

National League of American Pen Women



Palm Springs Branch
P.O. Box 1166, Palm Desert, CA 92261

Newsletter Volume XI, Issue 17
January, 2010
Patricia Moloney Dugas, Editor

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



Happy New Year for 2010 !

Wishing you a Happy, Productive, and Prosperous New Year

The President's Message by Joan Petit-Clair



It's hard to believe that another year has passed and that it's already 2010. Where did the time go? I would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Palm Springs Branch of NLAPW for their support this past year. Without your dedication and energy, all that was accomplished in 2009 would not have been possible.

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Holiday Season with family, friends, and loved ones, and that the joys and warm memories of the season remain with you throughout the coming year.

By now, most of you have recovered from the hectic holidays; the tree is down, the decorations are all neatly put away until next year, and you've all made your new year's resolutions. My resolution for this year is, I'm going to try to take my Christmas tree down earlier this year and not wait until the end of August again.

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January 19, 2010 Luncheon

Guest Speaker **Maureen Gilmer**

Gardening guru and author of fifteen books, Maureen will share her ideas of growing her love of gardening into a business.

She writes "Yardsmart," a nationally syndicated garden column, is host of the DIY Network series *Weekend Gardening*, and is the gardening guru on KMIR TV. Should be a blooming treat.

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.

Presidents Message Cont'd...

2010 looks to be a busy time for our branch. We have eight prospective new members who will hopefully become full members. The planning for our Women of Distinction in the Arts 2010 event is in full swing. This is our branch's main fundraiser supporting our scholarship program. We need volunteers in many areas, so please try to set aside some time to help out for this worthy cause.

Just a reminder: the cost of our luncheons will increase due to the increase we received from Desert Falls Country Club. Starting with the January meeting, the cost for members will be \$22.00, and for guests \$27.00.

Looking forward to another successful year, **Joan Petit-Clair, President**

WOMEN OF DISTINCTION LUNCHEON -- Planning Meetings

Planning meetings for the Women of Distinction in the Arts 2010 will be held on:

Tuesday, January 5, 2010
Tuesday, February 2, 2010
Tuesday, March 2, 2010
Tuesday, April 6, 2010

Location: the Berger Foundation (just east of the intersection of Cook and Merle)
from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Please come if you would like to volunteer for one of the many tasks required to make this annual fundraising event a success. Contact Marge Dodge for details at 760-333-0733 or margedodge1@aol.com

Pick a Flower for a Scholar

In addition to the many wonderful gift certificates that local merchants provide for our "Pick a Flower for a Scholar" event at Women of Distinction in the Arts, we would like to invite members to donate gift certificates for their services. For instance, do you provide editing services, computer tutoring, photography, or writing workshops?

If so, please contact Pick a Flower for a Scholar co-chairs
Lynne Spreen at 951-926-3875 or lmspreen@yahoo.com or
Judie Ruzek at 760-568-4771 or plus2@aol.com.



Who's News by **Dodie Cross**

Carol Mann has a creative nonfiction piece coming out this month in *Bloodroot Literary Magazine* entitled "Creek Songs," in which a creek helps set the stage for significant moments in a young woman's life.

Jenny Gumpertz has sold her short story "Victory at Sea" to the online genre magazine, *Big Pulp*. It will appear in their January issue in the Adventure category. This is her second story bought by *Big Pulp*, the other being "Bear Story," last August, also in the Adventure category.

Linda Cross has received an honorable mention for a short story, "The Separator," in the New Millennium Writings Short-Short Fiction Award for their Summer Awards Competition.

Judith Fabris has completed her play, and has been asked to bring it to a Playreading Group in Lafayette, northern California. The director who did her one-act play, *Blood Rules* is waiting to see the rest of it. She leaves for Molokai this month to work on her next novel, *More than a Quilt*, which is set in Molokai between the 1920s and the present day. If you know anyone who lived in Molokai during the 20s to the end of WWII, she would love to talk with them.

Dotti Reiss won the November Palm Springs Writers Guild monthly contest with a story titled, "Evening Gratitude," which described her father's ritual of reading the comics to her at 5:45 pm every day. She happily recalled all her favorites and some of his, but mostly the comfort of his lap and secure warmth of his breath tickling the back of her neck. She will always be thankful she had a dad who read the comics to her every evening.

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

February 16, 2010 Patricia Taylor Lee on Virginia Waring International Piano Competition

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.

Of Interest.....

**Palm Springs Writers Guild has added the Rancho Mirage events to their website.
<http://palmspringwritersguild.org/RanchoMirageLibrary.htm>**

The Library website: <http://www.ranchomiragelibrary.org/>



Membership by Lynne Spreen

Welcome to our newest Provisional Members: Lynn Centeno – Art, Joné Dupré – Art, Dianne Benanti – Art, Bonnie Cloer – Letters, Lori Miller – Letters, Helen Anderson – Art, Donna Turrentine – Art and Letters, and Janet Damron – Letters.

The following short biographies will give you an idea of the wonderful talent that is joining us.

Joné Dupré For the first twenty-five years of her working life, Joné served as a graphic designer/illustrator for ad agencies and small studios creating posters and manuals, advertising products, etc. For ten years she produced slide presentations, graphics, illustrations for large companies (e.g., Art Director for Chicago Commonwealth Edison in 1976 bicentennial film), Military Training films & slide presentations, storyboarding and production of animated cartoons for commercials.

Joné spent years traveling to different states selling her fine art in art shows and festivals. She arrived in Palm Springs in 2004 from San Diego and is now working on art projects she intends to market commercially. She was introduced to Pen Women by Judith Fabris and thought this would compliment her present efforts. “It also allows me to mingle with other active minds since my work, pretty much, keeps me isolated,” says Joné, who also teaches art, specializing in cartoon & humorous design. She is experiencing a renewed interest in writing, which she believes will complement her current work with illustrations.

Dianne Benanti Dianne is a contemporary painter and portraitist who says, “My statement is relatively simple- enjoy what you do!” She was 19 when she moved to the ocean-front community of San Clemente. For the next three years, Dianne painted quite a few pieces, but she says she did not take her work too seriously. A business venture led her into the Palm Springs area in 1991. For several years, Dianne studied the culinary and medicinal use and cultivation of herbs. At age 25, she opened a boutique on El Paseo called *Herbal Gardens*. She still loves the idea of a garden shop, but at that particular time it just wasn't feasible. In her thirties, Diane produced her own designs for a children's/preteen apparel line that had a real surfy edge, she called the line *InSite*. After many battles with trademarks and a major financial loss, she inevitably moved on.

In the late summer of 2003, Dianne fell in love with the artistic use of charcoal. In 2004, she began a series of charcoal portraits. In 2005, she started to paint again, and now, in 2010, she says, “Time seems to go by too quickly. But I believe when you just simply want to create, whether it be a song or a painting, age defies time; and it becomes an endless journey that defines you and then redefines you. And that's the beauty behind art and music: it is its nature to consistently create and evolve, leaving perhaps mortality behind.”

Bonnie Cloer Originally from the Boston area, Bonnie has lived in the Valley since June 1995 and has been a volunteer with Shelter from the Storm for 12 years. Along with Shelter volunteering, Bonnie is a past president of La Quinta Rotary, where she is still very active. Bonnie is Immediate Past President of Palm Springs Republican Women Federated, a member of her HOA Board, a docent at Whitewater Preserve, and runs her own business, Business Support Services. BSS produces newsletters, mailings, and other business related items that small businesses do not wish to do themselves. Bonnie is also a Notary Public.

Her career has included being an elementary and special education teacher, followed by thirty years as an office administrator for both CPA and engineering firms before starting her own business in 2004. All positions required considerable writing.

Bonnie began writing her memoirs early in 2009. She had heard about Pen Women several years before, but through the Palm Springs Writers Guild found that she could join without the full credentials of paid publishing. Bonnie has published articles for a tourist magazine in the Valley, and other articles through the years for various publications.

Lynn Centeno Lynn has a Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences and a Master's in Education from the University of Southern California. She taught elementary school grades 4 and 5, worked at Fluor and Xerox in the corporate world, and finished up her career at the University of California at Irvine after sixteen years as a computer analyst.

It wasn't until she retired and moved to the desert in California seven years ago that she rediscovered her love of painting with watercolors. Her style is abstract expressionism in figurative forms. Lynn has produced a collection of international women in original watercolors and a series of keepsake cards. Currently she is working on a series of interesting men and groupings of pears. She belongs to the Coachella Valley Watercolor Society and takes workshops and classes throughout the Valley. She has plans to create a website and expand the showings of her works.

Lynn heard about Pen Women from her good friend Carol Stanfield-Mann. She has seen Carol grow in her field of writing and realized it is time to expand her own world as well. She is looking forward to the support, inspiration, and synergy to be found among such a group of talented artists.

Lori Miller Over the course of her work life, Lori has been the owner/operator of a medical transcription/secretarial service (ten-plus years), a restaurant (four years), and a laundry/dry-cleaning business (two years). She began taking classes toward an Associate in Arts degree at College of the Desert and finished the program at Mount San Jacinto Community College where she was employed. She retired just a few months ago, in September 2009, after also working at the college for five years.

Lori and her husband, Denny, have lived in Hemet for a little more than five years. After moving about (Palm Springs, Rancho Cucamonga, Idyllwild) she feels happy to make the San Jacinto Valley her permanent home.

Lori says, "My interest in writing has taken me by surprise, and I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to a number of supportive and encouraging professors. In joining Pen Women, I hope to connect with like-minded professionals who will continue to inspire me and light the way on this unexpected journey of self-discovery."

Helen Anderson Born and schooled in North Dakota, Helen moved to Seattle in the late 50s. She went to work for Stuart Anderson as his administrative assistant in 1973, back when Black Angus/Cattle Company comprised only thirteen restaurants. Over the next three-plus decades she helped him build the enterprise into 120 restaurants and counting. Helen says she has had to learn "a whole lot" about Black Angus cattle, Clydesdale horses, different breeds of sheep, Great White Pyrenees dogs, formatting and publishing a book, construction, design, and public speaking.

Helen is a motivational speaker and serves on several humanitarian boards. For hobbies, she likes to read, paint with watercolors, and fool around on her computer, but she is addicted to beading. She says, "I am an avid beader and have quite a nice clientele who love my jewelry. I love expanding my knowledge of the beading world and am always trying new and exciting things."

Donna Turrentine Donna, who grew up in Maine, has exhibited in numerous art shows. She has sold special order pen & inks (one, a large piece of Union Station in Tacoma for La Quinta Inn) and acrylics on pine (Windowsill Art) in three Washington galleries. Donna has been a member of the Lakewood Washington Artists association. There she wrote the newsletter and designed the cover for an auction pamphlet.

She displayed her art at Cabot Yerxa's Indian Pueblo Museum before moving to Palm Desert in 2007. Concerning writing, Donna began to take writing seriously in 1975 with children's stories and shorts. She took a class in Newswriting at the College of Maine, wrote press releases for a gallery in Tacoma, and a column for *The Tacoma News Tribune* regarding its grand opening. She was awarded Honorable Mention in the Plays Category of the 1983 Writer's Digest Competition.

At present she is a contributing writer to Mobile Home News and is working on another one act play. She is also contemplating a memoir and a children's story. She joined Pen Women after a current member motivated her to take part. She says, "I have been enjoying all that Pen Women has to offer and look forward to an exciting new year."

Janet Damron (bio to follow)

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.

----- Events of Interest -----



Palm Springs Film Festival January 5-18

<http://www.psfilmfest.org>

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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



Happy New Year

***Have a Wonderful 2010
filled with Creativity, Joy and Friendship***

Editor, Patricia Moloney Dugas