

November 2018

Dear Friend of the WNBA,

I'm struggling with motivation this month. I am someone who takes the responsibilities I've been given very seriously, so it's hard for me not to feel pulled in a million different directions and to feel like I'm never quite doing enough. I shared this concern with Nicole Ayers, the brilliant editor of this newsletter, and she told me something that I want to share with you all in case you need to hear it, too: *"You are enough and you are doing enough."*



In struggling to feel motivated this month, I've also felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude to the women who make up the WNBA national and local boards. To anyone who volunteers or supports the WNBA, I want you to know that your work does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. To all the chapter presidents and committee chairs, and to anyone who's offered their home for an event or brought food for a potluck or hosted a reading, please know that the WNBA is what it is because of you, and I am truly grateful. We carry the weight not only of this organization and its one-hundred-year-old history but also its capacity to change and evolve with the women we seek to represent. I'm grateful to share this weight with you all.

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

Have You Bookmarked the *Bookwoman* Blog? You should!

By Nicole Ayers (Charlotte)

The Bookwoman blog is a success! We add new content on Tuesdays, Fridays, and the occasional Thursday.

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 "Bookwoman" in the header.

Don't forget to bookmark the page!



Check Out These Recent Posts

WNBA-Nashville has been busy with the [Southern Festival of Books](#). Read about their fabulous [event](#).

[Read about members](#) celebrating book awards, new positions, and book releases this month and send them warm wishes.

Want an insider's look at Great Group Reads? Read [Rachel Slaiman's post](#) about participating on the selection committee.

Get to know members [Beth Frerking](#), [Lisa Braxton](#), and [Rae Theodore](#) in their "Power Behind the WNBA" interviews.

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.

Don't forget that we're always on the lookout for guest bloggers. Read "[A Haunt Actor's Life](#)," Christine Lajewski's guest post for a great example. If you're a WNBA member with an idea to pitch, email me at newsletter@wnba-books.org.

The WNBA Needs You!

By **Rachelle Yousuf (Los Angeles)**

Call for Boston Board Members!

We are looking for women in the Boston area who are interested in volunteering for one of our oldest chapters! Our open positions are listed below. All women who represent the diverse communities found in Boston are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should email Rachelle Yousuf at president@wnba-books.org.



- **President**

Supervises the affairs of the chapter and presides at all meetings of the Chapter and board of directors. Appoints all committee chairs and vacant positions. Represents the Chapter on the WNBA National Board of Directors.

- **Vice President**

Serves as chair of the program committee. Performs the duties of the president in the absence of the president. Works with the president to plan and implement WNBA activities.

- **Treasurer**

Receives all contributions from chapter members and any other income. Keeps an accounting of all receipts and expenditures. Presents detailed financial statements.

Call for National Writing-Contest Chair!

We're looking for a new national writing-contest chair to lead our successful contest into its seventh year. We are looking for an organized and committed woman to oversee:

- The call for submissions
- The recruitment and management of early readers and a diverse committee of judges
- The marketing and advertising for the contest

- Managing submissions and the reading/judging process
- Announcing the winners
- The contest timeline and budget

Knowledge of Submittable is necessary. This is a wonderful opportunity to manage a national and well-respected writing contest. Young and upcoming book professionals are welcome to apply. The executive board is committed to inclusivity—applicants who represent all communities of women are encouraged to apply. Interested applicants should email Rachelle Yousut at president@wnba-books.org.

Participate in Giving Tuesday

By Tina Ollenburg (Charlotte)

Every year, after the frenzy of Black Friday and Cyber Monday, we have Giving Tuesday, a great tradition of community giving in the midst of the holiday season. On November 27, please consider [donating to the WNBA](#).



Your gift will help support ongoing programs like:

- [WNBA Pannell Award](#)
- [WNBA Award](#)
- [National Reading Group Month](#)
- [UN NGO affiliation](#)
- ongoing special events like the recent [Centennial celebrations](#).

All contributions to the WNBA are tax deductible as we are a 501(c)(3) organization. We thank you in advance for your support of our work in promoting books, literacy, and women since 1917. Happy Holidays!



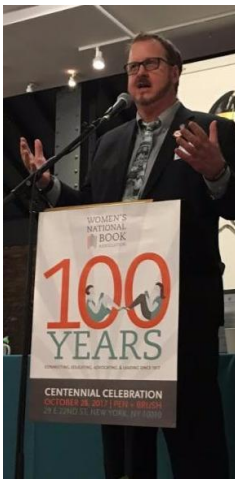
[Donate to the Women's National Book Association](#)

Remembering Todd H. Bol

By Pam Ebel (New Orleans)

On October 18, Todd H. Bol [died from complications of pancreatic cancer](#). The 62-year old was the founder and builder of the first [Little Free Library](#) (LFL) and served as the nonprofit's executive director. I had the pleasure of [interviewing Todd](#) last fall when the WNBA awarded the [Second Century Prize](#) to the LFL. I remember his enthusiasm, his dedication to the mission of making literacy available to all, and his infectious laugh.





In 2009, Todd built the first LFL out of an old garage door in honor of his mother. His mother, a teacher, had cherished books, literacy, and community.

To meet demand—and demand there was—Todd built 30 more LFLs in 2010. At the time of Todd's passing,

there were 75,000 LFLs all over the world. They come in all shapes and sizes, including police cruisers in Los Angeles and Minneapolis that visit their communities with signs that say “We Share Books.”

Todd told me that he never intended the LFL “to become a nonprofit venture. But the demand in the community was too great to ignore. It was really a mistake that took on a life of its own.” He laughed at his “mistake,” one that has affected community’s large and small worldwide.

Recalling a trip to India years before the creation of the LFL, Todd said he saw a nurse in a clinic caring for 15 bedridden patients. He asked her how she could see to everyone's needs. The nurse pointed to two or three people who stood or sat at each bedside and said, “Those are watchers. Family, neighbors. When a patient needs something, they try to get it done. If not, they tell me. We are a community.”

That experience inspired Todd. After creating the LFL, he set up a group of neighborhood watchers whose purpose was to find community members in need of help becoming literate. Todd believed that by helping others become literate they were helping people to fully participate in the American Dream.

We also talked about a time that Todd lost his job at a company he helped to start. At a loss for what to do next, his wife suggested he take some time for himself and reflect on where he wanted to go next: “So I took a road trip, like Easy Rider—except with a minivan and self-help tapes.” He laughed again.

Those experiences fed Todd’s mission to “make the world a better place for people to be neighbors in.”

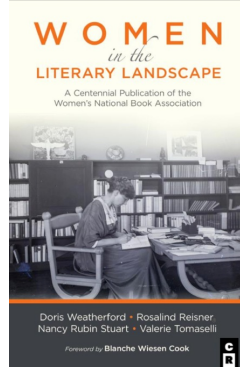
I asked him at the end of the interview what he would like those who love the LFL to do to help. He replied, “Tell them to become neighborhood watchers in their schools, libraries and community activities. Look at old wood garage doors and see the possibilities.” He laughed again.

Todd has left a large legacy to fill, but, it is a strong legacy with thousands of people across the world ready to help continue his mission.

I will remember Todd's laugh and his legacy every time I see a Little Free Library or a police cruiser pass me on the highway.



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*.

Order a [WNBA ornament!](#)

The holiday season is approaching fast. Adorn your tree with a WNBA ornament this year!

Be sure to look for Zazzle's latest coupon when you visit our store.

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/>

