



Women's National Book Association Los Angeles Chapter The Ultimate Resource for the Book Community

January 2009

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DEAR CHAPTER MEMBERS,

Happy New Year!

It's a new year, full of new opportunities and challenges to enrich our personal and professional lives. To make it easier for you to get to know one another in our chapter's lively community of bookwomen, we're featuring all those members with an online presence in this month's member highlight. If you haven't had time or interest in going virtual, take the next step and set up your free WNBA blog. To help you step into 2009 with fewer carbon prints, read our tips on how to stick with your green year resolutions.

Inspirational Quote of the Month

"We spend January 1 walking through our lives, room by room, drawing up a list of work to be done, cracks to be patched. Maybe this year, to balance the list, we ought to walk through the rooms of our lives... not looking for flaws, but for potential."

~ Ellen Goodman

A Word from Kelly...



"For last year's words belong to last year's language
And next year's words await another voice.
And to make an end is to make a beginning." ~T.S. Eliot

Happy New Year!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. Dana and I were invited to a local Indian Reservation outside of Santa Fe, New Mexico for Christmas Eve. I've never experienced anything like it--dancers dressed in buffalo, antelope, and deer skin, faces painted, feathers with drumming from midnight until 3am--louder than any rock concert I've

ever attended. We could feel the spirits of the animals and the elders-it was haunting and magical all at the same time--definitely the most unique way I've ever brought in Christmas. Then I experienced my first-ever white Christmas. Here's a silly video Dana took of me making a snow angel:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njvTzZeUY70>

On a Dream Project note--although it's been a while since last September's United Nations NGO conference in Paris, I thought I'd share this 5-minute video Melinda Woolf filmed and Dana just edited of the talk I gave about the Dream Project:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VDNkrhX2Jw&feature=email>

Sign up to follow the Dream Project Blog to see what the kids are learning and discovering regarding their piece in the world piece puzzle.

<http://thedreamprojectun.blogspot.com/>

I look forward to seeing you at our exciting events coming up this next year that are sure to make 2009 the best year ever. Look for an opportunity to contribute to an inspirational book written by WNBA members about media training. Learn how to deliver a "nitch pitch" to publishers, agents, and media, as well as a rapid networking event to pair authors with agents and publishers.

We also now have PayPal set up on our website so that new members can join on-line, and members can pre-pay admission to events. We have truly joined the 21st century! (Thank you, Terri Negron, Julia Drake, and Melinda Woolf!)

With the whole world looking to set intentions for the best possible year, I hope you'll join me in riding the wave and setting personal, societal, and global intentions to make this the best year ever.

Happy New Year and Happy New YOU!

Kelly Sullivan Walden

RECENT EVENTS 2008 -- A SHORT REVIEW



Saturday, Dec 6, WNBA/LA's Holiday Festivities 2008

By Ruth Light

WNBA/LA's Holiday Gathering was very, very festive!!

On Dec. 6th our chapter members, plus many friends of chapter members, met to light the holiday spirit and to celebrate another fabulous year of coming together around writing and books! Chapter member Mira Tweti did most of the organizing, and all of the food preparation, and the results were fantastic!

For the first hour we gathered for snacking, socializing, and shopping at the bountiful silent auction. Mira had gathered many beautiful and unusual items for us, and the silent auction was very successful. Then came the showing of Little Miss Dewie: a Duckumentary. Produced and directed by Mira, this is the story of the charming and often hilarious adventures encountered as Mira searches for the perfect home for the abandoned duck.



Then we were "gifted" with a lovely Christmas "poemsong", by WNBA/LA CHAPTER MEMBER, Lisa-Catherine Cohen. I call it a poemsong because the piece had the best elements of both. Lisa-Catherine had music in the background as she presented her lovely and moving LAST CHRISTMAS. If



you would like to hear it, or hear it again, go to www.chrisbennett.com

Then Kelly Sullivan Walden presented her documentary, Will You Listen? The film discusses the role that young people play in the fulfillment of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. This documentary was done completely by students who have been participating in Kelly's inspirational curriculum, the Dream Project.

We wound up our gathering with more delicious food, more silent auction activity, and much holiday spirit!

UPCOMING EVENTS 2009 -- A SNEAK PEEK

Sunday, January 25, Board Meeting ----Judy Lopez Memorial Award

By Ruth Light

Who gets this annual award? How does one apply for it? Where is it presented, and when did it start, and who have been the previous recipients?? All of these questions, and more, will be discussed and answered in a meeting on January 25th. Judy Lopez was one of the founding members for our Los Angeles chapter of the Women's National Book Association, and our current treasurer, Jeff Slottow, is her brother. And we, as a chapter, have been organizing and supporting this national award for excellence in literature for 9-12 year olds for decades.

Please join us for this meeting. We seek and benefit from our members' input about our chapter activities, and the Judy Lopez Award is the biggest event of our year. January 25th is the date, and the time and place will be announced soon. There are many opportunities for significant and meaningful participation in the presentation of this award, including author representation, author escorting, program development, and many more. Mark your calendars, and we will send out the particulars soon.

WEBSITE/NEWSLETTER NEWS

Here's a review of the information and services, featured on our WNBA/LA Web site and our WNBA/LA newsletter.

WNBA/LA Web site:

<http://www.wnba-books.org/la>

This is the link to our local WNBA/LA Web site. Bookmark it NOW on your browser. Here is why:

Our WNBA/LA web site features:

- **Recent and upcoming events:** Many events are open to members and the public, so you can invite your friends and spread the word.
- **Member news:** Find out what's happening in our member community. Who just published a book? Who's doing a book signing? Who's hosting a media event?
- **Member benefits:** What benefits do I enjoy as a member of WNBA?
- **Member books:** A list of books, published by our members
- **Member blogs:** Here's your chance to connect with other members and to share with them and the world what you're about and what's cooking in your career. Even better, you don't have to set up your blog yourself. Our web designer, Terri Negron, will set up your own personal blog for you. Terri's e-mail is: [<ttorg@aol.com>](mailto:ttorg@aol.com)
- **Newsletter Archive:** Missed a newsletter? Just download it on PDF.
- **Newsletter Submission Guidelines &WNBA style sheet:** Have a great idea for a submission to the newsletter? Refer to these guidelines and send your story off to [<juliadrake28@gmail.com>](mailto:juliadrake28@gmail.com)

Click [here](#) to download the WNBA style sheet & Submission Guidelines!!

In addition, our WNBA/LA Web site also provides links to connect you with **WNBA National**--our thriving organization all over the country.

Password for "Member's only" section

Interested in accessing an audio library with panel discussions, expert advice on pitching, publishing, editors, agents, and some inspiration from successful authors in the book industry? Request your member password from Ruth Light <ruthabc.ca.rr.com> or Julia Drake <juliadrake28@gmail.com>

MEMBER HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

The following is a list of personal and professional Web sites/blogs of some of our WNBA/LA members. Please click on the links to go to any of the sites. If you're not on the list and would like to be, please email <juliadrake28@gmail.com>. We're also planning to post this information on our WNBA/LA Web site later this year.

Moira Nordholt

www.firehorserider.com: Read about Moira's travels and motorcycle adventures on her personal blog.

www.feelgoodguru.com: Moira is the founder and contributor of Feel Good Guru, an online destination for eco-consumers, looking for the best places to eat, shop, travel, and pamper body, mind, and the planet.

Laurel Corona

www.laurelcorona.com: This site features Laurel's books, her author bio, upcoming media events, and her online diary.

Ina Hillebrandt

www.inaspawprints.com: This is Ina's place for free writing prompts to get those juices flowing, from Ina's Weird Prompts (TM), plus books, gifts and writers' tools to aMUSE (TM).

Beth Lieberman

www.publishersmarketplace.com/members/BethLieberman: This site features Beth's professional editorial services and editorial background.

www.theeditorscircle.com: Beth is part of The Editor's Circle, a group of independent, experienced editors, offering a wide range of editorial services, including manuscript critiques, book proposals, query letters, agent referrals, book marketing, and more.

www.laeditorsandwritersgroup.com: Beth is also involved with The Los Angeles Editors & Writers Group, assisting authors and professionals in turning their ideas into print.

Sharmagne Leland St. John

www.quillandparchment.com: Sharmagne is the Editor-in Chief of *Quill and Parchment*, a 7 1/2 year old online literary journal which publishes poetry, short stories, short articles, book reviews, recipes and, recently included, artwork and photography.

Guest passwords:

NAME: december
PASSWORD: tree

Mira Tweti

www.dewieduck.com: This site holds anything you need to know about Mira's duckumentary *Little Miss Dewie*, including film festival news, reviews, and more.

www.parrotstory.com: Visit this site to discover all about parrots, read reviews and press on Mira, and order Mira's recent book, *Here, There and Everywhere*.

Kelly Sullivan Walden

www.kellysullivanwalden.com: Visit this site to find out about Kelly's range of professional services, her books, media appearances, and more.

www.dreamprojectun.org: Kelly is the creator and facilitator of The Dream Project, a grade 6-12 educational program that empowers students to discover and invent solutions to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. Visit this site to find out how you can get involved.

www.thedreamprojectun.blogspot.com: Tune in to what kids are learning and discovering about their piece in the world piece puzzle.

www.goddessqueen.com: Goddess Queen Magazine is Kelly's online magazine for the Goddess Queen in you, including articles about dreams, relationships, travel, and personal inspiration.

Hillary Carlip

www.hillarycarlip.com: This site features a comprehensive overview of Hillary's work and her individual Web sites.

www.queenoftheoddballs.com: Visit this site to find out more about Hillary's off-beat memoir, *Queen of the Oddballs*.

www.alacartthebook.com: Find out about Hillary's most recent book, *A La Cart: The Secret Lives of Grocery Shoppers*.

www.flyhcmultimedia.com: Check out this site for Hillary's innovative Web site building services.

www.freshyarn.com: This is Hillary's award-winning salon for personal essays.

Pamela Phillips Oland

www.pamoland.com: Visit this site to learn all about Pamela's professional background, her services as a lyricist, author, speaker, and mentor.

Julia Drake

www.writejdrake.com: Visit this site for Julia's freelance writing services, and her personal and professional background.

MEMBER NEWS

A BRIEF NOTE OF APOLOGY TO NEW MEMBERS from Ruth Light
Membership Co-Chair

An apology is owed to several of our new members!! The paperwork for several of you was given to me at our October event, but I mislaid it and didn't find it till a few days ago. This means that several of you have not been getting chapter emails, and I apologize for that!! The mistake has been fixed. Your email addresses are now in my chapter member distribution list, and your information has been entered into the WNBA National Directory. Sorry for my goof!

IN PRINT

Ina Hillebrandt

I am proud to be featured in an article in Boardroom.com's print newsletter, BottomLine/Retirement, a national periodical with 6 million circulation. This is a three-page piece with tips on memoir writing, from coming up with ideas, to organizing those scraps of paper, to publishing. A copy of the article will be posted on my site shortly.

The URL will be:

www.InasPawprints.com/How_to_Write_Your_Memoirs_by_Ina_Hillebrandt_Bottom_Line_Retirement.com

I'll also be continuing my working with kids on the Pawprints Literacy Plus (TM) program in January in South Central LA. This program is aimed at enhancing skills of young people in all aspects of literacy -- writing, reading, speaking, listening -- along with raising awareness of the importance of kindness to animals.

Barbara Meltzer

For those interested in knowing more about why sex is a healthy "sport," check out WNBA-LA member Barbara Meltzer's feature story *Adding Sex to Your Health and Fitness Plan for the New Year* that will appear in the January issue of *Life After 50*.

Julia Drake

I wrote a destination travel article about Ettlingen--the small German town I grew up in--and it just got published in *Travel Post Monthly*. If you're interested in reading it, please click on the following URL:

www.travelpostmonthly.com/archive/ettlingenthe_perfect_straddle/

MEMBER SERVICES/REQUESTS

Speaker Services

WNBA/LA is now working in association with [Speaker Services](#). Owned and founded by speaker, seminar leader, and marketing consultant Susan Levin, Speaker Services provides workshops, video demos, and customized coaching for authors and speakers. We will be doing several programs with them throughout the new year to assist our authors in being able to share their works of heart more effectively with the public.

Ina Hillebrandt

I am available as a private writing coach, for memoirs and fiction. I also teach a free class for seniors Mondays 10:15-noon at the Felicia Mahood Senior Multipurpose Center, at Santa Monica and Corinth in West L.A. We are looking for a few good folks. The class is ongoing and people are invited to "come as they are," with partial or no project in hand. Fiction as well as memoirs welcome. We will be publishing the fourth in our series of the class' work, "Stories From the Heart" in spring 2009. I also offer publishing, both on a subsidy basis with my imprint Pawpress, or coach you to create your own imprint.

GREEN TIPS



Green Year Resolutions Made Simple

By Julia Drake

The reason New Years resolutions have such a bad reputation is because they're so easily forgotten in the grind of life. But what if you had a daily reminder--a talisman as it were--to inspire you to follow your intentions? To make it personal, take something as simple as a post card with a cherished picture in the front, or a small note card that bears personal significance to you. Keep it in a place where you're guaranteed to see it every day, meaning it should be small enough to fit into your agenda, wallet, or purse. A small size reminder also holds the key to New Years resolutions: Don't have too many! It's a scientific fact that 92% of New Years resolutions fail, because people set their goals too high. So I suggest keeping your reminder simple and to the point. Giving it a structure also helps take the edge of the task. For example, divide the card up into parts of your life: work, home, others, self. Make it fun! Below are some suggestions to get you started on your own New Years talisman.

1. Work:

- I will check my tire pressure quarterly to ensure proper inflation, and I will turn my car engine off during long waiting periods in traffic.
- At least once a week, I will car pool, use buses and trains, or maybe bike, or walk to work.
- I will bring my own food to work, or bring my own container and utensils when ordering take-out.

2. Home

- I will ALWAYS unplug appliances that are not in use. This includes my laptop charger, cell phone charger, fax, lamps, lights, kitchen appliances, and household appliances.
- On at least two weekends a month, I will buy products from my local farmers market. Even better, I will make a commitment to Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which allows me to create a relationship with a farm and to receive a weekly basket of fresh seasonal produce.
- I will reduce food waste in my household by using reusable tupperware, by planning ahead and only buying what I need, and by keeping my fridge organized, so older items are visible in the front.

3. Self

- I will take some time to think about what really matters to me and what priorities led me to start on this path to a greener life: Is it the health of my family? Better choices for the environment? Or do I want to reduce my spending and instead spend more time with my family?
- I will spend more time outside, be that exercising outside the gym, gardening, berry picking, or pursuing other outdoor activities that bring me closer to nature.
- Every month, I will learn one new thing to broaden my knowledge about ways to better the well-being of this planet, and to expand my awareness beyond my immediate surroundings toward global issues.

4. Others

- Every month, I will spread the word about at least one company that is making eco-friendly choices. Every other month, I will donate to a green cause, either financially or through devoting my time as a volunteer.
- Ever day, I will help and inspire my friends and family to make greener choices in their lives.

If those suggestions went down quick and easy, feel free to add some more, but remember, less is more.

So that's it for January.

Have a wonderful first month of 2009!

Best,

Julia Drake
Newsletter editor
juliadrake28@gmail.com

Board Members:

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Corresponding Secretary: Suzanne Kleinbub
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Immediate Past President: Ruth Light
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