

# Women's National Book Association

## Los Angeles Chapter

The Ultimate Resource for the Book Community

### October 2008 Newsletter

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- [WNBA National website](#)
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#### DEAR CHAPTER MEMBERS,

**Welcome to our October newsletter!**

October is WNBA National's Book Reading Month. So mark your calendars for October 25th, where we have an exciting event planned at the Book Soup in West Hollywood. Since Halloween lies just around the bend, also check out our tips for a Green Halloween, and find out how make this holiday truly special for your kids, you, and the environment.

#### Inspirational Quote of the Month

"We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us. The old skin has to be shed before the new one can come. If you can see your path laid out in front of you step by step, you know it's not your path. Your own path you make with every step you take. That's why it's your path."

**~Joseph Campbell**

#### A Word from Kelly...



**Dear LA Bookwomen,**

"Man's mind once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimension."

-Oliver Wendell Holmes

STRETCHED is exactly how I feel right now, and I pray that I retain this elasticity

and larger than normal view. This past September marks perhaps the most memorable, outrageous, life-changing, stretchable month of my life. Here's a bullion cube version of what's been happening in my world since our last newsletter.

\* Dana and I packed up our home in the Hollywood Hills and moved in to Garden of the Goddess in Santa Fe (you are all welcome to visit. It is amazing!)

\* I got caught in my first flash flood--and survived--obviously :)

\* Melinda Woolf (our chapter VP) and I went to Paris, France and had the honor of representing WNBA at the United Nations NGO/DPI conference (did you know we have been a NGO with the United Nations for 49 years!) At the conference I presented a workshop/panel discussion about the Dream Project (we will soon have video on the website, so stay posted--read more about that below.) I was acknowledged by people from Pakistan, Palestine, Africa, and India, about the inspirational nature of our program and how the "solution oriented" nature of our work is a breath of fresh air, especially for those who have fallen into despair and hopelessness. If you are interested in reading more details on the conference, you can download my full report here: [UN Report 2008 NGO-DPI conference](#).

\* I made a return trip to LA to do "Blue Carpet" interviews for the premiere of Masaru Emoto's: Messages from Water (you may recall him from the movie, "What the Bleep.") Very interesting.

\* We began part 2 of the Teacher's Training for the Dream Project at Crossroads (one of the special needs schools we will be working with starting at the end of October.)

\* I just signed a new book deal with Source Books to write a book on Hypnotherapy for Golfers (if you know a great golfer that would be interested in having me tag along to do some research, please let me know!)

\* And we just had a booth at the West Hollywood Book Fair, and we presented our very first panel discussion, "Birthing a Book--the Shero's Journey." Ruth Light will tell you more about that (see below.) Special thanks to Bernadene High Coleman, Laura Corona, Ina Hillebrandt, Pamela Phillips Oland, Mira Tweti for doing an amazing job! (watch for video on our website coming soon.)

I know that all of us bookwomen are connected and that as one of us is stretched, all of us are stretched. As we move into October, I hope that we all realize that whether or not we are in each other's physical proximity, just by virtue of our connection via WNBA, we are all helping one another midwife through the challenges and successes we face in this very, very interesting days we are living in!

Kelly Sullivan Walden

## RECENT EVENTS 2008 -- A SHORT REVIEW



### September 28, Weho Book Fair

by Ruth Light

Our WNBA/LA booth at the West Hollywood Book Fair was colorful, interesting, and eclectic! Here is a short description of our booth:

\*We sold wonderful never-been-used books from our collection of books submitted to be considered for the Judy Lopez Award

\*Barbara Meyer displayed and sold "comfort frogs" from her gorgeous hand-made collection of them

\*Diane Scott won a Shakespeare doll, which had been donated by The Writer's Store

\*We welcomed three new members

\*We handed out about a jillion flyers, bookmarks, pens, and brochures

### Featured Authors and Poets

As every year, we had several "featured authors/poets" who added charm and liveliness to our booth. Those were:

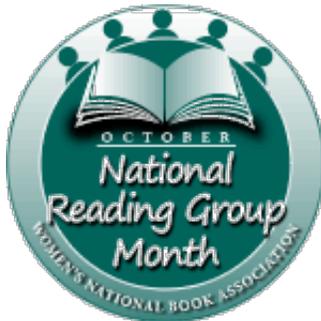
- \*New member Sharmagne Leland-St. John-Sylbert, who displayed and sold her books and played a wooden flute that captivated everyone around her
- \* Lucy Horwitz, who has two books already and is working on a third, and who is so dedicated that when she missed her bus she just stuck out her thumb and hitchhiked
- \* Pamela Phillips Oland, who writes and sings lovely love songs
- \* LaVergne Rosow, an extraordinary writer and educator
- \* Our newest member, Catherine James, whose memoir, *Dandelion*, is flying off the shelves at Book Soup

Thanks to all of them for adding interest and flair to our WeHo booth!

Special Panel. Birthing a Book: The Shero's Journey

In addition to our booth, President Kelly Sullivan Walden organized and moderated a panel called "Birthing a Book: The Shero's Journey". The esteemed authors on the panel were Bernadette Coleman, Laurel Corona, Ina Hillebrandt, Pamela Oland, and Mira Tweti. At the end of the day, the person in charge of the pavilion where the panel took place--who had been there all day and seen all of the panels---came over to our booth to let me know she thought ours was the most interesting of them all! Kudos to our wonderful chapter members who took part, and to everyone who worked on our booth this year.

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2008 -- A SNEAK PREVIEW



**October 25, 2008**

**The Book Soup sizzles with the 2nd annual Reading Group Event**

By Ruth Light

Our LA Chapter will present a THREE-AUTHOR EVENT at the world famous Book Soup in West Hollywood.

**Where: The Book Soup  
8818 W Sunset Blvd**

**West Hollywood, CA 90069  
310-659-3110**

**When: 2:00 till 4:00 pm**

This event celebrates the second annual NATIONAL READING GROUP MONTH (NRGM), in conjunction with many NRGM events in cities across the country. It brings together excellent and award-winning authors, great new books, a celebration of book clubs, and exciting Q 'n A sessions...all at the fantastic Book Soup!

Acclaimed authors who will be sharing intimate tales about the making of their books are:

- **Lisa See**: Author of the international bestseller, *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, Lisa will be reading from her fifth novel, *Peony in Love*.

- **David Fuller** will be reading from his Civil War novel, *Sweetsmoke*, which is a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection.

- **Yxta Maya Murray**: Whiting Award winner, Yxta will be reading from the second novel in her Red Lion series, *The King's Gold*.

We hope you will mark your calendars and be there! Afterwards we will go next door to PI restaurant for either late snacks, or an early dinner---you decide! We look forward to seeing you there!

**Note: This event is free!**

For more information contact Ruth Light at [ruthabc@ca.rr.com](mailto:ruthabc@ca.rr.com), Laurel Shapiro at [Inda.Isa@verizon.net](mailto:Inda.Isa@verizon.net), or our local [WNBA-LA website](#).

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## NATIONAL AGENDA

Events featuring reading-group favorite authors are planned nationwide in the Association's nine chapters. For more info, visit the [WNBA National website](#)

## WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER NEWS

### PASSWORD for "Member's Only" section

We have added some great content to the "**Members Only**" section of our website, in order to provide you with tools, tips and technologies for supporting your professional goals.

For example, members can access the NY city chapter's website, which contains an extensive audio library with volumes of information on all things publishing.

To protect this information, you need a **PASSWORD** to access the "**Member sign in**" page on our [WNBA-LA website](#). If you're interested in accessing this content, please email either me ([juliadrake28@gmail.com](mailto:juliadrake28@gmail.com)), or Ruth Light ([ruthabc@ca.rr.com](mailto:ruthabc@ca.rr.com)), or Suzanne Kleinbub ([kleinbubd@yahoo.com](mailto:kleinbubd@yahoo.com)), and we will inform you of the password.

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### REMINDER: Newsletter Archive

We have added a link on our [WNBA-LA website](#), named [NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#), where you can download all of our past newsletters, as well as contributors' guidelines.

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### PASSWORD for WNBA National Website

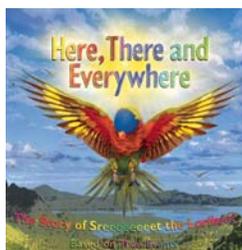
Any member who would like to access the **password-protected section of the WNBA National Site**, containing an archive of various chapter documents, please contact Ruth Light (310-397-4503) or email her at [ruthabc@ca.rr.com](mailto:ruthabc@ca.rr.com).

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT--OCTOBER 2008



### WNBA October Member Highlight - by Mira Tweti

What a month! More accurately, what a year! Last year this time the illustrations for my self-published children's book, (Here, There and Everywhere) the first for kids introducing them to parrot-welfare issues, were finally completed. Artist-extraordinaire, Lisa Brady, worked for six months (between paying jobs) to produce over 30 pieces of lushly colored, exquisite, and lifelike renderings.



When I saw them I knew we had to get the book out in time for Christmas - that Christmas. With less than three months to do it and no printer, and no idea what I needed to do other than getting it in book form, we embarked (I should say I embarked, Lisa sat safely on the sidelines cheering me on and offering good guidance) on a journey fraught with problems at every turn. Not the least of which was lack of



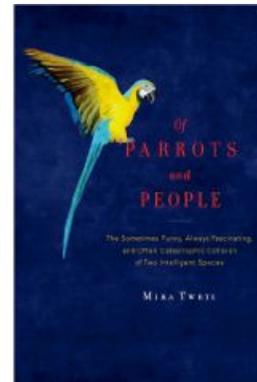
funds. Literally. Long and interesting story short, the advance sales generated by word-of-mouth from the avian rescue community, friends, and others familiar with my animal welfare journalism, generated enough money for us to pay the printer, and fill the orders. The first 1000 copies of the beautiful, hardcover, full color book was delivered in 25 boxes at my front door on December 15th and was shipped out until midnight Christmas eve (for Christmas day delivery!). It helped rescues and parrots around the country by giving them a beautiful Christmas gift they could sell, that educated children while it generated revenue for them.



I'm still proud of the fact that the book benefited unwanted, neglected, and abused parrots from the first book sold. I knew nothing about publishing before this and now I was a publisher with an imprint: Parrot Press. And I started the Parrot Press Donation Program, which in three short months had 26 avian and animal welfare organizations as members. If you're determined to help, where there's a will, there's always a way though you will be exhausted by the time it's done.

Now a year later, Here, There and Everywhere is in Barnes & Noble, Borders, and zoo gift stores around the country. It has gotten rave reviews and amazing endorsements from Dr. Jane Goodall, the Humane Society of the U.S., Birdlife International, and many others. And, my new book Of Parrots and People: the Sometimes Funny, Always Fascinating, and Often Catastrophic Collision of Two Intelligent Species - five years in the research and writing - has just been published by Viking.

Of Parrots and People began life as an award-winning Los Angeles Times Magazine story. I did so much research (one of the reasons it took so long to complete) Publisher's Weekly called it "astounding." I'm proud of that and that I didn't settle for a less thorough examination of the issues when I could have been done sooner. The book would still have been plenty good but definitively not as good as it is now.



My recent PR efforts took me on an exhausting, but thrilling, 10-day book jaunt to the east coast starting in Norfolk, Virginia, and ending in Providence, Rhode Island. I spoke to 600 children of all ages at a Long Island public school (none want a parrot as a pet now) and 300 bird lovers at a parrot club. I gave a presentation at my alma mater, Hunter College in Manhattan, and visited with important people in the animal and avian welfare communities to generate word-of-mouth. I have also finished a film, "Little Miss Dewie: a Duckumentary, and started research on my new book about avian rescues, which will cover chickens and ducks as well as parrots.



Little Miss Dewie is about an orphaned duckling I found and took home to my apartment in the summer of 2007. I fed her and kept her warm and then started calling avian rescues and animal shelters around town to place her. I know a lot of the avian rescuers up and down the west coast but I discovered it wasn't so easy to place a duck. It was almost as hard as placing an unwanted parrot. There were rescues or people willing to take her but the former were way stations, not permanent housing, and the latter weren't ideal.

I figured since I found her, it was my responsibility to find her a great home. But I had no idea what that meant for a duck. So Dewie lived with me, pooping and honking her way around my apartment and my life for two months while I figured it out. I fell in love with this worm-loving (they slurp them up

like spaghetti strands) beauty and almost couldn't part with her but for the fear of eviction.

Friends met her and while they thought I was crazy for keeping a duck in my apartment (I took her out for "play dates with nature" so she could run on the grass) they also thought they'd never seen such a unique relationship and urged me to get it on film.

My neighbor, JP Sarro, who I only casually knew then, was a work-at-home editor, and I recruited him (easily when he saw the situation) to document our relationship. The rest is now video history.

Two books and a film all in play at the same time may be something to be proud of but it's nothing to envy. I'm in a perpetual state of exhaustion. It's the nature of publishing and producing. The projects don't end. You may finish writing but then you're in editing and proofing. The book may be out at the printer but then you're doing PR to get the word out in anticipation of its arrival in final form.

Now that Dewie is nearly done with editing and post production we're in distribution mode, submitting it film festivals - over 40 to date -- almost a full time job.

I'm personally proud of how the film turned out and the advance reactions have been stellar. It's hilarious, sincerely touching, unique (many have said they'd not seen anything like it before), and yet covers important animal welfare issues almost by osmosis from the screen to the viewer. Men and women have both cried at the end. You can't ask more than that. But we've gotten more: within a few weeks it was accepted into two festivals. The Other Venice Film Festival and the International Film Festival of Egypt 2009 (or as I put it, Dewie goes to the pyramids). Amazingly, both these acceptances were based on a rough cut viewing of the film because we couldn't have made their submission deadlines otherwise!

Now I'm actively doing press for all three projects. I did feature film PR for a living for many years and handled several projects at once but then I was at studios or companies where there was a support staff. I wasn't doing it all on my own as I am now. Viking is working on PR for Of Parrots and People book and gotten a few things but far and away the majority of press activity--a Los Angeles Times profile running this week, the Washington Post feature and review, a Boston Globe feature, and a KCRW interview (to run 9/4) about pet ducks--were all done on my end. It's really par for the course I've heard. The writers I've spoken with who were published by big houses had to orchestrate and implement their own PR campaigns, and often pay for them too.

So this is my life now. I could stand a slower pace and a day off once in a while. It's been seven days a week for a few years now, but I know too well that the work doesn't sell itself and all the really hard work creating it is for naught if no one knows about it.

That said, I want to take this opportunity to invite you all to a great event for Little Miss Dewie this month. The fab new environmental art gallery G2 ([www.theg2gallery.com](http://www.theg2gallery.com)) on Abbot Kinney Blvd. in Venice is hosting an evening for it on Saturday, October 11th from 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m with great (vegan, of course) food, music, a screening of the film, and a silent auction to help us raise finishing funds. Save the date and please feel free to forward this downloadable invite ([G2Gallery Invite](#)) to everyone you know! It'll be a lot of fun. The film is great and upbeat and there's no duck like Dewie.

I also want to jump-start the holiday spirit by offering a discount to any WNBA member that would like to get copies of my books. I'm offering signed copies (I'll inscribe as you wish) of Here, There and Everywhere for \$15.95 (retail is \$19.95) with a free poster (\$4 on the website), and Of Parrots and People for \$20 (retail is \$25.95). Include \$6.25 for Priority Mail shipping or \$ 3.00 for Media Mail (per copy) and pay via paypal to [Sales@ParrotPress.net](mailto:Sales@ParrotPress.net). Price includes tax. You can mail a check to Parrot Press, 6200 Vista del Mar, Apt 313, Playa del Rey, CA 90293.

The children's book is a wonderful holiday gift and non-parrot people are consistently telling me when they pick up Of Parrots and People they can't put it down. You can email me at [MiraTwteti@ParrotPress.net](mailto:MiraTwteti@ParrotPress.net) with any questions or comments.

I don't join many groups but I'm pleased I joined WNBA. I want to thank all of you for making me feel welcomed when I came onboard earlier this year and I appreciate the support of my work. I hope this helps you to know more about me and some of my experiences. It's a pleasure to journey on the fun and unpredictable writing road with you.

Mira Twteti

## MEMBER NEWS -- SEPTEMBER 2008

### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!!!

This month, we are fortunate to welcome the following new members into our rounds:

Joseph Fatheree  
Winnie Tan  
Autrilla Gillis  
Vielka McFarlane

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### MEDIA EVENTS

Submitted by Sharmagne Leland-St. John

I have been invited to read my poetry on The Poet's Corner ~ Province Town Radio WOMR 92.1 FM. The taping took place on September 29, 2008, but you can listen to a streaming of the show online every Thurs. at 12:45 to 1:00pm at [www.womr.org](http://www.womr.org)

I will have my official book signing for my newly published book, *Contingencies*, at Book Soup on the Sunset Strip in West Hollywood on October 5th from 7-9pm.

The Soroptimists (an international women's organization for international women's issues and a part of Rotary) asked me to paint a ceramic bowl for a fundraiser/silent auction they are holding in October. Other "artists" include Burt Bacharach and Shirley Jones. I added an original haiku to the outside of my floral painted bowl.

I also have been invited to film a one woman show on Spend a Little Time With Poetry--a TV Show hosted by Bozana Belokosa 11/29/08 (on channel 56) it airs nationwide 2 weeks later, and will be available on the Internet.

Submitted by Mira Tweti:

### Save the date! Saturday, October 11th, 6 PM

The fabulous new G2 Gallery is hosting a benefit event to raise finishing funds for Mira's duckumentary, LITTLE MISS DEWIE, telling the story of an orphaned duckling that lived in Mira's apartment for two months. The film has opened to rave audience reviews at various film festivals across the nation.

### Saturday, October 11th at 6 PM

1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd.  
Venice CA, 90291  
(310) 452-2842

Enjoy great vegan food, a silent auction and live music.

For more info, please visit: [www.dewieduck.com](http://www.dewieduck.com)

See the trailer: [Little Miss Dewie Trailer](#)

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### BOOKS PUBLISHED

Submitted by Carol Ann Howell

I'm proud to announce that I have a travel book on [www.youpublish.com](http://www.youpublish.com)

Title: **YOU ARE ON VACATION**

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## SPECIAL THANKS!!!

WNBA-LA sends out a special thanks to **Steve Allen Media** for assisting with sending out press releases for our chapter, as well as other related media.

## MEMBER SERVICES/EVENTS

### Weekend of December 19-21, 2008

**Mining the Self to Create Characters:** A Writing Workshop with [Lisa Doctor](#) at the [Esalen Institute](#), Big Sur

According to Ernest Hemingway, a writer should create living people; people not characters. A character is a caricature." But how do we turn a character into a dynamic being? How do we imbue our characters with truth and give them their own unique voices? We do this by mining our own stories, memories, truths, and experiences.

Lisa Doctor writes: "Through a series of writing exercises and discussion, we will create a character in the context of a moment in time and then explore his or her full range of feelings, from pure joy to fear, loneliness, and pain. We will allow our characters to speak to us, to answer important questions, and to open up about that which haunts and thrills them. By the end of the weekend the character we've created- a person who is separate from us-will emerge with a unique and authentic voice, a personal history, and a distinct identity. The character we create will have evolved into an actual living person who cannot be defined as a caricature."

This workshop is designed for writers of every level, including beginners who are seeking their first group writing experience in a safe and nurturing environment.

Click [HERE](#) for pricing and accommodations.

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### Member looking for Services:

#### **CAROL ANN HOWELL is shopping for a literary agent who wants to sell!**

Carol Ann is an internationally published author. She writes adult novels, screenplays, non-fiction travel, short stories, juvenile and poetry. She is also a photographer and artist. We have published some of her short stories in our newsletter for the last three months. See more about Carol Ann on her blog on our site. You may contact her at [howellca@fairpoint.net](mailto:howellca@fairpoint.net)

## MEMBER STORIES

This month's picks include a variety of stories, based on our members' personal experiences.

**Laurel Corona:** [Guess What I Did On My Summer Vacation](#) (Short Story). This is a story inspired by Laurel getting married in a commercial.

**Ellen Schmalholz:** [The Promise](#) (Short Story Part One). If you are not a pet lover, you will never understand the great emotional extremes people go to in order to care for them... And if you are a pet lover you will understand completely!

**Carol Ann Howell:** [Ghost stories](#) (Short Story). This story was inspired by the wonderful, but also terrifying experiences, Carol had while living in Guatemala for seven years.

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[Guidelines for Enlightenment by Swami Beyondananda](#): This is an article guaranteed to inspire all you bookwomen on your individual paths in life.

## GREEN TIPS -- OCTOBER 2008

### Green Halloween

by Julia Drake

Green Halloween is a non-profit grass roots community movement to create healthier and more earth-friendly holidays. With Halloween just being around the corner, and your kids hearts' beating faster, here are a few tips to make this day special for the whole family as well as the environment.

- Throw a charity-themed party. Instead of giving out prizes for games, have your children pick from a list of charities and make a donation in their name.

- Make up a "green" version of any familiar game. For instance, turn "Pin the Tail on the Donkey" into "Pin the trees on the planet."

- Ask your child's school to consider making their Halloween celebration green as well.

- Talk to your kids about what is in candy and why it is not healthy. Ask them to come up with creative, kid and Earth-friendly alternatives. For example, hand out Fair Trade chocolate and/or informational cards on why supporting Fair Trade practices in the cocoa industry is a year' round must. Help end abusive child labor in the cocoa fields and pay cocoa farming families a fair price that allows them to meet their basic needs. For more info on this Global Exchange Program, click [HERE](#).

- Make a difference by trick-or-treating for UNICEF. On [UNICEF's website](#), you'll find four easy steps your family can take to help children all over the world receive basic necessities such as clean water, health care, and shelter. Collection can be done at school, work or neighborhood gatherings or while going door-to-door. The UNICEF site also features Halloween games, e-cards and a way to create your own webpage to raise money for UNICEF.

These are just a few ways in which you can contribute to a Green Halloween. For more info, please visit: [www.greenhalloween.org](http://www.greenhalloween.org).

### Green Beauty

For all you beautiful bookwomen out there, the [National Geographic Green Guide](#) has compiled a list of the **Dirty Dozen Chemicals in Cosmetics**, harmful not only to your skin, but also to the environment. Print out the Smart Shoppers' Dirty Dozen Card below, and fold it into your wallet, to have handy when you shop for personal care products.

Click here to read details on the Dirty Dozen: [Dirty Dozen](#)

Click here to download and print the Smart Shoppers' Dirty Dozen Card: [Dirty Dozen Card](#)

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Last, but not least, our member, Carol Ann Howell, has generously contributed her personal green beauty tip:

Make a mask of egg whites and dab it on your face with your fingers or a cotton ball. Let it dry. Rinse. Feel your smooth face!

## Helpful LINKS

## **Challenges and Creativity**

[Dragonwritingprompts.blogspot.com](http://Dragonwritingprompts.blogspot.com)

[Smithmag.net](http://Smithmag.net)

## **General Sources**

[New York Times Bestseller List](#)

## **Research**

[L.A. Public Library](#)

[The New York Times Navigator](#)

## **Freelance**

[Mediabistro.com](http://Mediabistro.com)

[Aboutfreelancewriting.com](http://Aboutfreelancewriting.com)

## **Speakers and Authors**

[www.SpeakerServices.com](http://www.SpeakerServices.com)

[www.author101.com](http://www.author101.com)

## **Marketing**

[www.megabookmarketing.com](http://www.megabookmarketing.com)

[www.publicityhound.com](http://www.publicityhound.com)

## **Professional organizations/writing communities**

[www.pw.org](http://www.pw.org)

[www.fundsforwriters.com](http://www.fundsforwriters.com)

[www.toasted-cheese.com](http://www.toasted-cheese.com)

[www.absolutewrite.com](http://www.absolutewrite.com)

[www.writersmarket.com](http://www.writersmarket.com)

## **Publishing resources**

[Agentquery.com](http://Agentquery.com)

[Duotrope.com](http://Duotrope.com)

[Firstwriter.com](http://Firstwriter.com)

[Lulu.com](http://Lulu.com)

[Thefrontlist.com](http://Thefrontlist.com)

So that's it for October!

Thank you for your submissions and please feel free to contact me with any suggestions on how to make this newsletter better.

Happy Reading Group Month & Happy Green Halloween!!!

Julia Drake

Newsletter editor

juliadrake28@gmail.com

## Board Members:

**President:** Kelly Sullivan Walden

**Vice-President:** Melinda Woolf

**Immediate Past President:** Ruth Light

**Recording Secretary:** LaVergne Rosow

**Treasurer:** Jeff Slottow

**Publicity Chair:** Laurel Shapiro

**Annual Auditor:** Holly Shaffer

**Corresponding Secretary:** Suzanne Kleinbub

**Bookwoman Correspondent:** Karin Lightstone

**Membership Co-Chairs:** Suzanne Kleinbub and Ruth Light

**Newsletter Editor:** Julia Drake

**Photo Album Coordinator:** Diane Scott

**United Nations Representative:** Kelly Sullivan Walden

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