

# HOOT O' THE OWL

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

**April 2008**

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National Website: www.nlapw.org - State Website: www.fsanlapw.com

New Clearwater PW branch Website: www.clearwaterPW.com

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## ***Spring Picnic for Pen Women***

**By Charrie Moscardini**

Please mark your calendars for the annual spring brunch meeting, Saturday, May 17, from 9 a.m. to noon. This year we will meet at the Safety Harbor Marina Shelter. The Safety Harbor Marina is on South Bayshore Blvd just south of the Safety Harbor Spa. I have reserved the shelter and will provide coffee. Please bring a brunch item and art to share. Look forward to seeing all.

## ***Clearwater PW Has a NEW Website!***

Please fill out your information forms and e-mail them to our webmaster, Caroline McKeon, dreamweb@dreamweboffice.com , so we can complete the information for our Website. Check out the Website that Caroline built for us: www.clearwaterPW.com . It's beautiful, professional, and easy to navigate. So far, only four members have contributed information for their individual Web pages: Anne Anderson, Charrie Moscardini, Jean Rogers, and Pat Freed. Follow their lead, and submit your information now!

## ***Updates on Clearwater PW Membership***

Pat's been collecting 2008 membership dues along with brief updates from members regarding their recent activities. If you already sent your dues, "Thank you!" Most of you have done so, and Pat appreciates your continuing commitment to the Clearwater PW group. If you haven't sent the dues yet, please do so ASAP! She needs to send everything to state and national by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Hey members, what's happening? What's new? Here's the scoop!***

Many members were kind enough to send brief updates along with their 2008 dues. Their thoughts knit us closer together, so enjoy a glimpse into their recent activities:

### ***Jeannie Carlson...***

I have been a correspondent for Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. for the last ten years and recently began handling communications projects for Advantech Reporting, Inc. My employment contract from the sale of my interest in a prior business ended last year so I am seeking new writing adventures.

### ***Barbara Sherwood...***

I am finishing up five years of teaching (as a volunteer) for Univ. of So. Florida's Lifelong Learning program here in Hernando County. I have met some of the nicest people and, believe me, they have some fascinating stories to tell! I am considering becoming a volunteer for the Safe Driving program, sponsored by AARP. I think I would like to train the trainers, for which they do need volunteers. Also, I am writing an occasional piece for a new area magazine, Naturally News, which is a glossy and totally supported by local advertising. It is free to readers.

### ***Kathleen Dowd...***

I am inundated with health challenges. I just got over pneumonia. My cancer counts have gotten worse and my liver is beginning to fail. Fighting the health care system is a full time job. Thinking about music, melody and lyric is always in the back of my mind and I jot things

down whenever they come to me. Resting is also a big gulper of my time. I wish you all a productive year full of God's blessings.

### **Freda Gower Ward...**

*My latest endeavors include attempting to finish my book and writing a short story on a recent hospital trip. The book goes like this.*

In my 50,000 word novel *Connect to the Power*, Protagonist CJ Cary is fired with excitement in planning and presenting to her church a new endeavor to tutor underperforming children and their parents in St. Petersburg, but drops a bomb when she explodes through her whisper, "Do you know the government will pay me not to grow wheat?"

With her team, CJ develops plans for publicity, a concert, and multiple fund raising efforts for the tutoring while she collects information to approach government personnel about her passion to collect subsidy money to not grow wheat. This leads her and three friends to a book store where CJ bumps into a rack of books, drops her handbag, and a man grabs her wallet. One team member pursues CJ who chases the robber into the parking lot. The police arrest all of them and accuse CJ of organizing a ring of book store thieves.

Rev. Ben is one of the team members but is caught with a "full house" as he plays poker in the back room of a restaurant. Andy buys a one dollar lottery ticket, hoping it will turn into a billion dollar win. CJ says they lack Christian principles, but denies her pursuit of a wheat subsidy for not growing what she has never grown is immoral and illegal.

### **Jean Rogers...**

Current activities include working to produce PW member playwright Cynthia Smith's Neil Simon-like comedy "What Are Friends For?" at the Cypress Forest Rec. Center, 650 Pine Avenue, Oldsmar (off Tampa Rd, left going west, next to Steak and Shake), 7PM May 2 and 3. Tickets \$5 Seniors, \$6 others. At the door or ordered ahead through email to Director Jean Rogers. Produced by OPAL adults, Oldsmar Performing Actors League. Cynthia attends most readings/rehearsals and is adding a lot to the fun of this comedy for the cast.

### **Sue Owens...**

I still love doing white flowers in watercolor (yes, the white of the paper is the white of the flower) with shadows and shadings. My most recent white flower painting is of frangipani—another name is plumeria—it was one of my most difficult watercolors, but I never give up on a painting!

Our beloved Maltese, Trinket, died last September from a fast growing form of cancer. Her death really crushed both Bob and me. I wrote her complete life story after her death. Throughout her over 10 ½ years, I've written several poems about her. Bob will put all of them plus photos of her into a booklet. We now have a 4 ½ month Maltese named Winnie, the Pooch, so I have a new subject to write about, and probably I'll paint her, like I did Trinket.

One of my Christmas presents from Bob Was to have my "Wild Animal Alphabet" book published. We will soon have the copy of the second proof. This book won a first place award in children's books in the Florida State bi-annual Conference a few years ago.

### **Mitzi Hunter...**

It's been awhile since I've been to a meeting, but I will return! I have been doing some art shows, some in Maine this summer.

### **Patsy Piety...**

My hand is getting better, and I now have a compression glove to wear for the next year. Grease fire; to look down and see your hand on fire, that was quite a shock! There was damage to the second cartilage of my index finger on my right hand. It will affect my engraving by 10%, but hey, I'm not going to do any hand modeling.

### **Anne Anderson...**

Less than four months remains of the one-year master's program in community journalism I enrolled in last August. I've crammed my brain full of information about media history, current issues, theory, management and production ... and feel like I'm just beginning to learn. Lots of writing--from academic papers to doing a write-up on a house fire. All work and no play, etc., etc., isn't me --

so I've joined the Calhoun County Civic Chorale and learned a marvelously eclectic range of music from a Brahms piece (forget the lullaby-- Brahms had a very complex side!) to a humorous version of *Polly-Wolly Doodle!*

**Pat Freed...**

The upcoming picnic will be a great chance to see everyone, and I'm really looking forward to it. I was going to bring my latest painting, *Triple Hitch*, to the picnic, but it's going to be exhibited along with the *Captain's Boat* in the lobby display case at the Pinellas County Courthouse in downtown Clearwater. However, I'll bring a print to show you. Also, you can see *Triple Hitch* on my Web page at our new Website.

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*If your update isn't here, please send it Pat Freed. She will share it with the members so we better understand and appreciate each other's talents and lives. See you on May 17<sup>th</sup>! We may be lucky enough to have Anne at the picnic.*