

Pen and Palette

Boca Raton NLAPW

www.bocapenwomen.org

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

May/June 2024



MUSIC...ART...LETTERS



In the Loop: Your Board at Work

This letter from Sheila Firestone was presented to the NLAPW National Biennial Conference this month, by Phyllis Elrich. Phyllis is our Art Co-Chair and Second Vice President-State NLAPW

We continue to qualify and welcome new members. Our branch currently has 36 National members.

Each year from October through April, we look forward to monthly luncheon meetings in the area of the arts to inform both our membership and guests.

Every luncheon features a speaker. The 2023-24 season guest speakers included a jewelry artist, an author/journalist, a marketing specialist, a digital artist, and the Palm Beach Symphony Educator.

Other activities include author talks/panel discussions, writing workshops, art, and music programs as well as group outings to libraries, art shows, and to local conservatory student concerts.

We have monthly raffles that are great fun to end our meetings. The items (this year) ranged from a collectible I Love Lucy doll collection to once-loved costume jewelry, and tickets to local events. Members and friends donate items primarily to support our Achievement Awards.

Every other year we give one or two achievement awards. Phyllis Elrich, who was our Art Chair for the past two terms, found our two very talented candidates this year.

Our monthly newsletter edited by Carol White invites members to share their good news regarding performances, art shows, and publications. Members also contribute thematic poetry.

Many of our members receive awards from our State Conference contests.

For the past number of years we participated in the Delray Beach, "All People's Day," providing art activities celebrating children and adults from all cultures.

We continue to reach out for worthy outreach projects sometimes working with enrichment programs, donating books or services from our membership.

Sheila Firestone
President, Boca Raton Branch
Music Chair
Boca Raton, FL



This collage was created at the March 30th All People's Day in Delray Beach. Phyllis Elrich, her Granddaughter Madison, and Dayle Herstik handled the booth. The painting served as a backdrop for our Art Award photos.

~*~

A special poem written and read by member Marlene Klotz in
Memory of Diane Brenda Bryan

Diane's Fond Farewell

Now that I'm no longer here
Sing no sad songs for me,
for my life was like an apple
That ripened on a tree -
And when the fruit was ready
And formed the proper way,
It shaped all of my thinking
That was present every day.
If truth be told, I did my best
To make my life worthwhile -
And so when you remember me,
may it bring a joyful smile!



Barbara Bixon, writing under the name A R Alan, will be giving three free (nuts and bolts) writing workshops at the West Boynton Branch Library located at 9451 Jog Road in Boynton Beach. The dates are: Friday July 5th at 2 P.M., August 9th at 2 P.M., and Friday Sept 12th at 2 P.M. Barbara is asking for her Pen sisters to get the word out in your communities. There will be room for 18. Please email Barbara if you would like to attend. The workshop is mainly for beginners. bbcarter2@aol.com

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF AMERICAN PEN WOMEN
2024 Biennial

How fortunate we are to be Pen Women.

The Biennial held at the historic Westin Hotel in Columbus, Ohio was energizing, thrilling and filled with the sharing of skills graciously given by fellow Pen Sisters.

Organizers Bev Goldie and Darlene Yeager Torre handled a momentous task, making it all look easy, and you know it wasn't!

This year's theme, *To Create Takes Courage*, meant there would be exceptional "everything." The artwork was stunning, beyond imagination. It was exhibited at the nearby Cultural Center, where on Saturday evening, visitors were treated to the art as well as a concert of the winning pieces in the Music Competition. Deeply moving musical pieces were played by local musicians, who felt each and every note. Our own President, Sheila Firestone, won an Honorable Mention for her piece, *Covid-19 Pandemic, for Violin and Piano*. Kudos for her stunning piece.

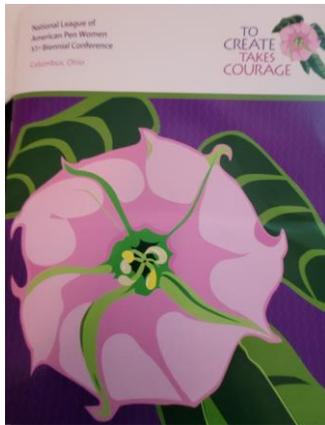
The keynote speakers were exceptional, and one woman has put in her application for membership! National President Sheila Byrnes took us through the weekend graciously, along with the Central Ohio Branch Biennial Steering Committee. Being at the Biennial gifted each attendee with hugs, knowledge, new networking, and thoughts for more creativity. Letters members held a reading workshop attended by many. Fellow Pen Woman, Kirsten Hines, from Ft. Lauderdale, read from her new book which won First Place in Letters. Fellow Floridians were all over the hotel. There will be a picture of them in the new *The Pen Woman Magazine*.

The next Biennial will be in Washington, D.C., in 2026. If you have never attended a conference, try to plan on being there. This experience will amplify your sense of pride in the values upheld by this organization.

Pen Women are creative and caring. March forward with your head held high. You belong to a select few who move the world.

Phyllis Elrich
Co-Chair Art, Boca Raton Branch
Second Vice President, Florida State

Below is some of the beautiful winning artwork.



Cover Program



Erma Bombeck was a Letters Member



1st Place for "Our Little Neighborhood"
By E. Philippis



Hon. Mention for "Finding Purpose" By R. Benve



Hon. Mention for "North Lake Canoe"
By V. Riply

April 18th was our closing luncheon of the season. It was a full program with installation of officers, speaker Dr. Bryce Seliger of the Palm Beach Symphony, and presentation of Achievement Awards to two young women headed to college in the fall. Gabriela Willoughby (L) a Senior from Park Vista High School, and Mariana Jimenez (R) a graduating student from Broward College, were the perfect choices. They each spoke of their paths to art, how art is a part of their lives and will continue to be. Graciously, each thanked our Pen Women for our efforts to raise this award money, and for the substantial help and encouragement it offered them. All of those attending were quite taken with the poise of these young women. The smiles on the families' faces said it all. Kudos to all who raised money, chose these candidates, applauded them, and encouraged them on their unlimited pathways to Art.



Gabriela Willoughby(L) and Mariana Jimenez (R) with Art Chair Phyllis Elrich (C)



Gabriela and Mariana admire a collage from All People's Day, represented by Phyllis Elrich and Dayle Herstik from our Branch.



Arlene Sapoff (above center) admires Mariana's Self-Portrait





The newly elected board!





Below: Barbara Bixon presented Gabriela's pictures as they were described.



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Our guest speaker for the luncheon was Dr. Bryce Sesliger



Dr. Bryce Seliger is the education and programming associate for South Florida's premier orchestra, the Palm Beach Symphony. She is also a talented flutist, conductor, and guest speaker on classical radio stations, including NPR. An educating and exciting presentation.

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In lieu of Rafflemania, Elaine Bossik, (L) handed out almost a dozen door prizes, including a Publix gift card, (won by lucky Lea Becker) beautiful writing paper, a ceramic heart, and other items. Dr. Brenda Dressler (seated R) checked the winning tickets.

A few of our Pen women attended an informative discussion on April 17th with author/activist Talia Carner. We each received a copy of her latest book, *The Boy with the Star Tattoo*, which she personally signed. National Council of Jewish Women hosted the presentation.



Talia Carner

Daily Holidays & Observances Calendar



2024	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
MAY	28	29	30	1 Lei Day	2 National Baby Day	3 National Two Different Colored Shoes Day National Space Day	4 Star Wars Day Bird Day Kentucky Derby Day National Scrapbook Day National Fitness Day
	5 Cinco De Mayo World Laughter Day	6 National Nurses Day	7 Teacher's Day	8 World Red Cross Day National Bike & Roll to School Day	9 National Sleepover Day National Lost Sock Memorial Day Make A Book Day National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day	10 Clean up Your Room Day Mother Ocean Day	11 National Twilight Zone Day National Train Day National Miniature Golf Day
	12 Mother's Day National Limerick Day	13 Frog Jumping Day	14 Dance Like A Chicken Day	15 National Chocolate Chip Day	16 Love A Tree Day Wear Purple For Peace Day	17 NASCAR Day National Pizza Party Day	18 International Museum Day Armed Forces Day
	19 May Ray Day World Plant a Vegetable Garden Day World Baking Day	20 World Bee Day	21 Eat More Fruits & Vegetables Day National Memo Day Dinosaur Day	22 Buy A Musical Instrument Day National Maritime Day	23 World Turtle Day	24 National Scavenger Hunt Day International Tiara Day National Wig Out Day	25 National Brown-Bag-It Day
	26 National Paper Airplane Day	27 Memorial Day Sunscreen Day	28 National Hamburger Day	29 Paper Clip Day National Learn About Composting Day National Senior Health & Fitness Day	30 Water A Flower Day National Creativity Day	31 National Speak in Complete Sentences Day	1
	2	3	May 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. NOTES:				

Carol White
 Editor-in-Chief
 Pen and Palette
 Co-Treasurer
 Letters Chair
 Social Media
 Raffles

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