

January 15, 2019

Dear Friend of the WNBA,

I hope you're all enjoying the start of the new year. I, myself, am feeling energized and am committed to making 2019 a kickass year for WNBA and all advocates for women. The board is working hard on making this our best year yet, but we can't do this without your help!



We have some open board positions, and we're looking for passionate and ambitious women to join us in shaping the next century of our organization. I'm especially committed to making sure WNBA continues to represent ALL women, and I encourage women from diverse backgrounds to reach out. Open positions include **Writing Contest Chair, Communications Chair, Fundraising Chair, and board members in Boston**. If you're interested in any of these positions, please [email me](#).

As a volunteer for almost a decade, I know firsthand the benefits of giving your time to an organization like WNBA. I always say that WNBA is one of the best decisions I've made, personally and professionally, and I know many of our volunteers feel the same.

Will you consider joining us this year and making the decision to not only give back to the literary community, but to grow as a literary leader?

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

Reading Challenges for the New Year

By Tina Ollenburg (Charlotte)

Despite having endless TBR lists or more than a few shelves of unread books, even the most avid bookworm can get lost in a reading slump from time to time.

Maybe you don't feel challenged or your usual go-tos are starting to feel stale. If that's the case for you, or if you're just looking to be more intentional with your reading this year, consider doing a reading challenge.



A reading challenge centers on a theme or set list (like a scavenger hunt for books) that helps you discover titles, authors, or genres you never would have picked up before. There are tons out there online, but I've rounded up a few of my favorites. If you don't see one you like here, check out this [master list](#) for more ideas.



The New York Times Book Review Challenge — This is a challenge I made up for myself a few years ago. I read every book [Michiko Kakutani](#) reviewed for The New York Times over the course of one year. I called it "I Want Michiko's Job."

Kakutani has since retired, but you could apply this to another one of the Times reviewers still working ([Dwight Garner](#), [Jennifer Szalai](#), [Parul Sehgal](#)) or a reviewer from another publication or blog you like.

The Fifty States Challenge — This challenge is not for the faint of heart, as it will probably require some research and, obviously, entails reading fifty books.

As you can probably guess, the task is to read one book set in or about each state in our country. Some will be super easy (New York or California) and others will be a little more difficult (I'm thinking Wyoming or Rhode Island).

The Reading Women Challenge — Since this is the WNBA after all, of course I'll mention a challenge that centers on women authors. From the [Reading Women](#) podcast, this list doesn't just ask you to pick a random selection of books written by women, but tasks you with twenty-four specific categories, including "Lambda Literary Award winner" and "Featuring a woman in science." [Access the full list.](#)

Back to the Classics — This challenge is for anyone who misses the old days of required reading. Also, there's a chance at a small prize. The list for this one includes twelve categories with specific geographical or time-period requirements. The overarching rule is that every book must have been written over fifty years ago. [Learn more.](#)

Whether you choose to do a challenge or not this year, happy reading!

Make Time to Visit the *Bookwoman* Blog

By Nicole Ayers (Charlotte)

Every week we post new content from our WNBA chapters and members. Here's a roundup of recent posts.

Check Out These Recent Posts



[Women's National Book Association—San Francisco](#) celebrates fifty fabulous years as a leading organization in their community!

Many chapters struggle to get our newest members involved. Pam Ebel (New Orleans) has ideas about how to do just that in her post "[The New Kid on the Block: Gaining and Retaining New Members.](#)"

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

Learn more about members [Pat D'Innocenzo](#) (Greater Philadelphia), [Paula Watts](#) (Nashville), [Tabitha Whissemore](#) (DC), [Catherine Jardines](#) (Charlotte), and [Nicole Eiden](#) (New Orleans) in their "Power Behind the WNBA" interviews.

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.

Become a Guest Blogger

By Nicole Ayers (Charlotte)



Get Involved

Do you participate in a book club, book festival, writer's group, or some other special book activity that you'd like to talk about? Do you have tips (reading, writing, publishing, marketing, event planning, etc.) to help other members?

Become a guest blogger for the WNBA! We'd love to hear about your experiences and expertise. If you're a WNBA member with an idea to pitch, email me at newsletter@wnba-books.org.

Share Your News

Do you have great news to share? Then 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 fifteenth of each month, and the

member news post will drop the first Tuesday of the following month.

Donate Books to Rebuild a Library's Collection

By Linda Rosen (South Florida)

I recently learned of an opportunity for authors to help rebuild the book collection of a public library in Paradise, California, after devastating wildfires destroyed its books.

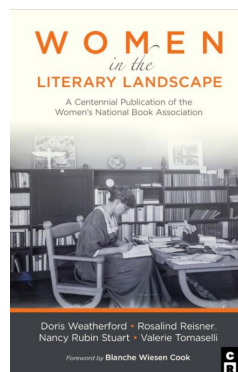


When the physical integrity of the library is restored, storage space for books again is available, and collection needs are determined, the library will be able to accept books once again.

A group of authors and other lovers of books are working with the Paradise librarian to assemble a list of books that authors pledge to donate to rebuild the collection.

If you would like to pledge to donate copies of your books, email philip.j.padgett@gmail.com.

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*.



New Year, New Books!
[The WNBA Book Tote Bag](#)

A new year is here, which means there will be new releases to stock up on at the bookstore. Purchase a WNBA tote bag from our Zazzle store. It's the perfect way to carry around your 2019 TBRs!

Donate to the WNBA

Become a WNBA Member

The Bookwoman Staff

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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/>

