



## The Nashville Edition

JANUARY 2007

### President's Message

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January takes its name from the Roman god *Janus*, who had two faces (one to look back and the other to look forward). The month, in America, typically rings in with toasts, noise-making, and confetti, an event echoed, time zone by time zone, from the lowering of the Times Square ball in New York to midnight champagne by the Pacific. For several years now, my husband and I have eschewed late night parties. Instead, we've cut off the television and have made a tradition of reading to each other, curled beside the fireplace. "This is the way life used to be," we tell ourselves.

What we really mean is that this is the way life ought to be. What we really mean is that we have chosen to spend this time together, sharing one of our common passions: the love of a good story. And, yes, sometimes one person's good story is not the other's; still, we have shared and enjoyed Herodotus, Twain, Durrell, Byatt, Sayers, Doyle, Vergil, Halberstam, and Didion, among others. I know more than I would ever have learned, of my own accord, about chaos theory and about Stanley's search for Livingston. My husband is not really convinced that listening to Harry Potter stories is more fun than watching the movies. But *Janus*, and hence January, is associated not just with beginnings and of endings, but also "*januae*" (or doors). What better door to the New Year than sharing a story you have loved! During the rest of the year, I'm a prospector, scanning book reviews and store shelves for the fascinating books of the New Year.

But for New Year's Eve, I think about what I want to share, what I want to talk about, what I want to hear again.



As my presidency of WNBA, Nashville, moves into its final months, I'd especially like to thank Emily Masters for the wonderful books and authors she has shared with us all in our monthly meetings and, most recently, at our Holiday Dinner. The fine character sketches in

Minton Sparks' poetry rival those in Spoon River Anthology. I (whose one attempt at knitting a baby afghan became a shawl for a Barbie doll) would never have found the perfect Christmas present, on my own, for my younger daughter: Ann Shayne's wonderful knitting book! Each WNBA meeting has brought new writers and new genres into my life and the lives of us all.

I would like to urge each of us to resolve in this New Year to explore new ways of sharing books with others. Give a child a book. Bring one friend to a WNBA monthly meeting. Bring another to a WNBA outreach program. Listen to authors read at Lipscomb University, Vanderbilt, Austin Peay, Bookman/Bookwoman, and Davis-Kidd, etc. Share information about your own recent publications, so that we may all read and enjoy your work. Share the titles of books you've just discovered! As one of my favorite philosophers, Groucho Marx, once said, "Outside of a dog, there's nothing better than a good book. And, inside of a dog, it's pretty dark."

Alice Sanford

## Chapter News

### Upcoming Winter Programs



January 4, 2007: The Thriving Young Adult Book Market. As other areas of publishing are struggling, the young adult market is thriving—and we have quite a few stars of the genre right here in Nashville, including Candie Moonshower, Helen Hemphill, and Tracy Barrett. Candie's book, *The Legend of Zoey*, was the winner of the SCBWI's (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators) Sue Alexander Most Promising New Work Award in 2003. Helen Hemphill, the author of *Long Gone Daddy*, (which received a rave review in Publishers Weekly), has a second young adult book, *Runaround*, to be released in March, 2007. Tracy Barrett, whose titles include *On Etruscan Time* and *Cold in Summer*, was the recipient of the 2005 General Work-in-Progress Grant from the SCBWI.

WNBA meets at 6:00 p.m. the first Thursday of each month (September through May) in the Bronte Café at Davis-Kidd Booksellers in the Green Hills Mall. Many members come early to network, visit and get a bite to eat. Ask your server for selections that will allow you to finish in time to join us for the meeting. We will no longer dine in the meeting room; instead we'll network and eat in the cafe and then head to the meeting room at 6:00. We recommend parking on the 2nd floor of the Hecht's parking garage. Meetings are free and prospective members are welcome to attend.

### WNBA Book Club, February, 2007

Join us on Saturday, February 10, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the Richland Park Branch Library as Darnell Arnoult leads a discussion about Lee Smith's latest novel, *On Agate Hill*. Smith's tenth novel chronicles the post-Civil War life of a precocious Southern orphan using a patchwork of journal entries, letters, poems, recipes, songs, catechisms and court records. Donna Rifkind of the *Washington Post* called the work "a book that seeks to rejuvenate the rapt early reader in us all." Krispy Kreme will provide donuts and coffee.

Please don't miss this second installment in WNBA Nashville's new book discussion group! For more information, call Victoria Elliott at 862-5870.



#### Martha Hickman Moves to California

Martha Hickman, an author and long-time member of WNBA, Nashville Chapter, has recently relocated to California, along with her husband Hoyt, to be closer to their children. For those who would like to write to Martha, please contact Carolyn Wilson at [CarolynWilson@lipscomb.edu](mailto:CarolynWilson@lipscomb.edu) for Martha's new mailing address.

# Chapter News

## New Members

Virginia Foster

Tara Joyce

Judith Echols

Minton Sparks

The Nashville Edition  
is looking for  
authors!!

Here is your chance to get  
published—just send your  
articles, book reviews,  
news items and other  
book-related  
matters of interest  
to  
Gloria Toler

### **BOARD MEETINGS:**

David Lipscomb University,  
Beaman Library, 5:30 p.m.  
Monday after the General Meeting

### **GENERAL MEETINGS:**

First Thursday, Bronte Café,  
Davis-Kidd Booksellers  
Green Hills Mall  
Networking starts at 5:00 p.m.  
Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m.  
Meetings are open to the public.

**January 4:** The Thriving Young Adult Book  
Market.. Candie Moonshower, Helen Hemp-  
hill and Tracy Barrett.

**Editor's Note:** We did not receive any  
Literary Event information this month  
by our publication date. If you have  
literary events to include in the next  
issue of The Nashville Edition, please  
contact Gloria Toler at  
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by January 15, 2007

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**Newsletter Submissions:** Articles and informa-  
tion about members or upcoming literary  
events are always welcome. Please contact  
Gloria Toler (see above). All information must  
be received by the 10th of the month to be  
included in the next month's newsletter.

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



## Vanderbilt Lecture Series

The Chancellor's Office at Vanderbilt University is offering a lecture series presenting "intellectuals who are shaping our world today." The following lectures are scheduled for 2007.

Each lecture - for which reservations are not required - is free and open to the public. For more information, please e-mail [cls@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:cls@vanderbilt.edu), call (615) 343-2574, or check the web site at <http://www.vanderbilt.edu/chancellor/cls>.

Vanderbilt University is located at 2201 West End Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee. Parking is available in the South Garage (24th Ave South at Children's Way)

Tuesday, January 23, 2007  
**JANE SMILEY**  
5:00 reception, 6:00 lecture  
Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music

Tuesday, February 20, 2007  
**BOB HERBERT**  
5:00 reception, 6:00 lecture  
Student Life Center

Thursday, March 29, 2007  
**SEAN CARROLL**  
5:00 reception, 6:00 lecture  
Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music

## WNBA Holiday Dinner a Huge Success

The WNBA Holiday Dinner and Book Sale, held at the Belle Meade Plantation on December 7, was a lovely introduction to a season of camaraderie and good cheer. Entering Martha's at the Plantation, members and guests were welcomed by Joanne Slaughter, ready with a smile, personalized name tags, and copies of the new WNBA Directory. A cash bar offered wine and soft drinks, and bibliophiles were entrenched in the annual WNBA Book Sale aided by the presence of strong book bags to help cart away their finds! There were lots of good books at the ready thanks to the generosity of Ingram Book, Thomas Nelson, Humanities Tennessee, WestBow Press, and more. At the end of the day, the proceeds for WNBA were a handsome 20% increase over last year's revenues, with cookbooks and children's books being the most popular selections.



Book Sale in Progress

Dinner was next door in the Carriage House with fourteen tables, each seating ten, decorated with beautiful poinsettias from Moore & Moore West and wine complements of Weiss Liquors. The entrée was tasty, service cordial, and hot fudge-glazed peppermint ice cream absolutely delicious.



The drawing for an assortment of door prizes between dinner and entertainment brought "oohs & aahs" from the audience and settled a lovely collection of memorabilia from the Schermerhorn Symphony Center, including a signed copy of Martha Ingram's new biography of Maestro Kenneth Schermerhorn in the hands of Tori Ross and a bag of WNBA "goodies" with Barbie Chadwick.

*Continued on following page*



