

Women's National Book Association

The Nashville Edition

FALL, 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

September Meeting

September 3 (Thursday)—Join us as we welcome back WNBA members **Saralee and Larry Woods**, owners of **Bookman/Bookwoman Bookstore**, and frequent contributors to Talk of the Town (Newschannel5), who will present a preview of the **Southern Festival of Books**. This year's Festival will be held in Nashville on October 9–11. With more than two hundred authors presenting at the Festival, this program will help you prioritize your advance reading list. For more information on the Woods, please see [Bookman/Bookwoman](#) and for more information on the Festival see [Humanities Tennessee](#). All WNBA programs are free and open to the public.

We will meet in the conference room in **Bronte Café at Davis-Kidd located in the Green Hills Mall from 6:00–7:15 p.m.** Come early at 5:00 p.m. for an opportunity to network with other members in the Bronte Café. We encourage members to bring guests; it is a great way to increase awareness of our amazing organization within the community. And please do not forget to bring your checkbook to **renew your annual dues of \$25.**

Upcoming Fall Events

September 12 (Saturday)—WNBA Book Group Discussion (See pg. 5)

September 13 (Sunday)—Fall Social for members and invited guests from 3–5 p.m. at Ginna Foster's home (more information to be sent via e-mail).

October 1 Meeting (Thursday)—"In translation": WNBA member Kim Green, along with Inna Sanovich and Adria Bernardi will share their works and speak to the particular challenges and joys of translating.

October 9-11 (Friday through Sunday)—Southern Festival of Books

October 10 (Saturday)—WNBA National Reading Group Month event (See pg. 6)

November 5 Meeting (Thursday)—Writers who teach, teachers who write. Area professors of creative writing—who also write—talk about both.

December 3 (Thursday)—Holiday Dinner (Location and program T.B.A.)

**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 nonmembers.

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

Contact
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President's Message

Dear Friends and Fellow WNBA Members:

It is my great pleasure to write to you as the President of the Nashville Chapter. It's hard to believe how quickly the summer has flown by. I want to take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening.

As you know, our chapter hosted the National WNBA board meeting in June. Thank you to everyone who helped out in the flawless planning and execution, in particular to Lee Fairbend, Joanne Slaughter, Marilyn Wade-Jordan, Andrea Lindsey, and Mary Grey James who spent months pulling it all together. The accommodations at Scarritt-Bennett and associated events—the moving poetry reading featuring WNBA Chapter member Blas Falconer and WNBA National President Joan Gelfand, the stimulating Evening with an Author at Tinney Contemporary featuring River Jordan, the festive garden party at Barbie Chadwick's, and the elegant reception at The Arts Company following the First Saturday Art Crawl—were very well received. In fact, the Board wanted to have it here again next year. We gracefully declined but said we and Nashville would welcome them back in the near future.

Joan Gelfand kicked off the three-day board meeting with the words “growth.” And, there is no doubt that the WNBA is in growth mode. We added two new chapters, Seattle and Charlotte, and now have over 700 members nationwide. There are plans to redesign the National Web site to improve its interface and look-and-feel. Social media,

including the use of Facebook, Twitter, etc., are high on the list to increase the visibility of our organization and individual members. Are you a social media wiz and want to get more involved on the national level? There is an open Board position that may be perfect for you. Drop me a line and I will give you more information. Mary Grey James, Nashville member and President-Elect for National, has been doing a great job in raising the visibility of the WNBA with outstanding media coverage for the Pannell Awards (2009 recipients included Joseph-Beth Booksellers in Cincinnati and Mrs. Nelson's Toy and Book Shop in LaVerne, CA) in Bookweb.org, the American Booksellers Association's Web site, and *Publishers Weekly* to name a few. Lastly, National Reading Group Month (NRGM) is growing by leaps and bounds thanks to Jill Tardiff's hard work. Elizabeth Strout, author of *Olive Kitteridge*, who spoke at our local NRGM event last year, won the Pulitzer Prize in 2009.

So, how does “growth” apply to our local chapter? Membership for 2008–2009 was at 103 men and women. At the Board Retreat in July, we identified the need to better define member benefits and to get the word out about our dynamic organization. (For a full list of the benefits please see www.wnbanashville.org/benefits.html.) Barbie Chadwick and Emily Masters, Co-Chairs of Publicity, and Bebe Brechner, Webmaster and Social Media Maven Extraordinaire, will be doing their part to raise our chapter's visibility within the community. We also need your help. We urge you to invite your friends and

(Continued on page 5)

Member News

New Members

Michael Brechner
 Julie Burns
 Bente Gallagher
 Jeanne Gore
 Kim Green
 Elizabeth Heffington
 Janis Ian
 Frances Lombard
 Terry Price
 Diana Revell
 Katherine Sanford
 Jean Whittemore

Condolences to:

*Maureen Peak in the loss of her husband,
 Thomas*

*Carolyn Block Billings in the loss of her
 husband, Wayne Lee*

*The family of Kathryn Gallagher Bevington,
 a longtime WNBA member*

Jennie Bentley (aka Bente Gallagher) has a new book, ***Spackled and Spooked (A Do-It-Yourself Mystery)*** released August 4, 2009, by Berkley Prime Crime. This is the second book in a series of five Do-It-Yourself Home Renovation mysteries. Her first book in the series, *Fatal Fixer-Upper*, became a bestseller for the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association.



Robert Hicks' new book, ***A Separate Country***, is due to be released on September 23, 2009, by Grand Central Publishing. The setting is in New Orleans after the Civil War ends; and the story is based on the life of John Bell Hood, a Confederate Army general.

Susan Gregg Gilmore recently returned from a Summer Book Tour, involving more than 8,000 miles of driving to promote the release of the paperback version of her bestselling novel, ***Looking for Salvation at the Dairy Queen***.

**Be sure
 to renew
 your
 Membership.
 Form is on
 page 10.**

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Meet Our New Board Members

Pat Ballard, Events Chair, VP, was born in South East Mississippi. At twenty-five she moved to East Texas where she met and married Joe Ballard. Their only child, Eric, was born in Longview, Texas. In 1985, Pat and family followed Joe's singer/songwriter dream to Nashville. From the time Pat learned to read, she started "making up" her own stories, and dreamed that one day she would be a published author. After dieting for twenty-two years, Pat decided to accept and love the body that genetics had arranged for her and as a result of that acceptance, she started writing motivational romance novels with larger heroines. She has eight books in print. Her latest is a nonfiction titled "*10 Steps To Loving Your Body (No Matter What Size You Are)*."

Kathy Grogan Bennett, Program Chair, will work with monthly programs this year. She is a librarian, currently at Hillwood High School, and an author and illustrator groupie. Kathy was born in Washington, D. C. and attended public schools there, along with her many brothers and sisters. She and husband Harvey have lived in Nashville since 1984. Over the years, Kathy's research interests have ranged from children's and young adult literature to African American history in Tennessee. Ultimately, she loves the power and art of language, written and spoken.

Tamara Ellenberger, Membership Chair, was born in rural northern Indiana. She attended Ball State University, where she received a B.S. degree in English, creative writing option. When she isn't writing, she enjoys spending time outdoors, volunteering, and reading. She is

currently working on a manuscript and several picture books. She resides with her husband, Matt, in Nashville and their Jack Russell Terrier, Zorro.

Emily Booth Masters, Publicity Co-Chair, owns a dance studio—Studio 1406—in East Nashville. The studio offers everything from ballet to bellydance for ages three to adult. Emily teaches ballroom and tap dance and oversees the operations of the business. She also works as a freelance writer, contributing book reviews to *BookPage* and writing grant proposals and creating newsletters for a variety of clients. She lives in East Nashville with her husband Randall, daughter Nora and son Holden.

Lee Fairbend, National Reading Group Month Chair, is a native New Englander and has lived in Brentwood since 1983. She recently retired as Executive Director of Book'em, although as one of the founders she is still very interested in all of their activities. She is a longtime community volunteer, serving twice on the board of the Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee. She was the founding president of the Community Wish List, now the Community Resource Center, and is a past president of the Nashville Social Service Club. She is also a past president of the Nashville Chapter of the Women's National Book Association and is currently chairing the 2009 National Reading Group Month event, "Breakfast with Authors."

(Although not a new board member, Lee Fairbend's bio was inadvertently left out in last year's introductions.)

WNBA Book Group—September Discussion

From *The Washington Post*: “In this elegiac novel inspired by an actual event during the siege of Sarajevo in 1992, Steven Galloway explores the brutality of war and the redemptive power of music. Crafted with unforgettable imagery and heartbreaking simplicity, his small book speaks forcefully to the triumph of the spirit in the face of overwhelming despair.”

From *Publishers Weekly*: “Galloway delivers a tense and haunting novel following four people trying to survive war-torn Sarajevo. After a mortar attack kills twenty-two people waiting in line to buy bread, an unnamed cellist vows to play at the point of impact for twenty-two days. Meanwhile Arrow, a young woman sniper, picks off soldiers; Kenan makes a dangerous trek to get water for his family; and Dragan works in a bakery and trades bread for shelter. All the while, the cellist continues to play. Galloway brings to life a distant conflict.”

After viewing a video of *The Cellist of Sarajevo* on our Web site, you’ll want to read the book and attend the discussion. At <http://www.wnbanashville.org/bookreviews.html>, go to **Book Discussions** and scroll down a bit to view the video.

September 12, 2009

The Cellist of Sarajevo

Steven Galloway

Probably you will also want to read *People of the Book* by Pulitzer prize-winning author Geraldine Brooks. In this novel, she retraces the turbulent journey of the Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the earliest Jewish religious volumes illuminated with images. The book is “a complex love story, thrilling mystery, vivid history lesson, and celebration of the enduring power of ideas.”

The discussion of *The Cellist of Sarajevo* will be held at the **Richland Park Library on Charlotte Avenue on Saturday September 12. Arlene Haan will facilitate the 10 a.m. discussion**, and we’ll listen to the music played by the cellist. If you have any questions, please contact Joanne Slaughter at joanne@garyslaughter.com

Joanne Slaughter

(Continued from page 2)

co-workers who are passionate about books to the next meeting and to the fall social at my house on September 13 so that they can learn more about our mission, programs and outreach opportunities. With annual dues at only \$25, the WNBA is the best deal in town. And signing up has never been easier; you can now pay online using Paypal (www.wnbanashville.org/payonline.html). Lastly, Nashville has been selected as the Signature NRG event. Lee Fairbend, past president and

NRGM designee, and her committee are hard at work planning the event that will feature five authors and be moderated by Nina Cordona, a reporter for NPR. The event will be held at the downtown Public Library and be included in the official program for the Southern Festival of Books. Thank you and we look forward to a spectacular year defined by the word “growth.”

GINNA FOSTER

WNBA National Reading Group Month

Fall is in the air! I'm beginning to notice the aroma of books mixed in with the autumn leaves and pumpkins, aren't you? It's almost time for the Southern Festival of Books—it's only a few weeks away after all—and I'm so excited! WNBA, under the auspices of Humanities Tennessee and our partner the Nashville Public Library, will again be presenting, "Breakfast with Authors" in Conference Center rooms 1A and 1B at the downtown Main Library. It will be a Saturday morning Festival session (October 10) running from 9:15 to 11 and a complimentary light breakfast will be served.

"Breakfast with Authors" is this year's signature event for WNBA's National Reading Group Month, "Celebrating the joy of shared reading." Harper Perennial, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, is the official sponsor of this year's event.

We are looking for lots of book groups and all readers to come and hear authors Marie Brenner, *Apples and Oranges: My Brother and Me, Lost and Found* (Picador); Holly Goddard Jones, *Girl Trouble: Stories* (HarperPerennial); Perri Klass, *The Mercy*

Rule: A Novel (Mariner Books); Inman Majors, *The Millionaires* (W. W. Norton & Co), and Kathryn Stockett, *The Help* (Putnam). For more information on these authors, please go to the Humanities Tennessee Web site humanitiestennessee.org/festival/authors.php#itol and check them out, along with all of the other wonderful authors visiting the Festival this year.

Nina Cardona, NPR Nashville All Things Considered host and news reporter is our moderator. Books will be for sale in the signing colonnade, where our authors will be from 11–11:30.

Important tip: Space is limited so get your reservations in early (long before September 30) to Joanne Slaughter at joanne@garyslaughter.com or call 279-9799.

Please feel free to e-mail me (lfairbend@comcast.net) or call me (790-0896) for more information.

Lee Fairbend
NRGM Chair,
Nashville Chapter

NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION CHANGES TO QUARTERLY

Following is the quarterly newsletter schedule that coincides with the Nashville Chapter's fiscal year:

- FALL (Sept.—Nov.) published in September
- WINTER (Dec.—Feb.) published in December
- SPRING (March—May) published in March
- SUMMER (June—Aug.) published in June

E-mail notification will be sent when the newsletter is posted on the Nashville Chapter's Web site. In addition, a monthly e-mail "Bulletin" will be sent highlighting the current month's meeting, events, and news, including hyperlinks when available. Please send any member news or articles of interest by the tenth of the month prior to the month of publication. These will be included in either the monthly bulletin or quarterly newsletter. For additional information, please contact me at gloriat71@gmail.com. Thank you,

Gloria Toler

WNBA Author's Novel Approved as Textbook

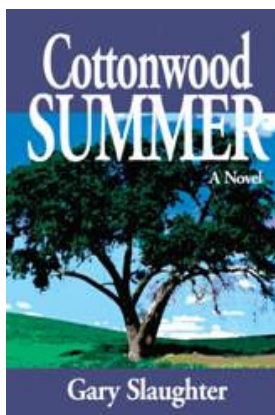
On June 22, 2009, the Board of Education in Owosso, Michigan voted to make Gary Slaughter's novel, *Cottonwood Summer*, an official United States History textbook for ninth-graders in Owosso High School and Lincoln High School beginning in the fall of 2009. *Cottonwood Summer*, the first of Slaughter's four *Cottonwood* novels, is set in Riverton, Michigan, a fictionalized version of Owosso. The series spans the four seasons of the last year of World War II beginning with the D-Day invasion in early summer of 1944 and ending with V.E. Day, the surrender of Germany, in late spring of 1945.

The agreement between Slaughter and the Owosso Public School District (OPS) calls for Slaughter to donate a personally inscribed and autographed soft-cover copy of *Cottonwood Summer* to each member of the incoming ninth-grade class of approximately three hundred students. When the year ends, this first class of ninth-grade students will keep their copies of the book.

In addition, Slaughter will donate three hundred hardcover *Cottonwood Summer* books to OPS for the use of incoming ninth-grade classes in 2010 through 2019. Slaughter will also donate fifty hardcover copies of *Cottonwood Fall*, of *Cottonwood Winter*, and of *Cottonwood Spring* to OPS to establish a thirty-*Cottonwood*-book reference library in each of the five social studies classrooms at the high schools.

The teachers will utilize a study guide developed by Joanne Slaughter, wife of the author.

The guide will serve as a springboard for the students to obtain a greater understanding of their community history, as well as Michigan and American history during the World War II era. The guide contains sections including Study Guide Questions, Individual or Group Enrichment Activities, and Community Outreach.



Slaughter will visit the schools in the early fall to address the students and to sign their books. At that time, he will also meet with the schools' social studies teachers.

When asked to comment, Slaughter stated, "Joanne and I have worked on this project with the OPS superintendent of schools and the curriculum director for nearly four years. Demonstrating that adding

Cottonwood Summer to the curriculum did not violate the rigid standards of the Michigan Department of Education was no small task."

"But, once this was accomplished, gaining approval by the Board of Education was assured. Given the popularity of the *Cottonwood* novels in Michigan, we expect to see other Michigan school systems follow Owosso's example."

"As a graduate of Owosso High School, I can't tell you how thrilled I am to have my first novel used as a textbook by my alma mater. *Cottonwood* fans will understand when I say this is a proud day for old Jase."

Treasurer's Report

Balance Sheet As of 5/31/09

<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Assets:	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Checking	4,812.34
Savings	<u>3,105.80</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	7,918.14
Other Assets	
CD 2005	5,000.00
GM Beasley Trust CD	<u>15,622.00</u>
Total Other Assets	<u>20,622.00</u>
Total Assets	<u><u>28,540.14</u></u>
Liabilities & Equity	
Liabilities	
Equity	0.00
	<u>28,540.14</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u><u>28,540.14</u></u>

Income Statement 6/1/08 through 5/31/09

<u>Category</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Income:	
Advertising, Newsletter	345.00
Interest Earned	584.64
Membership	2,600.00
Contributions	600.00
Special Events	<u>4,196.00</u>
Total Income	8,325.64
Expenses	
Administrative	686.79
Membership	1,579.96
Newsletter	116.07
Outreach	300.00
Program	500.00
Special Events	1,723.05
Southern Festival	994.04
Summer Series	600.00
Expenses—Other	<u>571.16</u>
Total Expenses	<u>7,071.07</u>
Total Income	<u><u>\$1,254.57</u></u>



Beaman Library/WNBA Summer Reading Series—2009

BOOKS BEYOND OUR BORDERS: READING AND WRITING ABOUT OTHER CULTURES

Carolyn Wilson planned the nineteenth annual Summer Reading Series with an eye to broadening literary horizons. Every book in the series was either an English translation, or it was written by an author whose native language was not English. Carolyn chose her books to introduce audience members to authors whose works they might never have read.

Ali and Nino by Kurban Said (1937): “Oh, East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet....” Rudyard Kipling’s words took on new meaning for attendees at the June 15 book discussion group. *Ali and Nino* is set in places that most Americans aren’t familiar with, and it’s populated by characters whose mindset is difficult for Westerners to comprehend. Consequently, moderator Ed Gleaves approached the book with an eye to history and geography. By using maps and giving the historical context behind the events depicted, Ed helped put the book’s various twists and turns in perspective and offered some insight into Ali’s seemingly perplexing ideas and attitudes. *Ali and Nino* is a story of cross-cultural love—the Muslim Ali and the Christian Nino—whose differing views of the world around them beg the question, “Can love triumph over polar geography and attitudes?”

The Wind-up Bird Chronicle by Haruki Murakami (1999): Steve Prewitt likes to joke that Carolyn always saves the most difficult book in the series for him. As the facilitator for *The Wind-up Bird Chronicle*, he may be correct. This was our challenge book, a six-hundred-page book that, as Steve said, “gets in the way once you begin reading it—you can’t avoid it.” He also described it as “A great book, one that’s worth our attention.” Steve, a long-time fan of Japan’s premier writer, revealed that the impetus behind the book was a trip Murakami took to Mongolia, where he learned details of Japanese history that he found deeply disturbing. Consequently, there are war stories imbedded in the book, and passages that many attendees found upsetting. While most participants thought parts of the book were riveting, almost everyone commented on the difficulty they had following the story and deciphering the nuances, moving Steve to remind us that

Murakami’s work is “best read with your heart, not your head.”

Palace Walk (Cairo Trilogy, 1) by Naguib Mahfouz (1956): The third selection in our discussion series was *Palace Walk*, the first book in Naguib Mahfouz’s highly regarded *The Cairo Trilogy*. Mahfouz, the first Arab writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, drew heavily on his Egyptian heritage in the book, admitting that the character Karmal was somewhat autobiographical. Linda Barnes led the discussion of *Palace Walk*, a book that proved popular with the audience and packed with characters that initiated lively discussion (albeit relatively little sympathy from a room full of women). Although the book is set in a chaotic time, Mahfouz’s novel is cohesive, rich, and complicated. Just as with *Ali and Nino*, the discussion leader had to help readers deal with the often puzzling Eastern mindset. Linda reminded participants that the subtext of the book is the world the characters live in, with its rules and expectations, and that Arabic is so difficult to translate that we miss many of the subtleties that would add so much to our understanding of Mahfouz’s beautiful writing.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog by Muriel Barbery (2008): Kim Reed led the discussion of one of the most popular books in the series. Authored by the French writer Muriel Barbery, the book looks at life through the eyes of a Paris concierge and a thirteen-year-old resident of the concierge’s building. Reed’s background—both as a teacher of literature and as someone who speaks fluent French and is familiar with Parisian life—proved invaluable in helping the audience understand the very complex and foreign concept of the French concierge. In fact, it was the context behind events in the book that Kim focused on. She showed us maps of Paris to orient us to locations mentioned in the book; she translated the unfamiliar French poetry referenced in the book and helped us understand the poetry’s importance to the French people; she played a recording of (and explained the significance of) the music discussed in the book. As an added treat, she showed us a couple of internet clips from the just-released French movie “The Hedgehog” and translated the actors’ words for us. Kim also pointed out that, while

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Women's National Book Association

Nashville Chapter
MEMBERSHIP FORM JUNE 1, 2009 – MAY 31, 2010

SELECT MEMBER BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Automatic enrollment in National WNBA organization and Nashville Chapter. Members have access to password-protected networking opportunities at www.wnba-books.org and www.wnbanashville.org.
- Ability to connect online with other chapters and members via Twitter and Facebook.
- Opportunity to make a difference in our community by volunteering with other members for book & literacy related causes.

For complete list of member benefits, visit www.wnbanashville.org/benefits.html.

JOIN THE WNBA, NASHVILLE CHAPTER FOR AN ANNUAL FEE OF \$25:

Payment options:

Please make check for \$25 payable to WNBA, Nashville Chapter and mail completed form and check to: Tamara Ellenberger, PO Box 111264, Nashville, TN 37222.

-or-

Update membership status/make payment online at www.wnbanashville.org/join.html (note: additional \$2 online processing fee applies)

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION FOR THE NASHVILLE MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY.

CHECK BOX: new membership renewing membership

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:** _____

Mobile phone: _____ **Birthday (month/day only)** _____

Email: _____ **Web Site :** _____

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

MAY WE CALL ON YOUR EXPERTISE FOR HELP? Please check all that apply.

- Newsletter** **Membership** **Publicity** **Directory** **Financial**
 Programs **Hospitality** **Special Events** **Mailings**

_____ **Member Signature** _____ **Date**

Thank you. We value your membership!

WRITE Now! By Bunkie Lynn



“*Tedious use of commas and semicolons.*”

That’s what my high school senior English teacher, Mrs. Farr, always wrote in red ink at the top of my research papers, because I, in my 17-year-old wisdom, could not stop myself from using excessive punctuation (case in point, sorry!).

I never bothered to alter my punctuation habits, because *a)* I routinely earned very good grades, and *b)* I was editor-in-chief of my high school newspaper—that coveted position whereby one can write sarcastic editorials about certain overtly picky English teachers.

If I’m too fond of semicolons, or commas, or exclamation points, so be it. My love affair with punctuation is due in part to the fact that I paid attention in school, and as a result, now suffer from a rare literary affliction called *Spot-the-Error-itis*.

Spot-the-Error-itis can wreak havoc with persons of a literary bent, causing the sufferer’s eyes to be automatically drawn to grammatical or punctuation mistakes on the page. Once infected, it becomes impossible not to notice even the slightest errors, and subsequently point them out in haughty tones to unwitting offenders.

Attacks of *Spot-the-Error-itis* can be unannounced and brutal; symptoms include phoning the editor of your local newspaper to complain weekly (to no avail), correcting the fourth-grade newsletter with a red pen and returning it to your child’s teacher with a chastising note, or snickering while standing on the front porch of a neighbor’s house as you read a rubber welcome mat that displays, ‘*The Jone’s House.*’ One victim in particular met an untimely death, after having read the entire Yard Sale section of the newspaper while visiting her sister in rural Alabama.

Sufferers of *Spot-the-Error-itis* have been known to leave copies of *Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero*

Tolerance Approach to

Punctuation by Lynne Truss

in an offender’s mailbox. I once engaged in a thirty-minute shouting match with my former boss about why an apostrophe is totally incorrect in the word ‘its’ unless one is contracting the phrase ‘it is.’ When he refused to budge, I resigned on the spot, knowing in my heart that ‘its’ was merely the tip of the proverbial punctuation error iceberg.

If you have silently borne bouts of *Spot-the-Error-itis* or ruefully sighed as you attempted to explain the correct use of pronouns to someone with a college degree, take heart: September 24 is **National Punctuation Day** (I’m not kidding!). Since 2004, National Punctuation Day has been celebrated by punctuation geeks all across this country, thanks to founder Jeff Rubin—a guy in California with an axe to grind when it comes to semicolons—“*a semicolon is not a surgical procedure.*”

Mr. Rubin’s Web site may be found at <http://www.nationalpunctuationday.com/>. I most heartily endorse his ingenious attempts to soothe those of us who waste away in silence. God willing, and with Mr. Rubin’s efforts, literary science may one day eliminate all misunderstanding and improper use of punctuation, freeing the known world from *Spot-the-Error-itis*...

In the mean time dont forget its never too late to correct ones bad habits especially if your a writer and their paying you to know this stuff because seriously how in the world did you graduate in the first place Its a jungle out their and whose to say you cant go write write now

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Landiss Lecture Series

The Landiss Lecture Series fall program will be held on **November 3 at Lipscomb University**. Our distinguished speaker will be poet **Natasha Trethewey**, winner of the 2007 Pulitzer Prize for her collection, *Native Guard*. Her first collection, *Domestic Work*, received the first Cave Canem Poetry Prize, the Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize, and the 2001 Lillian Smith Award for Poetry. She has received fellowships from the NEA, Guggenheim and Rockefeller Foundations and currently holds the Phyllis Wheatley Distinguished Chair in Poetry at Emory University.

Rita Dove, former Poet Laureate, says, “Trethewey eschews the Polaroid instant, choosing to render the unsuspecting yearnings and tremulous hopes that accompany our most private thoughts—reclaiming for us that interior life where the true self flourishes and to which we return, in solitary reverie, for strength.”

The program will take place in the **Doris Swang Chapel, Ezell Center, at 7:30 p.m.** Books by the authors will be available for purchase and autographing immediately following the lecture.

Carolyn Wilson

(Continued from page 9)

the book is an enjoyable read, *The Elegance of the Hedgehog* is a book that benefits from a second reading. Only by rereading it can the reader fully grasp the nuances, illusions, humor and lessons of Barbery’s fine writing.

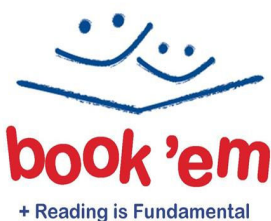
The Sound of Language by Amulya Mailadi (2007): *The Sound of Language* is set in Denmark, but it is the classic immigrant’s dilemma: Do I immerse myself in my new culture, or do I cling to the life I’ve always known? Mailadi’s book examines this question from the sometimes conflicting perspectives of both Afghan refugees and native Danes. She exposes racism on both sides of the chasm that exists between natives and immigrants. Alice Sanford facilitated the session. She led the class in a discussion of various literary reviews of *The Sound of Language*, and helped participants better understand Mailadi’s writing by educating us about her background: Mailadi is an Indian who lived in the United States before marrying and moving to Denmark, so she had a variety of societal experiences to draw upon. Still, Mailadi’s depiction of the immigrant experience as seen from the refugee perspective was eye-opening to most of the audience, all the more so because the author doesn’t try to sugar-coat either side’s less than admirable characteristics.

Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri (1999): Matt Hearn led the discussion of *Interpreter of Maladies*, a

Pulitzer Prize-winning book of short stories. This was Lahiri’s first book, one of only seven short story works that have ever won a Pulitzer. Audience members voted for their favorite story in the collection, and Matt spent time discussing the more popular choices and dissecting them from a literary point of view—a task he’s well qualified to do. He noted that marriage, food, isolation and assimilation are recurring themes in Lahiri’s short stories, not a surprising fact considering that she was born in Bengal, raised in Rhode Island, is married to a Latin American and lives in Brooklyn. Like so many of the characters she writes about, Lahiri moves between different cultures, a trait that, according to Matt, is becoming more common among writers of American literature in our new, multicultural society.

The 2009 Discussion Series truly got the readers involved; every book engendered lively discussions and much audience participation. Almost all attendees were introduced to writers whose works they had never read; authors they will now seek out. By bringing participants out of their literary comfort zone, Carolyn opened a new venue for those who had previously read only American authors. She chose her discussion leaders well, and each one added to the audience’s understanding and enjoyment of the selection. It was another grand effort on Carolyn’s part—Thank you!

Susan Lentz



"Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."

-Maya Angelou

"A house without books is like a room without windows. No man has a right to bring up his children without surrounding with books, if he has the means to buy them."

- Horace Mann

As the long, lazy hours of summer come to a close, Book'em programs and services are ramping up to meet the demands of Nashville's children. By the close of the school year, thousands of children will be served by our programs and inspired by our volunteers.

Book'em needs volunteers to help Nashville's children, and we invite WNBA members to help us with our mission:

- Book'em will host training sessions for new Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) volunteers on Friday, September 18. Two identical sessions are available: 8-9 a.m. and 12-1 p.m. Book'em expects to serve more than 1,400 children through this program during the 2009-2010 school year.
- Book'em also needs volunteers to help with fundraising, Library Without Walls, and office functions.
- Call 255-1820 or e-mail volunteers@bookem-kids.org for more information on any of these opportunities.
- To make a monetary or book donation, please contact Melissa Spradlin at ceo@bookem-kids.org.

Finally, Book'em needs your votes! The Christie Cookie will donate \$25,000 to charity this fall. Winners will be determined by votes cast online. Please consider voting for Book'em—it takes only moments! The contest runs through October 15 at www.christiecookies.com.

Thank you, WNBA for your support! Please visit us on the Web at our newly redesigned Web site www.bookem-kids.org. Have a great fall!

Kristi Gillis

WNBA has another new chapter! The Charlotte, North Carolina chapter was officially chartered June 6 at the annual National Board meeting. They have twenty members and will be led by chapter president, Carin Siegfried.

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.

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