

Women's National Book Association

The Nashville Edition

SPRING, 2011

Inside This Issue

President's Message	2
Member News	3-6
Chapter News	7
ATHENA Nominee	8
Holiday Dinner	9
Winter Meetings	10
My Messy Life	11
And the Winner is	12
The Written Word	13
UN Corner	14
Book'em	15
Advertising	16

March Meeting

Please join us on **Thursday, March 3**, for a discussion of hot picks from the **Spring Book List** with **Serenity Gerbman**, Humanities Tennessee, and **Mary McCarthy**, Ingram Book. Get a jump on the best reads for spring and summer with two book experts.

We will be meeting at **Shoneys, 365 White Bridge Road, Nashville, TN**, which is located at the intersection of Charlotte Pike and White Bridge Road. Our monthly **meetings start at 6 p.m.** and are free and open to the public. Come early beginning at **5:00 p.m. to eat and network** with other members and guests. Please note that we adhere to the inclement weather policy of the Davidson County Public School System.

Spring Meetings

April 7—Sisters in Crime presents a panel with **Jennie Bentley, J.T. Ellison, and Beth Terrell**.

Jennie Bentley, aka Bente Gallagher, is the author of respectively, the Do-It-Yourself Home Renovation series from Berkeley Press and the Savannah Martin Real Estate Mysteries from Publishing Works. J.T. Ellison writes the critically acclaimed Taylor Jackson series; her short stories have been published in numerous anthologies, including her award winning story "Prodigal Me." Beth Terrell aka Jaden E. Terrell writes the Jared McKean mystery series; she is also the Executive Director of the Killer Nashville Thriller, Mystery, and Crime Literature Conference held each August in or near Nashville. Don't miss this lively panel of local mystery writers. NOTE: The meeting will be held at the Green Hills Public Library meeting room at 6:00 p.m.

May 12—Annual Garden Party at Barbie Chadwick's.

Enjoy food, drink, and fun with other members and friends of WNBA. 5:00 p.m.

General Meeting

First Thursday of the month,
Networking starts at 5:00
Meeting starts at 6:00
(Free—open to the public)
WNBA meetings adhere to the inclement weather policy of Davidson County School System

Board Meeting

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

**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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Information.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

We're getting our first taste of spring weather. What a delight and welcome change after the long, snowy winter. I can now imagine putting into practice some of the tips Gloria Ballard provided in her gardening talk at the February meeting. If you missed it, I would highly recommend both reading the article in the newsletter and asking a fellow WNBA member for his/her thoughts on it. She's an inspiration for all of us who try to incorporate our personal interests into our work.

As is often the case, I have books on the mind. My current reading list gives a clear picture of my various interests and pursuits. What does your reading list say about you? One section is comprised of board books that Lolly and I read together. A couple of our current favorites are *A Mother for Choco* (courtesy of Books from Birth. If you don't know about this program that sends a book a month for all children in TN ages 0-5 years old, check out this link <http://www.governorsfoundation.org/index.php>. It's an amazing program) and *My First Mother Goose* (a gift from a WNBA friend. The sing-songy verses amuse her to no end). I am going to order additional books on the recommendations of our panelists in October. Another section is made up of *Don Quixote* and *Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism: Ethics and Liberal Democracy*.

I am happy to report that I will be graduating this spring with my Masters of Liberal Arts & Science with a focus on Ethics. (I cannot say enough good things about this program. Classes are interdisciplinary and held at night. It's geared towards working professionals who want to engage in further study and discussion. For more information, please see <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/mlas/>.) The last section is *31 Hours* by Masha Hamilton, the WNBA Award winner for 2010/2011. It got good reviews from members of the WNBA Book Group that meets at the Richland Park Library. Masha will be awarded the prize in mid-March in NYC. Lee Fairbend, the committee chair, and I will be in attendance. Drop me a line (ginnafoster@yahoo.com). I'd love to hear what you are reading.

Every two years, the Board is up for re-election. The time is fast approaching. Are you interested in getting more involved? We want you! If so, please contact Bebe Brechner, president-elect and chair of the Nominating Committee. My four years on the Board have been incredibly rewarding in terms of personal and professional growth and the friendships I have made. Taking cues from Gloria Ballard, joining the Board is a great way to incorporate your personal interests (books and literacy) in your work (volunteering and giving back).

Thank you and best wishes to you and your families.

Ginna Foster Cannon

Member News

New Members

Patricia Armstrong

Janie Grinstead

Susan Reed Lambert

Janet Lee

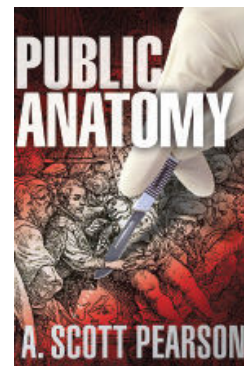
Elissa Pugh-Arguello

Carole Rietz

Michael Sanders

A. Scott Pearson—*Public Anatomy*

New member A. Scott Pearson's book *Public Anatomy* will be released on March 7 by Oceanview Publishing. This is the sequel to *RUPTURE*, the first novel of the Eli Branch series of medical thrillers that debuted in February of 2009. **Pearson will be signing his new book at Barnes and Noble in Cool Springs at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9.**



Public Anatomy is an intense, Memphis-based medical thriller featuring protagonist Eli Branch. While recovering from a career-threatening injury, Branch is pulled into the turbulent world of Dr. Liza French, a colleague he hasn't seen in ten years. Liza uses their past to lure Eli into a highly publicized debacle in a Memphis hospital that has put her own career in jeopardy.

But when the murder of medical personnel at Gates Memorial appears related to Liza's surgical complication, Eli finds that more lives are at imminent risk. Eli discovers clues from the victims that match anatomical art found at the crime scenes, a connection that leads him to the manuscript of a sixteenth-century anatomist whose methods of dissection are over four centuries old—but are being reenacted in the present.

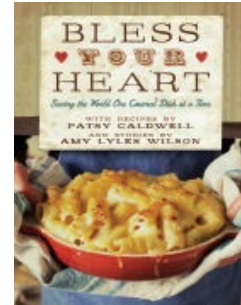
Aided by the expertise of forensic pathologist, Dr. Meg Daily, Eli uncovers a pattern to the escalating deaths and the search begins for a killer the media and the city come to know as The Organist.

A. Scott Pearson is a surgeon in Nashville, Tennessee. For the past decade, he has been a member of the surgical faculty at Vanderbilt University, where he combines research with the clinical practice of surgery and teaches on the importance of the patient's narrative in medicine. Pearson's debut novel, *Rupture*, won top honors in the new fiction category of the National Indie Excellence 2010 Awards. Visit the author online at: www.ascottpearson.com.

Member News

Amy Lyles Wilson—*Bless Your Heart*

Longtime writer and editor **Amy Lyles Wilson** wrote eleven short stories for the recently released cookbook *Bless Your Heart: Saving the World One Covered Dish at a Time* (Thomas Nelson).



“*Bless Your Heart* celebrates those occasions when a little home-cooked goodness makes all the difference, from funerals to family reunions, church potlucks to tailgates,” says Wilson, a former board member for the Nashville chapter of WNBA.

She is a blogger and columnist for *Her Nashville* magazine. Her essay “The Guts to Keep Going,” about helping her mother adjust to widowhood was featured on National Public Radio’s “This I Believe” and appears in *This I Believe II: More Personal Philosophies from Remarkable Men and Women* (Henry Holt, 2008). She edited and wrote the introductions for a series of books from Fresh Air Books, an imprint of Upper Room Books: *Forgiveness: Perspectives on Making Peace with Your Past*; *Hope: It’s More Than Wishful Thinking*; *Anger: Minding Your Passion*; and *Compassion: Thoughts on Cultivating a Good Heart*.

“If the truth be told, I’m not really all that skilled in the kitchen,” says Wilson, who adds that her husband does the cooking in their house. “But not to worry, because my co-author, Patsy Caldwell, has been cooking professionally for some forty years and she wrote the recipes. So you’re safe.”

Wilson holds degrees from Millsaps College, the University of Mississippi, and Vanderbilt University Divinity School. An affiliate of Amherst Writers and Artists, she facilitates workshops and retreats and leads seminars on such topics as creativity, spirituality, and grief. You can find her online at www.amylyleswilson.com.

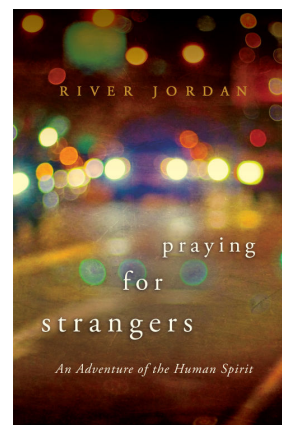
Editor’s Note: Thank you to those members who submitted articles and member news for this quarter’s *The Nashville Edition*. If you are interested in writing articles for upcoming newsletters or if you have noteworthy news—job promotions or changes, new blogs, book releases, etc.—please contact me at gloriat71@gmail.com for submission guidelines and quarterly deadlines.

Member News

River Jordan—*Praying for Strangers*

As 2009 approached, New Year's resolutions were the last thing on River Jordan's mind. Her sons were both about to go off to war—one to Iraq and the other to Afghanistan—and she was planning a family reunion to see them off. All River could do was pray for her sons' safety and hope to maintain her strength, until she unexpectedly came upon the perfect New Year's resolution—one that focused on others instead of herself. She would pray for a complete stranger every single day of the year.

In *Praying for Strangers*, River Jordan tells of her amazing personal journey of uncovering the needs of the human heart as she prayed her way through the year for people she had never met before. The discovery that Jordan made along the journey was not simply that her prayers touched the lives of these strangers (in often astounding ways), but that the unexpected connections she made with other people would be a profound experience that would change her own life forever. **The kick-off signing will be April 6, 5 p.m. at Bookman/Bookwoman in Nashville.** (To learn more about Jordan's "memoir of a resolution," see her article on page 11.)



Re-launch of An Evening with an Author Series— Ginna Foster Cannon



After a year hiatus, Ginna Foster Cannon is re-launching An Evening with an Author series at the **University Club, 2402 Garland Avenue, Nashville, TN**, under the umbrella of the Arts & Letters Committee. (E-mail eveningwithanauthor@yahoo.com to learn more.) The spring line-up is:

Thursday, February 24, 6-7 p.m.—Ridley Wills II reads and signs *Heritage, Highballs, and Hijinx: Colorful Characters I Have Known*.

Thursday, March 24, 6-7 p.m.—Susan Gregg Gilmore reads and signs *The Improper Life of Bezillia Grove*.

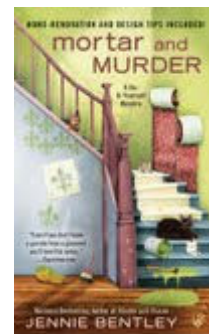
Thursday, April 28, 6-7 p.m.—Kate Daniels and Mark Jarman read and sign *A Walk in Victoria's Secret: Poems* and *Bone Fires: New and Selected Poems*.

Member News

Jennie Bentley—*Mortar and Murder*

Jennie Bentley's fourth book in the Do-It-Yourself Mystery series was released January 4 by Berkley Books. This home renovation series features former textile designer Avery Baker and her boyfriend Derek Ellis, who renovate houses in a small town called Waterfield on the coast of Maine.

In *Mortar and Murder*, Avery and her boyfriend Derek are renovating a magnificent 225-year-old Colonial on Rowanberry Island, just off the coast of Maine. The DIY is going great even if the neighbor, a reclusive thriller writer, seems as strange and mysterious as his fiction. But his reputation seems in perfect keeping with what Derek and Avery discover next...



The body of an unidentified woman with a piece of paper in her pocket bearing the address of Derek and Avery's Realtor is found floating in the sea near the island. Then a second woman is retrieved like jetsam from the harbor. But it's not until Avery discovers a secret room in the house, and learns about Rowanberry Island's long tradition of smuggling, that a bizarre link is made between the dead women—and if it foretells anything, it's that things on the island are only going to get deadlier.



JT Ellison—*So Close the Hand of Death*

JT Ellison's newest book in the Taylor Jackson series, *So Close the Hand of Death*, was just given a Top Pick at Romantic Times. The book will be released March 1 by MIRA.

TALENT BORROWS. GENIUS STEALS. EVIL DELEGATES.

It's a hideous echo of a violent past. Across America, murders are being committed with all the twisted hallmarks of the Boston Strangler, the Zodiac Killer and Son of Sam. The media frenzy explodes and Nashville homicide lieutenant Taylor Jackson knows instantly that The Pretender is back...and he's got helpers.

As The Pretender's disciples perpetrate their sick homages—stretching police and FBI dangerously thin—Taylor tries desperately to prepare for their inevitable showdown. And she must do it alone. To be close to her is to be in mortal danger, and she won't risk losing anyone she loves. But the isolation, the self-doubt and the rising body count are taking their toll: she's tripwire-tense and ready to snap.

The brilliant psychopath who both adores and despises her is drawing close. Close enough to touch...

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Chapter News

Contribute to our Web site!

www.wnbanashville.org

We are looking for several members to help oversee the information, links, or to work on updates for the Web site. You can help in a small way or in a big way—it's up to you! Some of the items we need help with are:

1. Check existing links to see if they are valid—a quarterly task
2. Suggest new links to literary organizations or member sites—anytime
3. Send your brief bio for our [Meet Our Members](#) page
4. Update your bio information on our [Meet Our Members](#)
5. Help update the Web site (WordPress or HTML skills)



WNBA 2011 Book Discussion

March 18, 2011—*Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese
May 7, 2011—*Mr. Peanut* by Andy Ross

The Saturday discussions start at 10 a.m. and are facilitated by WNBA members. They are held at the Richland Park Library located at 4711 Charlotte Avenue, Nashville, TN. Arrive early for coffee and conversation—all discussions are open to the public.

ATHENA Award

Helen Hemphill is a word artist. She has been writing for children and young adults since the late 1990s when she made a career move from the corporate world to teaching sixth graders at Oak Hill School. In 1997, after twenty plus years of corporate public relations and marketing, Helen decided to opt out of business to complete a graduate degree in English literature at Belmont University. The graduate work was a sort of "bucket list" endeavor, but upon completion of the program, she took a teaching position at Oak Hill School and began writing stories for the children in her class. The writing bug took hold, and soon Helen was working on a collection of short stories set in Falls of Rough, Kentucky, her mother's hometown. While teaching, she completed an MFA in Writing for Children and Young Adults from Vermont College for the Fine Arts. The stories became Helen's second novel, *Runaround*, named a Top Ten Youth Romance by Booklist.

Hailed as "a strong new voice in children's literature" by Kirkus Reviews, Helen's debut novel *Long Gone Daddy* won the Teddy Award from the Writers' League of Texas and was named to the New York Public Library's Books for the Teen Age, 2007. *The Adventurous Deeds of Deadwood Jones*, her most recent novel, was the



recipient of the 2008 Virginia M. Law Award from the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library and was named to VOYA Magazine's 2009 Top Shelf List for Middle School Readers.

Helen is also active with Humanities Tennessee, serving on the children's and young adult's book selection committee for the Southern Festival of

Books. She has served on the advisory committee for the Tennessee Writers' Alliance and has taught writing at the Writers' Workshop at Chattanooga and for the Tennessee Arts Commission. Helen has presented lectures on writing and writing education to The National Council of Teachers of English, the International Reading Association, the Tennessee School Library Association, and the Highlights Foundation.

Helen and her husband Neil have lived in Nashville for fifteen years, are Nashville Symphony enthusiasts, and love boating on Center Hill Lake—but only if there's a good book on board! They have two grown sons who live in Austin and Dallas.

"Being WNBA's 2011 Athena nominee is a true honor. This is an organization of many talented and community-spirited women, and I'm privileged to be part of this amazing group!"

Attend the 2011 ATHENA Award Ceremony
And support WNBA nominee Helen Hemphill
The Parthenon, Nashville, TN
March 31, 2011
Watch for more information soon!

Holiday Dinner



Ginna Foster Cannon and Guests

The new location for our annual Holiday Dinner at the Unity Church on Franklin Road proved to be a comfortable fit for this year's event. The dinner buffet catered by Monell's included plenty of delicious turkey and dressing accompanied by a variety of side dishes and desserts. Members and guests who arrived early had the chance to shop for special bargains at the book sale with this year's books provided by WNBA board members.



Book Sale Shoppers

Barbie Chadwick was the 2011 Carolyn Taylor Wilson Award recipient in honor of her many hours of service to the WNBA Nashville Chapter in the capacities of both Program and Publicity

Co-Chairs. In addition, Barbie has opened her garden to WNBA members for the May garden party for the last three years.



Barbie Chadwick (left) receiving Carolyn Wilson Volunteerism Award from Ginna Foster Cannon

After the dinner, New York Times bestselling author Donna VanLiere provided the evening's entertainment, sharing stories about her background and discussing how her writing evolved into a successful series of Christmas titles, including two that have been made into movies. She read excerpts from some of her books and held a signing session at the end of the evening to the delight of those looking for special holiday gifts.



Donna VanLiere
Guest Speaker

Winter Meetings

JANUARY MEETING:

The first meeting of 2011 turned into an impromptu planning meeting for our chapter's coming year as our guest speaker, Janis Ian, had a scheduling conflict that evening. Among topics discussed were ways to increase membership, opportunities to become more involved in WNBA at both the chapter and national level, and thoughts on finding a permanent meeting location after the closing of Davis-Kidd Booksellers. Attendees also shared their feelings about the loss of this well-loved independent bookstore and the short- and long-term effects on Nashville's literary scene.

Members and guests left the January meeting more informed about the goals, concerns, and plans for our chapter and ways they can become more involved in WNBA.



Gloria Ballard, February Speaker

FEBRUARY MEETING:

Thoughts of flowers blooming and trees budding were enough to make members and guests brave the frigid temperature and bleak weather to hear one of Middle Tennessee's favorite garden writers, Gloria Ballard, tell about her experiences as a journalist and garden columnist for *The Tennessean* newspaper.

Ballard shared her background, beginning as a journalist and editor with *The Tennessean* after receiving her degree from the University of Tennessee. She wrote about such topics as fashion, home design, travel, and gardening and started a Q&A garden column that developed into her current garden advice column. Ballard is also a freelance writer and a creative writing teacher at Watkins College of Art & Design in Nashville.

Gloria also read from some of her favorite books about gardening, including excerpts from Diane Ackerman's *Cultivating Delight: A Natural History of My Garden* and Jamaica Kincaid's *My Garden (Book)*. She shared that the "mindless work of gardening is a good place for words to grow" and concluded the evening with an informal Q&A session where attendees asked Ballard some of their own gardening questions and enjoyed Ballard's responses and the lively discussions that followed.

Gloria Toler

You're Invited—WNBA Award Presentation

Honoring Masha Hamilton, March 12, 2011, 3-5 p.m.
 the Center For Fiction/Mercantile Library, New York, NY
 RSVP by March 1 to lfairbend@comcast.net

In the Middle of My Messy Life—A Memoir Debuts

There are piles of dirty laundry here, there, and everywhere. A load of towels are in the washer, the other half in the hamper, and nothing is getting clean. The dishwasher is in a questionable state—Clean? Dirty? Mixed? I have a suitcase that is either half-packed or half-unpacked as I am in a constant state of coming and going so much that I'm not sure if I'm packing to leave or unpacking to stay. I have articles due, book club questions to write, Web site issues to update, people to interview and radio show edits to complete. A long road of promises not yet met to fulfill. The dog barks, the cat sleeps. This is my real life and I guarantee it's not glamorous. Nothing all writerly looking happening here, yet. Or let's just say the way it looked from the outside so many years ago is so very much different than what it looks like up close and personal. It's much messier than I imagined that's for sure.

Yet, in spite of my messy life, my memoir of a resolution, *Praying for Strangers: An Adventure of the Human Spirit*, surfaces April 5, 2011. (The kick-off signing will be at Bookman/Bookwoman April 6 at 5 p.m.) And I wanted to tell you about walking this line between fiction and nonfiction. It's new to me. Other than a special collection of true stories published for the Pulpwood Queens (*The Deep, Down, Dirty South—A Southern Girl Recollects*) I've been a fiction writer all of my life. I think from even the time I was a little girl, like many novelists, I was excellent at living out stories in my imaginative mind.

I can lose myself in 'story' like nobody's business. Strip myself of the trappings of this life and walk into a place that reveals itself to me like a forest secret unwrapped to a wild child. Something shining, unique, and whispering to be told. I get that. I understand that language of creation.

Writing the new memoir was a complete surprise to me. Those who read the book will soon discover that it was based on a resolution but one I didn't hurry to embrace and never wanted to fulfill. But things happen. Sometimes there are stones in your

path, shining like bread-crumbs that keep lighting the way for your next step, and the following, and the one after that. It was just like this. Exactly, like this. I took one step at a time to fulfill that resolution and people appeared in my path like those stones turning to face me,

appearing across a store or crowded airport, their faces surfacing from the sea of humanity. But still as the story continued I refused to write the words down. My husband continually asked as I shared details of my day, "Are you writing these stories down?" followed by, "You have to write these stories down!" I never felt compelled strongly to do that because I was working on yet another novel and fiction is my home. Yet, one by one the stories kept coming and sooner or later, a writer is a writer, is a writer in that you have to look in the mirror and realize *this is the story* demanding to be written right now. It took me a while it did. I was more than a little hesitant. Any kind of memoir writing means revealing things of a personal nature. Authors of fiction are great shape-shifters. We take every emotion, every experience we've known second hand and they fuel our characters until they speak, walk, and talk in a three-dimensional world.

The memoir is raw, revealing, and personal. My friends old and new know that I'm a very private person but I've put some of my most personal thoughts, my heart for my family, and reflections on my faith right out in the open and on the printed page. I hope that some part of my story speaks truth and inspiration to those who discover the words. That makes the revelation worth the risk. For more information on the new book or its continuing journey, readers can visit the Web sites at <http://www.riverjordan.us> or <http://www.prayingforstrangers.com>



River Jordan

And the Winner Is...

Add one more to the echelon of awards. Along with the Tony, the Grammy, the Emmy, and, of course, the Oscar, include the Audie.

The Audie Awards were established to honor the best in the audiobook industry. If you are a fan of the format, the Audie finalists and winners is a go-to list of assured excellence in twenty-eight categories.

A lover of romance? There's an Audie for that. How about history? Ditto. And if you've noticed that some of the best storytelling is targeted for the YA market, check out the winners in the Teen category. You can find this year's finalists in the next week or so at www.audiopub.org. If you really want to get in on the conversation about the Audies and audiobooks in general, find your way fast to www.audiobookcommunity.com where you may even find yourself in conversation with a favorite narrator.



I did. I posted some musings on the casting of the Janet Evanovich books and found myself in a dialog with Lorelei King, Audie-winning narrator of several of the Stephanie Plum mysteries. Back to the Audies. The awards are distributed at a gala black-tie affair on the eve of BookExpo America. Past masters of ceremonies include Jim Dale, Tony Roberts, Edward Herrmann, and Tom Bodett. Last year's favorite presenters were undoubtedly the trio of narrators and the author of *The Help* who charmed everyone with their easy camaraderie. It is so fitting that this wonderful book became an even more fabulous audiobook and last year's Distinguished Achievement in Production winner.

One reason for establishing awards is to draw attention to the format and it was in that spirit that Audiobook of the Year was created. ABOTY is given to the audiobook that demonstrates the triumvirate of excellence in marketing, sales and production quality. Last year's winner was Nelson Mandela's *Favorite African Folktales*. Directed by Alfre Woodard and featuring a host of narrators that included everyone from Alan Rickman to Whoopi Goldberg, this stellar production captured the timeless tales with grace and humor.

Who will win this year? I'm not telling though I am compelled to confess that, as judging chair, I know about a month ahead of time. Let's just say that winners past and present all provide listening experiences that deserve to be heard.

Ellen Myrick

Ellen Myrick is a past president of WNBA-Nashville and has served as the judging chair of the Audie Awards for four years. Ellen narrated the YALSA notable recording Stop the Train for Bruce Coville's Full Cast Audio. Are you a fan? Email Ellen at libraryellen@gmail.com to find out more about becoming an Audie judge.

The Written Word by Pat Ballard



The Do's and Don'ts of What Works and What Won't

My November/December 2010 issue of *Writer's Digest Magazine* www.writersdigest.com has an article by Christina Katz titled, "Elements of a Successful Fiction Platform" that I found very informative.

One of the sidebars to the article is "Dos and Don'ts For Fiction Platforms." I found this article especially interesting because in my eleven years of being a published author I've tried most (but not quite all) of both categories and agree with what works and what doesn't.

Of the thirteen writers interviewed for this article, each had a different strategy for his or her own work and fan base but there was some consensus on strategies that are and are not effective. Those are listed below.

What Works:

1. Local publicity, especially if you live where your novel is set.
2. Book giveaways
3. A wide-reaching blog tour
4. Group signings and events
5. Cultivating a community fans want to return to
6. Encouraging or teaching fans how to do what you do
7. Hosting reader competitions for media or creative work
8. Ramping up the excitement prior to the book launch

What Doesn't:

1. Mass snail-mail campaigns
2. Non-book (swag) giveaways
3. A small blog tour
4. Solo book signings
5. Paid advertising
6. Book trailers that are merely commercials
7. Saying "yes" to too many time-consuming requests
8. Extravagant publication parties

The main thing is to just keep doing something to get your book(s) in front of readers.

Pat Ballard

WNBA—UN Corner

Following is an excerpt from the UNICEF eNews, February edition, distributed to our UNICEF liaison, Jill Tardiff. To learn more about UNICEF's Emergency Relief efforts, check out <http://www.unicefusa.org/work/emergencies>.

The first month of the year ushered in severe flooding across the globe. Hundreds of thousands of children were left homeless, many at risk of disease and malnutrition. UNICEF responded with emergency relief and continues to protect children while reuniting them with their families.

Meanwhile, a violent conflict in the Ivory Coast threatens women and children there. UNICEF is setting up temporary shelters, providing bedding and distributing clean water to refugees. In other news, the Mother-Baby Pack program expands into Zambia and Lesotho this month. The pack's success could be key to an AIDS-free generation in Africa.

Finally, be sure to join volunteers gearing up for World Water Week in March by joining UNICEF's Tap Project.

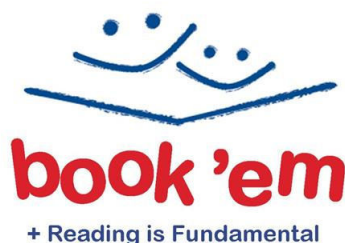
Thank you for helping the world's children,

Alisa Aydin
U.S. Fund for UNICEF



UNICEF Greeting Card Contest—Call for Entries Open to U.S. Children Ages 14 and Under

Do you have any budding artists in your home under the age of 14? If so, why not encourage them to enter the Twentieth Annual Pier 1 Imports/UNICEF Greeting Card Contest? Submissions of original artwork for the theme "Making Spirits Bright" are currently being accepted through March 12. For more information, check out <http://youth.unicefusa.org/contests>.



BOOK'EM PREPARES FOR READ ME WEEK 2011

Volunteers will spend thousands of hours reading to students in Metro Nashville Public Schools from February 24 to March 4.

This huge effort is in support of Book'em and its annual Read Me Week celebration. With Read Me Week, Book'em strives to remind Nashvillians of the vital role reading has in the lives of the city's children. This year will mark the 22nd annual celebration of the event.

Read Me Week was started in 1986 by Frankie DeWees, a teacher at East Hickman Elementary School in Lyles, Tenn. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the importance of reading. The event was called Read Me Week because students, teachers and visiting readers were invited to wear a shirt, cap, or pin with a message on it so the children could "read the reader."

"Read Me Week is always a highlight for Book'em," said Melissa Spradlin, executive director of Book'em. "It's delightful to celebrate the joy that reading brings to the lives of children and adults in our community. We are grateful for the gracious support of so many businesses, community organizations like WNBA, and individuals, all of whom are helping us empower Nashville's children by fostering a love of books and reading."

In addition to readers visiting schools across the county, Read Me Days will shine the spotlight on children at three local schools.

Thursday, Feb. 24, at Hattie Cotton Elementary School

Friday, Feb. 25, at Percy Priest Elementary School

Wednesday, March 2, at Lockeland Design Center

At each school, local celebrities and entertainers will read to children in a classroom setting. There will also be a special assembly at each school with performances by celebrity guests and recognition of all-star student readers. This year's celebrity readers will include Mayor Karl Dean, Dr. Jesse Register, Senator Joe Haynes, Senator Douglas Henry, Speaker of the House Beth Harwell, Councilwoman Erica Gilmore, Councilman Carter Todd, Miss Tennessee, Miss Black Tennessee, Columbia recording artist Joanna Smith, and representatives from Metro Nashville police and fire departments.

WNBA is again adopting Glenclyff Elementary School for Read Me Week. Contact Stephanie Koehler at stephanie.koehler@gmail.com for more information about volunteering.

For more information call Book'em at (615) 255-1820, email info@bookem-kids.org, or check the website at www.bookem-kids.org.

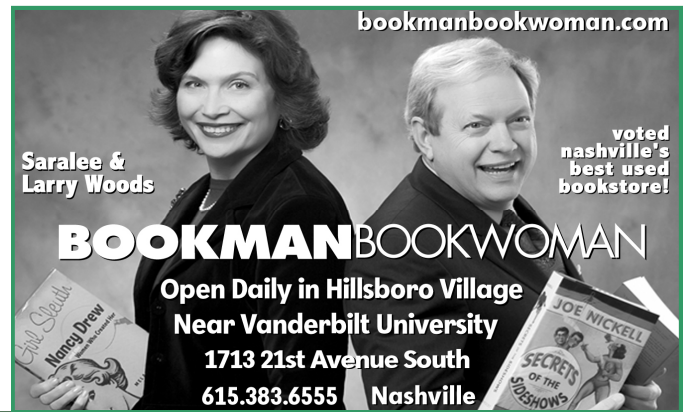


Congratulations to the Class of 2011

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