

1st Annual SEPTEMBER SALE,

A DC Branch Outreach for the

Pen Arts Building

September 9, 2006, the D.C. Branch of the National League of American Pen Women initiated its first annual September Sale. The objective was to raise funds for the repair and restoration of our National headquarters, the Pen Arts Building. A historically designated structure in the Dupont Circle Historical District, the house warrants the League's concern for its continued welfare. For the D.C. Branch, this represented its outreach program and was close to our hearts since it was in the District of Columbia that League of Pen Women began, and it is in this building that we have our monthly meetings and presentations.

Since the space needed was larger than the Pen Arts Building could accommodate, the Sale was held in the huge, ground floor members' dining room of the Washington Club



which is housed in another Dupont Circle historical building known as the Patterson House. It was here that Charles Lindbergh came to stay after his flight on the Spirit of St. Louis across the Atlantic in 1927 as the guest of President and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge who were staying here while the White House was being renovated.

In this historical setting, four artists, 27 authors, two jewelry makers and one vocalist set up. Members from all Branches of the League were invited to

participate as well as artists, authors and musicians who were not members. Sharing our love of music, art and letters (the three categories of the League) with others of the same bent is also a way to let others know of the NLAPW, its history, its interests, its enthusiasm for the creative process and to possibly attract new



members to the League.

Using the honor system, each participant was asked to donate 20% of their proceeds from the sale to the Pen Arts building Fund. Everyone was happy to contribute and some went a step further making a 100% donation

of their proceeds.

As President of the DC Branch, I take full responsibility for the outcome of the sale. So far, everyone involved has asked to be considered for next year's event and that is good news. It is my hope that our Branch will continue the tradition of an annual September Sale to raise funds for the Pen Arts Building. She (the building) deserves no less.