

# *The Wind is Not a River* ~ Brian Payton

## NMPL BOOK CLUB – AUGUST 12, 2014 @ 6:30

### Discussion Questions

1. The author chooses to alternate between John and Helen's perspectives. Did this add to the story or distract from it?
2. Is Helen's involvement in the USO realistic or too contrived?
3. Why does John gain strength from the package left behind by Tatiana? Would it have been as strong if it had been written by a child, an elder, or another male?
4. What do you believe would have been the outcome if John had given himself over to Sgt. Major Uben Kubota?
5. What was your first response to the final chapter?
6. Were you surprised that Helen was so close to meeting Tatiana yet chose not to meet her? Why do you feel she made this choice?
7. How might the ending have been changed if Karl had survived or if Helen had found John in the islands?
8. What do you imagine will happen to Helen after the end of the novel?
9. Alaska's Aleutian Islands is a formidable setting for the story of John and Helen. Would the basic story have been the same in another setting from WWII... France, Germany, the Pacific Islands...?

### JOTTINGS...