

Winners Cater December Gatherings

**2008 Favorites
Coming Soon**
December 2008

Dear Barbara,

YOUR favorite discussible books:

- Celebrating last year's choices;
- Getting ready to pick this year's winners;
- Wondering what next year's favorites will be.

Plus thoughts on holiday gifts, classics on TV, and book group tips - all in this month's **Reading Group Choices** newsletter.

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Favorite Book Winners!

Three lucky reading groups have won the **Reading Group Choices** 2007 Favorite Book Random Drawing. Hundreds of

Favorite Books of 2008



It's the holidays, and many of you are getting together with your book groups to celebrate and review the past year.

While you're reminiscing, why not think about what books generated the best discussions in your groups during 2008?

We love to hear about your lively book discussions and the books that you chose for them, so **we'll soon post a survey on the website.** Many of you will also receive one in the mail. The results are always fascinating, and they help us all to find great books to discuss in the coming year.

In the meantime, have a joyous holiday!

groups told us earlier this year what books generated the best discussions for their group in 2007. All competed for a chance to have their December meeting catered, compliments of **Reading Group Choices**. We are thrilled to announce this year's winners.



Val and **The ViaSat Book Club**, won the first award. They are shown here in sunny Carlsbad, CA, discussing their most recent selection and enjoying a few refreshments.

Connie and the **LOLAs (Ladies of Literary Arts)**, pictured here at their November gathering with many of their discussible selections, won the next award. The twelve **LOLAs** are part of the Saint Peter's Church Book Group in Peekskill, NY.



Debbie and **The Wordy Women** of Indianapolis, IN, won the third award. Word has it **The Wordy Women** went wild with their winnings, but we weren't able to witness or record their wayward ways.

Congratulations to all three winners!

[Review the 2007 Book Group Favorites](#)

2009 Book Group Favorites?

And what books will make next year's list of book group favorites?



Maybe a new release by Beth Kendrick called **The Pre-Nup**. She has always found funny and fresh takes on the laws of attraction. Now she tackles the laws of retraction in a rollicking ride through Mayfair Estates, a swanky gated community where no one says "I do" without signing on the dotted line first. But for three Mayfair couples, the pre-nup

Rejoice, relax, rejuvenate, read, and get ready to proclaim YOUR Book Group Favorites for 2008.

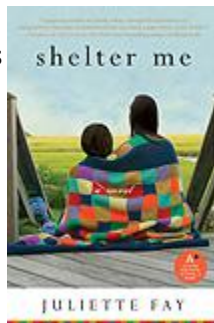
[Favorites of 2007](#)

Books as Gifts



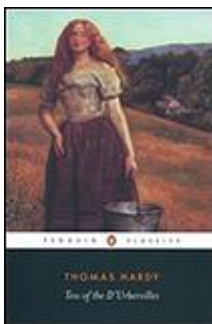
causes more woes than windfalls. Ellie's Prince Charming turns out to be a cheater. A successful attorney, Mara is giving the pre-nup and her wedding dress equally careful attention-until Josh dredges up a foolish one-night fling from her past. Jen and Eric signed a pre-nup that put her business on the line. But when Eric takes off, she is forced to admit how much she loves him, with or without his bankroll. All three are about to find out just how priceless friendship can be.

Or perhaps ***Shelter Me***, a debut novel by Juliette Fay. Four months after her husband's death, Janie LaMarche remains undone by grief and anger. Her mourning is disrupted, however, by the unexpected arrival of a builder with a contract to add a porch onto her house. Stunned, Janie realizes the porch was meant to be a surprise from her husband-now his last gift to her. As she reluctantly allows construction to begin, Janie discovers that the unknowable terrain of the future is best navigated with the help of others-even those we least expect to call on, much less learn to love.



Tess Coming to PBS

Thomas Hardy's classic ***Tess of the D'Urbervilles*** will air in a two-part series as a PBS Masterpiece™ Classic on January 4th and 11th. Starring Gemma Arterton, Ruth Jones, Eddie Redmayne, Donald Sumpter and Hans Matheson; directed by David Blair; and hosted by Laura Linney, it boasts, in the words of *The Mirror* (UK), "Terrific-Well-paced, gorgeous photography and scenery, cracking performances."



The chance discovery by a young peasant woman that she is a descendant of the noble family of d'Urbervilles is to change the course of her life. Tess Durbeyfield leaves home on the first of her fateful journeys, and meets the ruthless Alec d'Urberville. Thomas Hardy's impassioned story tells of hope and disappointment, rejection and enduring love.

Your group may want to read and discuss the **companion edition** available this month and maybe even enjoy the production together as well. Check your local listings for airing time on PBS.

Books: The Perfect Gift

Chances to Win Discussible Books

[The Amazing Adventures of Dietgirl](#)

[People of the Book](#)

[The Pre-Nup](#)

Choices

[Featured Books](#)

[What's New?](#)

[May We Recommend](#)

New 1-On-Ones

[Leslie Kagen](#)

[Lawrence Hill](#)

[Laura Schenone](#)

New Profiles of Discussible Books

[Tess of the D'Urbervilles](#)

[People of the Book](#)

[The Geographer's Library](#)

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Here are the **Top 10 Reasons** (and a few more) why a book makes the best gift for this holiday season. Wrap up a Great Idea!



Discussion Tips

Here is a wonderful idea suggested by one of the members of **The Excelsior Book Club!**



"Our last meeting had 19 people (both men and women), and it was suggested that we each come with a question or a quote from the book to discuss. The items were then put in a large bowl, and different people drew and read them. This really facilitated the discussion and helped us to stay on track. We also did take the time to discuss whatever else was on someone's mind."

Thanks to Jane and **The Excelsior Book Club**, Excelsior, MN for the tip!

More tips

Hurray for Libraries!

"More than a building that houses books and data, the library has always been a window to a larger world--a place where we've always come to discover big ideas and profound concepts that help move the American story forward.



"Libraries remind us that truth isn't about who yells the loudest, but who has the right information. Because even as we're the most religious of people, America's innovative genius has always been preserved because we also have a deep faith in facts.

"And so the moment we persuade a child, any child, to cross that threshold into a library, we've changed their lives forever, and for the better. This is an enormous force for good."

-President-elect Barack Obama in a speech at the

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American Library Association annual conference in June 2005.

[Many thanks to Donna Paz Kaufman, founder of **Reading Group Choices**, and Janet W. Loveless of the Nassau County Public Library System, Fernandina Beach, FL, for passing on the quote.]

Your Own Discussible Choices

Congratulations to Kathy and **The Seekonk Book Discussion Group** for winning the random drawing for this month's Discussible Book Choice!

"Our November pick was **The Knitting Circle** by Ann Hood. We were lucky enough to have Ms. Hood call in to our group and chat with us about it. We loved the story and some of us were so inspired that we decided to join a knitting circle!"



Kathy, The Seekonk Book Discussion Group, Seekonk, MA

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

Book Group Cheer



If your reading group wants **a little "cheer"** for their holiday party, here is some literature and cocktail pairings from the *Baltimore Book Examiner*. Have a bookish holiday, and as always,

Thanks for keeping the joy of reading alive,

