

National Reading Group Month Launch

Fun Events &
Activities
October 2007

Dear Barbara,

At last! A month set aside just for reading groups! Launch events to mark the new designation for October are taking place all over the Country. Attend one of them - or come up with your own for your group. There are suggestions galore about how to celebrate - and lots more news about discussible titles - in this month's issue of the **Reading Group Choices** newsletter.

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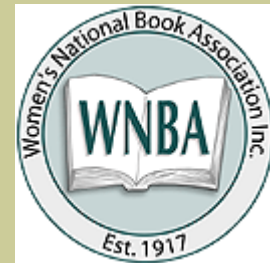
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Wine & Books

Wine and Books - the perfect reading group combo! What about wine, and a book about wine?! Julia Flynn Siler pours the details of four generations of a talented and visionary family in ***The House of Mondavi: The Rise and Fall of an American Wine Dynasty***. Set in the lush Napa Valley, this nonfiction work is a tale of genius, sibling rivalry, and betrayal - great discussible topics. From 1906, when Italian immigrant Cesare Mondavi passed through Ellis Island, to the Robert Mondavi Corporation's twenty-first-century battle over a billion-dollar fortune, *Wall Street Journal* writer Julia Flynn Siler brings to life both the

WNBA Launches NRGM



The **Women's National Book Association** (WNBA) is launching **National Reading Group Month** (NRGM) on October 29, 2007, at the New York Center for Independent Publishing. Librarians, booksellers, publishers, and, of course, reading groups will enjoy a read-a-thon featuring reading-group favorite authors, including Wally Lamb, Adriana Trigiani, and **Matthew Sharpe** at the New York event.

WNBA chapters in Boston, Dallas, Detroit, Los Angeles, Nashville, San Francisco, and Washington DC are having similar events to launch NRGM in their respective cities.

Booklovers all over the country are joining the festivities in October.

Yawn's Books in Canton, Georgia, is having a "One Book

place and the people in this riveting family drama.



Julia enjoys Author Conversations with reading groups. [Click here](#) for wine sipping suggestions while discussing *The House of Mondavi*, a *Walking Tour of Napa Valley* video, and details about speaking with Julia.

Above - Laurie Forster, ([The Wine Coach®](#)), Julia ([the author](#)), and Barbara Mead ([Reading Group Choices](#)) enjoy a delicate finish to a bold, yet subtle, discussion about wine, books, and *The House of Mondavi* during Julia's recent visit to Maryland.

Books & Movies



In California's Central Valley, five women and one man meet to discuss Jane Austen's novels. Over the six months they get together, marriages are tested, affairs begin, unsuitable arrangements become suitable, and love happens. Is your book club like this one? Now you can [read about theirs](#) and [see it on the big screen](#). Coming soon to a theatre near you: [The Jane Austen Book Club!](#)

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

The Book Report



Some [Reading Group Choices'](#) selected authors are [The Book Report's](#) selections as well. [The Book Report](#) is a

"One Store" in recognition of NRGM on Thursday, October 26th. Six local book clubs are all reading the same title, *Learning to Breathe* by Karen White. They will meet in Yawn's Books for refreshments and a discussion with the author.

[Harry W. Schwartz Bookshops](#) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is hosting a "READer's ReTREAT" during the weekend of October 12th at [The Abbey Resort](#) on Lake Geneva in Fontana, Wisconsin. Kim Edwards ([The Memory Keeper's Daughter](#)) is the keynote speaker for a dinner on October 13th. Meg Mullins ([The Rug Merchant](#)) and Mary Relindes Ellis ([The Turtle Warrior](#)) are two of the other outstanding authors discussing their work at the retreat. Booklovers from around North America are coming to rap, read, relax, and rejuvenate!

These are just a few of the wonderful and fantastic ways to celebrate National Reading Group Month and the joy of reading. What is your group's way?

[The Jane Austen](#)

weekly AM radio book-related show organized by Windows, a bookshop in Monroe, Louisiana. A recent show features interviews with Elise Blackwell, author of *[Grub](#)* and Valerie Martin, author of *[Trespass](#)*. Other past interviews include Deirdre McNamer (*[Red Rover](#)*), Susan Vreeland (*[Luncheon of the Boating Party](#)* and *[Girl in Hyacinth Blue](#)*), and Debra Dean (*[The Madonnas of Leningrad](#)*).

[Hear Interviews & More](#)

Winners! in the Favorite Book Drawing

Thanks to all of you who responded to our recent survey! We received many, many entries about your book groups' **[favorite discussible books of 2006](#)**. The three lucky groups that won the drawing are deciding how to use their \$75 winnings for their next gathering and are pouring through the free discussible books provided by our publishing partners. The three lucky winners are:

Vital Spirits in Oradell, NJ. This group of eight has been getting together for over four years. They just met at a new Chinese restaurant in their area. Laura from **Vital Spirits** tells us that "last month we read *[Abundance](#)*, by Sena Jeter Naslund. Most of us found it interesting and compared the setting to what was going on in the U.S. at the time. We generally follow the questions listed in *[Reading Group Choices](#)* and throw in our own synopses and opinions. However, the consensus was that reading *[The Other Boylen Sister](#)* was much more fun. Two people, though, rented the new DVD *[Marie Antoinette](#)* to see how the character was portrayed in the movie as compared to the book version. Currently we are reading *[Water for Elephants](#)*."

The Open Book Reading Group in Alamogordo, NM, a group of ten readers who have been getting together over books for over ten years. Their most recent selection is *[Singing Bird](#)* by Roisin McAuley.

The Southbay Readers in Torrance, CA, who are meeting this week to celebrate.

More Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Marianne and **The Literary Locusts of**

Book Club

Join the club . . .



Read the book . . . See the movie!

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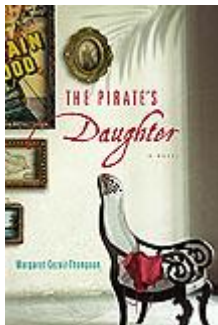
The House of Mondavi

Lochmere from Cary, North Carolina, for winning the random drawing for this month's **Discussible Book Choice!** Marianne writes "Over the summer, since we don't meet in June/July, we read --- drum roll please --- ***Atlas Shrugged!*** - over 1000 pages - yikes! Many had read it years ago, but we tackled it again. For September, we are reading ***Water for Elephants***, and for October, we are still trying to decide what to read. I enjoy your emails. Thanks for all the tips, feedback and suggestions."

We enjoy hearing from book club members and sharing their choices with everyone. Please **let us know** about your group's discussible choices - you may win a book-related prize for every member of your reading group!

[**More Discussible Choices**](#)

Prize-Winning Discussibles



This one is just being released on October 15th, and already it's getting lots of recognition! ***The Pirate's Daughter*** is the **Number One Book Sense Pick** for October. The novel has earned **rave reviews** from booksellers, reviewers, and advance readers across the country.

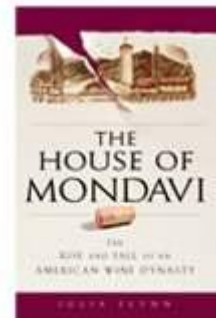
The Pirate's Daughter is a 30-year-saga of a Port Antonio, Jamaica, mother and child whose lives are greatly affected by their encounters with movie star Errol Flynn, who in fact visited Jamaica often in the last years of his life. The well-developed characters and unusual twists, set in the historical and cultural background of Jamaica, make this an exciting and moving story and definitely a reading group pick.

Broken Trail, the TV mini-series written by Alan Geoffrion, won an Emmy for best mini-series. In addition, Robert Duvall won an Emmy for best actor, mini-series or movie, and Thomas Haden Church won an Emmy for best supporting actor, mini-series or movie. The mini-series ran in June 2006 on AMC. Alan Geoffrion, the film's screenwriter, wrote his discussible book, ***Broken Trail***, based on his screenplay.



GOOD
WINE.
BAD
BLOOD.

Intrigue, scandal,
and betrayal in
Napa Valley



"Compelling"

-Eric Asimov, The New York Times

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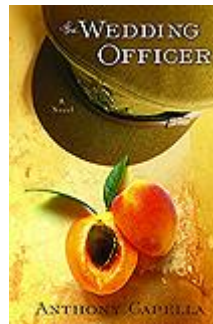
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Trepass by Valerie Martin is an October Book Sense Notable. **Trepass** forces the reader to see how thin a membrane separates the personal from the political and memory from history. It is a work of seriousness, tragic depth, and spellbinding narrative power. "Martin's novel is the best kind of moral fiction, the kind that interrogates morality itself," according to Sue Halpern, *The New York Times* Sunday Book

Review.

Book Sense has announced its **2007 - 2008 Reading Group Picks**. The list includes many **Reading Group Choices** selections, among them **Special Topics in Calamity Physics** by Marisha Pessl, **The Inheritance of Loss** by Kiran Desai, **Hick** by Andrea Portes, **Pocketful of Names** by Joe Coomer, **When Madeline Was Young** by Jane Hamilton, **The Year of Magical Thinking** by Joan Didion, **The Wedding Officer** by Anthony Capella, **Abundance** by Sena Jeter Naslund, and others.



1-On-One With Favorite Authors



Margaret Cezair-Thompson (*The Pirate's Daughter*) tells us where to find the "most beautiful language you'll ever find;" **Sara Gruen** (*Water for Elephants*) explains why she can't read anything right now; and **Andrea Portes** (*Hick*) reveals that she would never read to her children what she read as a child - in this month's 1-On-Ones.

More 1-On-Ones

These Are Special --

Invite An Author To Speak With Your Book Group

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1-On-Ones

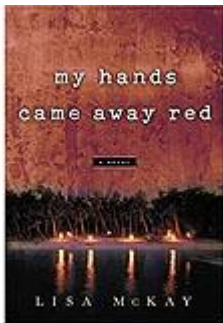
Margaret Cezair-Thompson

Sara Gruen

Andrea Portes

More 1-On-Ones

-- and sure to spark lively discussions!



My Hands Came Away Red by Lisa McKay is a thought-provoking, fast-paced adventure set on a remote island of Indonesia, where violence is washing over the Christian and Muslim villages. Events catch an eighteen-year old youth visiting there by surprise and change his life.

In ***The Sea Captain's Wife***, award-winning historian Martha Hodes brings us into the extraordinary world of Eunice Connolly. Born white and poor in New England, Eunice followed her first husband to the Deep South and soon found her relatives fighting on opposite sides of the Civil War. Years later, Eunice fell in love with a well-to-do black sea captain, married him, and moved to his home in the British Caribbean. War, racism, freedom -- there's plenty to discuss here!

Sky Blue by Travis Thrasher introduces us to a frustrated literary agent who loses everything dear to him before finding meaning in his life.

Enter For A Chance To Win A Free Copy of Sky Blue



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