

# AMWA MID-AMERICA

**Winter 2017**



## **In this issue:**

<b>St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Series</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Meet and Greet in Nebraska</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Chapter Dinner in Orlando</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>St. Louis Freelancers Booklist</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Meet and Greet in K.C.</b>	<b>7</b>

# A Note from the Editor

Magdalena Berry, MA

Dear Chapter Members,

It's cold. That's all.

Well, not really. In this issue of our newsletter you'll find an update about the Chapter Dinner in Orlando, a report from the St. Louis Freelance Luncheon, and a list of favorite books compiled by the Luncheon folks.

We're delighted to welcome Rebecca Bigelow, PhD who will serve as our next President-Elect. She's also volunteered to coordinate membership activities in Nebraska.

We wish for all of you a happy and healthy New Year!

Magdalena Berry

[magdalenaberry@missouristate.edu](mailto:magdalenaberry@missouristate.edu)

---

## Chapter Officers

**President:** Rona Clair Grunspan, MD

**Treasurer:** Leslie Neistadt, ELS

**Secretary:** Linda Landon, PhD

**Membership chair:** Heather McNeill, MA

**Kansas City events coordinator:** Laura Long,  
MA

**Newsletter chair:** Magdalena Berry, MA

**Webmaster:** Lisa M. Balbes, PhD

**St. Louis Freelance Luncheon Coordinators:**

Lisa M. Balbes, PhD, Joanne M. McAndrews,  
PhD

**Nebraska Event Coordinator:** Rebecca  
Bigelow, PhD

# St. Louis-area Freelance Luncheon Series: TechWrite STL

Joanne McAndrews, PhD  
Lisa Balbes, PhD



The TechWrite STL group continues to hold bi-monthly meetings. At most meetings, a topic of interest to freelance medical and

technical writers is presented by a member and discussed by the group, usually over lunch at a local restaurant.

The group gathered on November 8th to discuss the “Best (and Worst) Books of 2017.” Member Leslie Neistadt collected names and authors of books everyone had read over the past year, as well as the reader’s comments and opinions. A categorized list (<http://bit.ly/2zae804>) was shared and discussed by the attendees – the largest group in recent memory. [The list is included here, beginning on p. 4] Many members realized they were in different book clubs, and the various ways to run a book club were also

discussed. The meeting was so successful that a similar event has been planned for November 2018.

Upcoming topics include “Business Travel Tips” presented by Lisa Balbes in January 2018 and “Fun Things for Geeks to Do in St. Louis” moderated by Alice Fugate in March 2018.

Lisa Balbes and Joanne McAndrews have been co-organizing the group since September 2006, when it was formed as a merger of the local AMWA and STC-CIC groups. A schedule of upcoming luncheons can be found at <http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/index.html>. Past topics and handouts are available on the History tab on that website.

## New Group Forming in Nebraska!

Rebecca Bigelow, PhD

Calling all medical communicators in Nebraska!

We are beginning a networking group for the Omaha and Lincoln areas. The first meeting will be **Wednesday January 10th, 2018 at 12:00 at Parker’s Smokehouse in Ashland, NE**. The first meeting will be a meet and greet and planning session. This is a great opportunity to meet fellow medical communicators, network, learn and socialize. For additional information, please contact Rebecca Bigelow at [rebecca@epionmedcom.com](mailto:rebecca@epionmedcom.com)

# AMWA Mid-America Chapter Dinner



**Left side of the table, front to back:** Amy Cyr, Rebecca Bigelow, Laura Long, Leslie Neistadt, Susan Sunderman

**Right side of the table, front to back:** Tom Wolf, Jenny Rolfes, Jenna Besserman, Joanne McAndrews, Kelley Atherton

AMWA Mid-America chapter members gathered for dinner on Thursday November 2, at Frontera Cucina in Orlando, FL during AMWA's Medical Writing and Communication Conference. The dinner was coordinated by Joanne McAndrews and Leslie Neistadt. Attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner while getting to know each other and learning more about the diverse areas of medical writing and editing in which our chapter members work.

# From the St. Louis Freelancers- a booklist!

## Best and Worst Books read in 2017

compiled by Leslie Neistadt

Just for fun! All kinds of books were considered. The list is in no particular order; recommenders' names and comments, if any, follow the bibliographic information.

This list, accompanied by pictures of the book covers, is on our chapter website.: <http://www.amwa-midamerica.org/assets/data/books.pdf>

Manning, M. *When Books Went to War*. Wilmington, MA: Mariner; 2015.

Mary Jo Blackwood

"I really liked this. When America entered WWII in 1941, we faced an enemy that had banned and burned over 100 million books and caused fearful citizens to hide or destroy many more. Outraged librarians launched a campaign to send free books to American troops and gathered 20 million hardcover donations."

Maggs S. *Wonder Women: 25 Innovators, Inventors, and Trailblazers Who Changed History*. Philadelphia, PA: Quirk Books; 2016.

Joanne McAndrews

"Great gift for a preteen or teen girl"

Trigiani A. *The Shoemaker's Wife*. Scranton, PA: Harper Paperbacks; 2012.

Joanne McAndrews

"Beautiful writing"

Gregory P. *The White Princess*. Kolkata, India: Touchstone; 2013.

Lisa Balbes

"Not one of her best but still interesting historical fiction"

Quinn K. *The Alice Network*. New York, NY: William Morrow; 2017.

Lisa Balbes

"Another historical fiction, about female spies in WWI and WWII"

Wang W. *Chemistry*. New York, NY: Knopf; 2017.

Lisa Balbes

"Obviously a first novel but interesting look at mental health and graduate school"

Bradbury R. *Dandelion Wine*. New York, NY: Bantam Books; 1985.

Lisa Balbes

"Collection of short stories; nice throwback to the past"

# From the St. Louis Freelancers- a booklist!

## Best and Worst Books read in 2017

Shetterly ML. *Hidden Figures:*

*The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race.* New York, NY: HarperCollins; 2016.

Lisa Balbes

“Not what I expected but interesting history lesson about women in the early years of NASA”

Blackwell J. *Letters From Paris.* New York, NY: Penguin Random House; 2016.

Lisa Balbes

“Fiction, interesting premise, and unexpected ending

Morton K. *The Secret Keeper.* New York, NY: Washington Square Press; 2013.

Lisa Balbes

“Alternates between present day and WW2”

Ruiz Zafon C. *The Shadow of the Wind.* New York, NY: Penguin Books; 2005.

Lisa Balbes

Benedict M. *The Other Einstein.*

Lisa Balbes

“Historical fiction account of Einstein’s first wife. Fascinating and made me want to learn more.”

Backman F. *A Man Called Ove.* New York, NY: Washington Square Press; 2015.

Courtney Starks

Backman F. *My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry.* New York, NY: Washington Square Press; 2016.

Courtney Starks

Bloomberg M, Pope C. *Climate of Hope: How Cities, Businesses, and Citizens Can Save the Planet.* New York, NY: St Martin’s Press; 2017.

Roseann Benson

“Explains the environmental, political, and logistical challenges surrounding climate change. This book fleshes out concepts that are mentioned briefly or alluded to in print or TV.”

Nosrat S. *Salt Fat Acid Heat: Mastering the Elements of Good Cooking.* New York, NY: Simon & Schuster; 2017.

Roseann Benson

“Educates the home cook on the four basic factors that can make anything (Italian, Chinese, Greek, Indian, etc...) prepared delicious because cooking comes back to SALT FAT ACID HEAT. This very long book is crammed with useful information throughout.”



# From the St. Louis Freelancers- a booklist!

## Best and Worst Books read in 2017

Backman F. *Beartown*. New York, NY: Atria Books; 2017.

Ruth Kaufman

"Love all of his stuff"

Groen H. *The Secret Diary of Hendrik Groen, 83-1/4 Years Old*. New York, NY: Grand Central Publishing; 2017.

Ruth Kaufman

One of the "best books I have read this year"

Mantel H. *Bring Up the Bodies*. New York, NY: Wolf Hall; 2013

Dana Delibovi

Flynn G. *Gone Girl*. New York, NY: Broadway Books; 2014.

Pranali Pathare

Lahiri J. *The Lowland*. New York, NY: Vintage Contemporaries; 2014.

Veronika Redmann

"A beautifully written tragic love story that also captures the American immigrant experience."

Warnier R. *The Sound of Gravel*. New York, NY: Flatiron Books; 2016.

Veronika Redmann

"This one belonged in the shocking category...an intense, well-written memoir of a horrific childhood."

Paul P. *My Life With Bob: Flawed Heroine Keeps Book of Books, Plot Ensues*. New York, NY: Henry Holt and Company; 2017.

Leslie Neistadt

"The *New York Times* book editor discusses the list of books she's kept since she was a teenager."

Howard V. *Deep Run Roots: Stories and Recipes From My Corner of the South*. Boston, MA: Little, Brown and Co; 2016.

Joanne McAndrews

# Events in Kansas City

by Laura Long

## *Come to the AMWA KC Meet and Greet!*

***When:*** *Thursday, Jan., 11, 2018; 5:30 pm-7:00 pm*

***Where:*** *KU Clinical Research Center, 4350 Shawnee Mission Pkwy, Fairway, KS*

Jump-start your year and career at this Meet & Greet Open House for members of the American Medical Writers Association and fellow healthcare communicators.

Stop by on Jan. 11 between 5:30pm-7:00pm to relax and mingle with colleagues over appetizers and beverages.

***Please register by January 9th !*** Email Laura Long:  
<llong2@kumc.edu>

## ***Resolve to Get to Know Your Colleagues!***