



# HOOT O' THE OWL

Newsletter of the Clearwater Branch of the National League of American Pen Women, Inc.  
APRIL 2009

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**WEB SITES Branch:** <http://www.clearwaterpw.com> **National:** <http://www.nlapw.org> \* **State:** <http://www.fsanlapw.org>

## Coming Up:

Friday, April 3, 1:30-3:15 p.m. -- Tampa Museum of Art / Sally Mathews on Mexico (p.2)

Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. -- Art in the Park at R. E. Olds Park on Shore Drive in Oldsmar

Saturday, May 16, 9:30 a.m. - noon -- Annual PW picnic . . . where?

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Article Deadline  
15th of the month prior  
First come - First served

Give a Hoot!  
Updates and Happenings 25th  
of the month prior  
First come - First served  
All submissions subject to  
editing for length and style

## April 1 Deadline to be included in Clearwater PW display/sale

The City of Oldsmar's Cultural Affairs Advisory Board is hosting "Art in the Park," a celebration of the arts -- visual, literary, and performing -- Saturday, April 18, at R.E. Olds Park. The park has a large grassy area with picnic tables, playground, restrooms, etc. This is a FREE event to artists and to the public.

- We will have a 12'x12' area with a tent, display table, chairs, and information about Pen Women.
- Members may display and/or sell their work, but each member is responsible for her own sales, sales tax, etc.
- Don't have anything to sell?

Bring brochures, business cards, a framed item or two to display, etc. You never know who you might meet! Plus, we need members to tell people about Pen Women.

- Willing to do a reading, a demonstration, or a workshop? Let us know ASAP so we can schedule you.
- We'll spotlight Charrie Moscardini's and Sue Owens' recently published books -- and any other recent accomplishments. We'll schedule a poetry reading time with the organizers and do book signings.
- We may be sharing the spot with award-winning potter, Lee Anderson -- it's his tent and he may provide entertainment by bringing a wheel. :-)

**ART in the Park**  
R.E. OLDS PARK, OLDSMAR

**Saturday, April 18, 2009**  
10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.  
**R.E. Olds Park on Shore Drive**  
Rain date: Sunday, April 19, 2009, same times apply

Stroll through the park along Tampa Bay's shoreline and enjoy...

**Fine Art Exhibit and Sales**  
**Performing Arts**  
**Demonstrations of various art medium**  
**Theatre Skits**  
**Art related activities for children**  
**Snacks, Refreshments and more!**

This is a FREE event!

For more information contact The City of Oldsmar, 300 Commerce Blvd., Oldsmar, FL 34677 or go to [ci.oldsmar.fl.us](http://ci.oldsmar.fl.us) for registration form and information. Registration deadline for Participants is April 3, 2009.

Brought to you by the Cultural Affairs Advisory Board of the City of Oldsmar

- Bring a lunch or buy from food vendors at the festival.
- Set-up time is 9 a.m. Take down time is 5 p.m.

Let's create a nice display and show off our members' work.

**DEADLINE:** You MUST let Anne Anderson know by April 1 whether you will participate and how. Call her at 727-791-0253 or email [aander8130@gmail.com](mailto:aander8130@gmail.com). Anne will turn in one application for us as a group.

IF YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE APPLICATION, THERE MAY NOT BE ROOM FOR YOUR WORK IN THE DISPLAY. Call now.

## BEST ADVICE I EVER GOT . . .

### Never Forget Who You Are by Jeannie Carlson

As if that were possible aside from amnesia or senility...or perhaps it was another take on Shakespeare's "To thine own self be true." When my mother said it, I remember perceiving it as a redundancy. Of course I was 18 years old at the time and thought I knew everything anyway.

At the time she said "**Never forget who you are,**" I was embarking on my first semester at Randolph-Macon Woman's College. Life was happening to me now and she wanted to make sure I was emotionally, spiritually and intellectually grounded.

Initially I connected this advice to our family's long and distinguished ancestry riddled with both famous and lesser-known aristocrats, engineers, educators, clergy, musicians, artists and the like. According to my mother, these ancestors had set the bar. In the years that followed I gradually realized the widening scope of my individuality in the incarnation of my own distinct voice.

Obstacles to accomplishing my dreams converged just as Mom had predicted. Encumbrances of varying degrees have resulted in diverse enlightening and excruciating experiences. During those bouts of loss, disappointment and rejection I ultimately get around to reflecting on my mother's words.

Then I remember who I am.

*Last month's advice came from our northernmost in-state member, Barbara Sherwood. This month's is from our southernmost in-state member, Jeannie Carlson. What about you? Let us know -- see the front of the newsletter for details.*

### Attention PW: Be careful writing off business losses

A recent article in the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators' March/April 2009 issue of the SCBWI Bulletin cautions writers -- and, by extension, artists and composers -- about writing off business losses for unprofitable ventures.

New York tax attorney Julian Block writes that the IRS allows "creative types to write off losses suffered in ventures entered into to make 'profits,' but not losses incurred in pursuing 'hobbies.'"

Block says "there are no all-purpose guidelines" to determining a business from a hobby, but he cites a couple of cases where the IRS denied the losses as tax deductions.

One case involved a self-published writer who paid more to have her book published than she was able to recoup in sales. According to Block, the loss was not allowed by the courts because she was unable to show "some effort or intent on her part to engage in and continue in the writing field with some regularity and with the purpose of producing income and a livelihood."

It should be noted that the cases Block cites date between 1979 and 1982. His book, "Tax Tips for Freelance Writers, Photographers, and Artists" is copyrighted 2004.

Still, it's worth checking with your tax preparer before you write off losses from your artistic endeavors. It's also worth noting that SCBWI has added a third category to their membership levels to distinguish between traditionally-published members and self-published members, as well as unpublished associate members.

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**Dues are due!** Mail your dues (\$55 for national, state and local dues) in enclosed envelope today-- don't miss out on the latest PW news/events!

### Clearwater Chorus performs at Ruth Eckerd Hall April 19 at 3 p.m.

"From Carmen to Candide" describes the breadth of music being sung by the Clearwater Chorus at its Spring concert on Sunday, April 19, at 3:00 p.m., on the main stage at Ruth Eckerd Hall. "Aspects of Love," from the musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber and one of the songs being performed, suggests the theme explored in the 90-minute concert by the almost 100-voice chorus made up of local music teachers, performers, and music lovers who have been rehearsing in the Murray Studio at Ruth Eckerd Hall since January. Artistic Director Roseann Sheppard promises "eye candy as well as ear candy" as the chorus performs selections by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Lerner and Loewe, Verdi, Bizet, Bernstein, Gershwin and others. Tickets are \$13.50 when purchased in advance from a chorus member (make checks payable to "Ruth Eckerd Hall") or are \$15 at the door. All proceeds go to support the Clearwater Chorus.

**Look for Anne Anderson among the altos. Buy tickets from her before April 7 for the discounted price.**

### Give a Hoot!

Rosemary Potter reports the Book Cover Design Contest for her forthcoming juvenile turned out very well. Three designs were chosen, one for the front cover, one for the Title Page, and one for the After Word. Three graphic design student artists at Maryville College (TN) created their winning works, based solely on samples of the text. Hooray for young women's minds and talents!

Starting April 3, 1:30-3:15 p.m., and for the next five Fridays, Sally Mathews will be giving hands-on slide talks about "Cultural Images of Mexico" for the USF "Senior" (citizens) program Olli-USF at the Tampa Museum of Art. Sally promises slides and activities.