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Welcome

Happy Holidays and Greetings from WNBA-Charlotte!

Bringing Book Lovers and Book Professionals Together

Since 2009, the Women's National Book Association (WNBA)-Charlotte has welcomed enthusiastic professionals representing many different aspects of the book world to our monthly gatherings. Our group claims writers, editors, publishers, agents, publicists, librarians, reviewers, reporters and avid readers. Basically, we welcome everyone who believes in the power of the written word. As always, we hope you will enjoy our upcoming programs, and we encourage your frequent participation and suggestions for the future.

Have you renewed your membership this year? Or are you new to our group and ready to join us as a paid member? Joining the WNBA Charlotte Chapter is easy. There are three ways:

Go to our website at www.WNBA-Charlotte.org and complete the online membership form, submitting your payment through PayPal.

Print out the form, fill it out, and send it to us with your check payable to WNBA. Mail it to *Park Road Books, Attn: WNBA, 139 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209*

Request a printed membership form by emailing: wnbacharlotte@gmail.com

Our membership rate is \$40 per year; Seniors 65+ and enrolled students: \$20 per year

Why Join? Meet likeminded people and help bring fun, book/literacy-focused events to the community, while learning more about the book world through our regular members' meetings. Whether you're a book industry professional, a book club member, or someone who loves books, you're welcome in WNBA! Also, as a member of the Charlotte Chapter, you are automatically a member of the national WNBA as well. Your dues entitle you to full access to the national website (www.wnbabooks.org), including the password protected member directory used for networking opportunities.

We hope you'll extend your membership and join us regularly for events!

Member Testimonial: When asked what she gets out of WNBA membership, our Board Member at Large Carol Baldwin said, "How about one word: Networking. Ok, ok. I could write a sentence...but that really says it all!"

WNBA – Charlotte Online!

Want to know what's going on with WNBA-Charlotte? Visit our website www.WNBA-Charlotte.org which has up to date information about upcoming and past events. You can learn more about membership and the National WNBA as well. Also, check out the blog roll! **(And let us know if you need to be added!)**

WNBA-Charlotte embraces social media, too! You can interact with us on Facebook by clicking "like" at our dedicated page at www.facebook.com/WNBACHarlotte. On our Facebook page we also post about other book-related events, so that you won't miss out on any book happenings!

Be sure to follow us on Twitter, too. Our handle is @WNBA_Charlotte. You can also follow the national organization at @WNBA_NATL_UN or www.wnba-books.org

We're also on LinkedIn. Find us here: www.linkedin.com/groups/Womens-National-Book-Association-Charlotte-4187014?goback=%2Eanp_4187014_1354631542583_1

If you want to contact us directly, please email wnbacharlotte@gmail.com.

Of course, you can also join up with the National group by searching for Women's National Book Association and clicking through the join. (You'll be approved by a national board member.)

Upcoming Events

January Meeting

Annual Book Swap and E-books, E-readers, and Online Book Resources Discussion

WHEN: Monday evening, January 14, 2013, 7:00-9:00 PM

WHERE: Northwest School of the Arts
Media Center
1415 Beatties Ford Road
Charlotte, NC 28216

WHAT: Our annual winter socializing and networking event – This is a great way to start off the new year! Refreshments are included – please bring a contribution, if you wish. We'll have some great giveaways, too, but you have to be a member and attend the meeting to win!

This is a free event.

Our meeting includes all of the following:

- Our annual book swap -- Bring adult books you've finished or don't want any longer and swap them for books you DO want to read. Almost as much fun as shopping in your sister's or friend's closet.....
- A book DONATION opportunity, in support of Promising Pages, a local charity: www.promisingpages.com -- Please bring new and gently used children's books. baby to age 18, to donate to low-income families in the Charlotte area!

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Upcoming Events (continued)

- A discussion of books in the E-world, with info on getting more out of your E-books and E-readers, plus online resources for digital book formats, as well as for book clubs and book reviews -- websites, apps, blogs, Facebook pages, and so forth. This obviously will **not** be the end-all on these subjects, but we will offer a good chance to share information and learn some valuable tips and tricks on making use of all of this technology about books. We may have some ways to get free books, too!

Members -- WE NEED YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS! We're compiling a list of these online resources for using e-books and e-readers, plus book reviews and book club sites. These include websites, apps, blogs, Facebook pages, whatever. We'll distribute this list at the meeting, plus we will post it on the WNBA-Charlotte website.

Please send the names and links for any websites, apps, blogs, Facebook pages, etc. that you use/read and think are good and worthwhile, to Liz Romanek

[elizabeth.romanek@cms.k12.nc.us] and to Susan Walker [susan.walker.books@gmail.com] so we can compile this handy list of resources. We would appreciate getting these at your earliest convenience, but by December 21 at the latest, please. Even a few from each of you would be great -- we know you're busy and don't expect you to provide long lists -- unless you want to, of course.

THANKS in advance for your help with this, everyone. We look forward to seeing you at the January 14 meeting!

February Meeting

The Process and Business of Book Publishing Panel Discussion

Note: This is a joint meeting with the Charlotte Writers Club!

WHEN: Tuesday evening, February 19, 2013, 7pm

WHERE: Queens University Sports and Conference Center, 2229 Tyvola Road, just west of Park Road. Click [here](#) for directions.

WHAT: Join the WNBA-Charlotte and the Charlotte Writers Club for an in-depth look at the ins and outs of book publishing. Don't forget pen and paper to take copious notes from the expert panelists (to be announced). The panel is planned to include an author, agent, editor, sales and marketing specialist, publicist, wholesaler and retail bookseller.

This is a free event.

MARK YOUR 2013 CALENDARS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS!

Details and updates will be posted on our website: www.wnba-charlotte.org

Monday, March 11 -- Literature in translation: a program on contemporary fiction originally in Spanish or by Hispanic writers, including recommended reading. Our plan is to ask a Spanish professor from one of the local colleges/universities to be part of this program. [This meeting topic might switch with April.]

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Upcoming Events (continued)

Monday, April 8 -- "Meet the authors" event – panel discussion with several local NC authors [This meeting topic might switch with March.]

Monday, May 13 -- Great Summer Reads, presented by Sally Brewster at Park Road Books. Sally will include both books for adults and books for kids and teens this year.

Events Recap

Hope you didn't miss this: October Event Recap

On October 22, 2012, WNBA-Charlotte celebrated National Reading Group Month by hosting our third annual BIBLIOFEAST – a literary "moveable feast." This year, eight nationally reviewed authors joined us in Charlotte to mingle with guests during cocktails and, then, lead discussions about their books as they visited each table, in turn, in 15-minute blocks. The forty five 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 of us were inspired to purchase new books, which were being sold by WNBA-Charlotte member Sally Brewster (Park Road Books).

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*, Open Road Media, 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

Wendy Welch, *THE LITTLE BOOKSTORE OF BIG STONE GAP*, St. Martin's Press/Macmillan, memoir

Here's what people said about BiblioFeast:

From guest author Wendy Welch's blog post about her appearance at BiblioFeast: "That was the biggest common theme at the tables of the BiblioFeast, an intimate night with lovely women... that the urge, the internal nudge to write is the biggest signal that one should, and its own justification."

From guest author Judy Goldman's Facebook status following her appearance at BiblioFeast: "Was among 8 authors at Women's National Book Association's BiblioFeast last night. What a great event! You have to go next year! Really fun."

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Events Recap (continued)

From the South Charlotte News article: "Mark de Castrique (guest author who appeared at BiblioFeast) is pleased to be part of the Women's National Book Association BiblioFeast on Oct. 22. "Their dedication to reading and their promotion of literary arts are crucial elements for insuring the written word continues to play an important role in our culture," said de Castrique,"



Author Judy Goldman (photo courtesy of Susan Walker)



Cocktails at BiblioFeast with members Jenni Franz, Amanda Phillips, Jeri Franz, and authors Mark de Castrique and Shira Nayman (photo courtesy of Susan Walker)

Hope you didn't miss this: November Event Recap

On November 12, WNBA-Charlotte met at Total Wine in South Charlotte for a wine tasting and pot luck get-together. About 30 members and guests attended, bringing loads of food and treats to enjoy while a Total Wine staffer introduced us to eight wine samples. After the wine tasting, there was a brief discussion of new cookbooks on sale this Fall. What a fun event!

(People were too busy eating and drinking to take photos...Oops!)

WNBA Charlotte Book Club News

Our new WNBA-Charlotte Book Club for our members only is up and running! Meetings will be at 7pm at Panera Bread 5940 Fairview Road (by South Park Mall) on the first Tuesday of each month. The exception will be in January when the first Tuesday is also the 1st so for January we will meet on the 8th instead.

We've selected books for the coming months from the 2012 Great Group Reads titles chosen for National Reading Group Month this year. The books listed here will take us through to next October, when there will be a new Great Group Reads list released. The books were based on a combination of our votes and the votes that were e-mailed prior to Kristen Knox, Book Club Chair, prior to the first meeting.

Continued next page

WNBA Charlotte Book Club News (continued)

Here's what we'll be reading:

December 4: *I Married You For Happiness* by Lily Tuck

January 8: *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin

February 5: *Blue Asylum* by Kathy Hepinstall

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

Kristen Knox is our Book Club Chair. If you have questions or would like to join the club, please contact her at whitreidsmama@yahoo.com.

Industry News

'Tis the season for "Best Books" lists! Here's a small sample of fiction picks:

The New York Times picks:

Bring Up The Bodies By Hilary Mantel, A John Macrae Book/ Henry Holt & Company, \$28.

Taking up where her previous novel, "Wolf Hall," left off, Mantel makes the seemingly worn-out story of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn newly fascinating and suspenseful. *Also picked by Publisher's Weekly.*

Building Stories, By Chris Ware, Pantheon Books, \$50. Ware's innovative graphic novel deepens and enriches the form by breaking it apart. Packaged in a large box like a board game, the project contains 14 "easily misplaced elements" — pamphlets, books, foldout pages — that together follow the residents of a Chicago triplex (and one anthropomorphized bee) through their ordinary lives. *Also picked by Publisher's Weekly*

A Hologram for the King, By Dave Eggers, McSweeney's Books, \$25. In an empty city in Saudi Arabia, a middle-aged American businessman waits day after day to close the deal he hopes will redeem his forlorn life.

NW, By Zadie Smith, The Penguin Press, \$26.95. Smith's piercing new novel, her first in seven years, traces the friendship of two women who grew up in a housing project in northwest London, their lives disrupted by fateful choices and the brutal efficiency of chance.

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Industry News (continued)

The Yellow Birds, By Kevin Powers, Little, Brown & Company, \$24.99. A veteran of the Iraq war, Powers places that conflict at the center of his impressionistic first novel, about the connected but diverging fates of two young soldiers and the trouble one of them has readjusting to life at home.

Want more? See this article: <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/09/books/review/10-best-books-of-2012.html?ref=books&r=0>

Publisher's Weekly picks:

Round House, Louise Erdrich, Harper. This dark and entertaining National Book Award winner sets a Native American boy's coming of age against the brutal backdrop of racism and violence in North Dakota.

Happiness Is a Chemical in the Brain, Lucia Perillo, Norton. The 14 stories of this Pulitzer Prize in poetry finalist's (for *Inseminating the Elephant*) debut collection, set in the Pacific Northwest, display the poet's emotional economy alongside raw honesty, haunting understatement, and a sharp wit. Women, damaged and vulnerable, make bad choices again and again, pursue fruitless obsessions, and somehow often come out on top.

The Devil in Silver, Victor LaValle, Spiegel & Grau. LaValle's third novel is poised on the intersection of psychological suspense and supernatural horror, leavened with dashes of wry humor. A menacing figure stalks the airless halls of a psychiatric ward; corrupt cops, bored staff, and drugged and deranged patients all think they know what's going on, but no one truly has a handle on reality.

Read the article here: <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/search/index.html?q=best+books&submit.x=0&submit.y=0&submit=submit>

Local Chapter News

From 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. Park Road Books 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.

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Industry News (continued)

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.*

Have a local news event and/or commentary? Email Jessica Daitch (Jessica_Daitch@yahoo.com) for inclusion in the next newsletter, due out in early March.

WNBA and UNICEF

Did you know that the Women's National Book Association (national) has a special on-going partnership with the **U.S. Fund for UNICEF**? This partnership was conceived and developed in 2004 under the auspices of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF (NGO Section). The Association's role ranges from emergency-relief donations, to UNICEF USA campaign-awareness to literacy advocacy for women and girls (**UNICEF's Afghanistan Education Alliance**).

This holiday season, UNICEF is asking for donations of an Inspired Gift. According to their website, Inspired Gifts are "real lifesaving products shipped straight from our warehouses to the children who need them most." Items include mosquito nets, peanut paste, school-in-a-box kits and more. If you are able to donate to this worthy cause please visit https://secure.unicefusa.org/site/SPageNavigator/inspired_gifts_homepage.html

Blurbilicious

This review is courtesy of the Publisher's Weekly website and was written by a member of the WNBA-Charlotte (anonymously per her contract).

The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination

Edited by John Joseph Adams. Tor, \$14.99 trade paper (368p) ISBN 978-0-7653-2645-4



Veteran anthology editor Adams (Epic) succeeds again with these frequently lighthearted tales of villains and mad scientists trying to take over the world and get the better of the more appreciated good guys. Heather Lindsley's "The Angel of Death Has a Business Plan" introduces readers to a vocational psychologist/career counselor whose therapeutic niche is honing villains' monologues, ensuring they're neither too long nor ineffectual in the moment when they announce their sinister plots. Diana Gabaldon fans will devour the Outlander novella "The Space Between," generously allowed the most space in this fast-paced book of evil vs. good. As noted in the foreword by Chris Claremont, "the best heroes are defined very much by their villainous adversaries," and Adams's entertaining story introductions set the stage for villains to find their own definitions and identities. (Feb.)

Reviewed on 11/30/2012 | [Details & Permalink](#)

Chapter Footnotes

Have questions or comments? Feel free to send us an email: wnbacharlotte@gmail.com

Your Charlotte Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

President: Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.com

Vice-President: Emily Pearce, emilyspearce@yahoo.com

Secretary: Holly Hughes, hgirlla@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Quinlan Lee, quinlan@adamsliterary.com

Past President : Carin Siegfried*, carinsiegfried@earthlink.net

President Elect: Kristen Knox, whitreidsmama@yahoo.com

**Carin Siegfried is also National Vice President of WNBA for 2012-2014.*

We are always looking for more committee members – for more information on a committee or to join, contact the people below!

Community Outreach Chair Jenni Franz, Jennifer.Franz@Baker-Taylor.com

Event Chairs: Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.com, and Holly Hughes, hgirlla@yahoo.com

Membership Chair: Carolyn Abiad, csabiad@gmail.com

National Reading Group Month/Biblio feast Chair: Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor-in-Chief and Publicity Chair: Jessica Daitch, jessica_daitch@yahoo.com

Bookwoman Correspondent: Jessica Daitch, jessica_daitch@yahoo.com

Website Chairs: Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.com , and Susan Vitale, vitalesa@earthlink.net

WNBA-Charlotte Book Club Chair: Kristen Knox, whitreidsmama@yahoo.com

At-Large Board members: Amanda Phillips, amanda.phillips@baker-taylor.com and Carol Baldwin, cbaldwin6@carolina.rr.com