

National League of American Pen Women



Palm Springs Branch
P.O. Box 1166, Palm Desert, CA 92262

Newsletter Volume XI, Issue 13
March, 2009
Patricia Moloney Dugas, Editor

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

The President's Message By Audrey Moe

When I considered my message for the newsletter, I couldn't think of anything more important than Dessa Reed's description of her trip to Washington and her stay in the Pen Women House for the inauguration. Her story is real and an example of another benefit of belonging to NLAPW.



MY PERSONAL JOURNEY TO THE INAUGURATION by Dessa Reed

Barack Obama's "Journey to the White House," as the press liked to call it, was also my journey. Being on the poetic trip of a lifetime, I had to see the Inauguration Day's last stanza for myself. As an author / poet, I am a member of the National League of American Pen Women who happen to have their national headquarters in Washington DC just blocks from the White House. It is a historic 1886 mansion with rooms available for visiting branch members. The day after Obama was nominated in July, I reserved a room for the week of January 20, 2009. When he won the election, I made my plane reservations the next day and the woman I talked to at American Airlines said she and her family were driving to DC from Texas "so my children can experience history." What a beginning! Entering the historic house known as Pen Arts is like going back over a century in time. Much the same as when it was built, the charm and elegance remain ~ from its carved wood stairs to its claw-footed bathtubs ~ delightful old world digs!

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March Membership Tea and Art Show

On March 17, at the beautiful home of Rachel and Charles Druten, our annual appeal to new members will be held from 5:00-7:00pm. A separate email will be sent to members with full details.



Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served in the midst of a display of current members' artistic and literary talents.

Along with prospective members, guests and spouses are welcome. This 3rd Tuesday evening meeting will take the place of our regular noon luncheon. The cost will be \$15 per person at the door, except for prospective members who are free.

Please put this meeting on your calendar and start thinking now of someone you know who would qualify and is not yet a member. The names of those who **bring a prospective member** will be entered into a special drawing for an original piece of art from one of our talented artists.

Since March 17th is St. Patrick's Day, we expect and encourage a lot of green.

Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Time: 5:00-7:00pm with wine and hors d'oeuvres

Place: Home of Rachel Druten, 354 Crestlake Drive, Desert Falls Country Club, Palm Desert.

Use Cook Street Entrance (You must reply to have your name at entrance gate.)

Fee: \$15 per person – payable at the door.

Please make your reservations at least one week before the event by email to Joan Petit-Clair at

luncheon123@aol.com

or call Pat Dugas at 760-327-6624.

WHOOS NEWS

By Joan Petit-Clair



Iris Anderson - In March, Iris Anderson will be going from Rio around the Horn to San Francisco to be in the Century Club for traveling to over 100 countries, and concluding the earth is a speck in space, but a beautiful place even when difficult sights are encountered as part of The Great Plan.

Shirley Coombs - As September 3rd is the 70th anniversary of the beginning of WWII, ITV, London is producing a documentary titled *Outbreak*. Shirley's sister, Ella, co-author of their book *Shir-ella* recorded an interview to be included in the program, along with several photographs from the book. ITV will be showing the program in the UK only, but Shirley will have a DVD if anyone is interested in viewing.

Dodie Cross thought our writers would be interested in a promotion tip. She had this book trailer made up for her website and YouTube. Marketing should never stop, especially if there's a way to drive business to your website and sell some books.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2ReEvBc5dw>

Linda Cross is having a story published in *The Cantarville Journal*, winter edition, an online publication. The name of the short story is "Paula by the Sea".

Cynthia Kagan Frohlichstein Her book, *The Perils of the Peanut Butter Kid*, is being featured at "Celebrating Women - Reinventing ourselves after 50", a special event at the University of Missouri-St. Louis on March 7, 2009.

The Perils of the Peanut Butter Dog, the sequel, is just about ready to submit to agents, publishers, and/or film studios. She is looking for a studio to turn the books into animated features or shorts. If anybody has contacts with any children's books agents/publishers or film studios, she would appreciate hearing from you.

Continued next column...

Whoos News Continued...

Also remember that the food pantries are having a difficult time keeping up with requests during this tumultuous economic period. Because of its high nutritional value, peanut butter is on their "needs" list. Donate some jars and other food to give them a hand. Remember, jars of peanut butter have not been tainted with salmonella!

Kristin Johnson was a presenter at the Online Catholic Writers Conference in February, giving a talk, "Writing the Short Screenplay," which was well received. She wrote an episode called "V-Friends" of her animated series in development, *Dotcomers*. The episode is being animated and will be used to market the series to agents and producers.

Marilyn Walker had her poem, "The Clothesline," read before the Vermont Senate committee by Lyman Orman, owner of the Vermont Country Store. He was speaking on behalf of the Right To Dry organization and concluded his presentation with the reading of Marilyn's poem.

In 1996 at a poetry convention in Washington, DC, Marilyn was awarded \$5000 and a book contract for "The Clothesline."

Audrey Moe participated in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center Wildflower Celebration on Feb 28. As the author and illustrator of *Desertwalk, A Search for Secrets of the Desert*, she was one of the featured authors for book signing.

Late Breaking News...

Judy Fabris has had more than a fabulous weekend. She had her one-act play, *Blood Rules*, performed by the **DEZART Performs Play Reading Series**, and then, the next day, she won the monthly contest at the Palm Springs Writers Guild for the Love Note competition with *No Red Roses at the Laundromat*. Now, she is busy getting her novel to an agent.

Our Next Pen Women Event

Women of Distinction in the Arts 2009 Honorees Sunday, April 26, 2009 - (new date)

We will honor the following women at the **Women of Distinction in the Arts** event on a new date, Sunday, April 26, 2009, at a new location to be announced later.

Please note the date change and mark your calendar. Invitations with full details for this event will be mailed mid-March.



Betty Francis: nominated by Cynthia Frohlichstein, is the Society News Director for *The Desert Sun*. Before starting with the paper she belonged to countless non-profit groups and served on many boards. She still serves on the Board of the Desert Literary Society. Her mission is to increase awareness of local non-profit organizations through her writing.



Valerie Mahabir: nominated by Shirley Brenon, is the founder of the Desert Youth Ballet, a non-profit group with the mission to inspire the boys and girls of the Coachella Valley to become involved in dance, enhance their performance skills, develop self-confidence, and provide a lifelong interest in the arts.



Kim Waltrip: nominated by Kristin Johnson, is the Director of *Adopt a Sailor*, a film recently shown at the Palm Springs International Film Festival. She is a former model and actor. She teaches theater at UC Riverside and is on the Board of Women in Film.

At the **Women of Distinction in the Arts** event, we are introducing “Pick & Flower for a Scholar.” This fun, new variation of a silent auction will raise funds for our scholarship program. Please come, bring your friends and participate.

Members: Your participation in this annual event is crucial to its success. Invitations will be mailed the second week of March. Please help us with our mailing list by providing the names and addresses of a few of your friends you would like to invite. Contact Marge Dodge with names and addresses of your friends at 760-333-0733 or margedodge1@aol.com.

This event will replace the April luncheon.

WHOOS NEWS Column timeline

This column is a wonderful opportunity for all the members to share their activities, achievements, hopes, and plans. Please feel free to share with others. Send your email to luncheon123@aol.com by the 15th of each month. Items received after that date may have to be included in the month following the next newsletter. Give us time to do justice to your “stuff”.

President's Message Cont'd from page 1 ...

There were twelve talented people in residence so at times I had flashbacks of my college dorm. Although it was 79 degrees when I left Palm Springs and 30 degrees in Washington on Inauguration Day, I barely noticed. Bundled like a child in its snowsuit, I was able to stay warm and still walk ~ and walk and walk. Having made no attempt to get special tickets I followed the masses ~ 1,800,000 of us snuggled together toasting each other. I ended up behind the Washington Monument watching the events on an enormous TV screen, yet feeling totally part of the vast scene. Everyone around me was laughing, crying, singing, and clapping. What an American moment! In the midst of this important Happening, a little lost boy of eight or nine stepped beside me and tearfully said he was looking for his mother.

As soon as those around me knew the situation, at least a dozen people stopped watching the swearing-in to help. We finally found a cell phone that was able to get a signal to text message his mother's phone. She gave her location (near the latrines) and a woman who knew the area walked him through the crowds to her. A grateful mother immediately text messaged her thanks for his safe return. We cheered! This experience was a perfect metaphor for what President Obama's election exemplified ~ race was a non-issue. The little boy was black. All the people helping were white.

The whole trip was one big Love Fest. There was an upbeat energy encompassing the city that was almost tangible. I talked to dozens of strangers from all over the country and because they had come with the same enthusiasm I had, we seemed like family. Each had a story to tell and I was there to listen and record.

Dessa Reed <http://www.dessareed.net>

Many thanks to Dessa for sharing her experience with us. I hope all of you are as excited about our March 17 meeting as I am. This is our annual membership event and we will hold it on our regular meeting day, but at 5:00pm instead of at noon, and at a lovely private home. Spouses and guests and prospective members are encouraged and we will have a display of our professional work. It is my hope everyone will participate even if you can't be there in person. Please check the information in this newsletter for details.

Audrey Moe
Thanks for the opportunity

Bulletin Board

La Quinta Arts Festival



www.lqaf.com

March 12-15, 2009, at the La Quinta Civic Center 10:00am-5:00pm.
Adult tickets \$12.00 760-564-1244

Coachella Valley Watercolor Society

Annual Members' Show & Sale

March 7 & 8, 2009, 10:00am-5:00pm

Palm Desert Community Center, 43-900 San Pablo, Palm Desert. Information: 760-341-1233

BNP Paribas Open Tennis

<http://www.bnpparibasopen.org/1/home>

March 9-22, 2009

Indian Wells Tennis Garden

<http://www.iwtg.net/>

Palm Desert UCR

Arts & Letters Lecture Series

<http://palmdesert.ucr.edu/events/artsletters.php>

Palm Springs Writers Guild web site:

<http://palmspringwritersguild.org/>

New snow in Palm Springs, February, 2009.



Events of Interest

SEMINAR with MICHELE WALLERSTEIN

Saturday, March 14 @ 1:00pm

UCR Palm Desert Campus, Theater
Corner of Frank Sinatra & Cook St., Palm Desert, CA
RSVP REQUIRED

Contact: Annette - office@pswift.org or call 760-238-0306



“HOW TO BE AN AGENT’S DREAM CLIENT”

How to get your screenplay out of the house and into the film world

How to find, keep and when to fire an agent

You can read more about Michele at her website: <http://www.novelconsultant.com>

Fees: Members \$10.00 Non-members \$15.00 Students with ID \$5.00

Time: 1:00pm - Networking with refreshments 2:00-5:00pm - Seminar with Q&A

Palm Springs Women in Film & Television in association with UCR Palm Desert Campus.

Wild Flowers should be abundant because of the recent rainstorms.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument Visitor Center
51500 Highway 74, Palm Desert, CA

Desert USA Wild Flower web site: <http://www.desertusa.com/wildflo/ca.html>



Events Reporting

February Luncheon

At the February meeting, Roger Isabell, photographer of flowers, presented a program on digital photography using image enhancement techniques. To illustrate his work, he displayed a number of his 36" x 48" spectacular flower images around the room. Each print was unique, even when using the same flower or flower parts. They all had the elements of a beautiful painting.

Roger has developed his own technique by spending countless hours experimenting with Adobe Photoshop. He also has a special process using scanning that he has refined to produce a brilliant image. Roger is philosophical in his approach to flower photography and says, "I've learned that 'being' in the present embellishes the senses; a place where we all should be as much as possible. What a better world this could be. If I can carry that experience forward to other people in the images I create, then I've accomplished my vision."

With his PowerPoint program and exquisite flower images, he certainly brought our group of Pen Women into the moment of enjoying the beauty of flowers as well as discovering the versatility of digital manipulation. www.rogerisabell.com

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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 53-0115640.

**We hope to see you at the March
Membership Tea and Art Show March 17, 2009.**

**Be sure to make your reservations so that your name will be
registered at the gate entrance of her complex.**

(See page 1 for details.)