



Vol 76 Number 1

Spring 2013

www.wnba-books.org



President's Letter

Dear WNBA members,

I looked up from my desk this evening--at 6:30--and still saw some glimmers of light in the sky. What a welcome sight--just one of those spring promises we are grateful for every year.

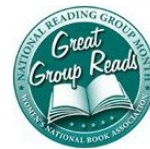
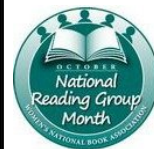


Spring is always a fabulous time of year for the WNBA. We begin to plan our annual meeting, this year to be hosted by the Nashville chapter. We also move closer to awarding the annual [WNBA Pannell Award](#) to two deserving bookstores that excel in connecting kids with books--the nominations are in, the nominees are preparing their presentations, and the jurors will soon review the material they will submit. As the past chair of the Pannell Committee, I saw firsthand how alive independent bookselling is across the country.

And this spring marks two special milestones. The first annual WNBA Writing Contest has drawn to a close and the [announcement of the winners](#) is in this issue. The contest, instituted and organized by past president Joan Gelfand, attracted submissions from across the country, from members and nonmembers alike, and the winning work will be included in a special April issue of *The Bookwoman*. Also this season, as part of the WNBA's role as an NGO affiliated with the United Nations' Department of Public Information (DPI), our first Youth Representatives--Diana Cavallo and Jenna Vaccaro--were made official. Jill Tardiff, our main UN DPI/NGO representative, announced the appointments in the winter issue of *The Bookwoman* and I got to see Diana and Jenna in action at the DPI's annual Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) Conference in January. (Read their report in this issue's [UN Corner](#).) Through our NGO/DPI status, we aim to disseminate information about, and support the mission of the United Nations. Our efforts to do that can only gain from their enthusiasm and intelligence.

Indeed, as spring draws closer and I review the year in preparation for the national meeting, I am thinking about the vibrancy of our organization and the many ways we support the community of the book. I've spent the past few months hearing about the great work everyone is doing in our chapters across the country. In hour-long phone conferences with chapter presidents, we discuss the innovative programs you produce, the wonderful literacy efforts you engage in, and the meaningful ways you share your passion for the written word and books with each other and your communities. It's been gratifying to see the WNBA in action across the country.

On a closing note, I'd like to quote a noted WNBA-Nashville member--singer, songwriter, and author [Janis Ian](#) who won the 2013 Grammy Award for Best Spoken Word Album for her recording of *Society's Child: My Autobiography*. In her acceptance speech Janis said: "We do not sell music, we sell dreams." Isn't that true . . . for books as well as music? Congratulations to Janis and to all of you for applauding, supporting, and celebrating the world of books!



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WNBA's Executive Officers

Best wishes,

Valerie Tomaselli
President, WNBA

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**WNBA Pannell Award
Shortlist Announced**
([PDF of full press release](#))

Since 1983, the Women's National Book Association has awarded one of the most prestigious honors in children's bookselling. Given annually at BookExpo America's Children's Book and Author Breakfast, the WNBA Pannell Award recognizes bookstores that enhance their communities by bringing exceptional creativity to foster a love of reading in their young patrons. This year's nominees are:

General Bookstore

Avid Book Shop, Athens, GA
Byrd's Books, Bethel, CT
Nicola's Books, Ann Arbor, MI
Newtonville Books, Newtonville, MA
Porter Square Books, Cambridge, MA
Main Street Books, Davidson, NC
Vroman's Bookstore, Pasadena, CA
Park Road Books, Charlotte, NC

Children's Bookstore

Books and Cookies, Santa Monica, CA
4 Kids Books & Toys, Zionsville, IN
Hooray for Books, Alexandria, VA
The Bookbug, Kalamazoo, MI
The Voracious Reader, Larchmont, NY

The nominated store puts together an electronic submission with a description of activities, goals, or any contribution to the local community that involves young people and books. Photos, media coverage, letters from customers, or anything else that transmits the degree of contribution can be included in the submission. **The deadline for submissions is March 31, 2013.**

Along with WNBA, Penguin Young Readers Group co-sponsors the award.

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Submission Guidelines for *The Bookwoman*

WNBA members, download guidelines [here](#).
Bookwoman correspondents, download guidelines [here](#).

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President
[Valerie Tomaselli](#)

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Secretary
[Annette Marie Haley](#)

Treasurer
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[Mary Grey James](#)

For further information on the National Board, Chapter Presidents, Committee Chairs, please go to the WNBA [website](#).

You may also download a pdf of the information [here](#).

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**WNBA Thanks
Its Sponsors**

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Winners of WNBA's First Annual Writing Contest!

Fiction

Winning Entry: Jessica Wallin Mace for "A Prize in Every Box"
Second Place: Anne Pound for "Beauty"
Third Place: Deborah Batterman for "All Mine"

Honorable Mention: Christine Eskilson for "Dorrie"

Poetry

Winning Entry: Ellaraine Lockie for "Abandoned Garden"

Second Place: Harriet Shenkman for "Mirror, Mirror"

Third Place: Ruth Hill for "Light Bends around Shadows"

Honorable Mention: Amy Wright "Airport Proposal"

A downloadable pdf of the writers' biographies is available [here](#).

A special (online) edition of *The Bookwoman* with the winning entries will be published in April.

It takes a village to run a Writing Contest!

A huge THANK YOU to our Judges: [Julie Kane](#) (Poetry) and [Valerie Martin](#) (Fiction.)

I would also like to thank our READERS: Ana Elsner of San Francisco (Poetry) and Julie Smith of New Orleans (Fiction). Thanks also goes to Lee Grue of New Orleans. Lee helped with the formation of the Writing Committee. And THANK YOU to the WNBA National Board and to Chapter Presidents who got the word out and helped make the contest a huge success.



Joan Gelfand

Gratitude also goes to Bebe Brechner for her invaluable help with the contest webpage and setting up Submittable--our online submission service.

Thank you to all of our members who participated in the contest as well. All proceeds go to WNBA programs and scholarships.

Watch for details about WNBA's 2013-2014 Writing Contest.

Joan Gelfand
WNBA Annual National Writing Contest
Committee Chair

www.joangelfand.com

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Janis Ian (Nashville) Wins Her 2nd GRAMMY!

Janis Ian, a member of WNBA-Nashville, won her second GRAMMY Award for "Best Spoken Word Album" for her autobiography *Society's Child*. This is Janis's ninth nomination in eight different categories, and [Audible.com](#)'s very first GRAMMY!

Janis won over very stiff competition, including First Lady Michelle Obama and former President Bill Clinton! (Janis's friend and fellow WNBA-er, Ellen Myrick, convinced her to pursue the audio version.)



Janis Ian's GRAMMY Acceptance Speech

For more information on what Janis is up to, including 2013 tour dates and details on her nomination for an "[Audie Award](#)" by the Audio Publishers Association in their "Best Narration by Author" category, go to: www.janisian.com.

Watch her acceptance speech left, seasoned with humor and intelligence, and her moving introduction to the Classical Awards is available [here](#).



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Chapter News

Boston

www.wnbaboston.org

Holiday Tea at the Fairmont Copley Plaza

Ninety guests attended Boston's annual Holiday Tea at the Fairmont Copley Plaza, where Heidi Pitlor, series editor of the *The Best American Short Stories*, spoke about the process of putting together the annual anthology, and two of this year's contributors--WNBA/Boston members Edith Pearlman and Jennifer Haigh--read from their stories. Visit the chapter's Facebook page to [view a photo album of the event](#).



Jennifer Haigh, Edith Pearlman, and Heidi Pitlor

Boston has started a members-only book club, led by member Cynthia Biron. At the inaugural meeting, members discussed *The Taste of Salt* (Martha Southgate) and are now on to *The Dud Avocado* (Elaine Dundy).

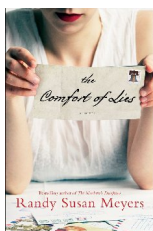
Boston has started a database of member-authors available to meet/Skype with book clubs, which will soon be up on their [website](#) for interested reading groups.

Member News

Leslie Brunetta was interviewed on [London radio](#) about *Spider Silk: Evolution and 400 Million Years of Spinning, Waiting, Snagging, and Mating* (Yale University Press), which she wrote with Catherine L. Craig.



Daphne Kalotay, Boston's co-president's new novel, *Sight Reading*, will be published by HarperCollins on May 21.



Jessica Keener, author of the novel *Night Swim*, has begun the "Skype 50 across America" initiative--to Skype with a book club in every state. She would love for other WNBA authors to conduct their own Skype 50 tours--make it kind of a known entity--and hopes to compile a list of book clubs to make the Skype 50 easier to achieve.

More info about "Skype 50 across America" is on her [website](#).

Randy Susan Meyers' new novel, *The Comfort of Lies*, is being published by Atria Books on February 12.

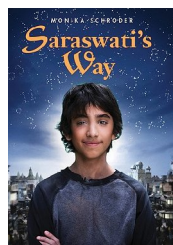
Margot Livesey, 2012/13 Radcliffe Fellow, gave the Julia S. Phelps Annual Lecture in Art and the Humanities at Harvard. You can watch the video online [here](#).

Charlotte

www.wnba-charlotte.org

Networking Pays off in Charlotte By Carolyn Abiad

The best kind of publicity can't be bought for any price, but you can find it for free, if you know where to look. Here's an example of what networking with WNBA Charlotte can accomplish for an author at the local level: In April 2012, Monika Schroeder presented for the WNBA Multi-cultural Night at The International House. Members came away with a greater understanding of international issues like child labor, education in undeveloped countries, and the effects of war on children. WNBA's UN awareness goals were reached for our chapter. Books were signed and sold. Independent book store Park Road Books (owned by a WNBA-Charlotte founding member) took some signed stock. The night proved a win-win-win situation.



The story doesn't stop there though, because Monika was a perfect fit for an author visit to area school districts. So we kept in touch. When *Saraswati's Way* was selected for NC's Battle of The Books, the WNBA connected Monika to Marvin Ridge Middle School. She planned a presentation for young writers in

conjunction with the school's [National Novel Writing Month](#) (NaNoWriMo) program - for five hundred sixth graders. That story was picked up by the *Union County Weekly*. Members blogged about it, and you're reading about it here.

The bottom line for an author: Networking sells books, and it can be done while enjoying an evening with your local community of bibliophiles. Find more information about Monika at:

www.monikaschroeder.com

Charlotte Launches Great Group Reads Book Club

WNBA-Charlotte started a new members-only Book Club in December 2012. The group voted on and selected books for the coming months from the 2012 Great Group Reads titles chosen for National Reading Group Month. This year, the book club will read:

March 5: *The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach
April 2: *Equal of the Sun* by Anita Amirrezvani
May 7: *Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal?* by Jeannette Winterson
June 4: *An Age of Madness* by David Maine
July 2: *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman
August 6: *Salvage the Bones* by Jesmyn Ward
September 3: *Boleto* by Alison Hagy
October 1: *In the Shadow of the Banyan* by Vaddey Ratner

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Detroit

Karyn Polewaczyk has a new column about dating, [Let's Go Out](#), on Boston.com, and she spoke on a Huffington Post panel about an article she published in xoJane regarding the virtues of going out alone. You can watch the video online [here](#).

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Los Angeles

www.wnba-books.org/la/

Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission

On December 22, representatives of the WNBA Los Angeles Chapter visited the Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission, a nonprofit organization in the San Fernando Valley. Hope of the Valley offers hope, hot meals, health services, and healing to those in need. Their mission is to meet the needs of homeless men, women, and children; and they organized an event to provide toys to 2000 local kids who had been referred by their teachers to Hope of the Valley as kids not receiving gifts for Christmas.



Jeff Slottow, Rachelle Yousuf, & Ruth Light

Before the chapter's annual WNBA Holiday Potluck, chapter members were asked to bring books and teddy bears (Book Buddies) to donate, which were taken to the toy give-away and accepted with open hands. The WNBA/LA executive board members who took the donations to the mission (Ruth Light, Rachelle Yousuf, Jeff Slottow, Cheyenne Yousuf, Rosalind Myatt, and Ruth Garcia-Corrales) were touched by all the families waiting in line to receive gifts. Giving books and stuffed animals to these kids was a wonderful experience, knowing that reading will open their minds to dream for a better future. A huge THANKS to everyone who donated books and book buddies!

Book Savvy

WNBA-LA will host Book Savvy, an annual conference on all aspects of getting published. It features four panel presentations for aspiring as well as established writers. The topics include: self-publishing, digital publishing (e-books and book apps), book promotion, author-platform building, literary trends with an emphasis on YA dystopian novels, and a special pitch preparation workshop...plus opportunities to pitch to literary agents and film producers at the lunch break.

This year's panelists include: [National Book Critics Circle Award](#) finalist [Reyna Grande](#), memoir coach and publisher [Ina Hillebrandt](#), bestselling children's

www.wnba-books.org/detroit/

Seedlings Braille Books for Children

While the chapter has been on its winter hiatus (Great Lakes' snows are the reason), lots of events and activities are being set in motion. Their adopted organization, [Seedlings Braille Books for Children](#) hosts their big March Bowl-a-Thon fundraiser; WNBA Detroit sponsors a lane, sponsors a team and individual bowlers. The WNBA-Detroit banner and marketing materials are quite evident and they are pleased to be working with Seedlings which makes a big difference in the reading lives of visually-impaired children across the U.S. by providing inexpensive and current braille books of high interest to kids of all ages.

YA Publishing Panel

Detroit is also feverishly planning its third annual publishing panel to be held on April 24, with a focus on Young Adult literature themes that have survived and thrived through the test of time. YA authors and publishing panel members will be announced in early March, so watch the chapter's [website](#) for more information. This event is always paired with a large local public library with great success, and the gorgeous new [Novi Library](#) is this year's co-sponsor.

The WNBA Detroit May Annual Dinner Meeting is always one of the chapter's most popular events, combining a local author, dinner, book talks, and book exchanges with installing their new board. Everyone is welcome! Detroit is a great, friendly people place!

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New Orleans

[NOLA on Facebook](#)

Laissez les bon temps rouler, bookwomen!

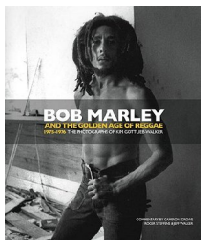
WNBA-NOLA continued their holiday tradition of collecting books for the Metropolitan Women and Children's Center to close out the year at their holiday party, and they've survived Super Bowl and Mardi Gras.

The new year has gotten off to a grand start with meetings that have been both fun and educational. In January, members gathered at the Dean's House at the Newcomb College Institute at Tulane University for a meeting with a program by Susan Tucker, who is the archivist for the Newcomb Center for Research on Women. Susan spoke about the treasures to be found in the Newcomb archives (Sophie Newcomb's curls among them, as well as papers important to the history of the college), as well as the importance of assembling and caring for personal archives. This was a very useful program, and Susan followed up with a detailed mailing of more useful information to consider in working with personal papers. Please email Susan Larson at: slarson05@gmail.com for a copy.

author and international speaker [Sheri Fink](#), author of two [ALA/YALSA](#) "Best Books for Young Adults" [Andrew Smith](#), award-winning journalist and publisher of three weekly LA newspapers [Kathleen Sterling](#)...to name just a few. WNBA/LA Book Savvy takes place at the beautiful Marina del Rey Hotel on March 10, 2013 from 9:00AM to 4:30PM (optional pitch prep session begins at 7:30AM.)

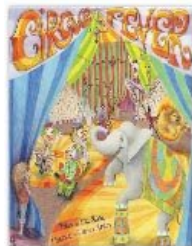
Member News

Lisa-Catherine Cohen, double-platinum, and Number One hit lyricist, was pictured on page 39 of the December issue of *Music Connection Magazine*. Lisa-Catherine is also the producer/host of and founder of L.A. Chapter's WNBA/RIO (Reads Its Own). www.lisa-catherine.com/



Kim Gottlieb-Walker's photo book *Bob Marley and the Golden Age of Reggae* will be going into it's second edition from Titan Books/Random House in February. She is currently working on her new photo book about shooting the stills for John Carpenter on Halloween and Escape from New York. You can see samples of her work from her long career at www.Lenswoman.com.

Alva Sachs, award-winning author, made a return visit to Lowell Bayside Academy, January 25-26 with her book *Circus Fever*. The Lowell PTA planned this amazing weekend event to support reading and literacy headlined as Authors & Illustrators Night. Alva engaged young readers with writing and stories. Her interactive workshop with the students was a hit last year! Apostrophe Book Store in Long Beach welcomed Alva the following day for a very special book signing. More about Alva at: www.alvasachs.com.



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Nashville
www.wnbanashville.org/

Holiday Party

Nashville wrapped up a successful 2012 by hosting its traditional Holiday Party. [Ann Shayne](#), author of *Bowling Avenue*, kept the audience laughing, and the chapter raised money toward scholarships for the [Tennessee Young Writers' Workshop](#). As for 2013, their program lineup includes panels on the importance of social media to writers and publishers, the fine points book reviewers consider when writing reviews, the popular Spring Book Picks, and the chapter's annual Garden Party. In the midst of all this, they'll be rooting for their [ATHENA Award](#) nominee, [Barbie Chadwick](#), whose skills in business, leadership, and service to the community exemplify the ideal ATHENA Award winner.

In February, NOLA members gathered at the New Orleans Museum of Art for a fascinating look at artists' books with NOMA librarian Sheila Cork and curator Monika Cantin. What beautiful things there are in the NOMA library! And Sheila brought some items from her own collection of artists' books for chapter members to see. It was a lively night at the Museum, with a Super Bowl party upstairs going on at the same time.

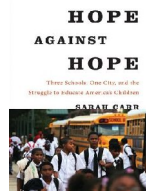
The Pinckley Prize

One of the projects WNBA-NOLA is most excited about getting underway this spring is the Pinckley Prize, honoring founding member Diana Pinckley, who died last September. One of her clients, the Graduate Management Admission Council, headed by Dave Wilson, has promised the chapter a grant of \$10,000 to get this started. This idea came from Serena Jones, who has been handling Pinckley's book donation to the New Orleans Public Library. Looking through her books, Serena realized that Diana's great passion was mysteries (she was a longtime mysteries columnist at *The Times-Picayune*) and that perhaps WNBA should honor that interest by presenting a prize to the best mystery novel each year. They are working on judging and criteria and plan to present the first prize in March 2014 at the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival.

In March, NOLA will hold a business meeting at the Keller Library. In April they will host a reception for visiting writer Pam Houston (*Cowboys are My Weakness, Contents May Have Shifted*), and in May Dave Wilson will come to their meeting to inaugurate the Pinckley Prize. In addition to members' various individual professional endeavors, they are committed to working for a citywide literacy initiative that is getting underway this year.

Member News

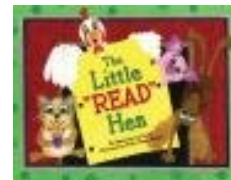
Susan Carr's non-fiction narrative debut *Hope Against Hope: Three Schools, One City and the Struggle to Educate America's Children* was published February 26, by Bloomsbury Press.



Christine Wiltz's *Shoot the Money*, an edgy "sisters-in-crime" novel, was published in February.



Dianne de las Casas, *The Little "Read" Hen* (with cut-paper illustrations by Holly Stone-Barker) and Dianne's forthcoming *Cool Kids Cook!* with Kid Chef Eliana (Dianne's daughter), a cookbook of Louisiana-style recipes for children. Both books released February 15.



(NOLA wishes to say a big thanks to the two of them for an unforgettable Christmas party.)



Read Me Week

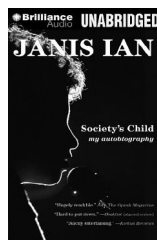
WNBA-Nashville will once again participate in [Read Me Week](#), one of the chapter's most rewarding activities. From February 25 to March 1, they will share their love for books with children in grades Pre-K through 4 at Chadwell Elementary.

Nashville is looking forward to welcoming its sister chapters to the National Board Meeting in Nashville June 8-10!

Member News

J.T. Ellison's (in a second collaboration with Alex Kava and Erica Spindler), *Storm Season*, was published in December 2012 (Kindle edition), which contains three thrilling novellas about the same terrifying storm. More at: www.jtellison.com.

Janis Ian received her second GRAMMY award for the audiobook of *Society's Child: My Autobiography* in the category "Best Spoken Word." See [above](#) or go to Janis's website www.janisian.com for more details.



Veera Rajaratnam and daughter Neth had a month-long joint exhibit of poetry and photography at the Williamson County Library in January.

Gary Slaughter was featured in October's *Belle Meade Living* magazine. The article centers on Slaughter's role in a near-catastrophic confrontation during the Cuban Missile Crisis, an incident that remained secret until the publication of Peter Huchthausen's *October Fury*.

Alana White's new historical fiction title, *The Sign of the Weeping Virgin*, was published January 2013. The first book in White's *Five Star Mystery Series* has debuted to much acclaim, including a starred *Kirkus Review*. More at: www.alanawhite.com.

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New York City
www.wnba-nyc.org
wnbanyc.wordpress.org

WNBA-NYC's first event of the new season was also one of it's most popular. . .ever. Facebook 101 for Writers with [Melissa Rosati](#), held at Pace University's

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Seattle

www.wnba-books.org/seattle/

Saturday morning, January 12, the Seattle Chapter of the WNBA welcomed Susan Meyers, a professor at Seattle University, as guest speaker at the monthly meeting at The Elliott Bay Book Company. Her topic: Voice. The "voice" of a novel surfaces regularly among readers and writers as critical to the readability and impact of a book, yet remains elusive as an element that can be easily defined, or (for writers) learned.



With a comfortable gathering of members and members-to-be (welcome to the WNBA, Lynn, Debra, and Louise!), Susan first asked what the term "voice" means to each of the attendees. She then led a discussion based on those responses and her own academic research, as well as her personal experience as a writer. A couple of the points made:

Voice is typically understood as one of two things: an overarching or "big concept" feeling to book, or something akin to the personality of the point-of-view character(s). In the first of these, content, rather than style, is what is believed to constitute voice. It comes from a very intimate relationship between the writer and the characters and their environments. In the second definition, voice comes not exactly from characters' points of view, but from how, generally, the character perceives the world.

Voice is both Text and Subtext. What is not shown or said is at least as important as what is.

A lively discussion ensued and was enjoyed by all. It was with regret that the meeting came to a close, after running overtime. Susan has agreed to come back for future WNBA meetings to discuss other writing/reading topics of interest. The Seattle chapter looks forward to her next visit!

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San Francisco

www.wnba-sfchapter.org
wnba-sfchapter.org/blog/

Holiday Party

WNBA-SF members were delighted to have their Holiday Party hosted by [Elizabeth Pomada](#) and [Michael Larsen](#). The party took place at their lovely Nob Hill home on December 20. Then, starting the New Year with true inspiration, SF members gathered in the charming Berkeley home of [Mary Mackey](#) on January 12, which provided the perfect opportunity to meet new members, share contacts, and toast to the 2013 projects! A special thanks to the hosts, collaborative partners, and especially the SF members who always bring their unique talents to these gatherings. Members learn from one another about the

computer lab on January 16, was designed to teach writers the basic functionality of Facebook and several different marketing strategies to promote their writing, participants were able to create a Facebook profile from scratch or learn techniques to enhance an existing profile or page. (Event slideshow available [here](#).)

Next up was Neighborhood Lunch at the [Smorgas Chef @ Scandinavia House](#) on, January 22, followed by a Special Guided Tour of DC Comics in NYC on February 19. Publishing thousands of comic books, graphic novels and magazines each year, [DC Entertainment](#) is the largest English-language publisher of comics in the world. (And they gave everyone a goodie bag!)

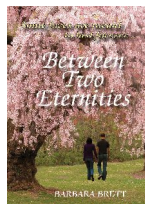


Coming up is Career Skills Panel (Getting--and Keeping!--a Job in Today's Publishing Market) on March at the Time Warner Building on 6th Avenue. Speakers lined-up include Angela Bole, Deputy Executive Director, Book Industry Study Group, Inc. and Alexis Bressler, Human Resources Specialist, Macmillan Publishers; moderated by WNBA-NYC's Andrea Baron. Then we're into Query Roulette, the so-called "speed dating with literary agents!" Writers will have the opportunity to sit down with some of the publishing industry's best literary agents who'll critique and offer feedback on their query letters. A few spaces are still available. Register by emailing: programs@wnba-nyc.org.

Member News

Emily Albarillo has been appointed member coordinator for the NYC-Metro chapter of the [Editorial Freelancers Association](#).

Barbara Brett's novel [Between Two Eternities](#) is on [Smashwords.com](#), and is now available directly from all e-book vendors. You can find all of Barbara's books on her website: www.brettbooks.com.



Talia Carner will be on a book tour in Florida for her novel, [Jerusalem Maiden](#) the first two weeks in March. The novel will be taught in Ethnic & Cultural Literature at Grand Valley State University, Allendale, Michigan. More information [here](#).

Linda Epstein is teaching a workshop, [Writing a Top Notch Query](#), at Hofstra University on March 13, 6:00PM. Linda will also be at the [Writer's Digest Conference East](#) (Pitch Slam) on Saturday, April 6, at the Sheraton Hotel in New York City.

Gila Green's debut novel, [King of the Class](#) will be released in April 2013 in Vancouver. Registration for Gila's virtual creative writing class is open. Sign up [here](#).

Leanna Renee Hieber will serialize her next novel,

power of writing, the joy of reading, and how to support their work. For photos of these events, visit the SF chapter's [Facebook page](#)!

The chapter had an exhibit booth at the [San Francisco Writers Conference](#) on February 15-17. Members volunteered to greet attendees and discuss the chapter. Among the members who volunteered to man the booth were: Michael Larsen and Elizabeth Pomada, WNBA Emeritus Members, Barbara Santos, Linda Lee, Teresa LeYung-Ryan, Mary Knippel, Linda Joy Myers, Kate Farrell, Mary Mackey, and Joan Gelfand. More information [here](#).

WNBA-SF presents the 10th Annual Pitch-O-Rama: Meet Agents, Editors, and Publishers on Saturday April 13, 2013 from 8:00AM--12:30PM at Swiss Louis Restaurant, Pier 39, in San Francisco. The cost is \$60 members, \$70 non-members with continental breakfast included. Attendees are given a chance to pitch their books in an informal, relaxed atmosphere at a San Francisco landmark restaurant, in waterfront dining rooms that provide a panoramic view of the Bay.

Literacy Partnership

Over 30 books were collected at the Holiday Party and half of those were on the theme of "Going to Bed." These books will become part of the Early Literacy program with the Living Room, a day program for homeless mothers and their children in Santa Rosa. Plans are to begin a pilot there in March using these books to demonstrate the use of picture books in early childhood and to give them to the families.

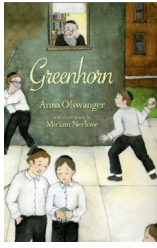
To train readers in the community, the WNBA-SF is co-sponsoring a workshop in the techniques of sharing picture books with children in May 2013. All are welcome to participate. Picture Book Storytelling, Saturday May 18, 9:00AM--12:00PM, The Sitting Room, Penngrove, CA (near Sonoma State University) More information at: www.sittingroom.org/

For all who want to make a child's day! Learn how to bring a picture book to life and how to use the book as a springboard for meaningful conversation. All are invited to bring a favorite picture book to share. The tips and techniques that enliven the telling of a picture book will be shared and then techniques practiced in pairs. Participants will see how these magical books can create a unique bond between adult and child as well as develop literacy skills.

Member News

Joan Gelfand had an article "Wrestling for a Blessing" published on [JWeekly.com](#), and she was featured in an [interview](#) in [Inscribing Industry](#) magazine on the topic of the importance of professional associations and networking. (The article was edited by Nicole Bouchard, a WNBA/NYC member.) Joan was also the Co-Poetry Liaison for the San Francisco Writer's Conference, moderating and

the finale in her [Magic Most Foul](#) trilogy, via her [blog](#). Serializing is a very Victorian thing to do, and suits today's modern technologies.



Anna Olswanger's [Greenhorn](#), tells the story of a young Holocaust survivor who comes to a Brooklyn yeshiva in the 1940's, where his obsessive attachment to a mysterious box excites the curiosity and unkind attention of the other boys. More [here](#).

Fatima Shaik wrote an essay for the website [www.bengaliharlem.com](#) and is traveling to India to work on a documentary about her Bengali grandfather's journey to the United States.

Susan Snyder, author of [Nine Rubies](#) and co-author Mahru Ghashghaei, plan a Nowruz residency at Norwalk (CT) Public Library on March 13 and 14, "Forming Cross-Cultural Friendships: Beyond Traditional Borders-The Persian Connection."

Valerie Tomaselli, WNBA's National President, reports that her company MTM Publishing's book [Women in American Politics](#) by women's history expert, Doris Weatherford (CQ Press), received recognition on [Booklist's Editors' Choice: Reference Sources](#), 2012 list.

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Washington D.C.

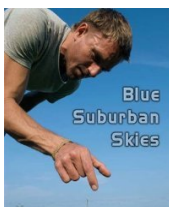
[www.wnba-books.org/wash/](#)

Holiday Party

WNBA-DC had to delay their Holiday Party from early December to mid-January, but it was a smashing success. The party featured a catered buffet, raffle prizes, a basket to collect new children's books for literacy partner [The Reading Connection](#), and a book-swap basket in which anyone could place a wrapped book, identified on the outside by genre--bring a book, take a book. Chapter co-founder Mary Berghaus Levering spoke about her recent travels in the Middle East including a week in Iran--causing many to recall the program some years back when Azar Nafisi (author of [Reading Lolita in Tehran](#)) was interviewed by NPR's Jackie Leyden about challenges she and other women faced during and after the Ayatollah's 1979 revolution.

Member News

Janet Hulstrand interviewed [Malcolm O'Hagan](#), founder of the [American Writers Museum](#), the location for which is still under discussion. A downloadable PDF excerpt of her interview is available [here](#).



Richard Peabody recently published a book of short stories titled [Blue Suburban Skies](#). His fifth anthology in the *Grace and Gravity* series featuring fiction by Washington area women will be out soon: [Defying Gravity](#), published by Paycock Press.

presenting panels on poetry and prose with such luminaries as Mary Mackey, Brian Felson, Brad Henderson, Dr. Andy Jones, and Peg Purcell.

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A Book that Defies the Passage of Time By C.M. Mayo (DC)



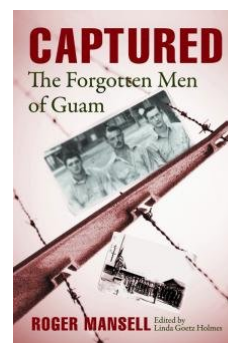
[Captured: The Forgotten Men of Guam](#)

By Roger Mansell: Linda Goetz Holmes (Editor)

(Naval Institute Press, Nov 2012)

A book is a kind of space capsule arrowing through time. It is a complex thought that may travel from hand to hand, place to place, and speak to its readers, whomever and wherever they may be, long into the future. My dad, Roger Mansell, passed away in late 2010, but it felt like he was saying hello when last fall, I received my copy of his book, *Captured: The Forgotten Men of Guam*.

He had been working on his book for over a decade, delving into the archives and interviewing survivors of some of the most horrific suffering imaginable during World War II. An Army veteran, though not of that war, he had dedicated his retirement years to maintaining a massive website of data on the Allied POWs of the Japanese in WWII. This database and his diligent e-mails helped several families locate the remains of their loved ones, and connected ex-POWs with fellow survivors.



When he saw the end of his battle with cancer approaching, my dad asked me to take his manuscript to the post office and ship it to Pacific War historian [Linda Goetz Holmes](#), the first Pacific War historian appointed to advise the government [Interagency Working Group](#) declassifying documents on World War II crimes. As a writer myself with several books published, I had imagined that I would be the one to shepherd his book to publication, but Ms. Holmes, the author of [Unjust Enrichment: American POWs Under the Rising Sun](#), among other works about the POWs, turned out to be the perfect person for the job, and bless her heart that she took it on.

Ofentimes, we writers and readers can get caught up in the short-term focus on what's new; what's for sale by the cash register in the airport; who won this prize or made the most sales; and it's all so much smoke and ultimately forgettable sparkle. What a profound thing it is to be able to pick up a book and hear the voice of a person, whether my father or one of the POWs--anyone for that matter--who is no longer living. A

Each anthology includes short stories from around 50 women (by invitation).

Beyond the Margins--a group of writers, many of whom met or taught at Grub Street, a nonprofit creative writing center in Boston--announce the winner of this year's Above and Beyond Award: Richard Peabody. In doing so, they recognize, commend, and marvel at his extraordinary, longtime contribution to the development and sustenance of the Washington, DC writing community.



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book, after all, whether in paper or digital format, is a wondrous little package, a vessel for stories; and stories, including such painful ones as my dad's book recounts, allow us to explore what it means to be human.

For more about Roger Mansell's life, work, and his book, *Captured: The Forgotten Men of Guam*, visit www.rogermansell.com.

C.M. Mayo, a long-time member of WNBA-DC, is the author of *The Last Prince of the Mexican Empire* (Unbridled Books), a novel based on the true story and named a Library Journal Best Book, 2009. Among her many other books are *Miraculous Air: Journey of a Thousand Miles through Baja California* (Milkweed Editions) and *Sky Over El Nido* (University Georgia Press) which won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction. Her website is www.cmmayo.com.

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The Real Presidents of WNBA

Annette Marie Haley (Detroit) Interviews New Orleans Chapter President, Susan Larson

Susan was born in Salina, Kansas, grew up in Texas City, Texas, where the best thing to be was a bookworm! That led her to Rice University (where her student job was in the library), then to some graduate work at the University of Houston. Finally, she found a calling in the book world. Susan was a bookseller at various indies--The Bookstore and Books Inc. in Houston, Publishers Bookshop in Little Rock, and the University of New Orleans Bookstore. Along the way, she began reviewing for *The Houston Post* and writing romance novels for Silhouette Desire with her good friend Barbara Michaels (editorial exclamation!!!). When she moved to New Orleans in 1985, Susan knew she had found her true home.



Annette Marie Haley



Susan Larson

She settled into a "lovely job" as book editor for *The Times-Picayune* for 22 years, then moved on to New Orleans' local NPR affiliate, WWNO, where she has a weekly radio show called The Reading Life, interviewing authors and book people, and reviewing books. The revised edition of her 1999 book, *The Booklover's Guide to New Orleans*, will be published this fall by Louisiana State University Press. Susan also serves as the vice president for literary programming for the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival and is a member of the board of directors of the New Orleans Public Library. She also chaired the Pulitzer jury for fiction in 2009 and 2012. Olive Kitteridge won in 2009; the board declined to choose a winner in 2012.

Why did you originally join WNBA?

My friend, Mary Grey James, then national WNBA president, came to New Orleans for the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival in 2011. I was contemplating my departure from The Times-Picayune and looking around for a new direction, and I asked her what was most meaningful to

her in her life after bookselling and agenting. She told me about her love for the WNBA and all of that enthusiasm was contagious! We had our first meeting at Latter Library here in June of 2011, and then we were on our way. After I attended my first WNBA National Board meeting in 2012, I was even more hooked by the organization's long history and the energy of women from across the country.

What other positions in WNBA have you held, if any? I know you were an instigator in the New Orleans Chapter becoming established. How did you and why did you do that? What did you enjoy about the process?

After Mary Grey and I spoke about the WNBA for the first time, I thought, "New Orleans needs this!" And I sat down and made a list of 100 literary women in town, which only took about 15 minutes. We are legion! We began meeting at libraries and bookstores, at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, and

growing as a group. I love having a formal means for getting old and new friends together and building on our shared strength. I love the way we support the authors and booksellers in our group.

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

Group activities are not necessarily my strength, I'm sorry to say, and running meetings makes me incredibly nervous. So I'm gaining confidence every month. As we look ahead to see what we might accomplish as a group, I am incredibly excited. We have all kinds of members - established and up and coming writers, booksellers, academics, women in publishing, librarians and archivists, Friends of the Library, and booklovers. It's a fascinating cross-section of our literary community, and I think we all get good ideas and support from each other.

What is your best life short story?

Thanks to the generosity of a friend who was too sick to make the trip, I once got to take Angelica Garnett, Virginia Woolf's niece, to spend an afternoon with Georgia O'Keeffe at her home in Abiquiu, New Mexico. I don't think I've ever quite gotten over that lovely experience. Georgia was 90, and she was reviewing her life, thinking about what she still wanted to do; Angelica was 60, writing her memoir, and looking for a new direction, coming to terms with her family's rich history; and I was 30, just starting out in the world, really. So many possibilities for women's lives arose for me that day!

Nice, catalytic point in life! What/who would you hate to be without?

My kids often threaten to turn me in to American Hoarders for my book addiction, so I'd have to echo Thomas Jefferson: "I cannot live without my books." And they are EVERYWHERE, the bathrooms, the car, in stacks on the floor.

You are happiest in what situation?

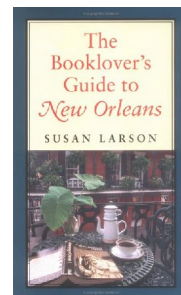
Maybe three situations: I love having my kids home for Thanksgiving, always such a wonderful holiday for us, as we all love food and cooking with our extended family of friends. I am deeply happy reading any good book on the old purple sofa in my living room with my dog Charlie's head in my lap. And during Carnival season, I am happiest making glittered and decorated shoes to throw from our float in the Muses parade.

Do you have any hobbies or sports, free time pursuits?

Reading, reading, reading. Cooking. Walking Charlie. Ping pong! And because I live in New Orleans, eating and listening to music. During Carnival season, I hear marching band music from the school down the street every afternoon. All I have to do is open my back door. Mardi Gras! Riding on a float in a parade is a thrill like no other!

If you care to, mention career goals (past, present, future) and perhaps personal goals, too.

I've had my dream job, I have to say. Being the book editor of *The Times-Picayune* was such a joy. To write about books in this book-loving town during the years when we had such great authors achieving success was a pleasure and a privilege. Now I'm doing something similar but different with *The Reading Life*, and I'm working on improving my radio skills. I have a new book underway, *What We Read on Our Summer Vacation*, about the phases we go through in our reading lives, as families, as individuals, as well as a novel about the legendary bookseller Sylvia Beach, one of my great heroines. I'm fascinated by book arts--binding and papermaking--and I hope to explore those further. Reading has made every good thing possible in my life. My (now late) husband and I met when he was a grad student and I was an undergrad at Rice University. Julian was a medievalist and loved teaching above all; he spent his spare time tutoring kids in New Orleans public schools, reading with them in preparation for standardized tests. My kids are booklovers as well--my daughter Casey Wasserman teaches English at Wake Forest University, and my son Dash Wasserman is home for a year after college graduation, working as a bookseller and applying to grad school. Talking with them about books has been one of the joys of my life.



Thank you so much, Susan. WNBA New Orleans is very lucky to have such an intelligent, fun, and passionate leader; and we look forward to your new books and your WNBA leadership for years to come.

Annette Marie Haley is the president of WNBA Detroit and WNBA National Secretary. A retired librarian, Annette Marie serves on foundation boards, library boards, and in many fundraising capacities in her community in Michigan.

You may contact her at: newsletter@wnba-books.org.

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UN Corner

By Diana Cavallo (NYC) and Jenna Vaccaro (NYC)



(The Women's National Book Association is a Non-Governmental (NGO) member of the United Nations, supporting the UN in its goals.)

Provisional Winter/Spring 2013 NGO Briefing and Events Calendar.
January--June 2013



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

8 MARCH

"There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities: violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable." Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

"As we commemorate International Women's Day, we must look back on a year of shocking crimes of violence against women and girls and ask ourselves how to usher in a better future.

One young woman was gang-raped to death. Another committed suicide out of a sense of shame that should have attached to the perpetrators. Young teens were shot at close range for daring to seek an education."

Please go the [UN website](#) to continue reading the Secretary-General's full message.

Elimination and Prevention of All Forms of Violence Against Women and Girls

The fifty-seventh session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) will take place at United Nations Headquarters in New York City from 4 to 15 March 2013. Theme: Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls.

Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)

Based in New York, GEMS was founded in 1998 to assist young women who have been harmed through domestic human trafficking and sexual exploitation. The organization helps women by raising awareness about the problem, provides emotional support for girls, and identifies healthy opportunities for women to leave the sex work industry. Rachel Lloyd, founder of the organization and a survivor of the lifestyle, began her mission by working from her kitchen table. A true hero, she provides inspiration for women by showing them that another life is possible. Ms. Lloyd was originally from England and came to the States through a missionary service. Continue reading [here](#).

The United Nations on iTunes!

Surprised? Don't be. You can now hold the United Nations in the palm of your hand with these apps for topics including Basic Facts about the United Nations, United Nations Charter, and Millennium Development Goals. Most are free, while others charge a nominal fee. Podcasts from UN Radio and United Nations University are also available.

Recommendations: Charter of the United Nations; Millennium Development Goals; Model UN; Rio+20 Agenda; UN Chronicle; UNESCO World Heritage; Universal Declaration of Human Rights; UN Calendar of Observances; UNICEF Photography; Women's Rights.

CTAUN Conference

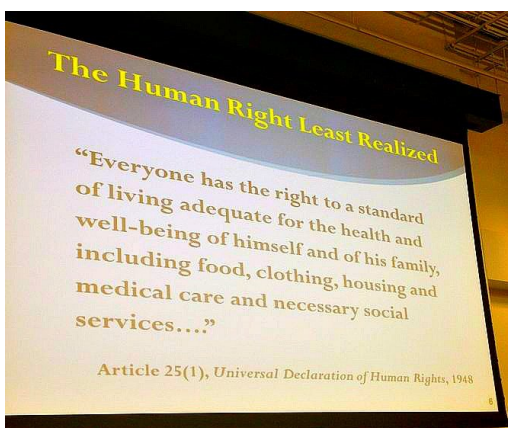
EVERY DAY THE UNITED NATIONS WORKS TO TACKLE GLOBAL CHALLENGES

THE UNITED NATIONS

- PROVIDES FOOD TO 90 MILLION PEOPLE IN 73 COUNTRIES
- COMBATS CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEADS A CAMPAIGN TO END LEADED FUEL USE IN OVER 100 NATIONS
- ASSISTS OVER 36 MILLION REFUGEES AND PEOPLE FLEEING WAR, FAMINE OR PERSECUTION
- VACCINATES 58% OF THE WORLD'S CHILDREN, SAVING 2.5 MILLION LIVES A YEAR
- KEEPS THE PEACE WITH 120,000 PEACEKEEPERS IN 16 OPERATIONS ON 4 CONTINENTS
- ADVANCES DEMOCRACY ASSISTING SOME 30 COUNTRIES A YEAR WITH THEIR ELECTIONS
- PROTECTS AND PROMOTES HUMAN RIGHTS ON SITE AND THROUGH 80 TREATIES/DECLARATIONS
- FIGHTS POVERTY HELPING 370 MILLION RURAL POOR ACHIEVE BETTER LIVES IN THE LAST 30 YEARS
- MOBILIZES US\$ 12.4 BILLION IN HUMANITARIAN AID TO HELP PEOPLE AFFECTED BY EMERGENCIES
- PROMOTES MATERNAL HEALTH, SAVING THE LIVES OF 30 MILLION WOMEN A YEAR

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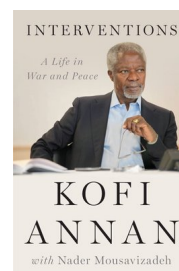
Advancing Social Justice: The Role of Educators -A Focus on Economic Inequality and the United Nations' Campaign Against Human Trafficking



The [Committee on Teaching About the United Nations](http://www.ctaun.org) (<http://www.ctaun.org>) also known as CTAUN, held its fourteenth-annual Advancing Social Justice Conference on Friday, January 18th. This session emphasized the role of educators and focused on economic inequality and the United Nation's campaign against human trafficking. It brought educators and social justice advocates together for presentations designed to teach others about inequality and model a framework to help others on both a local and global scale. Held at United Nation's headquarters in New York City, the conference had over 400 attendees, many speakers, an Information Fair with exhibits displaying various NGOs, and an award ceremony for CTAUN's Best Practices. The morning's panels were devoted to economic disparities and the afternoon was devoted to the travesty of human trafficking.

WNBA's newly appointed UN DPI/NGO Youth Representatives Diana Cavallo and Jenna Vaccaro, and WNBA National President, Valerie Tomaselli attended the proceedings. Continue reading [here](#).

Jill Tardiff (NYC) WNBA's UN DPI/NGO Main Representative is reading *Interventions: A Life in War and Peace*, by Kofi Annan with Nader Mousavizadeh (The Penguin Press/Penguin Group USA, 2012).



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Protect Yourself from Viruses, Malware, Fraud and Scam Emails By Linda Lee



How to safely check to see if that email you got is real.

Every day I get some very bad and dangerous emails in my inbox. I run so many websites and have over ten business email addresses, so between all of those I get quite a variety of fraudulent email.

Did you know there is a way you can look at your questionable email safely? Many of the latest fraud emails say they are from payment locations, like your bank or PayPal. They may say you missed a UPS or FedEx delivery, or that a bill is due. They may claim the bank needs you to click a link to confirm, or even send a fake, "you have been paid" email. They go to great lengths to look as real as possible and use enticing subject lines.

There are so many fraud scams and fake emails it is overwhelming and very easy to be fooled. Here is a breakdown of one such email I recently got in my inbox:

Subject Line: "Completed: Please DocuSign this document: Confidential Company Agreement 2013.pdf" and it showed the email coming from me.

This one spoofs your own email address. Big warning lights went off for me when I saw that PDF attachment. I Googled DocuSign and quickly found that they are aware of this fake email and has a full warning on their website. <http://www.docuSign.com/spam>.

Another set of fake emails I have been receiving lately is from "securebank.com." Secure Bank does not seem to be a real bank and the website has a warning about these emails here. <http://www.securebank.com/>. "View source" is how you can safely look at and read the html for the emails without actually opening them. See the PDF below for more on viewing emails safely.

When you view source and see an address in the fake email, you can copy and paste it into the search bar and go there to check. Most of the major companies and banks will also have warnings about these emails on their site. If you're ever in doubt call or Google the company and the subject line from the email and you will

immediately see all the fraud warnings in the search engines and on the websites from which they supposedly came.

Be sure you have good anti-virus software installed on your computer first, just in case the website is infected too. I have used Avast--the free version--for over 12 years now and it is the best. It has protected all my computers. I have a teenager who goes to many websites that hackers love to infect; sites that offer things like free screensavers and free downloads, so my computers get put through the acid test for safety. You can get it here: [Avast Free Download Page](#).

For video directions, go to Linda's YouTube channel: <http://youtu.be/74DsIrReELk>. (Best viewed in full screen.)

A downloadable PDF of how to check your emails safely is available [here](#).

Linda Lee is the founder of [Smart Women Stupid Computers](#) and [Askmepe-Webdesign](#) and [WordPress Total Training](#), a full WordPress training course and support membership site for WordPress. She offers remote training domestically and internationally. She is one of the top webinar presenters for the [Author Learning Center](#), a division of Penguin Publishing; current Co- President of WNBA-SF; Volunteer Director of the [San Francisco Writers Conference](#); and Volunteer Director for the [Midsummer Mozart Festival](#).

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From the Editors

And the Oscar goes to . . . a book!

We don't like to brag, *much*, but as we correctly predicted in our winter issue, the world did not end on 12.21.12, and we feel just as confident in reassuring the Academy of Motion Pictures that they will never go out of business as long as there are great books out there that can be adapted for the silver screen. We're not saying that an award-winning movie has to begin life as a book, but to borrow a line by Marilyn Monroe's character, Lorelie Lee in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*: "My goodness, doesn't it help?"



I WAS ONCE A BOOK!

Before they were Oscar-nominated movies, they were:

*Argo** (Based upon [The Master of Disguise](#) by Antonio J. Mendez.)

[Les Misérables](#) by Victor Hugo

[Life of Pi](#) by Yann Martel

Lincoln (Based upon [Team of Rivals](#) by Doris Kearns Goodwin)

[Silver Linings Playbook](#) by Matthew Quick

*Academy Award for Best Movie 2013

Gloria Toler (Nashville) & Rhona

Whitty (NYC)
Bookwoman Coeditors

Annette Marie Haley (Detroit)
Bookwoman Copy Editor

Contact us at: newsletter@wnba-books.org.

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ONE DAY SOON, I TOO SHALL BE A MOVIE . . .



Jonas for Clickr.com