



Chapter Notes

By, for and about the Charlotte Chapter of the WNBA

May 2014

Inside this issue:

Welcome	1
Meeting Recaps	1
Upcoming Events	4
WNBA Great Group Reads Book Club	4
Member News	5
News of Interest	5
WNBA and UNICEF	6
Blurbilicious	7
Join the WNBA	8
Chapter Footnotes	9

Welcome

***The year's at the spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven;
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in His heaven -
All's right with the world!
~Robert Browning***

A letter from our President, Kristen Knox –

As our programming comes to a close for this year, a look back at our past offerings shows a varied and interesting selection. There were old favorites, variations on previous successes, and fascinating new offerings. We hope that you've found events, friendships, and professional connections that have made your membership as valuable and worthwhile to you as I always find mine. We strive hard to create a balance in our events, hoping to inspire, in-

form, and entertain readers and writers equally, as well as to keep members informed about the dynamic world of publishing.

Now is the time to think about renewing your membership for another year and to commit to making this organization work for you. We always welcome new people's involvement and as we start meeting to plan out the coming year, please help us know what you find to be of most interest and value. We look forward to you joining us again next year and making this the best organization it can be for all of you, its members. And although we take the summer off from regular programming, our Great Group Reads book club will continue to meet so feel free to join us if you just can't bear the idea of a break from us.

If you are looking to become more involved with the WNBA-Charlotte, we welcome you with open arms to board meetings, our primary planning time. We also have the following volunteer positions open:

Newsletter writer -- 3x a year, we produce a newsletter for all members.

The newsletter writer also contributes to the national BookWoman newsletter. Please contact Jessica Daitch at jessicadaitch@hotmail.com if you can take over this position. She's written the newsletter for two years and it's time to pass the torch.

I hope you all have a wonderful, book-filled summer and I know come fall I will be eager to get back to meeting with all of you, to share what I learn at the National Meeting in Detroit next month, and to once again find myself surrounded by like-minded, enthusiastic people who appreciate, support, and mirror my passion for the written word.

Happy Summer!

Kristen Knox

Event Recaps—Hope You Didn't Miss These!

February 2014

In February, partnering with the **Charlotte Writers' Club**, we offered "**Social Media, Writing and Publishing – A Panel Discussion**" The panel included **Samantha Bagoood**, an agent from Adams Literary; **Christy Lynn Allen**, self-published author of ***Samantha Green & the Case of the Haunted Pumpkin***; **Trisina Dickerson**, publicist at John F. Blair, Publisher; **Wanda Jewell**, executive director of SIBA, the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance; **Maureen Ryan Griffin**, writing coach, author of ***Spinning Words into Gold, a Hands-On Guide to the Craft of Writing***; and **Gary V. Powell**, award-winning short story writer and novelist. The buzz word of the night seemed to be "value." The authors and book professionals emphasized the need to communicate dynamically with their online audience to add value beyond the price of the book as readers are hungry to interact. There was also a spirited discussion regarding how to find the social media portal that is the best fit for your needs.

March 2014



In March, we hosted our **Spring "Meet the Authors" Evening**, which focused in on regional authors including **Sonja Condit, *Starter House*** (William Morrow Paperbacks); **Amy Greene, *Long Man*** (Alfred A. Knopf), a SIBA "Okra Pick;" **Drew Perry, *Kids These Days*** (Algonquin Books); and **Barbara Claypole White, *The In-Between Hour*** (Harlequin MIRA), a SIBA "Okra Pick". Each author read from their book and then answered questions. It was a great opportunity for one-on-one author interaction.

Sonja Condit, debut author of
STARTER HOUSE.

April 2014

In April, we welcomed **UNC-Chapel Hill Professor William Ferris**, author of ***The Storied South: Voices of Writers and Artists*** (UNC Press). Professor Ferris, a widely recognized leader in Southern studies, African American music, and folklore, is the Joel R. Williamson Eminent Professor of History at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the senior associate director of UNC's Center for the Study of the American South. He is also adjunct professor in the curriculum on folklore. Professor Ferris spoke about women writers and artists, including **Eudora Welty, Alice Walker, and Maud Gatewood**. Along with his lecture, he featured a presentation of slides and videos and audio clips, so we could hear Eudora Welty and Alice Walker and others speak for themselves. While his book also features some men, he focused on women for our lecture. As he said, "Women are the heart of the South."



UNC-Chapel Hill Professor William Ferris

May 2014

Our final event of our programming year is often one of the best attended: **Great Summer Reads**. Park Road Books owner and WNBA-Charlotte Member **Sally Brewster** recommends the best beach reads, compelling new literature, and books for teens and kids that will keep us entertained all summer long.

WNBA Great Group Reads Book Club

The WNBA-Charlotte Book Club selects books based on the annual Great Group Reads list created by the National Reading Group Month panel and 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:

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

Upcoming Books:

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.

Member News

Congratulations to our members!

Carin Siegfried's book, *The Insider's Guide to a Career in Book Publishing* comes out in May 2014. Perfect for recent grads who don't know what to do with that new English degree, Siegfried explains the ins and outs of the rather complicated industry including which job might be right for you, tips for improving your application, and what to do if you don't want to move to New York City.

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

News of Interest

Harlequin purchased by NewsCorp

In early May it was announced that NewsCorp purchased Harlequin for \$415 million dollars. Harlequin, owned by the Canadian media company Torstar Corporation, is among the world's largest publishers of romance novels (publishing 110 each month), which is consistently one of America's most popular genres. That being said, the romance category - and all other genres- are finding it more and more difficult to compete against digital publishing and self-publishing. Adding Harlequin, which will be folded into the company's HarperCollins book unit, is consistent with the NewsCorp's broader strategy of investing more heavily in the publishing industry.

News of Interest (continued)

Looking for a summer read?

There are many different ways to find your next beach book (in addition to attending our May event at Park Road Books). Here are some links to different "summer book" lists:

Publisher's Weekly: [Best Summer Reads 2014](#)

CNN: [How to Keep Kids Reading This Summer](#)

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**).

As noted on the national website, during the past six 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. Our current NGO Representatives at the United Nations Department of Public Information include: Jill A. Tardiff (Main); Nancy Stewart (First Alternate); Marilyn Berkman (Second Alternate); Dena Mekawi (First Youth Rep); Jenna Vacarro (Second Youth Rep).

Blurbilicious

Kristen Knox contributed this book review from her blog, [BookNAround](#). (It has been edited for length.)



[Quiet by Susan Cain](#)

There's never been a personality or psychological profile ever that hasn't pegged me as an extreme introvert and family and friends who know me well would certainly agree. But apparently I fake it or hide it well. And when I read Quiet, I learned why and was completely engrossed by the explanation.

Cain offers up real world experiences that extroverts face. She profiles famous people who are surprisingly (and not so surprisingly) introverts. She discusses the cultural significance of being a person who feels a real need to escape the social to recharge. She details studies about whether introversion is a learned trait or an inborn genetic gift. She talks about the different ways that introverts and extroverts are stimulated by what they see and hear and how those differences result in things like very different managerial styles. She offers suggestions for parenting introverted children and how to

Continued next page

Blurbilicious (continued)

use your or your child's introversion positively. She debunks myths about introverts. And she confirms things that those of who fall into this category (and those who live with or love an introvert) have long suspected without any proof. In short, she covers a huge amount of ground in this concentrated look at introversion.

As a book intended to be a discussion of the strengths of introverts and ways in which to learn to put yourself more out in the world when the world requires it, this is very successful. Cain has covered all her bases, using scientific studies as well as anecdotal evidence to discuss theories and confirm that introversion is not a defect or a lesser way of being than extroversion, despite the fact that culturally, we as Americans, are taught to venerate and emulate extroverts more often. As I read through this, I kept seeing myself in the pages and caught myself thinking that my extroverted husband should really read this to understand me better. This is well written and very detailed although it occasionally veers towards sounding like a Master's Thesis or other academic paper, especially when Cain writes that she will go into more depth on a particular subject in X chapter before continuing with her primary argument for the chapter in which she is currently writing. In general though, this is a fascinating look at a subject not often covered by the non-academic world (and often not covered there either). Those who are introverts will appreciate this confirmation that they are not weird or broken but that they have specific strengths and skills which just happen to be different from the majority. And those who are not introverts might find this an interesting read to help them understand the quieter folks among them.

(Contact Jessica at jessicaditch@hotmail.com if you would like to contribute the next book review.)

Join the WNBA

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 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.

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

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@gmail.com
4. 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.

Continued next page

Join the WNBA (continued)

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, an author, 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), including the password protected member directory used for networking opportunities.

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

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.

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 below information to Emily Pearce at 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.)

.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

Chapter Footnotes

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

Your Charlotte Chapter Board and Committee Chairs

President: Kristen Knox, whitreidsmama@yahoo.com
Vice-President: Emily Pearce, emilyspearce@yahoo.com
Secretary: Holly Hughes, hgirlla@yahoo.com
Treasurer: Quinlan Lee, quinlan@adamsliterary.com
Past President : Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.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 Christy Allen, Christy@samanthagreenmysteries.com, and Nicole Ayers, niccam514@yahoo.com

Membership Chair: Tina Siadak, tinasiadak@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, jessicadaitch@hotmail.com
Bookwoman Correspondent: Jessica Daitch, jessicadaitch@hotmail.com
Website Chairs: Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.com, and Susan Vitale, vi-talesa@earthlink.net
WNBA-Charlotte Book Club Chair: Kristen Knox, whitreidsmama@yahoo.com

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