Dear Friend of the WNBA,

It's that time of year again, when membership chairs start thinking about encouraging people to renew. This year, that feels a little funny. Is it right to add one more thing to people's plates?

Right now, instead of rolling through spring on the downhill slope to summer, I am thinking about maintaining social distance and rethinking how I work, shop, and play. I find I am consciously trying to stay connected (because, frankly, I'm pretty darn happy all by myself curled up with a good book).

As Rachelle said in the last newsletter, I treasure the connections that I've made through WNBA. Although we have a fantastic list of member benefits, the interesting people I've met and the friendships I've made are what I value most about WNBA.

WNBA is all about bringing the book community together. Consider checking out our new opportunities. On April 1, we launched a members-only book club on Facebook. This virtual monthly book club will read selections from our Great Group Reads (GGR) lists. The book club will begin on the first day of each month with members discussing the book through a private Facebook Group. A live discussion will take place on the last Tuesday of each month via web chat.

We're going to be launching a new Facebook group and an Instagram page for bookwomen across the country to connect. Look for the links to both in upcoming emails.

We also have lots of volunteer opportunities available. Volunteering is a great way to boost your résumé, learn new skills, and connect with your fellow WNBA members. Check out the opportunity we have listed below. Look for an upcoming email with a list of opportunities or email newsletter@wnba-
So, if you have a little time on your hands, consider taking a moment to explore the opportunities to connect with your fellow WNBA members online, or reach out to someone in your chapter.

We know that these are uncertain financial times for many people, but if you have the means, please consider joining or renewing your membership. If you join or renew by April 30, you'll get one month free! Your membership will be valid through May 31, 2021.

And if you are one of our National Network members and have ideas for how we can make this new membership category more valuable to you, please send them this way.

Hope you and your loved ones are all well.

Sincerely,

Beth Frerking (Nashville)
National Membership Chair
beth.frerking@me.com

Get One Month of Membership Free

If you join the WNBA or renew by April 30, you will receive one month free! Your membership will be valid through May 31, 2021.

Join or Renew Now!

A Tale of Two Members

Attend our upcoming FREE webinar:

Exploring the Author – Editor Relationship
with Nicole Ayers (Charlotte) & Tanya Gold (Boston)

April 22nd at 1 pm ET/12 am CT/10 am PT

on Zoom (and hopefully Facebook Live)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81474917500?pwd=Skp5bUZHZAzYm43VEVtaTV3N2JRDz09
Password: 042220
Tina Ollenburg (Network) will host an interview with Nicole Ayers and Tanya Gold who will talk about their experience working together on Nicole’s recently released three book collection:

- **Love Notes to My Body**
- **Love Letters to My Body: Writing My Way to (Self-)Love**
- **Writing Your Way to (Self-)Love: A Guided Journal to Help You Love Your Body, One Part at a Time**

Participants will be able to ask questions at the end of the webinar. We will be recording the event in case you can’t make it.

We hope you will join us!

(Keep reading to enter a giveaway for one of Nicole’s books!)

Nicole Ayers is a woman on a journey to fully love and accept all of herself, especially all of her body. In addition to writing this three book compilation, she is the founder of Ayers Edits and the former editor of the *Bookwoman*. She’s also a wife and mother to two brilliant, brave daughters. Learn more about Nicole and her new books at [www.NicoleAyers.com](http://www.NicoleAyers.com).

Photo credit: Cass Bradley

Tanya Gold is a book editor, writing coach, editing instructor, and literary omnivore based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. She has been in publishing for about 20 years and has worked on all kinds of cool books. These days, she edits mostly fiction, creative nonfiction, and poetry.

It has been suggested that she reads too much for her own good. This might be true. Learn more about Tanya at [www.TanyaGold.com](http://www.TanyaGold.com).
By Julie L. Frey (Greater Philly)

The Bookwoman Book Club has started!

To date, we have **73 WNBA members** getting to know each other and preparing to talk about our April selection, *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek*.

If you want to participate in the book club but haven't read the book or won't be reading the book, **you can still participate.** [Hop on Facebook](https://www.facebook.com) — we'd love for you to join us!

We will be discussing the book on **April 28 at 9 pm ET/8 pm CT/6 pm PT**.

The discussion will take place over Zoom and (fingers crossed) will stream on Facebook Live. We will be recording the discussion, so, if you can't make it, you can still watch it.

Look for our email on Friday with the Zoom link. We'll also be announcing May's book club selection and a giveaway of the book. I'll give you a hint: there has been a lot of good buzzzz about it!

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**Facebook Moderators Needed**

By Julie L. Frey (Greater Philly)

With the Bookwoman Book Club and the new Facebook group that's coming soon, we need a few people to help us moderate the groups.

All you'd need to do is respond to comments, kick off some conversations, and make sure people are following our rules. Very simple. It would require checking in on the group you are moderating several times a week, but you're on Facebook already, right?

This is a perfect opportunity for someone who wants to get involved, get to know members across the country, and talk books.

Please email me if you are interested or would like more information: [newsletter@wnba-books.org](mailto:newsletter@wnba-books.org).

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**Members in the News**

Pamela Milam (NYC) was featured in an article about *entertainment during social distancing* published by the Associated Press on March 20 and featured in a many newspapers across the country.

On March 20, Linda Rosen (South Florida & National Secretary) discussed her debut book, *The Disharmony of Silence*, on the *Hear Us Roar* podcast hosted
by Maggie Smith (Network). You can listen to the episode on an app or on Linda's website.

Carla Bass (DC) had an article published in Military Officers Association of America Magazine entitled "The Post-interview Thank You Note."

Introducing the WNBA's UN Youth Representatives

By Jane Kinney-Denning (NYC)

Please join us in welcoming Lola Owoseni and Ishani Singh as our WNBA Youth Representatives to the United Nations.

Lola and Ishani, both currently pursuing an MS in Publishing: Digital and Print Media degree at NYU, bring a wealth of experience and excitement to these positions, and they attended the 21st CTAUN Conference at the United Nations, WAR NO MORE, on February 28, 2020.

"We are so honored to have two of our graduate students selected to be WNBA Youth Representatives to the United Nations. Both Lola and Ishani are dedicated to being global citizens of the world, sharing ideas and content across borders and fostering the values of the UN Charter. We are very grateful to the WNBA and to the United Nations for giving them this wonderful opportunity," said Andrea Chambers, Executive Director, NYU Center for Publishing and Academic Director, NYU Ms in Publishing: Digital and Print Media.

The Women's National Book Association has been a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) member of the United Nations since 1959. As an NGO associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications / Civil Society Unit, we are committed to sharing the ideals of the UN Charter and to conducting programming throughout our 10 chapters about UN activities and sustainable development goals.

Lola and Ishani join National President Rachelle Yousuf, Chief Representative Jill Tardiff, and representatives Marilyn Berkman and Jane Kinney as WNBA Representatives to the United Nations Department of Global Communication/Civil Society Unit.

Lola Owoseni is currently pursuing an MS in Publishing: Digital and Print Media degree at NYU. In addition, she has a degree in Business Management from the University of Surrey as well as a degree in Business Administration & Marketing at Columbia University. Originally from London, England, Lola has lived and worked in 4 other countries: Australia, Spain, the United States, and Canada. Having worked in many areas of business, Lola has enjoyed her experiences working both at large international companies as well as with small non-profit organizations. Passionate about spreading positive media content to help empower young girls and women globally, especially in developing countries, Lola hopes to start her own publishing company one day to help her achieve these goals of empowering young girls around the world to...
live with confidence and to live the lives they have always imagined.

“I am extremely excited to be a part of the Women’s National Book Association UN Youth Representative program — I know this experience will be important and inspiring in my professional development as I have always admired the work of the United Nations, so I feel lucky to have this opportunity.”

Ishani Singh was born in New Delhi, India and grew up in Mumbai before moving back to Delhi at the age of nine. Ishani completed high school in Delhi, followed by a bachelor’s degree in History at Delhi University. After completing her undergraduate degree, she completed a one-year postgraduate liberal arts program at Ashoka University in Sonepat, Haryana. Ishani’s first job was working as a journalist at Scroll Media in India. This was followed by her second job as an editor and research coordinator at the biodigital publishing house, Sahapedia; a publisher of works on Indian culture and arts. Ishani is currently pursuing an MS in Publishing: Digital and Print Media degree at NYU and aspires to start a magazine of her own that is globally inclusive and representative of all sections of society with heavy focus on women’s empowerment.

“I am excited to be a Women’s National Book Association youth representative as it will introduce me to a network of interesting people from whom I can learn and grow.”

Celebrating National Poetry Month

By Tina Ollenburg (Network)
April is National Poetry Month!

Within the WNBA, we have a number of amazing poets, and we wanted to shine a light on their work, as well as their experiences with writing and reading poetry.

**Featured Poets:**

**Linda Vigen Phillips (Charlotte)**
Linda is passionate about poetry and realistic fiction. She is the author of two novels, *Crazy* and *Behind These Hands*. You can find out more about her, as well as links to her poems, on her [website](#).

**Alexandra Goodwin (South Florida)**
Born in Argentina, Alexandra writes in both English and Spanish. She is the author of two books of poems, a novel, and an interactive haiku coloring book. Learn more about her work at her [website](#).

**Andrea Panzeca (New Orleans)**
Andrea is the author of two poetry chapbooks, *Rusted Bells and Daisy Baskets* and *Weird...Joe Pesci*, as well as the president of the New Orleans chapter. You can find her work and recordings at her [website](#).

**Gina Ferrara (New Orleans)**
Gina is the author of several poetry collections, including *Ethereal Avalanche* and *Amber Porch Light*. Click [here](#) to read her poem, "Near the Bend," published in Oyster River Pages.

This interview has been edited for space.

**Read the full interview.**

**Q: What first drew you to writing poetry?**

**Linda:** My father and mother exchanged poems when he was stationed overseas for three years during WWII. I began to realize their mutual love and respect for poetry during grade school, when I had to find a poem to memorize. My father whipped out a pile of ragged and yellowed clippings from *The Detroit Free Press*, where Edgar Guest, known as The People's Poet, published over 11,000 mostly upbeat and sentimental poems. I could still recite one for you if have time. It's called "A Bird and a Bad Day," and, yes, it encouraged me in many ways, not the least of which was to begin writing my own poems.

**Gina:** The earliest draw would have been my grandmother. I was young during the Vietnam war, and I had an uncle who was in the army. My grandmother
insisted that I write letters to him. I would often spend summer days at her house, so every day she made me write a letter that would make him feel like he was in the same room. In her way, she was encouraging details and specificity, qualities that I believe are essential to poetry and certainly what I still strive to do in my poems. And like those letters, poetry is so much about the moment, a reflection of where we are at any given time and making a connection.

Q: What would be your advice for aspiring poets?

Andrea: Read widely but also deeply. I don’t mean close-read every poem you come across. I mean surface-read poems by lots of people. You don’t have to “get it.” Just read, and if you like it, if a moment makes you go “huh,” read more by that poet. If you really like a poet, try to read all of their work. Definitely search for videos of poets you like reading their work. Follow poets on Twitter who share the work of others to find poems to read widely (for example, I heard about Eileen Myles through reading Maggie Nelson), and you’ll want to read their work as well.

Q: Do you think there is an ideal way to experience poetry? What would you suggest for readers interested in poetry but somewhat intimidated by it?

Alexandra: To me, the ideal way to experience poetry is with your heart, not your brain. You need to let the words, the rhythm, the musicality of the rhymes (if there are any), and the wonder of metaphors and other poetic devices, pour over your senses, and let it carry you to that realm where the soul finds itself at home. Readers interested in poetry but who are somewhat intimidated by it should approach poetry not from an intellectual standpoint but a spiritual one. I used to be intimidated by the lack of understanding, but once I surrendered to the need to internalize a poem intellectually and allowed myself to become aware of how the poem made me feel, I realized that was the only way to benefit from it.

Win a Copy of Love Letters to My Body

Sponsored by Nicole Ayers

This book is a collection of personal essays that digs into the grittier side of this journey to accept all the parts of my body. It’s vulnerable and honest and poignant. Sometimes I laughed, and sometimes I ached, while writing these love letters, and I always knew I was on to something special when my truth tears showed up.

"... As Nicole explores the facets of her own self-love by describing defects,
memories, and even perfections in various parts of her body, she encourages us to do the same. Read 'Love Letters' to learn a way to vulnerable self-acceptance. Share it to reclaim your own bodies, one part at a time."

—5-Star Review

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**The Bookwoman Staff**

**Editor in Chief:** Julie L. Frey (Greater Philadelphia)  
**Newsletter Managing Editor:** Tina Ollenburg (Network)  
**Assistant Editor:** Rachel Slaiman (New York City)

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**Women's National Book Association**

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