

# NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN HONOLULU BRANCH

February 2012  
Newsletter



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## F. Next Meeting

**Date:** March 7, 11:30-1:30pm

**Place:**

Alan Wong's Pineapple  
Room, Macy's at Ala Moana

**Featured Speaker:**

Artist, May Izumi. "The Fire Horse's Granddaughter Goes Looking for Shadows" or "How I Took My Dark Side Out for Dinner and a Movie."



## A. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



"To require perfection is to invite paralysis. The pattern is predictable: as you see error in what you have done, you steer your work toward what you imagine you can do perfectly. You cling ever more tightly to what you already know you can do away from risk and exploration, and possibly further from the work of your heart. You find reasons to procrastinate, since, to not work is to not make mistakes." -- from Art & Fear by David Bayle and Ted Orland.

Sound advice on how to approach the creative process, but the phrase "the work of your heart" is almost buried in the quote. The tug of war between the mind and the heart can be a huge censor if the message is "Do it right and don't make mistakes." The most authentic work comes from our deepest truths informed by the creative mind.

Artists and writers must necessarily be a braver lot because they are asking to be seen, asking to be read, asking to be heard, and sharing their work necessarily opens them up to criticism. The best reaction to that would be "So what?" But, in fact, the critical response is built in to the whole cycle of producing work for audiences, and you as the artist have only one responsibility: to yourself and your process. Enjoy it, own it, and share it.

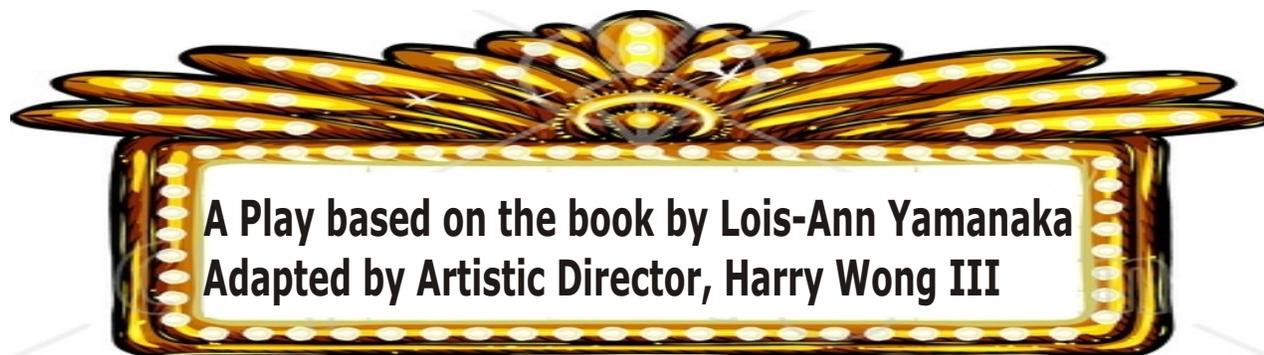
-- Susan Killeen

## G. Contact the Newsletter Editor

If you have news to share, please email editor Norma Gorst by March 13, 2012:  
<mailto:norgor26@me.com>



## B. DELECTABLE DETOUR



**WHAT:** Saturday Night at the Pahala Theatre, based on the book by Lois-Ann Yamanaka a presenter at our 2012 Writers' Conference

**WHERE:** Kumu Kahua Theatre, 46 Merchant St.

**WHEN:** Sunday, February 26, 2:00 pm matinee

**HOW MUCH:** Thursdays-Sundays, tickets range from \$5-\$20

**TICKETS:** 536-4441; <http://www.kumukahua.org>; box office open Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Please purchase your ticket soon--they're going fast--and meet us at the Theatre.

The unforgettable poetry of Lois-Ann Yamanaka unfolds in this new theatrical adaptation, directed by Kumu Kahua Artistic Director, Harry Wong III. Meet Tita, Girlie, Lucy, Kala, and other young women on the brink of adulthood, as they explore sexual awakening, family abuse, peer pressure, and identity crises. With humor, pain, and raw honesty, their voices come to life on Kumu Kahua's intimate stage.

Yamanaka skillfully balances the hardships of life with moments of tenderness and understanding, making Saturday Night. . . one of the most engaging, honest plays ever produced on an island stage. This play contains strong language and adult content.

Winner of the Pushcart Prize, Saturday Night at the Pahala Theatre was Lois-Ann Yamanaka's first major work and introduced the world to one of Hawai'i's bravest writers.



## Kumu Kahua Theatre

@KumuKahua

*Plays about life in Hawai'i. Plays by Hawai'i's playwrights. Plays for Hawai'i's people.*

Honolulu, Hawai'i · <http://www.KumuKahua.org>

## C. PEN WOMEN IN THE NEWS



### Powerful Words--Opening Doors with CONNIE D.

Author, poet, and slam poet **Cornelia CONNIE D. DeDona** is proud, and privileged, she says, to be the producer of this film at Habilitat, a long-term residential treatment center. The film will soon be aired on Olelo. Look for it. You can also see it on You Tube <http://youtu.be/DM4k8cU7g0c>. "Words are the keys that unlock the healing power within each of us," says Connie. "Authors, poets, artists, and Habilitat residents joined together to inspire a healing connection through the power of the spoken word."



Guest participants in the film included Marcia-Zina-Mager, Dr. Kathryn Waddell Takara, Marilyn Maya Mendoza, Anita `Ilima Stern, and Peggy Baxter-Barnhardt.

CONNIE D. gives special thanks to her husband Capt. Tommy DeDona and to son Jason DeDona for set design, and to her artist friend Jenee Wonderlich for the loan of her sketch stand.

You can find out more about CONNIE D. at <http://www.corneliadedona.com>  
To reach her by phone call 516-499-9246 or 348-8901.

## D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Call For Submissions:

Deep South Publishing Company, formed by Margaret and Frank South (formerly of Honolulu), is publishing a book of personal stories about special places in Hawai'i, written by people who live in and love Hawai'i. Margaret is looking for stories, and by "story" she means "the transformation of a character as a result of events in the plot." The setting you choose should be a place that changed you on a profound level. The book is not meant to be a travel guide, but rather a personal journey of Hawai'i and what our islands offer on a spiritual level. Or it could be just plain funny. 2,000 word limit.

All profits will benefit Palama Settlement where the couple initiated several creative Kids Talk Story programs.

**Deadline: June 30, 2012.** Email submissions to <mailto:margaretsouth@kidstalkstory.com>. Please type "Hawaii Story" in the subject line. For more information go to <http://theartofstory.com>.

### Art Submissions:

The next rotation of the NLAPW National Website Gallery work will be in April. <http://www.nlapw.org/nlapw-art-gallery/> Interested members can send jpegs to Treanor Baring at <mailto:PWPOEMS@aol.com>, cc'd to <mailto:Jamietate@tecinfo.net>. Please put the name of the piece AND your name in the jpeg file name (example SunrisebyAnnQuinn.jpeg) to avoid any confusion. Put ART FOR WEBSITE in the subject line of the email. Large files are okay, but around 800 x 800 pxls is ideal. She says, "Smaller than 300 pxls and your work will look like a postage stamp online."



*Continued on the page 6.*

## **E. FEBRUARY MINUTES**



### **National League of American Pen Women - February 8, 2012**

The February meeting of the National League of American Pen Women, Honolulu Branch took place at Alan Wong's Pineapple Room. Attendees included 21 members, 11 friends, 10 guests, and 2 visitors for a total of 44.

President Susan Killeen opened the meeting at noon. She welcomed everyone and mentioned how cold it had been the night before.

She announced that Nancy Moss, who thought she had lost a diamond out of her ring at the January meeting, later found the diamond at her house.

She then asked first time guests to introduce themselves. One guest from Fairbanks Alaska drew a laugh from the rest of us, when she said, "It wasn't cold last night."

Susan acknowledged Norma Gorst as our new News Letter Editor and thanked Norma for taking on that responsibility.

She announced that Margaret South has moved to Georgia and established the Deep South Publishing Company.

She gave the following information to the ARTS Members: The next rotation of the nlapw.org <http://nlapw.org> gallery work will be in April. Interested members can send jpegs to Treanor Baring, at mailto:[PWPOEMS@aol.com](mailto:PWPOEMS@aol.com), cc'd to mailto:[Jamietate@tecinfo.net](mailto:Jamietate@tecinfo.net). Please put the name of the piece AND your name in the jpg file name (example: Sunriseby AnnQuinn.jpg.) This will avoid any confusion for them. Put ART FOR WEBSITE in the subject line of the email. Large files are okay, but around 800 x 800 pxls is ideal. She says, "Smaller than 300 pxls and your work will look like a postage stamp on line."

Nancy Mower talked about the upcoming Writer's Conference. She said there are three registration periods, and the earlier people register, the more they will save. At that point several people ran to the podium with checks for their registration.

Nancy said they will need lots of volunteers and some were needed very soon to help with mailing the brochures to schools, and there would be volunteer sign-up sheets on the table in the front of the room. She then said that another reason to register early was to insure that you would get into the breakout sessions of your choice. She also announced that the conference keynote speaker, Jacquelyn Mitchard, will sign books at Barnes & Noble, March 29, between 6:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Vice President, Victoria Gail-White, gave details about the gourmet lunch menus at the conference, where people will have a choice of Vegetarian, Fish, or Chicken.

Carol Egan said that people could register at the meeting, and she would have volunteer sheets on the table for people who would help with registration.

*Continued on the next page...*

**February Minutes Cont.**

Sabra Feldstein gave more information about the brochures, encouraging people to help distribute them to libraries, friends, and members of other groups that might be interested in a Writers' Conference. She reminded people that the Friday evening session is free and in addition to a reading by Jacquelyn Mitchard, the first place winners of the Lorin Tarr Gill Writing Competition will have their manuscripts read.

Susan gave more information about the Competition, saying that it is open to the public, the chair is Jodi Belknap, and people can get information online at the NLAPW web site [nlapwhonolulu.org](http://nlapwhonolulu.org).

Sabra announced a Delectable Detour: people will attend the Kumu Kahua production of Lois-Ann Yamanaka's first published novel, *Saturday Night* at the Pahala Theatre, February 26 at 2:00 p.m. People buy their own tickets, and whoever wants to can go to dinner together after the play.

Victoria then introduced the speaker, Marcia Zina Mager, a published author, entrepreneur, award-winning poet and mixed media artist, as well as a performance artist. She was born in Hackensack, New Jersey and came to Hawai'i in 1992. She created the national workshop series, "Write from the Heart," and she has taught writing from coast to coast as well as in Hawai'i and Canada.

She's published ten books and dozens of articles. Her books have been translated into ten languages. At one time she had a passion for dolphins, published a book about them, and fell in love with and married a dolphin trainer, Dennis Aubrey, who was at the meeting as her sound and visual technician.

Marcia's new passion is improv, slam poetry, rap songs, and singing.

She performed for us basically the story of spending her life trying to figure out who she really was. At each stage of her life, she thought she was a different creature--an elephant, an old Woman, a Jew, a Black singer, a wife and mother, to name a few. And at each stage in her life she wrote a poem, which she read to us, or a song, which she sang to us.

The audience was very enthusiastic about her delightfully talented and energetic performance.

Susan adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Alpert Mower  
Recording Secretary



## Announcements Continued

### 2012 BIENNIAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE

to be held at Punahou School, Mamiya Science Center, 1601 Punahou Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96822. Guidelines and information about the **Lorin Tarr Gill Writing Competition** and the **Writers' Conference** application are available on our website:

<http://www.nlapwhonolulu.org>

**\*\*\* KOKUA:** Members and Friends,

please consider signing up for a task to assist in some way to help the Writers' Conference Committee make this year's Biennial another special event. You can email Susan Killeen <mailto:killeens@hawaii.rr.com> with your contact information and we'll find a task that will suit you! We've been working hard on the lineup since last fall and there are opportunities to pitch in and help. We would so appreciate your assistance!

SAVE THE DATE

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN  
HONOLULU BRANCH  
PRESENTS

## 2012 BIENNIAL WRITERS' CONFERENCE

THE POWER

  
of  

STORY

**Friday Evening, March 30, 2012 &  
Saturday, 8 AM - 5 PM, March 31, 2012**

PUNAHOU SCHOOL CAMPUS

*KEYNOTE SPEAKER:*  
**JACQUELYN MITCHARD,**  
best-selling author of books for adults,  
young adults & children

### February 25th SCBWI Conference

The Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators annual conference will be held at the Ala Moana Hotel from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., February 25th. Featured guests are New York Times best-selling author/illustrator Peter Brown (THE CURIOUS GARDEN), who will speak on "The Business of Creativity," and Viking Children's Books Editor Kendra Levin who will give insights into Viking and the publishing business. Writer Sue Cowing and writer/illustrator Tammy Yee will also present a session on "Book Promotion--A Do-it-Yourself Project," and John H. Ritter will do some critiques.

Special opportunities for writers: an anonymous first-pages critique by our guests and a break-out session on character with Kendra Levin.

On or before the deadline of Feb. 17, registration is \$95 for members and \$125 for nonmembers. After that date, the fee will be \$100 for members, \$130 for nonmembers, with meal availability at the discretion of the hotel.

To download a registration form, go to <http://www.scbwihawaii.org>.



### HPU MARCH 3RD KOOLAU WRITING WORKSHOPS

HPU's Hawaii Loa campus will be the scene for writing workshops and the presentation of the James M. Vaughan Award for writing on Saturday, March 3. The cost is \$20 (\$10 students). The day will begin with breakfast at 8:45am. The writing award will be presented at 9:15am. The rest of the day features workshop sessions in fiction, poetry, non-fiction, and scriptwriting. For more information, call 544-1108.