

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN  
HONOLULU BRANCH  
[www.nlapwhonolulu.org](http://www.nlapwhonolulu.org)

## March 2010 Newsletter

**Contents:**

- A. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**
- B. DELECTABLE DETOURS**
- C. PEN WOMEN IN THE NEWS**
- D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- E. FEBRUARY MINUTES**
- F. NEXT MEETING**
- G. CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

### **A. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

What do we get for our Pen Women membership? First, fellowship with a group of women who attempt that most difficult thing: creating something where nothing was before. Second, luncheons with a chance to hear stimulating speakers, often accompanied by a slide presentation showing the roots and trajectory of their artistic growth. Third, a Christmas party full of good cheer, good food and companionship. Fourth, a chance to work with Girls Court, girls who are at risk, in serious danger of losing their way. If we can't, we participate vicariously; later this month, **Liz Train** and **Linda Hutchinson** will lead the girls in decorating tote bags. Fifth, either an art show or a writers' conference, designed to help members grow as creators. Sixth and perhaps most important, the constant possibility of surprise, the chance remark or discovery by a fellow artist, Pen Woman or speaker, that propels us forward, or deeper, into what I think of as a magic cave: a sporadic, mystical source of renewal.

All this for \$65.00—it has to be one of the world's great bargains! Bring your check to the April meeting or send it to **Carol Egan, 344 Iliaina Street, Kailua, 96734.**

See you next year! Nancy

### **B. DELECTABLE DETOURS**

None scheduled.

### **C. PEN WOMEN IN THE NEWS**

**Shan Correa** has had an anecdote called "Haole Rice" accepted for publication in Cheryl Tsutsumi's new book, *The Hawaii Rice Book* (Watermark Press, Hawaii). Her own book, a middle-grade novel titled *Gaff* (Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta) is due out this month, and it has already received its first national review. Her editor, Vicky Holifield, sent Shan a copy of it with the comment, "WOW!". The enthusiastic advanced review will appear in the April 1, 2010, issue of the prestigious American Library Association *Booklist*. The reviewer, John Peters, commented that the book is "reminiscent of Graham Salisbury's fiction," is "colored by its

distinctive regional setting and culture,” and found the main character, Paul Silva’s, narrative voice “spot-on for his 12 years.”

\*\*\*

**Barbara Clemens** is happy to announce the publication of her latest textbook, *Microsoft Windows 7 Illustrated Essentials*, part of the Illustrated series published by Course Technology, Cengage Learning. The 56-page text is published as a standalone book and as chapters in most Microsoft Office texts in the Illustrated series. It is intended for new computer users, and is available on Amazon <http://www.amazon.com/Microsoft-Windows-Illustrated-Essentials-Technology/dp/0538750774>.

\*\*\*

**Norma Gorst** won the only honorable mention given in the James M. Vaughan Award for Poetry at Hawaii Pacific University for 2010. Her poem "Wooden Box" describes a violin, speculating on how it was invented, what the wood thought and felt as the makers worked, and what the violin offers to all of us through the ages. This poem and another of Norma's poems, "Voice of the Rain," will be published in this year's *Hawaii Pacific Review*, available later this year.

\*\*\*

**Ria Keltz-Remenar’s** two art pieces were accepted for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibit by the Windward Artist Guild. The pieces will hang at Pauahi Tower through March. Inger Tully, TMC curator, was the juror and Ria received an award.

## D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

### An Introduction

**Marsha Eaton**, of Aloha Marketing, is our new webmaster. Marsha writes that, “I currently have more than 20 customers involved in some form of the arts, starting in 2001 with Honolulu Academy of Arts Guild website. In the past 9 years, I’ve created sites for artists like Jodi Endicott, Francisco Clemente, and Gail Hazlehurst; artists’ groups like Hawaii Craftsmen and Hawaii Handweavers Hui; and museums and non-profits such as The Contemporary Museum, their Friends of TCM site, plus the Garden Club and Hawaii Printmakers, to name just a few. Working with artists appeals to my creative side. The art-related websites rarely prefer ‘cookie cutter’ sites, but want to capture the essence of their art and convey that in the look of their website. It’s more fun than dealing with corporate businesses; given a choice between a law firm and an artist, I choose the artist every time.”

You can reach Marsha at [www.alohamarketing.com](http://www.alohamarketing.com).

Our new website is operational: [www.nlapwhonolulu.org](http://www.nlapwhonolulu.org). Take a look.

\*\*\*

## Hawaii Women's Journal

Hawaii's newest magazine, the online *Hawaii Women's Journal*, plans to have a Pen Women column in every issue. Its first issue, published last month, contains an article by **Nancy Moss** about Girls Court and Pen Women's writers' conference brochure on its back cover. You can check it out at [hawaiiwomensjournal.com](http://hawaiiwomensjournal.com).

\*\*\*

We will vote for new officers for 2010-2012 at the April meeting. Joan Gencarelli heads our nominating committee.

### E. FEBRUARY MINUTES

## Membership Meeting

### *National League of American Pen Women*

### February 3, 2010

The February meeting of the National League of American Pen Women took place at Alan Wong's Pineapple Room. Attendees included 22 members, 9 friends, 19 guests, 2 visitors, 1 musician, and 1 speaker, for a total of 54 attendees.

President **Nancy Moss** called the meeting to order at 12:00 and asked first-time visitors to introduce themselves.

Nancy read a passage about Trollope, who, it seems, had rather high standards for the amount of writing one should accomplish in a day.

**Nancy Mower** and **Victoria Gail-White**, co-chairs of the **2010 Pen Women Biennial Writers' Conference**, announced that the conference will take place **April 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> at Punahou School**. The keynote speaker will be Young Adult author **Lisa Yee**.

Breakout sessions will include the following:

- Autobiographic Fiction – John Wythe White
- Comedy Writing – Charles Memminger
- Creative Writing – Wendy Miyake
- Editing Your Work – Kathy Reimers
- Fiction – Joe Tsujimoto
- Magazine Writing – Lavonne Leong
- Memoir – Mia King
- Newspaper Writing Panel – Shan Correa, Carol Egan, Victoria Gail-White, Dorothy Wright
- Playwriting – Lee Cataluna
- Slam Poetry – Lyz Soto
- Story as a Life Study – Margaret South
- Travel – Chick Alsop

The Conference Fee is \$100, which includes a gourmet bento lunch (and when Victoria says gourmet, we believe her!) If you register early (before March 23<sup>rd</sup>), the fee is only \$90. Student discounts are available.

All members should be receiving an email with a PDF flyer attached, containing conference details. They asked that all members please forward this flyer to contact who might want to attend. There will be a full brochure coming soon, which they will ask us to help distribute. Word of mouth is very important in helping spread the word as well, so please “talk it up” with your friends and acquaintances. If you have questions, please contact Victoria at [victoriagw@gmail.com](mailto:victoriagw@gmail.com).

- Members can feel free to make **donations** to the Writers’ Conference for those who need scholarships.
- If you have any **PR connections**, contact Victoria.
- Sign up on the **volunteer** sheets at the back of the room (or contact Victoria or Nancy Mower) if you can help with the conference.
- We will **sell books** at the conference; if any Pen Women have books they would like to sell at the conference (using a procedure similar to our November Boutique), please let Victoria know.

Victoria Gail-White announced the upcoming **Fiber Show**, a juried show in which three Pen Women will display their work.

Susan announced the **SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators ) conference** at Ala Moana Hotel on Feb. 26-27. Brochures were available.

Susan also announced the **Lorin Tarr Gill Writing Competition**. She encouraged all members to enter. There will be cash prizes, funded by the Gill family. Winners will be announced on Friday evening, April 9<sup>th</sup>, the first conference session. The entry fee is \$9 and all entries must be postmarked by 3/21. Anyone can enter – male/female, Hawaii/mainland.

Entertainment was provided by **Baerbel Miller** and her partner **Bruce Wi**, who danced the Argentine tango. Their smooth and sultry moves combined with sudden pauses and intricate footwork to enthrall us all.

Susan then introduced our keynote speaker, Pen Woman **Susan Scott**, who presented her talk and photographic presentation “Sailing through Menopause via Mexico.”

Susan Scott is a marine science writer, author, registered nurse, and adventurer, to say the least. She has sailed extensively, including a trip from Connecticut to Hawaii by way of the Panama Canal. From 2004-2006, she captained her 37-foot ketch from Hawaii to the South Pacific, and on to Australia. She has hiked to the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa, trekked to Mt. Everest base camp and later crossed Pakistan’s Baltoro Glacier to spend her 50th birthday at the base of K2. Among her many other accomplishments, she has been writing a weekly column, "Ocean Watch," for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin since 1987. Susan is the author of three books and the co-author of three more, and does her own photography for her books as well. She is currently writing a memoir called “Sailing through Menopause via Palmyra, Tahiti, Cook Islands, Tonga, Fiji, New Caledonia and Australia.”

Susan related how, in 2005, she experienced a personal crisis, and found herself not knowing which way to turn. So she decided to wander until she felt better. So she started sailing her 37-foot ketch to Palmyra, Tahiti and various places until she hit Australia. Then she shipped her boat to Mexico's Sea of Cortez and sailed there.

Her trip took her to Cabo, where she saw sea lions and dolphins, as well as pelicans, ospreys, green herons, and innumerable other birds. On the Sea of Cortez, she found that it matched a description she had read: "ferocious with life." Although the surrounding land is a desert, the water supports a huge amount of biomass of all kinds.

Her amazing photographs included blue footed boobies, whales and countless other forms of sea life. She encountered threatening storms as well as peaceful small towns that sported amazing outdoor sculptures.

As a bonus, she collected large amounts of marine waste, including discarded plastic and Bic lighters, which she will continue to recycle into her artwork. (She recently had a show of her works, built solely from the marine debris she has collected over the years.)

By the end of her trip, after encountering numerous dangers and overcoming them, and by being close to sea life, Susan found herself feeling much better. She reached goals that she never thought she'd be able to accomplish, and in the process, found herself changed.

Susan Killeen thanked Susan, and Nancy adjourned the meeting at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Clemens  
Recording Secretary

## **F. NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** WED., APRIL 7, 2010  
**TIME:** 11:30 A.M.  
**PLACE:** THE PINEAPPLE ROOM  
**SPEAKER:** KAUI HART HEMMINGS, author of *The Descendants*  
**TOPIC:** Her book is currently being made into a film by *Sideways* director Alexander Payne. She will share her work and perspective.

## **G. CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

If you have news to share, please email editor Glenda Hinchey:  
[glendahinchey@yahoo.com](mailto:glendahinchey@yahoo.com).