



TO BEST VIEW AND PRINT THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#)



Vol 75 Number 4

Winter 2012/13

www.wnba-books.org



President's Letter

Dear WNBA members,

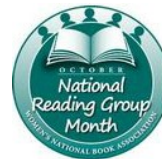
It's traditional during this time of year to reflect on the holidays, and that's exactly what I'm going to do in this December issue of *The Bookwoman*, though my exhortations might be considered slightly crass, relating as they do to the much-maligned commercial aspects of the season. Here's my message: Make your holiday gift purchases at an independent bookstore!



Several recent musings--all WNBA-related--have led me to this plea. First, a couple weeks ago, Jane Kinney-Denning, the NYC chapter president, forwarded the e-newsletter *Heard on the Web, Media Intelligence*, that included an article by novelist Ann Patchett called "[The Bookstore Strikes Back](#)" which originally appeared in *The Atlantic*. Ann is an award-winning author of literary fiction, including *Bel Canto*, *Run*, and the most recent *State of Wonder*. She is also--and this is where the story gets interesting--a newly-established bookstore owner and this year's WNBA Award recipient. Ann's most recent commercial activities as retail maven and independent bookseller evangelist--detailed in her e-newsletter essay--have been on the WNBA's radar, along with the rest of the publishing world's: she, with business partner Karen Hayes, opened [Parnassus Books](#) in Nashville in 2011, bringing to that literary city an independent bookstore when it had lost its last. With the help of Mary Grey James, former WNBA National president, as the store's general manager, the store launched to tremendous success in November of last year. It has been going strong since.

After reading Ann's engaging account of how she decided to become a bookseller and the store's tremendous first-year success, I started to connect the dots through the great web that defines the WNBA. Here are just three of them.

~ The NYC chapter has recently been championing [St. Mark's Bookshop](#), especially as it has encountered stiff headwinds from various financial storms in the last two years. St. Mark's, co-owned by the husband of



In this issue:

[President's Letter](#)

[Pannell Award Nominations](#)

[Obituary](#)

Dorothy O'Connor (Boston)

Chapter News

* [Boston](#)

* [Charlotte](#)

* [Detroit](#)

* [Los Angeles](#)

* [Nashville](#)

* [New Orleans](#)

* [New York City](#)

* [San Francisco](#)

* [Seattle](#)

* [Washington, DC](#)

[End of the World Book List](#)

By Tabitha Whissemore (DC)

[TOT for UNICEF](#)

By Nancy Stewart (Nashville)

[UN Corner](#)

Jill Tardiff (NYC)

[Master Twitter with 7 Apps](#)

By Frances Caballo (SF)

[From the Editors](#)

[Back to top](#)

WNBA board member Marilyn Berkman, has been serving book connoisseurs--writers, students, academics, and others--of NYC's East Village since its founding in 1977. St. Mark's was one of five independent bookstores we visited in our first-ever Independent Bookstore Crawl in May. Other such Crawls will follow!

~ The WNBA Pannell Award committee is now accepting nominations for the 2013 award. For those of you who may not remember, the WNBA gives the Pannell Award to two bookstores that excel in connecting kids with books--one general bookstore and one kids specialty shop. (See below for [more details](#).) I had the pleasure--as chair of the WNBA Pannell Award Committee--of meeting at length with this year's winners: [BookBeat](#) in the Detroit area and [Monkey See, Monkey Do](#), a children's bookstore in Clarence, New York. Talking with these dedicated and creative booksellers is an inspiration and reminds us all how important these companies are to their communities.

~ And finally, every October, independent bookstores open their doors to the WNBA chapters across the country to help us celebrate National Reading Group Month celebrations: [Books Inc.](#) in San Francisco, [Vroman's Bookstore](#) in LA, [Parkplace Books](#) in Seattle. . . all embrace the power of books, the joy of sharing reading, and the WNBA's efforts in promoting them.

So, indeed, my message is simple; give the gift of a book this season and give the gift of that purchase to an independent bookstore!

Best wishes for the holidays,

Valerie Tomaselli

vtomaselli@mtmpublishing.com

P.S. And let's continue this conversation online. If you haven't already, friend the WNBA National's [Facebook page](#) and post your stories about independent bookstores in your community there.

[Back to top](#)

WNBA Pannell Award Nominations

Since 1983, the Women's National Book Association has awarded one of the most prestigious honors in children's bookselling--the WNBA Pannell Award, which recognizes bookstores that enhance their communities by bringing exceptional creativity to foster a love of reading in their young patrons.

Every year a panel of publishing professionals selects two winners - a general bookstore and a children's specialty bookstore. The store nominations come from customers, sales reps, store personnel, or anyone who has been impressed with the work of a particular independent bookstore.

It is time to start the nomination process, which has been simplified to

Obituary

Dorothy O'Connor



It is with sadness that we note the passing of Dorothy "Dottie" O'Connor, a former President of the Boston Chapter and a former National Secretary.

Dottie received her Master's Degree in Education from Harvard, and taught at elementary schools in Lexington, Massachusetts for 15 years. An avid reader and writer, Dorothy was, in addition to her devotion to WNBA, a member of The Great Books Club and the Unitarian Universalist Book Club, and a staff writer for the *Melrose Mirror*.

A full obituary may be found [online](#) -- we're honored to have known her.

[Back to top](#)

WNBA's Executive Officers

President

[Valerie Tomaselli](#)

VP/President Elect:

[Carin Siegfried](#)

Secretary

[Annette Marie Haley](#)

Treasurer

ensure the nomination of every deserving store. Electronic nominations can be sent to PannellAward@gmail.com and should include the following:

1. Name, email address, and phone number of person making the nomination,
2. That person's connection to the nominated store,
3. A brief statement outlining the reasons that store is being nominated,
4. Contact info for the owner/manager of the nominated store.

Nominations are due by January 15, 2013; a press release will be issued listing the nominees. The nominated store will put 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. The deadline for submissions is March 20, 2013.

The Pannell Award jurors will make their decision by late April, and a phone call will notify the winners, as well as all stores sending submissions. Each of the two winners will receive a \$1,000 check and a framed signed original piece of art by a children's illustrator. The award will be presented in New York at the BookExpo America's Children's Book and Author Breakfast.

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

[Back to top](#)

Trick or Treat for UNICEF 2012, Our Best Year Ever! By Nancy Stewart (Nashville)

Around the country WNBA chapters have worked to support UNICEF and the projects for girls' education in the Middle East this fall.

In articles, activities, and across all forms of social media, WNBA has put forth a major effort in this cause.



The Boston Chapter made the UNICEF trick-or-treat boxes a feature at the Boston Book Festival. In Los Angeles, the chapter had a booth at the West Hollywood Book Fair where they showcased UNICEF with a display and TOT boxes. Nashville made UNICEF part of the National Reading Group Month Signature Event by providing attendees with UNICEF materials, TOT boxes, and by taking up a collection. The Charlotte chapter has made UNICEF a front and center part of its website and Facebook page with links to the UNICEF website; similarly with the New York Chapter.

All of these efforts, large and small, are important in helping UNICEF to achieve success in such projects as the [#StandWithMalala](#) campaign, named for the 14 year old Pakistani girl, an advocate for girls' education who was shot as she left school. This campaign seeks to end the significant illiteracy

[Gloria Toler](#)

Immediate Past President

[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](#).

[Back to top](#)

Celebrate Volunteering! December 5, 2012



**International
Volunteer Day**

WNBA Thanks Its Sponsors

Sustaining Members 2012/13

Bloomsbury USA*
Dancing Chiva Literary Arts,
S.C.

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

Ingram Content Group***

Other Press*

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

Friends of WNBA 2012/13

Red Hen Press*
**SONY Reader Store/SONY
Style***

NRGM Sponsor*



Malala Yousafzai
Photo: unicefusa.org

and lack of education for girls in these areas, where in many cases only one in five children in school is a girl.

As an official NGO with the United Nations Department of Information, the WNBA has been committed to the vision of the UN and each year has become more involved and active in its participation in these very important projects.

This year was the most successful yet and sincere thanks are due to all who participated.

To find out more about UNICEF's girls' education campaign go to:
Unicefusa.org/campaigns/stand-with-malala/

[Back to top](#)

Pannell Award Sponsor**
NRGM & WNBA Award Sponsor***

[Back to top](#)

Submission Guidelines for *The Bookwoman*

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

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

[Back to top](#)

Chapter News

Boston

www.wnbaboston.org

The Boston WNBA chapter began the year with a [Yankee Book Swap](#) on September 28. The event was held at Grub Street, the center for creative writing in Boston, and about thirty people attended. Each person told a little about her/himself and then presented a favorite book. It was an excellent way for people to get to know each other and everyone had a great time. A list of some of the books talked about is on the chapter's Facebook page.

NRGM

The annual [National Reading Group Month](#) program was held October 18 at Hotel 140 in Boston's Back Bay, again with a good audience. Kate Whouley, author of [Remembering the Music, Forgetting the Words](#), moderated the evening, after telling about the genesis of her book. Panelists were Martha Southgate, whose most recent novel is [The Taste of Salt](#), David Gillham, author of [City of Women](#), and WNBA/Boston member Rosie Sultan talking about her book, [Helen Keller in Love](#).

Charlotte

www.wnba-charlotte.org

NRGM

On October 22, the WNBA-Charlotte chapter celebrated National Reading Group Month by hosting its third annual [BIBLIOFEAST Book and Author Dinner](#)--a literary "moveable feast." This year, eight nationally reviewed authors travelled to Charlotte to mingle with guests during cocktails and then lead discussions about their books as they visited each table in 15-minute blocks. The 45 people in attendance were not shy about asking the authors about their inspiration, resulting in very lively and laughter-filled conversations all evening! Ultimately, many were inspired to purchase new books, which were being sold by WNBA-Charlotte member Sally Brewster (Park Road Books).



L to R: Daphne Kalotay; Rosie Sultan; Kate Whouley; Martha Southgate; David Gillham; Dawn Rennet

The WNBA-Boston booth at the [Boston Book Festival](#) on October 27 drew a lot of attention. It also offered an opportunity for member authors to sell their books. Hour and a half sessions were set up for each author, on a first come first serve basis. The Boston Book Festival, in its fourth year, is a wildly popular event and a great opportunity for the chapter to tell more people about WNBA.

The annual Holiday Tea will be held on December 2 with the theme "The Story behind [The Best American Short Stories](#)". Heidi Pitlor is the editor of this annual series, published by Houghton Mifflin. She will talk about how the series is put together each year and then contributors Edith Pearlman and Jennifer Haigh will read.

Member News

Nicole M. Bouchard interviewed Dennis Lehane for [The Write Place at the Write Time](#).

Lisa Braxton, immediate past president, published an essay, "Wedding Planning," in the October issue of *Literary Brushstrokes*.

Karen Goodno-McGuire spoke about Louisa May Alcott and Charles Dickens at the Salem Athenaeum.

Daphne Kalotay, chapter co-president, had an article "The Art of Reading Gina Berriault" that appeared in the Sept./Oct. issue of *Poets & Writers* magazine.

Ann Kingman was interviewed on [Inscribing Industry](#).

Anne Ipsen appeared on the panel "How to Write and Publish Fiction" at the Concord Festival of Authors.



Margot Livesey won the New England



Author Wendy Welch (center) with two BIBLIOFEAST guests

Authors in attendance included: Mark de Castrique ([The 13th Target](#), Poisoned Pen Press) mystery; Emily Colin ([The Memory Thief](#), Ballantine Books) fiction; Debra Dean, ([The Mirrored World](#), HarperCollins) fiction; Mary Glickman ([One More River](#) and [Home in the Morning](#)) fiction; Judy Goldman ([Losing My Sister](#), John F. Blair, Publisher) memoir; Shira Nayman ([A Mind of Winter](#), Akashic Books) fiction; Elena Passarello ([Let Me Clear My Throat](#), Sarabande Books) essays; and Wendy Welch ([The Little Bookstore of Big Stone Gap](#), St. Martin's Press/Macmillan) memoir.

Chapter News

On November 12, the WNBA-Charlotte hosted "A Toast to Cookbooks!" The event took place at a local wine retailer, who hosted a wine tasting for interested guests (for a small fee). Following, the WNBA-Charlotte hosted a potluck supper and opened up a conversation about the latest cookbooks. What a way to launch the holiday season - with good wine, good food and good friends! As always, more information about WNBA-Charlotte events can be found on the chapter's website at www.WNBA-Charlotte.org.

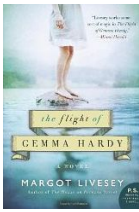
[Back to top](#)

Los Angeles

www.wnba-nyc.org/la/

NRGM

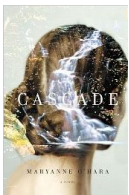
The National Reading Group Month (NRGM) event for the Los Angeles chapter was...finally...a huge



Independent Booksellers Association's 2012 Fiction Award for her novel *The Flight of Gemma Hardy*.

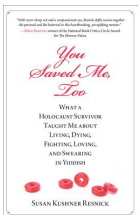
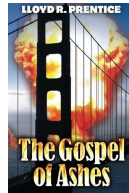
Lois Lowry, last year's Holiday Tea speaker and WNBA/Boston life member, had a *New York Times Book Review* front page review of her latest novel, *Son*.

Randy Susan Meyers has just published *What to Do Before Your Book Launch*.



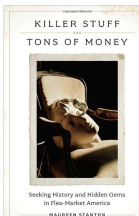
Mary O'Hara's novel, *Cascade*, is a Library Journal pick and a People Magazine "People Pick."

Lloyd Prentice celebrated the publication of his new book, *The Gospel of Ashes*, at a book party on November 18.



Susan Kushner Resnick's literary memoir *You Saved Me, Too* was published in October.

B. A. Shapiro's book, *The Art Forger*, has just been released by Algonquin Books, and was the #1 IndieNext pick for November.



Maureen Stanton won the 2012 Massachusetts Book Award in Nonfiction for *Killer Stuff and Tons of Money*, published by Penguin Press.

[Back to top](#)

Detroit

www.wnba-books.org/detroit/

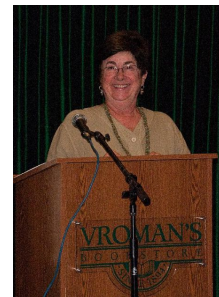
NRGM

On October 10, eleven Detroit members attended a private dinner-with-the-authors before the National Reading Group Month event at a cozy seafood restaurant two blocks from the event venue in walkable

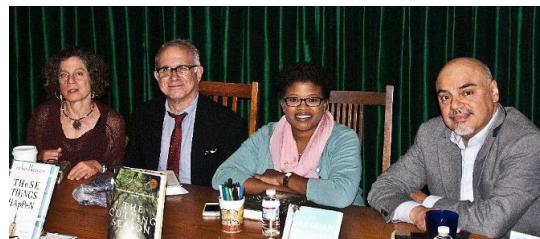
success. For the last two years the attendance has been low, but this year, there was good attendance, excellent audience enthusiasm, and outstanding authors.

The event was held at Vroman's Bookstore in Pasadena; and the four authors were: Hector Tobar (*The Barbarian Nurseries*), Richard Kramer (*These Things Happen*), Attica Locke (*The Cutting Season*), and Naomi Benaron (*Running the Rift*). An eReader from SONY was donated for a raffle; and the winner was Sally Rich Arroyo, a longtime and very faithful patron of Vroman's.

Except for Ruth Light, the LA chapter's interim president, introducing Hector Tobar as a Communist instead of a columnist (which everyone thought was very funny. . . especially Hector) the evening went smoothly. Rachele Yousuf, vice president, did the organizing and publicity; and she did an excellent job of turning this event from worrisome to wonderful!



Ruth Light
Interim LA President



L to R: Naomi Benaron; Richard Kramer; Attica Locke; and Hector Tobar

Chapter News

The annual WNBA/RIO event was held on November 4. The RIO means Reads Its Own, and longtime chapter member and organizer extraordinaire, Lisa-Catherine Cohen, makes this happen every year. She gathers poets and authors and performance artists of many stripes, makes sure they are either members or that they sign up to be members before they read, and presents an afternoon of readings that are always funny, thought-provoking, and delightful. Lisa-Catherine has found

Birmingham, Michigan. It was an excellent opportunity to get to know the authors Natalie Bakopoulos ([The Green Shore](#)) and Dan Johnson ([Detroit Breakdown](#)) and relax with them before the event, and it was great fun to hear their stories. A short walk in the beautiful fall sun to the event followed. Beverages and trays of mini Greek pastries (in honor of Natalie) were served at the venue, with a signing following the event.



L to R: Natalie Bakopoulos; Dan Johnson; Willetta Heisling

This was perhaps the most entertaining and well-paced event ever for NRG Detroit, mostly due to the professional moderating skills of Willetta Heisling. It felt intimate, relaxing, deep, and thoughtful--as well as often riotously funny!

Chapter News

WNBA Detroit is gearing up for a spring to remember, with a big event in April featuring a panel of YA Authors, and the May Detroit Book & Author Society partnership bringing five authors to Detroit, including Debbie Macomber.

Member News

The Michigan Library Association Honors WNBA's Margaret Auer

Over 200 members of the [Michigan Library Association](#) attended the annual Awards Banquet at the statewide conference held in Detroit's riverfront Cobo Center November 7. Highest honors went to WNBA Detroit member, Treasurer, and past National Treasurer Margaret E. Auer, who won the President's Award for Service to MLA. "For over 40 years Margaret Auer has been actively engaged in MLA, serving as a perpetual volunteer and advocate for the organization," said Richard Cochran, MLA Past President.

a bookstore, [Mystic Journey](#), that will probably be the permanent home for this event, and the readers donate excellent gift certificates for us to raffle off during the program.

This holiday season, the WNBA-LA chapter will be donating not only books to a homeless shelter, but also BOOK BUDDIES! Members are asked to bring a children's book to the holiday potluck, and to also bring a teddy bear to go with it. The bears are being called Book Buddies, and both books and bears will then be donated to a shelter that serves women and their children.

[Back to top](#)

New Orleans [NOLA on Facebook](#)

NRGM

Attica Locke, author of [The Cutting Season](#) (Harper/Harper Collins) was a hit at the WNBA-NOLA National Reading Group Month event on October 9 held at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women/Tulane University, with event partner Octavia Books. Ms. Locke read from her new book, followed by a sparkling interview with member Antoinette deAlteriis, responsible for promotion at Pelican Publishing Company located across the Mississippi River from New Orleans in Gretna. Ms. Locke shared her personal history and her thought-provoking vision for a post-racial society. Her charm equaled her insight, and the nearly 50 people who attended sat spellbound for an hour and a half. Afterwards, book sales were brisk. *The Cutting Season* is the first pick by Dennis Lehane for his Harper imprint. Ms. Locke's previous book [Black Water Rising](#) was nominated for the Orange Prize and the Edgar for Best First Novel.

Chapter News

Coming up on December 8 is the annual Christmas party dedicated to donating books in English and Spanish for women and children at battered women's shelters. The WNBA-NOLA chapter will attempt to top last year's donation of over 300 books.

Next year the chapter will continue its push for



Margaret surrounded by friends and family at the Awards Banquet

She has many professional obligations as she is Dean of University Libraries for the University of Detroit Mercy, but always finds the time for an MLA project or assignment, generously giving of her time and insight.



Margaret Auer
Photo: mla.library

Margaret has been an advocate for MLA, whether through her promotion of MLA membership or her encouragement of staff to participate or present at conferences and workshops. She promotes collaborations through the Michigan Academic Library community. She has also actively advanced MLA to a wide circle of vendors, even before MLA looked for strategic partners.

Through her cultivation of these vendors, MLA has developed sustained financial support, which is vital to the association's well-being.

Margaret is a past-president of MLA and has served on the Annual Conference Committee numerous times, the Awards Task Force, MLA Leadership Academy Committee, and Michigan Author Award Committee. She has also received the MLA Lifetime Achievement Award, Librarian of the Year Award, and the Wayne State University Library Science Program's Distinguished Alumna Award.

Several WNBA Detroit members were proud to be a part of this celebration!

[Back to top](#)

Nashville

www.wnbanashville.org/

literacy in the New Orleans area. The first full year has been successful beyond expectations, thanks to the dedication of president, Susan Larson and the creative ideas of members. The WNBA-NOLA membership has increased through word of mouth and successful events such as Attica Locke's reading, as well as informational and entertaining programming at our regular meetings.

[Back to top](#)

San Francisco

www.wnba-sfchapter.org/

wnba-sfchapter.org/blog/

On a stunningly beautiful fall day in San Francisco, WNBA-SF held their first mixer of the year, "Members Only CONNECT!" on Saturday, November 3, in Joan Gelfand's lovely home with an ocean view.



Lucy Lang Day, Susan Cohen & Sandra Feder

It was the first of four Mixers this year to be held in locations throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and it was lively and loud. A group of dynamic authors - with works ranging

from preschool picture books to scholarly texts, from racy memoirs to cautionary love stories - mixed with librarians, editors, booksellers, and publishers. The successful event created the synergy that will continue to enliven and inform the WNBA-SF chapter.

Member News

Linda Joy Myers and **Kate Farrell**, coeditors for the upcoming anthology, *Times They Were A-Changing: Women Remember the 60s and 70s*, are still accepting submissions from women with telltale stories of that extraordinary era, through January 15, 2013. There will be contest prizes and publication opportunities (2,500 words max). Submission guidelines can be found at:

www.timestheywerechanging.com.



Mary Mackey's *[Sugar Zone](#)* won

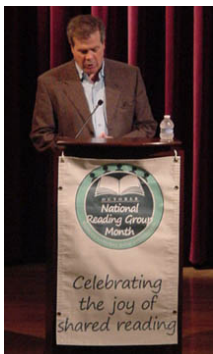
NRGM

WNBA-Nashville members helped ensure the success of Nashville's 24th annual [Southern Festival of Books: A Celebration of the Written Word](#), by moderating panels, chauffeuring authors, and helping at the chapter's booth during the three-day event, October 12-14.



Jill Tardiff, Chris Tilghman & Lee Fairbend

During the festival, Lee Fairbend and a large group of chapter volunteers hosted another popular National Reading Group Month Signature Event: [Coffee with Authors](#). Lee, who originated the idea of bringing book lovers and authors together over coffee and pastries, welcomed 260 guests for a light breakfast and a panel discussion featuring authors Ben Fountain (*Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk: A Novel*), Christopher Tilghman (*The Right-Hand Shore: A Novel*), Gail Tsukiyama (*A Hundred Flowers: A Novel*), and Karen Thompson Walker (*The Age of Miracles: A Novel*). Everyone left happy - carrying a gift bag stuffed with books and information promoting WNBA!

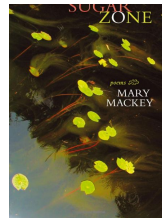


Mayor Karl Dean

Special guest at Coffee with Authors was Nashville Mayor Karl Dean, an outspoken supporter of literacy causes. He gave a brief speech and then presented an official proclamation from the city of Nashville, honoring WNBA for organizing National Reading Group Month "...to promote reading groups and celebrate the joy of shared reading."

Chapter News

The WNBA-Nashville chapter participated in the



the 2012 PEN Oakland-Josephine Miles Award for Excellence in Literature. The Award Ceremony was held on December 1 at the Rockridge Branch Library in Oakland CA. Nine of Mary

Mackey's novels and her most recent collection of poetry, *Sugar Zone*, have just been published as Kindle e-books. Visit her website:

<http://www.marymackey.com/>.

Joan Gelfand signed a contract with Scarecrow Press to coedit, *Women, Work and the Web: How the Web Creates Entrepreneurial Opportunities*. Joan will coedit with Carol Smallwood. The book is due out in Fall, 2013. See submission details here:

<http://joangelfand.com/blog/>

Diane Le Bow had two essays in the new anthology, *Travel Stories from Around the Globe*, published by Bay Area Travel Writers. WNBA-SF member **Elisa Southard** also had an essay in the collection.

[Back to top](#)

Seattle

www.wnba-books.org/seattle/

NRGM

A wonderful evening was had by Seattle members and community attendees who celebrated National Reading Group Month at Parkplace Books (Kirkland) Wednesday night, October 24. An audience of about 50 people enjoyed hearing authors Heather Barbieri (*The Cottage at Glass Beach*), Laurie Frankel (*Goodbye for Now*), Maria Semple (*Where'd You Go, Bernadette*), Gregory Spatz (*Inukshuk*), and Lance Weller (*Wilderness!*) discuss books and book clubs with moderator Mary Ann Gwinn, the book editor of the *Seattle Times*. People were seen leaving the bookstore with new stacks of books to add to their "to be read" piles.

Chapter News

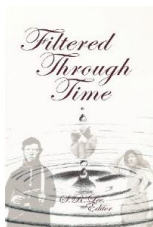
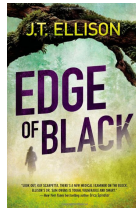
At the annual Seattle-area Northwest Bookfest this year, where readers, writers, publishers, and book enthusiasts of all stripes came together, the WNBA

mayor's Nashville Reads initiative by hosting a lively discussion of Margaret Atwood's [*The Handmaid's Tale*](#) at the October meeting. Sponsored by Humanities Tennessee and Mayor Karl Dean's office, Nashville Reads events and programs were held in and around the city to honor Atwood, winner of the 2012 Nashville Public Library Literary Award.

The WNBA-Nashville chapter has chosen member Barbie Chadwick as their 2013 ATHENA Leadership Award nominee. Barbie, Alpha Omicron Pi's operations manager, exemplifies the qualities inherent in ATHENA Award winners: professional excellence, a history of community service, and a record of actively helping other women reach their leadership potential.

Member News

J.T. Ellison's new thriller, [*Edge of Black*](#), was released by Mira on November 13, 2012. The story is about Dr. Samantha Owens who moves to Georgetown University's forensic pathology department just as an unknown pathogen is released into the Washington Metro. More at www.jtellison.com.



Veera Rajaratnam's work is included in the anthology [*Filtered Through Time*](#), published by Westview in September, 2012. "This anthology of works by both emerging and seasoned writers gathers fresh, insightful poetry and fiction in recalling the defining and costly American Civil War."

Gary Slaughter is the face of a PBS documentary: [*The Man who Saved the World*](#). A communication officer aboard the destroyer *USS Cony* in 1962, Slaughter played a pivotal role in the encounter between the *Cony* and the nuclear-armed Soviet submarine, B-59. The documentary, shown throughout October in observance of the 50th anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis, is part of [*Secrets of the Dead*](#) series.

Gary and Joanne Slaughter were featured in the September issue of *Belle Meade Living*. The article, part of the magazine's "Meet Your Neighbors" series, describes how the couple met, married, and joined forces to produce the award-winning series of [*Cottonwood*](#) novels. It delves into the couple's active

Seattle Chapter was represented in a panel presentation by member authors: Louise Marley, Karlene Petitt, and Linda Gray. The panel was moderated by Seattle WNBA co-president, Judy Solberg; the topic was Truth in Fiction. Panelists discussed how their own truths from their experiences, and the importance of accuracy in representing historical events, people, and places, informed their fiction writing. Audience members included readers, writers, editors, and digital publishers, who asked numerous questions resulting in a lively, enjoyable, and informative discussion.

[Back to top](#)

Washington D.C.

www.wnba-books.org/wash/

NRGM

On October 16, the WNBA-DC and the Arts Club of Washington cosponsored the National Reading Group Month event at the Arts Club's historic mansion. Authors Leslie Maitland and Vaddey Ratner read vignettes from their new books and demonstrated why reading groups clamor to explore their books. War, genocide, love, exile, identity, and transformation arced from World War II to today's headlines and illuminated the discussion moderated by Judy Leaver of WNBA-DC.

Martin Murray, Chairman of the Arts Center's Literature Committee, noted in his opening remarks that women were welcomed as full members of the elegant and creative Club from its beginning in 1916.

Leslie Maitland is the author of [*Crossing the Borders of Time: A True Story of War, Exile, and Love Reclaimed*](#) (Other Press, 2012). Maitland, an investigative reporter, chose the memoir form to contextualize her Jewish mother's love affair with a Catholic Frenchman following her family's escape from Nazi Germany to occupied France in 1938. When Maitland read the scene, set in Marseille in 1942, of her mother's departure from Europe and her true love, audience members perched forward on their seats, stirred by Maitland's evocative imagery.

While the love story that defined her mother's life provided a continuous thread across decades and

volunteer life as well, including a plug for WNBA!

[Back to top](#)

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

NRGM

WNBA-NYC invited five authors to speak about their books at the chapter's signature NRG event, held in the Strand Bookstore's beautiful Rare Book Room. New York Times bestselling author Marisa de los Santos' shared about her new book, (*Falling Together*), the story of the falling apart and eventual reunion of three friends. Ben Ryder Howe, former Senior Editor of *The Paris Review*, spoke about his memoir, (*My Korean Deli*), which explains how he came to own a Korean deli and learned to work alongside his Korean mother-in-law. David Maine introduced the audience to Dr. Regina Moss, the complicated protagonist of his new book, (*An Age of Madness*, a 2012 Great Group Reads selection.) Author of the feminist classic *Memoirs of an Ex-Prom Queen*, Alix Kates Shulman, spoke about her newest novel, (*Ménage*), a mischievous, satirical look at the dynamics of modern marriage and the angst that comes when having it all isn't nearly enough. And best-selling author, Elizabeth Nunez explored the dilemma of an immigrant from the Caribbean who finds success in a New York publishing career, in her new novel (*Boundaries*--a *New York Times* Editors' Choice).



NRGM @ the Strand Bookstore

borders, Maitland emphasized the "hard and morally ambiguous choices" necessary to survive during war. She shared her own "greatest moral dilemma" as she searched for her mother's lost love while her father lay dying.

Vaddey Ratner, author of the novel *In the Shadow of the Banyan* (Simon and Schuster, 2012), was a five-year-old member of the royal family when the Khmer Rouge came to power in 1975. Her family survived by disguising themselves as peasants, going into exile, and leaving their privileged life behind. Ratner said, "I wrote the novel from the perspective of a child, but in the voice of an adult narrator who inhabits the child. My one purpose is to honor the lives lost." She read the narrator's experiences as a young girl separated from her parents and forced into hard labor for years. The extreme inhumanity led the girl to become mute, yet her interior dialogue remained eloquent.

One compelling theme for both authors is memory as a reason to live and a reason to bring shattering stories into the world. During the discussion period, Leaver asked what these books tell us about the struggle between good and evil, and the slaughter of innocents taking place in today's world. Maitland recounted her travels to detention camps full of refugees last year in countries where there is no freedom of the press or basic rights. "I was stunned to see that things don't change, that genocide continues," she said. "It is tragic."

Ratner responded that she wrote as a novelist because the voice of violence and atrocity can be so loud. She continued, "I have the capacity to create something that has just as much power. To live with hope, I have to always allow that the person who creates atrocities has the possibility of transformation."

Reading groups will talk for hours about the universal themes and intensely personal life stories of Vaddey Ratner and Leslie Maitland.

Member News

Catherine Mayo is at work on a new travel memoir, *World Waiting for a Dream: Travels in Far West Texas, Marfa, the Big Bend & Beyond*, apropos of which she's hosting the "Marfa Mondays," a series of

Chapter News

New York's NRGW was followed by another successful event which explored the still emerging genre of Young Adult fiction. Biography of a Young Adult Bestseller, held at Wix Lounge, boasted a truly world-class panel of experts, including [Jenny Bent](#), literary agent; Susan Katz, President and Publisher, HarperCollins Children's Books; Hannah Moskowitz, best-selling author of [Zombie Tag](#), [Gone Gone Gone](#) and [Break](#); Joy Peskin, Editorial Director, Farrar Straus Giroux Books for Young Readers; and Marisa Russell, Publicity Manager, Penguin Young Readers Group. The panel was moderated by Betsy Bird, Youth Materials Specialist for the New York Public Library, School Library Journal blogger, and an author in her own right. Check out the [event write-up](#) by Shelley Diaz in *School Library Journal*. Photos on Wix.com's [Facebook page](#).

Member News

Lorraine Abraham was interviewed on CUNY-TV about her memoir, [My Race: A Jewish Girl Growing Up Under Apartheid in South Africa](#).

Hannah Bennett, WNBA-NYC's blog editor, is graduating this December with a Masters in Publishing from Pace University, and has just been hired by [RosettaBooks](#) to work in their eBook Production and Distribution department.

Kim Bouchard has accepted a position at [The Harry Walker Agency](#). She will be a Senior Sales Agent booking lecture engagements for newsmakers.

Ju Ephraime's new novel, [The Odor of Violet](#), was released in November. Pre-order your copy [here](#).

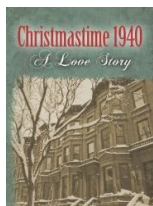


Kit Grindstaff's MG fantasy, *The Flame in the Mist*, Delacorte Press will be published 4/9/13. More details [here](#).

Phoebe Hoss's [A Stairway Unfurling: A Lifetime of Poetry](#), via Amazon's CreateSpace, was launched 9/30.

Agnes Irene's novel, [Christmastime 1940](#), will be available on Amazon beginning in December.

"A charming, heartwarming tale of two



24 podcasts exploring Marfa, Texas and environs through the end of 2013. Podcasts available [here](#).

Richard Peabody has just released an anthology of his own short stories, [Blue Suburban Skies](#), through Paycock Press. Learn more about his work [here](#).

Lorine Kritzer Pergament has a short story--a finalist in the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Contest in 2009--in the forthcoming issue of *Gargoyle*, a literary magazine edited by WNBA-DC member Richard Peabody.

Liliane Willens gave a talk on October 2 at the University of Maine at Presque Isle for its series of Distinguished Lecturers, 2012-2013, on "A First Hand Account of Life in China through World War II, Chinese Civil War and communist Takeover."

[Back to top](#)

My End-of-the-World Books By Tabitha Whissemore (DC)

The world may or may not end on December 21; either way, Tabitha Whissemore explains why it's a good idea to have a go-to list, just in case.

Most book lovers have a Desert Island Top Five -- the books they'd lug along to a deserted island. They have books on their shelves they return to over and over again and would never even think of putting in a donation pile.

And then there are those other books, the ones that linger on the shelf with the spine uncracked. The books that cause a hint of guilt; the ones we can't quite part with but can't bring ourselves to read either. Those are my End-of-the-World books.

I turned to these books in June, when a storm of near-apocalyptic proportions knocked out power for four days. The dusty shelf contains leadership books I'd been given as gifts, some classics I lie about having read, a couple of sci-fi/fantasy novels, and a few large biographies that would better serve as doorstops. Some books had traveled with me from Minnesota to Maryland four years earlier.



Off the shelf I pulled [Madam Secretary: A Memoir](#) by Madeleine

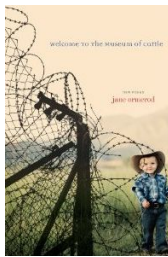
people looking for a second chance at love and family." [Kirkus Reviews](#).



Lucine Kasbarian's commentary, "[Hurricane Sandy's Austerity Lessons](#)" appeared in *Dissident Voice*, 11/20. Her essay about predictive dreams appears on the writer's blog of [Kalyani Magazine](#).

Shirley Kwan's story "Radiation" has been nominated for a prestigious Pushcart Prize. The story was published on [TQRStories.com](#). Reviews at [Zoetrope.com](#) and at [HereticaBlog.wordpress.com](#).

Bette Ann Moskowitz's [The Room at the End of the Hall: An Ombudsman's Notebook](#), a first person account of Bette's years advocating for people in long-term care. 2011 Finalist in New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowships in Literary Non-fiction.



Jane Ormerod announces the publication of her second full-length poetry collection, [Welcome to the Museum of Cattle](#), from Three Rooms Press. More [here](#).

Rosalind Reisner spoke about how memoirs and fiction reveal American Jewish history at Monroe Township

Library on November 2 in a presentation titled 'Hungry Hearts.'

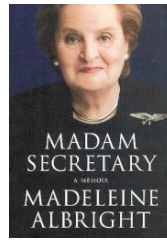
Linda Rosen was the guest speaker at the Garden State Journalists luncheon held at Laicos Restaurant in Jersey City on October 20. The topic was 'Get Off Your Chair!' which explained how writers can prevent back and hip problems. More [here](#).

Harriet Shenkman, Ph.D., will publish "[Meaning-Centered Instruction in Learning Communities](#)," a chapter in *Meaning-Centered Education: International Perspectives and Explorations in Higher Education*. O. Kovbasyuk and P. Blessinger (editors). London: Routledge Publishing, April, 2013.

Rachel Slaiman's latest article in *LatinTrends Magazine* is "[Festivals Have Good Books Too](#)," a snap shot of some books that were presented at the Brooklyn Book Festival in September.



Stephanie A. Smith's novel, [Warpaint](#),



Albright. I hunkered down with it near a candle and an open window, feeling quite civilized and proud of myself for attempting to read an intelligent book. Each page I turned kicked up a cloud of dust. I made it through the first chapter before my

mind wandered further and further from the words on the page. Every noise outside became amplified. I suddenly noticed the layers of dirt in the window sill and thought seriously about cleaning it. I made mental to-do lists.

This experiment had clearly failed.

Maybe, at the "end of the world," things are complicated enough without adding a layer of newness. Comfort and familiarity were what I craved. I turned to my Desert Island Top Five. There was [Little Women](#), with brittle and dog-eared pages and characters I knew and loved. I grabbed it off the shelf and took my place near the candle, with a warm glass of white wine and a smile on my face.

In preparing for Hurricane Sandy, I bypassed the End-of-the-World shelf altogether, without an ounce of guilt. Sitting next to my stock of candles, ready to break open in case of emergency, is [To Kill a Mockingbird](#), a tried-and-true distraction from the storms raging outside my window.

The power stayed on, and my little apartment made it through the super storm unscathed. It turns out, though, I didn't need an excuse to crack open an old favorite. As for the End-of-the-World books, maybe someday I'll crack one open and discover a new favorite.

Tabitha Whissemore is an editorial assistant at the American Association of Community Colleges where, among other things, she writes articles for the *Community College Times* and *Community College Journal*. She recently had a story published in the graphic novel *District Comics: An Unconventional History of Washington, DC*.

[Back to top](#)



is the first book of a trilogy of novels about women, work, and art has been released by Thames River Press.

[Back to top](#)



The UNICEF Snowflake: A Beacon of Hope for Children

The UNICEF Snowflake-a beautiful ornament gracing the intersection of 57th Street and Fifth Avenue in New York City-is the centerpiece of an ambitious program to raise millions of dollars for UNICEF's programs providing immunization, education, health care, nutrition, clean water and sanitation to children in developing nations. Get more info on the [UNICEF Snowflake](#).

Shop for a Cause: Charity Gifts for Children



[Back to top](#)

UN Corner

By Jill Tardiff (NYC)

Working Together: Making A Difference Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organizations

UN Department of Public Information/Non-governmental Organization, Youth Outreach

"Youth can determine whether this era moves toward greater peril or more positive change. Let us support the young people of our world so they grow into adults who raise yet more generations of productive and powerful leaders." Ban Ki-moon, Eighth and Current Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"No one is born a good citizen; no nation is born a democracy. Rather, both are processes that continue to evolve over a lifetime. Young people must be included from birth. A society that cuts off from its youth severs its lifeline." Kofi Annan, Seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations, 1997-2006.

WNBA Appoints UN DPI/NGO Youth Representatives

The Association is proud to announce [Diana Cavallo](#) and [Jenna Vaccaro](#)--both students enrolled in Pace University's [MS in Publishing Program](#)--have been appointed as its first UN Youth Representatives effective 1 January 2012 or upon approval of Annual Review for Accreditation (deadline, 31 January 2013). These assignments are in fulfillment of the Association's obligation to the Department of Public Information / Non-Governmental Section (DPI/NGO). The selection process was managed by Jill Tardiff (WNBA UN DPI/NGO Main Representation) in counsel with Nancy Stewart (DPI/NGO First Alternate), Marilyn Berkman

(DPI/NGO Second Alternate), and Jane Kinney-Denning (WNBA-NYC Chapter President / Director of Internships and Corporate Outreach, Pace University) and with approval from the WNBA Executive Board. Diana and Jenna are well qualified, eager, and enthusiastic. We welcome their participation.

Background

Department of Public Information Statement:

"The Department of Public Information sees young people as a critical group in its work with non-governmental organizations. We encourage young people already involved with a DPI associated NGO to become their organization's Youth Representative at the United Nations."

To support an increase in youth participation at the UN, the DPI/NGO Relations Section now offers several new opportunities for young people to get involved. Beginning last fall (2011), two youth representatives (18 to 24 years old) have been added to each official NGO-accredited representation. They can attend weekly NGO Briefings and Communications Workshops, partake in the UN DPI/NGO Annual Conference, and become a member of the DPI/ NGO Conference Planning Committee. Details: <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations>.

The designated youth representative will be under the supervision of the UN DPI/NGO main representative (Jill A. Tardiff). This position requires a commitment to the motivations of the Association and the UN, as well as excellent organizational skills, self-motivation and the ability to work well with minimum direct supervision. The main representative and/or NY-based alternate representative will meet with the intern in person intermittently, and will be available by phone and e-mail. Attendance at monthly WNBA-NYC board meetings is highly recommended. The Youth Representative will receive a membership in the Association (duration assignment) complete with all related benefits.

Duration

October 1 thru December 31, 2012 (or asap); January 1 thru December 31, 2013 or duration of student tenure during the same time period (pending approval, DPI/NGO 2012 Annual Review).

Overall duties

- Work with the UN DPI/NGO Main Representative and two Alternates on achieving the Association's mandate "... to support and respect the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to disseminate information and news about the U.N. in our capacity (advocacy) as a non-consultative non-governmental organization (NGO)" and to actively plan and participate in UN and UN agency (namely US Fund for UNICEF) programmes and activities.
- Attend at least one weekly briefing (Thursdays, 10A-12P) per month, provide report.
- Attend DPI NGO Youth Representatives meetings (via Skype) when scheduled, provide report.
- Attend the DPI/NGO Orientation Programme and/or Communications Workshop, provide report.
- Attend the annual DPI/NGO Conference (usually held in September) when said event is held at the UN HQ. (Please note, there will be no Conference in 2012.)
- Write one article per calendar year (topic TBD) for The Bookwoman, national publication of the Women's National Book Association.
- Attend the annual Committee on Teaching About the United Nations (CTAUN) Conference (usually held in January), provide report.
- Write one article (every other issue) for The New York Bookwoman, WNBA-NYC chapter publication.
- Contribute to the annual WNBA DPI/NGO report (June).
- Contribute to the UN DPI/NGO Youth Blog.
- Contribute to DPI/NGO Youth Reps Facebook.
- Other duties to be determined.

DPI Thursday Briefings (October-December 2012)**Issues at the UN**

4 October--"May I Ask a Question, Mr. Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information?"

11 October--"The Girl Child: Protection from Harmful Practices, Violence, Exploitation, and Abuse" (In observance of the International Day of the Girl Child)

18 October--"Crisis Mapping: How Satellite Imagery Analysis Can Benefit NGO Humanitarian Efforts"

25 October--"Issue of the Moment: The Death Penalty"

1 November--"The Impact of Climate Change on People Living in Poverty" (In observance of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty)"

8 November--"A Global Call to Action for Sustainable Development: Engaging Young People to Solve the Triple-Bottom Line Challenge - Economic Well-Being, Environmental Sustainability, and Social Inclusion - That Will Define Their Era"

15 November--"Fulfilling the Right of Indigenous Children: Successes and Challenges"

29 November--Communications Workshop

6 December--"Removing Barriers to Create an Inclusive and Accessible Society for All" (In observance of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities)

13 December--Film Screening

Details: <http://outreach.un.org/ngorelations/category/briefings>.

The Committee on Teaching About the United Nations - Promoting Global Awareness in Our Schools to hold annual conference on Friday, 18 January 2013 at UN Headquarters; the theme is "Advancing Social Justice: The Role of Educators" [2013 UN CTAUN Conference Statement](#).

From the US Fund for UNICEF Website

"The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) works in 190 countries and territories to save and improve children's lives, providing health care and immunizations, clean water and sanitation, nutrition, education, emergency relief, and more. The U.S. Fund for UNICEF supports UNICEF's work through fundraising, advocacy, and education in the United States. Together, we are working toward the day when ZERO children die from preventable causes and every child has a safe and healthy childhood."



[Believe in ZERO: Take the ZERO Pledge](#)

[Back to top](#)

Master Twitter with These Seven Apps
By Frances Caballo (SF)

Over the past three years, according to a recent study by [Beevolve](#), one million Twitter users sent a minimum of one billion tweets. This new data confirms that Twitter is the place to glean great gems of information, expand your contacts, market your books, and find great reads. There isn't another social media network like it-at least not yet. The limitation of 140 characters doesn't diminish the impact of this great



social media channel. In this era when the attention span of many people is shrinking, tweets are an efficient way to communicate great nuggets of information about your books, blog, workshops, and telesummits.



Seven Apps to Enhance Your Tweeting Experience

With 70,000 Twitter applications on the market, it can be difficult to discern which ones are right for you. Here are seven applications for you to consider using.

[Buffer App](#)

As a social media scheduler, Buffer App is great. Buffer collaborates with Tweriod to determine the best tweeting times for you. With Buffer, You'll never again have to figure out whether your best posting time is 2:10 PM or 11:47 PM. It's easy to setup and use, too.

[SocialOomph](#)

This application is a social media dashboard on steroids. It will not only schedule your tweets, LinkedIn updates, and Facebook posts, but will also track keywords for you, email a daily digest of retweets and mentions of your username, purge your in box of direct messages, track your clicks, and find new followers for you. It is a bit tricky to set up but SocialOomph has great customer service techs to walk you through it. If you want more than a scheduler, this is the application to use.

[Tweepi](#)

This is a very easy application to use to find new people to follow and flush those users who aren't following you back. It details the time of a user's last tweet so that you can rid your news feed of the inactive users too.

[Listorious](#)

Are you having trouble finding new users to follow? You can use this application to search for individual users or lists of writers, agents, or writing coaches. This is a good application to use when you are starting out on Twitter.

[FollowFridayHelper](#)

#FollowFriday is a great tradition on Twitter. Each Friday, users thank Tweeps who have mentioned or retweeted them earlier in the week. With this application, you no longer have to keep track of your retweeters. This application will save you time.

[TheTweetedTimes](#)

Would you like to find a way to sort through the hundreds upon hundreds of tweets from your followers? This application will quickly process your incoming tweets and display the trending topics for your account.

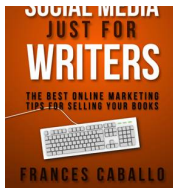
[Twylah](#)

This is perhaps the easiest application available. It will preserve your tweets, set up a web page that sorts your messages, and provide powerful back links to improve your search engine optimization. Some of the greatest minds in publishing, writing, coaching and other fields are on Twitter and they freely share their expertise. This social media darling is probably the best platform to keep up to date on writing conferences, writing prompts, newly released books, social media, politics, or whatever your fields of interest are. It's on this network where you can learn to market your book, find a publisher, seek an agent, or converse with the author of your favorite book.

If you're not yet on Twitter, sign up today. Then try the applications mentioned here. Let me know which one is your favorite!



Frances Caballo is a social media trainer, blogger, and author of [Social Media Just for](#)



Writers: The Best Online Marketing Tips for Selling Your Books. Frances is the Social Media Editor for [Redwood Writers](#), the largest branch of the [California Writers Club](#), and for the [Women's National Book Association - SF Chapter](#). Find her on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Pinterest](#), and [Google+](#).

[Back to top](#)

From the Editors

The Women's National Book Association Saving the World, One Book at a Time!

We're in the midst of the holiday season and one of the biggest news stories is the impending end of the world on 12/21/12, if one were to believe the Mayan calendar. (See DC's [Tabitha Whissemore](#)'s column.)

We're here to tell you that such a disaster isn't possible; a glance at this issue's chapter/member news is enough to convince the most skeptical among us that such a calamity simply couldn't happen. The powers that keep the world turning, be it a Superior Being in any of her many forms, or simple physics, if you aren't the religious sort, wouldn't allow that kind of flourishing, thoughtful creativity to go to waste. Nature herself, abhors a vacuum, and there is no danger of that with the continued efforts of WNBA-ers to populate the world with books and readers for them.



"Yes, Captain, it's called a 'book'.
Read more and prosper."

So don't worry about the end of the world; while there are people who love books, the world cannot come to an end; such a notion is, as Mr. Spock would say, "Illogical." And really, who are we to argue with a Vulcan?

Happy Holidays WNBA-ers, and thank you for your role in keeping the planet turning.

Gloria Toler & Rhona Whitty
Bookwoman Coeditors

Annette Marie Haley
Bookwoman Copy Editor

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

[Back to top](#)