

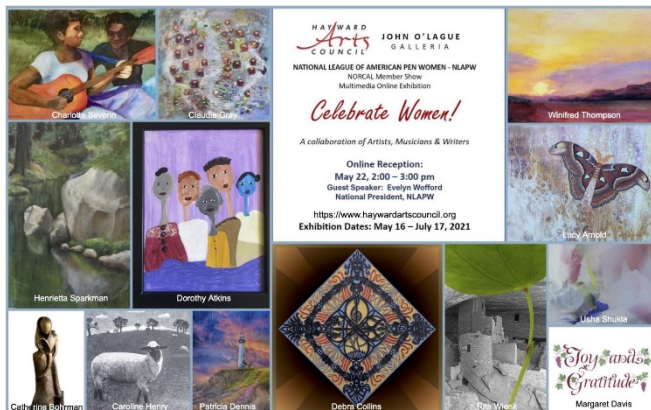


## Diamond State Branch Pen Women June 2021 Newsletter



**President's Message** Here it is after Memorial Day weekend, 2021 and I am happy to say that we are starting to see a move back to a more "normal" existence after the restrictions of the past year. Those people who have already received their Covid vaccinations and are past the two week after period, are no longer required to wear masks in many stores and establishments. It will be nice to be able to

recognize our friends again when out in public! The Covid situation has also forced us into using other methods of communication and participation which is a good thing. Thank you to all those who participated in our Zoom meetings. It takes a bit of practice to get online and be comfortable with Zoom, but, even with the snags, what it says is that we are not "stuck in our old ways" and we are willing to tackle something new when necessary. We need to pat ourselves on the back for that flexibility.



## Opportunities to Meet Other Pen Women Across the Country

On May 22, I sent out an invitation to virtually attend an Art Show opening on May 23<sup>rd</sup> called **Celebrate Women!** which was put on by several NLAPW California Branches. The postcard was sent to me by our new National Art Credentials Chair, Winifred

Thompson. I realize that this was a last-minute invitation that was sent out and many of you may not have seen it in time to go onto Zoom to attend. I did take the opportunity to see how this event would play out. It was wonderful! There were 51

people in attendance. I got to connect faces with names of some of these members that I have not had the chance to personally meet. The Opening kept to a one-hour schedule. Evelyn Wofford, our National President was the guest speaker. All the participants had a chance to talk about their background and work. There were a few glitches here and there because we are all getting used to this new technology, but what an opportunity to see the artwork, listen to these Pen Women talk about themselves, their art, listen to their stories, poems and listen to newly composed music. So, if there is an invitation to attend a NLAPW Branch Zoom event, take the opportunity to see what other Pen Women across the country are doing. You do not have to be on camera yourself to watch and listen to the program. It is fun and easy: just click onto the link provided and wait until the host lets you in.

## **What's Been Happening with the Diamond State Branch**

### **Our Scholastic Celebration on Tuesday May 4th.**



Our Diamond State Branch held our Scholastic National Winners Celebration on Tuesday evening at Silverside Church Hall. Because we were limited on the number in attendance at that time, some of our members who wanted to attend could not. There were 30 people in attendance including, Paul Weagraff, Director for the Delaware



Division of the Arts, Will Robinson, Vice Principal of Cab Calloway School for the Arts, Betsy Greer, Branch Outreach Coordinator, teachers, parents and students, and Catherine Lawrence, a prospective Associate Letters member of our Branch. Trina and Betsy did a wonderful job setting up the family tables so no one felt crowded, and we could





socially distance while still being together. Everyone wore masks which were removed for readings and enjoying beverages provided at every table. Betsy did a wonderful job hosting the event. She introduced each student before their reading and noted each student's recent and previous years' accomplishments participating in the Scholastic Student Writing Competition. Maria Keane and Billie Travalini spoke to the students about their writing journey, and both did readings. It was a celebration of achievement and recognition these students will remember. We are so proud of our National Student Winners!



**Saturday May 15<sup>th</sup> Branch Meeting at Silverside Church**



### **Our Joint Art and Letters Project**

Zoom was a good way to connect, however it was so nice to finally be with our fellow friends/members in person. We held our first in-person Diamond State Branch meeting since December on Saturday May 15th at Silverside Church. It was a Box Lunch affair with 16 members and prospective members in attendance. Our joint Arts and Letters Project was the focus of our after-lunch program. Everyone was so enthused to be there and eager to share their work with each other. The artists and writers brought their completed works from the Project. The inspiring poetry was read while the artist presented her visual representation of the written piece. The writers read their completed works while the image of the inspiring artwork was pulled up from our DiamondStatePenWomen.org website on our phones. Thank you, Dean Griffin, for giving us a website and the ability to use our website in this way (which was so much easier than having to bring all these inspiring paintings to the meeting.) For those Letters members who could not be there to read their own written piece, Maria Keane did the honor of reading them to our group. **Because of the enthusiasm over this joint Project, we have decided to continue the Arts and**

**Letters Project through the summer months.** The writers should choose a different painting to use for new work, and the artists should choose a different piece for inspiration for a new painting. Please do not choose the same piece. This time will give people a chance to improve what they have already produced. If you have not been able to become involved with this Project, now is the time to get started. Go to the Arts and Letter Project on [DiamondStatePenWomen.org](http://DiamondStatePenWomen.org) and select a piece you would like to use for your inspiration. Let me know what painting or poetry you would like to use. I will let you know if it has been taken already. I am hopeful that sometime next year, 2022, we can have an **Art and Letters Exhibition** of the work produced from this venture. Until then, keep on creating!



**Mary Tanne honored for her years of Service as Membership Chair** Mary Tanne has been our Diamond State Branch Membership Chair for longer than even, she can remember. She has served our Branch well with her dedication and organizational skills for all these years and had hinted that it was perhaps time to step down. At our May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, Mary was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from our Branch. Thank you, Mary, for all you have done.



Betsy Greer also presented me with a President's pin. The pin is usually given to the member stepping down as Branch President. Although I am not stepping down and will continue to serve as President, the Board felt I was deserving of the pin. It was and still is an honor to serve as President to this wonderful group of Pen Women.



**Cyndy Facolff - new Diamond State Membership Chair** With a Board position open, I called on another member I knew who is highly organized to fill the Membership Chair position. I have worked with Cyndy Falcoff for many years on many DFVA show committees, and I knew of her ability to handle situations accurately and professionally. Cyndy Falcoff graciously accepted the position. She will be assisted by Nita Balderston. Thank you, both of you for stepping up. I

know you will do a great job and if there are questions, there are National Credentials Chairs who will be happy to help you sort things through.

### **Diamond State Branch Biennial Art Show – October 2021 at the Station**

**Gallery** It is that time again to get ready for our Branch Biennial Art Show. This is a juried/judged Show with awards. The Station Gallery is again hosting our Show for the month of October. The artwork submitted must be done within the last three years and must not have been in another Diamond State Branch Art Show. I will be getting together with Michele and Nancy to determine number of pieces per artist to submit, size restrictions, entry fee and dates for drop off and pick up. Hopefully, by October, we may be able to have an Opening Reception. Nancy would like five Jpgs of members' work submitted to her in advance. The Gallery will decide which of the five pieces they will display. Everyone will have work in the Show. Michele will be sending out a prospectus later this summer with all the details. Now is the time to get creative for this upcoming Fall event.

### **Vinnie Ream Art Competition Has Four Diamond State Branch Members' Work**

**in It.** Every two years, NLAPW holds a Vinnie Ream Competition open to all Active Members in each discipline. The Competition was created to honor the memory of Vinnie Ream, and is also used as a fundraiser for our organization. It is an elevated competition that asks the member to submit work and, in addition, to write a response to a chosen Vinnie Ream quote. This year's Vinnie Ream quote:

*"I think that history is particularly correct in writing Lincoln down as a man of sorrow. The one great, lasting, all-dominating impression that I have always carried of Lincoln is that of unfathomable sorrow, and it is this that I have tried to put into my statue." The entrants were asked to state what emotion do they want to convey to the viewer/listener through their piece?*

This year it was decided that there would be only one winner each for Art, Letters, and Music category. The Competition ran from January 31<sup>st</sup> to March 15<sup>th</sup>. To encourage Art Members to submit work to the Competition, the Art Competition was structured as a juried/judged competition. The pieces along with the corresponding statements juried into the Competition would later be sent to Pen Arts for display in the Pen Arts Gallery. There were 32 pieces submitted from 26 Art members from around the country. Multimedia artist Jane McGovern was the judge/juror for this Competition. She was given the Vinnie Ream quote, jpgs and written statements and asked to choose 10-12 submissions that best accomplished the task. From those, she would choose one winner. It was a blind judging. She did



not know or look at names. She did her judging by process of elimination and a lot of consideration. Of the 32 pieces, she chose 11 submissions. I am excited to say that four members from our Branch had work chosen: Betsy Greer, Karen Kuhrt, Linda Campbell Arena, and me, Mary Lou Griffin. I am so proud of our Branch and the work we do! I will be bringing these four paintings to Pen Arts later this summer for our Vinnie Ream Exhibition. The First Prize winner will be announced in the summer issue of Pen Women Magazine and will be posted on the website.

**Deal Island II-Linda Campbell Arena - relaxation/escape**



**Summer Fun-Betsy Greer -joy/excitement**



**Afternoon Tea with Grandmother,  
nostalgia/remembrance**



**Spring, Karen Kuhrt - hope/renewal**

## **The Scholastic Art.Write.Now Tour Is Coming To Pen Arts Later This Summer!**

I am extremely excited to tell our Branch about an upcoming event later this summer that I have been working on with Patrick Reynolds from Scholastic. This year the NLAPW Pen Arts Gallery in D.C. will be one of the exhibiting venues for the Scholastic National Art.Write.Now Tour sponsored by The Alliance for Young Artists and Writers and funded by the National Endowment For The Arts. Each year a selected portion of the National Gold Medal winning works are sent to four venues across the United States for exhibition throughout that year. The Exhibit includes Gold Medal winning writing along with the Gold Medal artwork. Pen Arts will be one of the venues for this Exhibition. It will cost nothing except our time and Gallery space. I am hoping to have our Vinnie Ream Competition artwork on display with the Scholastic Student work. A good reason for some of us to take a trip to Pen Arts later this year so see our Gallery and both exhibitions. I am also hopeful that having these two new exhibitions will bring educators and students into the Gallery and inspire and encourage student participation in the Scholastic Art and Writing Competition which begins again in September. Our involvement with this Exhibition becomes part of our community outreach in the D.C. area where our headquarters is located.

## **SUMMER GET TOGETHER PROPOSED**

Our May meeting ends our regular Branch schedule until the fall. The last two summers were filled with bad weather, Covid and other circumstance that did not allow us to get together for a **Creative Day on the Brandywine**. Billie Travalini and I will be looking to again plan some creative event for this summer. I will send out emails when we have possible dates decided. It is an opportunity to invite a prospective member to a casual event. Until then, stay safe and well and keep on creating!