A Letter from the President...

Don't Miss Chapter Events Planned for September & October.

Fall is arriving and WNBA/LA Chapter is booking events to help our chapter members increase their visibility and learn more about writing.

Our first event is the West Hollywood Book Fair on September 26th. Please see the article detailing this unique event. We will have a double booth this year (booths E63/64), giving our members greater visibility and more opportunity to sign and sell their books.

We have revamped the newsletter and it is full of members' accomplishments and their new books coming out. Please be sure to tell your friends to also check out the WNBA/LA website for frequent updates. Don't forget the WNBA_LA Twitter account... please tweet your updates there. We update on our web page, and also be sure to sign up for WNBA Facebook.

October 16th we will have our National Reading Group Month featured authors at the Beverly Hilton from 9 a.m. to 12 noon with our partner, Book Soup. Check out the details under "national news" here in the newsletter, and start reading these three great books. I'm finishing my last one now, and preparing my interview questions for these dynamic authors. Plan to attend this fantastic panel for only $10.00! You can meet 3 wonderful writers who will be selling and discussing their work. Parking will be $12.00, so plan to carpool with your friends. More info to come about this dynamic event, so watch your email! You will want to sign up and be there. Seating is limited, and you won't want to miss this National Reading Group Month local event.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Book Fair or at the October 16th event at the Beverly Hilton.
**Chapter News**

Join WNBA at the 9th Annual West Hollywood Book Fair.

WNBA/LA will have a double booth this year at the Ninth Annual West Hollywood Book Fair on Sunday, September 26. The double booth, displaying a new banner and new decorations and in a better location than last year, will feature sixteen WNBA/LA authors, at various times during the fair. Each author has been allotted a two hour time slot.

The fair’s hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd., West Hollywood. More information at westhollywoodbookfair.org.

The West Hollywood Book Fair will feature fifteen stages with author panels, special guests and live performances, 150 exhibitors and writing workshops. The West Hollywood Book Fair is one of Southern California’s largest, most eclectic literary events attracting readers and writers of all ages and interests. This year, the City of West Hollywood is celebrating its 25th Anniversary of Cityhood and the West Hollywood Book Fair will join in the festivities.

WNBA/LA has assembled an exceptional group of women writers to participate in an author panel entitled: Overcoming Adversity---And How To Write About It. Our WNBA/LA - member author panel consists of resilient women writers who have faced adversity, overcome their challenges, and courageously shared their experience through their writing. Our panelists focus on how adversity changed their lives for the better, why they chose to write about it, and what insights they have gained on their writing process.

**Panelists include:** Michelle Gilstrap (Moderator), Joan Jackson, Jovita Jenkins, Margaret Karlin, Giovanna Pang-Garcia, and Lorelei Shellist.

The WNBA/LA panel starts promptly at 11 am at the Current Events & Hot Topics Pavilion. Book signing by the participating authors will follow immediately in the WNBA/LA booth.

Come join the fun and support our fellow members.

Jovita Jenkins
Executive Leadership Coach
Author: Get Out Of Your Own Way
www.jovitajenkins.com
Members of the Women's National Book Association Board met for a Retreat to plan the year for our members.

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Our National Reading Group Month Event

BOOK LOVERS--BOOK GROUP MEMBERS-AUTHORS AND WRITERS...Please join us on October 16 for a morning of great presentations, conversations, and interesting question and answer sessions.

Your WNBA/LA chapter president, Michelle Gilstrap...and National Reading Group Month Coordinator, Jill Tardiff...have organized a wonderful group of three authors that will present their thoughts about their own books, about books in general, and about reading groups in particular.

We are also partnering with the famous/infamous Book Soup Bookstore for this event!

AUTHOR: Alan Brennert...Honolulu
AUTHOR: Marjorie Hart...Summer at Tiffany
AUTHOR: Tatjana Soli...The Lotus Eaters

LOCATION: The Beverly Hilton Hotel
9876 Wilshire Blvd.
Beverly Hills 90210
(beverlyhilton.com)
TIME: 9:00 am till noon
DATE: October 16, 2010
PARKING: Parking at the hotel is $12.00. We tried to get a better deal, but couldn't, so be sure to think about carpooling!!
The COST: is only $10.00, so bring your friends and family!

Pay online: CLICK HERE (if you pay online there is a $2.00 convenience fee)... or send a check (made out to WNBA/LA) to: Suzanne Kleinbub
944 Centinela Ave.
Santa Monica, CA 90403

Cathy Rustagi, WNBA Seattle Chapter President, and Ruth Light, WNBA National Secretary, spent a few hours seeing Seattle on the Argosy Cruise line. Ruth was visiting relatives, and Cathy graciously treated her to lunch and a harbor cruise...and then a walk through Pike Place, the world-famous fish market.

Barbara Cherne, Chapter News Editor, WNBA/LA Chapter

Member News

New member Jaki Scarcello’s book, Fifty & Fabulous! The Best Years of a Woman’s Life is featured in the LATimes.

Jaki describes her message as a “Botox vs. Jung contest. Life after 50 is not a stage of human decline but a stage of human development, which is available to us only when we embrace our current age.

Sunday September 26/2010 in Los Angeles

Jaki invites you to find out how the girl in you grew up and to look for opportunities in life after 50, which may be beyond your wildest dreams. More info on LA Fifty+ Fabulation Event

Julie Spira will be receiving the WOW Award on October 7, 2010 at the Big Dreams Luncheon at the Beverly Hills Hotel, Beverly Hills, CA. The event, hosted by Jewish Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Los Angeles where Spira is a member of the Board of Directors and a Big Sister, will acknowledge the author for her philanthropic work in the community. Tickets can be purchased at http://jbbbsla.org

Chapter Board Member Ruth Klein is hosting 4G Branding The Next Generation Event Summit on October 29-31st in Beverly Hilton, 9876 Wilshire Boulevard Beverly Hills, CA Ruth was recently
Book Review:
Review of "Vanishing and Other Stories"
By Deborah Willis
Published by HarperPerennial, Sept 2010
Reviewed by Karen Holt

"People just disappear," laments the narrator of "Rely," one of the stories in Canadian writer Deborah Willis's powerful and affecting debut collection, Vanishing and Other Stories (HarperPerennial). When he catalogs the ways people have disappeared on him:"My wife's gone. My mom made it to a sturdy old age then faded away. And I hardly see my daughter anymore."-the narrator could be speaking for any number of characters in this collection who deal with the agony of being left behind, whether through a death, sudden abandonment or slow erosion of intimacy. In the title story, a writer mysteriously vanishes, with repercussions for his daughter that last a lifetime. In "The Weather," a cattle rancher stuck in emotional limbo years after his wife walks out finds brief solace with the troubled friend of his teenage daughter. Willis's understated prose brilliantly communicates how ruthlessly the chronic ache and bewilderment of loss can trap a person. One of the most haunting stories, "Escape," centers on a recently widowed man whose grief metastasizes into an obsession with a blackjack dealer. Lonely but fearful, he weighs the risks of trying to break through her solitude: "He knows how entrenched and addictive it becomes. She might hate him if he pulls her out of its dark waters. It would hurt at first. And maybe always." Willis sets her stories in Canada, where the collection earned raves when it was published last year, but the emotional terrain will be recognizable to readers everywhere.

Karen Holt is a freelance writer and editor who contributes regularly to O, the Oprah Magazine. Her revistories have appeared frequently in national publications including Essence, Barnes & Noble Review, The New York Post and many others. As an independent book editor, she works with authors of fiction and nonfiction. She was formerly deputy editor of Publishers Weekly.

· Last month, WNBA/LA member, Ninon deVere De Rosa, had a successful book signing for her new book Joyful Volunteering. The event was help at Mrs. Figs Bookworm, Camarillo, CA

· Also last month, WNBA/LA member Krishna Devine held her Pre-Release Party for her book, Why He's My Ex. Her event was help at Stories Books and Cafe in LA. More information go to http://www.whyhesmyex.com/

· Chapter members Syrie James and Julie Spira concocted a delectable event last month which featured an evening of chocolate, wine, romance…and selling their books! Julia Drake, WNBA/LA Chapter Vice-President and founder of J Squared Public Relations, sponsored this event at Fanciful Fine Foods and Gift Baskets in Hollywood.
Nationally Speaking

Dear WNBA Member,

WNBA has been Promoting the Community of the Book Since 1917, and now we have moved that mission into a new era: we've launched our new national website (at the same address: www.wnba-books.org) and invite you to check it out!

The site features a dynamic design and enhanced functionality. We offer links to the WNBA FaceBook, Twitter, and LinkedIn pages, and you can subscribe to our RSS feed to get alerts of new information as soon as they get posted. There are regular news updates, posts of recent events, and a live Twitter feed, along with easy access to the information and websites of all WNBA chapters. Pull up the site - you'll immediately see these and other new features.

We've also expanded member benefits to display your accomplishments and share your information, including a place on the Members page to show off the blogs you write. We've included a number of blogs to get the site launched. Don't see yours? Send your name, the URL, blog title, and a thumbnail description (20 words max) to promo@wnba-books.org and we'll put it up.

See the images of Book Covers rotating on the left? This feature is part of a new Promotional Program available to members. The promo program comes in three flavors to fit all our members-authors, company owners or principals, and professional service providers-allowing you to display your books, company, or services for all visitors to see. Click on this link to get details and sign up; the fee is modest-only $30 per year.

On our Home Page we offer news of interest to WNBA members. Have a news item (not your personal press release - sorry!) that you want to share? Email it to promo@wnba-books.org; if it's suitable we'll put it up in the Latest Posts box.

Our Members Only section functions in the same way as before. You can log in using the chapter login & password issued in December 2009, perform searches in our National Directory, and access organization archives and documents. (Please note you must now log out when leaving this section.)

Our goal was to create a website that our members would use and engage with, so we encourage you to do just that. Let us know what you think!

Best regards,
Sarah "Bebe" Brechner
NC Weil
Website Committee Co-Chairs
Valerie Tomaselli,
WNBA Vice-President/ President-Elect

P.S. Currently shown in the book cover rotation are 2009 and 2010 titles posted by members on the previous web site. This rotation is up until October 31 at no cost to members whose books are featured.
Come November 1, you must officially sign up for the promo program to keep your books in the rotation.

October is National Reading Group Month to celebrate the joy of shared reading and to encourage more people to get involved with reading groups, the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) has designated October as National Reading Group Month (NRGM).

As a WNBA member, it is our responsibility to support the United Nations in its goals and to win support for those goals among the wider community we work with. In effect, WNBA members are to be ambassadors for the U.N. Our organization disseminates information about the U.N. through all the means at our disposal, especially through our national and chapter publications and monthly programs.

WNBA promotes literacy in a variety of ways on the international, national, and local level. Brief descriptions of WNBA's organization-wide and chapter-based initiatives are provided.

U.S. Fund for UNICEF - As a proactive UN/DPI/NGO (Department of Public Information/Non Governmental Organization) since 1959, WNBA's national focus is on the U.S. Fund for UNICEF—and by extension, UNICEF itself. This decision makes sense considering the efforts of WNBA's former DPI/NGO representative Claire Friedland during preparations for the International Year of the Child Conference in 1978.

Library of Congress Reading Promotion Partners - WNBA is a Reading Promotion Partner with The Center for the Book at the Library of Congress (www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook).

Read Across America - Since 1997 NEA's (National Education Association) Read Across America Day has been generating enthusiasm for reading nationwide and focusing the country's attention on how important it is to motivate children to read in addition to helping them master basic skills.

National Reading Group Month (NRGM)

The Women's National Book Association began the 31-day endorsement of reading groups in 2007, and as in years past, the 2010 celebration will include activities hosted by traditional and online book clubs and at bricks-and-mortar bookstores and libraries. WNBA National president Mary Grey James said the organization "proudly endorses this national celebration of reading groups at a time when there is much talk about the 'decline of the book' and 'reading at risk.... National Reading Group Month is a perfect platform for book clubs (individual members and groups) to gather at their local bookstores and libraries to pick their future reading lists and celebrate the congeniality which naturally springs from the reading group experience."

The nine WNBA chapters - in Boston, Charlotte, Detroit, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. - will participate in National Reading Group Month. Among the planned festivities are the National Reading Group Month Signature Event, which will be held at the Nashville Public Library Downtown on Saturday, October 9. It will include breakfast and book signings by Melanie Benjamin (Alice I Have Been), Tom Franklin (Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter), Sena Jeter Naslund (Adam & Eve)
and other authors. The event is co-sponsored by the Nashville Public Library and Davis-Kidd Nashville.

Additionally, WNBA’s National Reading Group Month Selection Committee has chosen 13 books, 12 novels, and one memoir as this year’s Great Group Reads. The books are listed at [www.wnba-books.org](http://www.wnba-books.org), as is a complete list of WNBA chapter National Reading Group Month events.

**Official sponsors** of this year’s Reading Group Month include HarperCollins, Hyperion/Voice, Simon & Schuster, and Unbridled Books.

Jodi Seidler, National News Editor, WNBA/LA Chapter

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**So that’s it for September.**

Your next WNBA-LA newsletter will be in your in-box mid November.

You will also receive occasional news blasts to keep you updated about our activities and events.

Happy Fall from your WNBA-LA Executive Board