



The Jacksonville Revue

February 2009

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Jacksonville Branch

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2008-2009

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN 200TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION CONTINUES

With the publication of "Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln" an Anthology
by Pen Women from across the Nation

Pen Women from local, state and national branches sent in copies of original songs, poems and other artistic work to celebrate this special event and it was compiled into an anthology, "Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln." This special anthology will be available by special order at this meeting. Some of these works were performed at the event in Washington. Jacksonville Branch member, Jackie Hand wrote a song entitled, "Happy Birthday Dear Abe" for this celebration. It was performed at the local event at Cypress Village by the composer, and at the event in Washington by a children's' choir made up of school children up to ninth grade. "America's Still Free," another song by this composer was also presented. Jackie received copies of programs showing where her music would be used and who would perform it. (An adult group performed the above song.)

Order blanks for the Lincoln Anthology will be available at the February meeting. Information about the Lincoln event in Washington may be found at <http://www.nlapw.org/lincolnportraits.html>.

Please invite family and friends to this meeting to hear more about this historic event! We will begin our meeting about 11:00 a.m.

STATE NEWS

Information you might like to consider...

Our state treasurer, Caroline McKeon, has purchased the domain name myNLAPW.com and is willing to offer FREE EMAIL addresses to anyone (with a computer) who doesn't have one but wants one. This info is in the most recent issue of *The Palm*.

She will need a password for your email account and the name you wish to reserve. (Mine would be Jackie@myNLAPW.com) If another "Jackie" reserves my name, I will have to add another identifying letter or number to make it totally mine.

I can give Caroline names of members who need to receive The Palm by "snail mail." If you'd like me to do that, just let me know. Email notification is fine.

Caroline can be reached at 813-988-7772 or at me@myNLAPW.com

February 21st. Program

Timuquana Country Club
4028 Timuquana Road

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Luncheon: 12:00 Noon

Program: 1:00 p.m.

Price: \$15 at the door

Please send your RSVP to Phoebe

Marner24@aol.com or phone her at 620-9754

(Cut-off for reservations is Wednesday
February 18th.)

Speaker: Sharon Scholl, professor emeritus
Jacksonville University

Please invite your friends to come hear this special
program that deals with "Themes and how they invisibly
or magically appear in a writers' work."

NATIONAL NEWS

Remember the 2009 Pikes Peak Branch
Flash Fiction Contest

A complete, but very short story of 100 words or fewer

Deadline: Postmarked by March 2, 2009

Entry fee: \$10.00

Prizes: 1st \$75; 2nd \$40; Judge's Merit \$15.00

Theme: "Everything was perfect"

See last month's Revue for additional information.

Something to think about...

There is no reason our branch can't do something like
this. Give it some thought and be prepared to comment
on it at this meeting.

PTA Reflections Program

Phoebe Marner and Pat Setser were again asked to judge
the art work for the PTA Reflections program. Jackie
Hand was asked to help judge the music compositions.

This is a wonderful opportunity for young students to use
their skills while still studying in their chosen discipline
of the arts.

Branch News

Jan Bevan just returned from England! Jan, we expect a
full accounting of your visit for the next Revue.

Paula Harding continues to write for the Cypress
Village magazine, *The Cypress Log*. She had three
items in the December issue! The first was spotlighting
new faces on campus, second was a book review, and
third was a story about veterans for Veteran's Day.
Paula, where do you get the energy? Look for Paula's
Book Review in this issue of The Jacksonville Revue.

The article is very timely in that it focuses on a woman
of the Islamic Faith. (I thoroughly enjoyed it, Paula!)

Jackie Hand had an item accepted for *Mature Living*
magazine. It will appear in the July 2009 issue in the
Grandparent's Brag Board section.

Jackie also had a poem entitled "**Love's Fragrance**"
printed in the Woman's Club newsletter compliments of
D.H. Eaton. D.H. sent Jackie a copy for her records.
Thanks, D.H.!

New member **Carol Keller** is exhibiting recent black
and white photographs at Glynn Art Association on
Saint Simons Island in Georgia. The exhibit is entitled
Black to White and in Between and contains artwork that
captures and transforms local island treasures in black
and white. Photographic images are presented by Carol
along with charcoal canvases presented by fellow artist
Louise Eaton, a long time pastel artist and co-exhibitor.

The exhibit runs from March 2 – March 27 with opening
reception on Thursday, March 5, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

For additional information contact Carol at
917.921.0886 or carol@carolkeller.com. The Gallery
information can be found at www.glynnart.org.

Peg Hallam is excited to announce that she has written a
poem (inspired by our own Sandy Hartmann); an art
form not typical for Peg. The best part is that it looks
like it will be published as part of the response to a call
for poetry. Congratulations Peg!

NOW!

Net the fragile phrase
Before it flutters and flies
Into forever.

Book Review

By Paula Harding

In the Land of Invisible Women is Dr. Quanta Ahmed's account of her two-year position as a surgeon practicing intensive care medicine at King Fahad National Hospital in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. Dr. Ahmed, a New York-City-trained board-certified pulmonologist and sleep specialist, accepted the position in Riyadh after she was denied a visa to remain in the U.S.

The London-born, English-educated Pakistani was surprised as she commenced her work to be required to wear the hot, black polyester abayah which covered her from head to toe with only her eyes showing, even during surgery. She performed, however, with professional expertise, as did most of the other female surgeons, national and foreign, who were employed there.

In this repressive culture where male supremacy predominates, Quanta soon became aware of the *multaween*, a group of men in Riyadh, who roam the city, ruthless in their power to enforce the strict, rigid, orthodox form of Islam, *wahabi*, which controls the country. One of Quanta's most terrifying experiences was to be confronted by *the multaween* during a private dinner party in mixed company where the women were unveiled.

All was not grim for Quanta, however, for within the walled compound for hospital personnel where they may choose to live, she found normality in dress and activities, and treasured the associations and friendships found there. She also enjoyed all-female parties in private and, to her delight, found the women bejeweled and elaborately dressed and the events festive and fun. Romance, too, in this ancient land of strict regulations, is not to be denied. Through modern-day technology, frequent communications develops between the sexes and, for the truly brave and determined dangerous trysts in nearby Dubai.

A moving experience for Quanta was to participate in the high, spiritual experience of Hajj, which draws millions of Muslims from many countries to Mecca in a pandemonium of worship. This increased her dedication to understanding the true Islamic faith, and her report of this is enlightening.

During her final weeks in Riyadh, 9/11 happened while she was on duty at the hospital. Work ceased instantaneously, with all eyes glued to television screens, as the horrific event unfolded before them. Quanta's perception of the open responses of her co-workers was, for her, surprising and insightful. Her work concluded, she departed for New York from a country which, for her had become fascinating and enticing but a country whose civilization seemed stagnant and strange.

When her flight approached the New York City, she tugged on her fashionable green jacket, thrust her feet into high heels, and reached to the overhead bin to retrieve her belongings, leaving behind the hot, black polyester *abbayah* – then walked off the plane. Last year Dr. Ahmed returned for a visit to the Kingdom and found a new king in place. The pilot of the plane which flew her into Riyadh was a female Saudi Arabian. Things are changing. Dr. Ahmed is currently an assistant professor of medicine at the Medical University of South Carolina at Charleston, where she lives and practices.

This easy-to-read memoir, written in beautiful English, is available in the Cypress Village Library.

**National League of American Pen Women – Jacksonville Branch
Minutes of January 2009 Meeting**

The meeting was held on January 17th at Cypress Village, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Members present were Paula Harding, Phoebe Marnier, Jackie Hand, Pat Setser, Peg Hallam, Millie Taylor, Kathy DeLage, Lynn Curtin, Lillian Cannon and Susan Brandenburg. Guest Speaker was Randy Scott (who brought his son-in-law). Guests were Eva Greenfield, Peggy Steele Dollinger, Ruth and Emmet Evans, Paul Shuler, John Taylor, and Emily Frattarelli.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Presidents Jackie Hand and Phoebe Marnier, who thanked our gracious hostess, Paula Harding, for organizing the luncheon in the Egret Hall of Cypress Village, where an interesting art exhibit was also on display.

The theme of the meeting was a celebration of Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday, with a presentation by our guest speaker, "Lincolnologist" Randy Scott, who has collected Lincoln memorabilia for many years. Mr. Scott presented an interesting program, regaling the gathering with many little known facts about our beloved 16th president.

Our own Jackie Hand performed her original song entitled "Happy Birthday Dear Abe" and announced that it was being presented multiple times at the NLAPW's Lincoln Birthday event in Washington DC on that same day.

Old/New Business:

- Special order blanks were made available for ordering the NLAPW's Commemorative Collage, the "Happy Birthday Mr. Lincoln" Anthology, available for \$28.00 by sending a check or money order to Pen Women Press, 1300 17th Street NW, Washington DC 20036
- An interactive penny bank was set up to accept all loose change for the Pennies for Pen Arts contributions.
- A copy of Sandy Hartman's poem, "Exhortation to Abraham Lincoln," was given to all in attendance.
- Further business was tabled in order to focus on the program.

Meeting, which began a bit late, adjourned at around 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting will be held at the Timuquana Country Club on February 21, 2009, beginning at 11 a.m., with guest speaker JU Professor Emeritus Sharon Scholl on the topic "Themes."

Respectfully submitted by Susan D. Brandenburg, Secretary