



Boston Authors Club

February 2020 News

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Book-Making Workshop Rescheduled - Stay Tuned for the New Date

President's Note for February

About one-third of the floor in my study is now filled with stacks of books. The entries for the next round of Julia Ward Howe prizes arrive every day; I've become very friendly with my local UPS deliveryman!

For those of us who love books there are few joys in the world that match what happens when we receive new ones. Apart from the tactile pleasures of running your finger along the spine of a brand new volume, there's the ineffable feeling of anticipation. What new worlds might I be exposed to in these pages? What new characters will I become involved with? What new things might I learn?

At this writing we've received a healthy number of submissions in each of our categories: fiction, non-fiction, poetry and young readers. More will trickle in during the next few weeks. No doubt decisions will be difficult! But the process will be rewarding for all of us who participate.

I'd like to invite those of you who've not done so to consider being on one of our reading committees. We're also looking for someone to chair the poetry reading committee. We generally read books between March and the end of May, and then arrive at our decisions. If you'd like to be part of this process, or if you have questions about what might be involved, please feel free to email me: jdobrow111@gmail.com

Happy reading!
Julie Dobrow, BAC President

BAC Board Expands for 2020

The BAC Board has expanded! Board members Mary Cronin, Julie Dobrow, Tracy Geary, Scott Guthery, Moying Li, Nancy Tupper Ling and Martha Pott have been joined by 6 additional members for 2020. Please join us in welcoming the new Board members below.

***Dani Crickman is a
Children's Librarian at
the Boston Public
Library, South Boston***

***Cynthia Levinson
writes nonfiction books
for young readers
about social justice.***



Branch. Prior positions include being the children's and young adult services librarian at the Boston Athenaeum, a bookseller at The Children's Book Shop in Brookline, MA and a

children's literature instructor at Showa Boston.

She has degrees from Wellesley College and the Harvard Graduate School of Education. You can learn more about her and her books at



www.cynthialevinson.com.



Elizabeth Reed is a public librarian at the Morrill Memorial Library in Norwood. She holds a M.S. in Library Science from Simmons College and a B.A. in Sociology and Theatre from St. Lawrence University. When she isn't curating print and digital collections or expanding programs at her library, she's likely to be knitting and listening to an audiobook.



Liz Whitlam is the founder and owner of Whitlam Books in Reading, MA. She has a varied business background with experience in account management, consulting, marketing and operations.



Anthony Rudel is an independent consultant, author, and speaker. He has spent his entire career in media including network radio, media consulting, and magazine publishing.. His most recent book is Hello, Everybody! The Dawn of American Radio

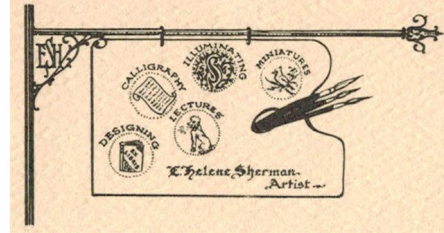


Nandini Bajpai writes for kids and teens. She grew up in India and lived and worked in Australia before settling in the Boston area. She has been a bookseller, systems analyst, TEDx organizer, PTO Mom, animal foster and more, but her first love is writing.

Yesteryear at the BAC: Notable Errata

One of the copies of *Notable Boston Authors I* use when preparing this monthly note was gifted

by its author, Mildred Buchanan Flagg, Litt.D, L.H.D., to E. Helene Sherman. According to the bookplate, pictured here, Ms. Sherman was an artist.



Mildred's inscription on the title page reads:

For E. Helene Sherman, loyal and efficient President of the National League of American Pen Women (Boston Branch). This book is inscribed with appreciation and admiration by Mildred Buchanan Flagg. Christmas 1965.

This copy of book contains six tiny inter-linear corrections in black ink: *Bridghman to Brightman* on page xv, *held to hold* on page 41, *Bleuret to Blurwet* on page 146, *Graitry to gravity* on page 170, *Ezekeal to Ezekiel (twice)* on page 209, and *Revelations to Revelation* on page 233.

For a reason I'll describe below, I was interested in who made these corrections. Of course, we don't know how many hands held the book between Helene's and my own. One doesn't typically think to inquire into the provenance of a book that was purchased for \$2.97 on Amazon. At least I didn't. The ink and hand of the corrections, as best one can tell by naked-eye examination, is the same as the dedication. These indicia along with the nature of the corrections make Mildred at least a person of interest.

As it turns out I own two other copies of this book signed by the author. One bears the dedication ***With warm regards for Tom Dillon from his grateful neighbor Mildred Buchanan Flagg. 12 Hunnewell Circle, Newton. Dec. 9, 1965.***

This copy makes all of the previous copy's correction plusthiyty to thirty on page 185. My third copy simply says

Mildred Buchanan Flagg Newton May, 1966

on the front free endpaper. This copy makes the corrections on pages xv and 41 listed above but none of the others. It does however contribute *liwe to life* on page 29, *Mrs. To Mr.* on page 114, *Fitst to Fitsy* on page 225, *Husdon to Hudson* on page 234, *Feance to France* on page 246, and then to than on page 248.

What are we to make of all of this besides that there seems to be a person at a keyboard somewhere writing BAC columns who really ought to think about getting a life?

I imagine many authors make corrections to dedication copies before they send them off. "Yes, I know it's wrong. The typesetter was having a bad hair day." The coming of print-on-demand straight from your PDF has turned you as an author into the typesetter so there's no more blame shifting. But it also means you can quick like a bunny upload a corrected PDF whenever a howler leaps off the page and dances around the room taunting you. ("It wasn't there when I was proofreading the drafts. I just know it wasn't.") Whether or not you remembered to update the printer's key print runs in single digits is going to make life miserable for catalogers but this is a small price to pay (by others, to be sure) to ensure that your esteemed colleague doesn't go on thinking you don't know how to spell Jones' middle name.

What led me down this bunny trail was noticing marks associated with entries in the table of contents. The table is simply a list of the names of the individuals whose thumbnail biographies are included in the book. To decode these marks, it seemed useful to have a working hypothesis about who made them. I've convinced myself that it was Mildred in Newton with a pen. On to the decoding.

By Scott B. Guthery

The BAC newsletter is published the first week of every month except for the summer months. Please send news about upcoming events, awards, and new books to bostonauthorsclub@gmail.com by 2/28/20 for publication in March.

REMINDER Your BAC Membership for 2020

BAC membership dues are \$50 annually for the calendar year. You can join and renew online by [clicking here](#). If you would rather pay by check, please make your check out to Boston Authors Club and mail it to the following address:

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STAY CONNECTED



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