

Pen and Palette

Boca Raton NLAPW

www.bocapenwomen.org

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

November/December 2025



MUSIC...ART...LETTERS

In the Loop: Your Board at Work

Dear Members,

On October 22, 2025, I hosted a social event at my home. It was wonderful. My Pen sisters enjoyed the food and conversation. Besides members, a few guests interested in Pen Women also attended this event.

Elaine Bossik, Roslyn Ross-Hoffman and I are meeting with Michele Harrington, the events manager at the Delray Beach Library on November 13, 2025. We will plan an arts and literary program at the library. Our Board members are considering other venues, besides Delray Beach Public Library, to present the work of our artists and letters members.

We are looking forward seeing you at all the luncheons at the Mariposa Restaurant in Nieman Marcus, located in Town Center in Boca Raton. Guests are invited. Please complete the flyers that are posted in the Pen and Palette.

Warm regards,

Brenda Dressler, PhD

President, Boca Branch NLAPW

Here is a link to Elaine Bossik's Blog post on our website:

[Blog - Boca Pen Women](#)

Florida State Association Zoom Meeting Report
October 11, 2025

This year, the Florida State Association of NLAPW invited all members to a Zoom gathering to share ideas with each other.

Under the leadership of FSA President Janie Owens, elections happened, reports were given and inspiration was found.

Our own Lea Becker read her humorous poem, "My Toaster Is Smarter Than Me."

Carol White, FSA Second Vice President, lady of so many hats in our group, read "Words That Open Doors" and our branch Past President, Sheila Firestone, gave an insight of her musical journey from years ago to her current fight with cancer.

Several years ago, Sheila penned music and lyrics to "Nervous Little Cat." It expressed feelings that recently deserved an update. While having cancer treatments, Sheila came upon a "Wall of Hope" at her treatment center. This impacted on her attitude of hope and healing. The additional lyrics tell of "encouragement, warriors, courage, kindness, generosity, caretakers, doctors, gratitude and hope for the manifestation of healing."

The impact of her sharing resonated with many of us. It was quite special.

Although we Zoomed this year...

Two years ago, we met in Daytona for a lively, friendly convention that cemented new friendships and led to joint ventures. This year we were unable to acquire Chairs to lead the work for an in-person event. Janie Owens is currently writing up an outline for a possible return to a weekend away for us. If you are interested in being part of a team to take that on, let her know at Janiehowens@gmail.com

The Florida State Association of NLAPW is trying to bring more of our ideas and successes to all members. This organization is one to be proud of. FSA will be relying on your creativity and input to make it even better.

Thank you to all involved. Keep up the good work.

Phyllis Elrich
First Vice President FSA
Dual member NLAPW Boca Raton/Ft. Lauderdale

In case you did not receive this information from National:

Dear amazing Pen Women,

NLAPW's 52nd Biennial is only five months away, April 24-26, in our Nation's Capital.

We can never learn or be inspired enough. Our 2026 Biennial promises to be rather spectacular with inspiring speakers, a boutique to sell your art, generative workshops, riveting and inclusive panel discussions, and a bus tour of D.C. highlights with a champagne toast and box supper. All the arts are well represented in our program and events, and this Biennial is one not to miss. Our schedule of events will be printed in our next Pen Woman magazine and is online, visit <https://www.nlapw.org/biennial-conference/>.

If you have not registered for the Biennial yet, please consider doing so today. The bus tour will only allow for 50 guests, so it will be first come, first served. To save you a minute, here is our fillable registration form: [fillable-form.pdf](#). Also, as in years past, we will be accepting donations to the Commemorative Endowment Fund which you can submit with your registration costs.

Share a room at The Darcy and get to know another Pen Woman from another Branch. One of the most memorable aspects of our Biennials is the new friendships we develop around the country.

Thinking about going but still have questions? Please let President Sheila M. Byrnes or Second VP Nancy Dafoe know, and they will be glad to help answer those questions, if possible (see contact information below).

Biennial Art, Letters, & Music Contests

NLAPW Letters members can now submit to the Biennial competitions. Submissions in a whopping 19 categories should allow everyone to enter something terrific and have an opportunity to win. Deadline for writers entering the Biennial competition is December 15, so you have time to create something new or look over a piece that you love and enter it. Some categories allow previously published work, but it should be recent work. Submission guidelines for writers are listed in both our Pen Woman magazine and on the NLAPW website, link here: [2026 Biennial Letters Competition – National League of American Pen Women, Inc.](#)

Art members, please do consider sending your spectacular artwork to the Biennial competition. All artwork is submitted online, so no need to worry about shipping costs or framing at this point. Submissions for the art competition have opened, but the deadline is not until January 31, 2026, so you have time to enter. Read the guidelines in our Pen Woman magazine or at the NLAPW website, link here: [2026 Biennial Art Competition – National League of American Pen Women, Inc.](#)

The deadline for Music submissions is January 20. Read the guidelines in our Pen Woman magazine or at the NLAPW website, link here: [2026 Biennial Music Competition – National League of American Pen Women, Inc.](#)

Of course, even if you don't win a Biennial competition, you will want to attend our 2026 Biennial in Washington, D.C. (where all the prizes are awarded and so much more). The Central New York Branch is hosting, and this is going to be a very special weekend for everyone who attends. If you have questions about the competitions or Biennial registration and the events, please feel free to ask Nancy or Sheila.

Biennial Co-Chairs:

Sheila M. Byrnes, NLAPW President, sbyrnes@icloud.com and Nancy Dafoe, Second VP, dafoe.nancy@gmail.com

Warmest regards,
Sheila M. Byrnes

MEMBER NEWS, POEMS AND STORIES

Magic Carpet and Haiku
by **Linda Susan Fisher**

A magic carpet in the sky,
I close my eyes and soar so high.
I see a world with peace and light,
we live with joy, our future's bright.
Kindness reigns and all are caring,
there's no hatred, just sweet sharing.
Oh magic carpet in the sky,
let's spread that vision far and wide.

Swan

Precious baby swan
sits atop her mother's back
sheltered, peaceful, safe.

Dementia

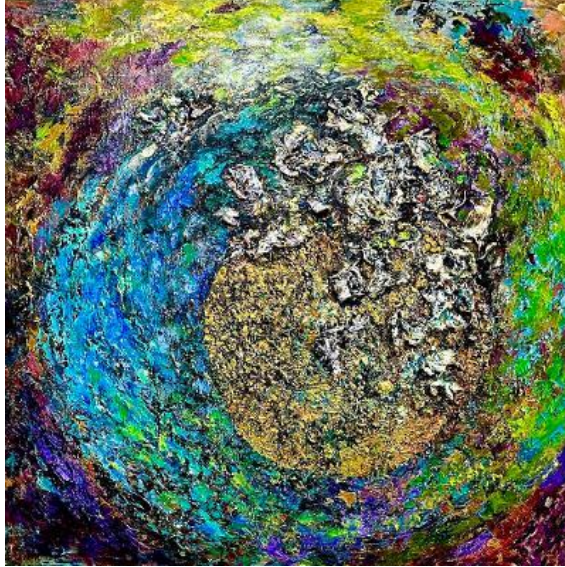
My aunt fades away,
slipping into that dark night.
I embrace her soul.

Ocean

Waves cresting gently,
turquoise, green, deep blue water
Nature's poetry.

Fran Mann Goodman's beautiful painting "Pot of Gold" has been included in the Full Circle Exhibition at the Art Armory from November 3rd – December 29th. Please join Fran at the reception on November 20th from 5:30 – 7:30 PM.

The exhibition was in conjunction with the 9th Annual Art + Crafts + Design Creative Market from November 8-9 with unique handmade holiday gifts. The market is open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Art Armory Center is located at 811 Park Place, West Palm Beach, FL. 33401. EAST GALLERY.



Jo Jo Harder's fourth book *Vintage Tails featuring America's Top Dog Model*, is featured in *The Pen Woman* fall 2025 issue "In the Spotlight" column (page 3). This 78-page black and white hard-cover coffee table book invites dog lovers and fashion enthusiasts alike to embark on a delightful journey where canines display style, grace, and a sprinkle of nostalgia. An autographed copy of the book is available at <https://shop.americastopdogmodel.com/vintage-tails>.



“Wakodahatchee 8 a.m.”

by **Dayle Herstik**

Silence.
Ospreys soar above
a lone blue heron
standing watch atop
lush foliage.
Still waters mirror
blue sky.
I am immersed
in
joy.

“The Picture of Innocence”

Flash Fiction by **Marlene Klotz**

Now that Charlie is dead, I’m alone with nothing but the money he stashed away and thought I didn’t know about. Although I loved my husband, rumors are circulating that I helped shorten his life!

People can think what they want. The trouble with me is that I’m too good! Rather than nag Charlie about taking all his medications, I made him happy with good ole comfort food.

It’s not my fault Charlie collapsed over his favorite dinner of fried chicken and grits. If I’m guilty, then the only crime I committed was killing him with kindness.

Carol White’s blurb was published in the “Love & Laughter” section of the November 10th issue of *Woman’s World* magazine.

Hope to see some of you at the upcoming free event:



Celebrating Arts, Books, and Community Connections



A discussion with community leaders

CRISTINA NOSTI Director, Events and Programming, Books & Books

PATRICIA GLASS SCHUMAN Past-president, American Library Association

MARJORIE WALDO President and CEO of Arts Garage multidisciplinary
performing and visual arts center



Thurs. Nov. 13th 6:00 - 7:30 pm

So. County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Rd, Delray Beach

Boca Raton Branch National League of American Pen Women

Luncheon and Speaker Program

Meet Jaclyn Strauss, CPA, Efficiency Expert and Co-founder of 2nd Vault

Thursday, November 20, 2025 12:00 NOON

Mariposa Restaurant - Neiman Marcus at Town Center

5860 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431

Jaclyn Strauss, CPA, is the co-founder of her company, 2nd Vault, and a leading efficiency expert, putting her skills and knowledge to work by creating a secure place for families to digitally organize themselves with the thinking done for them. Jaclyn leads with her heart in all that she does and has a passion to serve the greater good of her local community and beyond. She will present a system to help you organize essential paper documents in a transportable folder that consolidates needed information and ensures peace of mind.

Parking: Parking is available in the parking lot near the back entrance to Neiman Marcus. Valet parking is also available. The \$5 valet charge is waived when your ticket is stamped at the restaurant. A \$5 gratuity is suggested for the valet.

CLIP RESERVATION FORM AND RETURN WITH YOUR CHECK

\$40 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

Luncheon Menu: Choice of Chicken Caesar Salad, Roasted Salmon, or Trio Salad (chicken, tuna, egg). Order your selection on the day of the luncheon. Popovers, beverages and dessert

Name (Print): _____ **Email** _____

Guest's Name: _____ **Email** _____

Guest: How did you hear about us? _____

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF CHECKS: November 12, 2025

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR CHECK TODAY TO MEET THE DEADLINE!

Our President and Program Chair, Dr. Brenda Dressler hosted a beautiful brunch on October 22nd which many members from our branch attended. It was a lovely social gathering with lots of delicious food prepared by Brenda and assisted by Elaine Bossik and Elaine Hutt. Here are some photos of the event. A BIG thank you to Brenda for her hospitality!



Brenda Dressler and Phyllis Elrich



The Helpers: Elaine Bossik and Elaine Hutt



Daily Holidays & Observances Calendar



2025	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
NOVEMBER	26	27	28	29	30	31	1 National Author's Day National Family Literacy Day Day of the Dead
	2 Look for Circles Day	3 National Sandwich Day World Jellyfish Day	4 National Candy Day	5 American Football Day International Stress Awareness Day	6 Basketball Day	7 Hug A Bear Day	8 National STEM/STEAM Day National Parents As Teachers Day
	9 Go To An Art Museum Day	10 World Science Day for Peace and Development	11 Origami Day Veterans Day National Young Readers Day	12 Chicken Soup for the Soul Day	13 World Kindness Day	14 National Pickle Day	15 I Love To Write Day America Recycles Day
	16 National Button Day National Fast Food Day International Day for Tolerance	17 National Take a Hike Day International Students' Day	18 Mickey Mouse Day National Princess Day	19 National Play Monopoly Day National Camp Day	20 Future Teachers of America Day Universal Children's Day	21 World Hello Day Pumpkin Pie Day World Television Day	22 Go For A Ride Day Family Volunteer Day
	23 National Espresso Day	24 Celebrate Your Unique Talent Day	25 National Parfait Day International Hat Day	26 National Cake Day National Jukebox Day What Do You Love About America Day	27 Thanksgiving Day Turtle Adoption Day Pie in the Face Day	28 Red Planet Day National Day of Listening	29 Square Dance Day
	30 National Mason Jar Day	1	November 2025 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.				

Carol White
FSA 2nd VP
Editor-in-Chief
Pen and Palette
Letters Chair
Social Media

<http://www.bocapenwomen.org>