

Contact:
Carolyn Cordrey
Office (443) 249-7868
Cell (410) 858-7266
E-mail carolyn@prescottpr.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Barbara Drummond Mead, Leading Book Club Expert, Will Lead Panel At
The Virginia Festival of the Book March 18th**

I'd like to include a picture of Barbara smiling and surrounded by stacks of books. Can Charlie take one?

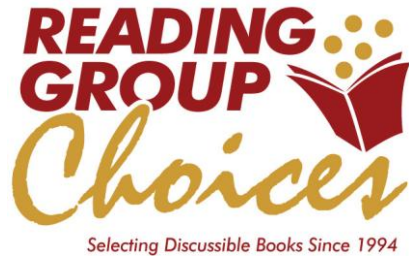
(March, 2011, Chester, MD), Leading book selection expert for reading groups and book clubs, Barbara Drummond Mead, will moderate the **Reading Group Choices** panel at The Virginia Festival of the Book at 2pm Friday March 18th at the Central JMRL Library in Charlottesville, Virginia. The panel is the only program dedicated exclusively to reading groups and book clubs presented in the book festival's 2011 panel series.

Mead, owner of **Reading Group Choices (RGC)**, will be bringing notable writers and book club favorite authors, Myla Goldberg (*The False Friend, Bee Season*), Carolyn Parkhurst (*The Nobodies Album, Lost and Found, Dogs of Babel*), Tatjana Soli (*The Lotus Eaters*), and William Cobb (*The Last Queen of the Gypsies*) as panelists. "I've been a moderator for this festival for five years, and the talent that the organizers put together gets better every year" she says. **Reading Group Choices**, of Chester, Maryland, selects discussible books and suggests discussion topics for reading groups and book clubs.

Just in the last few weeks, Mead's newsworthy guest panelists have created more buzz for their work. Tatjana Soli's *New York Times* bestseller *The Lotus Eaters* is a finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Art Seidenbaum Award for first fiction, and Mandate Pictures just announced Carolyn Parkhurst's acclaimed debut novel from 2003, *Dogs of Babel* will be adapted as a dramatic movie starring, and produced by, comedian Steve Carrell.

Mead encourages book club members to come to the **Reading Group Choices** panel discussion to meet the authors, participate in the discussion, and possibly win some free books. "Four lucky reading groups will win big bags of reading-group appropriate selections of newly available books, and even some advance readers' copies, from **RGC's** publishing partners," she says. **RGC** also annually surveys and reports reading groups preferences. Attendees of Mead's panel discussion will get an opportunity to take the *2011 Reading Group Survey* and enter for a chance to win \$100 for their book club.

Now In its seventeenth year running, The Virginia Festival of the Book (March 16-20) offers attendees five days of mostly free literary events open to the public, bringing together writers and readers and promoting and celebrating books, reading, literacy, and culture. The Central JMRL Library is located at 201 E. Market Street (434-979-7151) in Charlottesville, VA. The **Reading Group Choices** panel is free and open to the public.



Contact:
Carolyn Cordrey
Office (443) 249-7868
Cell (410) 858-7266
E-mail carolyn@prescottpr.com

Reading Group Choices, a recognized authority in discussible book club selections, provides a multitude of additional fun and useful resources for book clubs and reading groups on their website including their annual guide, *Reading Group Choices: Selections for Lively Book Discussions*, now in its 17th edition (\$6.95), a free monthly e-newsletter, and Mead's blog, *On the Bookcase* featuring one-on-one interviews with book authors, details regarding upcoming book festivals, tips for book club hosts (such as popular book club fare) and even a humorous commentary on book club etiquette. Explore their website at (www.readinggroupchoices.com).

###
