

Women's National Book Association

The Nashville Edition

FALL, 2011

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If you want to be listed in the table of contents email lizzieheff@yahoo.com

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

Welcome to 2011/2012

It's time for another year of fantastic WNBA meetings!

Have you renewed your dues? If not, go ahead and **due** so online at our [website](#) where you can also find instructions for mailing them in—a bargain at just \$30 for the year!

You may also pay your dues in person this Thursday, September 1st at the

First meeting of the year!

Thursday, September 1st at 6 p.m.

[Nero's Grill](#) 2122 Hillsboro Drive, Nashville, TN 37215

Come early at 5 p.m. for networking and a delicious meal.
Stay late for the highlight of fall -

[Southern Festival of Books](#) preview!

Two of our very own, Mary McCarthy with Ingram Books, and Tori Ross, Edmondson Pike Branch-Nashville Public Library Children's Librarian, will discuss the Adult, Children's and Young Adult Authors.



Our November and December meetings will also be at Nero's Grill.
Keep reading for more info on the rest of the year!

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.

From the Top

Hi Readers!

I'm excited to represent the Nashville Chapter of the Women's National Book Association as the new president. There is nothing more rewarding than working with a devoted group of like-minded people for a cause that satisfies internally and externally.

Have you read the organization's mission statement recently? "WNBA exists to promote reading and to support the role of women in the community of the book." The mission started in 1917 when women booksellers were not allowed to join the American Association of Publishers. Our own Nashville chapter organized in 1955. I'm sorry to report that the last remaining founder of our chapter, Dr. Willodene Scott, passed away this August. She was one of our strongest supporters through the years, and she always attended the Summer Series, including this year's programs! She left an amazing legacy, which we will be highlighting throughout the year.

In this coming year, you will see a growing number of unique member benefits, intimate programs, awesome events, and opportunities to interact with like-minded people. In just a few weeks, the amazing Southern Festival of Books will be here. We will have a booth there, with some shockingly cool merchandise. WNBA co-sponsors a signature event, Breakfast With An Author, on Saturday morning of the Festival. This will be our October program, but you must sign up on Sept. 26, as there's always a rush on limited seats. Yes, it's THAT good!

Come to our first program of the season, Sept. 1st, at Nero's Grill, to get a sneak preview of the newest books – for adults and for children. Tori Ross and Mary McCarthy, seasoned professionals with delightfully witty presentation skills, will spill the beans on the best of the best!

At the end of one's life, no one ever says "I should have spent more time at the office." Do something worthwhile – something satisfying – something enjoyable. If you are a reader, writer, or book-related professional, I think WNBA is just what you need!

Bebe Brechner
President

Member News

*Congrats to
Gary Slaughter!*

New
Members

Helen Hemphill

Jeanna Kinnebrew

WELCOME!

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 lizzieheff@yahoo.com for submission guidelines and quarterly deadlines.

Nashville Author Enters Arrangement with Schools

Gary Slaughter, author of the award-winning series of *Cottonwood* novels, has entered an arrangement with the Williamson County High Schools to allow Slaughter's four books to be incorporated into the U.S. history curriculum during the second semester of 2012. Under the agreement, Slaughter will provide sets of *Cottonwood* books for each of the nine Williamson County High Schools.

"We appreciate your generosity and are excited about providing this opportunity to deepen students' understanding of this era of our history," explained Lauretta Scruggs, Williamson County Curriculum Specialist.



The *Cottonwood* novels, spanning the four seasons during last year of World War II, are entertaining, richly-detailed reminiscences of home-front America interwoven with the significant historical events of World War II.

Cottonwood Summer begins with the D-Day invasion in June 1944, and *Cottonwood Spring* completes the series, shortly after V-E Day in May 1945. Small-town adventures are narrated by the now-adult Jase Addison. He and his best friend, Danny Tucker, are obsessed with protecting their neighborhood, their home town, and their country from the bad guys. As villains arrive on the scene, they are swiftly vanquished in a humorous

fashion by this pair of precocious and clever defenders of the flag. John Seigenthaler, television host of *A Word on Words*, refers to these two protagonists as "this (World War II) generation's Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn."

Slaughter expects the final novel of the series to be published in 2012. This book will cover the summer of 1945, ending with V-J Day in September 1945. In this novel, the main characters travel to Nashville to visit a friend and discover -- first-hand -- life on the Nashville home-front, the POW camp on White Bridge Road, and train travel during the war.

Member News

The summer held a tinge of sadness for WNBA-Nashville members as we said goodbye to long-time members Willodene Scott and Victoria Elliott. Memorials from WNBA have been made in honor of these women.



Willodene Alexander Scott, Ph.D

September 4, 1922 - August 14, 2011

In 1955, Willodene was one of the organizing members of the Woman's National Book Association of Nashville. During the course of her life she was awarded many honors and served all communities with which she was involved. As recently as July of this year Dr. Scott attended a session of the WNBA Summer Series.



Victoria Elliott

Victoria served Nashville Public Library in a variety of capacities for more than 20 years. She was a published author in the field of librarianship but had a wide range of interests including integrative medicine. The Richland Park branch of NPL of which she was the manager served as the initial and long-time meeting place of the WNBA-Nashville Reading Group.

Member, Chapter News and Meetings

With the thrilling and welcome announcement that a full service bookstore will open this October in Green Hills comes even greater news for WNBA-Nashville—our very own **Mary Grey James** will be managing the store! This means our 2012 meetings may once again be held in a bookstore—stay tuned. Meanwhile, check out the Parnassus press release.



Parnassus Books, owned by bestselling author Ann Patchett and publishing veteran Karen Hayes, will open its doors in Greenbriar Village—where Abbott Martin meets Hillsboro Pike—this October.

The store will stock the best selections of literature, non-fiction, children's, local interests, and the arts in both printed and digital formats.

In addition, the store will carry greeting cards and journals, magazines and newspapers, locally produced products and art, and store-branded merchandise.

Parnassus Books will enable customers to buy e-books through its website and its affiliation with Google eBooks.

The store will be open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday. A friendly, knowledgeable staff will assist customers in buying the hottest new releases, as well as an extensive backlist. Customers will be able to sign up for the "Parnassus First Edition Club" which will offer a series of collector-worthy titles signed by nationally and locally known authors.

As Mt. Parnassus was the center of Greek learning and culture, Parnassus Books will serve as a center for Nashville's literary community by hosting author readings, workshops, book clubs, and music events. As a local independent bookstore, they will support the economy of Nashville, partner with area businesses and schools, and become an institution and resource for culture and community. It is Parnassus Books' goal to complement and enhance the rich cultural character of The Athens of the South.

Meeting Reviews

Exit Laughing: American Humor

*submitted by Anonymous

The Innocents Abroad by Mark Twain. Dennis Loyd, who knows Mark Twain better than anyone excepting perhaps Hal Holbrook, opened the series with the interesting fact that Sam Clemens was almost a Tennessean, as his parents moved across the river into Missouri shortly before he was born. And for the entire session, we were amused, informed, astonished, and delighted by the tantalizing tidbits that came from a lifetime of teaching and reading about the man we know best as Mark Twain. *The Innocents Abroad* was not your typical travel book, but it is typical Mark Twain. No exploration of American humor could begin without the master and Dennis Loyd brought the master vividly to life for us.

A Confederacy of Dunces by John Gregory Toole. Linda Barnes is always a breath of fresh air whenever she brings her considerable expertise to us, along with her infectious sense of humor and her obvious love of teaching. The posthumous novel by John Gregory Toole has elicited outrage, disbelief, sadness, and outrageous comedy to readers since its publication and has become somewhat of a cult classic. Linda brought new insight into the tragic lives of Ken Toole and his mother, Thelma, a major figure in the whole picture. Most of the group were in agreement with one reviewer who said that “*A Confederacy of Dunces* is simply and insistently a great, perfect comedy of errors and airs, a farce of Olympic proportions”.

I Still Dream About You by Fanny Flagg. This session welcomed first-time presenter Stacia Watkins to the series. Stacia joined the Lipscomb English faculty last fall and directs the Writing Center. She specializes in Southern literature and pop culture, both of which would have to include the writings of Fanny Flagg, nee Patricia Neal. Stacia facilitated a lively discussion of this latest book which in many ways reminds us of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistlestop Café*. It is Flagg parading her offbeat characters in the quintessential Southern locale in situations that balance humor and pathos, real life ordinary sorrows pitted against the exuberance and outlandish plot twists that makes readers laugh out loud on nearly every page.

Reservation Blues by Sherman Alexie. After the July 4 break, Matt Hearn revived us as he opened the discussion of *Reservation Blues* with a poem written by Alexie titled, “How to Write the Great American Indian Novel.” The last two lines of the poem are:

*“In the Great American Indian novel, when it is finally written,
all of the white people will be Indians and all of the Indians will be ghosts”.*

Meeting Reviews

Exit Laughing: American Humor continued...

Alexie's words proved an insight into his first novel, one filled with wonderful humor and profound sorrow. There are unforgettable characters, moving portrayals of the poverty and squalor of reservation life, layers of Native American lore and myth, and much more. Matt was masterful in bringing all of the many facets of the novel into full explication. We were not in complete agreement as to whether there was more humor or more tragedy, but there was complete consensus that the book was worth exploring and Dr. Hearn explored it to the fullest.

Raney by Clyde Edgerton. Steve Prewitt was the ideal facilitator to lead us through Clyde Edgerton's hilarious first novel about the repressed fundamentalist newlywed Raney and her liberal Episcopal librarian husband. This book caused a stir at the conservative college where Edgerton was teaching when the book was published and he left the school as a result. There is a laugh on every page and as you laugh, you can identify people you know in the very Southern small town of Listre, North Carolina, which is fictionalized but is all too real to many of us. As is always the case, Steve provoked some critical thinking from the group on issues from the book such as race, and family relations, but it was all great fun.

The Portable Dorothy Parker edited by Marion Meade. This selection, all 613 pages of it, may have seemed daunting, but any study of Dorothy Parker deserves consideration of all types of her work – criticism, poetry, short stories, essays and even letters. Elizabeth Heffington, in her second year of presenting at this series, sparked a terrific session with a dazzling array of visuals, photographs, and audio renditions of Parker reading her poetry. Elizabeth also selected and beautifully read various selections from the prolific output of Parker, who is rightfully considered one of the most important writers of this century. While her work is set in an earlier part of this century, the relevance has not diminished in time. This session brought to a fitting close this superb series that was generously appreciated by all those who attended.

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Chapter News

2011-2012 WNBA Book Group

In late July, members of the WNBA Book Group met to review books suggested by fellow WNBA members. Following an in-depth investigation, five books were selected for the 2011-2012 discussions.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Author</u> | <u>Book</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|--|
| Sept. 24, 2011 | Ann Patchett | <i>State of Wonder</i> |
| Nov. 5, 2011 | Tatiana de Rosnay | <i>Sarah's Key</i> |
| Jan. 14, 2012 | Paula McLain | <i>The Paris Wife</i> |
| Mar. 17, 2012 | David McCullough | <i>The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris</i> |
| Apr. 28, 2012 | Laura Hillenbrand | <i>Unbroken</i> |

Unintentionally our focus seems to be on Paris, but you need not speak French to participate in the discussions. Please join us ... and bring other book-lovers with you! Our discussions are open to the public and begin at 10am in the Richland Park Library on Charlotte Avenue.

Our first discussion is Ann Patchett's critically acclaimed novel, *State of Wonder*. *Library Review* calls it

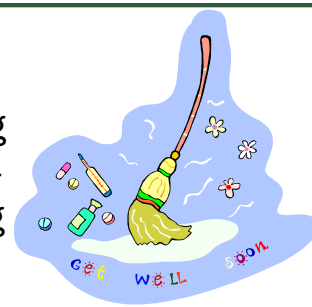
"Superbly rendered ... Patchett exhibits an extraordinary ability to bring the horrors and wonders of the Amazon jungle to life, and her singular characters are wonderfully drawn ... Powerful and captivating."

Bring your coffee and settle in for a stimulating morning on September 24th!

On Saturday, October 15th, Ann Patchett will be a panelist at our annual WNBA National Reading Group Month Brunch and Author Panel Discussion, moderated by Nina Cardona. This event, held at the Main Library, is part of the Southern Festival of Books. There is no fee, but reservations by e-mail are essential because table seating is limited. See this newsletter for the details on the registration process.

QUESTIONS? E-mail me at joanne@garyslaughter.com or call 615-279-9799

Carolyn Daniel remains in our thoughts as she continues to heal after undergoing treatment for cancer this summer. We especially hope that she's eating something better than hospital food!



WNBA's National Reading Group Month Breakfast With Authors

With all the attendant excitement the Southern Festival of Books brings, **our October meeting will be Breakfast with an Author** - which really powers up our month! Lee reports that the Breakfast is going to be moved into the auditorium, which allows 230 participants. Be sure to get first crack at the sign-up!

October 15th at 9:15 a.m.
Nashville Public Library downtown

In Partnership with
Humanities Tennessee /
Southern Festival of Books
Nashville Public Library
Parnassus Books

Registration for the breakfast will
begin at 8 a.m. on September 26th.

Email Joanne Slaughter at
joanne@garyslaughter.com.

Are you excited yet? I know we are!

Lee Fairbend and the NRGM Committee

Authors

Tayari Jones (*Silver Sparrow*, Algonquin Press)
<http://www.tayarijones.com/books>

Erin Morgenstern (*The Night Circus*, Doubleday)
http://www.usatoday.com/life/books/news/2011-07-25-erin-morgenstern-night-circus_n.htm

Ann Patchett (*State of Wonder*, HarperCollins)
<http://www.annpatchett.com/sow.html>

Tom Perrotta (*The Leftovers*, St. Martin's Press)
http://www.tomperrotta.net/content.php?page=the_leftovers&n=2&f=2

Justin Torres (*We the Animals*, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/profiles/article/47869-first-fiction-2011-justin-torres-we-are-family-too.html>



A word from our National President * a local chapter member!

The brand new chapter in New Orleans has hit the ground running!

I was able to attend their second meeting on July 11th, and was so happy to see 30+ women of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, professional levels—a virtual “gumbo” of talent and enthusiasm!

The chapter has been founded primarily by Susan Larson, who for many years was the book editor for the New Orleans newspaper. When the paper did away with its book section (sadly, as so many big city papers are doing), Susan went directly to the NPR affiliate, WWNO-FM, with an idea for a radio show surrounding the written word. “The Reading Life” is on every Tuesday evening at 6:30 CST, in case you would like to get a taste of the show and “meet” your new fellow WNBAer on line.

In early June, the chapter formed a board at its first meeting which is meeting this summer to plan upcoming programs and events with National Reading Group Month kicking things off in October.

I’m already looking forward to the national board meeting being in New Orleans one year soon and enjoying those delicious South Louisiana dishes that are just everyday fare for folks down there.

Laissez les bon temps rouler!
Mary Grey James, National President



WNBA - it’s more than
basketball!

*and guess where the 2013 National Board meeting will be?

MUSIC CITY!

Bytes and pieces

KEEP IN TOUCH—Former Bookwoman and WNBA member Alice Ewing communicated from her home in Jackson, MS that she has a new email address. It is alice.ewing@att.net. Alice has problems with her eyesight but she still keeps up with books and wants us to know how much she misses WNBA and her Nashville friends. She would love to have notes or ecards from us!

EVERYONE'S on Facebook -
why aren't YOU?



WNBA-Nashville has a truly fantastic Facebook page—have you “like”d it yet?

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Womens-National-Book-Association-Nashville-Chapter/179921802073650>



Chris Drury
British, b. 1948
Poison Pie, 2000
An Amanita Muscaria spore print on black card with radiating lines of handwritten text in white ink listing all the poisonous fungi and their effect on the body.
Photo engraving
Dr. and Mrs. E. William Ewers Gift for Fine Arts Fund Purchase
2002.025
Courtesy the artist

Reading Pictures: Text and Image in Contemporary Art

[Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery](http://www.vanderbilt.edu/finearts/gallery)
August 25–September 30, 2011

Reading Pictures examines the intersection of text and image in contemporary art through more than fifty examples drawn from the Fine Arts Gallery's collections.

Reading Pictures is organized by the Vanderbilt University Fine Arts Gallery and curated by Joseph S. Mella, director. Student research assistant, Ellington Griffin (B.A., Vanderbilt 2011). *Reading Pictures* is presented in conjunction with *The Book as Art: Beautiful Books*, organized by the [Jean and Alexander Heard Libraries](http://www.jeanandalexander.com).

WNBA—UN Corner

Did you know that the Women's National Book Association is committed to the achievement of the U.N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by the year 2015?

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS:

End Poverty and Hunger
Universal Education
Gender Equality
Child Health
Maternal Health
Combative/AIDS
Environmental Sustainability
Global Partnership

As a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) member of the United Nations, we strive to assist the U.N. and UNICEF in meeting these MDGs.

Trick-or-Treat for **UNICEF**



It's almost time to start helping with

You may not go door to door for candy, but you can collect spare change for UNICEF!

It's easy now to collect \$\$ and donate using a CoinStar machine at no charge with all proceeds going to UNICEF!

