

Pen and Palette
Boca Raton NLAPW
www.bocapenwomen.org
June/July 2020



MUSIC...ART...LETTERS



Facebook Page: <http://tinyurl.com/hen8b4o>

In the Loop: Your Board at Work

Dear Pen Members:

As we enter the summer months, I can't help but feel like an ant. Not because I feel small or seemingly insignificant, but because my steps are following these little, powerful, and inspiring insects' footprints as they scope the world in search of provisions for the winter. Summer is for them a time to collect, to gather, and to stock for the future. Taking a cue from them, I have taken this golden opportunity of social isolation to explore the Everglades from the comfort of my home through the eyes of Marjorie Stoneman Douglas's *The Everglades: A River of Grass*. When during normal times I would have walked in the peaceful silence of Loxahatchee Road, way west into the sunset, now I delve inside the timeless pages of her book and allow my imagination to wander in the time and setting described therein. As my knowledge of the history and geography of Florida expands, so does my muse's enthusiasm to get to work. A constant flow of inspiration follows these moments of bliss.

Together with my Pen sisters, we have been busy as well planning for the year ahead. What COVID-19 has taught us is that adaptation and flexibility are vital to our survival. In that light, the Board has decided to have an Events Chair this year as opposed to our usual Letters, Poetry, and Art Chairs. The Events Chair will be in charge of setting up book talks, lectures, workshops, and art exhibits, sometimes incorporating letters, art and music into one all-inclusive event. Sheila Firestone will remain as our Music Chair and together with her and the help of a dedicated committee of member volunteers, we believe we can have a fruitful and creative year. We have a list of ideas that can be implemented following the models of the past. We have the contacts, suggested dates and themes, but we need one person to take care of planning and coordinating.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved, meet new members, and use your talents as a creative. I can assure you that nothing is more fulfilling than to engage your skills and creative gifts in the creation of a common goal. I will personally help anybody who steps up to the

challenge with my ideas, contacts, and past experience. You may contact me at alewrites@yahoo.com or call me at 954-860-6254 any time.

Take this time to rest, get inspired, and help us build our future. Till we meet again,

Alexandra Goodwin
Co-President Boca Branch NLAPW



MEMBER NEWS

Jo Jo Harder's company America's Top Dog Model launched a virtual Casting Call which runs through June 15. Aspiring canine models are invited to participate in the “[Casting Call](#)” as part of America's Top Dog Model 2020 Contest "[Fairy Tails](#)." Up to five finalists will be selected from video submissions and featured in *America's Top Dog Model book of Fairy Tails* and have an opportunity to compete nationally for the title of [America's Top Dog Model](#) ® 2020. Finalists and selected videos from this event will also be included in the 2nd season of America's Dog Model [YouTube reality series](#).

Meryl Davids Landau's mindfulness women's novel *Warrior Won* was selected as the bronze medalist in visionary fiction at the Independent Publisher (IPPY) Book Awards. *Warrior Won* has previously won first place at the Living Now Book Awards and was a finalist in both inspirational fiction and women's fiction at the American Book Fest Fiction Awards.

Marleen Pasch will be reading from her newest novel, *At the End of the Storm*, at the Women's National Book Association zoom open mic night on June 17.

Here is the link: https://www.amazon.com/At-End-Storm-Marleen-Pasch/dp/1950586359/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=at+the+end+of+the+storm&qid=1586567820&sr=8-1

Patricia Williams has published her second novel *E-Vengeance* through Dorrance Publishing (see e-vengeance.com). A tale of betrayal and revenge, the novel is a modern-day version of *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*.

HOW ARE YOU COPING?



Jo Jo Harder writes:

My day begins with trying to decide what to wear to the living room! Then it's time to exercise and/or practice yoga. Once properly dressed, my daily routine consists of spending quality time with my Romeo, walking around the neighborhood. We walk in the morning and evening, covering two to three miles per day. In between walks, my days are productively full, managing my business, staying organized, and writing my blog, newsletter, free-lance projects, and children's picture books. I've completed two picture books which I am pitching to agents. I enjoy reading, speaking with friends on the phone, having wonderful conversations with my son, and cooking gourmet meals for us. Miss social interaction, but so, blessed to be able to do all the things that I love.



Nowadays
Vera Ripp Hirschhorn

The streets are empty,
the frenzy, is gone.

I lament your absence
and await your presence.
What's certain is impermanence,
and the existence of the sea.

I survived the storm,
outside and within.
Patience, I'm practicing;
Gratitude, I'm feeling.

This very moment, I'm enjoying;
Yesterday, I'm forgiving;
The future, no longer fearing!



Marlene Klotz has joined the legion of other do-it-yourselfers who have lugged out their sewing kits to create handmade masks. Being quarantined and unable to shop for fabric, Marlene used children's bedding. Then knowing she would need elastic, Marlene cut up her oldest pair of undies to use some of the elastic for the part that goes around the ears. As she has jokingly added, there's something to be said about the proverb, "Necessity is the mother of invention."

~*~

Carol White writes:

I've finally gotten into the Zoom zone with different organizations and have enjoyed the various topics that have been discussed. Mystery Writers of America offered an in-person or virtual meeting on June 20th. Since I'm not comfortable yet with attending the luncheon/meeting, I opted for the Zoom participation. I'll be able to see and hear everything that goes on and without being there, I am still supporting the organization. There is a minimal charge of \$5.00 for the Zoom meeting.

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Barbara Wolk writes:

Reinventing myself as an 80-year-old woman who no longer wants to be alone or socially isolated, I created an "Invitation for the Summer" at my good friend Ken's house in Laguna Woods Village, CA. On the opposite coast, I plan to forget about the woman with a fractured C1 and heal completely while spending time with a community of family and friends. In the Fall of 2020, I plan to host Zoom classes for the UFT (United Federation of Teachers) on Documentary Films, Spanish, and a Seminar on The Benefits of Wheatgrass.

~*~

Carol White
Editor-in-Chief