



# 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. Go to our new website at [www.WNBA-Charlotte.org](http://www.WNBA-Charlotte.org) and complete the online membership form, submitting your payment through PayPal.

Or print out the form, fill it out, and send it to us with your check payable to WNBA. (Mailing address below.) To request a printed membership form, you also can email us at [wnbacharlotte@earthlink.net](mailto:wnbacharlotte@earthlink.net) Our membership rate is \$40 per year. Seniors 65 and older and currently enrolled students receive a discounted rate of \$20 per year.

**Benefits of Membership:** Meet likeminded people and help bring fun, book and 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 of the WNBA, you are automatically a member of the national WNBA organization 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.

Already a member? If you haven't already renewed your membership for our 2011-2012 year, which began in June, please renew and update your membership info online or send your check and membership form payable to WNBA to:

Sally Brewster, Park Road Books 4139 Park Road, Charlotte, NC, 28209

### **Member Testimonial:**

"Since my job as a financial strategist is far outside the realm of my love of books, the WNBA-Charlotte has given me a chance to meet wonderful women, many of whom work in areas encompassing all things 'book' related. I enjoy learning more about the professional opportunities surrounding books, as well as having a place to go to get fresh ideas on what some new best-reads might be. I thrive on the lively conversations at the meetings, and making great new friends." – Nicole Pilo

### **WNBA – Charlotte Online!**

Last fall, the Charlotte Chapter of the WNBA launched our brand new website, [www.WNBA-Charlotte.org](http://www.WNBA-Charlotte.org), designed to give our current and potential members a place to go to for information about our chapter, upcoming events, membership, National WNBA news and more. Be sure to check back frequently for updates. We hope you enjoy our new site and we look forward to hearing from you!

The WNBA-Charlotte embraces social media. 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>. You also can find us on Facebook by searching for **Women's National Book Association—Charlotte**.

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](http://www.wnba-books.org).

## Upcoming Events

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

*When: Monday, March 12, 7:00 – 9:00 PM*

*Where: Park Road Books, Park Road Shopping Center (4139 Park Road, Charlotte 28209)*

Our panel of experienced book industry representatives, many from our own WNBA ranks, will discuss how a book goes from the idea stage to the finished book for sale to the reading public. Come with your questions about the book biz and join in this sure-to-be-lively discussion!

#### *Confirmed Panelists:*

Independent editor **Carin Siegfried** of Carin Siegfried Editorial

Agent **Quinlan Lee** of Adams Literary

Former Random House Publicity Manager **Nancy Clare Morgan**

**Angela Harwood**, VP of Sales & Marketing at John F. Blair Publisher

**Amanda Phillips**, MarComm Manager at Baker & Taylor

Independent bookseller **Sally Brewster** of Park Road Books

Independent book marketing, sales and promotion consultant **Susan Walker**

Novelist **Marybeth Whalen**, author of *She Makes it Look So Easy* and *The Mailbox*

### **APRIL: An Evening of Multi-cultural Books and Reading**

*When: Monday, April 9, 6:30 pm*

*Where: International House, 322 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, NC 28204  
704.333.8099, [www.ihct.org/](http://www.ihct.org/)*

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.

#### *Confirmed Panelists:*

Children's book author, **Monika Schroeder**, who will present her book *Saraswati's Way*, which discusses the issues of child labor and education in India and the world. She is an SCBWI Crystal Kite Award winner.

TBD speaker from International House

Park Road Books will have a book table at the event so people can purchase **Monika's** books, as well as a group of selected titles from WNBA National Reading Group Month selections, such as ***Tiny Sunbirds, Far Away*** by Christie Watson.

**And mark your calendar now for our May 14 meeting.....more information to come later!**

### **Great Summer Reads**

Our annual favorite get-together, featuring book recommendations from Sally Brewster, owner of Park Road Books

**FYI:** The next Friends of the Library used book sale will be on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Stay tuned for more information and for opportunities to volunteer to support this event, which benefits our local library system.

### **FYI: Charlotte Writers Club Critique Group Pow Wow**

Do you write or are you just starting the writing journey? Joining a critique group can help you take your writing to the next level. The Charlotte Writers Club will host its Critique Group Pow Wow on Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, at the **Queens University Sports and Conference Center 2229 Tyvola Road, just west of Park Road, Charlotte.** Current members and those considering joining can become part of a network of writers in all genres - short fiction, poetry, speculative fiction, drama, journalism, novels, and more. It's a great opportunity to meet other writers and become part of a CWC-sponsored critique group. The event is free and open to the public.

## Events Recap

### **Hope you didn't miss these!**

#### **JANUARY: Annual Bookswap and Networking Social!!**

We kicked off the New Year with a favorite WNBA-Charlotte event, our annual bookswap and networking social! Our gathering took place at the Northwest School of the Arts where fifteen members shared books and caught up after a busy holiday season. Tons of books were brought to the event and the ones that did not find a new home were donated to Julia's Café and Books, located at the Habitat for Humanity Store on Wendover Road. Please support Julia's Café as 100 percent of the proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity of Charlotte.

#### **FEBRUARY: Rules for a Romance-Novel Marriage**



The day before Valentine's Day, WNBA-Charlotte invited best-selling author Charla Muller (*365 Nights*) to preview her latest book-in-progress, which humorously outlines the relationship insights she gleaned from reading over 140 romance novels in one year. More than a dozen members convened at the Matthews Community Center to enjoy her charming wit and we all came away eager to read her forthcoming book.

**Author Charla Muller**

A second event panelist, WNBA member Jessica Daitch – very well read in the romance genre and a romance novel reviewer for *Publisher's Weekly* – offered two book reviews during the event. She discussed what makes for a bad romance novel and recommended one of her recent favorites – *FitzWilliam Darcy, Rock Star* (a new spin on the classic *Pride and Prejudice* story).

## Industry News

**Jan Berenstain**, co-creator of the Berenstain Bears series, died on February 24 at the age of 88, after a stroke. Together with her husband, Stan, who died in 2005, Berenstain wrote and illustrated hundreds of tales featuring Mama, Papa, Brother, and Sister Bear. Together, they published over 300 books in 23 languages. Read more about the Berenstains at <http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/obituaries/article/50811-obituary-jan-berenstain.html>

Gale, a part of Cengage learning, has launched the second annual **Are you a Librarian Superhero** contest to recognize a librarian who is making a difference for their library and community. The winners will be recognized at ALA with a cartoon character created in their likeness, a comic strip, and a celebration. Last year's contest drew over 800 nominations. Please visit [www.gale.cengage.com/20-12-superhero/](http://www.gale.cengage.com/20-12-superhero/) to nominate a librarian.

Academics and researchers who support open access to research were able to take a (short) victory lap in late February. Legislation that would have prevented federal agencies from publishing publicly-funded research without the approval of the originating journal died after Dutch publishing giant Reed Elsevier pulled its support. According to the Congressional Research Service, the Research Works Act (HR 3699) would have prohibited dissemination of any "research funded in whole or in part by a federal agency **without the prior consent of the publisher**; or that requires that any actual or prospective author, or the author's employer, assent to dissemination." The proposed legislation contradicted the [National Institutes of Health Public Access Policy](http://www.nih.gov/about/foia/2008/08-08-2008-nih-public-access-policy) (2008) which requires that NIH-funded researchers submit their manuscripts to the National Library of Medicine's PubMed Central "no later than 12 months after the official date of publication." Read more about this legislation here: <http://themoderatevoice.com/139813/elsevier-backed-publishing-bill-bites-the-dust-at-least-for-this-session/>

## *United Nations News*

**The Women's National Book Association supports the humanitarian efforts of the United Nations. *Please join us in this active support!***

March is a big month for our friends and colleagues at the US Fund for UNICEF. Their focus is the **UNICEF Tap Project**.

### **UNICEF Tap Project**

**Here is an important way to help save millions of people.....Donate or volunteer today to give kids around the world clean, safe drinking water!**

Just \$1 can supply a child with safe drinking water for 40 days. Get involved with the **UNICEF Tap Project** during **World Water Week, March 19-23, 2012**.

**Here's how to help:** [www.taproject.org](http://www.taproject.org)

The Women's National Book Association has been a **Non-Governmental Organization (NGO)** member of the United Nations since 1959. An NGO is defined as "any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group that is organized on a local, national or international level. Task-oriented and driven by people with a common interest, NGOs perform a variety of services and humanitarian functions, bring citizens' concerns to governments, monitor policies and encourage political participation at the community level." As a NGO affiliated with the **Department of Public Information (DPI)**, we must meet the following four criteria in order to remain a member in good standing:

- Share the ideals of the UN Charter.
- Operate solely on a not-for-profit basis.
- Have a demonstrated interest in United Nations issues and proven ability to reach large or specialized audiences, such as educators, media representatives, policy makers and the business community.

Have the commitment and means to conduct effective information programs about UN activities by publishing newsletters, bulletins, pamphlets; organizing conferences, seminars and roundtables; and enlisting the cooperation of the media.

**For more information, go to** [www.wnba-books.org/united-nations-affiliation](http://www.wnba-books.org/united-nations-affiliation)

### **Message of Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women on International Women's Day 2012**

**UN Women** <http://www.unwomen.org/>

#### ***International Women's Day 2012 March 5, 2012*** ***Empower rural women: End hunger and poverty***

This International Women's Day, I join women around the globe in solidarity for human rights, dignity and equality. This sense of mission drives me and millions of people around the world to pursue justice and inclusion. Looking back at the first year of UN Women, I applaud every individual, government and organization working for women's empowerment and gender equality. I promise the highest commitment moving forward. The creation of UN Women has coincided with deep changes in our world from rising protests against inequality to uprisings for freedom and democracy in the Arab world.

These events have strengthened my conviction that a sustainable future can only be reached by women, men and young people enjoying equality together. From the government that changes its laws, to the enterprise that provides decent work and equal pay, to the parents that teach their daughter and son that all human beings should be treated the same, equality depends on each of us.

During the past century, since the observance of the first International Women's Day, we have witnessed a transformation in women's legal rights, educational achievements, and participation in public life. In all regions, countries have expanded women's legal entitlements. Women have taken many steps forward. More women are exercising leadership in politics and business, more girls are going to school, and more women survive childbirth and can plan their families.

Yet while tremendous progress has been made, no country can claim to be entirely free from gender-based discrimination. This inequality can be seen in persistent gender wage gaps and unequal opportunities, in low representation of women in leadership in public office and the private sector, in child marriage and missing girls due to son preference, and in continuing violence against women in all its forms.

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### *United Nations News (continued)*

discrimination. This inequality can be seen in persistent gender wage gaps and unequal opportunities, in low representation of women in leadership in public office and the private sector, in child marriage and missing girls due to son preference, and in continuing violence against women in all its forms.

Nowhere are disparities and barriers greater than in rural areas for women and girls. Rural women and girls comprise one in four people worldwide. They work long hours with little or no pay and produce a large proportion of the food grown, especially in subsistence agriculture. They are farmers, entrepreneurs and leaders, and their contributions sustain their families, communities, nations and all of us.

Yet they face some of the worst inequities in access to social services and land and other productive assets. And this deprives them and the world of the realization of their full potential, which brings me to my main point on this International Women's Day. No enduring solution to the major changes of our day, from climate change to political and economic instability, can be solved without the full empowerment and participation of the world's women. We simply can no longer afford to leave women out.

Women's full and equal participation in the political and economic arena is fundamental to democracy and justice, which people are demanding. Equal rights and opportunity underpin healthy economies and societies.

Providing women farmers with equal access to resources would result in 100 to 150 million fewer hungry people. Providing women with income, land rights and credit would mean fewer malnourished children. Studies show that higher levels of gender equality correlate positively with higher levels of per capita gross national product. Opening economic opportunities to women would significantly raise economic growth and reduce poverty.

The time is now.

Every human being has the right to live in peace and dignity. Every human being has the right to shape their future and the futures of their countries. That is the call for equality that I hear wherever I go. For this reason UN Women will place special focus this year on advancing women's economic empowerment and political participation and leadership. We look forward to continued strong partnership with women, men and young people and with governments, civil society and the private sector.

Today on International Women's Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to women's rights and move forward with courage and determination. Let us defend human rights, the inherent dignity and worth of the human person, and the equal rights of men and women.

### *WNBA National News*

#### **The 2012 WNBA Award – Make your Voice Heard!**

Here's a wonderful opportunity to nationally recognize a fellow bookwoman for her outstanding contribution to the world of books and literature!

This year The Women's National Book Association will once again select the recipient of the WNBA Award. This honor goes to "a living American woman who derives part or all of her income from books and allied arts, and who has done meritorious work in the world of books beyond the duties or responsibilities of her profession or occupation".

Past WNBA Award recipients include Nancy Pearl, Barbara Bush, Doris Kearns Goodwin and Barbara Tuchman.

The nomination process is easy:

Any WNBA member can make a nomination. The nominee does not have to be a WNBA member.

Nomination forms\* can be downloaded from the WNBA national website <http://www.wnba-books.org/> under the *Members Only* tab. Or, e-mail me ([nancy.stewart@ingramcontent.com](mailto:nancy.stewart@ingramcontent.com)) and I will send you one.

**Nominations are due by April 20th.** The recipient will be chosen at our national board meeting in May.

Nancy Stewart, WNBA Award Chair

*\*(A nomination form can also be found on page 6 of this newsletter)*

**2012 WNBA Award Nomination**

I/We nominate:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Web address \_\_\_\_\_

In what way does the nominee derive all or part of her income from books?

What has been her meritorious work in the world of books beyond the duties or responsibilities of her profession?

Support data (may include biographical sketch, member organizations, bibliography, articles written, speeches given, other honors received, etc.). Attach separate sheets if necessary.

WNBA member submitting nomination:

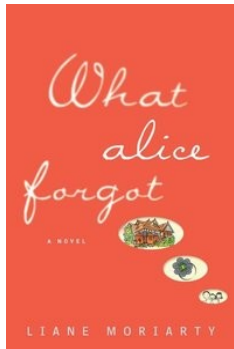
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Web address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle one:    chapter            corresponding            sustaining member

Submit completed nomination by April 20, 2012 to Nancy Stewart, WNBA Award Chair,  
[nancy.stewart@ingramcontent.com](mailto:nancy.stewart@ingramcontent.com) or 3714 Princeton Ave, Nashville, TN 37205; for questions, call 615-213-5370

*Blurbalicious*

**What Alice Forgot** by Liane Moriarty

Hardcover, 412 pages

Published June 2nd 2011 by Penguin Group (USA)

(Review by WNBA member and past President Carin Siegfried)

Alice fell and hit her head, hard, at the gym. Except that Alice doesn't go to the gym. And why does her friend Jane suddenly look so... old? And why isn't Jane worried that her fall might have hurt her pregnancy - after all this is Alice's first child.

But it isn't. Alice isn't pregnant. She does go to the gym, religiously. She has three children. She hit her head harder than she thought. Because she thinks it's 1998 and she's 29, when it's actually 2008 and she's 39. And no, her darling husband, Nick, isn't going to rush to her side at the hospital because they're divorcing.

What would you do if you woke up tomorrow and it was 2022 instead of 2012? How would your life be different? How would you adjust? What if your 2002 you showed up in your life today - what would she think of how things have turned out? The decisions you've made?

Sure, Alice is happy to suddenly find her abs ripped and flat as a washboard but her friends seem annoying, her sister Elisabeth cold and distant, her children baffling, and her divorce unfathomable. What has gone so horribly wrong in her life and how can she fix it? Notwithstanding the gorgeous house, yummy mummy body, impeccable clothing, some things Alice just can't understand. Not know when (or even if) she'll get her memory back, she needs to learn quickly how to deal with her children, her mother's remarriage, her soured relationships with Nick and Elisabeth, and find out how she got to here from there.

It is fascinating to see how a younger, more innocent Alice deals with overwhelming wrenches hurled at her repeatedly (inevitable when three children you don't remember are dumped in your lap and you don't even know their names!) With more patience, less baggage, and a better perspective, she does a lot of things differently than she used to. But as her husband Nick keeps telling her, when she remembers, things will be different. As she pieces together the clues, tied somehow to her disappeared best friend for the last decade, Gina, she starts to marry the old and new together. Will the result be worse, for her lack of experience, or better for her optimism?

I found the situations pretty realistic and understandable. I was expecting something a bit more lightweight - I frequently found myself discussing the book and thinking about the questions it raised. It made me appreciate my life and made me think about decisions I've made. There were a couple of places where I was a little frustrated that her family weren't telling her what exactly happened with Gina though it made sense for sake of the plot and pacing. The characters were well-drawn, the conflicts completely believable, and there was a little kookiness (particularly on the part of Alice's mother and father-in-law) to add in a little fun and levity. The children were also three-dimensional and believable, and I felt both like I know the 2008 Alice - I know many over-achieving soccer Moms like her, and yet I felt sad for her in some ways. I thought the way the author worked out the ending was fairly clever. Without giving too much away, it makes sense that no matter what happened, Alice would have to try to merge the "old" and "new" Alices to some extent - even when/if she got her memory back, that wouldn't make everything go back to the way it was, because she would have the memories of how her younger self had viewed her life and her decisions, and the perspective.

This would be a terrific book club book! There's so much to discuss and ponder. It's well-written and I couldn't put it down. I found myself thinking about it all throughout the day and anxious to pick it back up again. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

## Chapter Footnotes

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

### **Your Charlotte Chapter Board**

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

Vice-President: Stephanie Ripperton [s.ripperton@gmail.com](mailto:s.ripperton@gmail.com)

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

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

### **Your Charlotte Chapter Committee Chairs**

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

Bookwoman Correspondent: Jenni Franz [jennifer.franz@baker-taylor.com](mailto:jennifer.franz@baker-taylor.com)

Event Chair: Susan Walker [susan.walker.books@gmail.com](mailto:susan.walker.books@gmail.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)

Social Networking Chair: Stephanie Ripperton [s.ripperton@gmail.com](mailto:s.ripperton@gmail.com)

Website Chairs: Susan Walker [susan.walker.books@gmail.com](mailto:susan.walker.books@gmail.com)

and Susan Vitale [vitalia@earthlink.net](mailto:vitalia@earthlink.net)