

Women's National Book Association

The Nashville Edition

May, 2009

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General Meeting

First Thursday of the month,
Bronte Café,
Davis-Kidd Booksellers
Green Hills Mall
Networking starts at 5:00
Meeting starts at 6:00
(Free and open to the public)

Board Meeting

Beaman Library
Lipscomb University
Monday following
general meeting
starting at 6:00

May Meeting

Come join us on **Thursday, May 7**, in the conference room located in **Bronte Café at Davis-Kidd** in the **Green Hills Mall**. All WNBA programs are free and open to the public. We encourage members to bring guests; it is a great way to increase awareness of our amazing organization within the community. The informal **pre-event gathering** starts at **5:00 p.m.** at Bronte Café. For those who can make it, this is a great opportunity to meet other members and guests and enjoy the delicious fare Bronte Café offers.

This month's meeting will run from **6:00–7:15 p.m.** and will feature a panel **Celebrating National Poetry Month (rescheduled from April)**. Panelists include **Bill Brown**, Professor at Vanderbilt University, who headed up Hume-Fogg Academic Magnet's writing program for 20+ years and is author of five poetry collections including his most recent *Late Winter*; and **Blas Falconer**, Professor at Austin Peay State University and author of *Foundling Wheel*. Both poets will talk about the art of writing and give a short reading. We will also **elect the new WNBA Board (Nashville Chapter)**; get an **update from Mary Grey James**, Vice-President/President-Elect of WNBA (National); and hear a **preview of the Summer Series by Carolyn Wilson**.

National Board Meeting Events

Friday, June 5 at 6:30 p.m.—End of the Year Garden Party at Barbie Chadwick's home in Green Hills. We will be exchanging book recommendations (please come prepared to share 1–2 recommendations with the group of must-reads for the Summer!) and welcoming members of the WNBA board (National) who will be in town for the annual board meeting. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow members of the Nashville Chapter and learn more about National.

Saturday, June 6 at 6:30 p.m.—Nashville's First Saturday Art Crawl. The Arts Company will be hosting a dinner reception following the crawl. (More details to come.)

Ginna Foster

Be sure to renew your Membership. Form is on page 8.

THE NASHVILLE EDITION

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Newsletter Advertising

Monthly rates for business card-size ads are \$15 for WNBA Nashville Chapter members and \$20 for non-members.

Please submit advertising copy by the 10th of the month prior to the month of publication.

Contact
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for more
Information.

President's Message

Well, it is surely spring in middle Tennessee, with the threat of storms from severe thunderstorms to tornadoes causing problems for everyone. We chose to err on the side of caution when we cancelled our April meeting. See the front page of the newsletter for information concerning the rescheduling of our program celebrating National Poetry Month.

I wanted to share with you the exciting news that Nashville has been chosen to present the signature event for national WNBA during National Reading Group Month! We are considering again presenting our author breakfast at the library during the Southern Festival of Books. We'd love to have your ideas as well as your help in planning and carrying out the event. Please contact me if you have some ideas, or would like to join us on the committee, or would just be willing to help on the day of the event. We are also thrilled to be a formal part of the Festival this year.

Our plans for the national WNBA board meeting are coming together nicely. We have several opportunities for you to meet members from all over the country. You will receive an invitation in the mail with all of the particulars, but here's a little preview:

Friday - Garden Party at Barbie Chadwick's house, hosted by the Nashville board

Saturday - First Saturday Art Crawl with dinner to follow

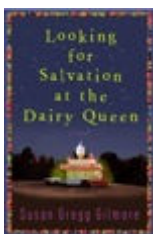
It has been a pleasure to serve as your president this year. After the May

meeting you will be in good hands with Ginna Foster at the helm. WNBA is such a vibrant organization, with something for everyone in the world of the book. Our monthly programs are always so stimulating. I find that the presentation will be interesting whatever field it encompasses. I know that I will not be writing or publishing a book in my lifetime, but I find the whole process fascinating.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the board members who work so hard for us all. **Ginna**, who has brought us wonderful programs and added a new dimension this past year with the play at TPAC; **Barbie**, who keeps track of our minutes and keeps us legal; **Shirley**, who does such a good job of keeping the books, and keeping us on track with our finances; **Gloria**, who puts out one heck of a newsletter, one of the best around; **Bebe**, webmaster of our dreams, who this year introduced us to the world of "pay-on-line"; **Susan**, our wonderful *Bookwoman* correspondent, who makes sure that Nashville gets a good spot in our national publication; **Libby**, who keeps track of all of us all by keeping our membership roster current; **Kathleen**, who does such a good job of keeping up with all of the ATHENA requirements and helping our ATHENA Award nominee through the process; **Andrea**, immediate past president, who jumps in to do whatever is needed, and provides such sage advice; and **Carolyn** the Sunshine and Special Projects Queen, who does everything from sending get well cards to organizing the ever-popular summer series to fixing wonderful suppers for our board

(Continued on page 5)

Member News

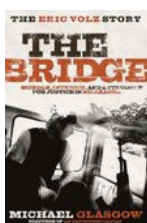


Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen (Shaye Areheart Books/The Crown Publishing Group) has been named a **2009 SIBA Book Award Nominee**. Author and WNBA member, **Susan Gregg Gilmore**, was thrilled to hear that her debut novel had been honored by the booksellers in the Southeast. Described by award-winning writer Jill McCorkle as “storytelling at its best, entertaining and lively and full of surprises,” *Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen* will be released in paperback June 9 by Three Rivers Press—just in time for summer reading!



Laurel Coleman Steinhice was featured at a book-signing and museum exhibit in Berlin, Germany, last month. The exhibit “Marion in Berlin” displays memorabilia of the late Marian S. Coleman, the first woman reporter to cover U.S. military maneuvers and the first female wire service editor. The exhibit will be permanently relocated to the Allied Museum in Berlin after being on display through June at the former Tempelhof Airfield.

Laurel lived in Berlin with her mother during the early Post World War II years and has written memoirs of her mother’s life: *Marion*, and her own childhood recollections: *Marion’s Child*, both published by Westview, 2008.



Named the 2008 Best Nashville True Crime Writer by *Nashville Scene* magazine, **Michael Glasgow’s** latest book, *The Bridge: The Eric Volz Story: Murder, Intrigue, and a Struggle for Justice in Nicaragua* was reviewed in *The City Paper* on Thursday, March 26, 2009. The article refers to *The Bridge* as “gripping and comprehensive.” The complete review can be accessed at: <http://nashvillecitypaper.com/news.php?viewStory=67057>.

Susan Lentz has recently become a contributor to Clarity Media Group's [examiner.com](http://www.examiner.com). She's covering Nashville's tourist sights as the online newspaper's Landmarks Examiner.

**WNBA Nashville
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The ATHENA Experience



Lee Fairbend, Susan Lentz, Carolyn Wilson, Etta Wilson, and WNBA's 2009 ATHENA Nominee, Joanne Slaughter

accomplished nominees was indeed an honor.

The ATHENA nomination process was a most rewarding personal experience. To complete the nominating form, I contacted many people from my business and volunteer life in Washington DC, Naples, Florida, and here in Nashville. To read their validation of my contributions to them personally or to their organizations was very moving. To incorporate their generous remarks in the nomination form was humbling. And to renew old acquaintances was very special.

Recently a dear friend wrote this to me:

“Exhilarating experiences in life are all too often counted upon a digit or two of one hand. I am glad for you and wish you the best, which upon reading your letter you have already received in the friendships made. What more could one ask for?”

Joanne Slaughter

Iwould like to thank WNBA for nominating me for the ATHENA Award, Kathleen Dietz for shepherding me through the process, and the members who supported me by attending the awards ceremony on March 23rd at the Schermerhorn. To have received your endless encouragement and to have been associated with twenty-two

Slate for Chapter Board Nominations

- President—Ginna Foster
- VP/President Elect—
Dwonna Goldstone
- Secretary—Kathy Bennett
- Treasurer—Shirley Blakley
- Awards—Etta Wilson
- Bookwoman Correspondent—
Susan Lentz
- Events Chair—Pat Ballard
- Membership—Barbie Chadwick
- Newsletter—Gloria Toler
- Southern Festival of Books—
Libby Simons
- Special Projects/Sunshine
Carolyn Wilson
- Web site—Bebe Brechner
- Past President—Lee Fairbend
- Public Relations—Susan Lentz

WNBA Book Group—May Discussion

The Poisonwood Bible

by Barbara Kingsolver

At Richland Park Library, Charlotte Avenue
Saturday, May 9 from 10–11:30 a.m.

September 12, 2009

The Cellist of Sarajevo

Steven Galloway

In a *New York Times* review on October 11, 1998, Sarah Kerr wrote: “*The Poisonwood Bible* is set in the Congo in the late 1950's and early 1960's, just as that republic is winning independence from Belgium. The novel is Kingsolver's first in five years. Where her earlier books tended to be simple and sweet, the new one is learned, tragicomic, and sprawling. It is also more truly the work of an activist—critical, especially, of American involvement in the assassination of Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and the installation of the dictator Mobutu.”

In an interview with Kerr, Kingsolver said, "If I were to write a nonfiction book about the brief blossoming and destruction of the independence of the Congo, and what the C.I.A. had to do with it, then probably all 85 people who are interested in the subject would read it. Instead I can write a

Novel that's ostensibly about family and culture and an exotic locale. And it's entertaining, I hope."

The discussion of *The Poisonwood Bible* will be held at the **Richland Park Library** on Charlotte Avenue on Saturday, May 9. **Phyllis Grubbs**, Librarian at the Nashville Public Library, will facilitate the discussion from 10–11 a.m. Afterward we'll be joined by **Raymond Kinzounza** of the Watkins Park Library and **Pastor Bob Orgeron** of Park Avenue Baptist Church. They will share a presentation on their recent mission trip to the Congo and answer questions.

Our meetings are open to the public, and we hope you'll come with a friend or two. Please join us for coffee before the discussion at 10 a.m.

Joanne Slaughter

(Continued from page 2)

meetings, which she hosts at the Beaman Library at Lipscomb University.

I'd also like to thank **Joanne Slaughter** for her efficient coordination of the book discussion group and **Bunkie Lynn** for her monthly contributions as our entertaining humor columnist and proficient copy editor for the newsletter.

Thank you **ALL** for a wonderful year!

Lee

Editor's Note: A special thanks to Lee who did a great job as our president this past year, including organizing our first “Breakfast with an Author” (National Reading Group Month event) featuring Elizabeth Strout, author of the Pulitzer Prize winner *Olive Kitteridge*, as the event speaker.

Also, a thank you to Lee for volunteering to print and distribute the newsletters for our members without Internet access.

Read Me Week Report

Around of applause for the 2009 Read Me Week readers!

**Ellen Myrick
Tori Ross
Lee Fairbend
Ginna Foster
Etta Wilson
Mary Hildebrand
Paula Messenheimer
Stephanie Koehler**

The Glenclyff reading specialist was very pleased and hopes all our readers come back to read again throughout the year.

What is the Read Me Experience like? Let's hear from our readers!

Ellen Myrick:

"I was escorted to Mrs. Covington's room by Autumn, who confided on the way that she was a poet. I had brought several books to choose so I pulled out the rhyming books (*Engelbert*

Sneem and His Dream Vacuum Machine and *Hooray for Diffendoofer Day!*) to share with the class. It was obvious that Mrs. Covington's class loved school and loved their teacher and agreed that she was like the teacher at the Diffendoofer School who taught kids how to saddle leopards. After the books were shared, Mrs. Covington had three students share their poems about February. Mrs. Covington had special reading glasses that the girls wore with pride and the boy with a sheepish grin as each took their turn to read aloud. It was a lovely example of give-and-take and I left enriched by the sense that here are children who will continue to be readers all their lives."

Etta Wilson:

"It was a real pleasure to be with that group of 2nd graders."

Paula Wilson:

"I really enjoyed doing that."

Stephanie Koehler
2009 WNBA Coordinator

**Tennessee Writers Alliance—Calling All Writers and Word Lovers
WordFest 2009, June 12-13**

Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee

Featuring: J. Wes Yoder, Whitney Ferre, Leon Alligood, Dwight Lewis, Etta Wilson, Kathryn Knight, J. T. Ellison, Eric Wilson, Wyatt Prunty, and others for workshops and presentations for a variety of genres.

Contact Debbie Whitaker, WordFest 2009 Chair
dfw1971 at Comcast.net for more information

Beaman Library/WNBA Summer Reading Series

BOOKS BEYOND OUR BORDERS: READING AND WRITING ABOUT OTHER CULTURES

- June 15 ***Ali and Nino*** by Kurban Said, Anchor reprint, c1937, 2000.
978 0385720403 \$13.95, led by Ed Gleaves
- June 22 ***The Wind-up Bird Chronicle*** by Haruki Murakami, Mariner Books,
1999. 978 0679775430 \$15.95, led by Steve Prewitt
- June 29 ***Palace Walk (Cairo Trilogy,1)*** by Naguib Mahfouz, Anchor, 1990.
978 0385264662 \$15.95, led by Linda Barnes

No class meeting July 6

- July 13 ***The Elegance of the Hedgehog*** by Muriel Barbery, Europa, 2008.
978 1933372600 \$15, led by Kim Reed
- July 20 ***The Sound of Language*** by Amulya Mailadi, Ballentine Books, 2007.
978 0345483164 \$13.95, led by Alice Sanford
- July 27 ***Interpreter of Maladies*** by Jhumpa Lahiri, Mariner Books, 1999.
978 0395927205 \$14.95, led by Matt Hearn

All sessions will meet in the new A.M. Burton Health Sciences Building, Lipscomb University, Room 214 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All programs are free and open to the public.

For information call Carolyn Wilson, 615.966.5837 or e-mail Carolyn.Wilson@lipscomb.edu.

Elizabeth Strout Winner of Pulitzer Prize

Elizabeth Strout is the winner of the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for *Olive Kitteridge*, a collection of 13 short stories set in small-town Maine. Elizabeth was the guest speaker at our chapter's first National Reading Group Month event "Breakfast with an Author" held last October.

Nashville has been selected by the National Reading Group Month committee to present the signature event in the country this coming October. Our event will be part of the Southern Festival of Books scheduled for October 9, 10, and 11. We are hoping to organize another Breakfast with the Author event on that Saturday morning. Stay tuned for an announcement of our visiting authors!



Women's National Book Association

**Nashville Chapter
Membership Form 2009-2010**

Please make your check for \$25 payable to WNBA and mail your check and updated form to Shirley Blakley, 4153 Outer Drive, Nashville, TN. 37204. The membership year for the Nashville chapter of WNBA runs from June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010.

Thank you. We value your membership!

Please update your information for the Nashville membership directory.

Name: *Please p-r-i-n-t!* _____

Job Title and Organization: _____
(If retired, check here. _____)

HOME street address: _____

City _____ **State** _____ **ZIP** _____

Home phone: _____ **Office phone:** _____

Fax: _____ **Birthday (month/day only)** _____

Email: _____

Web Site: _____

May we call on your expertise? We need your help to make WNBA all that it can be! Please indicate committees on which you are willing to serve:

Newsletter _____ **Membership** _____ **Publicity** _____

Directory _____ **Financial** _____ **Programs** _____

Hospitality _____ **Special Events** _____ **Mailings** _____

As a member of the Nashville Chapter of WNBA, you are automatically a member of the national WNBA organization. Your dues entitle you to full access to the national Web site (www.wnba-books.org), including the password-protected, member directory used for networking opportunities.

NOTE: Contact information for use by WNBA members only will be published unless you check here. _____

_____ **Member Signature**

_____ **Date**

WRITE Now! By Bunkie Lynn



Leisure (noun) (léezhər, lézhər): *time during which somebody has no obligations or work responsibilities, and therefore is free to engage in enjoyable activities.* Encarta Online Dictionary: English/North America, 2009.

The merry month of May brings much in the way of possibility: locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables reappear at the markets or in our own backyards. Warmer temperatures beckon us to shed layers of clothing and enjoy the outdoors, and for those of us lucky enough to take a summer vacation, we anticipate lazy days spent by the ocean or in the mountains, reconnecting with family, friends and nature. After one particularly ‘rugged’ trip, it was difficult for me to distinguish between my family, and nature—‘nature’ and his foul stench accompanied us on a six-hour car ride. He had to be bathed three times in succession and his clothes had to be burned...ah, the joys of reconnecting.

I have ‘issues’ with elaborate vacations: they rarely equal my expectations. After spending six months saving money, and waiting to enjoy a single week off, it’s not realistic or relaxing to transform from Multi-Tasking Miracle Mom into Multi-Tasking Miracle Mom Trip Planner. I’d much prefer to become That Brain-Dead Slacker in Lounge Chair #3, because during those months of Vacation Anticipation, I’ve collected a stack of “take with” reading material that would make the Library of Congress pale by comparison.

While my vacation mates envision adventures and activities at our destination of choice, all I want to do is stake out a corner, find the nearest Drink Boy, and start turning pages. Not exactly the best way to reconnect with family and

friends—but I become reenergized through books, and if that makes me a Vacation Wet Noodle, so be it!

If leisure time means having no obligations or responsibilities, then don’t talk to me about cooking—that’s why God invented take-out. Don’t talk to me about laundry, either—turn those jeans inside-out and start a fashion trend, sweetheart. When I’m on vacation, the only thing I should be responsible for is reading—my most enjoyable activity—as per the definition. Selfish? Yes! Reality? Not yet. The reading vacation of my dreams has yet to happen—usually because my own growling tummy forces me to put down the book and feed the starving masses, or I discover that I dedicated so much time to packing for the family, I forgot to pack my own clothes and thus laundry rears its ugly, spin-cycle head.

So I’ve learned a new way to enjoy vacation all year long: I’m an expert at carving out leisure time while parked in the school carpool line, thanks to my love for books. When you love to read, vacation is always a page away, and you can be transported to distant lands, exotic locales, or to the next heinous crime scene. No more elaborate travel schemes for me—give me twenty minutes in a queue, and I’m good to go. Why do you think God invented spray-on tans?

Enjoy your summer, read plenty, and go write...
WRITE NOW!

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Green Reads

With environmental awareness currently a hot topic, the number of books about living green abounds. The range of topics is large and varied—from organic gardening to green housekeeping, from eating responsibly to teaching our children about caring for their planet—there is a title that covers virtually every aspect of green living.

The following four titles are some of my favorites:

The Omnivore's Dilemma by Michael Pollen. Reading this book last summer (a selection for the WNBA Summer Series) has forever changed my attitude toward the food supply and my food shopping habits. The wealth of information contained in this book, including the unhealthy operations of factory farms versus the conscientious practices of the local farmer, are alone enough to change one's attitude about food consumption.

Green Housekeeping by Ellen Sandbeck. Everything you ever wanted to know about housekeeping the “green way” is included in this title. After providing green organizing tips in the first chapter, the book goes on to discuss housekeeping by room starting with the kitchen, followed by the bathroom, bedroom, laundry room, and then general housecleaning for the rest of the house. There are also

sections on gardening, pets, and pests. A variety of useful recipes for cleaning solutions are scattered throughout the book.

Green Living, the E Magazine Handbook for Living Lightly on the Earth. This book by the editors of *E Magazine* is a thorough guide to sustainable living and offers a wide variety of topics, including personal care, socially responsible investing, baby- and kid-related matters, renewable energy, and eco-travel.

The end of each chapter provides sections titled “What You Can Do,” with recommendations on ways to get involved in the environmental movement and “Resources,” which lists additional sources of information and suppliers.



Green Chic by Christie Matheson. This is a fun read filled with great green suggestions on living a “hip” and green lifestyle. Throughout the book are interesting (and often startling) statistics illustrating the effects of choosing a green lifestyle over a lifestyle of mindless consumption. There are also plenty of suggestions on living green, along with lists of Web sites to check and green products to use.

As you organize your summer reading list, consider adding some green titles to your selection, including one or more of the above books. You will be doing yourself—and your planet—a favor!

Gloria Toler



Congratulations to the
Graduates of 2009



& Reading is
Fundamental

Bringing Kids and Books Together

I think it's safe to say that I liked school when I was a little girl. But I *loved* my library's summer reading program. I could hardly wait to learn the year's theme and begin adding books to my list.

Favorite books included anything written by Lloyd Alexander, *Caddie Woodlawn*, *The Boxcar Children*, *The Secret Garden*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, and *Hatchet*. Each week my mom took us to the library for another large stack of books. Carrying teetering stacks of adventures home is one of my favorite childhood memories.

As the school year closes, my thoughts turn to those children who will not have an

opportunity to participate in a summer reading program this year due to lack of funds or parental involvement. Nashville schools ask Book'em for help with providing summer reading materials to local children. As I write this column in April, requests are already arriving daily for these books. Book'em needs help collecting enough books to accommodate these requests.


This May, Book'em asks you to consider donating one (or more!) copies of your favorite summer reading title to Nashville's children. The need is especially great for older children—third and fourth graders. To make a monetary or book donation, please contact Melissa Spradlin at ceo@bookem-kids.org. Or, place an order online and ship to our address:

Book'em
421 Great Circle Road
Suite 100A
Nashville TN 37228

Thank you, WNBA for your support!

Kristi Gillis

Seattle is now a full-fledged WNBA chapter with 33 members. Their President, Henriette Klausner, a well-known author, will be coming to the national board meeting in June. This is the perfect time to meet Henriette and to welcome our newest chapter.

An Evening with an Author
Books, Wine and Smart Conversation 

Featured Author: River Jordan on *Saints in Limbo*
Date & Time: Thursday, June 4th from 6-7pm
Place: Martha's
(Belle Meade Plantation / 5025 Harding Road)
RSVP to Ginna Foster: eveningwithanauthor@yahoo.com
Reading is free and open to the public.

The WNBA Nashville Chapter's newsletter is printed by Sir Speedy of Nashville and we thank them for their fine and speedy work and very competitive pricing. We encourage our members to consider Sir Speedy for your copying, printing, and design needs.

Tell them WNBA sent you!

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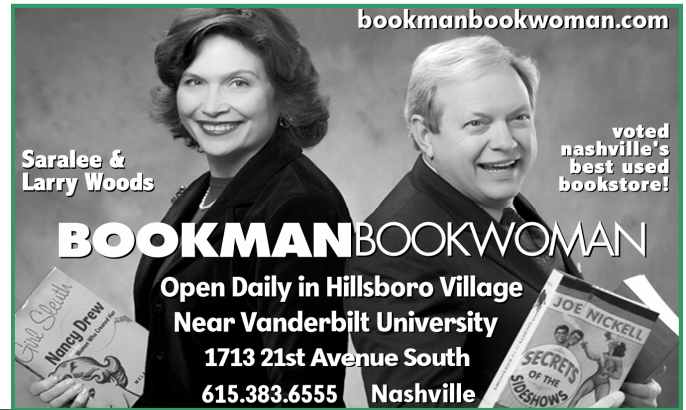
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