

National League of American Pen Women



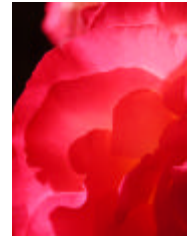
Palm Springs Branch

P.O. Box 1166, Palm Desert, CA
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Newsletter Volume XI, Issue 18

February, 2010

Patricia Moloney Dugas, Editor



Promoting the development of art, letters, and music of professional women.

The President's Message by Joan Petit-Clair



I hope everyone has dried out from all the rain. On a brighter note, the wildflowers should be in full bloom in the desert this spring. That should offer our artists great photography and painting opportunities.

For those of you who missed our last two meetings, we have eliminated the introductions and professional accomplishments segment of the meeting.

I've gotten positive feedback from members after both meetings, the change has been well received. The meetings moved along at a better pace, giving us more time for our speakers to take questions and answers, and we have been getting out in a timely manner.

However, we want to know what you're doing professionally. Please send your information to Dodie Cross dodiecross@dc.rr.com for the Whoo's News column. Whoo's News is a great way to motivate, inspire, and network as a group and I hope you will all take advantage of it. In doing this, you're able to reach the entire membership rather than just those attending the meetings.

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February 16, 2010 Luncheon

Guest Speaker: Patricia Taylor Lee

Pianist and Artistic Director of the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition.

She will discuss this International, yet local, piano competition and her own career as a performer, lecturer, author, and judge of piano competitions.

Reservations: Make your reservations at least 1 week before this luncheon at the Desert Falls Country Club, 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. Reservations are a must. You must cancel 24 hours in advance if you cannot make it, or we will have to charge you for the reservation. \$22 for members and \$27 for non-members.

Make your reservations by email to Joanna Jacobs penluncheon@earthlink.net - or call her at 760-902-3273.

President's Message Cont'd...

As you may already know, according to our Standing Rules for Governance, “the object of the Palm Springs Branch of NLAPW is to conduct, promote and encourage creative and educational activities in Art, Letters and Music.”

In addition to the types of membership designated by the National bylaws, the Palm Springs Branch designates a Provisional Membership that may be acquired by a woman who is working towards the qualifications of an Active or Associate member, but does not yet qualify.

While I have been delighted with the caliber and number of Pen Women joining under both National and Provisional Membership, it is necessary to maintain a productive ratio between the two in order to facilitate mentoring and networking. With that in mind, the Board of the Palm Springs Branch has opted to activate a one-year moratorium on accepting any new Provisional Members effective immediately and continuing until April 2011.

In the months to come we'll be looking for ways to support our provisional members in their efforts to advance to an Active or Associate membership. In this way we hope to continue to build and develop the vibrant, accomplished membership of the Palm Springs Branch.

Just a reminder, your membership renewal is due no later than April 1st. Please send your check to Kathy Bjork before that date. This is a time sensitive matter as National Dues must be paid by May 15th or a penalty is assessed. For further information see the Membership column.

Joan Petit-Clair

President Janpix40@aol.com



Maureen Gilmer: guest speaker for the January, 2010 Palm Springs branch NLAPW luncheon.

Author of *Palm Springs-Style Gardening*, Maureen gave a delightful presentation of how she has transitioned from a simple book with black and white drawings to her own beautifully photographed books on Palm Springs contemporary plants, dry land, and small budget

gardening.

Her focus was on having a long term commitment to your work, and learning all aspects of professional media communication: blogging, Twitter, Kindle books on Amazon.com, and Facebook.

Shift with the tide – compensate – switch gears – find your market! A delightful presentation!

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Who's News by **Dodie Cross**

Joanne Hardy – has just had a story published on *More.com*, an online magazine for *More Magazine*. It is entitled "Driving Edith Bunker."

Fritzie von Jessen – Her new book, *I Killed a Penguin*, is scheduled for release on February 2. "Writing and researching has been a long haul but also an exciting adventure and I'm thrilled to finally see it in print."

Kathryn Jordan – Wants us to know she is now on page 160 of her "Egypt" novel, and might have a working title to share with us at our February meeting. Also, she says, she is now a first-time grandma, and "Life is good!"

Carol Mann – spoke to the Sage-ing Writers' Club in La Quinta, CA, in mid-January, about creative nonfiction. She demonstrated how a memoir event can be brought to life by using literary techniques.

Audrey Moe – was interviewed on the Jacqueline Bachar radio show (1340 AM) on Saturday, January 9th, and spoke about her book, *Desertwalk: A Search for Secrets of the Desert*. She will also be doing a book signing at Barnes & Noble at the Westfield Shopping Center on Friday, February 19th, at 2:00 pm. If you're in the area, stop by and see her.

Carolyn Walker – won third prize in the All Cities Branch publication of *Pen Women Magazine* entitled, "If I Were an Artist".

Communications to our membership:

Informational communications from the Board to the Membership will come from Corresponding/Communications Secretary Carol Mann from her email: cstanfield@dc.rr.com Members will be informed of notices, events, and announcements.

Please **DO NOT REPLY** to Carol Mann but do reply to the designated person within the email if so indicated.

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION IN THE ARTS 2010

The Women of Distinction in the Arts event will be held on **Sunday, April 11, 2010**, at Wally's Desert Turtle in Rancho Mirage.

We will honor these three outstanding women who were nominated by Pen Women:



Jacqueline Bachar, producer and hostess of her radio show on KPTR, AM 1340. She features internationally known authors, people in the arts and local charities.

Denise DuBarry-Hay, President of the Palm Springs Women in Film and Television, producer of *Shoot the Hero* and creator of infomercials and other feature films.

Barbara Mortensen, “the opera lady” presenting Metropolitan Opera live simulcasts from New York. Has enabled more than 1,000 students from local schools to see the performances at no charge.

Member Gift Certificates We would like to invite members to donate gift certificates for their services to our Pick a Flower for a Scholar auction at the event. Please contact Lynne Spreen at 951-926-3875 or lmispren@yahoo.com or Judie Ruzek at 760-568-4771 or plus2@aol.com for more information.

Volunteers If you would like to volunteer to help plan the event, please attend the planning meetings on the first Tuesday of the month –

February 2, March 2, and April 6, 2010
from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Berger Foundation.

Contact Marge Dodge at margedodge1@aol.com or 760-333-0733 for more details on how you can help make this event a success.

----- Upcoming General Meeting Agendas -----

March 16, 2010 _____ **O’Jay Vanegas on the history and art of storytelling**

April 11, 2010 _____ **Women of Distinction in the Arts at Wally’s Desert Turtle**

May 18, 2010 _____ **Ekphrasis exhibition presented by Dessa Reed**

The programs listed are subject to change



Membership by Lynne Spreen

Sarah Schiller, Provisional – Letters. Armed with a degree in speech and hearing therapy, Sarah Schiller taught hearing impaired students for many years. After earning her master's degree in educational administration, she served as curriculum coordinator for a charter school that focuses on home schooled students.

However Sarah has always written family history books, including several she has self-published and sold regarding the lives of her maternal grandparents. In addition, two more books stand ready to print. Sarah has completed two commissioned family history books and is currently working on a book for a third client. She is also working on a genealogy book based on her family line, which she believes can be followed back to the year zero.

Sarah believes that membership in Pen Women will prove helpful to her in that the members “have achieved something deemed of worth by others—they are the producers, those who set goals and achieve those goals.” Welcome, Sarah.

A reminder about contact information: If any of your information changes, please let me know. Contact information will not appear in this newsletter, as it then becomes accessible on the Internet. If you need contact information on members not listed in our Membership Directory, please call me at 951-926-3875 or email me at LMSpreen@yahoo.com.

Time to Renew Your Membership!

Kathy Bjork, our Treasurer, reminds us that membership dues for 2010-2011 are payable no later than April 1. Mail your check to her at 72631 Spyglass Lane, Palm Desert, CA, 92260. As soon as she receives your check, we will reserve an updated copy of the Membership Directory for you. Remember, dues are tax deductible. The membership year runs from May 1 through April 30. Dues are not prorated for those who joining after May 1.

Active or Associate national members: \$65

Lifetime national member: \$25

Provisional member: \$20

Please note that the Board has considered the ratio of Provisional to National members in the Palm Springs Branch, and in order to continue to provide adequate mentoring and support, has adopted a moratorium on new Provisional members for the upcoming year. For more information please see the President's Message.

Provisional members gain access to a range of benefits while working on national membership. However, Provisional members are not considered part of the national organization, which still holds to the standard of "professional" rather than "aspiring" artist, writer, or composer.

In general, one applies for national membership by submitting evidence of having had three works (or one book) published or performed, or one's art selected in several juried exhibitions. (For more detailed information please contact me, Lynne Spreen, at Lmspreen@yahoo.com.)

Why would you aspire to national membership? One answer is provided by Marge Dodge (VP for Programs): As a national member,

I feel part of a bigger organization of creative women -- not just the members locally, but the hundreds of members nationally.

I can read and see work from women all over the country in *The Pen Woman* magazine and find other websites on the National website. I can also submit my own work for publication in this very impressive publication.

I can enter art or writing contests and win money and recognition.

I can have my book reviewed -- and reach hundreds of women who will read and buy my book.

I am eligible to attend the Biennial Convention and mingle with other creative women.

Lynne again: when I joined Pen Women, I had five objectives in mind:

To feel inspired and motivated, and to enjoy the fellowship of a creative community

To “beef up” my résumé

To practice my public speaking skills

To practice my networking skills

To gain access to a national network to enhance future marketing of my book when it is published.

If you are a Provisional member, I hope you will consider qualifying for National membership.

Visit our National Website

<http://www.americanpenwomen.org/>

<http://www.americanpenwomen.org/membership/membership.cfm>
for membership information.



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Our Scholarship Fund
Please contact any Branch officer
if you wish to make a donation to
our scholarship fund
in memory of a loved one.

Our tax ID # is 23-7214209



***Have a Nice Valentine's Month
with Love and Friendship***

Editor, Patricia Moloney Dugas