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The Joy Of Shared Reading

(NAPSA)-The only thing better than reading a good book may be enjoying that book together with a reading group.

Reading groups are a great way to learn about new authors, to share favorite books and to meet other readers.

These are just a few of the reasons why the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) wants to encourage readers to take part in a group.

"Reading groups inspire, transform and educate," said Laurie Beckelman, WNBA president. "They foster community and instill an appreciation for the written word."

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of its founding, the organization has designated October as National Reading Group Month (NRGM). The mission of National Reading Group Month is fourfold:

- To bring about public awareness of the joy of shared reading;
- To provide a time for existing groups to celebrate their accomplishments and make plans for the future;
- To encourage libraries, bookstores and various organizations to host special events for reading groups;
- To provide opportunities for individuals to get involved in an existing reading group or start one of their own.

WNBA has chapters in Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Nashville, New York City, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Its advisory board includes Carol Fitzgerald, founder and president of The Book Report Network including Readinggroup guides.com, and Nancy Pearl, a nationally noted librarian and author of "Book Lust" (2003), "More Book Lust" (2005) and "Book Crush: For Kids and Teens" (2007), all published by Sasquatch Books.

A chief organizer is April Judge of the New Jersey American Library Association and West Caldwell Public Library. NRGM is originally the idea of Martha Burns and Alice Dillon, authors of "Reading Group Journal: Notes in the Margin" published by Abbeville Press (1999).

Further information is available at <http://wnba-books.org>.