

February 15, 2019

Dear Friend of the WNBA,

This is such a wonderful time of the year, as we honor Black History Month and look to March for Women's History Month. To celebrate Black History Month, I'm sharing some of my favorite literary powerhouses for you to add to your TBR lists.



Nikki Giovanni: Back in 2015, I had the pleasure of hearing Giovanni read her poetry at one of our writers' conferences in LA. Her reading of "[Ego Tripping](#)" is an experience that has stayed with me and is one of my favorite moments as president.

Natasha Deón: In addition to being a beautiful writer, Natasha is an attorney, professor, advocate, mother, and all around literary badass. I am lucky enough to consider her a friend, and I highly recommend reading her debut novel, [Grace](#).



Glory Edim: Glory is the founder of the Well-Read Black Girl book club in NY. No longer just a book club, Well-Read Black Girl now includes a literary festival. Glory has become a well-known literary activist and champion of Black literature. She recently published [Well-Read Black Girl: Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves](#), an inspiring anthology of essays.

What are you doing to celebrate this Month? Write back and let me know!

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

Engaging Kids in Reading

By Tina Ollenburg (Charlotte)

We all know that our children are increasingly immersed in a world of constant distraction. From YouTube to social media to an endless selection of cell phone games, the analog book has a hard time competing for attention.



The vast benefits of reading as a habit, however, make it an important activity for both kids and adults. But how do we get kids to read without making it a chore? How do we nudge them towards a habit of enthusiastic and lifelong reading? Below are a few ideas for engaging (or re-engaging) kids with books.



Be the Example

First and foremost, if your kids never see you reading, it is unlikely that they will become little bookworms all on their own. If you are constantly scrolling through Instagram and never have a book in your hand, that is the behavior you're modeling to your children.

It is important for kids to actually witness how reading can continue as a lifelong habit into adulthood.

Carve out time in your week where you are reading in front of your kids. Show your children that reading is a fun and enjoyable activity by actually enjoying it yourself!

Read Aloud with Them

Sometimes kids need help easing into the habit of reading independently. It may be hard for them to find the quiet space in their heads to focus, or they might feel intimidated by moving into longer or harder reading content all on their own.



Pick a series and start reading a chapter or two together at night. You can trade off pages or paragraphs. If nothing else, your child will relish the extra one-on-one time with you.

The goal is that your child will eventually become engaged enough in the book to tackle the next installment in the series or continue ahead at their own pace. If not, keep reading with them or pick a new series and try again.

Start a Reading Tracker or Reading Goal Chart

Schools and libraries often have goal-oriented reading programs, but they usually aren't year-round and things related to school can feel obligatory to kids, which can take away the fun.

BRING Books^{to} Life!

Reading Chart

1.	Book Title	Begin Date	End Date	Completed?
2.				Y N
3.				Y N
4.				Y N
5.				Y N
6.				Y N
7.				Y N
8.				Y N
9.				Y N
10.				Y N
11.				Y N
12.				Y N
13.				Y N
14.				Y N
15.				Y N
16.				Y N

But there are other options. On sites like [Pinterest](#) or [Teachers Pay Teachers](#), there are a number of online printable options that you can use to start your own program at home.

If your child is especially reluctant to read, create small tiered rewards for reaching certain page counts or completing book goals. It might seem like bribing your child to read, but it is a process that can lead them to books they truly love.

A rewards-based or competitive program may also be helpful for older tweens and teens who are

reluctant readers.

Take Trips to the Local Library or Independent Bookstore

Make stopping at your library or bookstore a regular activity with your child. Don't just rush in and out. Let them explore and browse. It makes the act of selecting a book a fun adventure in itself.



Booksellers and librarians serve as excellent resources for finding the right books to engage your child. For older kids, give them the space to choose their reading materials or engage with the staff on their own.



Don't Give Up!

The allure of the phone and the TV are relentless — for all of us. Most likely your child will not immediately become an avid reader or fall in love with the first book you put in their hands. That's ok!

Like any habit, it may take your child a while to learn how to become a reader. Be persistent in helping them find the genre or type of book they truly enjoy. There is something for everyone out there!

2019 WNBA Pannell Award Nominations

Since 1983, the [Women's National Book Association](#) (WNBA) has awarded one of the most prestigious honors in children's bookselling in the United States. Given annually at BookExpo America's Children's Book and Author Breakfast, the [WNBA Pannell Award](#) recognizes bookstores that enhance their communities by bringing exceptional creativity to foster a



love of reading and books in children and young adults.

Every year, a panel of publishing professionals selects two award winners: one general bookstore and one children's specialty bookstore. Nominations come from customers, sales reps, bookstore employees, or anyone who has been impressed with the work of a particular independent bookstore.

There are two easy ways to nominate a bookstore for the Pannell Award.

1. Complete the [Online Nomination Form](#)
2. Email WNBAPannell@gmail.com and include the following:
 - Name, email address, and phone number of person making the nomination
 - Nominating person's connection to the bookstore
 - Bookstore name, address, and contact information for the bookstore owner/manager
 - A brief statement outlining the reasons for nominating the bookstore

Nominations must be received by February 21, 2019.

The WNBA Pannell Award co-chairs, Susan Knopf and Sally M. Kim, will reach out to all nominated bookstores to request a formal electronic submission.

Submissions should include a description of programs, events, activities, goals, and any contributions to the bookseller's local community that focus on connecting kids to the love of reading. Photos, media coverage, letters from customers, and other supplementary material may be included in the submission.

Once the WNBA Pannell Award jurors have reviewed all submissions, the winning bookstores will be notified by phone and all submitting bookstores will also receive a call.

Each of the winners will receive a \$1,000 check and a framed, signed original art piece from a children's book illustrator. The presentation of the award will be in New York City at [BookExpo America's Children's Book and Author Breakfast](#), which draws more than 1,000 attendees.

Along with the WNBA, [Penguin Young Readers Group](#) co-sponsors the award. The award was established in honor of Lucile Micheels Pannell, founding member of one of the WNBA chapters.

Established in 1917, the WNBA is a national organization of women and men who promote the value of the written word by championing the role of women in the book community and by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information about book lovers and professionals.

By Nicole Ayers (Charlotte)



Here's a roundup of recent blog posts.

Check Out These Recent Posts

Copyeditor Julie L. Frey (Greater Philadelphia) teaches you "[How To Write Readable Digital Content: The Basics](#)." If you've been considering a spot as a guest blogger, this is a must read.

WNBA members from San Francisco and New Orleans have [great news to share](#) this month.

Learn more about members [Hortensia Calvo](#) (New Orleans), [Kathleen Burkinshaw](#) (Charlotte), [Sarah "Bebe" Brechner](#) (Nashville), [Karen Kersting](#) (New Orleans), [Jane Kinney Denning](#) (New York City) in their "Power Behind the WNBA" interviews.

WNBA-NYC member Claudia Riess wrote a poignant guest blog post, "[Writing in the Face of Grief](#)." She writes, "Creativity can make the inevitable easier to face."

[WNBA-Greater Philadelphia](#) shares their wonderful events and how they're supporting the United Nation's Global Goals, as well as their presentation of the Eastman Grant to the Pennsylvania School Librarians Association.

Find the Blog

Maybe you've been meaning to look up the blog, but you haven't gotten to it yet. No worries. 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 header.

Don't forget to bookmark the page!

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

Share Your News

By Nicole Ayers (Charlotte)



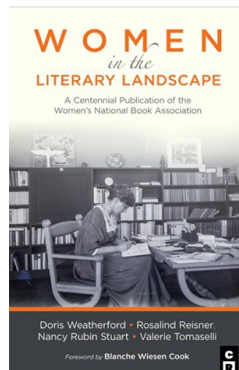
Do you have great news to share? We'd love to hear it! Send it to your chapter's *Bookwoman* correspondent for inclusion in next month's [Member News](#) blog post.

Chapter correspondents send news in by the 15th of each month, and the member news post will drop the first Tuesday of the following

month.

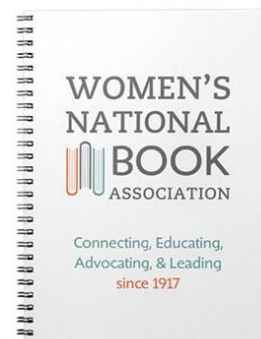
If you have an idea for a guest blog post, send me your pitch:
newsletter@wnba-books.org.

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*.



Capture Your Ideas with the *WNBA Spiral Notebook*

Don't let inspiration be forgotten — write it down with the WNBA spiral notebook! A perfect accessory for book clubs or chapter meetings with your local chapter.

Donate to the WNBA

Become a WNBA Member

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[Submission Guidelines 2018-19](#)

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

[Women's National Book Association](#) | newsletter@wnba-books.org | <https://wnba-books.org/>

