

# Women's National Book Association

## Los Angeles Chapter

The Ultimate Resource for the Book Community

### September 2008 Newsletter

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#### DEAR CHAPTER MEMBERS,

**Welcome to our September newsletter!**

The summer is coming to a close and we're heading into an exciting fall season, packed with many events and activities for you to participate in. Don't forget to check out this month's member highlight and the eclectic mix of member stories. Not to forget--some of our members have great news to share with you. Happy Labor Day!

#### Inspirational Quote of the Month

"I read and walked for miles at night along the beach, writing bad blank verse and searching endlessly for someone wonderful who would step out of the darkness and change my life. It never crossed my mind that that person could be me. "

-Anna Quindlen

#### A Word from Kelly...



**Dear LA Bookwomen,**

I hope you all enjoyed the last summer days of August. 08-08-08 was a wonderful day for me, perhaps because of the beginning of the Olympic games, maybe it was because I swam in the ocean near dolphins that day, or it may have been because I spent that day with people I love, celebrating my 40th birthday (or as my friend Gypsy says, it is my second annual 39th!)

The following day, August 9th, we had a wonderful tour of the [Mystery Pier Bookshop](#), which happened to fall on their 10th anniversary, so they "let us eat cake" as we enjoyed gazing upon first edition, autographed copies of Chaucer, Jane Austin, and Dickens (to name a few.)

Afterward, we gathered at our new meeting place, PI on Sunset, for a Mediterranean feast while we listened to [Amy Kwei](#) (a bookwoman from our Boston Chapter) share a fascinating tale about her newest book, "Intrigue in the House of Wong." Amy generously donated several signed copies of her book to our chapter (Thank you, Amy!)

I've always found that with a birthday (especially one that marks a new decade) comes a lot of change. So far, this month of September marks the beginning of a whole new living situation for my husband and I. For those of you who don't know, we just moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, a.k.a. the Land of Enchantment. We're living on a 40-acre ranch called [Garden of the Goddess](#). Yes, it is true, we will be dividing our time between LA and this beautiful retreat center surrounded by the red rock--and you are all welcome to come! There are guesthouses, and you can book a session or retreat or just enjoy the natural peace and quiet of the surroundings. [E-mail](#) me if you have any questions or if you want to come visit.

For those of you who might think it strange that the new president of the Los Angeles WNBA chapter now lives in Santa Fe, don't fret. I will be in LA every month keeping up with the exciting WNBA events that we have scheduled as well as with all the [Dream Project](#) programs that are in place. As I recently told a friend of mine. I'm not moving, just expanding!

Here's the other piece of exciting news: on September 3rd, I, along with a panel of innovative educators, will be speaking at the United Nations NGO conference in Paris, France---(click [here](#) for more information.) Melinda Woolf (our fabulous chapter Vice President) will accompany me along with the Joe Fatheree--Illinois State Teacher of the Year, Vielka McFarlane from Celerity Nascent Charter School and a team from the prestigious Art Center School of Design's Design Matters program to discuss:

- The role that young people play in the fulfillment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals
- The role that art and media play in affecting the tipping point regarding human rights, health, and sustainability in the world
- Ways that educators and youth leaders can incorporate the Millennium Development Goals and digital storytelling into the classroom
- I will be showing a clip from the Dream Project documentary (<http://www.dreamprojectun.com/>)

Wish me luck. I'll take you all with me--and you'll get a full report in next month's newsletter.

Also, make sure to mark your calendar for September 28th, where our members will be presenting our very first panel at the WEHO Book fair-- "Birthing A Book: The Shero's Journey."

Can't wait to see you there!

Blessings & Happy Labor Day

Kelly Sullivan Walden

## RECENT EVENTS 2008 -- A SHORT REVIEW

### **Jul 20, Summer Board Meeting**

By Kelly Sullivan Walden

The Summer Board Meeting was productive and exciting. Ruth Light presented me with the official presidential gavel, along with other assorted gifts. I lavishly praised Ruth Light for working so hard during her for years as our president, getting our foundation organized and us in such great financial shape that we can now afford a website and newsletter that will allow for us to attract more members and take us into the future with style and efficiency.

I introduced Melinda Woolf, our new Vice President, who, in addition to volunteering her talent as a film and tv producer, has volunteered her multiple cameras as well as her expertise to ensure that our speaker meetings get filmed. This will allow us to share our great content with the world, attract new members, as well as establish WNBA as a household name (in other words, for people to think "books" when they hear WNBA instead of "basketball!")

Lavergne Rosow, our new Secretary, was in attendance, taking minutes, and charming us with her wit. Thank you to the rest of the gang that was present that made it a lively and informative meeting. We

discussed WNBA-LA's theme for the '08-'09 year and came up with the following:



**Expansion:** Think of an oak tree, whose roots are expanding deeply into the soil, with branches simultaneously reaching skyward. We want to learn from and celebrate our past while at the same time opening our arms fully to embrace all that the future has to offer us.

Our goal is to provide our members with the latest technology and exposure to leading edge training in personal and professional development with regards to the book business, reading, writing, and publishing. To this end, we have formed alliances with [www.YouPublish.com](http://www.YouPublish.com), [www.SpeakerServices.com](http://www.SpeakerServices.com), and [www.MarkVictorHanson.com](http://www.MarkVictorHanson.com) (look for more about this in upcoming issues.) We intend to attract more lively, passionate bookwomen (perhaps double our membership!) to our group, while at the same time enriching the experience of WNBA for our loyal members that have helped to make our chapter great. We intend to provide opportunities to network, deepen friendships and offer and receive support on a personal as well as a professional level for all our bookwomen. We also intend to expand our role in community service as well as living the "WNBA Goes Green" campaign in every aspect of our chapter activities.

We discussed the exciting events that we have planned for the year. You can mostly count on our events being the last Saturday of each month from 2-5pm (dates are subject to change, so check the website and monthly newsletter.) Our events thus far will include:

- September 28th: Our panel at the WEHO Book fair 11-12:30pm, and author book signings all day at our booth
- October 25th: 2nd Annual WNBA National Reading Group Month at BOOKSOUP in West Hollywood (featuring LISA SEE, DAVID FULLER, and YXTA MAYA-MURRAY)
- November 22nd: Media Training with Jack Barnard and Susan Levin from Speaker Services (Get Your NITCH PITCH)
- December 13th: Holiday Tea at the Huntington Library
- January 24th: Cynthia Cursey (author of Unstoppable Women) will speak to us about creating an unstoppable life and the Best Year of our life-this event will include our popular Silent Auction (Thank You Laurel Shapiro!)
- February 21st: Author/Agent Rapid Networking event!
- March 21st: Writer's retreat in a Moroccan Palace with Lisa Doctor
- April 25th: Brunch with Mark Victor Hanson (Chicken Soup for the Soul) where he will share marketing strategies to become a mega-selling author
- May 23rd: 3-camera video Speaker Demo event with Speaker Services
- June: Judy Lopez Awards Dinner

As you can see, it will be an exciting year! Thank you for being on this path with me.

Kelly Sullivan Walden

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2008 -- A SNEAK PREVIEW



### September 28, Weho Book Fair

By Ruth Light

For the FOURTH year in a row, our WNBA/LA chapter will have a booth at the West Hollywood Book Fair! And we get better at it every year!

This year we will again have wonderful, inexpensively priced, brand-new books for sale. These books are written for 6-year-olds to 12-year-olds. In years past we have had hand-made items for sale also, so we invite you to crank up your crafty side and let me know if you have any handiwork you would like to sell.

And of course --- YOUR BOOKS!! All you published authors and poets, this is your chance to showcase your work, and hopefully sell a few!!

In mid-September I will send out an announcement asking if you want to be a "featured author" or "featured poet", and you will be offered a choice of time slots, each two hours long. Here are the details, so mark your calendars!

**Sunday, September 28**

**10:00 till 6:00**

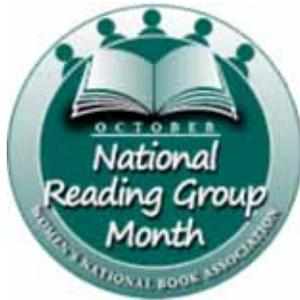
**West Hollywood Park (647 N. San Vicente Blvd.)**

We'll also have our own panel, Birthing a Book: The Shero's Journey, that will take place between 11-12:30pm, with author book signings to follow every hour at our booth. E-mail me if you'd like the opportunity of volunteering at our booth.

For up-to-date information on our panel speakers, please visit [Ina Hildebrandt's website](#)

For up-to-date info on the event schedule, please visit [Weho Bookfair 2008](#)

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**October is WNBA's National Reading Group Month** to promote reading groups, champion literacy, and of course, to celebrate the Joy of Shared Reading.

Events featuring reading-group favorite authors are planned nationwide in the Association's nine chapters.

For more info on the national agenda, [click here](#).

Our Local WNBA Chapter--Mark your calenders!

Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Book Soup, West Hollywood; 2-4 pm

A great group of authors will be speaking about their books, and various topics relating to the book industry:

[Lisa See](#) (Snow Flower and the Secret Fan)

[David Fuller](#) (SweetSmoke, Hyperion Books)

[Yxta Maya Murray](#) (The Red Lion Series, Harper Paperbacks)

It promises to be a terrific event. RSVP ASAP...seats are limited

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#### **November 8, 2008 WNBA National Awards - 2008 WNBA Award Recipient**

WNBA has named author, musician and Rock Bottom Reminders founder Kathi Kamen Goldmark recipient of its 2008 WNBA Award.

The WNBA Award is presented to "a living American woman who derives part or all of her income from books and allied arts, and who has done meritorious work in the world of books beyond the duties or responsibilities of her profession or occupation."

A reception in Karen's honor will take place on Saturday, November 8 at 4:30PM in San Francisco.

To read the official press release, [click here](#).

#### **2008 WNBA Pannell Awards**

Established in 1981, the WNBA Pannell Awards recognize and publicly applaud the work of booksellers who stimulate, promote and encourage children's and young people's interest in books.

The winner in the General Bookstore category is Kepler's Books and Magazines in Menlo Park, here in California!

The winner in the Children's Specialty Store category is The Flying Pig Bookstore in Shelburne, VT. Honorable Mention is awarded to Vero Beach Book Center in Vero Beach, Fl.

For more info, please visit [WNBA National Website](#)

## WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER NEWS

### Member Blog Reminder

What? You don't have your very own WNBA-LA blog yet? No worries. Just contact Terri Negron, our talented web designer, to assist you in setting one up. It's quick and easy, but will allow you to share your professional, as well as personal aspirations with other members and the world out there.

Terri's email is: [ttorq@aol.com](mailto:ttorq@aol.com) or you can call her at 408-779-4843.

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

In an effort to provide you with tools, tips and technologies for supporting your professional goals, we've added content to the "Members Only" section of our website. For example, you can access an audio library with various panel discussions, giving you expert advice on pitching, publishing, editors, agents, and also some inspiration from successful authors in the book industry.

To protect this information, we have added a **PASSWORD** to the "Member sign in " page on the WNBA site. If you're interested in accessing this content, please email me, and I will inform you of the password.

**Please note, my new email now is: [juliadrake28@gmail.com](mailto:juliadrake28@gmail.com)**

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### WNBA-LA Newsletter News

The submission guidelines for the newsletter have been posted on the WNBA-LA website for your convenience.

Here's where to go: <http://www.wnba-books.org/la/newsletter.html>

## MEMBER HIGHLIGHT--SEPTEMBER 2008



### A JOURNEY FROM CAREGIVER TO COMMISSIONER

By WNBA Member Barbara Meltzer

A call from a social worker in Tamarac, Florida five years ago telling me that my father had called her asking for corn flakes and milk started me on a journey I never would have imagined.

Just to put this in geographical context, I am a native New Yorker who moved to Los Angeles 30 years ago to work with the Tonight Show, something I had done while it was based in New York. My parents retired to Florida and my brother and his family remained in New York. We were a "triangle" family.

I flew to Florida the next day, where I walked into a nightmare. My father was physically failing. My mother's mind was slipping. How could my brother and I not have known this? He had been there just a couple of months before and we talked to them weekly. I plugged up the emergencies in the few days I was there, hired an aide to spend a few several hours each day with them and then had to fly back home. We all kept in constant touch.

My dad died very shortly thereafter and I moved my mother to Los Angeles where I scouted for and eventually found an assisted living facility very close to my home and my office. I have a public relations and marketing agency and work many hours each week. I knew that for me to watch over her effectively, I would need to be close by.

 Mom, whose name is Sara, is 91 years old. She is a warm



and friendly woman who makes friends easily. I am lucky in that regard. She is the first one up to dance, walker and all, when the music at her residence begins. She laughs out loud when she wins at Bingo. She and I share a love for food and I take her out to eat once or twice a week. She has no recollection of yesterday and never thinks about tomorrow. Mom lives a "zen" life, and I try to make moments count for her.

It's been very hard, to say the least. My business takes up a great deal of my time and energy, yet I must always find the time to take care of my mother's various needs. I recently noticed that her memory has gotten worse and she no longer knows my name. Does she understand that I'm her daughter? I'm not sure. She does know that I'm the "very nice lady" who shows up a lot and takes her for outings.

No one ever prepares you for the role of elder caregiver. I never had children and have not really been responsible for anyone but myself. Until now. I have relatives in Oceanside, close enough to provide some comfort, but not close enough for emergencies.

After Mom was settled, I knew that I needed to do something that would make a difference for seniors. With the aging of the Baby Boomer generation, our older population is burgeoning. With that came a lot of new problems, in addition to an increase in the many that already exist.

I soon became a member of the LA County Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council, which is federally mandated by the Older Americans Act. I chaired its Communications Committee for 3-1/2 years and was a member of the Midlife and Older Women's Issues Committee. We produced a great conference each year and I loved working on it. I booked the keynoters, handled the publicity and promotion and even got them to include a fashion show one year. What fun! And it was important to so many women.

My interest in the Boomers increased. It's a generation that's changing the way we age and the way we look at aging. This growing interest, my previous work in the area of aging and my passion for this segment of our society resulted in an appointment by Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky as a Commissioner on the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging (LACCOA). What would this opportunity bring? Would it provide a way for me to make a difference in the lives of others?

I have been serving for one year, during which time I became Editor of The LINK, LACCOA's newsletter. I served on the five-member Ad Hoc Committee for Future Direction. Now into my second year, I am co-chairing the Baby Boomer Work Group that has made Elder Caregiving its main focus. I have also been chosen as Lead Commissioner for District three, making me the direct liaison between the Commission and Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office. It's a lot to take on in a fairly short time and I'm still learning. But, I know that as a body, we can make a difference.

Elder caregiving and other issues surrounding aging have embedded themselves in my life. I have written articles about my personal experience as a caregiver and have also written about caregiving in general. I was featured in a segment on NBC Nightly News. They wanted a subject who is caring for a parent, but has no children of her own. What does that feel like? How does one cope? I reach out when I can to others who are walking this path and I help when possible. I have learned so much and have met so many interesting, learned and dedicated people who I feel privileged to know.

In addition to my public relations agency's ongoing specialties of nonprofit organizations and authors, I have created a new specialty that focuses on clients who provide services, products or outreach to the 50+ population and to those who are interested in educating audiences about them. I believe this effectively combines my profession with my passion.

As I make my way through this vortex of working, caregiving and serving, I am finding so many role models to emulate as I, too, move on in years. I feel like a late bloomer, someone who has finally come into her own, someone who is clear about her place in life and someone who walks by the side of a sweet and lovely woman named Sara.

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Barbara Meltzer is the president of Barbara Meltzer & Associates Public Relations and Marketing. She can be reached at (323) 964-9555 or [barbara@meltzerpr.com](mailto:barbara@meltzerpr.com)

## MEMBER NEWS -- SEPTEMBER 2008

**A warm welcome to our new member:** Sharmagne Leland-St.John.

### Media/Entertainment News

Submitted by Pamela Phillips Oland:

After two years of development, I just signed the contract for writing a big-stage musical in Holland, so it is all official between the producers and myself as Lyricist and my Composer partner Tom Harriman. We were also given full co-book writer credit, which we share with Edwin DeVries, who is the scriptwriter. He is the most celebrated screenwriter in Holland. He is an amazing partner to work with, and we are incredibly lucky to be collaborating with him. The production of "**SOLDIER OF ORANGE**" is based on the memoirs of Erik Hazelhoff, who was the most legendary war hero in modern Dutch history. It was also the basis of the Golden Globe and Oscar-nominated movie "Soldier of Orange" starring Rutger Hauer. The show has a big budget, which includes plans to build and create a theater "environment" for it. It is slated to be staged in 2010.

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### Media events/Books published

Submitted by Mira Tweti:

Mira's book **OF PARROTS AND PEOPLE** - The Sometimes Funny, Always Fascinating, and Often Catastrophic Collision Of Two Intelligent Species- is finally in bookstores! From Viking - September 2008 (in stores August 14th). Order your copy now at your local bookstore or on Amazon.com, and tell your friends, to help as many birds as possible.

Mira will be doing book events in Los Angeles, the D.C. area and New York over the next two months (or more). These and future events are listed on the new Parrot Press website: [www.parrotpress.net](http://www.parrotpress.net)

Mira's book **HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE** was featured in Dr. Jane Goodall's Roots and Shoots e-newsletter. It went out to thousands of R&S education groups around the world! "A masterpiece for children," Dr. Jane Goodall  
For more info, visit: [www.parrotstory.com](http://www.parrotstory.com)

**LITTLE MISS DEWIE:** A Duckumentary about an orphaned duckling that lived in Mira's apartment for two months has opened to rave audience reviews across the board! It's a short (30 minutes long) and will be shown in several film festivals, including The New York Film Festival, Boston, and New Hampshire, and it has just been accepted into the Other Venice Film Festival in Venice, CA (10/9-12). Very exciting! It will also be submitted to Sundance and others.

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, October 11th 6 PM

The fabulous new G2 Gallery is hosting a benefit event for the film to help us raise finishing funds for film festival fees and post production costs.

Saturday, October 11th at Six 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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### Poems Published

Submitted by our new member, Sharmagne Leland-St. John:

I just got news that two of my poems have been accepted to the **BABY BOOMERS ANTHOLOGY** published by Poetic Works Press. One is: **Hey, It Was the Sixties!** and the other my signature poem, **I Said Coffee**. Lovely way to segue into the day!

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### Just Married!

Julia Drake, your newsletter editor, has returned safe, sound and married from Europe and has changed her name to **Julia Drake**.

So please note my new email address: [juliadrake28@gmail.com](mailto:juliadrake28@gmail.com)  
**Thanks!**

## MEMBER SERVICES/EVENTS

### YOUPUBLISH has been launched!

Mega-selling author Mark Victor Hansen (co-creator of the Chicken Soup for the Soul empire) and a remarkable team of thought leaders from around the world have created an entirely new way for users to publish and access files online--YouPublish.

May 8, 2008, YouPublish launched its much-awaited website [www.youpublish.com](http://www.youpublish.com), allowing users to publish any file or combination of files on the Internet in a matter of minutes.

## MEMBER STORIES

This month, we feature a colorful assortment of short story, memoir and novel excerpts from our members. Please click on the title to read the story:

**Audrey Johnson:** [The Sausage Maker's daughter](#)--This is the first chapter of her new novel (3960 words)

**Ruth Lampert:** [My Reading Disorder](#)--This is a selection from Ruth's new blog, Ruth on Wry, which is a precursor to her memoir of the same name (629 words)

**Carol-Ann Howell:** [Breakfast with the Pelicans](#)--This is one of 3 essays Carol published in the Malibu Surfside News (930 words)

## GREEN TIPS -- September 2008

### 8 Easy Ways to Go Greener

by Julia Drake

1. **Respect Water:** Rethink the 24 pack of water, and instead invest in reusable water bottles, and at-home water filtration system that will turn the stuff from your tap into great tasting water
2. **Kill a watt:** Save on energy costs by simply unplugging your TV when it's not in use. Same goes for all appliances that are electrically powered, such as computer, mixer, lamps, stereo, lights, not to forget, air-conditioning.
3. **Raise your Voice:** Organizations such as American Forests, the Sierra Club, and countless others not only educate on living greener, but also act on your behalf to promote environmental issues.
4. **Eat Green:** Support your local co-op or CSA (community-sponsored agriculture) and examine your food labels to make certain that what you put into your body is as good for you as it is for this Earth.
5. **Mail Back Electronics:** Even the US Post Office is in on the green action. You can now mail your used inkjet cartridges and small electronics to a recycler--for free!

6. **Go Solar:** Get off the grid by investing in a solar recharger such as Solio. Combine the rechargers with rechargeable batteries.

7. **Clean green:** Lemons, baking soda, Borax and vinegar kill as much bacteria as any commercial cleaning product.

8. **Wear with care:** Invest in wardrobe of non-animal fabrics and organic materials.

## 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 September!

Thank you for your submissions. Keep them coming and review the submission guidelines on our website.

Any ideas/suggestions on how to make this newsletter better? Please email me at:  
juliadrake28@gmail.com

Happy Labor Day and a great fall season,

Julia Drake  
Newsletter editor

## 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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