

New Releases From Favorite Authors

Chances to Win Free
Books!
May 2007

Dear Charlie,

Reading groups attract a diverse set of social, thinking, and fun-loving people. If this sounds like you, there's something for you in this month's **Reading Group Choices** Newsletter!

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Susan Vreeland's New Release



Susan Vreeland, reading-group-favorite and international-bestselling author of *Girl in Hyacinth Blue*, *The Passion of Artemisia*, *The Forest Lover*, and *Life Studies*, has just released her newest historical novel. *Luncheon of the Boating Party*, named after Renoir's famous painting by the same name, is a book that depicts the

summer of 1880, an exuberant postwar time when social constraints were loosening, Paris was healing, and Parisians were bursting with a desire for pleasure.

Where Serious Readers Have Serious Fun!



Book groups and book clubs—reading groups and reading circles—these are more than just lively discussions about character, plot, and sense of place. Friendship and food, wit and wisdom, smart conversation and heated debate are all a part of the special time that you set aside for yourself. Celebrate all these things and more at **book group expo**, June 8-10 in San Jose.

Please join Barbara at this exciting event. "I will be moderating two salons. This is my first time at book group expo, and I am so jazzed. Talk about reading group fever!"

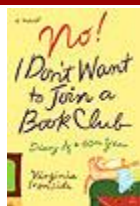
The diversity of ideas that exists in reading groups is always reflected in the book selections of **Reading Group Choices**, and this event mirrors that idea, as well. Over 50 authors, including seven writers of **Reading Group Choices'** book selections, will be discussing their books at the

The fourteen painted figures on the terrace overlooking the Seine enjoying this moment of la vie moderne are Renoir's very real friends, whose lives unfold and connect during the course of the making of the painting.

Susan shares her thought-provoking and intensely personal ideas with us in this month's "**1-On-One**."

[Enter for your chance to win a copy!](#)

No! I Don't Want to Join a Book Club



Here's another discussible new release! Fresh and truly unique, moving gracefully on in years has never been more hilarious than in this forthright grandma's take on the "third phase" of life.

[A Chance To Win A Free Copy](#)

New Releases, Favorite Authors

Authors that have thrilled reading groups with their previous works - and some debut authors of new discussible titles - have released some exciting new books and paperback editions in the past month. Four are May 2007 BookSense Picks, and all of them are **Reading Group Choices** selections. You may want to try one or more of them in your group!

May 2007 Book Sense Picks

[Hick](#) by Andrea Portes

[Luncheon of the Boating Party](#) by Susan Vreeland

[Devils in the Sugar Shop](#) by Timothy Schaffert

[Without A Map: A Memoir](#) by Meredith Hall



"What's New" Selections

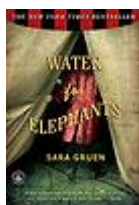
[Water for Elephants](#) by Sara Gruen

[No! I Don't Want to Join a Book Club](#) by Virginia Ironside

[The Good Good Pig](#) by Sy Montgomery

[Eye Contact](#) by Cammie McGovern

[An Infinity of Little Hours](#) by Nancy Klein Maguire



2nd annual book group expo. Donna Woolfolk Cross ([Pope Joan](#)), Mark Allen Cunningham ([The Green Age of Asher Witherow](#)), Debra Dean ([The Madonnas of Leningrad](#)), Karen Joy Fowler ([The Jane Austen Book Club](#)), Julia Scheeres ([Jesus Land](#)), Marisa de los Santos ([Love Walked In](#)), and Susan Vreeland ([Luncheon of the Boating Party](#)) will speak with reading group members in different literary salons. Some of the other writers attending the event include Khaled Hosseini, Anna Quindlen, Aimee Liu, and Carolyn See.

Thousands of reading group members from all over the country converge for two wonderful days of authors, food, wine, chocolate, and plenty of fun. Say's Barbara, "Please look me up - I'll be the one with the cat necklace!"

A portion of the proceeds of the show go to local and regional literacy and reading programs.

[Learn More About book group expo](#)

Quick Links

[Enter the Book Club Bout](#)

[Enter The Boating Party Bash](#)

[A 1-On-One With Cammie McGovern](#)

May We Recommend



And may we recommend some discussible titles that your group may not have read yet.

[Rain Village](#) by Carolyn Turgeon

[Edges](#) by Leora Skolkin Smith.

Picking Your Group's Next Read

What's the best way for your group to pick its next read? Many groups strive for consensus in advance about the [kind](#) of books they plan to read. Some groups set



aside one meeting to create a list or theme for the coming year. Many even use formal (or not-so-formal) voting processes to make their selections. Lots of groups require members suggesting books for discussion to have read the book ahead of time and even to have done research to support the selection.

In our recent surveys, readers have given us all kinds of ideas - maybe some of them will work for your group!

[Proven Ideas From Veteran Book Groups!](#)

Can't We Get Everything Online?

[Choosing Your Group's Next Book](#)

[1-On-One: Susan Vreeland](#)

[1-On-One: Cammie McGovern](#)

[Discount Broadway Tickets - Use Code YMBKP92](#)

[On the Bookcase](#)

[Invite An Author](#)

[What's Your Group Reading?](#)

[Save Time - Register](#)

Reading Group Choices



[Selecting Discussible Books Since 1995](#)

[Order The Print Edition](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Some newspapers have downsized their book review section and even laid-off some book reviewers due cost-cutting measures. Does the nation need print material to examine and recommend literary work? Can't we get everything online now? See what Barbara thinks in this month's ...



On the Bookcase

It Takes All Kinds!



Reading groups attract men and women, mothers and daughters, teenagers - readers and book-lovers of every size, shape, color, and temperament whether they live in cities or in small towns - all to broaden their horizons and enrich their lives. Please read these accounts of two groups so different but appreciating the same concept - lively book discussions with friends. [Tell us](#) what's unique about your reading group!

Two Groups Different & Alike

Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Debbie and the **Sand Mountain Girls Book Club** (a.k.a. **Dixie Chicks Reading Group!**) from Boaz, Alabama, for winning the random drawing of the **Discussible Book Choices Contest!**

"We are just on our 3rd book, but having a blast!!! Our current book is [The Same Sweet Girls](#) by Cassandra King. We're lovin' it, 'cause it is soooo us!!!! Southern girl friends have a bond that even the "hottest" hunk can't break!"

We enjoy getting emails from book club members and

sharing their choices with everyone. Please [email](#) us with your group's discussible choices, and you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group. Please remember to include your group name, number of people in your group, and mailing address to send the prizes.

Other Discussible Choices

Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,



Selecting Discussible Books for Reading Groups Since 1995

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