

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

**Jill A. Tardiff, National Reading Group Month Chairperson / Event Manager
(201) 656-7220
jill.tardiff@gmail.com, or NationalReadingGroupMonth@gmail.com**

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.

Official 2012 National Reading Group Month sponsors include the Gold Level/Premier Sponsor HarperCollins Publishing and its imprints Harper, Harper Paperbacks, Harper Perennial, Amistad, Ecco, William Morrow, and William Morrow Paperbacks; Silver, Ingram Content Group and Other Press; Friends of National Reading Group Month, Bloomsbury USA, Red Hen Press, and SONY Reader™Store/SONY Style.

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.WNBAboston@gmail.com, or Dawn Rennert, dawn.WNBAboston@gmail.com.

Charlotte

WNBA-Charlotte at Maggiana's Little Italy Restaurant with "biblio feast" co-sponsor Park Road Books (Mon., Oct. 22; 6:30-9 p.m.): Mark de Castrique (*The 13th Target*, Poisoned Pen Press), Emily Colin (*The Memory Thief*, Ballantine Books/Random House), Debra Dean (*The Mirrored World*, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers), Mary Glickman (*One More River*, Open Road Media), Judy Goldman (*Losing My Sister: A Memoir*, John F. Blair, Publisher), Shira Nayman (*A Mind of Winter*, Akashic Books), Elena Passarello (*Let Me Clear My Throat: Essays*, Sarabande Books), and Wendy Welch (*The Little Bookstore of Big Stone Gap: A Memoir of Friendship, Community, and the Uncommon Pleasure of a Good Book*, St. Martin's Press/Macmillan). **Contact:** Susan Walker, susan.walker.books@gmail.com.

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:rachelleyousuf@gmail.com" rachelleyousuf@gmail.com](mailto:HYPERLINKmailto:rachelleyousuf@gmail.com).

*Great Group Reads 2012 Selections

Nashville

WNBA-Nashville with "coffee with authors" partners Nashville Public Library and Parnassus Books*Nashville in collaboration with the Southern Festival of Books (Sat., Oct. 13; program, 9-11 a.m.; book-signing, 11-11:30 a.m.): Nina Cardona (Nashville NPR host/reporter), with Ben Fountain (*Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk*, Ecco/HarperCollins Publishers), Christopher Tilghman (*The Right-Hand Shore*, Farrar, Straus and Giroux), Gail Tsukiyama (*A Hundred Flowers*, St. Martin's Press/Macmillan), and Karen Thompson Walker (*The Age of Miracles*, Random House). **Contact:** Lee Fairbend, lfairbend@comcast.net.

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

WNBA-SF with event partner Books, Inc.*Opera Plaza in collaboration with LitQuake (Sat., Oct. 6; 2-4 p.m.): Amanda McTigue (*Going to Solace*, Harper Davis Publishing), with Anita Amirrezvani (*Equal of the Sun*, Scribner/Simon & Schuster), Amanda Coplin (*The Orchardist*, Harper/HarperCollins Publishers), and C.W. Gortner (*The Queen's Vow*, Ballantine Books/Random House). **Contact:** Kate Farrell, catharine.farrell@comcast.com.

***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:ldngry2003@yahoo.com" ldngry2003@yahoo.com.

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.

Women's National Book Association, P.O. Box 237, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150; HYPERLINK "http://www.wnba-books.org" www.wnba-books.org; HYPERLINK "http://www.NationalReadingGroupMonth.org" www.NationalReadingGroupMonth.org.

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by Jill A. Tardiff, National Reading Group Month Chairperson / Event Manager
Phone: (201) 656-7220**