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NEWS FROM THE WOMEN’S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION

October is National Reading Group Month — Celebrating the joy of shared reading

NEW YORK — September 17, 2012 — To celebrate the joy of shared reading and to encourage more people to get involved with reading groups, the Women’s National Book Association (WNBA) has designated October as National Reading Group Month. October 2012 is the sixth annual celebration with 1000s of avid readers taking part in activities through traditional and online book clubs and at neighborhood bookstores and local libraries.

"Now more than ever, as technology changes the landscape of our daily lives, including how we read, the joy of shared reading enhances our connections with the books we read and our connections with each other," says WNBA National president, Valerie Tomaselli. She continues, "The growth of reading groups is also a boon to the publishing industry — it creates new and expanded markets for books, and supports the publishing of quality works. For all these reasons, the WNBA's celebration of book groups, through National Reading Group Month, is one of the most important aspects of our mission to support 'the community of the book.'"

National Reading Group Month events hosted by the 10 WNBA chapters — Boston, Charlotte, Detroit, Los Angeles, Nashville, New Orleans, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. — launch programs throughout the country during the entire month of October.

The highly awaited National Reading Group Month Signature Event to be held in Nashville at the Nashville Public Library Downtown on Saturday, October 13 (program, 9-11 a.m.; book-signing, 11-11:30 a.m.) headlines best-selling authors Ben Fountain (Billy Lynn’s Long Halftime Walk, Ecco/HarperCollins), Christopher Tilghman (*The Right-Hand Shore*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux), Gail Tsukiyama (*A Hundred Flowers*, St. Martin’s Press), and Karen Thompson Walker (*The Age of Miracles*, Random House). In an encore appearance, Nashville Public Radio WPLN All Things Considered host Nina Cardona will lead the panel-program. For a fourth year in a row, the "coffee with authors" is an official part of the Southern Festival of Books and is co-sponsored by the Nashville Public Library and Parnassus Books·Nashville — An Independent Bookstore for Independent People.

*Great Group Reads 2012 Selections*

A full schedule of WNBA chapter National Reading Group Month events is listed below. Updates will be posted on local-chapter and partner bookstore and library Web sites, as well as NationalReadingGroupMonth.org and primary social media channels such as Facebook and Twitter.


2012 Content Partners include Book Group Buzz — A Booklist Blog, Reading Group Choices, and Reading Group Guides. Additionally, National Reading Group Month / Great Group Reads marketing materials especially designed for bookstores are included in the American Booksellers Association IndieBound September Red Box mailing.
Those publishers, companies, or individuals interested in becoming sponsors of National Reading Group Month 2013, should contact Jill A. Tardiff, National Reading Group Month Chair at (201) 656-7220, or jill.tardiff@gmail.com.

Events

Boston
WNBA-Boston at Hotel 140 with event partner Haley Booksellers (Thurs., Oct. 18; 6:30-8:30 p.m.): Kate Whouley (Remembering the Music, Forgetting the Words: Travels with Mom in the Land of Dementia, Beacon Press), with David R. Gillham (City of Women, Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam), Martha Southgate (The Taste of Salt, Algonquin Books), and Rosie Sultan (Helen Keller in Love, Viking Adult/Penguin Group USA). Contact: Daphne Kalotay, daphne.WNBA-boston@gmail.com, or Dawn Rennert, dawn.WNBA-boston@gmail.com.

Charlotte

Detroit
WNBA-Detroit with event partners Baldwin Public Library-Birmingham and The Book Beat (Wed., Oct. 10; 6:30-8:30 p.m.): Natalie Bakopoulos (The Green Shore, Simon & Schuster) and D.E. Johnson (Detroit Breakdown, Minotaur Books/Macmillan). Contact: Annette Marie Haley, annettemariehaley@gmail.com.

Los Angeles
WNBA-LA with event partner Vroman’s Bookstore*Pasadena (Mon., Oct. 22; 7-9 p.m.): Naomi Benaron (*Running the Rift, Algonquin Books), Richard Kramer (These Things Happen, Unbridled Books), Attica Locke (The Cutting Season, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers), and Héctor Tobar (The Barbarian Nurseries, Picador/Macmillan). Contact: Rachelle Yousuf, HYPERLINK "mailto:rachelle.yousuf@gmail.com" rachelle.yousuf@gmail.com.

*NGreat Group Reads 2012 Selections

Nashville

WNBA National Reading Group Month Signature Event (Designated)
*Great Group Reads 2012 Selections

New Orleans
WNBA-New Orleans at the Newcomb College Center for Research on Women/Tulane University with event partner Octavia Books (Thurs., Oct. 11; 7-9 p.m.): Attica Locke (The Cutting Season, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers). Contact: Susan Larson, slarson05@gmail.com.

New York City
WNBA-NYC with event partner Strand Book Store (Wed., Oct. 17; 7-9 p.m.): Rosalind Reisner
*Great Group Reads 2012 Selections

San Francisco

*Great Group Reads 2012 Selections

Seattle

Washington, D.C.

Library & Other Events
Readings ‘Round the Sound
Weller (Wilderness, Bloomsbury USA); Third Place Books (Thurs., Oct. 25; 7 p.m.), Will Schwalbe (The End of Your Life Book Club, Knopf/Random House). Contact: Linda Gray, HYPERLINK "mailto:ldndgry2003@yahoo.com" lndgry2003@yahoo.com.

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National Reading Group Month / Great Group Reads is an initiative of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA). Founded in 1917, the WNBA is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization. WNBA is national in its scope and is comprised of women and men who work with and value books. WNBA promotes reading and supports the role of women in the community of the book. For more information about the Women's National Book Association go to: HYPERLINK "http://www.wnba-books.org" www.wnba-books.org.


Press release prepared on September 17, 2012, by Jill A. Tardiff, National Reading Group Month Chairperson / Event Manager Phone: (201) 656-7220