

Pen and Palette
Boca Raton NLAPW
www.bocapenwomen.org
Facebook Page: <http://tinyurl.com/hen8b4o>
January/February 2026



MUSIC...ART...LETTERS

Dear Members,

I wish all my Pen sisters, their guests and their families a healthy and a happy New Year.

At our December luncheon, Professor Evan Bennett spoke about an artist and a writer from Florida who were African American women. Professor Bennett, who teaches at FAU specializes in Florida's history. This lecture was fascinating and was enjoyed by all.

At our luncheon on January 15th, Dr. Terryl Lawrence will speak about an artist, Tamara De Lempicka who was known for her Art Deco paintings. Two of our Pen sisters were students in Dr. Lawrence's art class and raved about her teaching style.

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

Warm regards,
Brenda Dressler, PhD
President of the Boca Raton Branch of NLAPW.

For your convenience, included on Page 6 is information for our February 19th Luncheon. Please ask Elaine Bossik for a flyer at the January Luncheon.

The South Florida Chapter of WNBA (Women's National Book Association) and
The Boca Branch National League of American Pen Women present:

The Many Paths to Book Publishing

Saturday Feb 7, 2026 at **3-5pm** **Please note new time**

Delray Beach Library: 100 W. Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach.

Moderator: Lori Greenspan (Trimark Press)

Author panelists: Sheila Fowler, Linda Rosen, Carol White

Calling all authors, nonfiction and fiction, both published and aspiring. Join us for an informative and interactive discussion on getting published. Includes manuscript preparation, how and where to submit query letters, the editing process, and navigating the wide range of publishing options. Free program.

Up to ten WNBA or PEN WOMEN members may submit a one-page query letter in advance for a critique to receive suggestions for next steps on being published. For suggestions on query letter format please request that in your email registration. Query letters to be submitted by Jan. 30 c/o Angela Page at

southflorida@wnba-books.org

Registration and all questions:

southflorida@wnba-books.org

Info on becoming a WNBA or National league of Pen Women member:

<https://southflorida.wnba-books.org/membership/>

<https://www.bocapenwomen.org/membership/>

Boca Raton Branch National League of American Pen Women Presents
Reflections: An Art & Letters Program
April 7 – June 6, 2026
Delray Beach Public Library 100 West Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach
Roslyn Ross-Hoffman - Art Chair

Join the Boca Raton Pen Women for *Reflections*, a multimedia program exploring how artists and writers interpret the world – both real and imagined. Throughout the exhibition, artists will display work inspired by their personal reflections, while authors will share poetry, flash fiction, and short essays that express their unique views and creative insights.

Reception: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 4:00–6:00 PM **Registration Required (TBA)**

At this special reception, participating artists will discuss how their work captures what they see, and Pen Women authors will present selected writings featured in the program.

Music will also be included as part of the *Reflections* experience.

Program Presented by:
 Dr. Brenda Dressler, author
 Elaine Bossik, author
 Roslyn Ross-Hoffman, artist

Guidelines for *Reflections* Submissions

The opening reception is April 7.

- **4:00–5:00 PM:** Artwork viewing with refreshments
- **5:00–6:00 PM:** Pen Women readings (poetry, flash fiction, short essays)
 The library and social media will promote this event.
- **Artwork setup:** April 6 (time TBA)

Takedown: June 6

Art Chair **Roslyn Ross-Hoffman** is coordinating participating artists; **Michele Harrington** is the library contact. Rozz needs bios from all artists; if you submitted a 100-word bio last year, you do **not** need to resend it. Accepted media: paintings, photography, and mixed media (no sculpture). All pieces must be **ready to hang with wire** (no sawtooth hangers). Limit: **up to 5 pieces per artist**, subject to change based on participation. Artists must also submit a list of titles and specs for all pieces. Send these to Rozz, who will forward them to the library.

Questions?

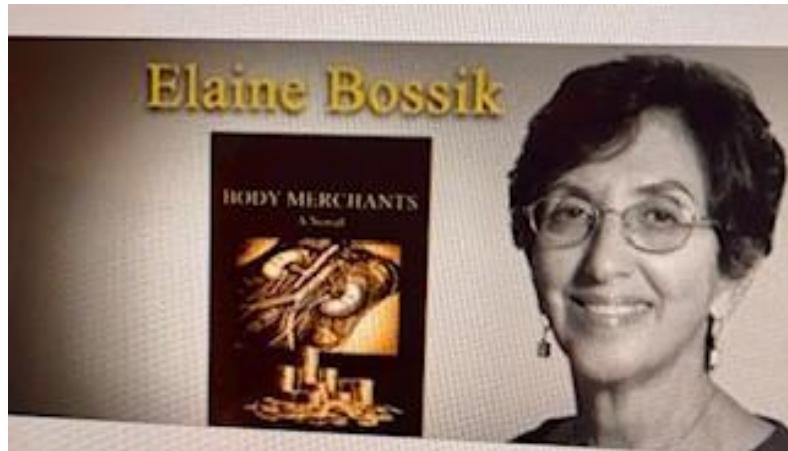
Dr. Brenda Dressler – dr_brenda@aol.com

Elaine Bossick – elainbossick@yahoo.com

Roslyn Ross-Hoffman – rozz@rozzart.com | 917-685-2049

MEMBERS NEWS AND POETRY

Elaine Bossik's new research [article](#), *Fix the Broken US Organ Transplant System to Save More Lives* is published on LinkedIn.



Family by Dayle Herstik

Our once contained group, now, four separate units.
Private lives vaguely familiar with each other,
we know only what is exposed and mentioned.

No more open hearts or angry tears
or shouts of “unfair.”

No more sharing clothes and beds
and maybe toothbrushes,
and chocolate cake in the cluttered kitchen.

Old intimacies are replaced by the unfamiliar.
We share lives that were once intertwined.

Proximity does not matter for
near or far, we are distanced.

Yet, we are still
Family.

Our Sunshine State

by
Marlene Klotz

There's tennis and golf
Plus shopping at Saks
Those who like bargains
Enjoy T.J. Maxx
With discounts at Michael's
And early bird dinners
Cost conscious seniors
Feel like real winners
With museums and movies
And places to go
The sun always shines
There's no ice or snow
Whether swimming or sailing
Or just playing cards
Seniors who heed this advice
Discover a lifestyle in Florida
That is this side of paradise

A Limerick by **Carol White**

I decided to make a beef brisket
To serve over buttery biscuits
I'm a dreadful cook
With nary a book
So why would I even risk it?

Boca Raton Branch National League of American Pen Women

Luncheon and Speaker Program

Meet Melissa Schoer, PBSO VAST (Police Department Volunteer Against Scams Team)

Thursday, February 19, 2026 12:00 NOON

Mariposa Restaurant - Neiman Marcus at Town Center

5860 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431

Melissa Schoer is a representative of VAST (Volunteer Against Scams Team). Her presentation will raise awareness on the most common ways con artists are robbing senior adults of their life savings and what to do if they fall victim. Palm Beach County is one of the top areas targeted in the nation for scams, and this presentation will be informative and helpful.

Parking: Parking is available in the parking lot near the 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

Please bring cash for our Raffle

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

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

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

Guest: How did you hear about us? _____

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF CHECKS: February 12, 2026

Daily Holidays & Observances Calendar



2026	SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
JANUARY	28	29	30	31	1 New Years Day Global Family Day	2 National Motivation & Inspiration Day National Science Fiction Day	3 J.R.R. Tolkien Day
	4 National Trivia Day	5 National Bird Day	6 National Technology Day	7 International Programmer's Day Old Rock Day	8 Bubble Bath Day	9 International Choreographers Day National Static Electricity Day	10 Houseplant Appreciation Day Save the Eagles Day National Vision Board Day
	11 National Milk Day	12 National Hot Tea Day	13 National Sticker Day	14 National Dress Up Your Pet Day International Kite Day National Take the Stairs Day	15 National Hat Day	16 Appreciate a Dragon Day	17 Ben Franklin Day Kid Inventor's Day
	18 Winnie the Pooh Day National Thesaurus Day World Snow Day	19 National Popcorn Day Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 Penguin Awareness Day Take a Walk Outdoors Day	21 Squirrel Appreciation Day	22 National Polka Dot Day National Granola Bar Day National Clashing Clothes Day	23 National Handwriting Day National Pie Day	24 National Compliment Day International Day of Education Visit Your Local Quilt Shop Day
	25 National Bible Day	26 Toad Hollow Day of Encouragement	27 National Speak Up and Succeed Day	28 National LEGO Day National Kazoo Day Library Shelfie Day	29 National Puzzle Day	30 National Draw a Dinosaur Day National Preschool Health & Fitness Day	31 Inspire Your Heart with Art Day
	1	2	January 2026 Daily Holidays & Observances Calendar Refer to this calendar for inspiration and themed activity ideas for your program! Find ideas below and click the 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>