

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN HONOLULU BRANCH

March 2012
Newsletter



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D. Next Meeting

Date: April 4, 11:30-1:30pm

Place:

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

Featured Speaker:

Maya Soetoro-Ng



A. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Fast Forward...Looking Back

Imagine...it's March 31st... an incredibly full day, and we're wrapping the 2012 Biennial Writers' Conference – inspired speakers, stimulating techniques, writing-block busters, engaging prompts and great ideas.

You've just spent 10 hours with your particular tribe – language lovers... sentence samplers...word wizards...storytellers who appreciate a well-crafted tale.

You've got three new tools to keep the writing honest, five possible directions to go in, an invigorated sense of structure and a thousand and two ways to go at it.

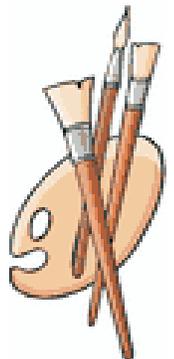
You feel a deeper commitment to why you write and why we have this determined need to create.

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**There's still time!** So, don't miss this exceptional conference! Plenty of opportunities to enhance your skills, inform your writing style and launch you in a new direction. Conference cost is \$150 through March 28th!

-- Susan Killeen

P.S. Thanks to Elsha Bohnert for the luncheon photos



## E. Contact the Newsletter Editor

### E. CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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

## B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pikes Peak Branch Flash Fiction Contest—Very, very short story, 100 words or less on the theme “Are You Devious at Heart?” DEADLINE: May 1, 2012. Entry fee: \$10 first manuscript, \$8 each additional ms. Members will find more information in the Spring issue of *The Pen Woman*, p. 29. For complete rules and entry blank, email [thewarriormuse@gmail.com](mailto:thewarriormuse@gmail.com)

NLAPW YouTube Channel—See what's new at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search NLAPW, or link to the NLAPW channel through its homepage at [www.nlapw.org](http://www.nlapw.org).



## C. MARCH MINUTES

### National League of American Pen Women— Honolulu Branch March 7, 2012



Esther Shimazu, Sabra Feldstein, May Izumi

The March meeting of the National League of American Pen Women, Honolulu Branch, took place at Alan Wong's Pineapple Room. Attendees included 27 members, 11 friends, 9 guests, and 4 visitors for a total of 51.

President **Susan Killeen** opened the meeting at noon. She welcomed everyone and said (to some of her disbelieving listeners) that it had hailed in Aina Haina the day before.

She then invited first time guests to introduce themselves.

She talked a bit about the upcoming Writer's Conference reminding people that there were only two days left for the discounted early registration, that registering after March 9 would cost an additional \$25.00, and that the workshops were rapidly filling up, so the sooner they registered, the better their chance of getting into the workshops they desired.

Susan then said she realized that often at these Pen Women meetings we don't have much of an opportunity to get to know one another. She suggested we take a few minutes to tell the person sitting next to us two things about ourselves that person might not know. After doing that, we went around the table, and each of us told all the others at the table some interesting things about ourselves.

*Continued on the next page.*

## C. MARCH MINUTES

Vice President, **Victoria Gail-White**, introduced our speaker, May Izumi. Victoria said she first met May at Bibelot gallery in Kaimuki where she went to review May's exhibit, "Little Nightmares" for an article for the *Honolulu Advertiser*. The exhibit consisted of a quirky menagerie of seventy small to medium-sized low-fire ceramic works. They weren't monsters, but animal sculptures with wire stitches—an odd collection of sheep, goats, cats, dogs, and tiny tick ponies (so named because their bellies look like swollen ticks.)

May told Victoria she made these "little nightmares" to cheer herself up and explained that they arose, allegorically, from her childhood memories, which included severe asthma attacks and numerous nights in the hospital's emergency room.



A smiling May Izumi

Hit #1 (Tasha)



Dancing Back and Forth



She said she didn't think of these animals as twisted, adding that people don't usually appreciate things that are not attractive, and she wanted people to look at things differently.

May opened her talk by telling a little about herself. She was born and raised in Hawai'i where she went to public school, later finding out that it was a "rough one."

She earned a degree in Business Administration and Marketing from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and went on to get her graduate degree in Business Administration from the University of Hawaii in 1994 and a degree in Fine Art from UH Manoa in 2005.

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**March Minutes Cont.**

She said that after getting her MBA she wanted to do something crazy. She was interested in art, but her father said, "You no more talent." Nevertheless she took an Art class at U.H., and no one in the class would talk to her. Another girl friend suggested she take ceramics, saying, "Ceramics people are fun, and we have food."

May showed photos of a number of her sculptures, at the same time reciting various anecdotes of her life and sharing her delightful sense of humor with us.

The first photo was of a sheep. After forming an armature, she put clay over the form, also using dryer lint and what looked like stitches but were really staples.

Another photo showed a dog riding a dromedary while a two-headed bird whispered words of wisdom into his ear.

Her pieces are often freaky, such as the proto type of Anansi Girls, consisting of a baby with a head at both ends and legs and arms sticking out of each side.

May mentioned that she took an excellent class at U.H. called "Freaks and Monsters" taught by Kathryn Hoffman, and this inspired a lot of her art.

Another piece, "Looking for Blue" was a mixed media, containing a flying fish, a skeleton boat, and a turtle sort of a mermaid. She created this to acknowledge the struggle of a young fellow student and her mother who were trying hard to get away from an abusive father and husband.

After showing many photos of these fascinating works of art, May ended her talk by mentioning that both the article by Victoria, and another in *Honolulu Magazine* by Pen Woman **Lavonne Leong** were very helpful to her career.



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**March Minutes Cont.**

She received an enthusiastic round of applause then agreed to answer a few questions:

**Q.** What is your work process? Do you plan it out ahead, or does it evolve?

**A.** She usually starts with words, then it kind of evolves, always changing just a bit. She doesn't use a sketchbook.

**Q.** Do you give workshops?

**A.** No, because she has a full time job.

**Q.** What material do you use for the armature?

**A.** She started by twisting junk mail and foil and putting wire around it. Now she makes a wire skeleton then pats clay on top. Her glaze is white. The color is paint or ink.

**Q.** Did the student you made "Looking for Blue" for know it was for her?

**A.** Yes, she was somewhat embarrassed, but she loved that her dog was in it.

**Q.** What fairy tale writers do you like?

**A.** Neil Gaimin, Jane Yolen, Robin McKinley, and she loves *A Wrinkle in Time*.

**Q.** What mystery writers do you like?

**A.** Lynda La Plant, among others. She likes really gory mysteries.

Susan thanked May, who received another round of applause.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Alpert Mower  
Recording Secretary



**Bulldog Angler**



**The Bi-Colored Python Goes in Search of Curiosity**

