

# HOOT O' THE OWL

Newsletter of the Clearwater Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, Inc.

**January 2008**

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**National Website:** <http://www.nlapw.org> - **State Website:** <http://www.floridapenwomen.com>

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## **Spotlight on... Interim President Charrie Moscardini**

*By Kathleen Dowd*

A special thanks and welcome to Charrie Moscardini who has agreed to step in as President of our Clearwater Branch while Anne Anderson is working on her Master's Degree in Community Journalism. We are fortunate to have such an outstanding professional to guide us at this time. Here is a capsule of her credentials:

Charrie Hazard Moscardini is a woman of many talents and accomplishments. She teaches writing and philosophy at Eckerd College and plays acoustic guitar in the folk rock band at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension. She has taught writing and literature at the University of South Florida (USF) and St. Petersburg College and is the former program director of Lifelong Writers, the membership arm of The Florida Center for Writers.

Charrie's won six major journalism awards and worked as an investigative reporter; then an editorial board member and columnist for the *St. Petersburg Times*. Her creative nonfiction has been published in national literary journals, including *Sunscripts: Writings from the Florida Suncoast Writers' Conference* and has won prizes from the Tampa Writers' Alliance and Mount Dora Festival of Music and Literature.

One of six children, Charrie grew up on the Potomac River in Virginia, in a small, isolated community at the river's end of Mason's Neck Federal Wildlife Preserve. Her father, a journalist, author, and editor, was executive editor of *Changing Times Magazine* (now *Kilplinger*), and her mother was a poet and author of children's stories as well as the director of Gunston Hall Elementary, a private school specializing in children with learning disabilities.

Charrie received a B.A. in history from The College of William and Mary and a Masters in literature from USF. Charrie and her husband live in Safety Harbor and have three children.

Thank you, Charrie, for your enthusiastic leadership of our Clearwater Pen Women!



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## **2008 Pen Women Contest for Artists, Writers, and Composers Saturday, March 8, 2008 Clearwater Main Library**

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Plan to arrive at 9:00 a.m. for set up and judging, bring a lunch, and stay for the awards presentation at 2:00 p.m.

***Do We Need a Website?***  
***Find out the details and give your***  
***input at the next***  
***Clearwater PW meeting.***

Caroline McKeon, President of Tampa Branch of the NLAPW will be at our next meeting to discuss the pros and cons of setting up a chapter web site including costs, both initial and annual. Caroline is a web designer who developed her branch's website: [www.flpw.org](http://www.flpw.org).

The meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> at Charrie's home in Safety Harbor (1403 N. Bayshore Drive), so her computer will be available for demonstration. If you plan to attend, please bring an appetizer and a soft drink, and email Charrie with your RSVP: [charrie-m@earthlink.net](mailto:charrie-m@earthlink.net).

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***Smiles from Sandy***

**By Sandy Huff**

★ The Florida State Association conference at Crystal River was a Hoot! Charlotte Mae and her hubby Dr. Bob came too, but stayed at a different motel that allowed their pet inside.

The food was excellent. We laughed a lot, met old friends, heard about what is going on at National, did some fun open air painting, rolled our eyes at the 'corny' instructions for the Artist's Way workshop, and generally had a good time. Did I mention that the food was outstanding?

The teeny tiny little booklets our Clearwater Branch made were a big hit. A couple of women asked "How did you MAKE those?" I tried explaining, then finally told them to take their own books apart as templates.

★ The deadlines for the National contests are coming up fast, so get yours in. Details are in the Fall Pen Woman magazine, or on the website at <http://nlapw.org/biennialconvention2008.html>

★ I'm planning on going to the National convention in April, and probably rooming with Sherrie Johnson, a terrific artist who lives over around Stuart. If we go a day early, we can take

our time touring Mt. Vernon or Monticello. Come join us!

★ Remember that Sally Mathews and I ran workshops in Mexico for 2 summers? Now we're inviting some of the participants to come south for a Safety Harbor Florida retreat. Dates will be end of January, first of February (to be decided, etc). We're planning on visiting the Gulf Coast Art Center (Sally is studying to be a docent), touring Sarasota highlights, and generally acting like tourists. Plan to join us for one or all of the activities.

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**Want to Host a PW Meeting?**

Pick an activity (maybe a luncheon, dinner, trip to a museum or cultural event), pick a date, time and location; you're in charge. Just run the details by Charrie, and we'll add it to the calendar.

Remember the days when members pitched in, each choosing and planning a meeting, so one person didn't have to do everything? Let's get back to the days of shared responsibility and pooling ideas and fun.

I remember so many good times. Just to name a few: the Christmas party at Sherry Kalman's, eating a restaurant lunch while being entertained by Freda Gower Ward, members reading excerpts from poems and short stories at Sue Owen's, and lunch in the garden at Jeannie Carlson's after a visit to the St. Petersburg Museum of Art. Of course we all remember the many occasions that Sandy Huff hosted lunches and dinners while we happily pursued our creative endeavors.

One of the hallmarks of Pen Women is creativity, so create a meeting and call or email Charrie. Let's plan some fun get-togethers before the season is over!

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*Note from Cynthia Smith:* "Thought you might be interested to know that I just signed a contract to write an updated version of my book WHY WOMEN SHOULDN'T MARRY". (Congratulations, Cynthia!)