

April 15, 2019

Dear Friend of the WNBA,

I am so excited to officially announce the launch of our national network membership!



This membership opens up the WNBA to a larger audience and welcomes members from all across the United States. Through this new membership, we will be able to greater serve women — and men — in cities outside of our chapter cities.

Network Membership is open to individuals who do not live in or within easy commuting distance to one of our chapter cities. It offers membership at the national level.

**Benefits of membership include:** listing in the online national directory; listing of member blogs on the website; eligibility to publish articles or book reviews in the newsletter and blog; eligibility to serve on the national board; discounted admission to chapter events; discounted fees for entry in the WNBA Writing Contest; eligibility to join Great Group Reads/National Reading Group Month selection committee; eligibility to make WNBA Award nominations, and more.

To learn more about this membership, please visit [www.wnba-books.org/network-membership/](http://www.wnba-books.org/network-membership/).

I hope you'll join me in sharing this news so we can continue to grow our community and network of talented bookwomen.

Sincerely,  
**Rachelle Yousuf (Los Angeles)**  
**President, Women's National Book Association (WNBA)**  
[president@wnba-books.org](mailto:president@wnba-books.org)

## Resources to Fight the Reading Slump

By Tina Ollenburg (Charlotte)

Reading slumps. They happen to all of us. No matter how many

unread books are sitting on your shelf at home or how long that TBR list has gotten, sometimes you just can't find anything that's shouting "Read me!"

But don't let a reading slump turn into a full-on reading drought! Here are some tips and resources to help you get out of your funk and back into books.



## Try Out a New Genre or Reread a Favorite Book

If you've been diligently downing the literary darlings of the last year, maybe it's time to indulge in a fast-paced thriller or a spicy romance. Or vice versa. Put down the *Outlander* and pick up some Meg Wolitzer.

If that doesn't sound appealing, go back to the tried-and-true. Allow yourself to reread one of your all-time, neglected favorites. I often feel guilty about rereading (what about all the other books waiting for me?!), but when I allow myself to pick up an old favorite it reminds me of everything I love about reading.

**Indie Next List**  
April 2019

**I MISS YOU WHEN I BLINK**  
Essays  
MARY LAURA PHILPOTT

**I Miss You When I Blink: Essays**  
Mary Laura Philpott (Atria Books)

**Buy**

"Mary Laura Philpott writes about today's American woman in her marvelously frank and witty book of essays, *I Miss You When I Blink*. Women of all ages will nod their heads when reading about the decision to have babies (or not), the pitfalls of volunteering, the difficulty of getting a cat out from under the bed, the reward of crossing things off 'the list,' the challenge of finding time for relaxation, and, above all, the acceleration of time as we age. Philpott shares pivotal moments from her life in such a relatable way that, through both laughter and tears, readers will exclaim, 'Yes, yes, this is ME!' Don't miss this gem!"  
— Nancy Simpson-Brice, Book Vault, Oskaloosa, IA

## Reach Out For Recommendations

If you have the time, a trip to your local library or bookstore can prove helpful to discovering new great reads. Booksellers and librarians are usually more than happy to help you find a book you can get excited about.

If you don't have the time to stop by in-person, turn to the web. [Indie Next List](#) is a great resource for finding new release recommendations from indie booksellers across the country. They post a new list for each month and have updates about paperback releases as well. Nothing beats a good list!

## Join a Book Subscription Service

Maybe you'd enjoy having someone else just go ahead and pick a book for you? Understandable. If you're willing to shell out some money, there are a number of monthly book subscription services that will send you a curated selection by mail.

[Book of the Month](#) is one of the most popular, releasing a list of 5 new books to choose from on the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month.

[Parnassus Books](#) in Nashville also has their national [First Editions Club](#). The staff chooses one book each month and get the author to sign it before mailing it

to your home.

A number of other independent bookstores across the country have similar programs and becoming a member is a great way to support them, an added bonus!



### Participate in or Create a WNBA Book Club for Your Chapter

A book club is a great way to find something you never would have on your own and helps you broaden your horizons as a reader, especially when it's from the [Great Group Reads](#) selection that the WNBA book clubs use.

Consider participating in your chapter's book club as a way to break up your reading habits. Or, if your chapter doesn't have a book club yet, maybe you're the perfect person to start one! Your reading slump could turn into a whole new group of friends!

## Join *The Bookwoman Blog's* Editorial Staff

**By Julie L. Frey (Greater Philadelphia)**

We are looking for **editors** and **writers**, as well as **illustrators**, **graphic designers**, and **photo editors** to help us.



Meet interesting people, gain digital publishing experience, boost your résumé, build your portfolio, learn new skills, and contribute to a wonderful organization. And it's fun!

The positions are **volunteer**, **remote**, and **open to members in good standing**.

### To Apply

Email me at: [newsletter@wnba-books.org](mailto:newsletter@wnba-books.org)

Please include:

- The position you are applying for in the subject line. (You can apply for more than one position, just put positions in subject line of one email).
- Your name, contact information, and WNBA chapter.

- Your résumé or a brief overview of your experience.
- A paragraph or two about your experience, your favorite thing about the WNBA, and why you are interested in volunteering with us (include in body of email).
- If you have a portfolio, a website, a blog, or writing samples or clips, you may include them, but they are not necessary.

I can't wait to hear from you! **Apply Now!**

## The Bookwoman Blog Roundup

By Tina Ollenburg (Charlotte)

Here's a roundup of recent blog posts.

### Check Out These Recent Posts

Writer Patty Somlo (San Francisco) discusses her exploration of [magical realism through the medium of short stories](#), including in her latest book, *Hairway to Heaven*.



WNBA members from chapters across the country [share their news and accomplishments](#).

In "[A Terrible Teacher's Gift](#)," Cleyvis Natera (New York City) tells the story of how a rivalry with her 7th-grade Spanish teacher led her on a path of discovery.

Learn more about member Andrea Brown's (San Francisco) [career in publishing](#) in our latest "Power Behind the WNBA" interview.

Diana Giovinazzo (Los Angeles) celebrates the forgotten story of Italy's first war correspondent, Jessie White Mario, and discusses the need to [celebrate women's stories](#) beyond the 31 days of Women's History Month.

### Find the Blog

Here's a reminder about how to find the *Bookwoman* blog.

You can access the blog by:

- clicking [here](#)
- copying and pasting <https://wnba-books.org/blog/> into your browser
- visiting the [Women's National Book Association website](#) and clicking on "The Bookwoman" in the navigation bar.

Don't forget to bookmark the page!

New content is posted every Tuesday and Friday.

# National Poetry Month

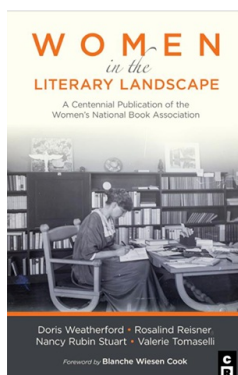
By Julie Frey (Greater Philadelphia)

April is National Poetry Month. To celebrate, we ask that members send your favorite poems to [newsletter@wnba-books.org](mailto:newsletter@wnba-books.org) to be included in a special blog post.



Please include the title, author, and publication details. Share your poetry passion!

## Easy Ways to Support the WNBA



**Buy a copy of *Women in the Literary Landscape!***

“Brilliantly written and researched . . . every page is filled with surprises, enchantments, and exciting new information of significance.”  
—From the foreword by Blanche Wiesen Cook, *Eleanor Roosevelt Vol. 1-3*.

**Get Ready for Outdoor Reading Weather with a *WNBA Tote!***

The WNBA Centennial tote is the perfect way to cart around all your beach reads this spring and summer.

Get 50% with the code: **APRILZAZLOVE**

Donate to the WNBA

Become a WNBA Member

## The Bookwoman Staff

**Editor in Chief:** Nicole Ayers (Charlotte)  
**Newsletter Managing Editor:** Tina Ollenburg (Charlotte)  
**Blog Managing Editor:** Julie L. Frey (Greater Philadelphia)

[Submission Guidelines 2018-19](#)

Newsletter background: Books highlighted from the WNBA's [Celebrating Women's Voices](#) centennial program

