

Tampa The Branch

Next meeting
Tuesday,
March 20th
11:00 AM
At the Country Club



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

March, 2007

Volume 7, Issue 3

Editor

Caroline McKeon

- **FSA Conference slated for October—see back page to register**
- **Our busy artists**
- **Programs needed; what programs would interest you?**
- **Giving is from the Heart**
- **Greater Brandon Arts Council forming**

FSA-NLAPW Oct 2007 Conference

If you haven't yet read the most current issue of The Palm, our statewide newsletter, you need to do it right away. All the contest rules are spelled out to assist you with your entries. The front page gives the general rules.

Inside are rules for the following:

- Individual Achievement Award
- Pen Woman of the Year Award
- Art Competition
- Branch Newsletter Competition
- Music Competition
- FSA Scholarship
- Letters Competition
- History Book Award
- Letters Competition

The conference itself will be held October 19th through 21st at the Plantation Inn and Golf Resort in Crystal River. The inn is offering a special room rate for all Pen Women. For more information, refer to The Palm. To book a reservation, call toll-free (800) 632-6262.

To register for the conference, you will need to complete the form found in The Palm. If you need copies of the registration form, see back page of this newsletter. Early registration is \$35 if received by 9/15 and after that, registration is \$50.

Ladies, let's put our heads together and see how many of our members can make the conference. Also, let's see how many can enter these contests!

President/Editor's Corner



Caroline McKeon

What a thrill it is when you pique the interest in others in Writing, Art, or Music. I can only imagine the joy **Minnette Webster** is getting, seeing her students come alive. At our March meeting, Minnette was there with pictures of some of the artwork done by these women inmates. Some of the art was just unbelievable!

Minnette has attacked this project with a fervor. She has gone

after grants, sought contributions, and banged on doors, just to get the interest of the public. Then she got the attention of letters member, **Staci Backauskas**, who now contributes her time teaching creative writing at the prison, and who also, in her roll as a columnist, is calling attention through the power of the pen to this great need within our community.

We talk a lot about our outreach program and how we can maintain our 501-3-c status. But what if that wasn't an issue. We'd still want to do it, wouldn't we?

I was reading about Cynthia Pinckney, the lady whose ministry fed and clothed and gave haircuts to

over 200 at Thanksgiving and again at Christmas. While she is now a 501-c-3 organization, she wasn't at the age of 19 when she was handing out blankets and food. If you have a heart for giving, you **MUST** do it. Does it matter whether or not the government will give you a tax break!

Cynthia's use of the trunk full of food we gave her at Christmas comes as no surprise. I'd like to think we would have given that even if the IRS would not grant our tax free status.

Giving comes from the heart. But it is nice to live in a country that recognizes it. God Bless America!

~ Caroline



What's Up In Art & Music



ART membership include architects, cartoonists, craftswomen, choreographers, designers, graphic artists, illustrators, painters, photographers and sculptors. All credentials will be submitted with proof of payment for works or services within the last five years. In addition, the painter, sculptor, craftsman or graphic artist must show proof of work accepted for at least three select juried exhibitions within the last five years. Professional women eligible for the **MUSIC** membership may present professionally published original compositions or original creative arrangements, original unpublished compositions or creative arrangements that have been performed in a public forum. All credentials shall be submitted with proof of payment for works, or proof of performance in a public forum.

Horizon Line Galleries presented a Contemporary Art Exhibition Through a Woman's Eyes. The exhibit ran February 10th through March 10th. Our participating members were **Sheila Blow**, **Meletha Everett** and **Mary Ellen O'Brien**.

Calling attention to **Saatchi Gallery** (London) and it's website, **Sheila Blow** presented some particulars at our February meeting. The site allows you to post up to eight images and information about the artists and her art. This is a free site and service to all artists. If interested, you can email Kelly@saatchigallery.com for more info.



Sheila also reports she will be exhibiting at **Art on Docks** in Tarpon Springs in June. She and **Mary Ellen O'Brien** will be exhibiting at the Carrollwood Culture Center with a one-day exhibit on April 15 from 2pm to 3pm. Speaking of **Mary Ellen**, her work was featured at the Temple Terrace Library for the entire month of February.

Judy Freeman was juried into the Mad Hatter's Tea Party with two new teapots at Armory Art Center in West Palm. She has two others juried into the 18th Annual **On the Road Again** Teapot Show in Chicago. She currently has her wares in the 5th Avenue Art Gallery in Melbourne and in The Wave Gallery in Key West.

At the Florida Miniature Art Society of Florida in Tarpon Springs held in January, **Carlene Earl** sold two of her pieces, **Annie** and **Old 'n New**. She also had three painting in the glass exhibit cases at Center Place in Brandon during the month of February.

Peggy Little continues to paint with Paint Box Studios and her work was part of the glass case exhibit at Center Place. **Judy Johnson** is also exhibiting with this group. **Peggy** also had two painting on exhibit with Tampa Realistic Artists. She also did a workshop there and is planning on another in April. She also had work accepted by the Florida International Miniaturists.

Finishing the eighth painting in a series for **The Women of the Ark**, a book written by past FSA President Jean Holmes, **Meletha Everett** presented the painting in Mobile, AL. She took part in a seminar there and parts of the book were acted out by Texas PW member, Mary Margaret Buss. She did demos at the Strawberry Festival on two different days in February and conducted a critique for the Zephyrhills Art Club at one of their regular meetings.

Hillsborough County's favorite volunteer, **Minnette Webster**, won an \$850 grant from the Puffin Foundation. She will use the funds to print the artwork done by prison inmates. A showing of about 200 individual paintings will be held in Center Place in July, 2008. She has applied for a second grant with the Sherriff's Department to help with the matting. (Keep your fingers crossed.)

South Shore Regional Library in Ruskin hosted a February exhibit of the Miniature Artists of America and **Judy Johnson** presented a demo at the opening reception. She gave a second hands-on demo at the same location on February 22nd for a docent-guided tour. And, trying her hand at another discipline, **Judy** is taking piano lessons from **Virginia Halloway** and LOVES IT.

Eleanore McDade had six paintings (painted on location in Provence, France) hanging Dr. Barry Gaffney's new building. He loved them so much that he decided to BUY THEM ALL. He paid her on the spot. She now has only four remaining of the 25 she did on location. What a windfall!!! She is thinking *Gicle'* for the future.



What's Up In Letters

Professional women eligible for **LETTERS** membership include authors, co-authors, advertising sales promoters, compilers, dramatists, editors, genealogists, lecturers, librettists, lyric writers, periodical writers, photo journalists, poets, press writers, script writers for communication media or motion pictures, research workers, and musicologists. All credentials shall be submitted with accompanying proof of payment within the last five years.

Three of our writers have banded together to form TeamWriters. Their individual and specific talents make them a good fit and give them the ability to garner more business. **Shirley, Marcia** and **Caroline** presented a panel discussion on the process of Partnering, Posturing and Promoting. You can read more about them and this process at www.teamwriters.com. In this partnership, **Shirley** meets with the prospective client to ascertain their needs. Then the TeamWriters meet to see how they will divvy up the writing tasks. **Shirley's** forte is media kits and nailing down the contract. **Marcia** is the *queen of the white space* as layout and design is her specialty. **Caroline** comes in last to create the website once the look and feel of what the client wants has been nailed down, put in writing, and signed by the client. All three are professional writers, so the writing tasks are usually jointly handled.



Writer, composure and musician **Michelle Grasso-Downs** continues performing publicly and teaching budding pianists and vocalists.

Continuing on as a columnist for The Tampa Tribune, **Staci Backauskas** is making her mark. Last month, she wrote an incredible column about Hillsborough County inmates and the different learning art and writing is making on them. Great job, Staci.

This 'n That

A newly formed organization has taken root: The Greater Brandon Arts Council has been formed. There will be a kick-off membership drive and gathering at the Winthrop Theatre on Bloomingdale Avenue in Brandon on March 31st. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served and there will be a membership table should you wish to join. A silent auction, along with live music, will provide great entertainment. For more information on this, please see **Minnette Webster**.

At our May meeting, acting FSA president Sandy Huff will join us. After learning that the state president would only come to a branch meeting when invited, Dot Setlow took it upon herself to send a written invitation to Sandy. Since it is customary to have a gift for our

FSA president, past branch president and past State president, **Meletha Everett**, has graciously offered to see to this.

Remember **Albert Luperon**, the high school poet and recipient of our scholarship award last year? Alberto is doing well at Columbia University. He is doing some mentoring as well, fostering the love of the written word. It's always great when a scholarship continues to perpetuate itself.

After much ado, Minnette has been asked to meet with Gianna Russo, Co-director of Creative Writing at Blake, to find a student in need of scholarship funds. The selected student is **Heidi Garcia**, a Blake senior, studying filmmaking and writing. Heidi has been accepted at USF to further her studies.

March/April/May

Birthdays (B)

Anniversaries (A)

3/18	B	Dee DeVane
3/20	B	Carlene Earl
4/5	B	Peggy Little
4/10	A	Brigitte Mailahn
4/30	B	Susan Weilbacher
5/12	B	Shirley Adema
5/15	A	Mary Ellen O'Brien
5/16	B	Carolyn Matheny
5/18	B	Roxanne Tobaison
5/22	B	Carol Karow

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

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We're on the
Web

www.flpw.org

If you still have not gotten your updated (new and improved) yearbook, see Dot Setlow!

Also, remember that your page can be updated and made available to our members. E-Mail your changes to Caroline at:

dreamweb@dreamport.com

A Summary of the Minutes of Feb 20, 2007 meeting

The meeting today was held at the Temple Terrace Country Club, and called to order by President Caroline McKeon at 11:35 AM. Caroline's short prayer was followed by the salute to the flag. Returning visitor Becky Deady joined us for lunch.

Old Business: As the minutes of the previous meeting will no longer be read aloud, Secretary Dot Setlow explained those minutes will be sent to each member with E-mail so that we can all stay abreast on proceedings. Those without E-mail can read from copies that will be made available at the meeting.

Treasurer Judy Freeman reported a balance of \$1404.39, and informed us that in the future this report will also be E-mailed. Judy also reminded us that if we RSVP for lunch (a head count is imperative) and do NOT show, we will be required to pay. The last day to cancel without penalty is the Friday before the Tuesday meeting.

Mary Ellen reported on our January meeting at Perkins restaurant. This change was necessary, since Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club does not allow any *hands on* demonstrations. Everyone had a great time making our own print from a Styrofoam *carving*.

New Business: President Caroline needs help and suggestions for extra activities that will expand our learning experience. A committee to organize such was mentioned, but there were no volunteers at this time. In the past we've had workshops, visits to artists' studios and historic places, and a morning with the Florida Symphony Orchestra.

Meletha gave a thorough report on the FSA Council meeting held in Clearwater in January. We were reminded to report any outreach activities to National for credit. Florida artist Edna Hibel will be on display at the Pen Arts Building in Washington D.C. during April. She is a member of the Boca Raton branch, and has several galleries of her own. An interesting tid-bit: she became so famous and productive that her husband, Mr. Plotkin, changed his name to Hibel and became her manager!

The FSA Conference will be in Crystal River in October at the Crystal River Plantation Resort. The National Biennial Conference in 2008 will have emphasis on Abe Lincoln, and urges all branches to have at least one program on Lincoln in 2008. Lincoln would be 200 years old in 2009.

Judy explained the NLAPW dues: National-\$40.00, state-\$5.00, and our local branch-\$10.00, making a total of \$55.00. The possibility of lowering the branch dues was discussed, but did not appear feasible at this time. Dues are due by May 31st.

Judy's Fund Raising Committee has one volunteer: Mary Ellen O'Brien. She needs more to help figure out ways to make money. A garage sale is still planned for Oct. Other suggestions include: a large scale program for which we would sell tickets; workshops on different topics; a yearly boutique.

Minnette Webster reminded us that news of our activities could be circulated through the Arts Council: they are active in Temple Terrace, Tampa, Brandon, Plant City, and Apollo Beach. She will E-mail news of all disciplines, not just art.

Mary Ellen moved that we sponsor the Senior Art Show at Blake High, and offer prizes of \$200.00, \$100.00, and \$50.00. Since this was more than the \$275.00 we have budgeted for scholarships, the motion was defeated. Minnette knows a teacher, Ms. Russo, and will discuss possibilities of assisting some student in the future and will report at our next meeting.

There were many announcements by respective members. Caroline McKeon won the 50/50. Meeting adjourned for lunch at 12:20 PM. The writers' program followed.

Respectfully Submitted by Dot Setlow, Branch Secretary

The Tampa branch of the NLAPW meets the third Tuesday of each month from September through May at the Temple Terrace Golf & Country Club at 200 Inverness Avenue in Temple Terrace. We gather at 11 AM to socialize and our meeting starts promptly at 11:30 a.m. Lunch is \$7.50. Come and join us!

Programs Coming Up By Shirley Adema, Programs

I will soon begin planning next year's programs and again want your input. Several of you have mentioned how much you have enjoyed this year's programs by our members. So, I would like to know who would be interested in doing a program next year.

The only subject program we have been asked to do is one on Abraham Lincoln next February.

We have traditionally started the year in September with our "show & tell" program. Here are the other meetings open: October, November,

December, January, March, April May.

Please let me know by the May meeting what month you would like to present a program and what your topic will be.



Wow! What a lot of bantering back and forth over fundraising ideas! I am sure that Judy Freeman will have something to report at our March meeting on the 20th.

There were so many great ideas.

Speaking of great ideas, here is a suggestion worth considering from Meletha Everett

For two years Minnette Webster has taught art at the women's prison in Hillsborough County tying in self esteem with the art lessons she presents. At the beginning, she was to teach one class once a month. She now has 32 women in two classes twice a week.

The art work is displayed on the walls where the personnel of the prison work. They have seen a definite change in these incarcerated women and marvel at the progress they have made.

Minnette is planning a big exhibit with printed programs etc. The sheriff's office thinks this is a positive move and is getting involved.

The women have enjoyed the classes and it has given them something positive to look forward to as well as learn how to turn things into something beautiful. They can now earn privileges to work on their art projects on some of the week-ends.

Their Outreach Project:

The women heard about children losing their hair from chemo treatments and expressed a desire to do something. With some of the meager amount of money they make working at the prison, they bought plain white head scarves at their commissary. In their art class, they will decorate them with paint. One of the incarcerated women's sister is a nurse at the children's cancer center. She will take these scarves to the children to cover their bald heads.

With 32 women in this program supplies are used up fast. Minnette has an account that receives donations for art supplies designated for the prison project at AOE. Several of our members donate toward this but it seems to me this would be a great outreach for our entire branch.

We could give a portion of our designated scholarship money to this project and give the rest to a deserving student. By splitting the money, it would not just help one person but many.

I would appreciate the board taking this under consideration along with the other proposals for scholarship to be brought to the general membership for approval.

Thanks for taking this under advisement. ~ Meletha Everett

**FLORIDA STATE ASSOCIATION - THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN, INC.
2007 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

The 2007 FSA-NLAPW Biennial Conference will be held Oct. 19 to 21, 2007 at the Plantation Inn and Golf Resort in Crystal River, Florida. Refer to the back cover of this newsletter for more information about the hotel. FSA-NLAPW has made arrangements with the hotel for a block of rooms at the group rate of \$129 (double occupancy) + 9% tax and \$5 resort fee per night. This rate is valid 3 days prior and 3 days after our conference. Handicapped-accessible rooms are available. Many rooms have microwaves. Each Pen Woman is responsible for making her own hotel reservations directly with the hotel.

To make your reservation, call 1-800-632-6262 and inform them that you are part of the "National League of American Pen Women group" in order to receive our group rate. **THIS SPECIAL RATE IS VALID ONLY UNTIL SEPT. 19.** Please make your reservation as early as possible—you can may cancel your reservation if necessary up to 72 hours prior to arrival without penalty.

To register for the conference, please complete the form below and return it with your check, payable to FSA-NLAPW, to Joleen Gonzalez, 2007 FSA Conference Chair, 3273 NW 44th Terrace, Ocala, FL 34482. Questions? 352-861-0832. To earn the early registration discount, your form and payment must be received by Sept. 15, 2007. The final registration date is Oct. 12. If you wish to receive a confirmation, please include a SASE.

2007 FSA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Branch: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Telephone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Name of Penguin and/or Guest(s) _____

Note: Penguins and guests do not pay Registration Fee.

	Cost		Number	=	TOTAL
Registration Fee (Pen Women only)					
if received by Sept. 15, 2007	\$35.00	X	_____		_____
if received between Sept. 16 and Oct. 12, 2007	\$50.00	X	_____		_____
Early Bird boat tour of King's Bay	\$20.00	X	_____		_____
"Jump Start Your Creativity" Workbook	\$10.00	X	_____		_____
Friday, Oct. 19, 2007 Poolside Barbecue Buffet	\$32.00	X	_____		_____
Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007 President's Luncheon Buffet	\$23.00	X	_____		_____
Saturday, Oct. 20, 2007 Gala Awards Banquet	\$28.00	X	_____		_____
Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007 Plantation Brunch Buffet	\$20.00	X	_____		_____

Please check if applicable: Vegetarian Diet Special dietary need _____
 (please list restriction)

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____