

Run by Ann Patchett – Author of *Bel Canto* and *Truth & Beauty*

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October Is National Reading Group Month

It's a new chapter for reading groups.

In honor of its 90th birthday, the Women's National Book Association (WNBA) has designated October as National Reading Group Month.

Initially the idea of Martha Burns and Alice Dillon, the authors of *Reading Group Journal: Notes in the Margin*, National Reading Group Month augments the association's mission to "promote reading and the value of books," said WNBA president Laurie Beckelman. Advisory board members for the new endeavor include Carol Fitzgerald, founder and president of the Book Report Network, and librarian and *Book Lust* author Nancy Pearl.

"Much like its own beginnings in the social movements of the early 20th century--supporting the value of books and reading--WNBA recognizes reading groups in the U.S. as a major grass-roots phenomenon, bringing together readers in the community of the book, at home gatherings, at schools and businesses, at bookstores and libraries," said Jill Tardiff, WNBA National Reading Group Month Committee chair and WNBA immediate past president

Bookstores and libraries are among the venues hosting National Reading Group Month events, which will take place in cities with WNBA chapters. On Monday, October 29, bibliophiles will convene at the New York Center for Independent Publishing for a read-a-thon with Adriana Trigiani, Wally Lamb, Matthew Sharpe and other book club favorites. The gathering will be hosted by Fitzgerald; Barbara Mead, co-owner of Reading Group Choices, will lead a discussion about book clubs.

Additional events are scheduled for Boston, Washington D.C., Nashville, San Francisco and Los Angeles, where Hillary Carlip, author of *Queen of the Oddballs: And Other True Stories from a Life Unaccording to Plan*, will appear at Dutton's Brentwood Books.

A Detroit soiree will focus on tomes about family farms to tie in with "Farm Market/Farm Family Month" in Michigan, while one at the Monmouth Country Library Headquarters in Manalapan, N.J., will be aimed at librarians and feature fiction scribes Beth Gutcheon, author of *Leeway Cottage*,

and Jamie M. Saul, author of *Light of Day*-- [Shannon McKenna](#)

For more information, visit wnba-books.org.

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