July 4th!



A Nation's Strength

by Ralph Waldo Emerson (1904)

What makes a nation's pillars high
And its foundations strong?
What makes it mighty to defy
The foes that round it throng?

It is not gold. Its kingdoms grand
Go down in battle shock;
Its shafts are laid on sinking sand,
Not on abiding rock.

Is it the sword? Ask the red dust
Of empires passed away;
The blood has turned their stones to rust,
Their glory to decay.

And is it pride? Ah, that bright crown
Has seemed to nations sweet;
But God has struck its luster down
In ashes at his feet.

Not gold but only men can make
A people great and strong;
Men who for truth and honor's sake
Stand fast and suffer long.

Brave men who work while others sleep,
Who dare while others fly . . .
They build a nation's pillars deep
And lift them to the sky.

—July Get Together—

Join us for lunch
on July 15th at IHOP
11 a.m. RSVP to Caroline



Programming for 2008 / 2009:

As our new 2nd VP, Carol Karrow is responsible for the monthly feature at each meeting. Carol is collecting ideas for a music and letters program.

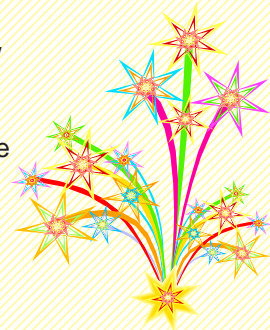
Please call Carol at (813) 681-7324 if you have any *program ideas* you would like to share.

Event Reminder

Minnette Webster's show of students' work, *Beauty Behind the Bars*, will be held at Center Place for the month of July.

Opening Celebration

Date: Sunday, July 13
Time: 3:30 to 5:50 PM.



NOTE: Donations to AOE for inmate art supplies will graciously be accepted. These artists may not sell their work; however, after the exhibit adoptions of artwork will be available for a donation to AOE.

July 15th Luncheon Get Together ~ just for fun and to connect

Please join us for a fun summer luncheon. RSVP to Caroline so she can provide the restaurant with a headcount. They will prepare a table for us.

Date: Tuesday, July 15th **Time:** 11:00 a.m.

Location: IHOP restaurant on Fowler Avenue near the intersection of I-75

RSVP: Caroline, dreamweb@dreamweboffice.com



Pen Women News & Light-hearted Notes

Carol Karow and her husband, Chris, spent 4 weeks (the month of May) in North Carolina. They enjoyed the dogwoods and iris in bloom while having morning tea on the deck (sounds divine!). One morning Chris had the good fortune of spotting a deer.

Carol's "Apple in Your Eye" oil painting received first place in the May BFLA show at Center Place. Chris picked out the gold frame – great to have a husband with such good taste! Carol would also like to thank Susan Weilbacher who picked up her art work when the show was over. Tampa Branch Pen Women supporting each other—that is what makes our group so special!

Carol returned home rested and relaxed and ready to work on a commissioned portrait in oil.

Caroline McKeon has a super spiffy condo after some recent renovations. She added orange/beige terra cotta porcelain tile throughout her condo. The bedroom was repainted a cream color accented with one chutney brown wall. Plus some new cherry wood lateral file drawers will keep all her business records in order. The comedy is that her Shih Tzu, Pickles HoneyHeart, can't get traction when she runs so she slips and slides all over the place on the new tile. Caroline giggles when she watches her play fetch.

Gainor Roberts had a very successful show opening at Elmira College, Elmira, New York. She sent 48 paintings and 17 drawings. She sold 8 pieces at the June 20th opening. The show will be on display through September 15th. Photographs of the gallery and a slideshow of the works in the show are on her new blog at www.gainor.blogspot.com (scroll down to see the art displayed one by one). Although the preparation was intense, Gainor is really pleased that all the hard work paid off. The opening was Friday night of her 45th college reunion weekend (where did the time go?).

Judy Freeman has been living vicariously through her pottery and reports that she's been covering some serious ground this summer. (www.judybfreemanpottery.com)

She has numerous pieces at a gallery in Steamboat Springs, CO for the month of June through the 4th of July weekend. She was the featured artist for this showing. There was a wonderful spread in the local paper as well as a spot on the morning TV show with one of Judy's pieces. Here is a link to the article: www.steamboatpilot.com/news/2008/jun/20/ceramic_exchange/

Judy also has pieces in a group show at the Jacey Gallery in Carrollwood, with the Westchase Artists group. There was a nice article in the Northwest section of the Tribune, including a photo of three of Judy's teapots plus a wall piece.

She has been filling wholesale orders, and sending her babies out to explore new areas. A bunch of kitties are now residing in Sacramento. She has some butterfly bowls and plates that are in Missouri at the Botanical Garden, and a couple of pieces that are now at a gallery in Spencer, NC. Judy is also restocking her Etsy online shop. The URL is www.judybfreeman.etsy.com

Judy is anxious to wrap up the last of these wholesale orders so that she can get to work on some new ideas that are rattling around in her brain. And we can't wait to see your new creations Judy!

Marcia Wilson and Bayshore Solutions are putting the final touches on the University Village website. Launch is scheduled for later this month. Bayshore Solutions approached Marcia about copywriting for their clients . . . YES – that was easy! The owner of an IT hardware solution company just requested Marcia's copywriting expertise for the launch of his new website mid-August. Synchronicity working beautifully!

Minnette Webster is recovering after her shoulder surgery. She reports that after nine very long weeks she is finally able to lift her arm and move it. She is still unable to lift anything but she is grateful for the progress!

Minnette will have her 13 year old granddaughter from Wyoming visiting with her for a month, and then in August she will go home with her for ten days.

Continued on page 4 →

A Special Glimpse from our July Birthday Ladies

Antonia Robbins proudly declared that she will be 81 years young on July 8th. Antonia and her husband Norman are leaving on Saturday the 5th for a five day cruise to Cozumel – what a wonderful birthday celebration. Antonia said, “We enjoy taking cruises. I look forward to the pampering they give us!”



Antonia is the proud mother of five children and 9 grandchildren. She was married for 50 years, when her husband, Joe, passed. Three years later she met Norman Abbott at a church function. They have now been married for six years – enjoying life, love, friendship, and companionship.

Antonia explained that she never painted until she was fifty. She had such fun over a twenty year period entering shows, winning ribbons, and selling her watercolors. She has sold everything except the pieces that hang on her walls and no doubt some of her children or grandchildren have their eyes set on those!

Antonia is anxious to get her brushes wet again. She has set a goal to join the Tampa Realistic Artists watercolor classes when she returns from her birthday celebration. This group meets once a week. She said, “This will be a great way to get started again and get my creative juices flowing.”

Antonia misses meeting with us; however, the travel from South Tampa is too much for her now. Are there any other South Tampa residents out there that she could carpool with?

Brigitte Mailahn



*Could it be the birthday ladies are out of town?
Stories will be sent later in the month when we
can connect with them.*

Staci Backauskas will be presenting a Haiku program for our branch in October.



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.



News & Light-hearted Notes continued

Stephanie Moreland published a new entry on her blog entitled “2008 NATJA Conference” last month. The after dinner speaker was Pauline Frommer. Stephanie wrote that Frommer had several themes appearing during her presentation. One was the issue of travel writers facing the obvious challenges in the upcoming years.

According to Frommer, travel writers need to take a good hard look at the way they write travel. She stressed the point that travel writers need to think creatively about how they will present the information, and who they are presenting it to. Her strongest message was, “luxury travel can no longer be the mainstream,” of travel writers. Again, because of the economic situation the country is in.

One surprising point she made was the need for travel writers becoming involved in the legislation process. She pointed out how important foreigners traveling to our country is to the five billion dollar a year industry.

Finally, she emphasized the importance of bringing people back into our national parks and suggests that travel writers take a good hard look at our transportation issues – including our train system.

Summer Book Review

Shirley Adema, as is her custom every summer, chose one new book to read for pleasure. This year’s selection was *Audition: a Memoir*, by Barbara Walters. If you haven’t read it, treat yourself to a great read.

This remarkable woman has written an autobiography of her highly successful broadcast journalism years that is both informative of the times as well as her personal life which was rarely an easy run. You may recall that when she started out in television there were no women anchors or co-anchors of nightly news. She was the one to break the glass ceiling overcoming all obstacles placed in her way by male egos not willing to share the limelight.



Aside from the fact that she has interviewed more heads of state than any reporter before or since, she accomplished all this while dealing with family issues. She supported her family financially most of her life. She was very protective of her mentally challenged sister. And, she went through turbulent years with a teenage daughter through three marriages and divorces. She did it all without ever sighing “poor me.”

As a writer, I was very impressed with her unparalleled interviewing techniques. Her personable style of writing is so inviting that it is difficult to put the book down. Personally I felt like I was sitting across from her with a cup of coffee to chat. I hope you will add *Audition: a Memoir* to your summer reading list.



~ REMINDER ~

July 15th Luncheon Get Together

Please join us for a fun summer luncheon.

Date: Tuesday, July 15th

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: IHOP restaurant on Fowler Ave. near the intersection of I-75



We might not be this youthful; however, we'll have just as much fun!

RSVP to: Caroline McKeon
dreamweb@dreamweboffice.com



July / August Birthdays (B) & Anniversaries (A)

7/4	B	Brigitte Mailahn
7/8	B	Antonia Robbins
7/17	B	Staci Backauskas
7/25	A	Carolyn Matheny
7/28	A	Susan Weillbacher
7/30	A	Mariam Vidal
8/17	A	Roxanne Tobaison
8/21	B	Val Titus
8/22	A	Val Titus
8/28	A	Claire Gardiner
8/30	A	Antonia Robbins