



# Cape Cod Branch NLAPW

## *Member Highlights and Happenings*



**October 2018**



Mary Jane Xenakis, President

### **Message from our President**

Dear Fellow Pen Women,  
For my first letter to our members, I will jump right in with my personal challenge to each of us to think of ways to make our membership as meaningful as possible, to increase participation and find ways to help us grow. This does not mean placing more demands on members, but rather working together to collaborate, inspire each other and let others know who we are.

Our members are scattered all over the Cape. As we plan meetings, we are keeping this in mind and scheduling events to make them convenient for all.

Board secretary, Kathryn Kleekamp, began writing this newsletter to keep you informed of upcoming activities, as well as to highlight the significant accomplishments of our members. At our "Meet and Greet" event (see below for details), you will learn of many events being planned. I will be doing a hands-on Gelli Plate printing class making holiday cards (watch for upcoming email announcements.) I hope to meet each one of you personally at a future Pen Woman event and wish you all the very best.

Creatively yours, Mary Jane Xenakis

### **New Features**

This month I have incorporated two new newsletter sections. One is "**Personal Insights,**" with contributions from Cape Cod Pen Women sharing bits of wisdom. I hope you will share your wisdom or learning experiences. The other is "**Opportunities for Pen Women.**" This latter listing came about from a member's request to find additional venues to sell her work. If you are an author or artist member and aware of upcoming shows, please let us know. Thank you, Kathryn Kleekamp, Secretary  
<mailto:ckkleekamp@gmail.com>

## Member News

On September 13th **Suzanne Packer** gave a gallery talk to branch members and the general public about her current exhibition at the Cape Cod Museum of Art: *Cape Waters Abstracted*, Aug. 25 - Nov. 18, 2018.



Suzanne shared fascinating insights and answered many questions about her process and art. A group of members enjoyed lunch afterward at nearby Encore restaurant. There is still time to see this brilliant exhibit before it closes on November 18th.

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### **Shawn Dahlstrom**

*Along with seven other artists, I am part of the exhibition, "Colors of Tuscany" at Gallery Artrio, 50 Pearl Street Hyannis. All artists painted in Tuscany, some together, last year. This exhibition is the result. The opening reception is Saturday, October 6th from 5-7 PM. The exhibition runs from October 5th to October 27th. I hope to see you.*



*Dievole Vineyards* by Shawn Dahlstrom

### **Christie Lowrance**

*At the end of October I'm participating in a writer's retreat with author Diane O'Connell whom I met at the Cape Cod Writer's conference. It's in Lenox, MA, a small group, time to work with Diane, others, and self on works in progress. In my case, it's the biography of Dr. George Bass, known as the father of underwater archaeology. I'll also be taking part in the Oct. 13th art and book sale with the Sandwich Arts Alliance. (Please see more info on this event below.)*

*Last month I gave a talk on Thornton Burgess and Harrison Cady ("Two Gifted Pens, Two Lifelong Friends") at the Cape Ann Museum of Art and attended a presentation on rare, archival film of the heath hen at Bowdoin College in Maine, regarding Nature's Ambassador, my 2013 biography on Thornton Burgess. While in the area, I got together with two archeologists regarding George Bass, my current bio project.*

*Very Best wishes to everyone. I have a copy of branch member, **Francoise Webb's** new book and am looking forward to reading it! Titled "Safe from the Madness" it's a memoir of her childhood during the Nazi occupation of Belgium in WWII.*

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### **Janice Riley**

*Since March, we have done 18 events! We're tired but happy. We both feel that somehow we were able to rise to the occasion each time though they were all quite different. We enjoyed book signings at book stores more than we ever thought we would. Our tour also included a cooking event, two conservation group farm tours a farmers' meet and greet, and a children's field trip!*

*Our 'book tour' was not only good for sales, but good for us! We met book lovers and blueberry enthusiasts all over the Cape who were reading our book, had questions*

or simply told us how much they liked the book. Most of all, this modest, local tour made us feel like authors and opened up a new world of feeling and self-confidence. By summer's end, our talks felt like we were putting on a comfortable old sweater.

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**Christina Laurie** enjoyed a busy summer of book signings. Here she is seen with one of the pirate greeters (inanimate version) at the Whydah Pirate Museum in West Yarmouth. A busy summer also involved signings at Booksmith in Orleans, Eight Cousins in Falmouth, the Mashpee Children's Museum, Mass Audubon and Books by the Sea in Osterville.

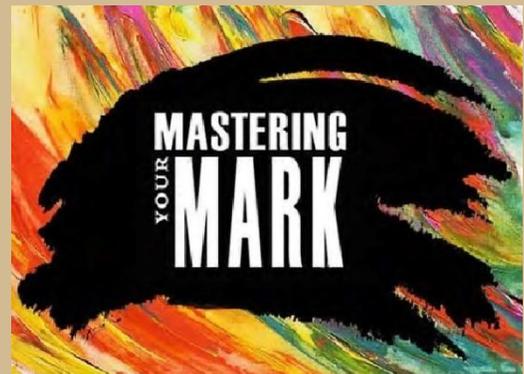
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### **Linda Ohlson Graham**

*I have been invited to be one of four published authors sharing my writing process on a panel, "So You Wrote it, Now What?" The event is at the Provincetown Monument on October 6, from 12-1PM. Women's Week October 5-14, 2018.*

<https://www.pilgrim-monument.org/event/womens-workshop-writers/>

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**Kathryn Kleekamp** will be a panelist at "Mastering Your Mark," an art conference sponsored by the Cape Cod Art Center at the Cape Codder Resort and Spa in Hyannis. Her session, "How to Keep it Going" is one of 19 sessions packed with techniques and inspiration for everyone from beginner to advanced. Price: \$120 All Day Conference including morning coffee with a snack and lunch, Keynote Speaker, Door Prizes and Give-Aways. Registration is still open:

<https://capecodartcenter.org/mastering-your-mark-2018-art-conference/>

### **Terri Herman**

Terri's work has been featured in a lovely news article: *Mashpee Author To Read New Children's Book At Italian Festival*. Click or cut and paste this link to read full article in the upper Cape *Enterprise* Newspaper.

[https://www.capenews.net/arts\\_and\\_entertainment/mashpee-author-to-read-new-children-s-book-at-italian/article\\_d26f83f6-8ab0-5018-b2cf-a3a61941ab54.html?utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_campaign=user-share](https://www.capenews.net/arts_and_entertainment/mashpee-author-to-read-new-children-s-book-at-italian/article_d26f83f6-8ab0-5018-b2cf-a3a61941ab54.html?utm_medium=social&utm_source=email&utm_campaign=user-share)

## Personal Insights

A thoughtful response from **Elizabeth Moisan** who responded to my solicitation for member news: *Kathryn, something struck me in your newsletter request. You said, parenthetically, "no need to share your 2-hour signing event where only two people showed up!"*

*Actually, it makes sense to mention that this **does** happen. Years ago on a horribly rainy night two people showed up (from Bourne) at a reading I was giving at the Dennisport Library. It turned out to be a lovely evening. We chatted about my book, pirates ~ fact and fantasy ~ and it was casual and fun. The bottom line here is that sometimes nobody shows up. It's part of the truth of selling on speculation, which is what all artists do, whether you sell books in a book store or fair, or you hang your painting in a gallery. It's a mistake to expect hordes of people every time we set up shop. It thickens the think-skinned to deal with disappointment and we must all learn that. Spin the wheel, throw the dice ` if two people show up, then that's what happened. It's still an event. You made the effort and it's the public's loss.*

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In just these few examples below, **Terri Arthur** offers this great tidbit for authors (or any of us as we try to improve our writing)

Avoid weak adverbs. Publishers hate them and they're a sign of a novice writer. Examples:

The boat moved slowly.

**Better:** The boat glided over the water leaving only a small ripple where it had been.

The man slept briefly.

**Better:** In a snort, he bolted upright and looked at the clock. He had only been asleep for an hour.

She smiled warmly

**Better:** when he saw her lips curve into a smile, he knew she agreed with him.

## Opportunities for Pen Women

The Eric Hoffer Book Award is looking for applicants. Open to authors who self-published as well as small and independent publishers.

<http://www.hofferaward.com/Eric-Hoffer-Award-registration.html><http://www.hofferaward.com/>

### Sell your book at the Village Book Festival

Sat. Oct. 13 12-3PM

Sandwich Public Library Lawn

142 Main St.

Sandwich, MA

[http://www.sandwichartsalliance.org/store/p182/10%2F13\\_Village\\_Book\\_Festival\\_Participating\\_Author.html](http://www.sandwichartsalliance.org/store/p182/10%2F13_Village_Book_Festival_Participating_Author.html)

### Increase exposure for your book. Free download:

<https://www.ingramspark.com/blog/improve-book-discoverability-by-making-documents-search-engine-friendly>

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## Save the Date

A Pen Woman "Meet and Greet" is scheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2018 from 2-4 pm at the Hyannis Public Library. This will be a great time to get to know other members. It's also a wonderful opportunity to bring a friend to learn about Pen Women. Enjoy light refreshments, prizes and a surprise program. More information will be forthcoming.



*"I don't wait for moods. You accomplish nothing if you do that. Your mind must know it has got to get down to work."*  
Pearl S. Buck (Pen Woman)