

# BOOKNOTES

THE OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON BOOK PUBLISHERS

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[www.washingtonbooks.org](http://www.washingtonbooks.org)

The Washington Book Publishers, an informal, all volunteer group of editorial and publishing professionals in the Washington, D.C., area since 1976

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The Washington  
Book Publishers 

Dear Colleagues,

It was great to see everyone who turned out for the October Roundtables program. The conversation and advice flowed freely, and we gathered names of participants interested in more informal exchanges in future small-group gatherings. I'll keep you informed as we establish these small groups.

I'm really pleased to announce the launch of WASHBOOKS—the new Washington Book Publishers E-Discussion List on Yahooogroups. Email invitations to this members-only discussion group went out in October, and you can catch up on details about how to sign up in the article on page 2. Thanks to Laura Lawson, Tony Davies, and our Membership team for bringing us this new way to stay in touch with one another and discuss issues and problems we encounter every day. Please use the list to share or seek information about publishing topics you're wrestling with.

Mark your calendars! Our next program will be December 13th—a combined Marketing Tips panel and holiday celebration (see announcement below). Hope to see you there.

Regards,

Claire Reinburg  
President, 2006–2007



## Holiday Party plus Marketing Tips Meeting Set for Dec. 13

"Nonprofit or Commercial Publisher... We Need All the Book Sales We Can Get in '07," is the unabashed theme of our 2006 holiday party and program, and the Woodrow Wilson Center in the Ronald Reagan Building is the place. Festivities get underway at 6 p.m., with time for noshing and networking, followed by an informal Q&A and panel discussion at 6:30 on the basic-to-creative aspects of cost-effective book marketing in today's competitive marketplace. Panelists will include Gina Armento Lindquist, Marketing & Sales Director, Georgetown University Press, and Holly Hemphill, Director, Marketing

& Communications, American Council of Engineering Companies, Institute for Business Management.

In keeping with this program of attention to those cravenly commercial activities that support our calling to the publishing arts, WBP members are invited to bring along their nonmember marketing guru, and we'll give that huckster admission to the evening events at no charge! Make your reservation today by emailing our hospitality guru Christine Hauser ([christinehauser@msn.com](mailto:christinehauser@msn.com)) and join us Dec. 13. (The event is free to members, a \$10 donation is requested for nonmembers.) And to help jumpstart the "business" portion of the evening, give us your burning marketing question(s)—big or small—for our panel by sending in advance to [hhemphill@acec.org](mailto:hhemphill@acec.org).

## Writers to Try

### Remembering Katrina One Year Later

Jed Horne, *Breach of Faith: Hurricane Katrina and the Near Death of a Great American City* (2006)

Douglas Brinkley, *The Great Deluge; Hurricane Katrina, New Orleans and the Mississippi Gulf Coast* (2006)

Christopher Cooper and Robert Block, *Disaster: Hurricane Katrina and the Failure of Homeland Security* (2006)

John McQuaid and Mark Schleifstein, *Path of Destruction: The Devastation of New Orleans and the Coming Age of Superstorms* (2006)

Mike Tidwell, *The Ravaging Tide: Strange Weather, Future Katrinas, and the Coming Death of America's Coastal Cities* (2006)

### Remembering the Great War on Veterans' Day in fact

Robert Graves, *Good-Bye to All That: An Autobiography* (1929)

John Keegan, *The First World War* (2000)

Barbara Tuchman, *The Guns of August* (1986); *Zimmermann Telegram* (1966)

Robert K. Massie, *Dreadnought: Britain, Germany, and the Coming of the Great War* (1991)

### in fiction

Pat Barker, *Regeneration* (1991)

Erich Marie Remarque, *All Quiet on the Western Front* (1929)

Dalton Trumbo, *Johnny Got His Gun* (1939)

Rebecca West, *Return of the Soldier* (1918)

## WPB Kicks Off a New Year with October Roundtables

After a summer's hiatus, the first meeting of Washington Book Publishers in early October went off without a hitch—even with the rainy weather. With approximately 25 people in attendance, members from all around the D.C., area and as far away as Charlottesville met at the National Science Teachers Association for some great food and enlightening roundtable discussion. Attendees were able to choose from several different topics, including acquisitions, copyediting, design and project management, and marketing and promotion, and the tables contained about three to six people each. With this type of small group setting, participants were able to give and receive advice, to gain insight and to focus on specific topics and issues in a particular field, and to learn about each other.

Claire Reinburg, 2006–2007 WBP president, said she was impressed with the good turnout and animated discussions. “I thought it was a good start for the year. The discussions seemed to really be lively.”

She also commented that roundtable discussions are a great way for people to interact with others in the same field and to pick up and bounce ideas off of each other. And it seems that the people at her table, acquisitions, did just that. “We talked about conferences and gathering ideas for new books.”



John Ward, WBP member and senior editor at the International Trade Administration, agreed. “It was a great opportunity to meet other people who do the same thing you do. I thought there was a very good exchange.” Ward also thought that a roundtable discussion fit in exactly with WBP. “It was very valuable to me, and it covers the heart of what this organization does.”

Because of this last roundtable discussion and the other ones earlier this year, Reinburg is hoping to set up permanent small groups based on the specific topics at the roundtable. The small groups will be a way for a core group to meet on a more regular basis outside of other WBP meetings. Each group will be able to set up its own face-to-face get-togethers with topics decided by members.

For more information or to join a small group, contact Claire Reinburg.

— ASHLEY YOUNG

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## Washington Book Publishers E-Discussion Group

We are delighted to announce the initiation of the **WBP E-Discussion List**—WASHBOOKS on Yahoo Groups. This list is your vehicle to reach other WBP members—to get answers to your questions and solutions to your book-publishing problems and to share your own expertise and experience.

The purpose of the list is to facilitate discussion, share information, or pose questions directly relevant to book publishing. We encourage you to participate actively. No question or issue is too small—or large. We seek a diversity of questions and viewpoints and encourage you to participate no matter what your area of specialization or level of experience.

We all receive a great deal of e-mail, so to make postings readily identifiable the notation [WASHBOOKS] will appear in “from” area. You may want to assign postings to go automatically to a folder (e.g., “WBP Discussion”) to review at your convenience.

All WBP members will have received an invitation by e-mail to join the list. We hope that you will join and use the list frequently. To join, simply respond to the invitation e-mail. You can opt out at any time.

If you are a WBP member and have difficulty joining or do not receive your invitation, contact WBP's Web Master, Tony Davies at [tony\\_davies@yahoo.com](mailto:tony_davies@yahoo.com).

## Library of Congress Hosts 6th Annual Washington Book Festival

Gray skies and drizzle didn't deter the crowds streaming off the Metro to attend the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Book Festival on the Washington Mall. Children and grown-ups made the trek on a rainy Saturday to wander among the tents to hear their favorite (some beloved) authors speak and maybe to obtain an autograph.

Indeed, the line to buy books in the Sales Tent was long, perhaps because of the availability of Bob Woodward's highly publicized and just-released new book *State of Denial*. Woodward was scheduled to speak and sign books later in the afternoon.

Seventy prominent authors, illustrators, and poets appeared in seven pavilions divided by subject area: Fiction & Fantasy; Mysteries & Thrillers; History & Biography; Children; Teens & Children; Home & Family; and Poetry. Each presentation, which included a question and answer session, was scheduled for 30 minutes. Authors were available to sign their books in a separate section of the Festival grounds throughout the day. Although the presentations were held simultaneously, the pavilions were close enough together that it was possible, though not ideal, to move from one to another within one time period if one were so inclined.

In the time period between 10:00 and 10:30, I had to choose among four authors well-known to me: Marie Arana, editor of *The Washington Post Book World* and author of *American Chica* (2001), a memoir of her bi-cultural youth, and her newest novel, *Cellophane*;



Author Khaled Hosseini

Doris K. Goodwin, who won the Pulitzer Prize for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt* (2005) and has recently published the best-selling *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius*

of *Abraham Lincoln*; Brad Meltzer, whose first novel, *The Tenth Justice* (1997), became an immediate *New York Times* best-seller, followed up by four more; and Deborah Tannen, a Georgetown University professor of linguistics and author of highly accessible books about communication such as *You Just Don't Understand* (1990) and the latest *You're Wearing That? Understanding Mothers and Daughters in Conversation* (2006).

The audience huddled under a tent to hear Khaled Hosseini numbered in the hundreds. The author of the beloved *The Kite Runner* (2003) didn't disappoint.



Handsome, personable, and a physician in his other life, Hosseini appeared at ease discussing the evolution of his novel from its beginning as a short story he started writing in 1999 when he learned that the Taliban had banned kite flying in Afghanistan. At the time of the 9/11 attacks, he

was three-fourths of the way into it and almost gave it up, thinking that people would have no interest in reading about Afghanistan. "We were the bad guys," he said. Luckily for his readers, his wife was able to convince him to finish the book, one of the first novels about Afghanistan to be written in English.

Under another tent Michael Connelly, author of more than a dozen mysteries set in a noirish Los Angeles, spoke about his books and his character, detective Harry Bosch, named for Heironymous Bosch, whose works inspired him in his vision of "a world gone mad." He described his writing as an exploration of how a person, in this case, his character Bosch, manages in a world of darkness without falling into the darkness himself,

Writer Julia Glass, whose ambitious novel *Three Junes* not only won the National Book Award but also struck a chord with book groups throughout the country, spoke on the topic of "Truth in Fiction." "Writers," she said "make something from nothing, and in that creation foster empathy that helps us understand our deepest selves." She dismissed the recent "fray over Frey," in which a readership was infuriated when a writer exaggerated and embellished his own experiences as a drug addict, publishing the books as a memoir rather than the less-lucrative, and probably, less sensational, novel. "Fictional characters reveal more about their creators than a journal....Stories are more true than facts."

Next I heard the popular and somewhat manic Jim Cramer, host of the CNBC show "Mad Money with Jim Cramer" and author of *Jim Cramer's Real Money: Sane Investing in an Insane World*, amuse his fan-filled audience with the story of his ascent from journalist to mega success and fame in the worlds of both investment and the media.

Unfortunately, as much as I would have liked to spend the rest of the day drifting in and out of the numerous tents, other duties called, and I soon made my reluctant way back to the Metro, passing streams of book lovers—men, women, children, even a few pets—going in the other direction. I hadn't even made a dent.

—YAMILE KAHN

## Literary Losses

7/17/06 — Frank Morrison (Mickey) Spillane, 88, American author of crime novels, best known for the series of novels featuring his signature detective character, Mike Hammer

8/30/06 — Naguib Mahfouz, 94, Egyptian novelist and the Arab world's most prominent literary figure; awarded the Nobel Prize in 1988.

9/24/06 — Maureen Daly, 85, author of *Seventeenth Summer*, a book about teenage love and thought by some to have been the first young adult novel, which has stayed in print since 1942

9/8/06 — Norman Lewis, 93, authority on English grammar and usage who catalogued obscure words and counseled correct pronunciation in dozens of books, including *Word Power Made Easy* and *30 Days to Better English*

10/4/06 — R.W. Apple Jr., 71, associate editor at *The New York Times*, where he wrote on a variety of subjects, most notably politics, travel, and food.

10/9/06 — Sheldon Meyer, 80, distinguished editor of nonfiction books who spent more than 40 years at the Oxford University Press and oversaw dozens of seminal works in the field of American history

11/1/06 — William Styron, 81, noted author and winner of numerous major literary awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for *The Confessions of Nat Turner* and the National Book Award for *Sophie's Choice*



## Locations

FSL: Folger Shakespeare Library, [www.FSL.org](http://www.FSL.org)

LC: Library of Congress, James Madison Bldg. [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov)

NMWA: National Museum of Women in the Arts, [www.nmwa.org](http://www.nmwa.org)

National Press Club, 529 14th St., NW, Washington, DC, (202) 662-7501

Olsson's Arlington/Courthouse, [www.olssons.com](http://www.olssons.com) (703)525-4227

P&P: Politics & Prose, [www.politics-prose.com](http://www.politics-prose.com)

SI Sackler Gallery: [www.asia.si.edu/](http://www.asia.si.edu/)

WWICS: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC, (202) 691-4041

## Check Out These Websites

**Complete Review**, a "selectively comprehensive, opinionated survey of books old and new," [www.complete-review.com](http://www.complete-review.com)

**Galleycat.com**, a blog about books and publishing, [www.mediabistro.com/galleycat/](http://www.mediabistro.com/galleycat/)

## Calendar

Present– Jan. 7, 2007, Exhibit, *IN THE BEGINNING: BIBLES BEFORE THE YEAR 1000*, SI Sackler Gallery,

Present–Feb. 17, 2007, 10 am–4 pm, Exhibit, 2 *TECHNOLOGIES OF WRITING IN THE AGE OF PRINT*, FSL

Present–Feb. 4, 2007, *THE BOOK AS ART: TWENTY YEARS OF ARTISTS' BOOKS*, Nat'l Museum of Women in the Arts, NMWA

## DECEMBER

Fri. – Sun., Dec. 1–3, *POLITICS AND PROSE MEMBERS SALE*, P&P

Wed., Dec. 6, 7 PM, *ALICIA SHEPARD, AUTHOR OF WOODWARD AND BERNSTEIN: LIFE IN THE SHADOW OF WATERGATE*, Olsson's Arlington/Courthouse (703)525-4227

Thurs., Dec., 7, 7 PM, *PANEL DISCUSSION, THE FUTURE OF THE FREE PRESS: A PANEL DISCUSSION*. National Press Club, 529 14th St., NW Washington, DC

Wed., Dec. 8, 8pm, *PEN/MALAMUD AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN THE SHORT STORY, READING, ADAM HASLETT AND TOBIAS WOLFF*, FSL, \$15

Tues., Dec. 12, 7 p.m., *HUMORIST ART BUCHWALD, AUTHOR OF TOO SOON TO SAY GOODBYE*, Wesley United Methodist Church, for info., call P&P, 202-364-1919

Wed., Dec. 13, *WBP HOLIDAY PARTY, PLUS MARKETING TIPS MEETING*, WWICS, [christinehauser@msn.com](mailto:christinehauser@msn.com)

Thurs., Dec. 14, 7 p.m., *WASHINGTON POST JOURNALIST KAREN DEYOUNG, ATUHOR OF SOLDIER*, a biography of Colin Powell, P&P

## Job Bank

Job postings are run at no charge and are included at the discretion of the newsletter coordinator.

Submissions should no more than 100 words. To submit an a posting, please contact [yamile.kahn@wilsoncenter.org](mailto:yamile.kahn@wilsoncenter.org). For complete listings, go to the WBP Web site at [www.washingtonbooks.org](http://www.washingtonbooks.org).

Asst. ed., directories, DC, CQ Press Directories, [pperry@cqpress.com](mailto:pperry@cqpress.com) (11/17)

Copyeds. and proofreaders, on-site assignments, Publications Professionals, 703-934-4499 or [BHart@pubspro.com](mailto:BHart@pubspro.com)

Mktg. Mgr., MD, Health Directions, res. to [jobs@healthydirections.com](mailto:jobs@healthydirections.com) (job code MM-AW-1006-DCPUB) (10/24)

Prod. mgr., DC, *Washington Jewish Week* newspaper, Sensical Design & Communication, res. & portfolio to [dan@sensicaldesign.com](mailto:dan@sensicaldesign.com) (10/16)

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