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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**


**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@rachelleyousuf@gmail.com" rachelle@rachelleyousuf@gmail.com.

*Great 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
(Read On — Life Stories: Reading Lists for Every Taste and Jewish American Literature: A Guide to Reading Interests, Libraries Unlimited), with Ben Ryder Howe (My Korean Deli: Risking It All for a Convenience Store, Picador/Macmillan), David Maine (*An Age of Madness, Red Hen Press), Elizabeth Nunez (Boundaries, Akashic Books), Marisa de los Santos (Falling Together, William Morrow Paperbacks/ HarperCollins Publishers), and Alix Kates Shulman (Ménage, Other Press). Contact: Roz Reisner, roz@thereisners.net, or Jill Tardiff, jill.tardiff@gmail.com.

*Great Group Reads 2012 Selections

San Francisco

*Great Group Reads 2012 Selections

Seattle
WNBA-Seattle with event partner Parkplace Books*Kirkland (Wed., Oct. 24; 7-9 p.m.): Mary Ann Gwinn (book editor, The Seattle Times), with Heather Barbieri (The Cottage at Glass Beach, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers), Laurie Frankel (Goodbye for Now, Doubleday/Random House), Maria Semple (Where’d You Go, Bernadette, Little, Brown and Co./Hachette Book Group), Gregory Spatz (Inushuk, Bellevue Literary Press), and Lance Weller (Wilderness, Bloomsbury USA). Contact: Leslie Adams, leslieadams.adams@gmail.com, or Mary Harris, parkplacebooks@integra.net.

Washington, D.C.
WNBA-Washington, D.C. at the Arts Club of Washington with event partner Politics and Prose Bookstore (Tues., Oct. 16; 6:30-8:30 p.m.): Leslie Maitland (Crossing the Borders of Time: A True Story of War, Exile, and Love Reclaimed, Other Press) and Vaddey Ratner (*In the Shadow of the Banyan, Simon & Schuster). Contact: Judy Leaver, judy@jleaver.com.

Library & Other Events
Readings 'Round the Sound
WNBA-Seattle and Parkplace Books (Kirkland, Wash.) in association with eight metropolitan bookstores and libraries present "Readings 'Round the Sound" — a month-long, multi-event National Reading Group Month celebration giving prominence to local authors with national recognition. Participating venues: Eagle Harbor Books (Thurs., Oct. 4; 7:30 p.m.), Lance Weller (Wilderness, Bloomsbury USA); Liberty Bay Books (Sat., Oct. 6; 2 p.m.), Sheila Roberts (Better Than Chocolate, Harlequin MIRA); University Book Store/U-District (Mon., Oct. 8; 7 p.m.), Sherman Alexie (Blasphemy: New and Selected Stories, Grove Press); Elliott Bay Book Company (Mon., Oct. 8; 8 p.m.), A.M. Holmes (May We Be Forgiven, Viking Adult/Penguin Group USA); Parkplace Books (Wed., Oct. 10; 7 p.m.), Knute Berger (Pugetopolis: A Mossback Takes on Growth Addicts, Weather Wimps, and the Myth of Seattle Nice, Sasquatch Books); Seattle Public Library/Central Branch (Tues., Oct. 16; 7 p.m.), Gregory Martin (Stories for Boys: A Memoir, Hawthorne Books); Edmonds Bookshop (Thurs., Oct. 18; 5:30 p.m.), Ingrid Ricks (Hippie Boy: A Girl’s Story, Ricks Communications LLC); Eagle Harbor Books (Thurs., Oct. 18; 7:30 p.m.), Dylan Tomine (Closer to the Ground: An Outdoor Family’s Year on the Water, in Woods and at the Table, Patagonia Books); Queen Anne Books (Fri., Oct. 19; 6:30 p.m.), Douglas Smith (Former People: The Final Days of the Russian Aristocracy, Farrar, Straus and Giroux); Parkplace Books (Wed., Oct. 24; 7 p.m.), Heather Barbieri (The Cottage at Glass Beach, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers), Laurie Frankel (Goodbye for Now, Doubleday/Random House), Maria Semple (Where’d You Go, Bernadette, Little, Brown and Co./Hachette Book Group), Gregory Spatz (Inushuk, Bellevue Literary Press), and Lance
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:lndgry2003@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.


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