

WOMONSCAPE TIMES

~A monthly publication by the Womonscape Center Inc.~



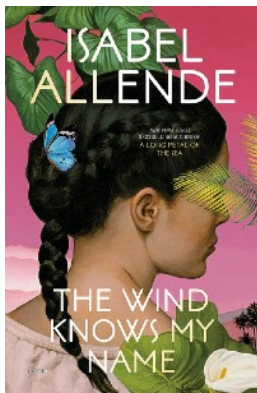
W O M O N S C A P E C E N T E R

NO-RULES BOOK GROUP (NRBG)

The *No Rules Book Group* (NRBG) met on the third Thursday of August, for a wonderful discussion of what we've been reading. Take a look below for a summary.

Our next *No-Rules Book Group* Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21 at 10:30 a.m. We'll meet at the Richland County Courthouse, near the lower lobby elevators, and walk to our meeting room. If we've already started, just look for us in Conference Room #1.

AUGUST BOOK SELECTIONS



THE WIND KNOWS MY NAME
by Isabel Allende

In her most recent novel, Ms. Allende has created a story that spans the years between World War II and the present, linking the characters, situations, and politics of the different eras. It is the story of two child immigrants, a boy fleeing Nazi-controlled Vienna in 1938 and a girl escaping from the violence of El Salvador in 2018. The novel is described by its NPR reviewer as "a love letter" to "children trapped by geopolitical violence and left to navigate immigration by themselves."

GIRL WAITS WITH GUN
by Amy Stewart

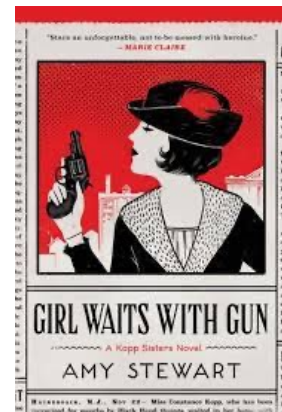
This is the novelized version of a series of fascinating and inspiring historical events. In 1914 Constance Kopp and her sisters were traveling by horse and buggy in Patterson, NJ, when they were run down by a carful of drunk and rowdy men. The buggy was destroyed and Ms. Kopp asked the driver, a silk factory owner named Henry Kaufman, to pay for the damages: a sum of \$50, which was about a month's income for her family. Kaufman refused. When Kopp sought the help of law enforcement to collect the money, she became the target of attacks and threats. Kopp was a remarkable woman whose life and work deserves to be celebrated; this book does a fine job of doing so.

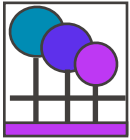
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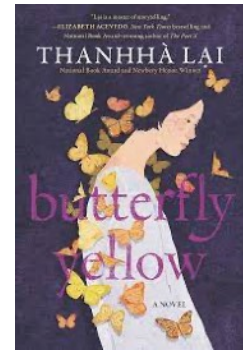
NO-RULES BOOK GROUP

(Continued from page 1)



**BUTTERFLY
YELLOW**
by Thanh Hà Lai

In the chaos and tumult of 1975 Vietnam, twelve-year-old Hang puts her five-year-old brother on a plane to find safety in America. Six years later, Hang finally arrives in Texas as a refugee. Her mission: to find her brother and recover her only remaining link with her family. The book is well-written: poignant and realistic without becoming overly sentimental.



BROOKLYN
by Colm Tóibín

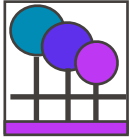


Brooklyn is a work of historical fiction, set in the 1950s. It centers on a young Irish woman named Eilis, who comes to Brooklyn to find work. After struggling to adjust to her new life, Eilis becomes involved with Tony, an Italian plumber who wants to marry her; Eilis accepts. However an emergency trip back to Ireland has Eilis reconsidering her plans and introduces another suitor and another potential life path. What will she decide? The book won the 2009 Costa Novel Award and was longlisted for the Booker Prize. It was also made into a film starring Saoirse Ronan.

THE SAINT OF LOST THINGS
by Christopher Castellani

Also set in the 1950s, this novel explores the lives of an Italian neighborhood in Wilmington, Delaware. The protagonist is Maddalena Grasso, who yearns for her family and a former boyfriend who remained in Italy when she immigrated to America and married an Italian-American. Maddalena consoles herself in conversations with her woman friends and her neighbors. She also contemplates her hopes and prayers in the sanctuary of the local church—St. Anthony's, named for the patron saint of lost things. This book is a stand-alone sequel to Castellani's earlier novel, A Kiss from Maddalena, which won the Massachusetts Book Award for Fiction.





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SEPTEMBER IS WOMEN IN MEDICINE MONTH

WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE IN MEDICINE

ELIZABETH BLACKWELL (1821-1895)



We start with Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman in the United States to be granted a medical degree. After graduation, Blackwell went on to help open the New York Infirmary for Women and the London School of Medicine for Women. Blackwell also published the first medical article written by a female student from the United States. Her work combined a sense of empathy and social justice with scientific medical knowledge.

SUSAN LAFLESCHÉ PICOTTE (1865-1915)

The first Native American in the U.S. to earn a medical degree, Picotte was a member of the Omaha tribe and worked on its reservation. She was a physician and a social reformer, discouraging the consumption of alcohol and campaigning for the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. She also worked to ensure fair government compensation for Omaha lands.



VIRGINIA APGAR (1909-1974)



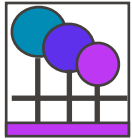
A lifelong physician, anesthesiologist, and medical researcher, Apgar is probably best known for developing the 'gold standard' for determining the health of a newborn: the 10-point Apgar score. The score measures an infant's breathing, skin color, reflexes, motion, and heart rate at one minute and five minutes after birth. Her work is credited with bringing attention to the problem of birth defects, and helping reduce infant mortality.

SUSIE KING TAYLOR (1848-1912)

Although she was born an enslaved woman in Georgia, Taylor began her life by defying injustice. She attended two secret schools taught by black women, and, while still a teenager, she used her literacy skills as a teacher and nurse to children, and to soldiers in the 33rd United States Colored Troops during the Civil War. After the war she devoted much of the rest of her life to working with female Civil War veterans. She also became the only African American woman to publish a memoir of her Civil War experiences.



(Continued on page 4)



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MORE WOMEN IN MEDICINE

(Continued from page 3)

GERTY CORI (1896-1957)

Gerty Cori was born in Prague. Her uncle encouraged her to study math and science, and to pursue a career in medicine. This was extremely difficult since girls' schools at that time did not offer the Latin, math, physics, or chemistry required to pass the medical college entrance exam. Gerty crammed for a year before passing the exam and enrolling in medical school at age 18. While there, she discovered a passion for biochemistry and met her future research partner and husband, Carl. The two married right after graduation and moved to the United States to avoid the rising anti-Semitism in Europe. The Coris worked as equals, continuing their research into the body's regulation of glucose, and receiving a joint Nobel Prize in 1947. Gerty was the third woman to receive a Nobel Prize, and the first to win one in Physiology or Medicine.



REBECCA LEE CRUMPLER (1831-1895)

Rebecca Lee Crumpler was a nurse, author and physician. In 1864 she became the first African American woman to become a doctor of medicine in the United States. She focused her work and her writing on maternal and pediatric medical care, with an emphasis on prevention as well as treatment of common illnesses. Despite her considerable experience and education, she faced intense racism and sexism in her career. Undeterred, she practiced medicine in Richmond, Virginia, serving freedmen and freedwomen who were denied care by white physicians; and in Boston, Massachusetts, serving a predominantly African American community where she treated children even when their parents were unable to pay for care.

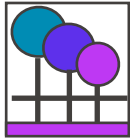


AUDREY EVANS (1925-2022)

Audrey Evans was an oncologist who specialized in the treatment of children's cancers. She made her career at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she was a pioneer in the field of neuroblastoma, showing how chemotherapy could fight tumors. She also emphasized comfort for her young patients, allowing them to bring small pets during their hospital stays. Still, she was frustrated with the lack of housing for parents of children who were hospitalized far from home. So she worked with members of the Philadelphia Eagles football team and McDonald's Corporation to establish the first Ronald McDonald House to provide affordable lodging for families of children with grave illnesses. Today there are hundreds of these facilities around the world.



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STILL MORE WOMEN IN MEDICINE

(Continued from page 4)

MARY EDWARDS WALKER (1832-1919)

The only woman to receive the United States Medal of Honor, Mary Walker was a women's rights advocate, abolitionist, spy, and the first female U.S. Army surgeon during the Civil War. Despite a medical degree, she had to practice medicine as a volunteer surgeon for two years until the army finally accepted her as a "Contract Acting Assistant Surgeon." During the war she was captured by Confederate troops as a spy and held prisoner for four months. While in prison she insisted on wearing pants, since she believed they were more comfortable and hygienic. After the war she worked for the cause of women's suffrage and advocated for "dress reform" for women.



TROTA OF SALERNO (11th century)

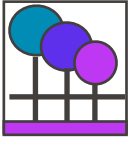


Trota of Salerno was a female physician, obstetrician, and gynecologist who lived in Italy. She is perhaps the best-known of a group of women healers who lived in this area, and is credited with not only practicing medicine but also writing and teaching about it. She defied the contemporary teachings of the Catholic church, which at that time believed women should suffer in childbirth because of Eve's sin. While many of her writings are dated (after all, they're 1000 years old!), several of her recommendations about how to handle difficult births, how to repair delivery-induced tears with silk thread, and how to treat pain during childbirth are still used today.

SOPHIA JEX-BLAKE (1840-1912)

As a young, upper-middle-class woman, Sophia Jex-Blake defied her family's expectations and pursued a university education and a medical degree. She was denied entry into medical programs in the United States and in her native England, so she applied to the more progressive-leaning university in Edinburgh. The board voted in favor of allowing her to study medicine, but the court rejected the idea on the grounds that they could not make accommodations for only "one lady." So Jex-Blake advertised for other women to join her; six did, and "The Edinburgh Seven" were enrolled. Violent protests soon erupted and the women were refused degrees. Several court battles later, however, Jex-Blake won her case and became a practicing doctor, opening the way for generations of British Women. Jex-Blake went on to help establish the Edinburgh Hospital and Dispensary for Women and the Edinburgh School of Medicine for Women.





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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR & A QUESTION

To the Editor,

Just read the August newsletter. Thank you. With your focus on librarians and particularly your comments about visits to different libraries, I must email you about one of my favorite libraries.

For a good number of years I lived in northeast Washington on the Colville Indian Reservation. It was located in Ferry County, Washington. There is a library called the North Central Washington library that serves 30 libraries and thousands of people in North central Washington.

They offer library items through the mail at no charge to the consumer. I used to get bags of books in my mail. It was WONDERFUL. On top of that, they also would do reference work for you. I remember one time they sent an article for me from a newspaper (was either *The Wall Street Journal* or *The New York Times*, can't remember) when I requested it. That, for me, is my most wonderful library experience checking things out from that miles away library. And several times a year they would mail out a small newsprint magazine telling of different books, movies, etc. that were available.

Sally L.,
Madison WI

A QUESTION FOR OUR READERS

The Summer Day by Mary Oliver


Who made the world?
 Who made the swan and the black bear?
 Who made the grasshopper?
 This grasshopper, I mean-
 The one who has flung herself out of the grass,
 The one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
 Who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-
 Who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
 Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
 Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away,
 I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
 I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
 into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
 how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
 which is what I have been doing all day.
 Tell me, what else should I have done?
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do
 with your one wild and precious life?

A challenge to readers of the *Womonscape Times*:

When you read Mary Oliver's poem do you feel any differently about your life? Does it speak to you in any particular way? You might have heard this poem before; perhaps many times. What does the last line say to you? Do you find it trite or inspiring? Let us know by sending an email to womonscapecenter@fastmail.net, or writing us at The Womonscape Center, PO Box 335, Richland Center WI 53581, or contact us through our website at www.womonscapecenter.org.

In Sisterhood,
 The Womonscape Staff

WOMONSCAPE CENTER, INC. AUGUST 2023



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WOMONSCAPE CENTER

NO-RULES BOOK GROUP (NRBG)

The *No Rules Book Group* (NRBG) met as usual on the third Thursday of July, for a lively discussion of books and other media. Take a look below for a summary.


Our next *No-Rules Book Group* Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 17 at 10:30 a.m. We'll meet at the Richland County Courthouse, near the lower lobby elevators, and walk to our meeting room. If we've started already, come to Conference Room #1.

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JULY BOOK SELECTIONS

NORA NORA
 by Anne Rivers Siddons



Siddons was a popular novelist who often focused on small town life in the American South during the 1960s. This book centers on Peyton, a withdrawn adolescent girl who lives with her widowed father and has few friends her own age; choosing, instead, to hang out regularly with a group of town misfits who call themselves The Losers Club. Her life changes completely when her mother's Cousin Nora comes to town unexpectedly and decides to stay.

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID
 by Cayce Osborne



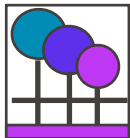
Set in New York City and Madison, Wisconsin, Wisconsin-born author Cayce Osborne writes about what she knows. Local readers will identify with many of the setting locations such as West High School, Culver's Restaurant, and Bagels Forever Bakery. At the beginning of this thriller, protagonist Petal Wozniwski checks out an anonymously-written bestselling novel that fictionalizes the death of Petal's childhood best friend. The bestseller contains this ominous dedication: *I know what you did, Petal Wozniwski. And now everyone else will, too.* To find the author and clear her name—and her conscience—Petal returns to Madison to uncover secrets buried thirty years ago.

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MORE WOMEN'S SYMBOLS

Continuing from our July and August issues of the *Womonscape Times*, here are three more women's symbols.

Durga



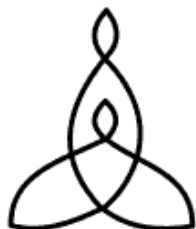
Durga is considered the 'protective mother of the universe. Durga is based in Hinduism and is also referred to as Shakti. She is often depicted riding a tiger or lion and is seen as someone who defends against evil and suffering. Her role in Hindu mythology is in representing the power of good over evil, and she unleashes her energy against any forces that threaten peace, prosperity, and harmonious living. In some parts of India the festival of Durga Puja celebrates this goddess. The festival is generally held for four to nine days in September or October, and includes prayers and revelry, followed by a procession with singing, dancing and water immersion.

Gaia

Gaia is a Greek goddess, considered the goddess of Earth who created the oceans and mountains. Her name means "The Earth's spirit." She is also an important character in Greek mythology, as the partner of Uranus and the grandmother of Poseidon, Hades, and Demeter. In modern times, Gaia has been linked to the concept of maternal power and Mother Earth. NASA uses the name GAIA to represent its Global Astrometric Interferometer for Astrophysics, the instrument which is in the process of producing a three-dimensional map of the Milky Way. Gaia has also been used in discussions of earth-based spiritualism and in the modern ecology movement.



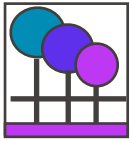
The Knot of Motherhood



The Knot of Motherhood symbol depicts the infinite and everlasting bond between mother and child. It is a Celtic knot showing an intertwined mother and child. There are many variations of this symbol, but each is said to represent the challenges and obstacles that come with motherhood (the knot portion of the symbol) as well as the mother and child's ability to overcome them together (the loops portion of the symbol). The Knot of Motherhood has been used to represent the strength required to be a mother, the unconditional love between a mother and her children, and the larger community of women who share the experience of being mothers.

DONATIONS WELCOMED

We appreciate the recent generous donations from readers. Donations help us print and publish this newsletter. Because the *Womonscape Center, Inc.* is a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible. They can be sent by mail to *Womonscape Center, Inc.*, PO Box 335, Richland Center WI 53581; they can also be sent online via our website: www.womonscapecenter.org.



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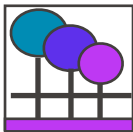
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SEPTEMBER 21 — is
our next scheduled
No-Rules Book Group
in Richland Center.
See Page 1 for details.

**Womonscape
Times**

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QUOTES BY WOMEN

~ If society will not admit of women's free
development, then society must be remodeled.~

— Elizabeth Blackwell (See page 3)

~ ...Be less curious about people and
more curious about ideas.~

— Marie Curie (scientist)

~ When I went to medical school, there wasn't a single woman neurosurgeon in Pakistan, so a lot
of people shared unsolicited advice for me to go into Obstetrics & Gynecology or Pediatrics,
which were thought to be more favorable fields for women in medicine. ~

— Rabia Qaiser, MD (Clinical Instructor, Cerebrovascular Neurosurgery)

~ Women are often over-mentored but under-sponsored. I try to do my part in promoting other
women through sponsorship—talk about them when they are not in the room and create
opportunities to advance their careers. When you help another woman rise,
we all shine. ~

— Miriam Bredella, MD (Professor, Harvard Medical School)