

Pen and Palette
Boca Raton NLAPW
www.bocapenwomen.org
December 2023-January 2024



MUSIC...ART...LETTERS



Don't forget to like our Facebook Page: <http://tinyurl.com/hen8b4o>

In the Loop: Your Board at Work

Dear Members:

Say hello to our newest members: Roslyn Ros-Hoffman in Letters, and Sponsor Esther Van Der Horst...the Boca Raton NLAPW branch welcomes you.

This year we are giving two high school senior students \$1,000 each at our April art scholarship award ceremony. Thanks for your support to our Art Chairs Phyllis Elrich and Fran Mann Goodman, during our art auction, which took place during a Covid year, and the continuing leadership of current Art Chair Phyllis Elrich and the Art Committee. **(See Pg 7)**

Please support our continuous rotating award efforts to help aspiring student artists/writers and composers as they begin their college studies. Please get involved in one of these committees.

An extra thanks goes to historical fiction novelist V.S. Alexander for his surprise gift at our November luncheon of two of his books, *The Novelist from Berlin*, and *The War Girls* to each of us.

I look forward to seeing you at our December 21st Luncheon. If Elaine Hutt receives your check by December 15th, you'll be entered into a special door prize drawing!

SPECIAL NOTE: If you became a new member after February 2023, you are entitled to a paid membership through April 2025. Membership Chair: Louise Parente parentelouise@yahoo.com

Sheila Firestone
President
Music Chair

Don't forget to check out Page 9 for our special door prize information! And you still have time to sign up for our December 21st Luncheon – See Page 8 for extended deadline!

PEN WOMEN AT A FASHION SHOW!

Patchington of Boynton Beach hosted a lovely outdoor fashion show and light brunch on November 12, 2023. Jo Jo Harder was a “top model” and Phyllis Elrich attended to cheer her on! Everyone had a fantastic time and Patchington offered a 20% discount on most of their beautiful clothing. National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) organized the event and proceeds go to different charities in the community.



Here's Phyllis Elrich (r) with Penny Gelb of NCJW!



Jo Jo Harder modeling a perfect outfit for holidays!



Here's Jo Jo rocking a sophisticated outfit!

**PHOTOS FROM OUR NOVEMBER 16, 2023, LUNCHEON WITH
AUTHOR J. S. ALEXANDER**



J. S. Alexander





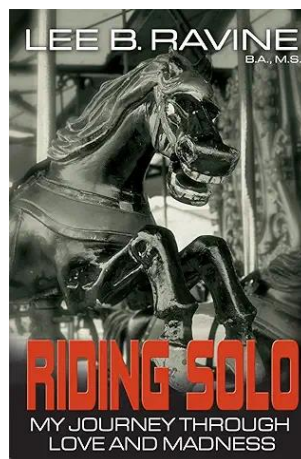
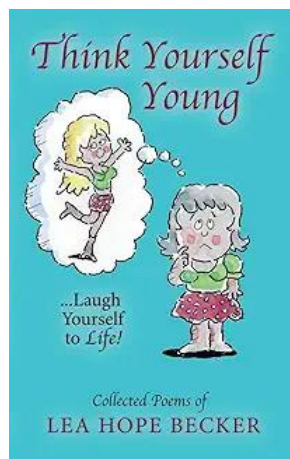
V. S. Alexander gifted each of our luncheon members and guests with two of his novels!

WORKSHOP

Our Branch held a Memoir/Essay Workshop on November 30th at the Hagen Ranch Library. It was well attended, and all participants were given time to write a paragraph or two focusing on something that would make their memoir stand out. We heard some amazing stories. The three Pen Women authors in the workshop were Lea Hope Becker (L), Lee Ravine, (Center), and Carol White (R). Lea and Lee discussed their memoir books (shown below) and Carol focused on essay writing. Attendees received written material about memoir/essay writing as well as information about our organization.

We discussed publishing and were proud to recommend our own member, Penelope Love of Citrine Publishing <https://www.citrinepublishing.com/>

We are very grateful to Nicole Godoy and Joshua Hulford of the Hagen Ranch Library who set up the workshop, and we look forward to holding more events there.



MEMBER NEWS

Thoughts for a Lifetime - Happiness by **Louise Parente**

“HOME GROWN-Happiness grows at our own firesides,
And is not to be picked in strangers' gardens.” Douglas Jerrold (1803-1857)

What is happiness?

Where do you find your happiness?

We all deserve happiness; do you believe that?

Do you expect happiness in your life, and do you desire it?

If you do, make it so.

Happiness is an emotion of joy, well-being, satisfaction, and fulfillment that reflects the pleasure of doing what you like and feeling it matters. It is an outcome of connecting. Happiness is being grateful for the shadows and the lights of life.

Happiness is a state of being and a state of mind.

Can one find happiness during times of loss and pain. Happiness represents serenity, thus yes, it is there if you access it, feel it, and allow it.

As the holiday season begins, my memories of Christmas are many: Santa coming to our home,

being with family and friends, enjoying the many tastes on the table, the religious meaning of this holiday and the coming of the New Year a few days later.

As we approach the holidays, a light in the mist of many shadows renders happiness to shine through. May your holidays be filled with Happiness, Joy, and Positivity.



Carol White's column “Get Smarter” appeared in the Delray Sun portion of the Sun Sentinel Newspaper on November 19, 2023. Read it here:

<https://www.sun-sentinel.com/2023/11/09/get-smarter-opinion/>



FROM THE ART WORLD
With Art Chair Phyllis Elrich

Here are some great opportunities to get to know each other and support others in our field. Art Chair Phyllis Elrich is busy editing letters to send to high schools in the Palm Beach area so that in April 2024 we can award two scholarships to budding female art students.

~~*~~

We will select two high school seniors for a monetary scholarship to encourage them to continue with their art studies. Judging will be based on a questionnaire as well as reviewing some of their work. If you would like to help Phyllis, please email her at phynlady2@aol.com

Please include in the subject area that you are a Boca Raton Pen Woman. Helping young women move ahead and encouraging them is a special opportunity we can gift to them as well as to ourselves.

Another opportunity presenting itself to us is, All People's Day, in March 2024. Last year Phyllis did a 36 x 36-inch canvas on The Teabag Art of South Africa. It was a great success and this year we look forward to another creative opportunity. The event takes place on Saturday, March 30, 2023, from 11-3. Phyllis needs help setting up and managing the booth. She will supply all the necessities. You can help by joining her when speaking with people as they take part in the activities. Please email her if you would like the chance to spread the word about our fine organization and meet wonderful new friends.

Please let us know of any contests our artists might like to enter. Some of you are involved in different groups that would be open to our art members joining. Most importantly, we would enjoy supporting you by going to see your art. Some events have already occurred, and we were unaware of them. Please let us support each other. That's how we grow, become friends, and expand our world.



Tea Bag Art

Boca Raton Branch National League of American Pen Women

Meet Author, Editor and TV Producer, Meredith Berlin

Thursday, December 21, 2023 12:00 NOON



**Indian Spring Country Club – 11501 EL Clair Ranch Rd – Boynton Beach, FL 33437
For Directions: 561-737-5544**

Meredith Berlin was Editor-in-Chief of *Seventeen*, *Opera Digest* and other publications, as well as a TV producer and contributing writer to numerous magazines and newspapers.

Enjoy a lavish buffet luncheon, including salad, grilled salmon, tortellini Florentine, roasted potatoes and vegetables, rolls, fresh fruit and pastry, and beverages. Bid on fabulous items at our Chinese raffle.

Cash or check only for raffle tickets.

Parking: Our luncheons are held in the **downstairs Men's Card Room**. Drive into the main entrance and make a left turn toward the tennis courts, where you'll find regular and handicapped parking. A short walk leads to the **lower clubhouse entrance**. The **Card Room** is on the left.

CLIP RESERVATION FORM AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK

Members \$40 Non-members \$42

Checks payable to: Boca Raton Branch NLAPW

Send to: Elaine Hutt, 7666 Majestic Palm Drive, Boynton Beach FL 33437

Email Elaine Hutt for more information: elainehlasvegas@aol.com

NAME (Print): _____

Email _____

GUEST

Name: _____ Email _____

GUEST: How did you hear about
us? _____

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF CHECKS: December 15, 2023

Don't delay in sending in your check for the next luncheon!

If it is **received** by the deadline, **December 15th**,

(NOT JUST POSTMARKED)

you will be entered into a drawing for a special door prize!

Elaine Hutt handles the checks received and keeps excellent records!

ONE LUCKY WINNER – IT COULD BE YOU!



We will still have our regular door prize drawing that Elaine Bossik sets up! Could you win BOTH door prizes? YES!!

Daily Holidays & Observances Calendar



2023	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
DECEMBER	26	27	28	29	30	1 Christmas Lights Day	2 Special Education Day International Spirit of the Game Day
	3 Make a Gift Day	4 National Dice Day Wildlife Conservation Day	5 International Ninja Day International Volunteer Day	6 Mitten Tree Day	7 National Cotton Candy Day National Letter Writing Day	8 Pretend To Be A Time Traveler Day National Christmas Tree Day	9 Christmas Card Day
	10 Nobel Prize Day Human Rights Day World Choral Day	11 International Mountain Day National App Day	12 Gingerbread House Day	13 National Cocoa Day World Violin Day	14 Monkey Day	15 Bill of Rights Day National Cupcake Day	16 Boston Tea Party Day National Wreaths Across America Day
	17 Wright Brother's Day	18 Snowflake Appreciation Day	19 National Oatmeal Muffin Day	20 Go Caroling Day	21 Crossword Puzzle Day National Short Story Day First Day of Winter	22 National Cookie Exchange Day Mathematics Day	23 National Roots Day
	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day National Pumpkin Pie Day	26 National Thank You Note Day National Candy Cane Day	27 Visit the Zoo Day Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day	28 National Card Playing Day	29 National Pepper Pot Day	30 National Resolution Planning Day
	31 New Year's Eve	1	2	December 2023 Daily Holidays & Observances Calendar Refer to this calendar for inspiration and themed activity ideas for your program! Find ideas below and click the Daily Holidays link to find related items to support your activities. www.ssw.com/daily-holidays-december			



HAPPY HANUKKAH



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Carol White
 Editor-in-Chief
 Pen and Palette
 Letters Chair
 Social Media
 Fundraising
<http://www.bocapenwomen.org>