



# Chapter Notes

*By, for and about the Charlotte Chapter of the WNBA*

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December 2013

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## Welcome

"Winter, winter, being full of care, makes summer's welcome thrice more wish'd, more rare."  
William Shakespeare, Sonnet LVI

"Winter is not a season, it's an occupation."  
Sinclair Lewis

## **Seasons Greetings from WNBA-Charlotte!**

### ***Bringing Book Lovers and Book Professionals Together***

#### **A letter from our President, Kristen Knox –**

As this calendar year (but not our membership year!) comes to a close, media outlets near and far are making "Best of 2013" lists. I typically try to avoid making my own list, mostly because when I finish it I immediately realize I've left off something vital that should have been included. But this year I know that the WNBA-Charlotte and spending time with all of you would definitely be on any list of highlights.

When you find a group like ours - full of wonderful, likeminded, welcoming people - you count your blessings, especially at this time of year. WNBA-Charlotte is most assuredly that group for me and I hope you've found it to be the same for you. This year, I've enjoyed meeting and connecting with more new people who share my interests. I've loved discussing the books we've read at book club. I've been thrilled to talk with authors about their works. I've been impressed by all of the behind the scenes work that goes on to make our events successful and the generous donations of time people offer this organization. And as wonderful as this year has been, I am looking forward to all that we have in store for 2014 and I hope you'll join me in helping to make the coming year even better than this one has been.

## *Meeting Recaps—Hope you didn't miss these!*

### **September 2013**

The Women's National Book Association – Charlotte started their 2013-2014 programming year with three of our most popular annual events. On September 9, over 40 people attended our Fall Social and Networking Meeting, held at a funky restaurant called [The Peculiar Rabbit](#). Everyone was excited to catch up with old friends (after a long summer sans WNBA-Charlotte meetings) and also made efforts to introduce themselves to new and prospective members.

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*Event Recaps (continued)*

Several paid members won raffled off bags of book galleys generously donated by current chapter president, Kristen Knox, and members Carin Siegfried and Susan Walker!



Just days later on September 14, our members participated in Friends of the Library's 4th Rock & Read 5K walk/run. In addition to getting some early morning exercise while wearing cute, matching t-shirts, our group sponsored the event to support the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library system. After the walk, our "Bookwomen" team also manned a table to distribute information about the WNBA-Charlotte and invite people to purchase tickets for our signature annual event, BiblioFeast.

**October 2013**

On Monday, October 14, WNBA-Charlotte hosted nine authors at our 4<sup>th</sup> annual **BiblioFeast** held in honor of National Reading Group Month. This year, we hosted nine high profile authors who travelled from table to table to introduce and discuss their latest published works.



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### Event Recaps (continued)

Authors included WILTON BARNHARDT, *Lookaway, Lookaway* (St. Martin's Press), DIANE CHAMBERLAIN, *Necessary Lies* (St. Martin's Press), NORA GASKIN, *Time of Death and Until Proven* (Lystra Books), SUSAN GREGG GILMORE, *The Funeral Dress* (Broadway Books), TOMMY HAYS, *What I Came to Tell You* (Egmont USA), CASSANDRA KING, *Moonrise* (Maiden Lane Press), REBECCA LEE, *Bobcat and Other Stories* (Algonquin Books), JAMIE MASON, *Three Graves Full* (Gallery Books), and JOHN MILLIKEN THOMPSON, *Love and Lament* (Other Press). Park Road Books was on site to sell selected author books, which allowed attendees to get personalized inscriptions. This year, 63 people purchased tickets for this lively (and loud) event!



### **November 2013**

On November 15, WNBA-Charlotte hosted a rare lunchtime event at Whole Foods in the Southpark area of Charlotte titled Happy & Healthy Holidays Start Here! Just prior to the event, about eight WNBA members met for lunch at the well-stocked prepared foods section of the supermarket. Then, they travelled upstairs for a presentation of recipes and tips to make traditionally caloric feasts a little healthier, just in time for the holidays.



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## Events Recap (continued)

### **December 2013**



On December 5, the WNBA-Charlotte was lucky enough to have the opportunity to attend a free, pre-screening of the movie *Saving Mr. Banks*. Screened at the theaters at Phillips Place, the movie tells the story of how Walt Disney persuades P. L. Travers, the author of the beloved book, *Mary Poppins*, to allow his studio to create her very personal story on film. Those in attendance raved about the film!

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## Upcoming Events

Please note, we'll be posting additional information about these events on our Facebook page and website! Most events take place on Mondays, but note that February is a TUESDAY.

**January 13** — Members Only Annual Book Swap and Winter Social & Networking Meeting

**February 18** (Tuesday) – Joint meeting with Charlotte Writers' Club  
– panel discussion details to come

**March 10** – Spring "Meet the Authors" Event with Regional Authors

**April 14** – Contemporary Southern Fiction and Nonfiction Panel Discussion

**May 12** – Great Summer Reads with Sally Brewster, Park Road Books

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## WNBA Great Group Reads Book Club

The WNBA-Charlotte Book Club launched its second year this September, selecting a new list of books based on the 2013-2014 Great Group Reads list created by the National Reading Group Month panel made up of WNBA members from across the country. You can join the book club at any point in the year. Meetings are at 7pm at Panera 5940 Fairview Rd. (by South Park Mall) on the first Tuesday of each month and are open to all members.

### We just read:

December 2013: *Margot* by Jillian Cantor

November 2013: *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich

October 2013: *In the Shadow of the Banyan* by Vaddey Ratner

September 2013: *Boleto* by Alison Hagy

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## *WNBA Great Group Reads Book Club (continued)*

### Upcoming Books:

January 2014: no book

February 2014: *Big Brother* by Lionel Shriver

March 2014: *How It All Began* by Penelope Lively

April 2014: *Wash* by Margaret Wrinkle

May 2014: *A Constellation of Vital Phenomenon* by Anthony Marra

June 2014: *The Other Typist* by Suzanne Rindell

July 2014: no book (enjoy the summer!)

August 2014: *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson

September 2014: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger

October 2014: *The House Girl* by Tara Conklin

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](mailto:whitreidsmama@yahoo.com).

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## *Member News*

Congratulations to our members!

**WNBA member Sandy Hill**, a former editor at The Charlotte Observer, has a new mystery novel out, "**Deadline for Death**," set at a fictional Charlotte newspaper.

**WNBA member Melissa Moraja's** newest children's chapter book went on sale November 15, 2013! It's the fourth in the Wunderkind Family series and called "**Tale of the Messed Up Talent Show**." <http://www.thewunderkindfamily.com>

Want to be featured in the next newsletter? Send your news item to Jessica Daitch at [jessica-daitch@hotmail.com](mailto:jessica-daitch@hotmail.com). Thanks!

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## *News of Interest*

### **NPR Books Debuts 'The Book Concierge'**

In an effort to be both interactive and engaging, this December NPR launched a new website and mobile app called Book Concierge. The Book Concierge lets a reader sort through a list organized by both title, and category. You can even select more than one category (of sorting), which helps you narrow down the book choices.

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### *News of Interest (continued)*

Books were selected based on the recommendations by NPR Book contributors such as Fresh Air book critic Maureen Corrigan, librarian Nancy Pearl, Morning Edition host David Greene and many others. What makes the app fun is that the book categories are named conventionally (fiction, science, etc.) but also inventively grouped by categories such as "Rather Long" or "It's All Geek to Me" or "Eye Opening Reads." (As a result, some books appear in more than one category.)

#### **Rare Books Vanish, With a Librarian in the Plot**

In late November, The New York Times reported on one of the most dramatic thefts ever to hit the rare-book world, the disappearance of thousands of volumes — including centuries-old editions of Aristotle, Descartes, Galileo and Machiavelli — from the Baroque-era Girolamini Library in Naples. The librarian responsible for protecting these volumes, Marino Massimo De Caro, is accused of being at the center of a corrupt market for rare books. Though a self-educated bibliophile, Mr. de Caro came to be in his position due to his political connections.

The New York Times reported, "This is the biggest [books scandal](#) to hit in the past 150 or 200 years," said Fabrizio Govi, the president of the Italian Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, adding that nothing of this scope had happened since the case of Count Guglielmo Libri, a 19th-century Italian collector who absconded with books on a grand scale.

Rare books admired by connoisseurs have been fetching increasingly higher prices. In early December, the [Bay Psalm Book](#), the first book printed in English in North America, became the most expensive ever bought at auction when it sold for \$14,165,000.

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### *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**). Books that UNICEF recommends to further your understanding of community and women in need are:

#### **Recommended reading:**

*Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time* by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin (Penguin Books, 2007)

*Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan* by Greg Mortenson (Viking Adult, 2009)

*The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead, 2004)

*A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead, 2008)

*Leaving Microsoft to Change the World: An Entrepreneur's Odyssey to Educate the World's Children* by John Wood (Harper Paperbacks, 2007)

*Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn (Knopf, 2009)

*A Thousand Sisters: My Journey into the Worst Place on Earth to Be a Woman* by Lisa Shannon, founder of Run for Congo Women (Seal Press, 2010)

## *Blurbilicious*



### **River of Dreams**

Lynn Kurland. Berkley Sensation, \$15 trade paper (384p)  
ISBN 978-0-425-26282-5

Kurland's eighth novel of the Nine Kingdoms (after Dreamspinner) continues the adventures of Aisling of Bruadair, who was raised in a weavers' guild in a stark country that one must not speak of for fear of being cursed with death. Having dared to leave home, Aisling is starting to realize that there is bountiful legend, magic, and beauty in the Nine Kingdoms. Aisling is traveling from haven to haven with her brave elfin prince companion, Rùnach of Ceangail, on a quest to save her dying country and restore Rùnach's stolen magic. Despite not understanding Aisling's unusual talent for spinning air, fire, and water, Rùnach devotes himself to the reserved, humble weaver who doesn't recognize his persistent (and artless) wooing. Aisling and Runach's tender romance sweetly ratchets up as they take turns saving each other from perilous danger, and series fans will be left eager to read about their future adventures. (Jan.)



### **Against the Ropes**

Sarah Castille. Sourcebooks Casablanca, \$13.99 trade paper (368p) ISBN 978-1-4022-8485-4

Three years after graduating college at the top of her class, EMT Makayla Delaney is floundering in a dead-end hospital admissions job, barely scraping together enough income to pay for her tiny room in a shared Oakland, Calif., home. When a bill collector starts hounding her for student-loan payments, she reluctantly takes a second job treating injuries at an unsanctioned mixed-martial-arts fight club. Despite her aversion to blood and fighting, she can't resist acting on her intense attraction to the club's owner, Max "Torment" Huntington, a fighter and rich venture capitalist. Alpha-male Max doggedly pursues Makalya, attracted to her determination to support herself and her enjoyment of BDSM-lite. Firmly set in the "new adult" genre, Castille's debut is steamy but could benefit from additional character development. Agent: Laura Bradford, Bradford Literary Agency. (Sept.)

(Contact Jessica at [jessicadaitch@hotmail.com](mailto:jessicadaitch@hotmail.com) if you would like to contribute the next book review.)

## *Join the WNBA-Charlotte*

The WNBA-Charlotte is stronger than ever and we are thrilled to welcome current and new members to each and every meeting. Since 2009, we've welcomed enthusiastic professionals representing many different aspects of the book world. Our group claims writers, editors, publishers, agents, publicists, librarians, reviewers, reporters, and avid readers. Also, we're always seeking feedback and leadership! Reach out to us at [wnbacharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:wnbacharlotte@gmail.com) if you have a great idea for a future program or if you'd like to join the board.

**If you haven't renewed your membership this year, please do so as our new year typically begins in September.** Your membership supports the national WNBA and also allows the WNBA-Charlotte to host events. For example, we often need to pay room rental fees or travel expenses for authors attending BiblioFeast.

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### *Join the WNBA-Charlotte (continued)*

Joining the WNBA Charlotte Chapter is easy. There are several ways to join or renew your membership:

- Go to our website at [www.WNBA-Charlotte.org](http://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](mailto:wnbacharlotte@gmail.com)
- Fill out a membership form at any of our meetings, make a check out to WNBA, and give it to any board member in attendance.

Our membership rate is \$42 per year; Seniors 65+ and enrolled students: \$25 per year. Please note, that our general membership went up by \$2 to help support a technology upgrade for the national WNBA that will benefit all members as they are developing a much more user friendly membership network.

Why Join? Meet like-minded 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! 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](http://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:** "I'm so thankful to be included in an organization like WNBA. As an individual new to the book industry, I have been welcomed by intelligent, book loving women. I leave each meeting feeling ready to try new things." From Nicole Ayers, Ayers Edits (freelance editor)

Want to know what's going on with WNBA-Charlotte? Visit our website <http://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! Our email is [wnbacharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:wnbacharlotte@gmail.com).

Presently we are adding a Member Network to the website so that we can match names with faces and detail top-line information about member expertise. If you would like to be included, please send the following information to WNBA-Charlotte Vice President Emily Pearce at [emilyspearce@yahoo.com](mailto:emilyspearce@yahoo.com)

- Name
- Preferred contact (email or phone)
- Brief job description (ideally 10 words or less)
- Select, personal web links (e.g., LinkedIn, your blog, etc.)
- A .jpg headshot

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## Join the WNBA-Charlotte (continued)

### **WNBA Social Media Links:**



<http://www.facebook.com/WNBACHarlotte>



Our handle is @WNBA\_Charlotte. Also follow the national organization at @WNBA\_NATL\_UN



Search for: [http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Womens-National-Book-Association-Charlotte-4187014?goback=%2Eanp\\_4187014\\_1354631542583\\_1](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Womens-National-Book-Association-Charlotte-4187014?goback=%2Eanp_4187014_1354631542583_1)

## Chapter Footnotes

### **Have questions or comments?**

**Feel free to send us an email:** [wnbacharlotte@gmail.com](mailto:wnbacharlotte@gmail.com)

### **Your Charlotte Chapter Board and Committee Chairs**

President: Kristen Knox, [whitreidsmama@yahoo.com](mailto:whitreidsmama@yahoo.com)

Vice-President: Emily Pearce, [emilyspearce@yahoo.com](mailto:emilyspearce@yahoo.com)

Secretary: Holly Hughes, [hgirlla@yahoo.com](mailto:hgirlla@yahoo.com)

Treasurer: Quinlan Lee, [quinlan@adamsliterary.com](mailto:quinlan@adamsliterary.com)

Past President : Susan Walker, [susan.walker.books@gmail.com](mailto:susan.walker.books@gmail.com)

\*Carin Siegfried is 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](mailto:Jennifer.Franz@Baker-Taylor.com)
- Event Chairs: Susan Walker, [susan.walker.books@gmail.com](mailto:susan.walker.books@gmail.com)
- Holly Hughes, [hgirlla@yahoo.com](mailto:hgirlla@yahoo.com)
- Membership Chair: Carolyn Abiad, [csabiad@gmail.com](mailto:csabiad@gmail.com)
- National Reading Group Month/Biblio Feast Chair:  
Susan Walker, [susan.walker.books@gmail.com](mailto:susan.walker.books@gmail.com)
- Newsletter Editor-in-Chief and Publicity Chair: Jessica Daitch, [jessica\\_daitch@yahoo.com](mailto:jessica_daitch@yahoo.com)
- Bookwoman Correspondent: Jessica Daitch, [jessica\\_daitch@yahoo.com](mailto:jessica_daitch@yahoo.com)
- Website Chairs: Susan Walker, [susan.walker.books@gmail.com](mailto:susan.walker.books@gmail.com)  
Susan Vitale, [vitalia@earthlink.net](mailto:vitalia@earthlink.net)
- WNBA-Charlotte Book Club Chair: Kristen Knox, [whitreidsmama@yahoo.com](mailto:whitreidsmama@yahoo.com)
- At-Large Board members: Amanda Phillips, [amanda.phillips@baker-taylor.com](mailto:amanda.phillips@baker-taylor.com),  
Carol Baldwin, [cbaldwin6@carolina.rr.com](mailto:cbaldwin6@carolina.rr.com)