March is National Women’s History Month

In observance of National Women’s History Month, I thought it would be great to search the Syosset Public Library’s collection for interesting books on the contributions and achievements of women. Here are just a few intriguing finds your book club may want to discuss:

**Fight Like a Girl: 50 Feminists Who Changed the World** by Laura Barcella
An introduction to the history of feminist activism in the U.S. profiles fifty notable women, including Hillary Clinton, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Roxane Gay.

**The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II** by Denise Kiernan
Looks at the valuable contributions made by the thousands of women who worked at a secret uranium-enriching facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee during World War II.

**The Hello Girls: America’s First Women Soldiers** by Elizabeth Cobbs
This book shows how technological developments encouraged an unusual band to volunteer for military services at the precise moment that feminists back home championed a federal suffrage amendment. The same desire to participate fully in the life of their country animated both groups, and both struggled after 1920 to reap the rewards of victory.

**Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race** by Margot Lee Shetterly
An account of the previously unheralded but pivotal contributions of NASA’s African-American women mathematicians to America’s space program describes how they were segregated from their white counterparts by Jim Crow laws in spite of their groundbreaking successes.

**Rise of the Rocket Girls: The Women Who Propelled Us, From Missiles to the Moon to Mars** by Nathalia Holt
Traces the pivotal achievements of the elite female science recruits at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where in the mid-twentieth century they transformed rocket design and enabled the creation of the first American satellites.

All summaries from the publishers. —Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

**Have you picked up your copy of the March BookPage?**

*BookPage (America’s Book Review)* is a monthly publication that reviews new books that are coming out each month. It is available at the Information Desk on the first floor, at the Readers’ Services Desk on the second floor and the Reference Desk on the third floor.

In the March issue, the Book Club Column is recommending three books that will make for great discussions: *Imagine Me Gone* by Adam Haslett, *The Year of the Runaways* by Sunjeev Sahota and *The Summer Before the War* by Helen Simonson. The Evening Book Discussion will be discussing *Imagine Me Gone* on Tuesday, March 14 at 7:30.

When you come to the Library to pick up a copy of *BookPage*, stop by the Circulation Desk and get a copy of *Imagine Me Gone*. Hope to see you on March 14th at the Evening Book Discussion.

If you have any other Book Club needs please contact the Readers’ Services Desk at (516) 921-7161 ext. 239.

—Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian
Celebrating the Emerald Isle

In honor of St. Patrick’s Day, perhaps your book club would like to do an Irish themed book discussion. Here is a list of novels that encompass all things Irish. Sláinte!

**The Magdalen Girls by V.S. Alexander**
Dublin, 1962. Within the gated grounds of the convent of The Sisters of the Holy Redemption lies one of the city’s Magdalen Laundries. Once places of refuge, the laundries have evolved into grim workhouses. Some inmates are “fallen” women—unwed mothers, prostitutes, or petty criminals. Told with candor, compassion, and vivid historical detail, *The Magdalen Girls* is a masterfully written novel of life within the era’s notorious institutions—and an inspiring story of friendship, hope, and unyielding courage.

**A History of Loneliness by John Boyne**
The riveting narrative of an honorable Irish priest who finds the church collapsing around him at a pivotal moment in its history. A novel as intimate as it is universal, *A History of Loneliness* is about the stories we tell ourselves to make peace with our lives. It confirms Boyne as one of the most searching storytellers of his generation.

**The Wonder by Emma Donoghue**
Hired to care for a small Irish village girl said to have miraculously survived on nothing but "manna from heaven" for months, a journalist and nurse veteran of Florence Nightingale's Crimean campaign quickly finds herself fighting to save the child's life.

**Dubliners by James Joyce**
This collection of 15 stories provides an introduction to the style and motifs found in Joyce's writing. The stories stand alone as individual scenes of Dublin society and are intertwined by use of autobiography and symbolism.

**The Fields by Kevin Maher**
A teenager in 1980s Dublin becomes involved with a gorgeous older girl but also suffers abuse by a local priest and becomes increasingly troubled in this new novel from a veteran feature writer and columnist for *The Times*.

**Bury the Living (Revolutionary Series Vol. 1) by Jodi McIsaac**
When faced with the tragic death of her brother during Northern Ireland’s infamous Troubles, a teenage Nora joins the IRA to fight for her country’s freedom. Now, more than a decade later, Nora is haunted by both her past and vivid dreams of a man she has never met. When she is given a relic belonging to Brigid of Kildare, patron saint of Ireland, the mystical artifact transports her back eighty years—to the height of Ireland's brutal civil war.

**The Princes of Ireland (Book One of The Dublin Saga) by Edward Rutherfurd**
A fictional account of the legend of Cuchulainn recreates such events as the mission of Saint Patrick, the Viking invasion, the trickery of Henry II that led to England's establishment in Ireland, the failed rebellion of 1798, and the Great Famine.

**Nora Webster by Colm Toibin**
Struggling with grief and financial hardships after the death of her beloved husband, widow, Nora Webster struggles to support her four children and clings to secrecy in the intrusive community of her childhood before finding her voice.

All summaries from the publishers.

--Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian

"May your troubles be less and your blessings be more and nothing but happiness come through your door."

- an Irish Blessing