A Salute to Reading Groups

October is National Reading Group Month and what a wonderful time to join or start a group. This initiative established by the Women’s National Book Association (WNBA) fosters growth and promotes a love of literature. Whether you are interested in forming a group or discovering new resources to recharge your existing one, visit www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org. This website is a great resource of information for all group members with links to the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence, The Booklist Reader, and Reading Group Choices. Of particular interest, Reading Group Choices offers many useful elements such as, What's New, Book Club Advice, and Book News. You can even enter a contest to win a prize and become a Spotlighted Book Club.

Here are four books highlighted on the National Reading Group Month’s home page that your reading group may be interested in reading:

A Perfect Crime by A Yi

On a normal day in provincial China, a bored high-school student goes about his regular business. But he’s planning the brutal murder of his only friend, a talented violinist. He invites her around, strangles her, stuffs her body into a washing machine and flees town. On the run, he is initially anxious, but soon he alerts the police to his whereabouts…

Without You, There is No Us: My Time with the Sons of North Korea’s Elite by Suki Kim

Traces the author’s experiences as an English teacher to the sons of North Korea’s elite during the last six months of Kim Jong-Il’s reign, an effort complicated by oppressive regime enforcers, propaganda, and evangelical missionaries.

The Book of Strange New Things by Michel Faber

Called to perform missionary work on a world light years away where the natives are fascinated by the concepts he introduces, man of faith Peter Leigh finds his beliefs tested when he learns of natural disasters that are tearing Earth apart.

The Girl Who Wrote in Silk by Kelli Estes

A college student investigates the sad story of a displaced Chinese American in 1886 before making a discovery of a scrap of silk that forces her to choose between her family's honor and the truth.

All summaries from the publishers -Jean Simpson, Reader’s Services Librarian

www.syossetlibrary.org
2015 Man Booker Prize For Fiction Nominees

On September 15th the 2015 Man Booker Prize for fiction shortlist was announced. This year’s list includes writers from Great Britain, United States and Nigeria. The shortlist nominees are:

* A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James (Jamaica)

* Satin Island* by Tom McCarthy (UK)

* The Fishermen* by Chigozie Obioma (Nigeria)

* The Year of the Runaways* by Sunjeer Sahota (UK) (available in the USA 3/1/16)

* A Spool of Blue Thread* by Anne Tyler (USA)

* A Little Life* by Hanya Yanagihara (USA)

2014 was the first year the Man Booker Prize was open to any author writing originally in English and published first in the UK. Previously, the award was open only to authors from the UK & Commonwealth, The Republic of Ireland and Zimbabwe.

The Man Booker Prize was established in 1969 to promote great fiction by rewarding the best novel of the year written by a citizen of the UK, The Commonwealth, The Republic of Ireland or Zimbabwe. The winner will receive 50,000 Euro and all the shortlisted authors receive 2,500 Euro and a specially bound edition of their book.

Previous winners include *The Narrow Road to the Deep North* by Richard Flanagan (2014), *The Luminaries* by Eleanor Catton (2013) and *Bring up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel (2012).

The 2015 winner will be announced on Tuesday, October 13th in London’s Guildhall. Congratulations and good luck to all the nominees. For additional information regarding the Man Booker Prize, please visit [www.themanbookerprize.com](http://www.themanbookerprize.com).

-Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian

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Readers’ Services has added the following book to our Book Club In a Bag collection:

**A Spool of Blue Thread** by Anne Tyler

“It was a beautiful, breezy, yellow-and-green afternoon...” This is how Abby Whitshank always begins the story of how she fell in love with Red that day in July 1959. The Whitshanks are one of those families that radiate togetherness: an indefinable, enviable kind of specialness. But they are also like all families, in that the stories they tell themselves reveal only part of the picture. Abby and Red and their four grown children have accumulated not only tender moments, laughter, and celebrations, but also jealousies, disappointments, and carefully guarded secrets. From Red’s father and mother, newly arrived in Baltimore in the 1920s, to Abby and Red’s grandchildren carrying the family legacy boisterously into the twenty-first century, here are four generations of Whitshanks, their lives unfolding in and around the sprawling, lovingly worn Baltimore house that has always been their anchor. ...Brimming with all the insight, humor, and generosity of spirit that are the hallmarks of Anne Tyler’s work, *A Spool of Blue Thread* tells a poignant yet unsentimental story in praise of family in all its emotional complexity. It is a novel to cherish.”

-From the Publisher

Let us provide everything you need for a successful book discussion. We can supply you with 10 copies of the book and a discussion binder. The binder contains discussion questions, biographical information and critical material.

*Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 or 241 to reserve a book for your Book Club.*

-Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian