



Chapter Notes

By, for and about the Charlotte Chapter of the WNBA

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Welcome

Become a Member! Joining the WNBA Charlotte Chapter is easy. There are three ways:

1. Go to our website at www.WNBA-Charlotte.org and complete the online membership form, submitting your payment through PayPal.
2. 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
3. Request a printed membership form by emailing: wnbacharlotte@earthlink.net.

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

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! 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.wnba-books.org), including the password protected member directory used for networking opportunities.

Already a member? Please note, that renewal forms for the Fall 2012-Spring 2013 year will be sent out in August. We hope you'll extend your membership and join us regularly for events!

Member Testimonial:

"I joined WNBA in order to broaden my horizons. As a librarian, I am often called upon to know authors and works, but it is really enlightening to also learn more about the entire process to move an idea into a published work. I am enjoying the group as a whole and often report what I learn to my daughter, an aspiring writer." -- Gwen Clift

WNBA – Charlotte Online!

Want to know what's going on with the 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.

The WNBA-Charlotte chapter embraces social media, too! You can interact with us on Facebook by clicking "like" at our dedicated page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Womens-National-Book-Association-Charlotte/110829532298174>

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.

President's Letter

Susan Walker, WNBA Charlotte President

Happy summer, everyone!

The next few months promise to be busy ones for me in my roles as our chapter president and as one of the events coordinators for National Reading Group Month 2012. I've just returned from attending both BookExpo America (BEA), the big book industry national convention in NYC, and our annual WNBA National Meeting in Los Angeles. More about both of these below.

Our Charlotte past/founding president Carin Siegfried also attended the WNBA National Meeting in her new capacity as National Vice President. Carin is in line to become WNBA's National President in 2014-2016, a position to which I know she'll bring her energy and great ideas. WNBA's centennial celebration is coming up in 2017, so Carin will play a vital role in leading our association to that important milestone.

At BEA, I represented both our chapter and the other nine around the country (Boston, Detroit, Los Angeles, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC) when I met with publishers to discuss WNBA's annual National Reading Group Month program for this coming October. I'm working on confirming authors for our Charlotte BIBLIOFEAST Book & Author Dinner (see page 3) and also for similar author panels and meal events for many of the other chapters. (Event coordinators at the other chapters will actually run their own events, by the way, once I arrange their authors for them.) It was great to see lots of my book industry friends and colleagues at the convention, too!

At the WNBA National Meeting at the lovely Radisson LAX, Carin and I joined the national board of directors and committee chairs and the presidents/representatives of all the chapters for two busy days of meetings. It was my first time at this gathering, so it was interesting, enlightening, and fun to get to know everyone there. Shared issues and opportunities for all chapters include membership retention and growth; funding for our non-profit organization; encouraging members to be actively involved; effective communication between National and chapters; support for WNBA's awards programs and new creative writing competition (see page 5); WNBA's role as a United Nations NGO; National Reading Group Month; and WNBA's 100th anniversary coming up in 2017. We enjoyed attending the Judy Lopez Memorial Awards for Children's Literature dinner with members of the Los Angeles chapter, sponsor of the award. We were privileged to hear short speeches by Medalist author Matthew J. Kirby, *ICEFALL*, and Honor Book author Eugene Yelchin, *BREAKING STALIN'S NOSE*. (And at the hotel, we also got to rub shoulders in the elevators with 400+ Bikram yoga practitioners who were there for a 9-week training program!)

Carin and I and all the rest of us on the Charlotte board of directors (see page 8) are excited about the many book-related initiatives, programs, and networking connections which WNBA offers us. ***WE OURSELVES are WNBA***, a *volunteer* organization, so we urge all of us members to be active and engaged! We'll all benefit – and have a good time sharing our love of books with each other and our Charlotte community, too!

Here's to enjoying lots of good books this summer! (Write up reviews, and we'll print them in this newsletter, too.)

Thanks for being part of WNBA Charlotte!

Susan Walker

Susan.walker.books@gmail.com; 612-382-5868

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned for our **WNBA Charlotte 2012-2013 Events Calendar**, coming later this summer! Most of our meetings are held on the second Monday evening of the month, September and November of 2012 and January through May of 2013, but we will confirm these dates later..

We don't have regular member meetings during the months of June, July, and August. However, if any members would like to get together informally over this summer, please let us know!

We'll kick off our new membership year with a drinks and networking event on Monday, September 10 – a great opportunity to come together and catch up after the summer. Location and specific time to be announced!

And plan ahead for our **3rd Annual BIBLIOFEAST Book & Author "Moveable Feast" Dinner** in celebration of **National Reading Group Month!** Mark your calendars now for **Monday evening, October 22!** Tell your book club and reading group friends that this is a MUST ATTEND event!

Please do give us your input and ideas for our monthly programs. And if you'd like to volunteer for the Events Committee to help plan these meetings, we'd love to have you participate. Please contact Susan Walker, President and Interim Events Chair, susan.walker.books@gmail.com, with your program suggestions and to volunteer. Thanks!

Upcoming June 21 Friends of the Library Event

– submitted by Carin Siegfried

I have been a longtime supporter of libraries. In fact, my very first job with books was at my college library. For the last two years I have been volunteering at my local branch, and I love whenever the WNBA can help support libraries as our interests overlap so much.

Lately they've been partnering with the bar/restaurant Zink (where we had our very fun September 2011 meet-and-greet event) for a fundraiser called Dine Out for Books. A portion of the proceeds for the evening go to Friends of the Library to help rebuild the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library's collection.

June's Dine Out for Books at Zink features the Literacy Cocktail Hour! Gather with like-minded individuals over food and drinks to talk books. A very special drink menu will be provided, including the original Bookworm and new cocktails like The Great Gatsby. **Make your reservation for Thursday, June 21, at Zink American Kitchen in South Park.**

Did you know that for every \$1 invested, the Library returns \$4.57 in direct benefits to our community?

To join the Friends of the Library or find out more, visit their website at <http://www.cmlibraryfriends.org/>.

I will be at Zink on June 21, and I hope to see a lot of fellow WNBA-ers there too!

Events Recap

Hope you didn't miss these!

MARCH: From Book Idea to the Book Shelf: The Process & Business of Publishing



Our March event at Park Road Books featured a large panel of book industry experts discussing the journey a manuscript takes from draft to publication. Our expert panel also discussed how book marketing has changed, particularly in light of a demanding e-book audience who wants new books fast. Nearly 30 people attended this program and asked insightful questions that will guide their future endeavors.

March Meeting. Photo Courtesy of Jessica Daitch

APRIL: An Evening of Multi-cultural Books and Reading

Over 25 people attended our event at International House where the WNBA-Charlotte welcomed children's book author, Monika Schroeder who presented her book ***Saraswati's Way*** which concentrates on the issues of child labor and education, in India and the world. *Saraswati's Way* is a Battle of the Books Selection for North Carolina, 2012-2013 and Schroeder is an SCBWI Crystal Kite Award winner. International House promotes international understanding by serving as a center for diversity, advocating for people of diverse national backgrounds, and facilitating professional and cultural exchange programs. International House is affiliated with the US Department of State via the National Council of International Visitors.

MAY: Great Summer Reads



In May, WNBA member Sally Brewster, owner of Park Road Books, hosted the WNBA-Charlotte for our annual Great Summer Reads event. Sally Brewster presented a long list of books to dive into this summer that spanned from mystery, to science fiction, to family drama, to cooking! A large crowd of WNBA members were furiously taking notes and making a long list of "must reads" this summer. Visit Sally at Park Road Books and I'm sure she's got a spare list to share with you! She won't let you hit the beach without a great book in your tote bag!

May Meeting. Photo Courtesy of Carin Siegfried

1st Annual WNBA National Writing Contest

WNBA will be reviewing submissions for our 1st annual Writing Contest. The Women's National Book Association is a dynamic organization of women and men across the broad spectrum of writing and publishing. Membership includes Editors, Publishers, Literary Agents, Professors, Academics, Librarians, Authors, Booksellers, Book Marketers and many others involved in the world of books.

After years of celebrating published authors, extraordinary book women and others in the field, we have decided it is time to celebrate emerging writers.

GUIDELINES:

Submission Period: May 1 – November 1, 2012

- Please send only your highest caliber work.
- Fiction 2,500 word limit – may be a short story, or a stand alone excerpt from a novel in progress.
- Poetry: 35 line limit – or one page double spaced
- Previously unpublished work only.
- Your entry must be uploaded without your name, address, or contact information on the actual document. Your contact
- Information will be collected on a separate form when you submit your entry.
- You may submit more than one entry, however, each one must be separately submitted.
- Acceptable formats are: Word Document 2007, Word Document 2003 or earlier version, RTF (Rich Text Format)

JUDGES:

Fiction: Valerie Martin. Valerie is an award-winning author (Kafka Prize, Orange Prize) with 9 novels, 3 short story collections, and one biography. Her website is:

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

Poetry: Julie Kane, Poet Laureate, Louisiana, 2011-2013. Julie has authored six books, including three collections of poetry, one volume of non-fiction, and two edited anthologies.

Her website is: <http://www.juliekanepoet.com/>

ENTRY FEE:

- Entry: 3 poems or 1 short story.
- WNBA Members: \$10 per entry
- Non-Members: \$15 per entry
- Multiple submissions will be accepted.

PRIZE: \$250 cash prize and publication in the *Bookwoman*, the newsletter of the Women's National Book Association, with 10 chapters nationwide.

Submissions Link: <http://wnba.submishmash.com/submit>

Industry News

The fight over e-book pricing continues. In April, the U.S. Department of Justice filed an antitrust lawsuit against Apple and five large publishers, accusing them of colluding to raise prices of e-books, in retaliation for competitor Amazon.com pricing most e-books at US \$9.99 beginning in late 2007. Three publishers - Hachette Book Group, HarperCollins and Simon & Schuster - agreed to settle the lawsuit, the DOJ said. However, in late May and in separate filings, both Penguin and Macmillan rejected charges made by the U.S. Department of Justice that they colluded with other publishers to inflate the price of e-books artificially. Both denied wrongdoing following the launch of the iPad and iBookstore. Similarly Apple filed in federal court claiming that the U.S. government has sided with monopoly rather than competition. According to *Publisher's Weekly*, "Penguin admitted, however, that it was concerned that Amazon's "below-cost" pricing strategy would be "detrimental to the long-term health of the book industry," including "devaluing books," raising barriers to entry for would-be competitors, and "destroying the value chain that supports authors, agents, booksellers, and publishers." Many organizations and companies in the book industry, from the American Booksellers Association to Barnes & Noble, have spoken out in defense of the five publishers and Apple and have expressed dismay over the Department of Justice's decision to pursue this lawsuit.

As of May 22, the *Fifty Shades of Grey* trilogy has sold over 10 million copies and has had over 60 printings, according to the *NY Daily News*. The three books have been the number 1, 2, and 3 selling books on Amazon.com for weeks and weeks. For the unfamiliar, *Fifty Shades of Grey* started as BDSM-erotic fan fiction based on the bestselling *Twilight* series. When the story began to take off, names were hastily changed and author E.L. James became an overnight success. It may seem like a new trend, but erotica is almost as old as the written word, according to *RT Book Reviews*. They correctly point out that one of the most risqué plays ever written is called *Lysistrata*. It was written by Aristophanes in 411 B.C.

WNBA and UNICEF

Did you know that the Women's National Book Association 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 role ranges from emergency-relief donations (Indian Ocean Tsunami 2004; Myanmar Cyclone Disaster 2008; Haiti Earthquake 2010) to annual fund-raising (**Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF**), from UNICEF USA campaign-awareness (The UNICEF Tap Project, Believe in Zero—24,000) to literacy advocacy for women and girls (**UNICEF's Afghanistan Education Alliance**).

WNBA recommends these books which address important international issues:

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)

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (Riverhead, 2004)

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

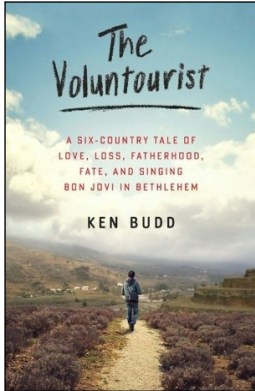
Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide by Nicholas D. Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn (Knopf, 2009)

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)

Blurbalicious

Thank you to Kristen Knox for providing the book review for the June 2012 newsletter!

***The Volontourist* by Ken Budd, HarperCollins**



Many people look at their children as their legacy to the world. They are, after all, what so many of us leave behind after our deaths, the best parts of ourselves. But if someone chooses to remain childless, what remains after they are gone? How are they remembered and what is their legacy? Ken Budd tackles that question in his introspective, unusual, and wonderful travelogue.

When his father dies unexpectedly of a heart attack, Budd sees first hand the many ways in which his father lived a good life, contributed to others' happiness, and made a difference in the world in so many small but significant ways. Losing his father makes Budd think about what he wants to do to live a life that matters. Unlike his own father, he himself will never be a father, so he cannot strive to emulate his dad in that way. However, he can choose to give back for the goodness in his life. He embarks on six "volontouring" trips of around two weeks each, in which he pays for the privilege of going to poor, troubled, or devastated places in this world to do whatever sort of work he can to contribute to bettering the lot of the people and the place.

He volunteers to clean up in New Orleans post-Katrina, to teach English in Costa Rica, to help care for and teach special needs kids in China, to count flora and fauna in a cloud forest in Ecuador as a part of a scientific global warming project, to help Palestinian refugees with menial work on the West Bank, and to care for orphans in Kenya – accomplishing all of this in between stints in his regular working life. His commitment comes from his realization that life is short, and it is vital that we do the best we can with the time we are given. In addition, it rises from his need to process and grieve the fact that while he would very much like a child, his wife is certain that she does not want one, and he must honor her feelings in this above his own.

Each section of the book presents a different voluntourism experience, and Budd deftly captures the uniqueness of each place, the resilience and hope of the people, and his own feelings in facing each different situation and in coming to terms with his father's loss and the loss of his potential children. He captures the personalities of some of his fellow volunteers, sketching them briefly but managing to show their essence even in their short cameos.

Well written, inspiring and honest, this travelogue/memoir is filled with humor and humanity. It chronicles Budd's personal journey, his marriage, coming to terms with his grief, and stepping outside of his own comfort zone to grow into the sort of person he wants to be. This is all about human connection and the small wonders that can occur when we just reach out one hand and make that contact. It would be tough to come away from this book without the wish to set out on your own voluntourism experience, to make your own difference in this world, to be a person who matters

Chapter Footnotes

Have questions or comments? Feel free to send us an email--

Your 2012-2013 Charlotte Chapter Board

President: Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.com
Vice-President: Stephanie Ripperton, s.ripperton@gmail.com
Secretary: Holly Hughes, hgirla@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Quinlan Lee, quinlan@adamsliterary.com

Your 2012-2013 Charlotte Chapter Committee Chairs

We are always looking for more committee members! For more information on a committee or to sign up for one, please contact the people below. We have a great group of members and volunteers in our WNBA Charlotte chapter, and we'd love to have you participate as actively as you can. Thanks!

Membership Chair: Carolyn Abiad, csabiad@gmail.com
Interim Events Chair: Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.com
National Reading Group Month/Bibliofeast 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
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