

December 15, 2018

Dear Friend of the WNBA,

It's hard to believe that 2018 is almost over, but the holidays are here, and the new year is right around the corner. I'm looking forward to having some time off to read a few books and watch some cheesy holiday movies.



Do you have any literary family traditions? Share them with us, and we'll post some on our Facebook page.

From everyone here at the Women's National Book Association, we wish you a happy holiday and a safe new year. See you in 2019!

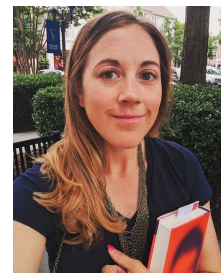
Sincerely,
Rachelle Yousuf (Los Angeles)
President, Women's National Book Association
president@wnba-books.org

Writing Tips for the New Year

By Tina Ollenburg (Charlotte)

The new year is just around the corner, and even if you're not setting formal resolutions, you're probably thinking about how you want to set off into 2019.

As WNBA members, a lot of us might be thinking of our writing practice. Whether it is working on a novel, crafting a memoir, compiling essays, or getting into a journaling habit, the quiet and reflective act of writing can be a challenge in this world of social media notifications, news alerts, and all-around noise.





Here are a few tips to help refresh your creative pursuits in the new year:

1. Say "No" to Guilt.

Life is full of surprises. Sometimes they get in the way of your goals, whether it be a daily word count or a self-imposed deadline for a project. It happens.

Instead of beating yourself up or feeling guilty for what you didn't get to, move forward and reset. Negative energy is only going to promote a sense of dread toward your work that is counterproductive. Setbacks have occurred, and they will occur again. Embrace them as a natural part of the process, not a personal failing.

2. Play.

Give yourself permission to let go of rules, the need to "produce," or the idea of some future critic on the other end of your work. Let things flow from your mind to paper or computer without the urge to self-edit in between. That can come later.

Is there a backstory or a side topic you want to explore, but you feel like it'd be a waste of time because it's tangential or not part of the outline? It can still be important.

We all need to let loose every once in a while, our creativity included. What's more, those throwaway concepts or experimental ideas can often lead to unexpected and fruitful places.

3. Remember Your Voice is Valuable.

Self-doubt afflicts everyone who writes, even bestselling authors. What do I have to say that hasn't been said before? Who cares about my opinions?

These questions creep into our brains and wreak havoc. Anne Lamott offers some great advice for this problem in her book *Bird by Bird: Some Instructions on Writing and Life*. Maybe there's already a book or a memoir out there that sounds a lot like your own story. In fact, chances are good that there is—there are a lot of us in this world. But that's no reason not to add your voice to the mix.

You have something new to say because no one else is you. No one. See the value in that. Plus, people want new spins on the same thing. We don't read only the same one love story or thriller over and over again. If that were the case, every *Law & Order* marathon would just be the same episode on repeat.

Good luck and happy writing in the new year!

Make Time to Visit *The Bookwoman* Blog

By Nicole Ayers (Charlotte)

There is dynamite content available at the *Bookwoman* blog. Have you visited yet? Blog posts are not sent via email. 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 header.



Don't forget to bookmark the page!

New content is posted every Tuesday and Friday, and the occasional Thursday.

Check Out These Recent Posts

Celebrate this year's [Pinckley Prize winners](#) along with New Orleans as you read about this signature event.

WNBA members across the country have much to celebrate this month with new books releases, awards received, and promotions at work. Read their great news [here](#) and share your kudos with these talented members.

Need last-minute gift ideas? Read Tina Ollenburg's "[Holiday Gift Guide: Books!](#)" to find a book for someone special (or to add to your own TBR pile).

Learn more about members [Anne Babson](#) (NOLA), [Linda Rosen](#) (National/South Florida), [Laurel Stokes](#) (NYC), and [Rae Theodore](#) (Greater Philadelphia) in their "Power Behind the WNBA" interviews.

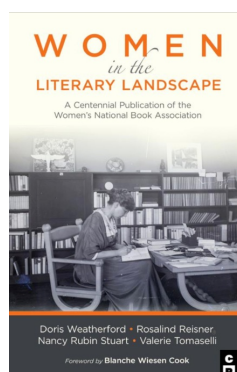
Enjoy Benita Goldstein's charming account of "[Pride & Prosecco](#)," a fundraising event for the Delray Beach Public Library.

Get Involved

Do you have great news to share? Then send it to your chapter's correspondent for inclusion in next month's [Member News](#) blog post. Chapter correspondents send news in by the fifteenth of each month, and the member news post will drop the first Tuesday of the following month.

Don't forget that we're always on the lookout for guest bloggers. Read Deborah Batterman's (NYC) guest post, "[Just Like February and World AIDS Day](#)," for a great example. If you're a WNBA member with an idea to pitch, email me at newsletter@wnba-books.org.

Easy Ways to Support the WNBA



Buy a copy of [Women in the Literary Landscape!](#)

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The holiday season is approaching fast. Adorn

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

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

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