



# NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN HONOLULU BRANCH

February 2013  
Newsletter

[www.nlapwhonolulu.org](http://www.nlapwhonolulu.org)

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## NEXT MEETING

*Date:* **Wednesday, March 6, 2013**  
*Time:* **11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Note starting time!)**  
*Location:* **Alan Wong's Pineapple Room** (Macy's at Ala Moana Shopping Center)

*Music:* **Catherine Lee**, violinist  
*Featured speakers:* **Victoria Gail-White, Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl, Bree Bumatai & John Whyte White**

*Topic:* **"Front Row Seats: A Look at Community Theater in Hawaii."** Bree Bumatai, Victoria Nalani Kneubuhl, John Whyte White and Victoria Gail-White will explore local theater -- writing, producing, directing and acting -- in a panel discussion that will include two short readings.

<http://www.nlapwhonolulu.org/meetings.htm>

## CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

If you have news to share, please email editor Norma Gorst with copy by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month.

<mailto:newsletter@nlapwhonolulu.org>

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dearest Pen Women Members and Friends,

I am always struggling with a clock that appears to be ticking faster in my world than anywhere else. When I stumbled across this bit of wisdom it spoke to me. No, it yelled at me. So if this reminder speaks to you, enjoy. If not, you are probably enjoying yourself already.

"Consider how you spend your time each day, each week, each year. Do you generally devote your time and energy to people and activities that you most value or are you in a routine that doesn't necessarily make your heart sing?

Most people agree that their two most precious commodities are time and energy.

Your choices about how to behave, what to do with your time and who to spend time interacting with, will be most fulfilling when you base those choices on your own core values. Surround yourself with people who inspire you. Engage in activities that make you feel good about yourself. Self-esteem arises out of the self-respect that occurs when you live in integrity."

By Sunny Massad Ph.D. Selected from her website Untherapy – where many treasures can be found.

<http://www.untherapy.com/self-mastery-sunny-massad-phd>

Also, please note a correction to the date of the opening for the Pen Women Art Show. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 -6:00 pm** for the extravaganza you won't want to miss.

My warmest aloha,  
Sabra Feldstein

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### May Meeting

Get ready for the  
**Pen Women Members and Friends**  
**MAY READING & SPRING BOUTIQUE**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>**

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### Call for Submissions for Love on the Road 2013

"Love on the Road 2013" will be an anthology of stories about making connections, from heartfelt ones ending in weddings, to less high-minded ones ending in beds (or wherever).

Half the stories will be about travelers meeting people far from home, and the other half about people meeting travelers passing through.

You can submit your 5,000-word story to us any time before March 31, 2013 — along with a \$10 reading fee. We will choose the best 12 stories for publication and send them to our panel of judges, which includes writers and literary agents. They will pick the stories that will win cash prizes of \$200, \$100 and \$50.

There's more information at <http://loveontheroad2013.com/>



### HPU Koolau Writing Workshops, March 2

Award-winning writer Eric Paul Shaffer will speak at Hawai'i Pacific University's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Koolau Writing Workshops. The workshops will be held on **Saturday, March 2**, from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in the Cooke Academic Center at HPU's Hawaii Loa Campus in Kaneohe. Local writers are invited to listen to Shaffer speak and to take workshops in scriptwriting, fiction, poetry and non-fiction. This year's HPU James Vaughan Award for Poetry winner, Cassandra Aoki, will also be awarded at the event.

Shaffer is the author of five poetry books, including "Lāhaina Noon: Nā Mele O Maui," "Living At The Monastery, Working In The Kitchen," "Portable Planet," and "RattleSnakeRider." He is also the author of three poetry chapbooks, and his poetry has appeared in eleven anthologies in the United States and Europe.

Announcements Continued...

More than 350 of his poems appear in more than 200 local, national, and international reviews, including the USA's *Slate*, *North American Review*, *The Sun Magazine*, *Ploughshares*, *RATTLE*, and *Threepenny Review*.

Among Shaffer's awards are the Lorin Tarr Gill Poetry Competition (First Place), HPU's James M. Vaughan Award for Poetry, Ka Palapala Pookela Book Award, and the Elliot Cades Award for Literature (Established Writer in Hawai'i). He has published a novel and two fiction chapbooks, and is an assistant professor in Literature and Composition at Honolulu Community College.

Aoki will receive a \$250 cash award and be recognized at the event. Her poem "Chinatown, Honolulu" will be published in Volume 27 of [Hawai'i Pacific Review](#), HPU's literary magazine.

Originally from Texas, Aoki graduated from Leilehua High School and then attended the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, majoring in Psychology. She has a masters' degree in Higher Education Administration from UH-M and is retired from working in the Office of Student Affairs at UH-M.

Each year, the Ko'olau Writing Workshops features a distinguished local writer and offers writers the chance to take workshops in drama, fiction, poetry, and non-fiction to boost and inspire their own work.

The keynote starts at 9:30 a.m., and workshops are scheduled at 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1:30 to 3 p.m. The cost is \$20 (\$10 for students with ID), and includes continental breakfast and drinks at lunch. Attendees must provide their own lunch.

For more information and to reserve a space at the workshop, contact Joan Ishaque at (808) 544-0228, or Patrice Wilson, Ph.D., at (808) 544-1108, or email [pwilson@hpu.edu](mailto:pwilson@hpu.edu).

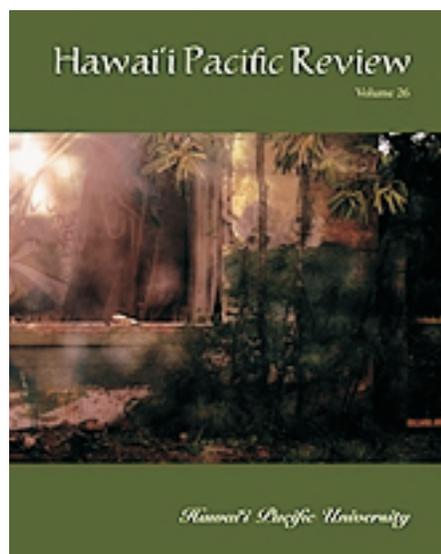
See: <http://bit.ly/UkbbTD>

### **Waimea Williams' Events**

Here are final Spring events for Waimea Williams' new novel *Aloha, Mozart*

March 7, Author's Night, featured literary writer, Waialua library.

March 10, Book launch at Na Mea bookstore and art gallery, Ward Street and Ala Moana, with Hawaii Opera Theater and Halau Mele.



Announcements Continued...

### **Pen Women Online Webinar**

On March 19, 2013, 4:00 p.m. Pacific Time (5:00 p.m. Mountain Time, 6:00 p.m. Central Time, 7:00 p.m. Eastern Time) the NLAPW will air a program about "The Magic of Light: the Secret to Unforgettable Photographs."

The master instructor will be Dr. Sharyn Bowman Greberman, NLAPW president. The cost to NLAPW members is \$25, and \$35 to non-members.

Register at <http://www.nlapw.org/pen-women-on-line/>

Learn to evaluate natural light; learn the photographer's most common mistakes; see examples of Greberman's work and hear about her journey as a photographer.

## **Biennial Art Show**

Don't Forget

**NLAPW – HONOLULU BIENNIAL ART EXHIBIT 2013**  
**April 15 – May 18**

**Xpress Urself!**

From the wild and zany to the contemplative  
and traditional—  
Honolulu Pen Women have it all!

Honolulu Country Club, 1690 Ala Puumalu St.,  
Honolulu HI 96818

Juror: David Behlke

ART CHAIR Susie Anderson: (808) 732-3144,  
[artchair1@nlapwhonolulu.org](mailto:artchair1@nlapwhonolulu.org)

To find a printable copy of the prospectus, visit [www.nlapwhonolulu.org/artshow.htm](http://www.nlapwhonolulu.org/artshow.htm)

## PEN Women In the News

**Elisha Bohnert's** book of poems, *Don't Trip Over the Garden Hose & Other Blood Sacrifices* (Deuxmers) will be released in April. Part memoir, part dream, each poem plays with the craziness and raw beauty of being alive. It's a poke in the ribs, "a needle aimed correctly," "a blood sacrifice." Most of all, it's about digging in dirt with bare hands, cussing and crying, because you know you've buried your heart here somewhere. The book will be available for purchase on Amazon and through Elisha.

**Carol Egan** has an article coming out in the spring issue of *Go Kailua*. It's about the two Senior Clubs sponsored by the Department of Parks and Recreation which meet in the Kailua District Park facilities every Tuesday morning.

**Yasuko Abeshima's** watercolor paintings are currently on display at The Gallery at Ward Center through March 27.



**Rosanna Hsi (Letters)** and her husband, Peter, were featured in this Star Advertiser article on February 13 for their donation of blankets to the homeless:

<http://www.staradvertiser.com/news/breaking/191083411.html>

### Donated blankets bring relief to homeless

Rosanna Hsi handed out blankets she donated to Waikiki Health Center's Care-a-Van program. About 300 blankets will go out to unsheltered homeless people. About 300 blankets were distributed to unsheltered homeless people today at the Waikiki Health Center's Care-a-Van program offices in Kaimuki.



Homeless people said the gift, from donors Rosanna and Peter Hsi, meant a lot. "It's been really cold," said Diana Tully, 52, who is homeless in Kaimuki. "I didn't have a blanket until today." Tully said she has been on the streets for about ten months. Before losing her housing, she said, she never realized how chilly Hawaiian nights can be.

Stephanie Burge, 26, said the blankets are especially nice because pitching a tent is now a tough thing to do in Honolulu's parks. "The rain sucks," she said. "It's hard to find a place to hide from the rain."

Rosanna and Peter Hsi, of Kahala, also donated blankets to the Waikiki Health Center last year. Rosanna Hsi said the donation was meant to spread a little warmth to folks who could use it. "There's a need," she said.

## **THREE QUESTIONS**

**PAMELA ROTNER SAKAMOTO** (Letters) served as Treasurer in 2010- 2012. Pam is a historian, a museum consultant, and the author of *Japanese Diplomats and Jewish Refugees: A World War II Dilemma*. Pam is now writing *Setting Sun: The Odyssey of a Japanese American Soldier*.

She holds a Ph.D. in international relations (The Fletcher School) and lived in Japan for 17 years before moving to Honolulu.



### **1. What is the wildest thing you've ever done?**

Riding an elephant in Thailand popped into my mind, but then I realized the wildest notion is what I do daily and what many of our Pen members practice devotedly. I abandoned the safety of a conventional career path and embraced my writerly interests, cultivating (I hope) creativity and exploring unknown topics in books and for museums. All the while, I have ached for mastery and tried to improve every single day.

### **2. What have you learned from living in Japan?**

I lived in Japan for seventeen years and learned so much! Beyond the political, such as the importance of universal health insurance, I came to appreciate the small things that enrich the quality of life. The Japanese lavish attention on details. A simple vase of three perfect blossoms will distract your attention from a gritty view. A perfect piece of cake will convince you that Tokyo is every bit as refined as Paris. A cube of luscious tofu will beckon for an irresistibly healthy meal. A group of mismatched chopstick holders will coordinate perfectly and enliven a table, ready for dinner and lively conversation.

### **3. What is the secret to your success?**

Thank you for this complimentary question! Patience and persistence. Even my children would agree. Japan has probably helped in these respects, too.

P.S. From the bottom of my heart, I thank our Pen Women for their inventiveness, vitality, wisdom, humor, and steadfast embrace. How fortunate I am!

**MARGO GOODWILL** (Art) chaired our 2011 Biennial Art Exhibition with great flair. Most recently we enjoyed her performance as The Divine Margo Cadeaux at our 2012 Holiday Celebration.

Born in California, smack in the middle of the 20th century, Margo has a fine arts education and has been working as a professional artist for over thirty years. She has lived overseas and traveled extensively. Her artworks reflect the spirit, color, and texture of the Hawaiian Islands, in which she couples inspiration from the classic Western masters, the Impressionists and the primitives.



*Continued on the next page*

Three Questions Margo Goodwill Continued...

**1. What is the wildest thing you've ever done?**

Off of the coast of northern Madagascar, in the middle of a dark night, wearing only my underwear and holding my clothes over my head, I swam alone from the beach to return to the yacht, Stormvogel, passing over a shark net that the natives set up to protect the coast from the large shark population that prowled the waters in that bay.

**2. From whom did you inherit your blue eyes and wisecracking gene?**

The blue eyes came from both my mother and father. The wisecracking gene must just come naturally.

**3. What is the secret to your success?**

Tenacity, talent, and luck.

**ELSHA BOHNERT** (Art & Letters) makes art and writes poems. She has served as President (2002-2004) and is serving again as Vice President. Her book of poems, *Don't Trip Over the Garden Hose & Other Blood Sacrifices*, will be released in April.



**1. What is the wildest thing you've ever done?**

Back in the Seventies I hitchhiked my way alone through the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, half-blind — having left my glasses in someone's car — and not speaking a word of Spanish. Well, maybe a few. Spent a night on the beach in Isla Mujeres with a stray dog as my guard. Then took the bus south to Chetumal and managed to hitch a ride on a sailboat to Belize on the blackest night ever with a bunch of drug smugglers. I only learned about that halfway across the bay.

**2. Have you learned anything interesting lately?**

Yeah, just the other day I learned that a soul group of people born around the 1940s are called the Ecstatics. Their job in life is to have fun exploring all kinds of taboos. Nice job description!

**3. What is the secret to your success?**

Mentors! I am blessed with fantastic mentors, people who heal with words and touch. It also helps to believe in magic.

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## FEBRUARY MEETING MINUTES

### Meeting Minutes

#### February 2013 National League of American Pen Women, Honolulu Branch

The February 6, 2013 Meeting of the National League of American Pen Women, Honolulu Branch took place at Alan Wong's Pineapple Room.

Attendees included 23 Members 22 Friends and 27 Guests for a total of 72.

Meeting called to order by **President Sabra Feldstein**, Minister of Happiness, at 11:30 a.m. Sabra began with a quote from Groucho Marx: "I have one day, just today, and I'm going to be happy in it."

**Joan Gencarelli**, Minister of the Chicks, welcomed three new Friends: Agatha Talba, and Rose & Larry Mild, co-authors of the mystery thrillers, *Cry Ohana* and *Death Goes Postal*.

She then welcomed new member **Rebecca Woodland**, writer, grandmother, cancer survivor, certified blonde and published author of a new cookbook titled *The Blonde Vegetarian*.

Sabra reminded us of the upcoming 2013 Biennial Art Exhibit: April 15 – May 18, 2013, *Xpress Urself*, with juror David Belke.

**Norma Gorst** introduced English teacher, **Pat Clough**, facilitator of *The Prison Writing Project* at the Kailua Women's Community Correctional Center.

Pat briefly related her purpose for launching The Prison Writing Project: to use writing as a tool for self-discovery. She expressed the need for programs and funding to further aid these women in their transition back into the general population once they are released from prison. To date they have published eight editions of *Hulihia, Monologues from Prison*. Pat concluded with this quote by Anne Frank: Work, Love, Courage, Hope; Make me good and help me cope.

The five women, **Kimmy, Brenda, Jessica, Earlily, and Joanne**, took us on their journey through the prison gates and into their lives: Their audio visual presentation led us: From **Who They Were**—to **Prison Life** and finally **Reflections**, on how far they have come and still need to go. The majority of these women have suffered from drug addiction and endured violence, rape and abuse. They have been performing at schools and community centers for the past four years. It is their purpose to tell their stories and lead children who listen, to a path of better choices.

Friend and Kumu Hula, Anita Ilima Stern whose poem is featured on the inside cover of *Hulihia* also chanted *Hulihia* (transformation). Questions followed.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm by Sabra Feldstein.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Cornelia *Connie D.* DeDona  
Recording Secretary

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