Dear NEIBA Friends,

Just a quick note to say thank you all for the warm welcome over these past few weeks as I've started my new role here. I have been lucky to be able to spend quality time with Steve, learning the ropes. He was so generous with his expertise that I feel like I can really hit the ground running. And then there is Nan's vast institutional memory to rely on...it certainly isn't breaking news to this group how absolutely invaluable she is, but in these early days especially I am very grateful for her help.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months. When I have my sea legs office-wise, I'm planning to hit the road for as many store visits as time allows. I want to pick your brains about how your stores run, what your burning issues are, and how NEIBA can continue to provide the kind of support that will materially move your businesses forward. It is my firm belief that the more we talk with each other, the stronger we will be collectively.

To that end, we've started a private Facebook group for NEIBA bookstore members that will serve as a real-time forum for us all to share information and ideas, process industry news, and generally keep in touch. Think of it as NEIBA
Listsőve 2.0 (but not to worry, Listserve users...the current Yahoo groups will remain in place—the goal here is for us to have communication opportunities on every platform). Look for your invite to this group soon (if you haven't seen it already).

Every day I show up at the office and pinch myself just to be sure that this dream job is indeed a reality for me—I'm beyond thrilled to be here.

Cheers,
Beth

Deadlines to Remember!

Candlewick Where's Waldo Sign Up
March 1

BINC College Scholarship
March 5

ABC Children's Institute Scholarships
March 30

All About the Books! Registration
April 4

WNBA Pannell Award Nominees

Every year a panel of publishing professionals selects two award winners: one general bookstore and one children's specialty bookstore. Nominations come from customers, sales reps, bookstore employees, or anyone who has been impressed with the work of a particular independent bookstore.

This year's nominees include NEIBA members bookstore:

General Bookstore
Gibson's Bookstore, Concord, N.H.
Newtonville Books, Newton, MA
Northshire Bookstores, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
Oblong Books & Music, Rhinebeck, N.Y.

Children's Specialty Bookstore
Blue Bunny Books and Toys, Dedham, MA

Each of the two winners will receive a $1,000 check and a framed signed original art piece from a children's book illustrator. The presentation of the award will be in New York City at the BookExpo/ABA Children's Book and Author.
Notes From the NEIBA Advisory Council

With two theme tables at the front of our store here in Wellesley, we began February focusing on Black History Month and Valentine's Day. But with Valentine's Day passing, we had an opportunity to build a display around a theme we hadn't used for several years: we decided to feature a broad selection of books in translation, and the response from both booksellers and customers has been really gratifying.

It isn't the first time we've set up a display of books in translation, but since it's been a good three or four years, we felt the time was right to revisit this theme. It surely helped to hear that the NBF will bestow a National Book Award for Literary Translation beginning this year.

Since we last visited this subject, the landscape has simply changed so much, in so many ways. Publishers large and (especially) small are more attuned than ever to the global marketplace for great writing, and our community in Wellesley is hungry - as I'm sure all our communities are - for literature from other cultures. And what we are facing in our own country opens us more than ever to the experience of people from other places who have endured repression, tyranny, war, and dislocation. In that respect, sadly, several books on this table relate clearly to many of the titles on our Black History Month table.

But our eyes have been opened by so much more than the literature of hardship. One customer was
initially surprised to see Fredrik Backman's latest bestseller *Beartown* (yes, translated from Swedish of course, but you won't see Neil Smith's name on the cover). Another was thrilled to see a novel translated from Celtic (Mairtin O Cadhain's *Cre na Cille*) presented in not one but two distinct translations - one more faithful to the original text, the other with a little more of the translator's voice. Of course, we had to include Jhumpa Lahiri's recent *In Other Words*, and did go ever so slightly outside the brief of our theme to include Gaston Dorren's wonderful *Lingo: Around Europe In Sixty Languages*. And the timing was just right for Emily Wilson's recent groundbreaking translation of *The Odyssey*.

In short, in setting up this display, we reminded ourselves that, whether we're reading for enlightenment or for entertainment, the art of translation is woven deeply into the daily fabric of our lives.

~ Peter Sherman, *Wellesley Books*, Wellesley, MA