Celebrate Spring

According to the calendar, spring has arrived, even though recent temperatures say otherwise. The days are getting longer, the sun is shining brighter and the blue sky seems more vibrant. Spring is the perfect time to shake off those winter blues with your book group and explore all the sights and sounds of rebirth. Take advantage of Syosset Public Library’s Museum Pass Program and visit The New York Botanical Garden or Old Westbury Gardens.

There is always something to see at the NYBG with over 250 acres and an endless array of plants and flowers. The Orchid Show: Chandeliers is currently running at the NYBG through April 19th, featuring thousands of colorful, fragrant orchids. Syosset Public Library’s membership pass admits 2 adults and up to 5 children ages 16 and under. The Orchid Show is included in our membership.

Old Westbury Gardens is the former home of J.S. Phipps and his wife, situated on 200 acres of formal gardens, landscaped grounds and woodlands. OWG opens weekends only beginning April 11th and everyday (except Tuesdays) beginning April 27th. SPL’s membership pass admits 2 adults and 2 children ages 18 and under.

Here are a few titles to help your book club swing into spring:

- Garden Spells by Sarah Addison Allen
- The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin
- Earthly Joys (Book #1 in the Earthly Joys series) by Philippa Gregory
- The Orchid House by Lucinda Riley
- The Garden of Evening Mists by Tan Twan Eng

To reserve a museum pass please visit www.syossetlibrary.org and click on the Museum Pass Program icon on the left hand side of the page and then click on Reserve a Museum Pass. For additional information regarding the New York Botanical Garden or Old Westbury Gardens, please visit www.nybg.org or www.oldwestburygardens.org.

Happy Spring!

- Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian
When I reviewed my current reading bookshelf, I noticed that many of the books could be characterized as psychological fiction or psychological suspense. I was not surprised because I often gravitate to this type of writing. With an emphasis on the motives, circumstances, and actions of the protagonists, these particular genres present the inner workings of the characters. With titles like *Gone Girl* or *The Girl on the Train*, it is apparent that many readers enjoy them as well. I had no difficulty locating upcoming novels in this category. Here are some suggested titles due out in April or May that your book club might consider for a future discussion:

**Where They Found Her** by Kimberly McCreight (4/14/15)
Struggling with memories over the loss of her own baby while investigating the discovery of an anonymous infant in the woods, journalist, Molly Anderson traces a string of unreported assaults spanning twenty years.

**God Help the Child** by Toni Morrison (4/21/15)
The latest novel by the Nobel Laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Bluest Eye* traces the impact of childhood trauma on the lives of a beautiful multiracial woman, the man she loves and an abused white girl who looks to her for help.

**Jack of Spades** by Joyce Carol Oates (5/5/15)
Enjoying his successful career and devoted family, a best-selling writer secretly authors a masochist-themed series that threatens his respectable community standing and becomes subject to a plagiarism lawsuit.

**Girl at War** by Sara Novic (5/12/15)
When her happy life in 1991 Croatia is shattered by civil war, 10-year-old Ana Juric is embroiled in a world of guerilla warfare and child soldiers before making a daring escape to America, where years later she struggles to hide her past.

**Disclaimer** by Renee Knight (5/19/15)
A brilliantly conceived, deeply unsettling psychological thriller—already an international sensation—about a woman haunted by secrets, the consuming desire for revenge, and the terrible price we pay when we try to hide the truth.

-Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

All summaries from the publishers.

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**Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction awarded to author Louise Erdrich**

Ms. Erdrich has enjoyed an accomplished career as a writer publishing over 14 novels and multiple other works, including memoirs, essays, poetry, short stories and children’s books. Ms. Erdrich is also the owner of BIRCHBARK BOOKS AND NATIVE ARTS in Minneapolis.

I was first exposed to Louise Erdrich’s writing in an Ethnic American Literature course in college and again as a graduate student in a Native American Literature course. I was highly impressed with her writing from the moment I picked up *Love Medicine*, winner of the 1984 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, and quickly went on to read more of her work.

The Syosset Public Library owns many of Ms. Erdrich’s titles in a variety of formats: Regular Print, Large Type, Audiobook, as well as downloadable eBook and Audiobook through Overdrive.

Not sure which title to read? Try one of our Staff Member Favorites:

**The Round House** by Louise Erdrich
*Winner of the 2012 National Book Award for Fiction*
When his mother, a tribal enrollment specialist living on a reservation in North Dakota, slips into an abyss of depression after being brutally attacked, fourteen-year-old Joe Coutz sets out with his three friends to find the person that destroyed his family.

**Love Medicine** by Louise Erdrich
*Winner of the 1984 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction*
*Love Medicine* is Louise Erdrich’s masterful debut novel, one of the most influential, beloved, and distinguished works of contemporary fiction. It is the unforgettable saga of two families and how their destinies intertwine over the course of fifty years on and around a North Dakota reservation. Here is the book that heralded the arrival of a major voice in American literature.

**The Master Butchers Singing Club** by Louise Erdrich
*Recognized by Booklist Editor’s Choice – Best Fiction of 2003*
“Returning to his quiet German village home after World War I, trained killer Fidelis Waldvogel, accompanied by his wife, leaves to start a new life in America and finds his life irrevocably changed by a new relationship.”

-Jackie Ranaldo, Head of Readers’ Services

All summaries from the publishers.