

Women's National Book Association

The Nashville Edition

FALL, 2013

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Let's Meet

We will kick-off the Program year with our traditional Southern Festival of Books Preview on Thursday, September 5. Gail Vinett and Nancy Stewart of Ingram Books will share their picks of some of the books and their authors who will be featured at the Festival.

This is a don't-miss event! Meet us at Nero's Grill for dinner at 5pm followed by the program at 6pm.



25th Anniversary of Southern Festival of Books

This is a banner year for the Southern Festival of Books! They are celebrating their 25th anniversary and have big things planned for the "Celebration of the Written Word". This year's Festival will be held from October 11-13, 2013 at Legislative Plaza and the State Capitol in downtown Nashville.

Once again, WNBA will be hosting the highly popular Coffee with Authors event in the Downtown Public Library. Details on that event can be found on page 2. Author sessions take place in the hearing rooms of the Tennessee Legislature, located beneath Legislative Plaza (main entrance at 6th and Union) and in the Tennessee Capitol Building (main entrance on Charlotte).

The festival is free and open to the public. No advance registration or tickets are required. All seating is on a first-come basis.



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.

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for more
Information.

Coffee with Authors

Nashville booklover's favorite time of year is almost here! Southern Festival of Books, now in its 25th year, will be here soon, and WNBA Nashville is right in the thick of things as always.

Our Coffee with Authors event during Southern Festival has again been chosen the signature event for WNBA's countrywide celebration of National Reading Group Month, which coincidentally is celebrated during the month of October. We are so fortunate to be a part of Southern Festival!

Our Coffee with Authors will take place on Saturday morning, October 12, 9:30 am at the Downtown Public Library, in Conference Room 1B and the Auditorium.

There will be no pre-registration this year. Library doors open at 9 and the first people in will receive tickets to sit in the auditorium, which holds 230. All others will be able to lounge in the conference room and have an extra cup of coffee (or tea) as they watch the proceedings on the big screen.

And here's the BIG news – our authors! Serenity and Jill (Jill Tardiff, NRGM chair) have chosen a great group, hosted again by Nina Cardona from WPLN. Here they are:

Jill McCorkle *Life After Life*

Cathie Pelletier *The One-Way Bridge*

Suzanne Rindell *The Other Typist*

John Milliken Thompson *Love and Lament*

Margaret Wrinkle *Wash*

We will need some help stuffing and handing out goody bags, plating and serving breakfast bites, and clean-up (which is very quick). There are a couple of other little chores, too, like someone to take pictures of the event.

Kathleen will be looking for people to drive authors to and from the airport Kathleen.Dietz@HARPERCOLLINS.com.

If you can help in any way, please let me know lfairbend@comcast.net and 790-0896.



Member News

New Members

Bonnie Spino

blspino@yahoo.com

Barbara Turner

barbturner@att.net

Ronnie Steinberg

ronnie.j.steinberg@vanderbilt.edu

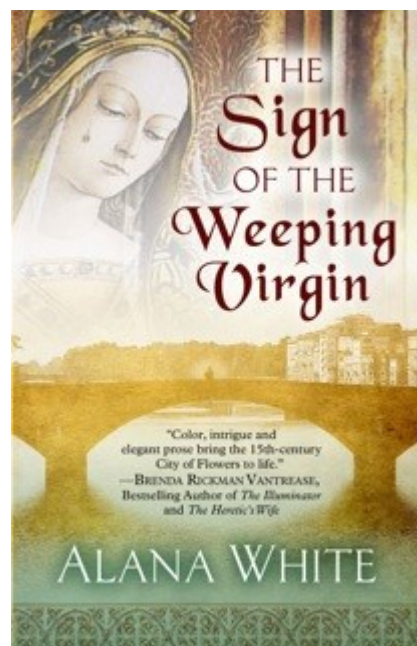


On Tuesday evening, October 8, 2013, local chapter member Alana White will be at the Nashville Public Library's Green Hills Branch discussing her historical mystery novel, *The Sign of the Weeping Virgin*. Scheduled for 6:30 – 7:30 p.m., this event is during the week leading up to the Southern Festival of Books held at the main library downtown and

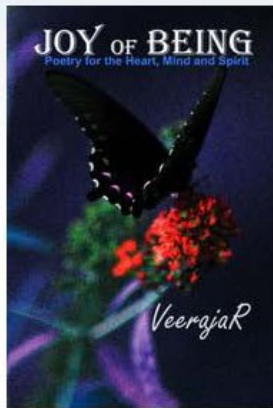
Legislative Plaza from Friday, Oct. 11 to Sunday, Oct. 13.

Alana will also be our Chapter guest speaker on Thursday, November 7. That evening Alana will speak about her writer's journey – or how a gal from Kentucky and Nashville, TN came to write a historical novel set in Renaissance Italy!

On Thursday, November 14, she will visit Murray State University in Murray, KY, as featured author in the annual Jesse Stuart Kentucky Writers Series. Alana's reading, reception, and book signing will be open to the public. While in Murray, she will also present a master writing class to Murray students.



Member News



Veeraja Rajaratnam's, new book titled "Joy of Being:" will be released in September 2013. The link to buy the book on Amazon is <http://www.amazon.com/Joy-Being-Poetry-Heart-Spirit/dp/1484086260/>. It will also be available at local bookstores after September 27th.

The author and poet received a doctorate from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI, and is a well-published scientist. Her poetry is well received in state-wide readouts. She is a coauthor of the devotional book titled "Resurrection Reflections" and has poetry published in Anthologies in the US and Australia.

A world traveler, Veera has taught in Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon), Nigeria and has been faculty at medical schools in the US, including Vanderbilt University. Currently, a consultant Scientific Editor, she lives in TN with her husband of 27+ years and continues to write poetry (and paint), 'In Awe' of God's gifts, Nature and Life around us!

Please join Veera for the Book Release and the Author Book Signing Event for "Joy of Being" on Monday, September 30th from 4:00pm-7:00pm at the Williamson County Public Library (WCPL), Columbia Ave., Franklin, TN. Books will be available at a discounted price.

She will also be signing books at the Southern Festival of Books from October 11-13. Veera will have a booth in Authors Circle, Legislative Plaza.

You can find additional information about Veera on her website, www.joypoet.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

The Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance is partnering with Clearstory Radio to produce a special edition from the site of this year's fall trade show, to be held September 20-22 in New Orleans. Bookstore owners and authors will be interviewed live by host River Jordan, creating a "live presence" on the SIBA trade show floor and highlighting the spirit of independence that is at the heart of every indie.

"This is such a great opportunity for booksellers to share their passion for what they do with readers and listeners across the south and across the Internet," said SIBA executive director Wanda Jewell. "River is such an easy host and shares that passion. Booksellers will not want to miss this. It's like Bookstore Radio!"

Clearstory Radio, which is currently broadcast Wednesdays at noon and Sundays at 6 p.m. on 107.1FM Nashville, will be on 103.7FM Nashville as well beginning in September. It is also available as a live stream online.



Ann Patchett is the 2012-2013 WNBA Award Recipient



Author Ann Patchett received the 2012-2013 WNBA Award on Sunday, June 9th, at Parnassus Books in Nashville, TN. The WNBA Award is presented every two years to a living American woman who derives part or all of her income from books or the allied arts and has done meritorious work in the world of books beyond the duties or responsibilities of her professional or occupation. Ann accepted this honor during the WNBA National Board Meeting, which was being held in Nashville at that time.

Ann Patchett, an award-winning author of several works of fiction and non-fiction, opened up the local bookstore, Parnassus Books, in 2011 with publisher Karen Hayes. While other independent bookstores were closing in the face of large chain-stores and online options, Ann became

a strong voice and advocate for independent bookstores not only in Nashville, but throughout the country. During her acceptance, one difference Ann noted between being an author and a bookstore owner is the opportunity to meet others in the community and engage in conversations regarding the latest and greatest literature.

The WNBA Award has been presented continuously since 1940. Previous recipients have included Doris Kearns Goodwin, Barbara Bush, Eleanor Roosevelt, Perri Klass and Kathi Kamen Goldmark.



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Chapter News

A million thanks go out to all of our Nashville chapter members who pulled together to make our national board meeting such a wonderful experience. All of the national board members were so appreciative of our efforts beginning with the Dietz Limo Service with Kathleen Dietz at the helm, arranging rides for our guests to and from the airport as well as all around Nashville.

That first evening at the Frist was a winner, thanks to Bebe and Mike Brechner who arranged for free parking and admission to the Frist, orchestrated a tour and even gave us a sneak peek at the up-coming exhibit of *the most beautiful cars* ever assembled.

Special thanks are due to Barbie Chadwick who opened her lovely home for another successful garden party. How does she do it? She managed yet again to have the most beautiful weather, great food (thanks to Carolyn Wilson's daughter and All Occasion Catering) and of course gorgeous gardens in bloom.

Another highlight of the weekend was the nationally recognized WNBA Award, presented this time to Ann Patchett at Parnassus Books and organized so beautifully by Nancy Stewart.

We put together a wonderful assortment for the goody bags, so important for this occasion. The very classy bags themselves were donated by Parnassus Books, which were then filled with various items brought and/or donated by the committee.

AND, we sold a few T shirts! Less inventory for our Festival booth, but more \$\$ for our chapter coffers.

I was so pleased that several of our chapter members took the time to sit in on the board meeting and participate in the activities planned by the committee.

Thanks to all committee members, drivers and in-kind donors!

2nd Annual WNBA National Writing Contest

The WNBA is now accepting submissions for our second annual Writing Contest. Submission Period: August 15-November 15, 2013.

GUIDELINES

- Fiction: 2,500 word limit: Short fiction only.
- No memoir or novel excerpts.
- Poetry: 3-5 pages of Poetry. 35 lines per page.
- Unpublished work only.
- Upload work at Submittable with no identifying information.
- A separate form will be included for all personal data.
- You may submit more than one entry, however, each entry must be separately submitted and paid.
- All applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- Acceptable formats are: Word Document 2007, Word Document 2003 or earlier version, RTF (Rich Text Format).

2013 JUDGES

- Fiction: Meg Waite Clayton
- Poetry: Molly Peacock

2013 ENTRY FEE

- Women's National Book Association Members: \$15 per entry
- Non-Members: \$20 per entry

Entries are submitted online at this link: <https://wnba.submittable.com/submit>

PRIZE

\$250 cash prize and publication in the Bookwoman, the official publication of the Women's National Book Association, with 10 chapters nationwide. Proceeds from the contest will go to support scholarships for writing conferences and other professional development training. Contest winners will be announced March 2014.

WNBA

The Women's National Book Association is a dynamic organization of women and men across the broad spectrum of writing and publishing. Members include Editors, Publishers, Literary Agents, Professors, Librarians, Authors, Booksellers, Designers and many others involved in the world of books.

After over 90 years of celebrating independent booksellers and extraordinary book women with our Pannell and WNBA Awards respectively, we now add Emerging Authors.

Questions? Email Contest Chairperson: joan@joangelfand.com

Willodene Scott Summer Reading and Discussion Series

For the 23rd year, WNBA and Beaman Library offered to Nashville readers our summer activity, now named the Willodene Scott Summer Reading and Discussion Series. Willodene was the last survivor of the original charter members of the Nashville Chapter of WNBA. She always loved this summer program and supported it generously with her interest and also her financial support.

This series, “Based on the Book: Books into film” proved to be one of our most successful. The appeal of the book and film counterpoint worked well and attendance was strong for every session. Participation was enthusiastic, lively and informed and most had done their homework and came prepared to talk about it. About half of the attendees were participating for the first time and all were eager for a second round. The presenters were all superb. While reflecting the diversity of the selections, they all brought their own interpretations skillfully and with obvious command of their subject.

Dr. Kimberly Reed, Professor of French and English at Lipscomb, was the ideal person to help us explore Edith Wharton’s *The Age of Innocence*. Kim has been a Wharton scholar for some time and is currently writing about her work. She clearly demonstrated Wharton’s mastery of her world, - the social mores, the family, issues of loyalty and the difficulty of making choices. Dr. Reed also explored Wharton’s ability to get under the façade and show the hypocrisy and the hidden flaws of her characters. Martin Scorsese’s beautiful adaptation of the book was a departure from his prior films, but it was most successful, garnering five Oscar nominations, including Winona Ryder’s win for Best Supporting Actress. This session set the tone for an exceptional summer of reading and viewing.

Some expressed a lack of affection for Ian McEwan’s acclaimed novel, *Atonement*. However, those who braved the session regardless, found that nobody can completely resist a book when Austin Peay’s bright and funny Linda Barnes is in charge of the discussion. McEwan is critically heralded as one of the very top British writers today, and *Atonement* judged his most complete and compassionate work to date. Beginning with a blissful summer evening in the English countryside, a crime is committed, a lie is told, and a young girl loses the soft bloom of innocence. Then the plot takes over. World War II begins, and the rest is reaction, ripple and attempting to repair— thus the atonement. The film faithfully renders the compelling book and the lingering questions left with the viewer about what atonement really entails.

As is always expected when a program such as this is planned and executed, circumstances arise unexpectedly that could mandate changes. Such was the case with the last session in June, when veteran presenter Dr. Matt Hearn had a death in his family. With much generosity and graciousness, Matt honored his commitment to the program and capably directed the session on Somerset Maugham’s *The Razor’s Edge*. This book, published in 1944, has sold over five million copies and generated two film versions. The story flows around expatriates living in Europe after World War I. One such character is Larry Darrell, traumatized by the war and in search of some more transcendent meaning in his life. In stark contrast is his fiancée’s uncle, a shallow yet generous snob.

Willodene Scott Summer Reading and Discussion Series (cont'd)

Issues such as materialism, eastern religion, and reversals of fortune, fuel the plot as Maugham, who plays the narrator of the story, brings their respective lifestyles to a conclusion. It was interesting to watch a black and white movie, well cast with stars Tyrone Power, Gene Tierney, Ann Baxter, (who won an Oscar for her role) and the delightful Clifton Webb. The 1984 version of the movie with Bill Murray, who played Darrell, was not a faithful adaptation of the novel and was not a commercial success.

Love in the Time of Cholera was a favorite choice – and who does not like a love story? Elizabeth Heffington, who speaks Spanish and has spent time in Latin American countries, sparkled as she led us through the story, the geography, the culture, and the beauty of Gabriel Garcia Marquez's language along with some background in literary "magic realism". Our participants were enthralled with the comic-tragic story, both sad and funny, its foolishness, and the drollery. While the movie version received less than warm enthusiasm from critics, our group thought it captured the essence of the story. The cinematography, scenery and costuming were sumptuous, and who could resist the charisma of Javier Bardem as Florentino?

Possession, A. S. Byatt's complex novel of the intersecting love stories of two Victorian poets and a modern counterpoint of academic literary researchers. The most dazzling aspect of the book, the invention of letters, poems and diaries from the 19th century, was a bit difficult for some readers, but in her engaging style and complete grasp of the work, Jan Harris showed the necessity for this device and its value to the book. She also explored with us the delightful characters and the "huge, intricately embroidered tapestry- a weaving of plot and syntax" so skillfully woven together for us. The film version was exceptionally well cast with a wonderful group of actors, and enhanced by the Victorian landscapes. Dr. Harris was presenting in the series for the first time and the group were united in their request for more of this talented teacher.

A welcome and appropriate ending to the series was the return of Steve Prewitt, who survived two serious heart surgeries during the past year. Steve is a veteran of this series and always a great favorite with our participants. Jay Parini's fictional account of Tolstoy's last months were captured in his novel, *The Last Station*. Parini is an amazing writer in any genre, and his portrayal of the Tolstoy family and the period encompassing his last months on earth were fascinating, as was the thorough examination of his life which Steve shared. Tolstoy enjoyed the rare experience of having been a writer who was an icon in his own time. The film version featured the incomparable Helen Mirren and Christopher Plummer, who won an Oscar as Tolstoy. As faithful to the book as a film version might be, all agreed it was pleasurable viewing and a learning experience as well.

The question posed at the conclusion of the session was, "Can we top this next summer?" Who knows?

The Writer's Loft

NY Times Bestselling Author Headlines Writers' Conference

Murfreesboro, TN--July 24, 2013

Kevin Wilson, author of the novel *The Family Fang*, which has been optioned for a movie starring Nicole Kidman, will be the keynote speaker at the Middle Tennessee Writers' Conference on Sept. 28.

The conference is sponsored by The Writer's Loft, a non-degree writing program at Middle Tennessee State University. The event, which is open to the public, will include workshops in fiction, nonfiction, poetry and playwriting, says The Writer's Loft director Karen Alea Ford.

"Beginning and experienced writers will gain insight and inspiration from this extraordinary line-up of speakers, while getting to chat and mingle with the community of writers we have in Middle Tennessee," says director Ford. "We hope this conference will become an annual touchstone for anyone interested in writing."

In addition to Wilson, whose novel *The Family Fang* was on the *New York Times* Bestseller list as well as being named one of the Top Ten Books of 2011 by *Time*, *Esquire*, *Amazon*, *Barnes and Noble*, *People* and *Kirkus Review*; the event presents a roster of award-winning writers: poet Bill Brown (*Late Winter*), non-fiction writer Holly Tucker (*Bloodwork*), novelist Linda Busby Parker (*Seven Laurels*), playwright Claudia Barnett (*I Love You Terribly*).

"The Middle Tennessee Writers' Conference is a truly welcome addition to the state's literary scene: a great chance for up-and-coming writers in a the mid-state to learn from celebrated writers and outstanding teachers," said Margaret Renkl, editor of Chapter16.org, a daily source for literary news, interviews and reviews with a Tennessee focus.

Registration is open to all writers, and the fee covers all workshops and a buffet dinner. General admission is \$60; Writer's Loft alumni, MTSU faculty and students \$30; There is no fee for current Writer's Loft students.

The Writer's Loft non-degree writing program is open to anyone interested in being mentored by a professional writer of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and screenwriting. Students work from home, spending three semesters honing their skills and preparing for publication.

Mentors who work one-on-one with students include "The Bard of Hume-Fogg" Bill Brown, former *Tennessean* assistant editor and columnist Gloria Ballard, novelist and screenwriter Andrea Siegel (HBO, 2014 film release *Laggies* with Keira Knightly) and novelist Linda Parker Busby (University of S. AL, winner of the James Jones novel award), among others.

To register for the Middle Tennessee Writers' Conference or for more information on The Writer's Loft program, go to www.mtsu.edu/theloft or email the director at theloftmtsu@gmail.com.

Contact Information:

Karen Alea Ford, director
The Writer's Loft at MTSU
theloftmtsu@gmail.com

WNBA—UN Corner

The 4th [UN Global Compact Leaders Summit](http://www.un.org/leaderssummit) will be held on September 19 and 20 in New York City. This Summit will bring together CEOs from the private sector, along with Government leaders and the United Nations to unveil a new global architecture for corporate sustainability. Gender equality and women's empowerment are scheduled to feature heavily in this summit. Studies have shown that both are key contributing factors for corporate sustainability. Please visit the website (<http://www.leaderssummit2013.org/home>) for featured attendees, programme and participation information.



**MY WORLD.
THE UNITED NATIONS
GLOBAL SURVEY
FOR A BETTER WORLD.**

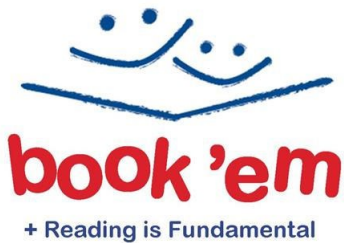
Vote for the changes that would make the most difference to your world

The United Nations and partners want to hear from YOU! MY World is a global survey asking you to choose your priorities for a better world. Results will be shared with world leaders in setting the next global development agenda. Tell us about the world you want, because your voice matters. - See more at: <http://www.myworld2015.org/>

Book'em Ready for Reading

Reading to children when they are very young makes a huge difference in their ability to learn to read. And, what a wonderful feeling you will get each time you visit the classroom to see the smiles and get the hugs from the children!

Our Ready for Reading program places reading volunteers in local preschools and elementary schools (pre-K). These reading volunteers act as reading role models. Our reading volunteers read on a weekly or bi-weekly basis one-on-one, to small groups of children or to an entire classroom. The weekly schedule allows the children to get to know the volunteers well and anticipate their visits with much excitement. Story time training is provided to aid the volunteers in being effective with the children.



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Saralee & Larry Woods

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Near Vanderbilt University
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Child Secrets Nancy Drew

JOE NICKELL SECRETS OF THE SPOON

The advertisement features a black and white photograph of Saralee and Larry Woods, the owners of Bookman Bookwoman. Saralee is on the left, smiling, holding a book titled 'Child Secrets Nancy Drew'. Larry is on the right, also smiling, holding a book titled 'SECRETS OF THE SPOON' by Joe Nickell. The background is a plain, light color. Text is overlaid on the image in various fonts and sizes, including the website URL at the top right, the owners' names on the left, a testimonial on the right, the store name in large bold letters in the center, and the store's address and phone number at the bottom center.