

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

October 2010 Newsletter

Contents:

- A. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**
- B. DELECTABLE DETOUR**
- C. PEN WOMEN IN THE NEWS**
- D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- E. SEPTEMBER MINUTES**
- F. NEXT MEETING**
- G. A REMEMBRANCE OF LORIN TARR GILL**
- H. CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

A. MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Living is a form of not being sure, not knowing what next or how. The moment you know how, you begin to die a little. The artist never entirely knows. We guess. We may be wrong, but we take leap after leap in the dark. Agnes De Mille

Desiring that oh-so-comfortable zone that lurks just over our shoulder is a learned behavior... a missive: *We must stay safe!* As incredibly creative little people, we sought out everything new and different: *I don't know what that is so I'd better investigate... I'd better touch it, eat it, push it, feel it, rip it, smell it. What does grass taste like? What happens if I put the cat in the bathtub with me? What if I wrap the kitchen chairs in toilet paper? Why not color my whole face with mom's red lipstick? Paint the new sofa blue?* Oh those gnarly consequences! Surely we prize safety and security, but the same are not allies when it comes to our creative work; we want/need the juice. That's what makes the work better. Surrender to *NOT KNOWING*; focus on the experience, not the outcome. How will you shake it up today in the name of art?

--Susan Killeen

B. DELECTABLE DETOUR

Halloween Delectable Detour

When: Sunday, October 31, 1:30 tour

Where: The Contemporary Museum, http://www.tcmhi.org/ex_mhBiennial.htm

What: Tour of TCM Biennial Exhibit

Free entry to the Museum and the Exhibit

If you would like, please join us for lunch at TCM Cafe at 12 pm before the docent tour at 1:30 pm.

Please RSVP by Friday, October 29th, to Sabra... cactusflower@hawaii.rr.com. She needs a count.

TCM Biennial Exhibit

The Contemporary Museum Ninth Biennial of Hawai'i Artists is one of TCM's most popular exhibitions. The invitational Biennial was developed to serve as a complement to Hawai'i's numerous

juried exhibitions, offering artists the opportunity to exhibit a new body of work or installation in one of TCM's galleries.

Seven artists were selected to participate in the Biennial: Kloe Kang, Abigail Romanchak, Rosa Silver, Jason Teraoka, Marc Thomas, Maika'I Tubbs, and Scott Yoell. The exhibition will be on view until January 26, 2011.

C. PEN WOMEN IN THE NEWS

Jodi Belknap reports that *When the Cassowary Pooped* won the Ka Palapala Po'okela award of excellence in Children's Illustrative or Photographic Books this year (May 2010) from the Hawaii Book Publishers Association.

Anita Benson Bradley had 3 paintings in The Contemporary Show at Puahi Tower, which closed on Oct. 2nd.

Both **Ria Keltz-Remenar** and **Sabra Feldstein** exhibited work recently in the First Annual TCM Docents' Art Exhibition at Gallery on the Pali.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pen Women November Boutique

Aloha Members and Friends:

As you may know, November is the annual boutique sale which will be held at our next luncheon meeting – November 3rd. Those who are interested in displaying their work – art, craft or books – please let me know asap and I will forward your request to Victoria Gail White who will be organizing it this year.

We will begin the meeting at 11:00 A.M. so that people will have adequate time to browse before the program begins. We'll have the room available for set up at 10:00 am. And we ask that you have your space and work ready by 10:45 before guests start arriving. Several of you already used the sign up sheet provided at our last luncheon. There is limited space so please respond asap as this will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

As always, we look forward to all your treasures!

Best,

Susan (killeens@hawaii.rr.com)

The Hawaiian Humane Society will feature the director of their Humane Investigations division, Keoni Vaughn, and Pen Woman **Shan Correa** as speakers at the Society's "A Talk for the Animals" quarterly event. The meeting will be held on November 4, from 5:30 to 6:45 in the theater at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, 2454 South Beretania Street. "Fighting animal cruelty is high on the Hawaiian Humane Society's list of initiatives," said HHS Education Coordinator Bonnie Kosaki, and cockfighting in Hawaii will be the evening's focus. Shan's middle-grade novel, *Gaff*, looks at the subject through the eyes of its narrator, Paul Silva, whose father breeds and raises gamecocks for a living in Hawaii. Contact Shan at eshanc@hawaii.rr.com if you'd like more information about the meeting.

E. SEPTEMBER MINUTES

Membership Meeting

National League of American Pen Women

September 8, 2010

The September meeting of the National League of American Pen Women Honolulu Branch took place at Alan Wong's Pineapple Room. Attendees included 27 members, 12 friends, and 11 guests, including the speaker, Cora Yee.

President **Susan Killeen** called the first meeting of the year to order at 12:00 and asked first time visitors to introduce themselves. Susan stated that the Pen Women ended last year on a high note with the tremendous success of the Biennial Writers Conference. She said that members could look forward to hearing more information on the upcoming Pen Women Art Show in Spring 2011.

She announced that the board was pleased with the new webmaster, Marsha Eaton, and website make over, and encouraged members, new and old, to submit or update bios of not more than 250 words. These may include a personal photo and one or two photos of artwork, book cover etc. which they could submit through Susan: killeens@hawaii.rr.com.

Susan asked members to please submit any notice of awards/successes etc. at reservations table before each meeting so that these can be shared with the membership.

Pen Women will once again sit at a phone table with an on-air presence for the Hawaii Public Radio Fund Drive in October.

Roslyn Cattrachia, singer/composer, shared her experience about having her computer and back up systems stolen. Her computers were eventually returned, but she highly recommends backing up your data with a system such as "Carbonite" to avoid the nightmare.

Susan welcomed new members with lei and certificates: **Patricia Wood** (Letters), **Darlene Weingand** (Arts & Letters), **Pamela Gibson** (Letters), **Delta Lightner** (Arts & Letters).

Susie Anderson was also honored with a lei for her two years as Membership Chair, and **Barbara Clemens** was acknowledged for all her work with technical assistance at monthly meetings.

Vice President **Victoria Gail White** introduced the speaker - Artist **Cora Yee**.

Accomplished artist, Cora Yee, was educated in Hawaii and has exhibited her work, winning awards in Europe, Japan and North America for two decades. Cora has participated in over 75 group exhibits, 10 solo shows and 4 two-person shows. She says her leanings toward the creative were obvious early on when her mother discovered her pouring ketchup, mustard and other liquids from the refrigerator onto the floor of the kitchen and madly swirling them about.

Cora's exquisite skills as an artist/painter/printmaker are evident in every piece. Her series work covers the sublime, the spiritual and the whimsical, with titles like: *Cobra Sutra, Acts of the Gods, Flying Saucer Cats, and Vicious Fishes*.

In 1999 Cora took a trip to the "Himalayan Kingdoms" as they were called at the time, and she fell in love with the spirit and culture of the people there. As she says, "The colors, the people, the culture, their

strong beliefs and total devotion to Buddhism and Hinduism were all absorbed into my heart.” And obviously into her art as well, because her love of travel continues to inform her work.

In addition to viewing Cora’s presentation, the Pen Women were treated to a trunk show of her exceptional jewelry and other small treasures and cards.

Susan adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Killeen.

F. NEXT MEETING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOV. 3, 2010

TIME: 11:00 A.M.

The speaker for November’s luncheon is poet Emily Dickinson.

Ms. Dickinson (via **Jan McGrath**) will discuss her background, work and creative process, and her experiences and attitudes regarding publication. Since the poet rarely appears in public, it is through the efforts of Pen Woman **Victoria Gail-White** that she has been persuaded to make this exception.

November Boutique:

We have 16 members and friends signed up to sell books, jewelry, art work, cards, scarves, baked goods, skin products, knit handbags, etc.

Bring your checkbooks and come early (doors open at 11:00 a.m.) to do some early Christmas shopping and support Pen Women creativity.

G. A REMEMBRANCE OF LORIN TARR GILL, 1928-2010

by Shan Correa

Naturalist, educator, social worker, and protector of Hawaii’s ‘*aina*, Lorin Tarr Gill died on October 1st, and here are some of my memories of him.

Lorin was a remarkable man. He founded the Hawaii Chapter of the Sierra Club in the 1960s, and later, as director of environmental education at the Moanalua Gardens Foundation, helped to develop materials for teaching Hawaii’s children about the natural history, botany, and geology of their island state. The incredible knowledge he had of these areas—and of Hawaii’s cultural history—influenced all who knew him.

Lorin’s Pen Women connection

Lorin Tarr Gill is a very recognizable name to Honolulu’s Pen Women, but it might be puzzling if they don’t know that his mother, Lorin Tarr Gill, was a longtime Letters member of our branch until her death in 1979. She had a remarkable life of her own and was a pioneering woman journalist (in particular, as a writer for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin* and the Bishop Museum).

After her death, her sons Lorin and Tom wanted to memorialize their mother in a special way. They knew of her love for her fellow Pen Women and of her desire to encourage other writers, so they established an endowment to fund a literary competition in her name. Our branch has administered the Lorin Tarr Gill writing competition for the Gill family for decades, and many writers have cited the contest as an inspiration in their lives.

A personal remembrance of Lorin

“Mr. Gill knows everything.” When our son Brandon was in the sixth grade at Hahaione Elementary school, his dad and I heard this statement so often we gritted our teeth whenever it came up. It was usually prefaced by an explanation of why his own father, a biology teacher in those days, was dead wrong about something—the name of a tree, for example, or whether said tree was endemic or merely indigenous, or native Hawaiians used its leaves for food or for medicine.

Brandon was among the enviable children who followed Mr. Gill up mountain trails and sat with him by tide pools where he not only identified (correctly, of course) each creature within its lava shores, but also made the lessons so interesting and fun they were never forgotten. Many of these kids followed their mentor into careers similar to his. Others, like Brandon, still follow him in their love and protection of nature.

During the last in-person chat I had with Lorin, he asked about “the little red-headed violinist,” and told of a terrible scare he’d recently had at the airport. He’d set off for Molokai and taken along the special knife he always carried on nature hikes. When he was almost to the security checkpoint, he remembered it was there in his carry-on. He’d panicked, he said, as that was “Brandon’s knife,” a mahalo gift the long-ago class gave him at the end of the school year. Apparently, Brandon had taken up a collection, bought and presented it to him.

“Just tell him that there was no way I was giving up that treasure,” Lorin said. “I found a way to get it through to Molokai—legally, of course,” he said with a wink, “so tell him thanks for me.”

A memorial service and opportunities for contributions

A celebration of life will be held at Palama Settlement, Nov. 20, at 5:00 p.m. Contributions may be made in Lorin Tarr Gill’s name to the Sierra Club Hawaii Chapter, P.O. Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803 or to our treasurer Pam Sakamoto at 2144 Hakanu St., Honolulu, HI 96821, marked “Lorin Tarr Gill Fund.”