

## Pen and Palette

Boca Raton NLAPW

[www.bocapenwomen.org](http://www.bocapenwomen.org)

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

March/April 2024



MUSIC...ART...LETTERS



### *In the Loop: Your Board at Work*

To our Branch:

### **Collaborative History**

Let's make some history of our own!

Consider getting involved in a new competition that will be officially launched at the NLAPW Biennial in Columbus, Ohio. It is designed to encourage collaboration between Pen Women working across genres to complete a joint project. Teams may be made up of Pen Women within one branch or multiple branches. Each team may be made up of two to four Pen Women who work in different genres. All entries will be anonymously judged by professionals in their respective areas of concentration.

I'd like to announce a brainstorming workshop with our members offering ideas from their various works to be combined with work by other women in our group. This workshop will take place either over the summer or in the fall.

We would like to spend ten minutes brainstorming connective themes from our various works. Later in the session, we can form mini-teams based on the groupings of themes and finalize plans to proceed with proposed projects.

For instance: At last year's Florida State Conference, I joined forces with a group from Pensacola; Patricia Black-Gould presented her book, "Liaka's Journey, The Crystal Beads." A choreographer in their branch danced to my songs, "Bim, Bom, and Oh Lord How Will I Know You?" This joint project began two years before at the previous biennial when Patricia and an artist from her branch shared a collage-painting depicting parts of the story, and Patricia read her work. That year her story won first place in one of the writing contests. Publishing the story as a book was still a dream. When I saw and heard their presentation, I shared with Pat and the artist several songs from my CD "*Ancient Blue Threads*" that seemed a good fit. Soon after a choreographer from their branch joined the project.

At this 2023 Florida State biennial Patricia Black-Gould presented her book, "Liaka's Journey, The Crystal Beads," along with art, music, and dance. The rest is history.

Sincerely,  
Sheila Firestone, President  
Music Chair

## SPOTLIGHT ON ELAINE BOSSIK

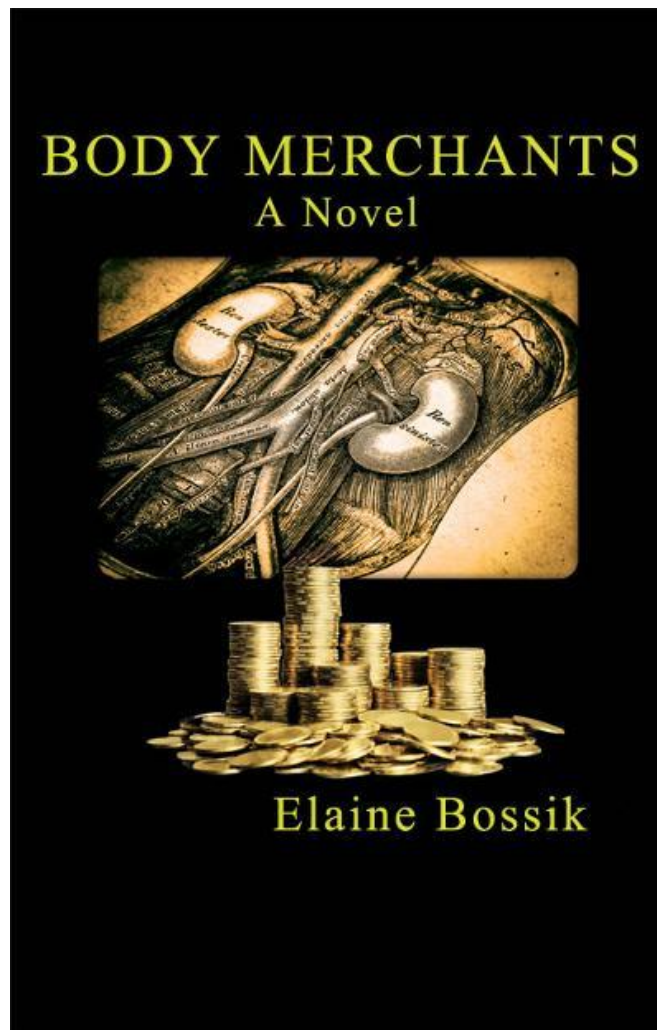
### **Elaine Bossik's Novel, *Body Merchants*, Now Available in Paperback**

Reporter Ellie Andrews is propelled into a murder investigation in a Virginia prison that triggers a shocking discovery—the inmate's organs and other body parts are missing. Risking her life looking for answers, Ellie exposes a sinister scheme to harvest and sell organs from prisoners and uncovers an organ trade that reaches into law enforcement, government, and her own family.

*Body Merchants* is fiction, but it is rooted in fact and based on the dirty underbelly of the worldwide trade in human organs. Available in paperback (\$16.95) and eBook (\$9.95) at

Amazon <https://rb.gy/rx8tiv>  
and [ElaineBossik.com](http://ElaineBossik.com)

Barnes & Noble <https://rb.gy/b8cff2>  
<http://www.elainebossik.com/>



## SPRINGTIME POETRY

A poem by **Lea Hope Becker**:

### Signs of Spring

What's this on my right arm?  
I didn't feel anything earlier!  
Gee, I'm a host, I guess.  
Maybe something alive cares  
Sipping the sweet juice from my cells  
It's one of the early Spring bugs.  
They are the kind who love me  
Creatures that enjoy a short but happy life span  
Perhaps I was this one's last drink.



A poem by **Vera Ripp Hirschhorn**

Inspired by this painting:



### In Springtime I Was Born

For You,  
Springtime created joy.  
In Springtime, I was born!

For You,  
Nature's Divine light  
Brought forth a rebirth,  
Amidst nightmares of the night.

Wildflowers carved a path of renewal;  
And the thorns of the past,  
Transformed into Springtime  
Of Hope ever-last-ing.

A Poem by **Marlene Klotz**

Hopeful Spring

When the crocus appear  
and bluebirds sing,  
winter is dwindling  
to make room for spring.  
And even the robin  
seen hopping along,  
happily croons  
his favorite song.  
As warmth fills the air  
the start of each season,  
it restores all our hopes  
for every known reason.



A Haiku by **Carol White**

Cherry blossoms dance,  
Whispers of new life arise,  
Nature's symphony.



## ALL ABOUT ART

Art Chair Phyllis Elrich continues to enter juried contests in Florida and continues to research recipients for our two Art Awards to be presented at our April luncheon. There are many talented female High School seniors who show great promise, and who would appreciate the financial help and encouragement an award brings.

Phyllis will be representing our Boca Raton Branch NLAPW at All People's Day on March 30, 2024. Dayle Herstig will be helping but one more Pen woman is needed. The art project has been decided upon and all materials are ready. Please let Phyllis know if you can be there on March 30, 2024, from approximately 10:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Her email is [phynlady2@aol.com](mailto:phynlady2@aol.com)

This year, the National Biennial will take place in Columbus, Ohio from April 25-28, 2024. Phyllis will attend. Here is a photo of Phyllis holding her Kenyan giraffe named Penelope Pendelton in honor of Pen Women. Penelope was acquired at the Florida State Conference.



## MUSIC NOTES



From Music Chair **Sheila Firestone**: During an extended music sharing session, Monday, January 29, at the SE Region of the Cantors Assembly Yom Iyun, (A Day of Learning), Sheila Firestone delighted in presenting the second movement “The Song of Nation,” from her choral setting of *Rav Kook’s Shir Meruba*.

PHOTOS FROM OUR FERUARY 15, 2024 LUNCHEON

With Marketing Specialist Cindy Beckles









**Please see next page for information on our March 21<sup>st</sup> luncheon!**



**Boca Raton Branch National League of American Pen Women  
Meet Multi-Media Artist Susan Saladino  
Thursday, March 21, 2024  
12:00 NOON**



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

See how artist Susan Saladino expresses her passion for animal welfare and our planet through her artwork, using painting, mixed media sculpture, photography and digital collage.

Enjoy a lavish buffet luncheon, including salad, grilled salmon, chicken Florentine, potato wedges, asparagus, rolls, fresh fruit, pastry and beverages. Bid on fabulous items at our 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](mailto:elainehlasvegas@aol.com)

NAME (Print): \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST: How did you hear about us? \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF CHECKS: March 14, 2024**

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Make sure your checks are received by March 14<sup>th</sup> so you’ll be eligible to win the \$25 Gift Card from Publix!

## Daily Holidays & Observances Calendar



2024	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
<b>MARCH</b>	25	26	27	28	29	<b>1</b> National Pig Day World Compliment Day National Day of Unplugging	<b>2</b> Read Across America Day Dr. Seuss's Birthday National Play Outside Day
	<b>3</b> I Want You To Be Happy Day National Anthem Day World Wildlife Day	<b>4</b> National Grammar Day Fun Facts About Names Day World Tennis Day	<b>5</b> National Multiple Personality Day Unique Names Day	<b>6</b> National Frozen Food Day Discover What Your Name Means Day	<b>7</b> National Cereal Day Name Tag Day	<b>8</b> Girls Write Now Day National Proofreading Day Middle Name Pride Day National Preschooler's Day	<b>9</b> National Genealogy Day
	<b>10</b> International Day of Awesomeness	<b>11</b> National Dream Day	<b>12</b> Plant a Flower Day Girl Scout Day	<b>13</b> National Jewel Day	<b>14</b> Learn About Butterflies Day Pi Day National Children's Craft Day International Ask A Question Day	<b>15</b> National Shoe the World Day National Preschool Teachers Appreciation Day	<b>16</b> National Panda Day National Quilting Day
	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b> National Wellderly Day	<b>19</b> National Let's Laugh Day First Day of Spring	<b>20</b> International Day of Happiness World Storytelling Day	<b>21</b> World Puppetry Day National Fragrance Day National Flower Day Absolutely Incredible Kid Day	<b>22</b> World Water Day National Goof Off Day	<b>23</b> National Puppy Day Earth Hour
	<b>24</b> International Day for Achievers	<b>25</b> Tolkien Reading Day	<b>26</b> Solitude Day Make Up Your Own Holiday Day	<b>27</b> World Theater Day	<b>28</b> Respect Your Cat Day	<b>29</b> National Smoke and Mirrors Day	<b>30</b> National Pencil Day Take a Walk in the Park Day
	<b>31</b> National Crayon Day Eiffel Tower Day Dance Marathon Day	1	March 2024 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.  <a href="http://www.ssw.com/daily-holidays-march">www.ssw.com/daily-holidays-march</a>				

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