

# National League of American Pen Women

## Santa Clara Branch News

Summer 2024

Celebrating 102 years

1922 to 2024



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

**Luanna K. Leisure**

Newsletter Editor/Reporter/Publisher

I know, it's been too long a gap between newsletters. When life happens you just have to go with the flow and do what you can do, and that is what I have done. Life is better, and I am grateful. Thank you for your patience.

October 5th we will start our monthly meetings highlighting our very own Pen Women and your talents. It's so encouraging to hear and see what we are doing in our artistic fields. We energize each other.

We will plan our Celebrity Luncheon fundraiser, the date is **March 1, 2025** which will be held once again at Michael's at Shoreline. This fundraiser is for our Excellence in the Arts Awards that we grant to talented young women in the arts. Susan Zerweck is the luncheon chair and she will need all of us to do our part in making this a successful event. So please **raise your hands and volunteer. You are needed and appreciated.** The Awards team for our grants is Lorraine Gabbert, art; Lorna Kohler, music; and Luanna Leisure, Letters. At the luncheon we also honor our new members and professional, talented women in the arts from the community. Be thinking about who you would like to nominate to be a Celebrity at the luncheon.

Edie Matthews has once again graciously and lovingly agreed to host a tea party and the Excellence in the Arts award winners in her home on **May 3, 2025**. Edie, we so enjoy your kind hospitality and lovely home.

Our Art, Books and Entertainment Festival was on August 3rd. I cannot express how pleased I am When I first set foot at the lovely Headen Inman Museum house, I envisioned an art show. Now it has happened and I thank all of you who participated. I am looking forward to the fall when we will be together again.

*Love and blessings to all of you wonderful ladies.*

*Luanna*

#### Pen women This is Us

A sisterhood of talented women who are supportive of each other, who are dedicated to their craft and to sharing their passion for the arts with others.

#### Would you like to be included in our branch newsletter?

Now is your opportunity to share your talents, accomplishments and honors.

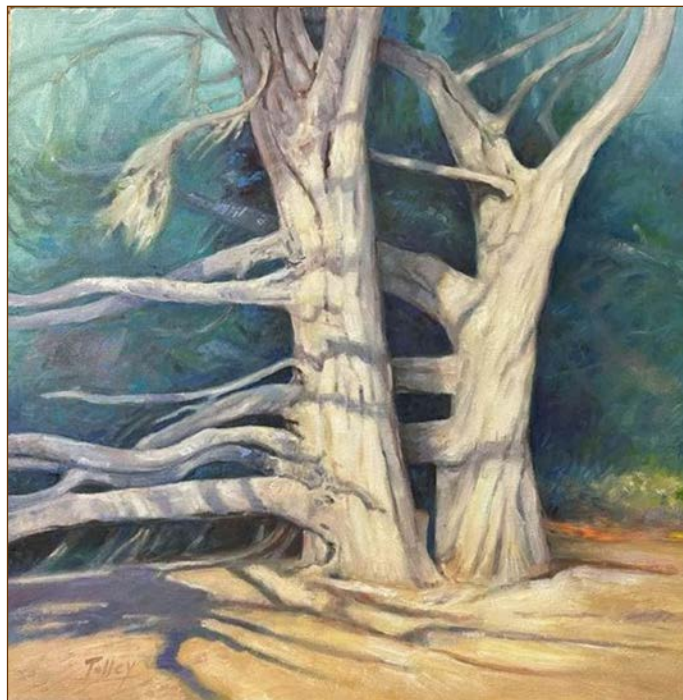
Email news items and photos to:

News Reporter, Dorothy Atkins at  
**chabot50@sbcglobal.net**



## JUDITH TOLLEY

### Vice President



The Companions, 20 x 20 oil

Greetings, Pen Women!

I first met several members of the Pen Women when I was in a show at the Coastal Art League in Half Moon Bay, California. When I heard more about the organization, I knew I wanted to be a part of it. The group includes visual artists, musicians, performers, dancers, and writers, all creative and innovative artists. I am inspired by everyone's creativity.

After several years of membership, I am now in the position of Vice President. It is an honor to be a part of this professional community of creative women. There is so much talent with an eye towards public service and helping young emerging artists with the Excellence in the Arts Grant program. One of the best things about this group is that the members have diverse interests. I am inspired by the artistry, and of course the life stories, of each and every member in the group. I have found a community of like minded folks intent on supporting each other in pursuing their own creativity, as well as sharing their creative energy with each other.

Currently, I am on summer vacation from teaching in a Milpitas, CA high school. It has been a very productive summer. I have completed 7 paintings and am intent on finishing one more before I return to the classroom, where the students will be needing a lot of my energy and creativity in supporting their earning their diplomas. I have been painting seascapes, landscapes, and especially, trees. I had hip replacement surgery in January, and I think I am doing a type of healing meditation by painting strong trees, and focusing on healing strong bones! I have three paintings in the Campbell Artists' Guild Annual Art Show in the Rose Shenson Pavilion on the grounds of the Triton Museum. The pavilion is open to the public from noon to 4PM on weekends through August 18, 2024.

Happy creating to everyone as we roll towards the end of summer!





## **DOROTHY ATKINS**

### **Outreach and Newsletter Editor/Reporter**



Pen Women are making a difference. Not only are we contributing to the world of art, music, and literature, we are reaching out to those in need who can use our help. We want our name and branch to be known for creativity but also a presence in our communities. Think sock drive. I am committed to continuing with more drives, extending it to other needed items. I am also committed to looking for opportunities for our members to interact with different branches in the coming months either by zoom or in person. Thank you all for your generosity and support.

The socks we collected were distributed through Front Door Communities. Front Door is committed to feeding low-income, and at risk men, women, and families.

#### **Sock Drive January 2024**

We collected over 300 new pairs of socks on our second year sock drive, thanks to all of you who donated.

NLAPW Santa Clara County Branch  
Saratoga Senior Center  
Louise Webb's Memoirs Class  
Santa Clara Arts and Historical Consortium



**Thank you to all of you  
who participated in our  
sock drive.**





## 2024-2026 Officers and Pen Women Meetings



Susan Zerweck, Parliamentarian; Luanna Leisure, President; Judith Tolley, Vice President; Gail Lockhart, Secretary; ShaRon Haugen, Treasurer.



Our monthly meetings start Saturday, October 5, 2024 and are held at the Headen-Inman Historic Museum House, 1509 Warburton, Santa Clara.

Time: 10:30 A.M.

Friends of Pen Women are always welcome to attend our meetings.

*Don't follow your dreams,  
Chase them.*





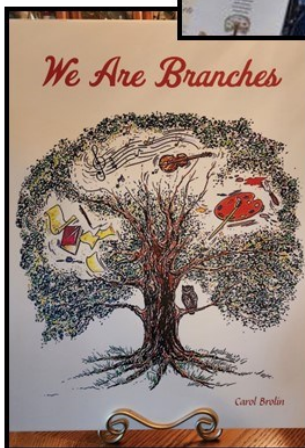
# Celebrity Luncheon We Are Branches 2024

Page 1

## Entertainment



Emcee, Susan Zerweck;  
Luanna Leisure, President;  
Patty Dick & Michael Wright,  
Carol Brolin, Carol Greene,  
Tonya McQuade, Edie  
Matthews & Lorna Kohler.







# Celebrity Luncheon

## Snap Shots

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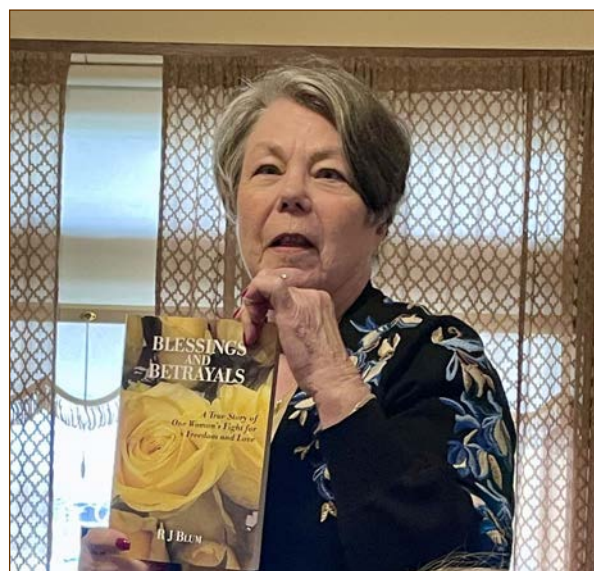




## NEW MEMBERS



**Evelyn Romero Martinez**  
Letters



**Jo Ann Blum**  
Letters

**Welcome New Members  
to Pen Women**



**Keira Silver**  
Student Member in Letters

**Janet Silver Ghent**  
Letters

**Carol Woodard**  
Art







**Congratulations  
Winners!**

## EXCELLENCE IN THE ARTS Award Winners May 4, 2024



**Keira Silver, Letters**



**Hannah Seeger, Art**



**Lynn Dai, Music**

**THANK YOU  
EDIE**



**Edie Matthews**

**Hosts Tea Party and  
Excellence in the Arts Awards**







**CATHERINE BOHRMAN**  
**Member from**  
**Golden Gate-Marin branch**  
**Moved to our area**



**SCULPTURE BY CATHERINE BOHRMAN**



“Catherine Bohrman’s compact abstractions in alabaster, bronze and marble possess soft edges that belie the magnitude of their density,” says Allen Hoffman, Legislative Liaison and Senior Program Associate for the Connecticut Commission on the Arts.

She has won top awards in many juried shows and her work is in numerous private collections nationwide. Her public art commissions include a piece in Constitution Hall, Washington D.C., the Joan Scarangelo Foundation To Conquer Lung Cancer Annual Award Trophy and the signature sculpture on the set of the former CNN program NewsNight with Aaron Brown.

Her work has been in galleries throughout the country. In New York City she has shown in SoHo and at Lincoln Center. Recently she has virtually shown at the Catharine Lorillard Wolf Art Club, the Art Essex Gallery Virtual Invitational, the Manhattan Arts International Virtual "Her Story" 2020-2021 and currently showing at the Commonwealth Gallery in San Francisco. She currently is represented by the Oli Gallery in Guerneville, CA, Riverfront Gallery in Petaluma, CA and the Izen Miller Gallery in Palm Desert, CA. Slides of her sculpture are in the Archives of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.

Catherine, we are so pleased to have you join us.

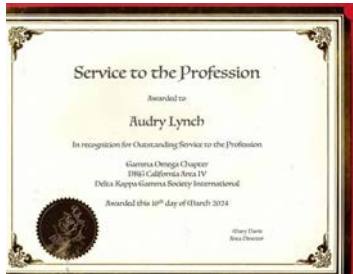
Please visit Catherine’s website for much more information at: [www.catherinebohrman.com](http://www.catherinebohrman.com).

Visit Catherine at the Palo Alto Festival of the Arts on August 24 anytime from 10:00 to 6:00 P.M



## AUDRY LYNCH

### One Good Deed: Audry Lynch (Wheelock'67)



### One Good Deed

By Sophie Yarin

#### Mentoring young writers from the Gambia

AFTER GRADUATING from Radcliffe College in 1955, Audry Lynch took her first step toward a life that defied convention by becoming the first female reporter hired by the *Berkshire Evening Eagle*.

“It was all kinds of disturbing to my parents, who were from a generation who said a girl should stay at home until she gets married,” says Lynch (Wheelock’67). “But I really wanted the job.”

She worked there as a reporter for a short time, then went on to become a teacher, a school counselor, and an award-winning author and expert on the writer John Steinbeck. Today, the 90-year-old great-grandmother is living in Saratoga, California. Her chance meeting with an author from the Gambia eight years ago has led to ongoing mentorship of aspiring young writers in the western African country. Continued on page 25



Members of the Audry Lynch Writer’s Club at the Soma Upper and Secondary School in Soma, the Gambia, meet Wuyeh “Willy” Drammeh (standing). Drammeh, a writer, grew up in Soma and now lives in the US.

Photo by  
Bakary Baldeh





# WE ARE PEN WOMEN

## Art, Book, Entertainment Festival

### Community Outreach

August 3, 2024

The purpose of this amazing event was three fold. 1) for the pen women to showcase their talents and hopefully sell. 2) to bring awareness to the community about who we are. I am always amazed how we have been in Santa Clara County for 102 years and very few people and other art organizations have never heard of us. 3) to gather contact information from the guests of this event so we can invite them to attend our Celebrity Luncheon & Excellence in the Arts fundraiser, which will be Saturday, March 1, 2025. Also, don't be shy to invite ladies who are talented in the arts to become members or "Friends of Pen Women." *Excited to be your president, Luanna*

## We Are Pen Women

Writers, Composers, Artists  
and much more



*There's beauty in a woman  
In the talent deep inside.  
There's beauty in a woman,  
Talent nothing in the world can hide.*

*by Susan Gorman*

**Our Mission** is to encourage, recognize, and promote the production of creative work of professional standard through outreach activities, to provide educational, creative, and professional support to members and nonmembers.

**Our core values** are respect, knowledge, creation and preservation of the arts.

National League of American Pen Women (NLAPW)  
Santa Clara County Branch, est. 1922  
NLAPWsc@gmail.com



Elvira Rascov, Art



Gerri Forte, Letters







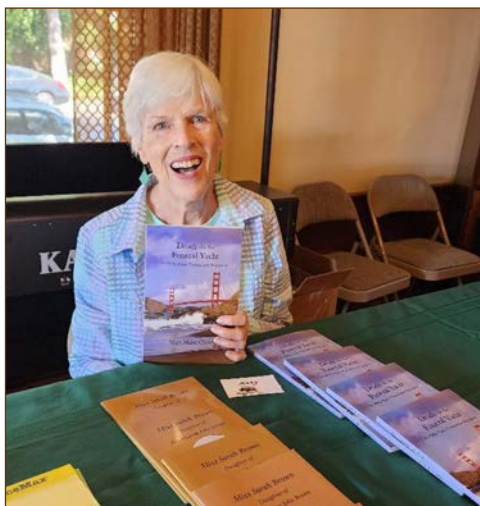
# WE ARE PEN WOMEN

## Art, Book, Entertainment Festival

August 3, 2024



Dorothy B. Brown, Art



Mary Miller Chiao, Letters



Carol Woodard, Art



Dorothy Atkins, Art and Letters

Katy Tyler, Letters  
Katy is showing her own book and also standing in for Audry Lynch, Letters



Elizabeth Hack, Art and Letters







# WE ARE PEN WOMEN Art, Book, Entertainment Festival

August 3, 2024



Lorraine Gabbert, Art



Ariel Smart, Letters



Gail Lockhart Art



Luanna Leisure, Letters & Art

Jude Tolley, Art



Pat Fisher, Art







**WE ARE PEN WOMEN**  
**Art, Book, Entertainment Festival**  
**August 3, 2024**

**Entertainment**



Nick Mata



Nancy Jo Hinsen



Edie Matthews as Mae West



Patty Dick & Michael Wright



Susan Zerweck, MC



Ken Bucan and Paul Wesling



## DOROTHY BROWN

### Art Member

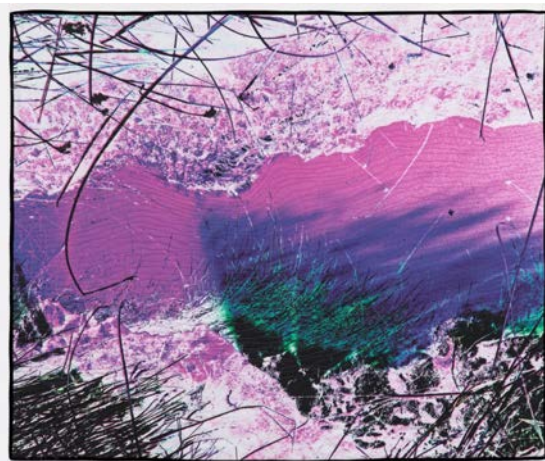


A warm welcome back to Dorothy Brown who returns to Pen Women after several years. Dorothy is a woman of many talents. She is a metal smith who often works with found objects as well as small and large pieces. Her work has been shown in several galleries and open studios around the bay area. As the owner of Young Black Children's Theatre in San Jose her shows were successful for many years while nurturing a number of talented children in the arts. She worked as a speech and language therapist in the Milpitas school district for years.



## BONNIE JO SMITH

### Art Member



Happy to announce that my textile "Alviso Green" was selected for the Art Quilts exhibit to "Dye For Art Quilts" exhibit at The Brush Gallery, 256 Market Street, Lowell, MA 01852 Lowell, MA. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday 11-4. Exhibit through August 31, 2024.



*My textiles Pacific Ocean Installation, Before and After the Drought and Water Spout were selected to be featured in "Artist Close Up Magazine".*



## TONYA MC QUADE

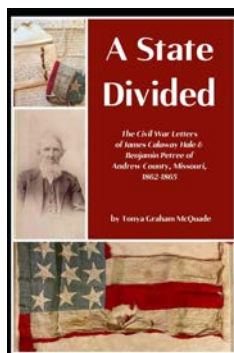
### Book release and Podcast A State Divided

This is fun ... my podcast interview is now up on the [Emerging Civil War](#) website! I was interviewed last month by ECW Editor in Chief and Co-Founder [Chris Mackowski](#) about my book "A State Divided." Here's the link if you want to give it a listen! [Emerging Civil War](#)

Explore the Civil War in deeply divided Missouri through a new collection of family letters published by Emerging Civil War's Tonya McQuade.

Co-hosted by Chris Mackowski and a revolving cadre of ECW's contributors, [The Emerging Civil War Podcast](#) taps into an award-winning line-up of historians from a wide variety of backgrounds with a wide variety of interests on a wide variety of topics.

This episode of the Emerging Civil War Podcast is brought to you by Civil War Trails, the world's largest open-air museum, offering more than 1,500 sites across six states. Request a brochure at [civilwartrails.org](http://civilwartrails.org) to start planning your trip today. Find two episodes each month, available for free on Spotify and Apple Podcasts.



## JANET SILVER GHENT

### New Member and Book Signing



Janet Silver Ghent, the daughter of a New York publishing executive, grew up in a house full of books and was determined to write them. With two degrees in English—a bachelor's cum laude from Oberlin and a master's from the University of Michigan, plus study at University of Glasgow—she considered herself doubly unemployable. Nonetheless, she became an award-winning journalist, writing features for San Francisco Bay Area newspapers. She became a columnist for *The Jewish News of Northern California*, where she retired as senior editor.

Janet lives in Silicon Valley with her husband, an engineer-inventor-baritone. They sing together in three chorales and travel worldwide. At home, they enjoy time with their four children and eight grandchildren. A self-described haphazard gourmet, Janet grows her own herbs and takes pride in her pesto and bone broth.

*Love Atop a Keyboard: A Memoir of Late-Life Love* (Mascot Books)

New member of Pen Women  
Book signing at Book Inc. in  
Mountain View.



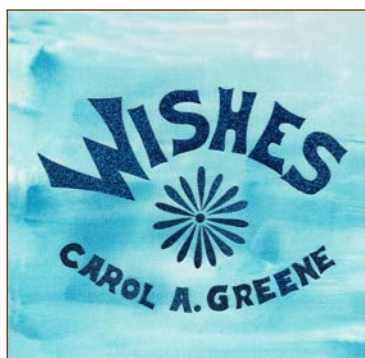
## CAROL GREENE

### NEW BOOK RELEASE

#### *WISHES*



**WISHES!** We like to make wishes hoping that they will come true. What would your wishes be? In Carol A. Greene's second children's picture book we will experience her poems and illustrations for flying on the back of a dragon, watching butterflies, juggling, singing a funny song, flying in a hot air balloon, watching whales, playing the piano, beating drums, having a pet, baking cookies, wearing costumes, riding a unicorn, and frolicking through wildflowers with a German Shepherd. We will experience all of these adventures in this beautifully illustrated book.



Carol's books, *Wishes* and *Wow* are both available on LuLu.com, Amazon.com and other major online outlets.



## ELVIRA RASCOV

### ART SHOW



Drop by Aegis Gallery in Saratoga to visit with and see Elvira's art.

The exhibition starts Wednesday, July 31 and goes until August 25.

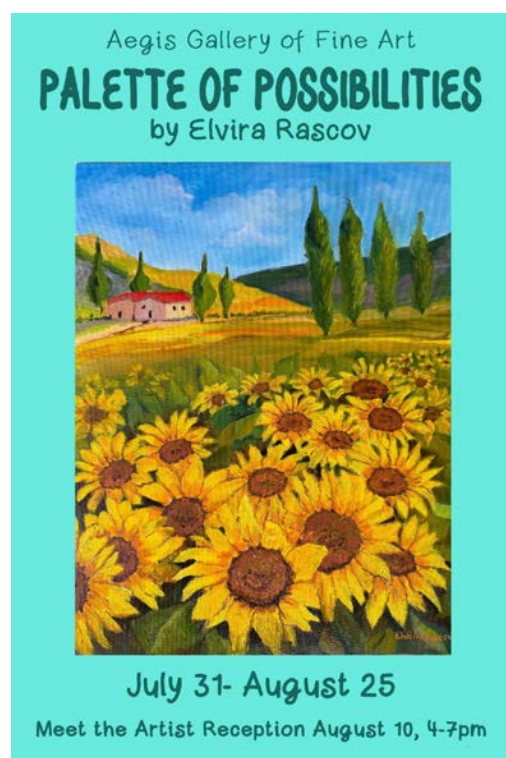
Artist reception is August 10th from 4 to 7 P.M.

Address: 14531 Big Basin Way, Saratoga, CA 95070

Gallery hours:

Wednesday, 3 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Thursday to Sunday 11 A.M. to 7 P.M.





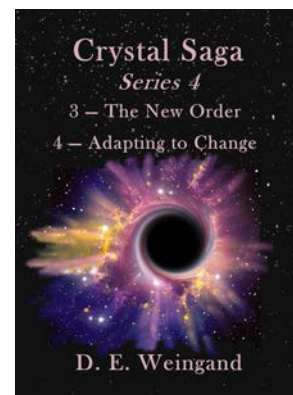
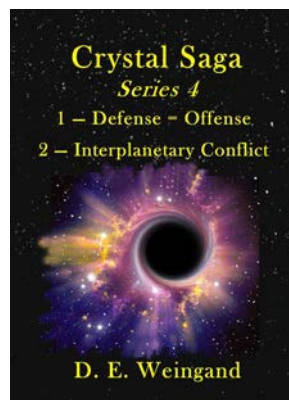


## DARLENE WEINGAND Our Branch Member in Oregon New Book Releases



Darlene's Crystal Saga Series 1, 2, and 3 are a total of 36 books. She has just completed four more books in her Crystal Saga Series 4 and she is working on the next two. Realize that each volume contains two books.

Darlene is a member of our Santa Clara County Branch who lives in Florence, Oregon. On July 18, 2024, Darlene received a visit from Pen Woman, Alice Ann Glenn who lives in Monterey, California.



### *New Releases*

#### *Crystal Saga Series 4*

- Book 1 – Defense = Offense*
- Book 2 – Interplanetary Conflict*
- Book 3– The New Order*
- Book 4 – Adapting to change*

Fantasy Adventure  
All Darlene's books  
Are available on  
LuLu.com, Amazon.com

## ALICE ANN GLENN



Alice Ann returned recently from a three weeks road trip in California, Oregon and Washington. While in Oregon she met with Darlene Weingand, our branch member living in Florence, Oregon. (see above and photo bottom right).

She met with many people on her adventure, Little Jack, a new two month old family member, and classmates from her 60th High School reunion. Not counting the reunion she visited 45 people she hadn't seen since before Covid. Alice Ann got to see Jane Eyre, an

amazing creation to reflect her life story-An Oregon Shakespeare Festival presentation. A real delight was Lovejoy's Tea Room in Ashland, Oregon, where she had the "renowned" Queen's Tea Service. The owner of this establishment also owns a tea room in Pacifica, California. There was room here for only a drop in the bucket of Alice Ann's delightful road trip.







## LOLLY OWENS

### Our Branch Member in Pennsylvania



#### Congratulations, Lolly

Art on the left, Gratitude 100, a mixed media painting, is one of 5 paintings accepted into a juried exhibit at Chicco Baccello, an eatery on Pike Street in Canonsburg, PA. The exhibit will run from August to October with an opening reception on September 5, 2024 from 5 - 6:30 pm. A portion of the sales will benefit the Arc of Washington County, an organization supporting people with intellectual/developmental disabilities. [www.Lollyowens.com](http://www.Lollyowens.com)

Lolly is a member of our Santa Clara County Branch living in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. She enjoys being a part of our branch and enjoys our zoom meetings.



#### Congratulations, Jude

Jude Tolley, wins first place in the Campbell Artists Guild art show.





## GINA BAE Student Member



### *XX (Madonna Whore Gore)*

Gina Bae

Oil on canvas

2024

Created in the midst of the Roe v. Wade discourse, this piece focuses on the politics of the female body with its reclamation of the historically prevalent female nude and depiction of the Madonna-whore dichotomy. These extremely polarized perceptions of women highlight the double standards of sexual autonomy and the close association of women's bodies and their "worth." Inevitably, this work also explores concepts like body neutrality, religious guilt, the perpetual male gaze, and the reduction of the body to a mere vessel for children. In all my work, combining and subverting classical painting ideals lets me navigate themes of girlhood and/or the Korean diaspora in spite of the Western art canon and its historical exclusion of women of color. Growing up with traditional ideals of gender roles, sexuality, and "good" art, I want my art to contribute to discussions around the intersections between gender and race, history and modernity.



**Gina Bae**, has been selected for the "Boundaries" exhibition that runs through Oct. 6, 2024 at NUMU New Museum Los Gatos, 106 E. Main Street, Los Gatos, CA

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## National League of American Pen Women

As Pen Women our mission is to encourage, recognize, and promote the production of creative work of professional standard. We do this through outreach activities, we provide educational, creative, and professional support to members and nonmembers alike. Our core values are respect for one another, as well as knowledge, creation, respect, and preservation of the arts.

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## CAROL WOODARD

### Art Show at Filoli Gardens



Happy August!

I'd like to share one of my 20" x 26" vertical pieces called "Burst of Flames". The use of reds and the subtle incorporation of other hues creates a sense of movement and intensity. The gold accents provide contrast and depth to the artwork:

"Burst of Flames" was one of the pieces I recently showed at the delightful Filoli art show. Here's a picture of my booth in that beautiful, bucolic setting.

A special thank you to those who purchased tickets and came by to visit!

Warm regards,  
Carol



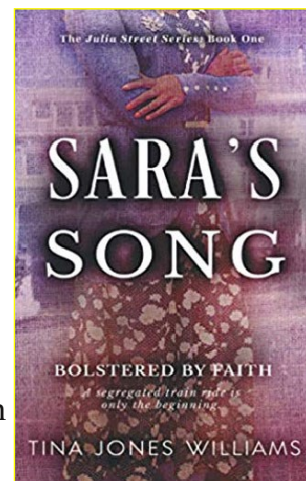
## TINA JONES WILLIAMS

### Receives Honors

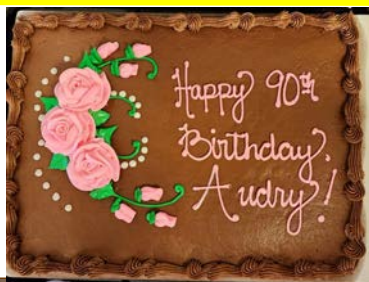


As third grade students go back to school this month in Berkeley, for the first time as they learn about the city they live in they will learn about people of color who have made an impact in the city. I am delighted to share that I am included in the curriculum in a series of shots featuring my books, my biannual Neighborhood Walk, the mural I'm featured on and filmed interviews.

I was selected as one of the authors for the San Jose Women's Club event on August 25th.







## BIRTHDAY LADIES Celebrated 90 Years



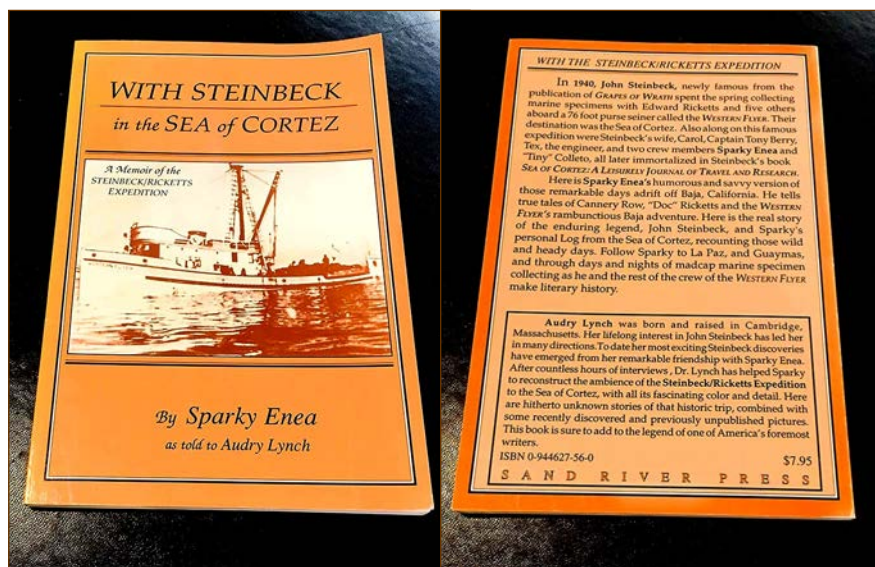
**Congratulations, Audry Lynch and Louise Webb  
Celebrating their 90th Birthdays**







## AUDRY LYNCH Greets the Western Flyer



The fishing boat that took the author and his friend, Ed Ricketts, on their famous expedition to the Gulf of California in 1940 was pulled literally from the ocean floor for an eight-year, \$7 million makeover. Recently, it returned to Monterey Harbor, ready to return to work, and Audry Lynch, a prolific writer on everything Steinbeck, was there to greet it. Audry was interviewed by the press and she even autographed and sold her book on Steinbeck's travels in the Sea of Cortez on the Western Flyer. A delightful and memorable day for Audry.



Audry interviewed by local press



Autographed and sold her book,  
*With Steinbeck in the Sea of Cortez*





## LOUISE WEBB Talent Show Star



Louise Webb was a star in her standup routine at the Saratoga Retirement Community Center. She recited a poem as she switched hats 10 times. Louise started collecting hats when she was a member of the Red Hat Club in 1997. At one time she owned 300 hats.

### A Hat is an Accessory

A hat is an accessory;  
an extension of your face.  
It can shield you from the elements,  
or keep your hair in place.  
It can be your crowning glory,  
when your wardrobe needs a lift,  
or when you're feeling moody,  
give the attitude a sift.

A hat of black can hide despair,  
anguish, loss and gloom.  
A red one makes the smiles ignite,  
when you walk into a room.  
A straw hat adds some whimsy,  
to a dreary day ahead.  
A wool hat holds the cold away,  
and keeps you warm instead.

A hat is an accessory,  
like purses, jewels and shoes.  
It adds a special final touch,  
To the clothing that you choose.  
So cap off your uniqueness,  
with every hat you own.  
From top to toe you show the world,  
your style is yours alone.

-by Pamela Joyce Randolph





## FRIENDS OF PEN WOMEN

**Nancy Jo Hinsen,  
Paul Wesling and John Kimball**



Nancy Hinsen and her brother-in-law, Paul Wesling were a tremendous help and blessing as they selflessly volunteered to help with our Art and Book Festival. Nancy entertained us by singing five songs. Nancy and Paul took time out of their busy lives to practice with the sound system at the HI House ahead of our event.

Paul took on the task of learning WIX and updated our website. He brought a friend, Ken Bucan and entertained us with a sing-a-long. He made signs and publicized our event. He did these things without being asked.

Such selfless, kind and loving souls. And to think I just met Paul a couple of weeks ago and Nancy a little before that at Louise Webb's memoirs class. There is still kindness in this world.



John Kimball, volunteered his time and talent at our Art and Book event to bask in the hot summer sun and draw sketches of anyone who wanted one. Guess what. He did it for free because he loves doing it. Another kind soul. Pictured here with pen woman, Sheralee Iglehart.





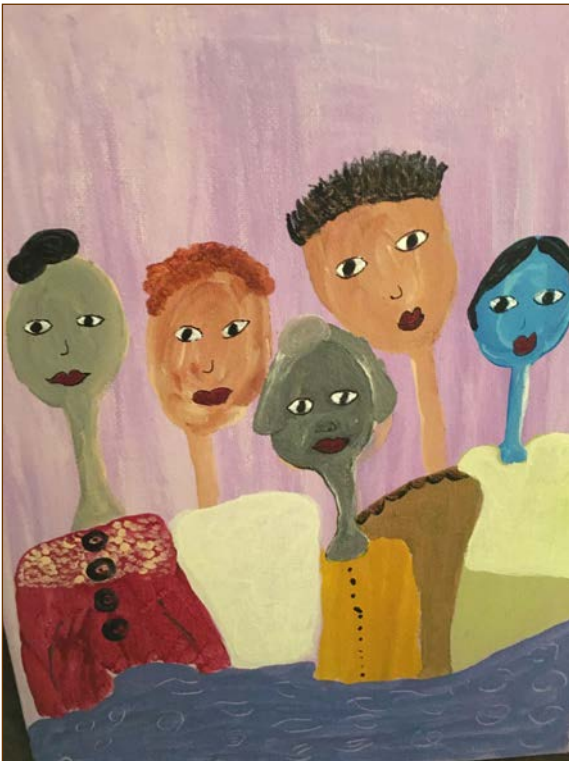
## TELL ME A STORY

### Section for your short stories

### How I Found My People

by Dorothy Atkins

I am an artist, writer, entrepreneur, storyteller, and a Pen Woman. I had been preparing for this all my life. As a youngster, I always colored outside of the lines and as an adult I squirmed when meetings focused more on Roberts Rules of Order than advancing and fostering creativity. Does that make me a rebel, certainly not but it certainly points to my creative side. Working in finance for years always felt like I had on the wrong pair of shoes. I was successful, well paid and received awards and accolades and then life happened. My life before Pen Women was long train rides into the city. In my briefcase I carried crayons, a large journal, and pencils. Year after year I wrote in my journal about what I heard and sketched what I saw. My appreciation for what was happening in real time kept my imagination alive and stimulated. Fast forward, life happened, and my career job ended. On my last day at work, I stopped at Nordstroms' bought a large bag of Godiva Chocolate and a pair of shoes that were not on sale then caught the train home. That same day I started a greeting card company with vignettes and vintage family photos that I had kept over the years. My cards sold all over the country including Canada and Hawaii. I was on my way to becoming a successful entrepreneur with TV engagements and magazine coverage and once again life happened. The recession hit and many of my clients went out of business. Women are tough you know, and I always had a plan B. My artwork.



One day a woman approached me about becoming a Pen Women. I knew nothing about it nor had ever heard of it, but I took a chance and joined. Here is what I found, an aura of creativity, strong enthusiastic women changing their communities with powerful brush strokes, written words that made me pause, photographs that took my breath away, melodies that touched my heart, poems that stopped me in my tracks and stories that enlightened me. Why then had I not heard about The National League of American Pen Women? This was so different for me coming from an environment where women were in competition with each other and looked out for themselves. Could this be true, women supporting each other, marveling at each other's talents, attending their shows, and promoting other members. Why then had this organization gone unnoticed or appeared as only tiny ripples in conversations? If I had not heard of it, others may not have either. Slowly, I began to tell folks that I belonged to the National League of American Pen Women. I would say, "I am an artist, writer, storyteller and I am a Pen Woman."

Continued on page 25



**AUDRY LYNCH**  
**One Good Deed:**  
Continued from Page 10

It all started in 2015, when Lynch met writer Wuyeh “Willy” Drammeh, who was interested in getting some pointers from an American author.

Lynch has published eight books, nearly all of them focused on Steinbeck’s life and works. She talked with Drammeh a couple of times a month, sharing her writing knowledge and experiences.

Their working relationship soon grew into a bona fide friendship. When an injury landed Lynch in the hospital, he showed up with a bouquet of roses. Drammeh, who has since been named one of the Gambia’s 100 most influential writers, even dedicated one of his books to her.

During one of his trips back to his hometown of Soma, he met Bakary Baldeh, a teacher at the local secondary school who oversees a burgeoning English-language writer’s club.

“I told him about Audry Lynch, and I suggested that we dedicate the writer’s club in her name,” Drammeh says. “And he said, ‘Let’s do it.’”

Until recently, according to Baldeh, school attendance in Soma has been low, especially among young girls. However, almost all of the writer’s club members are female.

“Girls today want to seize that opportunity to make their lives better,” Baldeh says, “and when they see that Audry Lynch is female, they think, why not them also? In the Gambia, men always have the advantage. But it’s not like that in the writer’s club.”

The Audry Lynch Writer’s Club was approved in the spring of 2023 and is now the most popular extracurricular at the school.

Lynch was floored when she heard the news. “I’ve never been so delighted,” she says. “I was absolutely honored.”

She plays an active role in the club, serving as a long-distance writing coach. She’ll review student manuscripts and offer corrections, revisions, and writing tips by airmail. She also hopes to travel to the Gambia and visit them soon.

**DOROTHY ATKINS**  
**How I Found My People**  
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Often, they looked puzzled, and I had to explain that it was Pen not Pin. What a mouth full. In thinking back, I did not sing our praises enough to interest them in joining. I sat in meetings for years trying to absorb the order of things. After twisting through the reading of minutes the treasury report and correct motions, I heard women sharing their talents, their goals and what they were enthusiastic about and I wanted more. I was smitten. It was like falling in love for the first time. I could hardly wait for the next meeting to listen to all those encouraging stories.

I began to cherish those personal accounts of show and tell. I made deep friendships that I still enjoy. Santa Clara country Branch is amazing with the most talented and interesting women. They gave me courage to do things I had only thought about. The courage to enter art competitions and the courage to enter more juried shows. The courage to come out of my writing closet and have my writings published. A Pen Woman invited me to show my art at Gallery Saratoga year after year and see my work sold. This is where I belonged, I found my people. Woman who I came to admire were like kindred spirits and always giving me, a gentle nudge and I began to do the same. Our branch is strong and committed to outreach in our communities. We have come full circle, by attending outings related to the arts, doing readings in local schools, giving Pen Women presentations at Women’s Clubs, and contacting our local papers to draft stories about who are Pen Women.

In closing, I am a Pen Women because I must be. Giving support and receiving support from like minded women is a sisterhood that I am proud to be a part of. My artwork is in the home of collectors around the world.



## Meetings and Programs

All meetings are held at the Headen-Inman House/Museum (HI House)  
unless otherwise noted, located behind the Triton Museum of Art,  
1509 Warburton on side street Don Ave.  
Santa Clara, CA 95050

**Programs have not been decided yet but here are the dates for our  
upcoming 2024-2025 meetings**

**Programs:** Meetings until further notice are at **10:30 a.m.** on the  
first **Saturday** of each month from **October** through **May** **unless a  
different day or time is indicated.**

**All meetings are also on Zoom**

Pen Women lunches organized by Patty Dick are  
usually the last Tuesday or Wednesday of each  
month.

- |            |  |
|------------|--|
| October 5  | 10:30 A.M. HI House  |
| November 2 | 10:30 A.M. HI House<br>Program: Thanksgiving Special<br>Food: Bring finger food to share   |
| December 7 | 10:30 A.M. Holiday Social at Headen-Inman House<br>Program: Bring a gift of no more than \$20. Will play gift swap. Entertainment.<br>Food: Bring finger food to share |
| January 4  | 10:30 HI House in person and zoom<br>Food: Bring finger food to share  |
| February 1 | 10:30 A.M. HI House<br>In person and zoom<br>Food: Bring finger food to share  |
| March 1    | 10:30 A.M.<br>Celebrity Luncheon<br>Michael's Restaurant at Shoreline  |
| April 5    | 10:30 A.M. HI House  |
| May 6      | 10:30 A.M. Tea at the Home of Edie Matthews<br>Scholarship Awards – in person and zoom.<br>Bring food to share for a tea party   |

### NATIONAL ZOOM

**2nd Wednesday of the month**

**Time alternates, sometimes mornings  
sometimes evenings**

Are you interested in meeting Pen Women from all across the U.S., as well as Members at Large, Potential Members, in every category of Art, Letters, Music? Also Friends of Pen Women are welcome to attend.

**Laura Walth, President of the Des Moines, Iowa Branch** hosts this special zoom for all who are interested. On occasion a special guest is invited to make a presentation.



**For dates, times and link:**

**Send your email address to  
laura.walth@gmail.com**

This is the place to share your talents, show your books, art, music, or make a presentation to pen women across the United States.

**Check out our websites**

**National Website: [www.nlapw.org](http://www.nlapw.org)**

**Santa Clara Co. Branch website:**

**[www.NLAPWsantaclara.org](http://www.NLAPWsantaclara.org)**