

BOSTON
CHARLOTTE
DETROIT
LOS ANGELES
NASHVILLE
NEW ORLEANS
NEW YORK CITY
SAN FRANCISCO
SEATTLE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



inside: 1ST WNBA WRITING CONTEST MEET CHARLOTTE'S PRESIDENT SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

Message from the President

Ever heard of Lise Meitner? I'll wager, no; however, Albert Einstein is a household name. The woman whom Einstein called the "German Marie Curie" because of her discovery of nuclear fission (for which her male counterpart received the Nobel Prize) is only a footnote in scientific history today.

Do the names Fede Galizia, Clara Peeters, or Louise Moillon ring a bell? All three made their living, to critical acclaim, as 17th century painters at the time of the "Old Masters" with not even a footnote in most art history books.

My point being, of course, that women have contributed to the sciences, art, government, just about every facet of life since time began but have not received the recognition due them. As Women's History Month ends, I find myself siding with my African American friends who bristle at the mention of February being "Black History Month." Women's history is much too deep and broad to be confined to one month of articles and lesson plans.

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The BOOKWOMAN

Vol. 75, No. 2
Spring 2012

The Official Publication of the
Women's National Book Association

The American Writers Museum: Celebrating Writers and Readers

By Janet Hulstrand

Did you know that there are approximately 17,500 museums in the United States—including museums for fly fishing, rock and roll, even Dr. Pepper? But—almost unbelievably—there is not a single national museum devoted to celebrating and exploring this country's rich literary heritage and its contributions to and influence upon American history, culture, and daily life. Think about that! It's absurd, isn't it?

Malcolm O'Hagan, a retired engineer and businessman from Chevy Chase, Maryland with a passion for literature, thought so, too. On a visit to his native Ireland in 2009, O'Hagan had visited the Dublin Writers Museum. "When I returned to the U.S., I tried to find a similar museum in the U.S. and was amazed and shocked to find that one does not exist." Despite the fact that this discovery was made in the beginning of what is proving to be one of the most severe economic recessions in recent history, O'Hagan "woke up one morning and determined to create such a museum." Within a month, he was determined to move ahead. "After speaking to a few people, I knew that such a museum would be welcomed."

Since then, O'Hagan has made significant progress toward his goal. He created the American Writers Museum Foundation, now a 501c3 nonprofit, and has assembled an impressive National Advisory Council and Executive Planning Team. With their help and that of other enthusiastic supporters, what O'Hagan calls "the movement" to build the future museum is steadily growing. Several cities have expressed interest in hosting the museum: as president of the Foundation, O'Hagan is seeking an urban location that can offer "a long literary tradition, an atmosphere that is friendly to culture, and an active philanthropic community." The site has not yet been selected, but there is considerable interest in Chicago, and there have been serious conversations with community leaders there.

In September, the American Writers Museum Foundation was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) grant to fund detailed next-stage planning; the Foundation is also seeking funding to mount a nationwide traveling exhibition to precede the opening of the museum. Appropriately, the exhibition would celebrate "Immigrant Voices."

(continued on last page)

President's Message *(continued from page 1)*

Of course, I'm not saying anything that any conscious woman doesn't agree with, but I focus on the issue because, as members of WNBA, we're in a position to do something about it. Even though many of us were raised not to "toot our own horn" and to practice humility over just about any other virtue, we must step up and let the world know of our achievements.

It is for this reason that the national board approved the position of Communications Chair as a national board position. This person will make sure that national media know when we recognize a small independent bookstore for its work with children or a woman is given the WNBA Award for work over and beyond her vocation. Local media should also be alerted when a chapter has contributed to the community, funded a scholarship, or elected a new chapter president. These opportunities to describe the organization—our long history, what we're about, and what we accomplish—will make WNBA a familiar entity, especially to those in the world of books, and will eventually create new chapters and increased membership.

If a chapter is having an event that connects writers and agents, a press release should go to local media. If an individual member receives special recognition, say the publication of a book or on receiving a humanitarian award, that should be touted and always with a connection to WNBA.

In this head-spinning world of changing technology, let's utilize the many avenues of information available to us and, in the process, grow the organization—both in numbers and recognition.

Mary Grey James
National President

What WNBA Means to New York Member Linda Epstein...



For Chapter Two of my life, I decided to follow my dream of working in the world of publishing. I needed to find a way to network, to meet other people interested in what I was, who could hopefully provide me with connections to attain my goal. What I didn't bank on when I started attending WNBA-NYC events

and then started to get more involved was this: I've made great friends, picked up valuable skills, learned a ton about the

publishing world, and I'm having great fun! And in my career, I'm doing exactly what I had set my sights on.

(Linda Epstein became an Associate Literary Agent at The Jennifer DeChiara Literary Agency in New York City in 2011.)

We Need Your Contributions

The Bookwoman welcomes contributions from WNBA members, especially essays and articles on writing, publishing, or librarianship. Writing for *The Bookwoman* is an excellent way to be involved in the organization and to add to your portfolio.

Please read the **Submission Guidelines** at:

www.wnba-books.org on the **Membership Information** page under "**Promotion**," then submit your proposals to Gloria Toler at gloria.toler@yahoo.com.

Upcoming Submission Deadlines

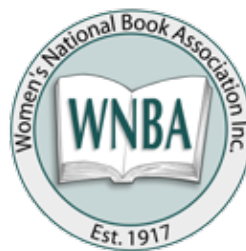
Fall issue—August 1, 2012

Winter issue—November 15, 2012

Spring issue—March 1, 2013

We regret that we may be unable to publish all submitted articles. Thank you for your help and understanding!

WNBA is a national organization of women and men who work with and value books. WNBA exists to promote reading and to support the role of women in the community of the book. *The Bookwoman* is the publication of the Women's National Book Association, published in fall, winter, and spring each year.



The Bookwoman
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Promote Yourself on WNBA's National Website

Opportunities to promote your work increasingly reside on the Internet. WNBA understands this—part of our new national website's purpose is to provide our members with greater exposure to readers and clients. WNBA's Promotional Program offers members opportunities to promote **books**, **businesses**, and **professional services**.

1. **Member Authors** may have one book cover image included in the national website's Home Page rotation plus up to three book cover images on our Featured Books page.
2. **Companies/ Small Presses** may have a logo and thumbnail description displayed on the national website with a URL link.
3. Members offering **Professional Services** may also have

a logo and thumbnail description displayed on the national website with a URL link.

The promotional program fee is \$30 per year, which runs from June to May 31. To sign up for the promotional program, go to http://www.wnba-books.org/members_free/ and click on the enrollment form link. You may pay online through PayPal or by sending a check to the treasurer. Complete instructions are on the enrollment form.

To list your blog or blogs on the national website (free of charge), just submit: your name and chapter, your blog URL, and a very brief description of your blog. Send this information to the website managers: NC Weil (ncweil2@gmail.com) and Bebe Brechner (bebesarah@yahoo.com).

First Annual WNBA Awards for Poetry and Fiction

Publication in *The Bookwoman*, the national newsletter of the WNBA
Cash prize of \$250 in each category

Open to: Poetry—three pages max, Fiction—3,000 words
Fee: Non-members—\$20, Women's National Book Association members—\$15
Entry deadline: September 15
Contest guidelines available soon at: www.wnba-books.org/contest
Winners to be announced January, 2013

Writing contest committee:
Lee Grue & Julie Smith, New Orleans,
Joan Gelfand, Immediate Past President, San Francisco
For more information, contact Joan Gelfand at: joan@joangelfand.com

THANK YOU SUSTAINING MEMBERS

Copia—Read Better Together*

HarperCollins Publishers (Harper Paperbacks, Harper Perennial, Amistad, Ecco, William Morrow, William Morrow Paperbacks)*

Ingram Content Group*

Penguin Group (USA), Penguin Young Readers Group**

SONY Reader Store / SONY Style*

*National Reading Group Month Sponsors
**Pannell Award Sponsor



Member News and Books

WNBA members contribute to a wide variety of aspects of the book world. We created this column to celebrate our members' most newsworthy accomplishments.



BOSTON

Margot Livesey's novel, *The Flight of Gemma Hardy*, was published in January. Set in Scotland and Iceland in the 1950s and '60s, the novel is being called a captivating homage to Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* and a sweeping saga that resurrects the timeless themes of the original but is destined to become a classic all its own.

Marilène Phipps-Kettlewell gave a reading in February in Cambridge at the PEN New England's monthly writers series. Painter, poet, and short story writer Marilène Phipps-Kettlewell was born and grew up in Haiti. Her collection *The Company of Heaven: Stories from Haiti* won the 2010 Iowa Short Fiction Award.

A new thriller, *The Gospel of Ashes*, by **Lloyd R. Prentice**, is due for spring publication.

Lisa Braxton's essay, "The Diagnosis," has been accepted for the summer issue of *Clockhouse Review*, the literary journal of Goddard College.

LOS ANGELES

P. Allen Jones was on "Sunday Morning Live" March 18 to discuss her new book *I Only Cry At Night*, and sickle cell disease in America. <http://www.blogtalkradio.com/sundaymorning-live>. On March 24 she was at Russo's Books in Bakersfield, CA for a

book signing and sickle cell awareness event. Our Voice: <http://www.sicklecell-ourvoice.blogspot.com>

Barbara Schiffman exhibited her books: *Creating Your Own Shift*, *Happiness Awaits You*, and *101 Great Ways to Improve Your Life*, plus the newly published print edition of her ebook *Living in Balance for Boomers* at the Int'l. Hypnosis Federation's Mind-Body-Spirit-Fun Conference in San Pedro (CA) March 2-4. She also offered Akashic Readings at the conference and promoted her workshop "The Akashic Muse." Info: YourLifeandSoul.com.

USA TODAY called **Syrie James'** book *Forbidden* "A paranormal romance that hits all the right notes...sizzling romance!" and austenprose.com deemed it "spectacular...written for Young Adults, however, might I also suggest, for the young at heart?" Alec's an angel trying to escape his past. Claire discovers she's no ordinary 16-year-old; she's a being so rare that her entire existence is *FORBIDDEN* as is her relationship with Alec. Can they find a way to be together? A must read. My top 24 of all time favorite books! Jean BookNerd.

Alva Sachs shared her experiences as a children's author and board member of Reading Is Fundamental of SoCal. "Being able to present at Title 1 schools in the greater

Los Angeles area fills my heart with joy. Having an author visit at these underserved schools gives the children an opportunity to soar with their reading and writing. Teachers work tirelessly to inspire their students, and being part of that is the biggest perk of all for me!"

Alma Sachs shares that May 19 marks the third annual Boggle for Books event and the 40th Birthday for RIF SoCal. This event will help raise funds for books for children to build their own home libraries. Alma will also be a judge for the Miss Teen 2012 Regional Pageant in Los Angeles May 16-17. This is a Pageant with a Purpose to help young girls realize their opportunities and inspire them to understand that their beauty is from the inside out.

Past president, **Kelly Sullivan Walden**, appeared on FOX news on Valentine's Day discussing true stories about how people found true love via nighttime dreams. Red Wheel-Weiser will be publishing her upcoming book, *It's All In Your Dreams: 5 Portals to an Awakened Life*. She's conducting Dream Workshops and private sessions at her new office in Marina Del Rey. And you can hear her every Monday on her radio show "The D-Spot" at 11 a.m. on www.AwakeningZone.com.

Lisa-Catherine Cohen,

producer/host of WNBA/LA RIO (Reads Its Own), is, besides an internationally known writer and oft-published editor, a double-platinum, three-number-one hit lyricist, and spoken-word performer (with live music). She read and performed at IWOSC READS ITS OWN on March 11 at Barnes & Noble in Santa Monica and performed at the Jazz Jam at The Gate on February 29.

NASHVILLE

Ellen Myrick's article, *You CAN Go Home Again*, appeared in the December 1, 2011, Publisher's Weekly online edition. Ellen wrote about Nashville's newest independent bookstore, Parnassus, "probably the most celebrated new bookstore in America," thanks to co-owner Ann Patchett. She introduced its staff of "book veterans"—including WNBA president Mary Grey James—and summed up the feelings of Nashville's book community: "Parnassus and its success has reminded us what an independent bookstore provides beyond the book.... a place to find and build upon our dreams and experiences... a physical place where we can share and discover books with like-minded people."

New member **Cindy**

WNBA Members: If you have written or published a new book, or have been written about in a new book, please tell us. Send your name, along with the book title, genre, publisher, pub date, price, ISBN, and 50-word description to your chapter's Bookwoman correspondent (or president, if your chapter does not currently have a correspondent). Descriptions over 50 words will be edited for space considerations, including URLs.

McCain's literary tee shirt business, *Classic Coup*, is supporting global education by sending a book to children in orphanages/schools in Quito, Ecuador for each tee shirt sold. *Classic Coup* was born out of a passion for great books, meaningful conversation, and rebels-with-a-cause. Read more at <http://www.classiccoup.com>

Gary Slaughter

Cottonwood Summer '45
Popular Fiction/Young Adult Fiction, May 2012
Fletcher House, \$24

The fifth volume in the *Cottonwood Series* is an entertaining, richly-detailed reminiscence of the American home-front during the final months of World War II. The first novel, *Cottonwood Summer*, begins with the D-Day invasion in June 1944; *Cottonwood Summer '45* completes the series with V-J Day, August 1945. <http://www.garyslaughter.com>

J.T. Ellison

A Deeper Darkness
Mystery/Thriller, April 2012
Mira, \$14.95

The first installment in Ellison's new series features medical examiner Dr. Samantha Owens, whose job is to make sense of death. But everything changes when Samantha's family perishes in a flood and she accepts a mother's request to determine

how her son, an ex-Army Ranger, really died. <http://www.jtellison.com>

NEW ORLEANS

We celebrate our members with recent books: **Constance Adler**, *My Bayou: New Orleans Through the Eyes of a Lover*, a revelatory memoir; **Dianne de las Casas**, *Dinosaur Mardi Gras!*, which is as much fun as it sounds; and **Carol Gelderman**, *A Free Man of Color and His Hotel: Race, Reconstruction and the Role of the Federal Government*, which will be out in April. Congratulations to members **Dr. Patricia Brady**, who has been named Humanist of the Year by the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities, and **Freddi Evans**, whose book *Congo Square: African Roots in New Orleans* has been selected as the LEH Book of the Year. And we rejoice for our New Mom, **Veronica-Brooks Sigler** of Maple Street Book Shop, and her son, Kellen.

NEW YORK

Barbara Foster's biography, *The Secret Lives of Alexandra David-Neel*, is the subject of an essay running on *The Huffington Post*. Barbara also has an essay based on her latest biography, *A Dangerous Woman: The Life, Loves, and Scandals of Adah Isaacs Menken (1835 - 1868) - America's Original Superstar* on HistoryNet.com.

UPublishU, an educational arm of BookExpo America, will host a presentation by **Susannah Greenberg**, of Susannah Greenberg Public Relations, on June 7. Greenberg's presentation at the first-ever BEA-sponsored UPublishU is entitled "Building the Buzz for Books—the New Book Publicity," with panelists: Patrick Brown, Community Manager, Goodreads; Jim Milliot, Co-editorial Director, Publishers Weekly and PW Select. This panel will be about getting great book publicity, for eBooks and print books, integrating traditional and new media PR, and marketing tactics. See <http://bookexpoamerica.com/Concurrent-Events/DIY-Authors-Conference/uPublish-at-BEA-Sessions/>

Susannah Greenberg, WNBA-NYC Publicity Chair and book publicist (SGPR), recently launched an internet radio show on blogtalkradio: Book Buzz with Susannah Greenberg: All About Books. On the show, Susannah interviews experts in the book industry, book publishing, and writers. The show is for anyone interested in books.

Lucine Kasbarian—a quest for an ancestral recipe documented in the article, 'Elixir in Exile,' was published in December in HETQ: Investigative Journalists of Armenia.

Robin Lamont's self-published suspense novel *If Thy Right Hand* was named one of Suspense Magazine's Best of 2011. It's the story of an impassioned sex crimes prosecutor whose own son is accused of molesting two young boys. Robin recently signed with literary agent Alice Martell, who will be handling Robin's new book *Wright for America*.

Caroline Leavitt's novel *Pictures of You* became a *USA Today* bestseller one year after publication. A *New York Times* bestseller, it also made the Best Books of 2011 list from the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Providence Journal*, *Bookmarks Magazine*, and *Kirkus Reviews*, where it was also one of *Kirkus's* top five books on family and love.

Jennifer Cunningham-Lozano will be writing for a new blog, *Simply: A Reading Journal* that explores new books each month ranging from new fiction to classics. As part of The Book Nook Center, The Cubby Corner, a children's reading group, started a new blog dedicated to children's picture books, fiction, and international books. simplyareadingjournal.blogspot.com/

Anna Olswanger—Passover musical based upon her books *Shlemiel Crooks* and *Chicken Bone Man*, will be performed by the Poppy Seed Players at

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Chapter News

CHARLOTTE

We kicked off the New Year with a favorite WNBA-Charlotte event, our annual bookswap and networking social! We gathered at the Northwest School of the Arts where 15 members shared books and caught up after a busy holiday season. Tons of books were brought to the event and the ones that did not find a new home were donated to Julia's Café and Books, located at the Habitat for Humanity Store.

The day before Valentine's Day, WNBA-Charlotte invited best-selling author Charla Muller (365 Nights) to preview her latest book-in-progress, which humorously outlines the relationship insights she gleaned from reading over 140 romance novels in one year. More than a dozen members convened at the Matthews Community Center to enjoy her charming wit and left eager to read her forthcoming book. A second panelist, WNBA member Jessica Daitch—well read in the romance genre and a romance novel reviewer for *Publisher's Weekly*—offered two book reviews during the event. She discussed what makes for a bad romance novel and recommended one of her recent favorites—FitzWilliam Darcy, *Rock Star* (a new spin on the *Pride and Prejudice* story).

Our March meeting featured a panel of experienced book industry representatives, many from our own WNBA ranks, who discussed how a book

goes from the idea stage to the finished book for sale to the reading public.

April's meeting will be an evening of multi-cultural books and reading at the International House in Charlotte. International House promotes international understanding by serving as a center for diversity, advocating for people of diverse national backgrounds, and facilitating professional and cultural exchange programs. International House is affiliated with the US Department of State via the National Council of International Visitors. <http://www.ihclt.org>

DETROIT

Our March event heralded our early spring with a dessert and coffee buffet and casual conversation with Beverly Jenkins, HarperCollins' premier writer of African-American historical romance fiction specializing in 19th century African American life. All this witty and real woman only "ever wanted to do was work in a Library" but a co-worker at Parke Davis' library, a member of Romance Writers of America (RWA) pushed her storytelling to an agent. Avon's Arabesque line accepted it and, 30 books later, she still writes the best historical fiction (with great sex scenes) while educating her readers on African-American history! Her books include extensive bibliographies that readers can research on their own after being sparked by

each book. Beverly, a Michigan author, has books themed with the Underground Railroad, the first class of African-American female doctors, small towns, and everywhere in between.

April brought "How to Break Out of the Pack: Marketing Your Self-Published Book, *A Panel Discussion*," co-sponsored with the Ann Arbor District Library, and another SRO crowd of aspiring writers. With the new ease and popularity of self-publishing, everyone from your elderly neighbor to your teenage babysitter is becoming a published author. But how do you combat the hordes of e-books and print books available to reach your readers and actually sell some books? The panel of experts incited a lively discussion on ways to market and publicize your book. Panel members were:

Kai Blum, the director of Search Engine Marketing at Ingenex Digital in Ann Arbor, wrote three German language books on immigration and travel to the US, which he successfully promoted online.

Emlyn Chand, who emerged from the womb with a fountain pen clutched in her left hand (true story). Since then, she has always loved to hear and tell stories. When she's not writing, she runs a large book club in Ann Arbor and is the president of author PR firm Novel Publicity. Emlyn enjoys connecting throughout the social media Internet world.

Anne Pearlman studied writing at the University of

Michigan and then wrote her first book, *Getting Free: Women and Psychotherapy*, with two colleagues. *Keep the Home Fires Burning: How to Have an Affair With Your Spouse*, garnered the attention of the Oprah Winfrey Show. Her memoir, *Infidelity*, was nominated for a National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize and was made into a Lifetime movie by Lionsgate.

The panel was moderated by WNBA Detroit's own Shannon Janeczek who has now been outed as a long-time book geek. While her full-time gig has been marketing and business writing for almost 20 years, her true passion lies in editing and publicizing books for others via her recently established freelance company, PublishSavvy.

LOS ANGELES

Since the last issue of *The Bookwoman*, the LA chapter has had one completely social event. In early December we gathered at the home of our vice-president, Joan Jackson, for great food and lively conversation—always a wonderful combination! We handed out our hard-copy directories, designed and printed by our treasurer, Suzanne Kleinbub. Long-time member Rosalind Myatt volunteered to be on the governing board as a member-at-large.

Our annual publishing event in March, Book Savvy 2012, was a great success. Book Savvy, a day-long workshop featuring

publishers, branding experts, best-selling authors, social media experts, and agents... along with panel discussions on everything literary, included a special feature of the day—an early morning session on “how to pitch a book or idea” to an agent. At the lunch break, those who attended the early morning session presented by marketing and branding expert Ruth Klein, got to try out their new skills by actually pitching to one of the literary agents who was there for the day.



Julia Drake welcoming Book Savvy 2012 attendees.

Now we are beginning the final organization for the June national board meeting, which will be held here in Los Angeles! We are pleased to welcome our national board members, especially since our chapter’s prestigious national award, the Judy Lopez Award for Excellence in Children’s Literature, will be presented that weekend. Our national board members will attend the ceremony held annually at the UCLA Faculty Club.

NASHVILLE

The Nashville chapter is looking forward to the annual ATHENA Award ceremony on March 26. The award honors

outstanding women for their leadership abilities, career successes, and service to the community—a perfect description of our nominee, Carolyn Wilson. An honorary lifetime member of WNBA, Carolyn is a past chapter and national president. She originated the WNBA/Lipscomb University Summer Reading Series, helped found the Tennessee Writers Alliance, and has chaired the WNBA Award committee and the 75th Anniversary Project, in addition to serving on the advisory board for the Southern Festival of Books since its inception.

She was the recipient of the Maternal Infant Health Outreach Worker Program’s 2008 award for “Women Mentoring Women in the Community,” and, as we stated on her nominating form, “No person has done more to advance women in Nashville’s book community in the last quarter century than Carolyn Taylor Wilson.” She “is now recognized as the premier go-to person in Nashville for all informational needs.”

WNBA-Nashville’s Book Discussion Group gathered at Cheekwood Museum of Art on a recent Saturday morning to view “Visions of the American West: Masterworks from the Buffalo Bill Historical Center.” Organizer extraordinaire Joanne Slaughter, the guiding force behind our popular Book Discussion Group, arranged the outing in conjunction with our current book selection, David McCullough’s *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris.*”

Joanne and her husband, author Gary Slaughter, shared docent duties and provided fascinating insight into the various exhibits.

McCullough’s book is the story of the writers, artists, doctors, and statesmen who left America to study and work in nineteenth-century Paris—and then brought their newfound knowledge and experiences home to influence and shape the fledgling United States. The Cheekwood exhibit featured works by two artists who were part of this nineteenth-century pilgrimage: Albert Bierstadt, whose landscapes of the virgin West reveal a breathtakingly beautiful wilderness; and George Catlin, who arrived in Paris with his Indian Gallery of five-hundred paintings—four were featured in this traveling exhibit. After the tour, we enjoyed a delicious lunch overlooking Cheekwood’s exquisite botanical gardens.

Our chapter meetings continue to amaze and enthrall. We’ve been entertained by a local theater company’s rendition of “A Christmas Story,” fascinated by local author Barry Kitterman, and astounded to learn how much our public library has to offer. Our next program—a presentation of soon-to-be-released titles we call “Spring Picks”—is sure to play to a packed house of book lovers.

NEW ORLEANS

New Orleans has been rocking along through the Carnival season. Our January meeting was a discussion

of ebooks at Maple Street Book Shop’s flagship store; the local chain has recently expanded with new branches in Bayou St. John, and the New Orleans Healing Center. The discussion was presented by Joyce Corrington, author of five New Orleans mysteries, the most recent of which is *Fear of Dying*, who has put her books up on Kindle; Julie Smith, who is not only an Edgar-winning mystery writer, but a publisher of ebooks through her company BooksBnimble; and Whitney Stewart, who published *Give Me a Break: Simple Meditation* through Julie’s company. After a good bit of discussion from these authors and publishers, independent booksellers also weighed in on how they are selling books as well. But we realized we had much, much more to hear from readers and librarians and booksellers, so we’ll continue this discussion at our March meeting at Octavia Books.

February brought news of the New Orleans Public Library, when our new Library Director Charles Brown made a presentation to the chapter. The New Orleans Public Library faced catastrophic losses in Hurricane Katrina, and is set to open three new branches later in March, which will mark significant progress for the system, though it still has funding challenges. Charles, who came to New Orleans from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library System, is an inspiring new leader for this era, and may become the first

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Member News and Books (continued from page 5)

New York's Kaufman Center. Narrated by Jerry, the family dog, and featuring a couple of dimwitted crooks, this warm-hearted musical is about following your dreams. Sunday, April 1. <http://kaufman-center.org/mch/event/poppy-seed-players-shlemiel-crooks-a-passover-musical>

Asya Pekurovskaya is presently touring books one and two of *Spark the Stone Man*, and has finished the layout of book three. Book one became the 2011 Pinnacle Award Winner in the category of Juvenile Fiction. It was well received by the librarians at the California Library and School Library Association.

Carol Rial launched her website for editing and coaching needs of professional and new writers. After receiving an MFA in Fiction Writing and working as a book scout for Miramax Films, Carol worked for Pulitzer Prize winner Art Buchwald and went on to edit numerous books and short stories by other authors. She is also a writing instructor at Hunter College. <http://carolrialeditorial.com/>

Stephanie A. Smith has just signed a contract with Thames River Press in London for a three-novel series about women, work, and art.

Marlene Veloso is building her third children's reading room in NYC. The space will include colorful bookshelves, beanbags, rugs, artwork, and 1000+ books for children. For more information, and to make a donation, please check out the website: www.kidsresearchcenter.org.

Helen Wan's debut novel, *The Firm Outing*, will be published by Macmillan/St. Martin's Press, Summer 2013. The novel tells the story of a young Chinese-American attorney about to make partner at her prestigious firm, but finds it difficult to reconcile the firm's business practices with her own ethics. For more information, check out the report in *Publishers Weekly*. (Helen met her agent, Josh Getzler, at last year's WNBA-NYC Query Roulette.)

Alice Jacoby
My Mother's Boyfriend and Me
YA novel, iUniverse
November 2, 2011

This is the story of what happens to fifteen-year-old Laurie after her mother's hot new boyfriend moves in with them. 'Look Inside' features now available on Amazon.com, and on B&N in the near future.

Harikleia Sirmans
Translator—*The Agony of Survival* by Dr. Spyros Vrettos
Infinity Publishing
December 16, 2011

The book addresses the salvation of humans from multiple imminent dangers and threatening disasters that are the result of technological progress, the degradation of the environment, and the exploitation of natural resources. <http://drspyrosvrettos.com/>

SAN FRANCISCO

Joan Gelfand was awarded the Noble (not Nobel) by Carolyn Howard-Johnson of "Back to Literature" for her chapbook of short fiction "Here & Abroad," published by

Cervena Barva Press. She also had two essays in "Woman On Poetry: Writing, Editing, Revising and Teaching," edited by Carol Smallwood and Cynthia Brackett-Vincent, published by MacFarland Press.

WNBA-SF past president **Mary E. Knippel** is excited about her book *The Secret Artist—Give Yourself Permission to Let Your Creativity Shine!* Simple Abundance Press this spring. Sarah Ban Breathnach, author of *Simple Abundance*, says: "When a woman looks back upon her life, she realizes that her most important lessons, moments, and decisions were created during her most difficult times. Mary E. Knippel captures the beauty of these moments in *The Secret Artist*. Within these pages is the permission we as women so often need, to take the time to nurture our creative selves. Her book is a blessing to all of us."

Teresa Le Yung Ryan was a presenter at the 2012 San Francisco Writer's Conference along with fellow WNBA members Mary Knippel, Elisa Sasa Southard, Joan Gelfand, Jane Ormerod (WNBA/NY), and Martha Alderson. Teresa writes in her blog: "...Thank you, Elizabeth Pomada & Michael Larsen, for giving me a chance to wear my two hats—as Story Consultant/Editor and Writers' Platform-Building Coach."

Elisa Sasa Southard's Amazon business bestseller, *Break Through the Noise, 9 Tools to Propel Your Marketing Message*, is expanding her platform to include travel writing, and releasing her passion for travel by helping

young travelers turn into savvy adventurers. Elisa Sasa is now licensed as a tour guide by the District of Columbia and has signed on to conduct an early-April DC-NYC student tour for Smithsonian Student Travel.

Publisher **Sari Friedman** of Fearless Books, was featured in two readings in celebration of Valentine's Day showcasing various poets included in her award winning anthology, "Touching: Poems of Love, Longing and Desire."

Cathy Robbins
All Indians Do Not Live in Teepees (or Casinos)
Bison Books/University of Nebraska Press, 2011
"A marvel"—*Publishers Weekly*, August 2011
"Inspiring"—*Indian Country Today*, November 2011
"Intriguing"—*High Country News*, September 19, 2011

SEATTLE

Karlene Petitt
Flight For Control
Fiction/Aviation Thriller, \$19.99
Jet Star Publishing, 2012

A thriller that reads like a mystery, but there is no mystery on the condition of the airline industry—it's broken. Planes crashing. Pensions lost. Pilots are financially and emotionally bankrupt due to fatigue, furloughs, and lost seniority. Someone must take control before it's too late—unless it already is. Karlene. Petitt@gmail.com, <http://KarlenePetitt.com>

WASHINGTON DC

Pediatrician **Chu Chu Saunders'** dynamic marketing of her book *OOOPS*, for girls

The Real Presidents of WNBA

by Annette Marie Haley

Annette Marie Haley's Interview with a Chapter President: A regular WNBA Bookwoman column feature. Across America, women are standing up to volunteer in WNBA, leading others, and making a difference. This is the tale of one of our wonderful women!



Meet **Susan E. Walker**, President of WNBA Charlotte, NC, June 2011 through May 2013.

Susan's family is originally from the NY metro area, but she grew up primarily in North Carolina, where her father was a professor of

French literature at Duke University and Davidson College. She majored in French literature at Duke and went on to an M.A. in French from Princeton. Although Susan had originally planned to get a Ph.D., she changed direction and got a job in publishing, aspiring to be a children's book editor. She DID get a publishing job, but has never yet been a children's book editor!

Susan's book industry career began in 1975 with a job in "School and Library Services" at Dell Publishing—marketing, promotion, publicity for mostly children's books. She moved from there to B. Dalton Bookseller and helped open and manage their first NYC store at 666 Fifth Avenue. From there she went to a job in publicity at Simon & Schuster, and then in 1980 moved to Minneapolis to work at B. Dalton's headquarters under the legendary Kay Sexton. (If you're old enough, you'll know why she was legendary!) After five years of event planning and advertising work at B. Dalton, Susan departed and did freelance work for a number of years as an author media escort and in book-related advertising. In 1987, she began working part-time for what was then the Upper Midwest Booksellers Association, the regional trade association for independent bookstores in that part of the country.

Her association with UMBA evolved into becoming the Executive Director on a full-time basis, a position which she held for 23 years, through the end of 2010. In that time, the association became the Midwest Booksellers Association (and is now the Midwest Independent Booksellers Association) and expanded greatly, both in size and in geographic reach. They ran a very successful annual trade show and other educational meetings for members, as well as producing an annual consumer holiday book catalog for stores and creating an innovative regional marketing program for them, Midwest Connections.

Now that she is based in North Carolina, for the moment, she will continue to be involved in the book industry on a volunteer basis. In addition to serving as WNBA-Charlotte's current president, she is also assisting with author programming and planning for the BookMarks Festival of Books in Winston-Salem.

The book industry is now running in her family as well—Susan's older daughter works in sales marketing at Random House in NYC!

AMH: Why did you originally join WNBA?

SW: To meet and network with other book industry people and book lovers in the Charlotte area after I moved here from Minnesota. Although I resigned from my job in the Midwest and moved for family reasons, I did NOT want to retire from the book business!

AMH: What other positions in WNBA have you held, if any? What did you enjoy in that job?

SW: This is my first position with WNBA. This year I am excited to be assisting Jill Tardiff and all WNBA chapters around the country with event planning for National Reading Group Month 2012.

AMH: Why did you take on this leadership role? What have you gained from it?

SW: I was asked by the Charlotte chapter if I would become the chapter's second president, after founding president Carin Siegfried. Carin is a hard act to follow, but I've been in the book industry for 37 years, and I have lots of contacts and colleagues in the business, so I felt that I could contribute to the chapter. I also have set up many author events and worked with authors for many years, experience which I can use directly in planning our NRGMB BiblioFeast book and author event.

I've very much enjoyed getting to know the other women on Charlotte's board of directors—a terrific group of "bookish" people. And being part of the chapter and its activities gives me the opportunity to use my book biz skills for a worthwhile cause.

AMH: What/who would you hate to be without and why?

SW: Books and people who love them! Also my family and friends, but they are all book lovers in the first place. And red wine—very essential to life, love and happiness!

AMH: You are happiest in what situation?

SW: I particularly enjoy great conversations with my interesting, educated, humorous friends, both old and newly made.

AMH: Hobbies or sports, free time pursuits?

SW: Books and reading, of course. I also love the arts—music, opera, ballet, theater, etc.—and particularly enjoy going to live performances. Art and museums are also favorites. Travel is great, both around the USA and especially to Europe—my favorite places are New York City, Paris and all of France, Italy, and Greece. Closer to home, I love going to the North Carolina mountains and the beach, as well as the many very good wineries in the state. I practice yoga numerous times a week and work out at a local fitness club. I enjoy sailing and skiing, but haven't had the occasion to do either recently.

AMH: If you care to, mention career goals (past, present, future).

SW: Now that I'm 60+ years old, I feel quite satisfied with my 37 year career in the book industry. It's been challenging,

Social Media: Author Marketing and Getting Started

by Linda Lee

This month Linda Lee, co-president of the WNBA-San Francisco chapter, has prepared a video on social media marketing for our members' viewing. You can check out Linda's video at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQZjXIRIKBQ&list=UU57HR8CaFj9_kFR4S3y195A&index=1&feature=plcp

Linda has also provided an accompanying handout about where to get ideas for content at:

<http://wptotaltraining.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/Content-Ideas-for-Social-Media-Marketing-Plan.pdf>

Some of the topics Linda covers in her video are:

- * What is Social Media marketing and why use it
- * What you need to get started and what are the best Social Media tools to use
- * How to get more comments and interaction on your blog or website

- * How to create a realistic plan and implement it
- * What are the best promotional methods to use to keep traffic coming to your blog or website

Be sure to check out this helpful and informative video and get started using Social Media marketing to promote your business, your books, and yourself online; or if you are already using Social Media marketing, pick up some new ideas and learn about new tools that are now available.



Linda Lee is the founder and owner of AskMePc-WebDesign, Word Press Central, and SmartWomenStupidComputers. She is a writer, speaker, educator, and website designer.

UN Report on CTAUN Conference

by Elaine Whitehouse

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." — Nelson Mandela

This year's theme for the CTAUN Conference at the United Nations on February 3 was "Education is a human right." CTAUN, which is the acronym for "Committee on teaching about the United Nations," promotes global awareness and inspires educators to teach students about the United Nations and its global challenges. This year 388 people attended the Conference, including individuals from Quebec, Ontario, and Benin as well as 48 Fulbright fellows from 33 countries.

Throughout the day individuals and panels engaged in dialogues to describe how education for all is a global challenge. The first speaker was Deputy Secretary General Asha-Rose Migiro who welcomed everyone and voiced Secretary General Ban Ky Moon's message that education is integral to spreading peace and democracy. "Education has always been essential to human development," she said. "After the earthquake in Haiti in 2010 what the people wanted most was education. Education supplies were included with disaster relief to give a sense of normalcy, hope, and a way to make productive use of time in the face of chaos."

Panel moderator Barbara Reynolds said that right now 68 million children are not in school. She added that once we get the children into school we need to make education relevant to their lives. For example, she said that many developing schools teach students to learn facts by rote. What they really need to learn is to create, solve problems, and collaborate.

Dr. A.K. Abdul Momen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, explained why children in his country, mostly girls, often drop out of school or have poor attendance. Circumstances such as continuous monsoons and flooding, the need of children to work to help support their families, not enough schools or teachers, early marriage, child bearing and hunger are some of the reasons why the goal of universal education is not achieved. Yet his country has managed to improve school attendance. The government pays \$1.20 a month if a girl goes to school and maintains 75% attendance and 75% average grades and does not marry.

Carol Bellamy, former Director of the Peace Corps and Executive Director of UNICEF, now Chair of Global Partnership for Education, discussed the UN's millennium goal of getting all children into primary school. Countries in conflict, and those with gender issues and poverty have yet to achieve this goal. Funding is always a problem. But through the Secretary General, the United Nations and CTAUN are raising the issue of education to a higher political dialogue.

As A.K. Abdul Momen said, "If you teach a man, you teach an individual. If you teach a woman, you teach a family." Put another way—educate the girl, change the world.

Elaine Whitehouse teaches at the United Nations International School and is the Editor of "Fire Island Tide Newspaper," as well as the Treasurer of WNBA-New York City chapter.

Chapter News *(continued from page 7)*

male member of our chapter!

April will bring a program on antiquarian books, and June will bring an instructional session on social media from member Dianne de las Casas, so we are well on the way for the future.

NEW YORK

Query Roulette 2012 by Rhona Whitty

Q: Who knew ten minutes could go so fast?

A: Albert Einstein, and Thirty Query Roulette Writers!



Agents Brook Sherman (left) and Meg Thompson (right) speaking with writers at Query Roulette 2012—photo by Hannah Bennett

If you participated in this year's Query Roulette, I don't need to tell you how hectic and exciting it was, because you're probably only just recovering. Writers, many of whom had spent up to ten years working on a single project, were given the opportunity to sit down and discuss it with a literary agent for ten minutes. It may sound like a lot of time, but if there was one complaint the writers had, it was that Query Roulette proved Einstein's theory that time is not a constant! The common consensus was that it felt more like five. (Next year we'll be inviting MIT to perform a scientific study, so watch this space.)

At least five writers were asked for complete manuscripts. Some by more than one agent. One writer, by all four agents she spoke with! So, you'll understand our optimism for more success stories like Query Roulette poster child, Helen Wan, who met her agent at last year's event. You can read about Helen's book deal in *Publishers Weekly*: <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/book-news/deals/article/50104-deals-week-of-january-9-2012.html>, and Helen's interview on blog: <http://wnbanyc.wordpress.com/2012/02/27/member-monday-meet-helen-wan/>

Thank you to the wonderful Kathryn Bild who never fails to conjure up a roster of top-notch literary agents. Thanks also to our tireless volunteers who checked in the writers—blog interns, Erica Misoshnick and Hannah Bennett; the on-the-spot accounting skills of WNBA-NYC Treasurer, Elaine Whitehouse; to Lily Barrish, our fearless timekeeper—you have to be fearless to tell a writer their time is up; and to Sheila Lewis, Karen Abraham, Linda Mahovec, and Linda Epstein for pitching in wherever they were needed. Despite last-minute changes to schedules, writers looking to see an agent who was booked out weeks in advance, and dashes to the store for more water, you never lost your smiles or enthusiasm, and that in itself it a big achievement.

Finally a big thank-you to the agents who gave up their time that evening: Regina Brooks, Matthew Elblonk, Linda Epstein, David Forrer, Laura Langlie, Anna Olswanger, Jesseca Salky, Katharine Sands, Brooks Sherman, and Meg Thompson.

If you're thinking of holding a Query Roulette in your own chapter, and you have questions, please drop me a line at newsletter@wnba-nyc.org.

SAN FRANCISCO

Mary E. Knippel, Teresa LeYung-Ryan, and Birgit Soyka orchestrate the first Thursday of the month meetings ("WNBA-SF Chapter Authors Exchange Solutions" series) at San Francisco Main Library. Each month, we teach members a new skill (i.e. How to Pitch; Build your Platform; Social Media not Madness) The events are free and open to all members. Besides the chosen topic, members have an opportunity to introduce themselves and talk about their latest projects.

We also had a well-attended January planning meeting at Co-President Linda Lee's home in Castro Valley. Upcoming Spring

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Chapter News *(continued from page 11)*

events include Meet the Agents (March 24) and our annual Effie Lee Morris Lecture at the SF Public Library (organized by VP Kate Farrell.)



SF Writers Conference—back row: Margie Yee Webb, Lynn Henriksen, Tanya Egan Gibson, Verna Dreisbach; center: Mary E. Knippel, Nina Amir, Apala Egan, Jane Omerod; front row: Elizabeth Pomada behind Barbara Santos, Teresa LeYung-Ryan, Linda Lee, Elisa "Sasa" Southard, Joan Gelfand) at SFWC —photo by Don Hudson

SEATTLE

The Seattle Chapter hosted a presentation by two university sociology professors on their study of the writers of romance fiction at Elliott Bay Books in February. Joanna Gregson (Pacific Lutheran University) and Jen Lois (Western Washington University), have been examining the craft, career, and culture of romance writers since April, 2010. Their purpose: to understand how writers construct romance, gender, and sexuality in this field and how they experience their careers in what has been called "the most popular, least respected literary genre."

No one has done a study like this before, which is focused on the writers and is interview-based and employs observational research. Gregson and Lois embedded themselves in the industry by joining the Romance Writers Association and attending national and local meetings, and are even attempting to write romance novels themselves to experience the process first-hand.

While the romance genre accounts for 13.4% (\$1.3 billion) of the industry's market, and is read more than any other genre, it is seriously stigmatized, the professors said. Romance novels are often labeled as "bodice rippers," "formulaic," and "purple prose," Gregson and Lois pointed out. These assumptions are not true. The only requirements for romance fiction are that a relationship is the main storyline, and that there is a positive (upbeat or hopeful) outcome (a happy ending).

So why is such a successful genre stigmatized? Gregson asked the question of mega-author Nora Roberts at a national RWA meeting. Roberts' answer: It is written by women, about women, and for women, and is therefore devalued. The professors' work so far supports this hypothesis. They found that the members of RWA (almost all women) did not follow the conventional (male)

norms of the business world: RWA members are almost uniformly supportive of each other rather than competitive or aggressive; they use informal and 'fun' language in their formal dealings with each other (emails are littered with exclamation points, sign-offs like 'Hugs,' and one celebratory memo from the president, for example, had "Yay Us!" as an opener); they take their relationships with each other personally and treat each other accordingly. All of this is natural in a female culture but not typical of a male culture of success. This, the study authors believe, is at the root of the issue. Gregson and Lois expect to complete their research soon, and publish their findings.

WASHINGTON DC

The February program "What is Effective Design?" drew more than 50 members and guests of the co-sponsoring organizations, WNBA-DC and Washington Book Publishers. Award-winning designers from Naylor Design, Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, and the National Science Teachers Association discussed the considerations that go into designing books cover to cover. Bringing their different backgrounds to the discussion—traditional publisher's apprentice 25 years ago, graduate in web design in 2000, advertising guru transitioned to publication design—they were all on the same page when talking about effective design. Clients who let designers know the mood they want the cover (and contents) to convey are likely to get what they want. All agreed that design is a collaborative process and inspires their creativity—and all confessed a certain obsession in choosing fonts/typefaces that best convey a book's message.

Santa's bountiful gift bag produced raffle prizes of book-related items donated by members. Each winner was greeted with applause as she claimed her travel guide, book plates, stationery, tote bag, or other prizes. President Emily Sachs presented Judy Orvos with a gift of appreciation for hosting the party. Members departed into the cold, warmed by the camaraderie of WNBA.

Annual Holiday Party Shines by Janet Cromer

Snowflakes glistened, lights glittered, and a cool jazz groove set the mood for the WNBA-DC annual December holiday party at The Colonnade residence in NW Washington. More than 30 members and guests celebrated the season with animated cheer and a buffet of smoked salmon, salads, and decadent desserts. As members table-hopped to spread greetings and updates, I asked them to share a personal achievement, favorite literary event, or great read from 2011.

Books were in abundance at the party. Attendees donated dozens of colorful children's books for The Reading Collection, an Arlington, VA-based nonprofit that provides books and literary services to at-risk children and families living in shelters and transitional housing in the greater Washington area.

Member News and Books (continued from page 8)

expecting their first period, has resulted in the book being accepted for sale in 22 Whole Food Markets in the Washington area.

Barb Winters' *Letters to Virginia*, a true story of civilians and POWs, during Civil War times, won the T. Michael Miller History Award in 2011. Correspondence and memorabilia of three generations of families practically fell in Barb's lap when she was a library assistant at the Barrett Library in Alexandria, VA. Barb has introduced their stories to local audiences and is looking for other venues in Virginia and beyond. For an interview with Barb, see <http://www.alexandrianews.org/2010/other-news/letters-to-virginia/23305/>

Conversations with William Maxwell, edited by **Barbara Burkhardt**, will be published this June by the University Press of Mississippi. This new book, part of the publisher's "literary conversations series with the world's most notable writers," contains a collection of the *New Yorker* editor and renown novelist's interviews and speeches including transcripts of Barbara's own interviews with him, conducted over a period of years.

Janet Cromer, author of *Professor Cromer Learns to Read: A Couple's New Life after Brain Injury*, spoke at the Concord (MA) Festival of Authors panel on "Life after Brain Injury: Havoc, Hope, and Healing." Janet speaks nationally on brain injury and family caregiver issues. She also blogs for *Psychology Today* at <http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/professor-cromer-learns-read>. Contact Janet at www.janetcromer.com.

Carla Danziger, whose mystery novel, *Hidden Falls*, is set in Norway, was thrilled by the enthusiastic response she received as one of ten invited Norwegian-American authors at the 2011 Norsk Høstfest, the largest Scandinavian Festival in the United States. Thousands of people attend the four-day annual autumn festival in Minot, ND, celebrating all things Scandinavian. *Hidden Falls* is also available on Kindle.

C.M. Mayo, author of *The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire*, has launched her Marfa Mondays podcasting project the third Monday of each month in 2012 and 2013, with this intention: "As I question as wide a variety of people as I can muster, I will depart from a simple premise: an interview—like a travel memoir—is a quest for understanding, not just about a certain place and time, but in the deepest sense of what it means to be human." Check it out at <http://www.cmmayo.com/MARFA-PROJECT.html>

Richard Peabody launched *Amazing Graces: Yet Another Collection of Fiction by Washington Area Women*, at Politics & Prose bookstore in January, which speaks to the creativity, variety, and honesty of women's voices in a city where fiction is an afterthought. An online review gives a shout out to the writers who set their stories in Washington, stating, "[a] few groundbreaking writers in *Amazing Graces* are pushing

boundaries in this area [including,] **Lorine Kritzer Pergament's** "Smell the Roses on Your Own Time" [which] captures the conservative, insiderish quality of daily life in Washington, even for those unconnected to the government." http://www.linesandstars.com/reviews13_1.html

Janet Hulstrand returned in February from teaching "Cuba: A Literary Adventure" in Havana for Queens College, CUNY. She will be teaching "Demystifying the French: Tips from and Tales of Franco/American Encounters" at Politics & Prose in Washington, DC, this spring, and is planning an "armchair" version of her Cuba class for the fall. You can read Janet's posts on her blog, "Writing from the Heart, Reading for the Road" <http://wingedword.wordpress.com>

In January **NC Weil** read a short short story at Denver venue Mercury Cafe, after which she distributed copies of her novel *Karmaforia*. The story, "Seek Your Fortune," can be read on her blog, Aesthetic Point, at <http://aestheticpoint.blogspot.com/>

The Winter 2012 *Bookwoman* interview with WNBA-DC President **Emily Sachs** inspired a blog discussion about how members first fell in love with books. Follow their thoughts and contribute your own at <http://www.jleaver.com/blog/>

Liliane Willens, author of the memoir *Stateless in Shanghai*, has launched a new website: www.lilianewillens.info

Thanks to Lisa Braxton (Boston), Jenni Franz (Charlotte), Annette Marie Haley (Detroit), Ruth Light (Los Angeles), Susan Lentz (Nashville), Susan Larson (New Orleans), Rhona Whitty (NYC), Joan Gelfand (San Francisco), Linda Gray (Seattle), and Carla Danziger (Washington DC) for submitting their chapter's member and chapter news.



Real Presidents (continued from page 9)

interesting, and a lot of fun, and I can't think of any other business I would have chosen instead. In the present and future, I plan to continue to use and develop my contacts and skills and to put them to use in both paid and volunteer projects. Since I've only been in North Carolina for about a year, I'm still meeting people and investigating the opportunities that are out there for me—which is exciting!

AMH: Thank you, Susan! We look forward to your magnificently textured past being applied to your networking potential with WNBA, and your positive influence on WNBA-Charlotte, who are so lucky to have you!

Annette Marie Haley is the WNBA Detroit Chapter President 2009–2013.

News from the United Nations (continued on page 15)

by Jill Tardiff

UN Women Co-Sponsored Events during the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (27 Feb – 9 Mar)

<http://www.unwomen.org>

The theme of the 56th Session on the Status of Women is “empowerment of rural women and their role in poverty and hunger eradication, sustainable development, and current challenges. Representatives met late February and early March to review progress, share experiences, identify challenges, and reach an action agreement. Special attention was given to the Beijing Platform for Action (Fourth World Conference on Women, September 1995) — its accelerated implementation and fulfillment.

Facts:

- Rural women constitute one-fourth of the world’s population,
- If rural women had equal access to productive resources, agricultural yields would rise and there would be 100 million to 150 million fewer hungry people.

More global data on rural women and girls: <http://tinyurl.com/7rz3533>

UN Women is the UN entity for gender equality and the empowerment of women with focus on violence against women,

peace and security, leadership and participation, national planning and budgeting, economic empowerment, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

International Women’s Day, March 8, 2012 — Empower Rural Women, End Hunger and Poverty <http://tinyurl.com/85vuhcr>

Know more about **Women for Women.org** — Helping women survivors of war rebuild their lives www.womenforwomen.org and Women for Women International — Changing the world one woman at a time <http://tinyurl.com/6q5x44>

Mission statement: Provides women survivors of war, civil strife, and other conflicts with the tools and resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency, thereby promoting viable civil societies.

What WFWI does: Helps women go from victim to survivor to active citizen and provides financial aid, job training, rights awareness and leadership education.

Learn More • Read More • Find Out How

Who Makes It Happen

Zainab Salbi, Founder; Andrée Simon, President/COO; Queen Rania Al-Abdullah, Global Ambassador



21,000 children die every day from preventable causes. If you believe that number should be zero give.

Because of donors like you, UNICEF is able to provide children with lifesaving medicine; food; clean, safe water to drink; and help in emergencies. UNICEF has saved more children’s lives than any humanitarian organization in the world. Still, 21,000 children die every day from preventable causes. With your help, that number could be zero. **I believe in zero. Do you?**
unicefusa.org

Vivian Lopez
UNICEF Regional Advisor Adolescent Development
Middle East and North Africa

21,000 | **unicef** 
united states fund

News from the United Nations *(continued from page 14)*

Board of Directors, US and UK to be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/7fwn4ls>

Global Management Team: <http://tinyurl.com/7852hbg>

International Council of Advisors

Karen Armstrong, Author; Aloisea Inyumba, Senator/Kigali-Rural Prefect, Republic of Rwanda; Alice Walker, Author/Activist; Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director, Grameen Bank (Bangladesh); Lisa See, Author; Jean Bolen, Author)

Business Advisory Council and Communications Advisory Council: <http://tinyurl.com/7zfalgb>

Country Directors: <http://tinyurl.com/6ps8k74>

With offices in the US (Washington DC) and UK (London) career and volunteer opportunities abound. Find out more: <http://tinyurl.com/3k3yv7l>

Learn about Sponsorship — Change a women's life forever <http://tinyurl.com/y954xmn>

Do You Know?

An annual WFWI project is the "Join WoMEen on the Bridge — Stand with women on March 8 to build bridges of peace and hope for the future." In past years, WNBA chapters have participated in a "bridge" project like WNBA-NYC in 2011 and 2010. Again, this year thousands of women and men gathered on bridges around the world. Follow @womenforwomen and @womenforwomenUK on Twitter and Like womenforwomen on Facebook for updates from day-to-day, year-round.

World Water Week, March 19–23

The UNICEF Tap Project

Just \$1 can supply a child with safe drinking water for 40 days.

<http://tinyurl.com/987rf6>

UNICEF: The State of the World's Children 2012

"Children in an Urban World"

From UNICEF website: "Almost half the world's children now live in urban areas; the report calls for greater emphasis on identifying and meeting their needs."

Download the full report: <http://www.unicef.org/sowc2012>

Department of Public Information (DPI) Briefing Calendar

March (Abbreviated Version)

DPI Briefing, March 15

"Women, Sanitation, and Water: Access, Equity, Sustainability," in observance of World Water Day, March 22

DPI Briefing, March 22

In observance of the International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade, March 25

April

DPI Briefing, April 5

In observance of the Day of Remembrance of the Victims of the Rwanda Genocide

Communications Workshop, April 12

DPI Briefing, April 19

"Human Rights for Vulnerable People: Human Behaviour and Well Being"

May

DPI Briefing, May 3

World Press Freedom Day

DPI Briefing, May 10

"The Impact on Climate Change on People Living in Poverty," in observance of World Environment Day, June 5 and in anticipation of the Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development (follow-up to the 64th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference, Bonn, Germany)

DPI Briefing, May 24

"Global Partnership," in observance of the International Day of UN Peacekeepers, May 29

June

Earth Summit 2012 — Our year, Our Voice: Engaging Youth Towards a Green Economy

World Environment Day, June 5 (UNEP, UN Environment Programme)

Green Economy — Does it include you? www.unep.org/wed

World Environment Day turns 40, www.unep.org/wed/WEDTurns40

DPI Briefing, June 14

"Children in Hazardous Work" Recognizing the Plight of 115 Million Children Worldwide," in observance of the World Day Against Child Labour, June 12

Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) —

Promoting global awareness in our schools

The 13th Annual Conference on February 3 at the United Nations Headquarters Highlights MDG #2 Universal Education

The day looked like this:

- Opening Remarks given by Anne-Marie Carlson, Chair of CTAUN
- Keynote Address given by Dr. Asha-Rose Migiro of Tanzania, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN
- Morning Panel on "Access to Quality Education: Removing Barriers and Bottlenecks" moderated by Dr. Barbara Reynolds, a Senior Advisor for Special Projects at UNICEF
- Afternoon Panel on "Taking the Global Pulse of Education: Current and Emerging Agents of Change" moderated by Dr. Gwen Benson, Associate Dean of the College of Education at Georgia State University

Details: <http://tinyurl.com/7aj9cjm>

The American Writers Museum *(continued from page 1)*

The amount of money needed to build the museum is not insignificant—O'Hagan wants it to be housed in "an inspiring space worthy of what we are celebrating and honoring"—and initial estimates for the first phase alone run between 20 and 30 million dollars. But O'Hagan is undeterred by the cost of making this dream come true for those who love American literature. "We don't underestimate the difficulty of the undertaking," he says, then adds, with inspiring optimism and confidence, "but it will get done."

Asked how people can help the AWM Foundation, O'Hagan urges participation in the planning process itself. "I would like to see the people who would visit The American Writers Museum have a major say in how the writers and their work are presented. One way for people to do this is to complete the questionnaire at our website: www.americanwritersmuseum.org. I would also like

people to join the movement by spreading the word and by making donations, no matter how modest."

And asked why it is important for such a museum to exist, O'Hagan replies, "President Kennedy said that 'A nation reveals itself not only by the men it produces, but also by the men it honors, the men it remembers.' Surely it is fitting to honor our great writers—both men and women of course!—and to celebrate the contributions they have made in shaping the history, culture, and identity of the nation."

Janet Hulstrand is a writer, editor, teacher, writing coach, and a WNBA-DC member since 2007. Her work has been published by Smithsonian, the Christian Science Monitor, Bonjour Paris, and other publications. She blogs about writing, reading, and travel at <http://wingedword.wordpress.com>, and about "lessons learned" at <http://downsizingthehome.wordpress.com>. Learn about her Writing from the Heart workshops at <http://essoyeschool.com>.

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