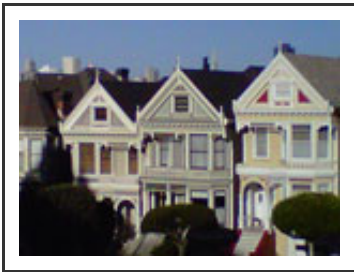


## Rachael's Marvelous San Francisco Penwomen Adventure

I'm back from San Francisco and what treat it was. I entered the 18 th annual Dancing Poetry Festival with my poem "News". I won a 3rd prize. The event happened at the California Legion of Honor Florence Gould Theater on Saturday Sept 24 from noon til 4 p.m. The Alameda branch of the Penwomen in conjunction with Artists Embassy International and the **Natica Angilly Dance Theater Company** all came together. It was a packed house. 653 poems were entered by 226 poets from 9 different countries, 33 US states and 3 Canadian provinces. Every prize winning poet was called to the podium to read his or her work. The grand prize winners' poetry was choreographed and then performed by the dance company. After which each poet was invited to the stage to share hugs with the dancers who fused their written work into body language. I met the Greek consul general and a poet from Milan Italy who were both there to receive Gold Seal book awards. The event also included the high school poets laureate of Alameda and their English teachers. When I



reached the podium I had not heard mention yet of the Penwomen so I began by saying "I am here to represent my chapter of the CNY branch of the

NLAPW" and explained the PW is the oldest writing organization for women in the US and got a rousing cheer while saying this. After I read my poem which I dedicated to Yolanda, there was another cheer, some audience members stood up and it was just a spectacular event all around. Many folks reached out to grab my hand as I walked back to my seat. It truly was an incredible feeling in

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a beautiful place. Rodin's The Thinker greets you as you climb the stairs to enter the building. I sold a chapbook, too, and another day while visiting a shop in the Castro district, I began a conversation with the director which hopefully will conclude with their shop carrying some of my artwork. You can see some of the photos from the event on [my FaceBook](#). My son-in-law took tons of photos and made a wonderful slide show with musical sound track.



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