

March 2020

Dear Friend of the WNBA,

I just reread my January letter, and it almost feels like we're living in a different world than when I wrote that letter. While I'm still feeling optimistic about this year, I'm starting to feel my confidence wane. Between the current health crisis, the issues surrounding diversity and inclusion in publishing, and the craziness of the upcoming presidential election, it's hard not to feel overwhelmed and frustrated.



I had the opportunity to attend an LA chapter board meeting a couple of weeks ago, and we started talking about why WNBA is important to us. It all came back to community. For me, the WNBA has given me a community I wouldn't have found otherwise. In these past few weeks, I:

- Went to the 75th birthday party of a former LA board member and friend
- Attended a reading with my former chapter vice president
- Went to my book club, which was started after a WNBA colleague introduced me to her friend who had just moved to LA

I could go on and on about what the WNBA has done for me, but I'd love for you to share with us how the WNBA has shaped your community. Let us know, and we'll share your story on our [Facebook page!](#)

Sincerely,

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

Covid-19 Update

By Julie L. Frey (Greater Philadelphia)

The WNBA has suspended events throughout the rest of March. We want members and friends of the WNBA to take

care of themselves and others by practicing social distancing.



One of the biggest struggles we're going to face is the lack of social interaction. While alone time can be refreshing, it can also be lonely.

As the coronavirus pandemic alters our lifestyles, we want you to know that although we are not meeting in person, we are still a community.

So, let's gather and read together virtually!

Book Passage Virtual Panel: [Does Social Media Really Sell Books?](#)

We invite everyone to join our San Francisco chapter tonight at 6 pm PT on Zoom for a fun panel discussion. WNBA-SF's own Elise Marie Collins joins members of the Author's Guild to clear up many of the myths and truths about social media for writers.

[Register](#)

Virtual Read-a-thon

From now until March 31, let's share all of the books by and about women that we possibly can!

Hop on social media and use #wnbacovidreadsto share your book recommendations with us!

Post [Indiebound](#) links to the books you're reading on [our Facebook page](#), and help independent bookstores continue to sell books despite being physically closed.

Or email us your reading lists at newsletter@wnba-books.org, and we will post the Indiebound links for you.

Stay safe!

Announcing a New Weekly Email Newsletter

By Julie L. Frey (Greater Philadelphia)



We are starting a new weekly email newsletter!

I've been working on staff for the **Bookwoman Newsletter** (which you're reading now) since 2017. Throughout my tenure, one of the biggest tasks has been creating content that appeals to our very diverse readership. So in December, I decided that the best way to do that is by creating another newsletter.

This new addition will be called the **Bookwoman Weekly** that will be published every week.

It will feature book-related content including curated blog posts and articles about interesting book news, upcoming events, updates on adaptations, giveaways, and other general-interest book content that aids our purpose in

supporting books and women in the literary world.

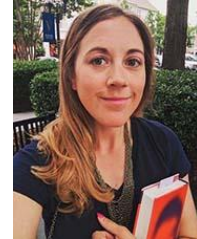
And after reviewing the results of the 2020 survey, I have become even more committed to delivering additional content on the topics you have asked to see.

The ***Bookwoman Newsletter***, which has been the flagship publication of the WNBA since 1936, will continue to be published on a monthly basis.

Thank you for joining us as we begin this new chapter in the *Bookwoman's* history!

WNBA-Nashville Gives Back

By Tina Ollenburg (Network)



As members of the WNBA, part of our mission involves acting as leaders and advocates within our communities and beyond. Many of our chapters spearhead volunteering and fundraising events in order to spread the gift of literature.

The Nashville Chapter has done this by sponsoring scholarships to the [Tennessee Young Writer's Workshop](#) each year. The chapter raises money for the scholarships at their booth at the [Southern Festival of Books](#) and with a portion of the funds raised by their holiday dinner. This year the money donated toward the scholarships is in memory of long-time Nashville member Carolyn Wilson.



WNBA-Nashville's booth at the Southern Festival of Books

The chapter also supports [Book'em](#), a nonprofit that distributes books to underprivileged children and brings volunteer readers into Title I schools throughout the Nashville area.

In addition, the chapter has hosted book drives and sip 'n sort events to gather reading materials for children.

If you have questions about these programs or would like to learn more about how to get involved, you can reach out to the National Membership Chair and Nashville chapter member Beth Frerking at beth.frerking@me.com.

Member Benefit: Send Us Your Books

By Julie L. Frey (Greater Philadelphia)



For a Giveaway

Want to get more exposure for your book?

The Bookwoman now has a promotional giveaway program (Don't forget to enter the giveaway at the end of this newsletter!).

If you'd like a copy of your book to be the giveaway in one of our newsletters or on our website, please send us an email at newsletter@wnba-books.org, and we'll set it up!

For Review

If you've ever wondered about the books we include in the newsletter and on the blog, they are books that have been chosen based on their merit and most have been read by the *Bookwoman's* staff or WNBA board members.

All WNBA members who have published a book or have a book coming out soon can send a copy of the physical book, ebook, or ARC to us to read.

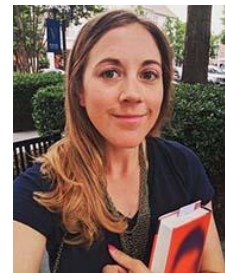
We're looking forward to reading all of your amazing words!

Email us at newsletter@wnba-books.org for more details.

[Join the WNBA!](#)

March is Women's History Month

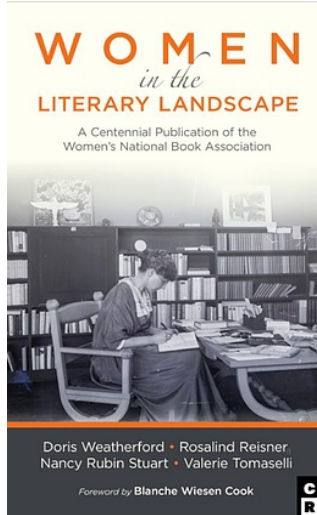
By Tina Ollenburg (Network)



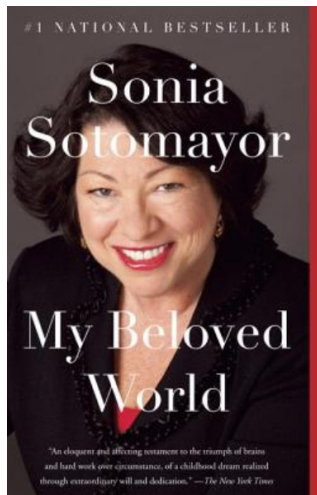
The month of March is [Women's History Month](#) in the United States. It is a time of education and celebration of the great role women have played in American history. For over 100 years, the WNBA has been a part of that history in its work to support and advocate for women in the literary community.

Below are just a few of the many books out there about great American women who became leaders in their communities. Take some time this month to reflect on the courageous work of the women who have come before us and know that, as a member of the WNBA, you are a part of that amazing history.

[Women in the Literary Landscape](#) by Dorie Weatherford, Rosalind Reisner, Nancy Rubin Stuart, and Valerie Tomasselli

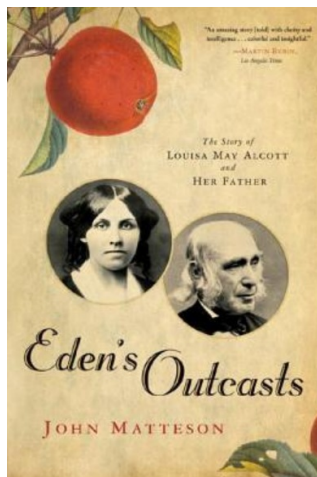


If you haven't already, check out the WNBA's own centennial publication about women's history in the literary community. No other publication has provided an overview of women's important roles in writing, publishing, bookselling, and librarianship.



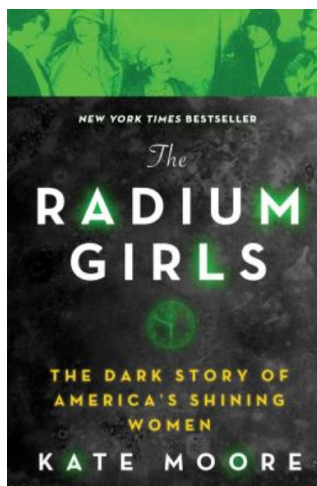
[My Beloved World](#) by Sonia Sotomayor

As the first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, Sotomayor has staked her place in history. In this intimate and honest memoir, Sotomayor describes her journey from a Bronx housing project to the highest court in the nation. Along the way she faced both setbacks and successes, from her diagnosis of Type 1 diabetes to her impressive academic achievements at Princeton and Yale. This book is an inspiring study of determination and American opportunity.



[Eden's Outcasts: The Story of Louisa May Alcott and Her Father](#) by John Matteson

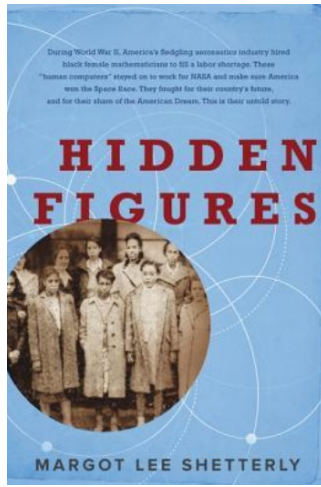
Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, this dual biography tells the story of Louisa May Alcott and her father, Bronson Alcott. We all may remember Louisa best now, but there was a time when the famous Alcott was her father. A peer of Emerson and Thoreau, he lived a life of high standards. His daughter's desire to make her own way in the world presented a challenge to his expectations. This book describes the tense but loving relationship between father and daughter and the impact it had on Louisa May Alcott's work.



[The Radium Girls: The Dark Story of America's Shining Women](#) by Kate Moore

In this nonfiction narrative tale, Moore recounts the ugly truth of radium in America's labor history. At the start of WWI, hundreds of young women go to work in factories where they paint watch faces and other products with the miracle substance known as radium. When many of the workers begin to fall sick, however, their plight is ignored by their employers. A number of these women, despite debilitating illness, bravely enter a legal battle against these factories that will have a

resounding impact on worker's rights to this day.



[Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race](#) by Margot Lee Shetterly

You may have heard of this story when it came out as a movie in 2016, but did you know that it was based on a book? As WNBA members, we all know the book is almost certainly better than the movie. Shetterly describes the lives of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, three African American women who worked as computers at NASA in the midst of the space race. The women overcame discrimination in the workplace and made amazing scientific, mathematical, and professional achievements, paving the way for future women in the field.

***Disclosure:** Some of the links in this email are affiliate links. If you click on an affiliate link and make a purchase, the WNBA may earn a small commission. Please note that all books listed in this email are chosen on their merit, and purchasing through the link is a great way to support independent bookstores and to help the WNBA continue to bring you original content.*

Are You a Poet?

We are looking for poets who would like to be interviewed for our April newsletter. Is that you?

If you are a WNBA member who is a published poet, please email newsletter@wnba-books.org, tell us what chapter you are a member of and a little bit about your work.

We look forward to hearing from you!

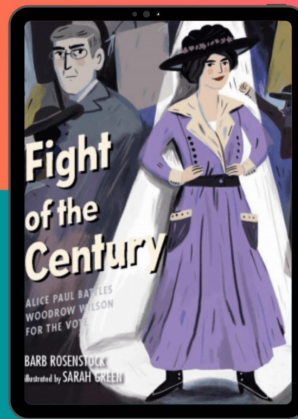
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"... this is an engaging way of making history fun and relevant."

—*Booklist*

"Utilizing the language and structure of a boxing match, this fast-paced selection covers Alice Paul's activism, ongoing support of women's suffrage, and continuing advocacy for passage of the 19th Amendment during Woodrow Wilson's two presidential terms." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Enter

The Bookwoman Staff

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

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