

Chapter Notes

By, for and about the Charlotte Chapter of the WNBA

Volume 5, No. 1

March 2013

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Welcome

It's spring fever. That is what the name of it is. And when you've got it, you want - oh, you don't quite know what it is you do want, but it just fairly makes your heart ache, you want it so!

-- by Mark Twain from Tom Sawyer, Detective

Spring Greetings from WNBA-Charlotte! Bringing Book Lovers and Book Professionals Together

The Women's National Book Association Charlotte chapter 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. As you read our quarterly newsletter, don't forget to mark your calendars for our last two events of the programming year. Also, we're always seeking feedback and leadership! Reach out to us at wnbacharlotte@gmail.com if you have a great idea for a future program or if you'd like to join the board.

Not a member yet? 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 dues are \$40 per year; Seniors 65+ and enrolled students: \$20 per year. If you enroll after April, your membership will extend through our 2013-2014 year, until the end of May 2014.

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 take full advantage of your membership and join us regularly for events!

Member Testimonial:

"I love being a member of the WNBA because I've met and become friends with some amazing people including my mentee, Young Adult author Megan Miranda, who is currently on a book tour for her second novel *Hysteria*."

– Holly Hughes, WNBA-Charlotte member and Chapter Secretary

WNBA Charlotte Online

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.

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 emily-spearce@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

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

Upcoming Events

April Meeting

April 22 – Latin American and Latino Women Writers and Literature in Translation



Latin American and Latina women writers — Julia Alvarez, Esmerelda Santiago, Sandra Cisneros, and many, many more — offer us a wide range of wonderful fiction, non-fiction and poetry in Spanish and in English translation. Join us for an exciting discussion of these writers with **Magdalena Maiz-Peña**, Professor of Hispanic Studies at Davidson College. A list of recommended books will be provided at the meeting, too.

Professor Magdalena Maiz-Peña specializes in twentieth-century Latin American Women Writers, Life-Writing and the Politics of representation, and Contemporary Latin American literary and cultural narratives.

Her teaching interests include Basic and Intermediate language courses, Introduction to Hispanic literatures and cultures, Contemporary Latin American literatures, and The Latin American City and its historical and cultural representation. She is the author of *Identidad, nación y gesto autobiográfico*, and co-editor of *Modalidades de representación del sujeto auto/biográfico femenino*.

Continued next page

Upcoming Events (continued)

Her recent publications have appeared in Chile, Colombia, Mexico, and the U.S. Maiz-Peña is presently working on a book project on Urban Spaces, Gender, and Cultural Production in Mexico 1920-1950. At Davidson College she has been awarded The Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award (1995), the ODK Outstanding Teaching Award (1997), and the Hunter-Hamilton Love of Teaching Award (2006). She was recently recognized for her work on the Latino Community with the Latin American Coalition Award (2007).

WHEN: April 22, 2013 at 6:30pm (Note the time – a bit earlier than usual!)

WHERE: 4201 Congress Street, Suite 295, Charlotte, NC 28209 (an office building in the South-Park area)

IMPORTANT LOGISTICAL NOTE: The office building where we are meeting LOCKS its outside doors at 7 PM, so please be sure to arrive on time! If you find yourself locked out, please call Susan Walker at 612-382-5868 (cell), and someone will come to let you in.

May Meeting

May 13 – Great Summer Reads with Sally Brewster, Park Road Books

Join us for our final program of the 2012-2013 programming season! Park Road Books owner and WNBA-Charlotte member Sally Brewster will highlight her favorite new books, making suggestions in a wide variety of genres. We promise you'll leave with a long list of "must reads" for the summer! This year, she'll also make suggestions for your children's summer reading list. This is a not-to-be-missed event!

WHEN: May 13, 2013 at 7pm

WHERE: Park Road Books, Park Road Shopping Center
4139 Park Rd, Charlotte, NC 28209, (704) 525-9239

Events Recap

January Event Recap

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



Nearly 20 people gathered at the Northwest School of the Arts to listen to a lively discussion regarding the popularity and utility of E-readers (like Nook and KOBO), plus online resources for digital book formats. Our guest panelists included Jeff Swartz of Barnes & Noble to talk about NOOK, and Park Road Books owner Sally Brewster to talk about KOBO. Following the interactive discussion, the members exchanged books and created a large pile of children's books, which were donated to Promising Pages, a Charlotte charity. Please visit www.PromisingPages.com, a non-profit organization working to get books into the hands of the estimated 60,000 children in the Greater Charlotte area growing up without books in their homes.

Photo Courtesy of Carin Siegfried

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Events Recap (continued)

February Event Recap

From Book Idea to the Bookshelf: The Process and Business of Publishing



A Standing Room Only Crowd!

Photos Courtesy of Carin Siegfried



Our Panelists

Co-hosted with the Charlotte Writers Club, we gathered experienced book industry representatives, many whom are WNBA-Charlotte members, to discuss how a manuscript goes from the idea stage to a published book for sale to the reading public. This event was a HUGE success and we estimate nearly [150 people](#) attended!

The discussion ranged from finding an agent to self-publishing opportunities as well as the importance of engaging an audience via an online presence. Featured panelists included:

- Agent Josh Adams, Adams Literary
- Independent Editor Betsy Thorpe, Betsy Thorpe Literary Services (WNBA member)
- Kelly Bowen, Publicity Director, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill
- Amanda Phillips, MarComm Manager at distributor/wholesaler Baker & Taylor (WNBA Charlotte board member)
- Independent Bookseller Sally Brewster, owner of Park Road Books in Charlotte (and former books sales rep) (WNBA member)
- Lisa Williams Kline, Author the middle-grade novels *Eleanor Hill* (winner of the North Carolina Juvenile Literature Award), *The Princesses of Atlantis*, *Write Before Your Eyes*, and the *Sisters in All Seasons* series (WNBA member)
- Independent Book Marketing, Sales and Promotion Consultant Susan Walker (WNBA Charlotte President)

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Events Recap (continued)

March Event Recap

Spring "Meet the Authors" Evening



Author Megan Miranda, left, was one of our featured authors

Photos Courtesy of Emily Pearce

WNBA-Charlotte enthusiastically welcomed five authors to Park Road Books this March. Each is newly published within the last few months and shared their writing inspiration. We also got to listen to a small excerpt from each novel, which they tantalizingly ended just when the action began to pick up! Many audience members (about 40!) purchased books on the spot and sought autographs from the very gracious authors.



**Author
Kim Boykin**

Our guests included:

Kim Boykin, *The Wisdom of Hair*
(Berkley/Penguin USA www.kimboykin.com)

Gina Holmes, *Wings of Glass*
(Tyndale House) www.ginaholmes.com

Holly Goddard Jones, *The Next Time You See Me*
(Touchstone/S&S) www.hollygoddardjones.com

Megan Miranda, *Hysteria* (Walker Books for Young Readers / Macmillan)
www.meganmiranda.com

Margaret Wrinkle, *WASH* (Atlantic Monthly Press/ Grove/Atlantic) <http://washthenovel.com/>



**Author
Gina Holmes**



**Author
Holly Goddard Jones**



**Author
Margaret Wrinkle**

WNBA Charlotte Book Club News

The WNBA-Charlotte Book Club is full steam ahead and has met monthly since December! Meetings are at 7pm at Panera, 5940 Fairview Rd. (by SouthPark Mall) on the first Tuesday of each month and are open to all! Please see below for a complete list of books. **It's not too late to read our April book and join the next get-together!**

We just read:

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

Upcoming Meetings:

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.

Member News



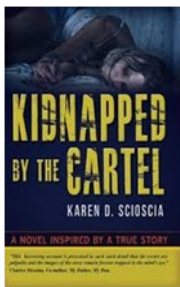
Hysteria by Megan Miranda

February 2013; Walker Books for Young Readers
Description (from Goodreads)

Mallory killed her boyfriend, Brian. She can't remember the details of that night but everyone knows it was self-defense, so she isn't charged. But Mallory still feels Brian's presence in her life. Is it all in her head? Or is it something more? In desperate need of a fresh start, Mallory is sent to Monroe, a fancy prep school where no one knows her . . . or anything about her past. But the feeling follows her, as do her secrets. Then, one of her new classmates turns up dead. As suspicion falls on Mallory, she must find a way to remember the details of both deadly nights so she can prove her innocence to herself and others. **In another riveting tale of life and death, Megan Miranda's masterful storytelling brings readers along for a ride to the edge of sanity and back again.**

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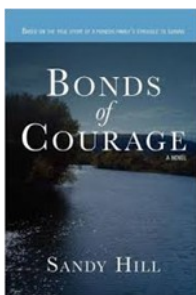
Member News (continued)



Kidnapped By the Cartel by Karen Scioscia

January 2013; Two Harbors Press
Description (from her website)

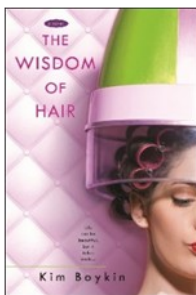
A beautiful, young American woman was kidnapped and confined against her will in the putrid depths of Tijuana, Mexico. Drugged and tortured, she lived in constant fear for her life. Kidnapped by the Cartel opens the doors into the secret covens of Mexican Organized Crime, a terrifying place where many are lost forever. The slimy backstreets of Tijuana are graphically revealed as the disgusting, gruesome, and violent places they are known to be. The U.S. State Department has warned against non-essential travel along the United States/Mexico border, especially in the violent cities of Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana. This novel gives a taste of what goes on behind the fence.



Bonds of Courage by Sandy Hill

August 2012; CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
Description (from Amazon.com)

On a sunny morning on the Pennsylvania frontier in 1778, a mother sits down to breakfast with her children. Within an hour, the family is torn asunder. While her husband rides for help, Indians seize her and their sons. Only her teenage daughter escapes. Alone in the world, young Jane struggles to make her way, while her father searches frantically for her. Soon even greater tragedy erupts. Set against the turmoil of our country's founding, this is a novel about relationships and the struggle of a divided family to reunite against great odds. Book club discussion questions included.



The Wisdom of Hair by Kim Boykin

March 2013; Berkley
Description (from her website)

In 1983, on her nineteenth birthday, Zora Adams finally says goodbye to her alcoholic mother and their tiny town in the mountains of South Carolina. Living with a woman who dresses like Judy Garland and brings home a different man each night is not a pretty existence, and Zora is ready for life to be beautiful. With the help of a beloved teacher, she moves to a coastal town and enrolls in the Davenport School of Beauty. Under the tutelage of Mrs. Cathcart, she learns the art of fixing hair, and becomes fast friends with the lively Sara Jane Farquhar, a natural hair stylist. She also falls hard for handsome young widower Winston Sawyer, who is drowning his grief in bourbon. She couldn't save Mama, but maybe she can save him. As Zora practices finger waves, updos, and spit curls, she also comes to learn that few things are permanent in this life—except real love, lasting friendship, and, ultimately... forgiveness.

Want to be featured in the next newsletter? Send your news item to Jessica Daitch at Jessica_Daitch@yahoo.com. Thanks!

WNBA and the U.S. Fund for 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**).

During the past five decades, WNBA has had five NGO representatives: Beatrice James, Helen Wessells Hettinger, Rose Eichelberger, Claire Friedland, and Sally Wecksler. In January 2001, Jill Tardiff (WNBA-NYC chapter) was appointed to the position of **chief representative**, and is currently serving in that role. In addition, Nancy Stewart (WNBA-Nashville) joined Ms. Tardiff as the Association's **alternate representative** that same year, and continues to work with Ms. Tardiff, especially in activities that support WNBA's informal partnership with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF.

The United Nations' INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY was March 8. Here is their message to all of us, one we need to support every day:

**A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women.
"There is one universal truth, applicable to all countries, cultures and communities:
violence against women is never acceptable, never excusable, never tolerable."
-- Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon**

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

- Up to 50% of sexual assaults are committed against girls under the age of 16.
- Globally, 603 million women live in countries where domestic violence is not yet considered a crime.
- Up to 70% of women in the world report having experienced physical and/or sexual violence at some point in their lifetime.
- Over 60 million girls worldwide are child brides, married before the age of 18...

In the face of such unacceptable figures, the international community is strongly committed to change the plight of women.

The [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) requires that countries party to the Convention take all appropriate steps to end violence.

Time for Action

This year's theme for International Women's Day, "A promise is a promise: Time for action to end violence against women" seeks to strengthen international community's commitment to put an end to violence against women. As part of the effort the UN leads to fight violence against women, Secretary-Generals Ban Ki-moon's [UNiTE campaign](#) calls on all governments, civil society, women's organizations, men, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing this global pandemic.

"ONE WOMAN"

From China to Costa Rica, from Mali to Malaysia acclaimed singers and musicians, women and men, have come together to spread a message of unity and solidarity: We are "[One Woman](#)", a song to be launched on 8 March 2013.

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WNBA and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF (continued)

What can you do?

Join the conversation and follow @UN_Women and the hashtag #1woman on Twitter. You can also donate a tweet through our Thunderclap, which will be released on 8 March.

Visit the Website and read the full message from the Secretary-General: <http://www.un.org/en/events/womensday/>

Industry News

The **Association for Women in Communications (AWC) 2013 Clarion Awards** final deadline is Sunday, March 31st. Awards opportunities lie in more than 100 categories covering many aspects of advertising, education, fundraising, graphic design, internal communications, magazines, marketing, feature writing, online journalism, public relations, radio, television, blogs, and special events. Past winners include Newsweek, CNN, Vanguard Communications, Pierson Grant Public Relations, Massachusetts School of Law, Self Magazine, Parade Publications, Philadelphia Magazine, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Angie's List Magazine, The Wall Street Journal and many more. Visit their website at <http://www.womcom.org/AWC-Home.asp> for more information.

American Libraries, the publication of the American Library Association, reports that ten dedicated and passionate librarians were honored for their unwavering commitment to patrons, communities, and libraries when they received the I Love My Librarian 2012 Award, presented in New York City on December 18. **Charlotte Mecklenburg reference librarian Beatriz Adriana Guevara was one of the 10 winners.** According to the article, her career dream began at age 13, when she met a bilingual librarian. She stated, "Ever since [that meeting], the profession had become a dream of mine...I liked the way she helped and inspired me and others, and that's what I want to do: help people achieve their dreams." Nominator Clarissa Garcia attended a college planning and career informational workshop at the library, and said that Guevara helped her complete her SAT and financial aid applications. Because of that help, Garcia said she's now enrolled in college, receiving financial aid, and is on her way to becoming a para-legal. "Beatriz is truly the people's -librarian."

Livability.com reports that Charlotte, NC is one of the top 10 places to live for book lovers. (See the article here: <http://livability.com/top-10/top-10-cities-book-lovers/charlotte/nc>) The article states, "Book shopping in Charlotte is a common occurrence – 48 stores cater to the reading crowd. Make a stop in Park Road Books and you're sure to leave with something great and unexpected, thanks to a staff that receives high praise for truly being helpful, friendly and obvious fellow book-lovers." Congratulations to Park Road Books owner and WNBA-Charlotte member, Sally Brewster, for that mention!

Coverage continues of the Department of Justice's probe into price collusion between major publishing houses in response to e-book pricing strategies by Amazon.com. Publisher's Weekly recently reported that Judge Jed Rakoff set an aggressive schedule in *Book House Of Stuyvesant Plaza, Inc. et al v. Amazon.Com, Inc. et al.* Rakoff gave the plaintiffs just one week, until March 21, 2013 to file an amended complaint, and gave the defendants just over two weeks to file to file any motions to dismiss, now due April 1. In preparation for this high profile trial, over 8 million pages of evidence have been collected and 29 people deposed. Likely the case will go to trial this October, according to the article.

Blurbilicious

Thank you to WNBA-Charlotte Founding Member and current WNBA-National Vice President Carin Siegfried for this book review.



Book Review: *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat* by Hal Herzog

My boyfriend and I adopted an adorable abandoned black kitten on Thanksgiving that he found in a shrub (we named him Turkey. Isn't he cute?) Why would we be willing to bring home a strange animal and spend lots of money on him (shots, food, litter, toys, boarding him over Christmas, and in 4 months getting him neutered) because he's cute, but we wouldn't be if, say, it had been a rat that came out of the shrubbery squeaking?

Why don't we have qualms about scientific experimentation on mice and rats but freak out if it's rabbits and cats? (In fact, the legislation that regulates how scientists treat animals specifically excludes mice and rats as not animals!) If I am unwilling to eat my cat, why am I okay with eating chickens and pigs? I am opposed to cosmetic companies testing on animals but not scientists - if it will cure a bad disease. Why all the inconsistencies?



Well, that's the way humans are designed. We are omnivores. True, these days that is more a choice (and wow, do we eat a lot more meat than necessary!) And so our brains have to justify us deciding certain animals are food (which does vary from one country/society to another). Other animals (horses, mules) are incredibly healthy and so we don't usually eat them. But what about cats and dogs and other pets? How and more importantly why did we evolve to have pets? (The answer is still unclear but the likeliest answer is that we didn't - they evolved to take advantage of some of our tendencies, like our inherent liking of creatures with big eyes and big foreheads that prevents us from hurting baby humans, and have latched onto us to care and feed for them because essentially they are parasites. I find that incredibly amusing, as my own parasite sits on my lap purring while I type this.)

This book looks at humans' relationship with animals of all sorts and tries to make some sense of it from a psychological perspective. Did you know that elephants mourn their dead and dolphins are so smart they will correct your grammar if you try to communicate with them? I did come away from this book feeling better about cockfights and worse about bird hunters (seriously.) And I wish there was a better way to farm chickens that wasn't so awful. I already have reduced my meat consumption years ago, thanks to Michael Pollan, as it's terrible for the environment, mostly cutting out beef, but now I find out that chicken is bad too in its own way, and of course there are no right answers. But this book helps us all understand those issues better and make more educated decisions.

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
- 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
- Susan Vitale, vitalia@earthlink.net
- WNBA-Charlotte Book Club Chair: Kristen Knox, whitreidsmama@yahoo.com
- At-Large Board members: Amanda Phillips, amanda.phillips@baker-taylor.com,
Carol Baldwin, cbaldwin6@carolina.rr.com