

National League of American Pen Women

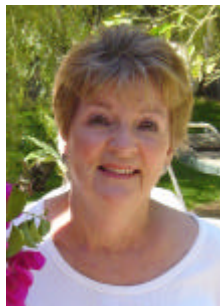


Palm Springs Branch
P.O. Box 1166, Palm Desert, CA 92261

Newsletter Volume XI, Issue 15
May, 2009
Patricia Moloney Dugas, Editor

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

The President's Message By Audrey Moe



If you weren't at the Women of Distinction luncheon this year, you missed a really good event. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and from what I heard from other attendees, everyone else had a good time as well. Marge Dodge and the committee did a "bang-up" job, everything seemed to run like clockwork, and Carol Mann's delivery as mistress of ceremonies couldn't have been more professional. It was especially pleasing, I thought, that Wally's Desert Turtle appeared to be very happy to have us there and did everything they could to accommodate us.

Events like this are not only a benefit and enhancement of our Palm Springs Pen Women branch reputation, but they spotlight other deserving women in the Coachella Valley. By honoring these outstanding women, we spread our own influence in the valley by attracting friends and associates of the honorees who otherwise would not have knowledge of our group. Kudos to all those who worked to make this event a success.

Now I am thinking about our summer recess and how I will spend it before we convene in October for our next season. What will you be doing? Are you planning for a "time away" for renewal of your energy and spirit?

Continued on page 3...

May 19, 2009 Luncheon

Guest Speaker: Mel Haber



Mel Haber is the author of *Palm Springs à la Carte: The Colorful World of the Caviar Crowd at Their Favorite Desert Hideaway*. Mel Haber, a former automotive accessory manufacturer, opened Melvyn's Restaurant and the Ingleside Inn in Palm Springs in 1975. With no restaurant experience, Haber made every mistake in the book - and his business thrived.

He has spent 25 years catering to the beautiful people who have frequented Palm Springs - from French chefs to lovable con men, from Ava Gardner to Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Also:

Our First BUCKET RAFFLE
See Page 3 for details.

Reservations: Make your reservations at least 1 week before this luncheon at the Desert Falls Country Club, 11:30am to 1:30pm. 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. \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Make your reservations by email to Joan Petit-Claire – luncheon123@aol.com - or call Pat Dugas at 760-327-6624.

WHOOS NEWS

By Joan Petit-Clair



Linda Cross – Her short story, “Four Stars,” will be published in the September issue of *Cantaraville Journal*.

Melody Fleming - Melody recently returned from the AATH (Therapeutic Humor) Conference in Las Vegas where she presented her new curriculum on "Laughter and Learning." She will be speaking before the Arthritis Foundation Senior Health and Fitness Day, May 27.

Cynthia Kagan Frohlichstein – Cynthia is excited to share the fact that she will be speaking at The Indian Wells Theatre on the campus of CSUSB -Palm Desert branch on Thursday, May 7, 2009 at 5:00 PM. The talk is sponsored by the English Group at the University, but it is open to anyone who would like to attend and the price is right. Admission is free. She will be speaking about the roads she traveled through life on the way to publishing her award-winning children's book, *The Perils of the Peanut Butter Kid*. A large part of her speech will be devoted to "The Perils of Self-Publishing Children's Fiction." After her talk, there will be a Q&A and book signing. It's her seasonal farewell to the desert. They return to St. Louis the following week. Hope you'll all be there to say good-bye. Also, her sequel, *The Perils of the Peanut Butter Dog*, is ready to send out. If any of our talented group knows agents or publishers who deal with children's picture books, she would really appreciate getting the names. No more self-publishing for this old gal.

Joanne Hardy - Joanne did a profile of an Angel View client named Jeanette, who is almost totally paralyzed as a result of an accident caused by a drunk driver.

WHOOS NEWS Cont'd...

Jeanette was a child at the time of the accident and is now in her 30s. Jeanette was named Client of the Year at Angel View's "Angel of the Year" gala in February. A short film was presented at the banquet-- Jeanette's life story and her courageous way of coping with daily activities now. Joanne's piece was used as the script for the film.

Kristin Johnson – Kristin has written several new political-themed scripts for *Dotcomers.TV* and rewrote a script about cyber bullying that she is shopping around. She continues to have a full plate with her client list!

Audrey Moe - Audrey has been very busy promoting her book, *Desertwalk, A Search for Secrets of the Desert*, which she wrote and illustrated. Audrey will be at the Living Desert with her book on Earth Day, Saturday, April 25, from 9:00am – 5:00pm. On Thursday, May 14, from 6:00pm - 8:00pm, Latino Books Y Mas in Palm Springs will host a book signing for *Desertwalk*. They are located at 180 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, just one half block from Palm Drive. *Desertwalk, A Search for Secrets of the Desert* is now available from any branch of the Riverside County Library system. Audrey also has an article on Havasu Palms Mobile Home Resort in the new edition of *Upwardly Mobile, The Magazine of Mobile, Manufactured and Modular Home Living*. This is her second article for this magazine.

Carol Mann – Carol's short story “Helios” will appear in the Summer 2009 issue of *Atlantic Pacific Press*. The story, a science fiction piece set in the year 2030, follows the flight of Phoenix I, a solar craft. Carol has another short story, "Parallel Worlds" that will appear in the upcoming April issue of *Cantaraville*, a PDF literary quarterly. The story, set in Venice Beach, California, reveals an afternoon between two men nudged beyond their insular lives.

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

I know what I will be doing – catching up on the writing of my new book which I've neglected during this year, and spending some time in the mountains on the cooler shores of Big Bear Lake. I am counting on the peaceful setting and time away for a renewal of my spirit and soul. Some of us may need it more than others, but everyone benefits from a vacation. I hope each and every one of you will have that opportunity.

After a vacation, it is always refreshing to tackle a job, and there are many jobs possible in Pen Women. You do not have to be on the board to hold a position of aid to yourself and the branch. Serving on a committee when there is a need is really important. I recommend that when a need arises over the next season, you will not hesitate to volunteer to help. At the May meeting, I will introduce those members who have already taken on new jobs beginning in October. These are the people who make our organization so vital.

However, those who do serve in board and chairperson positions also gain personally by their service. Connections with other members, experience and satisfaction for a job well done, are well worth the effort. I can say this because I am aware of how much I've gained by serving as president. One of the best things was getting to know many of the members so much better. I am constantly amazed at the accomplishments of the women in our Palm Springs branch. I'm proud to be associated with all of you and I'm happy I was able to contribute some small service over the past year.

Audrey Moe

Thanks for the opportunity

PEN Women Meeting
Tuesday May 19th

And now for something really different...
The official first ever NLAPW

**BUCKET
RAFFLE!**

Please bring a gift item you created
or that promotes your creative work in
letters, art, or music.

Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each or
6 for \$5.00.

Each item will have its own bucket.

Drop a ticket in your chosen bucket
and you might win a
must-have-before-I-die prize!

And you will also add a
“drop in the bucket”
to our scholarship fund!

Please contact: Kathryn Jordan at
katejor@earthlink.net or
760-345-0569 if you plan to bring an item.

(We have only 7 buckets so if we get more
we'll have another Bucket Raffle in the fall.)

It was a warm sunny day, a spectacular venue, the guests were in the mood to celebrate **The 2009 Women of Distinction Awards**, and the food was great. That is a tough combination to beat. As the guests strolled into **Wally's**



Desert Turtle for the **National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW)** luncheon, they were greeted with champagne, harp music by **Jeannette Debonne**, piano styling by **Joe Arndt**, and a tree flowering with good deals to bid on. This tree, which was in lieu of the more traditional silent auction, was budding with bargains galore and all fixed price.



Emcee **Carol Mann** welcomed all and introduced Palm Springs Branch President **Audrey Moe**. Poet **Dessa Reed** read her original poem "Women of Distinction," written expressly for this luncheon.

Kathryn Jordan explained the scholarship program for which NLAPW raises funds, and the Women of Distinction award recipients were announced. This was as exciting as the Academy Awards, and very similar as these women were nominated and approved by their peers, as are the Oscar winners.

-----The Honorees -----



The first recipient was Journalist **Betty Francis**. Her cheering section was made up of *Desert Sun* Editors **Rick Green** and **Barbara Lowell**, **Carla Howard**, several **Guest Reporters**, long-suffering husband **Del**, and society contacts Betty has come to know as friends through her work as Manager of the Society Pages.

Valerie Mahabir, Founder of the **Desert Youth Ballet**, was the next recipient. Valerie thanked everyone and told of her travels which finally brought her to the Coachella Valley, and to her husband, **Narendra Patel**, noted local architect.

The final recipient was **Kim Waltrip**, **Producer, Writer, Actor**, and other distinctions too numerous to mention. Kim seemed to have crammed several lifetimes of excitement into her very young years.

Of the many guests not yet mentioned, were **Michael Lowell**, **Marilyn Paige**, **Walter McIntyre**, **Ginny Hahn**, **Meg Whitcomb**, **Allene Arthur**, **Peggy Cravens**, **Jennie Inch**, **Dr. Chuck Monell**, **Rachel Druten**, **Shirley Brenon**, **Margie Taft**, **Birgit Moller**, **Joanne Hardy**, **Iris Anderson**, **Helen Turner**, **Shirley Coombs**, **Harold Matzner**, **Pete Fleischhacker**, **Jeane Hilb**, **Kathy Strong**, **Madeline Zuckerman**, **Ken** and **Madeline Hinsvark**, and **Marge Dodge** the Event Chair.

Barbara Ady



Member résumés

by Audrey Moe, President

Just prior to the membership event at Rachel Drueten's home, you may remember I put out a call for a one-page biography or résumé from each of our members. I did receive some and they have been placed in a notebook in alphabetical order according to arts, letters, or music. But many of you did not respond. If you have not sent me a one-page résumé, I would encourage you to do so for several reasons.

Reason Number 1 – Every professional woman should have a résumé in her file ready to be sent or given out at any time. Even if you are not actively working, you never know when you might be asked for professional information because you are being recognized as a volunteer, honored in some organization, or interviewed. It takes time to reconstruct a lifetime of work, and often important parts are left out. So do yourself a favor, sit down and write out a résumé now, set it aside for a few days, look at it again and I assure you there will be something important you left out on the first writing.

Reason Number 2 – As an organization, we like to know about the achievements and accomplishments of our members. We like to “brag” about our membership and we can't do it if we don't know about the big and little and satisfying things you've done. I have often been so impressed when I found out about the amazing career path of someone I knew by name, but had no idea of anything else about her.

Reason Number 3 - If you haven't done it lately, you will surprise yourself when you begin to list your career achievements. Many of you will not be able to get it all on one page, but do your best. Then, make a separate file if you don't already have one to keep your résumé handy.

When you e-mail it to me, please give me your information as an attachment file so that I can print it out without all the email addresses, etc. on the page. In order to be Pen Women, we all have meaningful accomplishments to our credit. Let's bring them out and be proud of ourselves as we continue to learn and develop our skills.

Audrey Moe
Audrey@moefamily.net

Dues Reminder: If you have not paid your dues by the 10th of May, you will not be listed in the Membership Directory and will not receive one.

Dues are \$65.00 for active members, and \$20.00 for provisional members. If you need more information, contact Kathy Bjork, Treasurer. 760 346-4433.

kbo67@yahoo.com

Make your checks payable to: **NLAPW**. Mail them to:

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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.

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Wishing everyone a great summer.

I took this picture of the shadows on the snow at the top of the Tram. You can look at it all summer when the temperature reaches 110+ degrees.

***Thank You for a fun season,
Pat Dugas, Editor***

