

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

May 2010 Newsletter

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A. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At her first writers' conference, Lisa Yee said she had "found her tribe." Pen Women's particular tribe contains some showy members, dressed in subtly contrasting colors—aqua, lilac, brilliant blues, set off by chunky, one-of-a-kind jewelry while a second sector of the tribe, more dully attired, observes the proceedings with bright beady eyes, head swiveling slightly, quick as a sparrow. (Music tribe members are home, picking notes out of the air: is that an 'A' I hear?)

Both factions like speakers and are adept at peppering them with questions; "How do you . . .?" "Why do you . . .?" They pay close attention to the answer, as if it might make a distant door swing open. Both factions of our tribe, the showy artists and the observant writers, are looking for Truth: the perfect word, the perfect sentence, the perfect shape, the subtle hue, that will make their spirit shout out an orgasmic YES! Of course, having written down that word or sentence, having laid down that cerulean blue for the sky, they search for the next word, the next sentence, the green for the sea grape that lines the beach.

It is in this spirit, having identified our tribe as perpetual searchers, never quite satisfied, that I urge those members who have not sent in their dues to mail them to our new treasurer, Pam Sakamoto, at 2144 Hakanu Street, Honolulu, 96821. I thank you all for a fulfilling two years. You have an incredibly talented, motivated board; Pen Women's next two years will be good ones!

Aloha, Nancy

B. DELECTABLE DETOURS

MAY DELECTABLE DETOUR

A.C.T. READER'S THEATER: "Lily Dale" by Horton Foote

WHEN: SUNDAY MATINEE, MAY 30TH, 2 PM

WHERE: Richardson Theatre, Fort Shafter, Honolulu

FREE: Just show up, we'll be there

(This is the last in the Tribute Series to the late Horton Foote, author of many plays including *The Trip To Bountiful* and an Academy Award winner for his screenplay *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He also wrote the screenplay for *Tender Mercies*.)

The play takes place in Houston, Texas in 1909. It is the story of a spoiled, manipulative 18-year-old girl and her comically dysfunctional family. The original Broadway performance in 1986 starred Molly Ringwald as Lily Dale. Good fun!

Victoria Gail-White and John Wythe White play Lily Dale's mother and stepdaddy. Local theater star Jo Pruden is also in the cast, playing a religious zealot who prays so loud she disturbs her neighbors. More good fun!

Plenty of FREE PARKING but please remember to bring your driver's license, insurance card, registration and safety inspection—because they tend to check at the gate. Terrorists stay home.

C. PEN WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Ria Keltz-Remenar won an award from the Windward Artists' Guild for her work, "Peace in My Dreams" which was entered into the WAG's 50th Anniversary Open Juried Exhibition.

Susan Rogers-Aregger presented workshops on collage in March and April at the Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens.

Jodi Belknap and Tamara Montgomery won a 2010 Ka Palapala Po'okela Award for Excellence in Children's Illustrative Book category for their "When the Cassowary Pooped: A Tale of New Guinea." The book was illustrated by Joseph D. Dodd and published by Calabash Books.

Jodi Endicott had the honor of being invited to participate in the first exhibition in an international art fair that featured fifteen artists with ties to Hawai'i. The March event, entitled "Out of Hawai'i," took place in New York.

Gail Hazlehurst taught an "Art Lover's" workshop for the Contemporary Museum of Art on April 17, 2010. They did pottery painting on pre-fired free-form dishes.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Linda Hutchinson is participating in two shows this month:

Aloha Ho'omaluhia XXVI opened with a reception on May 1 and runs through the 31st. The Gallery is at Ho'omaluhia Park in Kaneohe. **Liz Train** is also showing at this mixed media exhibit. **Susan Rogers-Aregger** will exhibit her collages.

The Artist's Group show, Concept IX runs from May 12th through the 30th. This one is at The Academy of Arts Center at Linekona.

Jenefer Rothschild and Jenee Wonderlich are booking artists and coordinating exhibitions for the Honolulu Country Club Gallery. They are inviting members of the Windward Artists' Guild to exhibit May 23-July 11.

E. MARCH MINUTES

March 3, 2010, Pineapple Room, Macy's Ala Moana Center

Attending: 25 members, 15 friends, 10 guests, 4 visitors, and 1 speaker, for a total of 55 attendees.

President **Nancy Moss** called the meeting to order at 11:30. After reading an Andy Warhol quote, she asked first-time visitors to introduce themselves. Nancy showed us an article about the Pen Women involvement in **Girls Court**, the special court that is part of the Hawaii juvenile justice system. (Pen Women lead a variety of writing, art, and computer workshops with the girls.)

Nancy introduced new friends **Sally Moore** and **Joyce Torrey**.

Writers' Conference Status

Victoria Gail-White and **Nancy Mower** announced that excellent progress is being made in plans and registrations for the **2010 Pen Women's Writers Conference**, to be held April 9-10 at Punahou School. She encouraged all Pen Women to sign up. A benefit is that they will have their places reserved in the workshops.

Pay Dues!

Treasurer **Carol Egan** announced that all current members must pay their dues by the end of April. For friends who joined later than February 1, there is no renewal fee due; only for those who joined before February 1.

Enter the Lorin Tarr Gill Competition

Susan Killeen, chair of the **Lorin Tarr Gill Writing Competition**, part of the 2010 Pen Women Writers' Conference, encouraged members and friends to submit their works. She also announced that Pen Women would volunteer at **KHPR** on-air fundraising, and to contact her if anyone is interested in participating.

She also asked Pen Women on Facebook to place the NLAPW Writers' Conference icon on their pages, to help us advertise the conference.

Guest Speaker

Susan introduced our guest speaker, Mary Lou Sanelli.

Mary Lou Sanelli is an author and speaker who has earned a solid reputation in the literary community through her steady commitment to writing and twenty years of engaging public readings and presentations. Her readings win over audiences with poignant insights and self-effacing humor. She has a dynamic stage presence and often stresses performance as strongly as literature. Critics have called her "...highly readable and entertaining" and "... jaw-droppingly honest."

Sanelli is the author of seven poetry collections. Her recent collection of essays, "Falling Awake" (selected as "one of the most fabulous 2008 Northwest titles" by Seattle reviewer Lesley Thomas) and her latest book "Among Friends: A Memoir" (#1 in non-fiction, Barnes & Noble, December 2009) are in bookstores now. Her essays have appeared in the *Seattle Times* and *Seattle Metropolitan Magazine*. She is a regular columnist for *City Living Magazine* (Seattle Pacific Publishing Newspapers), as well as for *Art Access Magazine*. She is heard periodically on NPR, and weekly on Seattle stations KSER, FM and KONP, AM. She also performs her staged reading of her book, *The Immigrant's Table*, throughout the country. Sanelli divides her time between Honolulu and Seattle.

Coming from an immigrant Italian family, food was an important part of her experience growing up. This led to her book *The Immigrant's Table*, a book of poems that recreates a culture in which food preparation is a cherished ritual. As a side note, she recommended that, the next time we're in New York City, we check out the Tenement Museum on the Lower East Side.

Mary Lou shared some of her tips that she has developed during her career as a writer and speaker.

- For marketing, she recommends phone follow-ups to emails, to reinforce the human connection.
- If you have a website, include everything that makes you interesting. The site should look like it's ready to come into people's homes.

Her presentation was enhanced by her experience as a dancer and a dance teacher. She included readings from her works, including *Women in the Garden*, a reading about her sister and a beauty pageant.

Susan expressed her appreciation to Mary Lou for her inspiring words.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Clemens, Recording Secretary

F. MAY MINUTES

May 5, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 by President Nancy Moss. There were 24 members, 11 friends 16 guests, and 1 visitor, for a total of 52 attendees.

After her introductory remarks and the introduction of first-time guests, she opened the floor to Past President Shan Correa.

Announcements

Shan announced that members **Helen Chapin** and **Mary Ellen Lawrence**, both of whom are long-time Pen Women members, will no longer be joining us for meetings due to illness. Shan talked about their many accomplishments and their contributions to Pen Women over the years, and asked us to join her in honoring them.

Nancy then recognized our new friend, **Janette Sargent**.

Writers Conference Report

Conference Co-Chair Nancy Mower announced the incredibly successful results of the Pen Women Writers' Conference, held on April 9th – 10th at Punahou School, featured writer Lisa Yee and an impressive collection of workshop presenters. She acknowledged the many contributions of the conference committee: Victoria Gail-White, Co-Chair; Pam

Sakamoto; Carol Egan; Sabra Rae Feldstein; Joan Gencarelli; Susan Killeen; Lavonne Leong; Wendy Miyake; Rike Weiss and Barbara Clemens.

The conference was a financial success as well: With over 140 attendees, the committee was able to put aside over \$4,000 toward the next conference. This was the most successful conference in the chapter's history. Nancy congratulated Nancy, Victoria, and the committee on their exemplary work.

Introducing the New Pen Women Board

It was also time to induct our new Pen Women board members. First Nancy expressed her thanks and presented lei to the outgoing board:

Nancy Moss, President

Susan Killeen, Vice President

Carol Egan, Treasurer

Susie Anderson, Membership Chair

Barbara Clemens, Recording Secretary

Pam Sakamoto, Corresponding Secretary

She then welcomed the incoming board, which will serve for the next two years:

Susan Killeen, President

Victoria Gail-White, Vice President

Pam Sakamoto, Treasurer

Nancy Mower, Recording Secretary

Shan Correa, Corresponding Secretary

Appreciation to Nancy Moss, Outgoing President

Incoming president Susan Killeen thanked Nancy Moss for her many contributions as president of the Honolulu chapter for the last two years, including her dedication to Pen Women participation in the Girls Court program. She also spearheaded the redesign of our chapter's Web site. Susan presented her with a gift honoring her service. Members showed their appreciation by adding to Nancy's tennis ball collection.

Featured Speakers

Following Pen Women tradition, the featured speakers for the May meeting are Pen Women writers. Thirteen Pen Women read pieces they had written:

Jan McGrath read two poems "Grace"--a (composite) portrait of a gracious lady who drinks a little(?) too much, and "Round Pond" -- a shared revisiting of one moment that provokes waves of loss and elation.

Shan Correa read a verse from her “Bug Collection” called “Millicent Mulder Loves Her Bugs,” now in the May/June issue of *Spider* magazine, and an excerpt from her middle-grade novel, *Gaff*, which was published in April by Peachtree Publishers.

Cornelia "Connie" DeDona shared two poems “Not Guilty,” a commentary on the justice system and “I Want to Be A Poet: A Slam Poem” inspired by a class given by Liz Soto at the recent Pen Women Writers’ Conference.

Mary Bell read "A Home Entitlement," based on an ad promoting increased closet space for 5 year old girls who had "more clothes than Mom."

Barbara Clemens read “Help Wanted, Female,” a personal essay about her experiences in trying to find meaningful work during the late 60s and early 70s.

Sabra Feldstein read “Baba Yaga, True Confessions of the Witch Mother,” a story told by her five-year-old son of the day he chopped up his gum boots with an axe and suffered the consequences.

Kathy Reimers read her poem “Twice Lost,” a recently written love poem.

Suzanne Machbitz read from her memoir, entitled *Moonshadows*, about life's challenges with her adopted son, dealing with his sociopathic behavior and drug addictions.

Nancy Mower read her story called “The Dons,” from her “Unpublished Memoirs.” It tells of her junior year in high school when she was dating two boys, both named Don.

Victoria Gail-White read her essay "Royal Buffet," about her experience of the opulence and splendor of dining at the Royal Palace in Rabat, Morocco with the Prince and Princesses.

Susan Killeen read two pieces: “One Plus One,” a tribute to her father, and “4:00 AM,” a solitary moment of self-reflection.

Joy Gold read two of her poems. One of them was about the pride she felt at her sister’s recovery, and the other about her grandson.

Gail Ellingsong sang two songs she wrote about the magic of living on Maui.

Rosanna Hsi read a travel piece about trying to leave Thailand in the middle of a strike and uprising.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30. We will meet again in September.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Clemens, Recording Secretary

G. NEXT MEETING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8, 2010

TIME: 11:00 a.m.

PLACE: THE PINEAPPLE ROOM (Macy's, Ala Moana Center)

SPEAKER: CORA YEE, artist. There will also be a Trunk Sale of her original and printed artwork and jewelry creations from 11 a.m.

H. CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

If you have news to share, please email editor Glenda Hinchey:

glendahinchey@yahoo.com.

Pam Sakamoto

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