

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN
HONOLULU BRANCH
www.nlapwhonolulu.org

January 2010 Newsletter

Contents:

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

A. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Roman god Janus has two faces, one looking back—in Pen Women's case to a festive Christmas party that featured Rosanna singing "La Vie en Rose," to pianist Pierre Grill's accompaniment and Baerbel and Susan dancing an improvised tango—and one looking forward, in our case to our April writers' conference.

This conference will be, in these challenging times, an act of optimistic audacity. Already one talented high school student has inquired about our Honolulu Advertiser scholarships; let us hope she is a harbinger of good things to follow. A successful conference will require working together. Would you like to work at the registration table, to be the first face our attendees see on arrival? Would you like to be on the food committee and make everyone happy by handing out bentos? Would you like to work clean up and have the satisfaction of making a messy site pristine again? Our co-chairs, Nancy Mower and Victoria Gail White, assure me they have jobs for everyone and all talents. Some of us know the satisfaction of playing on a team and winning a game or match in which everyone strove to do her best: that glow of satisfaction. Perhaps not as visceral as a sport, a successful conference is just as much a team effort, a whole that results from many individual efforts. We hope you'll all do your part.

Aloha, Nancy

B. DELECTABLE DETOURS

None scheduled at the moment.

C. PEN WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Ria Keltz-Remenar had 20+ paintings in a Honolulu Country Club show and also had a show at Gallery on the Pali in November. She was in the Oahu Art Center show at Pauahi Tower in December and won 1st place for "Emerging in 2009." She is trying to get kids to show their work, especially since art and music have been omitted from schools. She hopes that we as a group will do something to pick up the slack. She is open to suggestions. artbyrkr@yahoo.com

"Park City Magazine" has selected Susie Anderson's oil painting "Up 4th" as the cover art for their 2010 Winter/Spring issue. Available December 1, 2009, the magazine has a rich and unique history of only using original fine art on their covers, and has been published twice yearly since 1977. The town of Park City, Utah, was a host to the 2002 Winter Olympics.
(<http://www.parkcitymagazine.com>)

Nancy Moss wrote an article about Pen Women's work with Girls Court for the first issue of Hawaii Women's Journal.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kaimana is currently accepting submissions for its spring 2010 issue. The Cades Awards winners of the past 20 years will be featured, with new work submitted, in addition to other contributors in both poetry and prose categories. Please submit to hlacsubmissions@gmail.com [<mailto:hlacsubmissions@gmail.com>](mailto:hlacsubmissions@gmail.com) , password Manoa96822

E. NOVEMBER MINUTES

Membership Meeting *National League of American Pen Women* November 4, 2009

Attendance included: 25 members, 16 friends, 13 guests, 1 visitor, and 1 speaker, for a total of 56.

President **Nancy Moss** called the meeting to order at 12:00. She introduced first-time visitors.

The meeting was preceded by the annual **Pen Women Boutique**, when Pen Women artists and writers display and sell their work. A bountiful selection of fiber art, paintings, cards, books, and food greeted members, who got a head start on their holiday shopping.

Nancy began by giving the top 10 reasons to attend the annual **Pen Women Christmas Party**, to be held on **December 6, 2009**, at Vice President Susan Killeen's home in Aina Haina. The party replaces the December meeting.

Mara Miller kindly agreed to be new historian.

Vice President Susan Killeen welcomed new friends:

- Lisa Scontras
- Kayleen Polichetti

Jan McGrath announced that The Actors' Group is staging W.H. Auden's "For the Time Being: a Christmas Oratorio," which borrows from the tradition of medieval mystery plays in grounding a secular and comic version of the nativity. It will run Dec 23rd thru January 3rd. Jan is directing, and the production will also feature a multimedia presentation featuring the artwork of Pen Woman **Ria Keltz-Remenar**.

Kathy Ann Reimers announced that the **Hawai'i Literary Arts Council** journal *Kaimana* is accepting submissions for its next issue (coming out in Spring 2010). Send works to *Kaimana*, P.O. Box 11213, Honolulu, HI 96828 or contact Kathy at reimersa001@hawaii.rr.com [<mailto:reimersa001@hawaii.rr.com>](mailto:reimersa001@hawaii.rr.com) .

Nancy announced that the *Honolulu Advertiser* once again is giving us \$1,000 toward student **scholarships** for the April 2010 Pen Women Writers' Conference.

Nancy Mower and **Carol Egan** spoke about the upcoming **Pen Women Writers' Conference**. It will be held on April 9th – 10th, 2010, at Punahou School. The Keynote Speaker will be **Lisa Yee**, who writes for young adults but whose work is also enjoyed by adults. She has a fascinating background, including as a producer. She is a highly recognized writer. Her works include *Millicent Min*, *Girl Genius*, *Stanford Wong Flunks Big-Time*, and *So Totally Emily Ebers*.

Conference workshop presenters include today's speaker **Brett Wagner**, who will give a workshop on screenwriting. Carol Egan encouraged members to make donations to the conference to support scholarships, and asked us to tell our friends about the conference. More information will follow as details are pinned down.

Susan Killeen introduced our speaker, **Brett Wagner**, Honolulu filmmaker/director/writer.

Brett has been working in film for well over a decade. He has already garnered his share of accolades and awards. A graduate of NYU film school, Brett's first feature film, *Five Years*, played 30 film festivals internationally, winning Best Feature Film at the Victoria Independent Film Festival, and Best Screenplay at the Avignon Film Festival. His 21-minute short film, *Chief*, premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival and was named "one of the ten must-see shorts" of Sundance. *Chief* went on to win the Los Angeles International Shortsfest and Audience Awards at both the Maui Film Festival and the Hawaii International Film Festival. He was also voted "Up-and-coming director for 2009" by *Shoot Magazine*.

Brett makes his living as a commercial director. He came to Hawai'i from New York. For him, film distribution is the most heartbreaking stage of the filmmaking process. He is still trying to claim back the North American distribution rights to his film, *Chief*, a story of personal redemption, about a Samoan Chief in Hawai'i.

He explained that in screenwriting, things change between what's written and what ends up on the screen. In plays, content doesn't change much. But on a movie set, the screenplay is only a blueprint. The work evolves again and again in editing. Some things work on the page but not in the movie (his movie had a bar scene that had to be cut). There is a spirit of discovery in the editing room, when the film is honed in a way that is not possible on the page.

Writing for film is different in that you can't experience the audience reaction, which is so important for comedy. "The silence of boredom is noisier than the silence of engagement."

He showed his film all around the world, even in Samoa. He feels that the advice "Write what you know" is not great advice because the best part of writing is learning and investigation. Most of us have not lived lives at the extremes of human experience, which is where good stories are found.

Most beginning writers are finding their voice, and in these cases it helps to have an exciting narrative to fall back on. Make the audience want to find out the end. Write about what intrigues and excites you. Learn about it first – you don't have to learn everything about it. Let yourself play fast and loose with the facts. Look for an unusual story to tell within something banal.

He showed scenes from his movie, *Chief*. In the making of the film, he latched onto the phrase "Catch the bird but watch the wave." He set out to discover how this worked for his main character, a Samoan chief living in Hawai'i and working under the shadow of potential tsunami (though he couldn't afford to include the tsunami in the film!). The lead character's life experience is expressed in a voiceover during the film. In real life, the lead character is a fire knife dancer. Brett's primary research enriched the film with realistic detail.

He said that we are saturated by narrative, always telling stories. Yet we keep looking for stories.

It's so hard to find a story no one has done before. He discussed the film's plot, the ending, and the film's forward motion along the main narrative line, including the importance of keeping that

progressing. Once that line is in place, you can chop it up, do flashbacks, or whatever you want, but everything you add needs to be in service to forwarding the main narrative line.

He ended with a question-and-answer period. Susan thanked Brett, and Nancy adjourned the meeting at 1:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Clemens
Recording Secretary

F. NEXT MEETING

DATE: WED., FEBRUARY 3, 2010
TIME: 11:30 AM
PLACE: PINEAPPLE ROOM
SPEAKER: SUSAN SCOTT
TOPIC: "SAILING THROUGH MENOPAUSE VIA MEXICO"

G. CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

If you have news to share, please email editor Glenda Hinchey:
glendahinchey@yahoo.com <<mailto:glendahinchey@yahoo.com>> .