Swing Into Spring

To celebrate the start of Major League Baseball season, here are a few book selections that have a baseball theme. You may wish to choose one of these titles as a spring book club selection:

**Calico Joe by John Grisham**
Follows the divergent paths of a rookie hitter for the Chicago Cubs and a hard-hitting Mets pitcher.

**The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach**
At Westish College, a small school on the shore of Lake Michigan, baseball star Henry Skrimshander seems destined for big-league stardom. But when a routine throw goes disastrously off course, the fates of five people are upended.

**A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving**
In the summer of 1953, two 11-year-old boys—best friends—are playing in a Little League baseball game in New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother. Owen Meany believes he didn't hit the ball by accident. What happens to Owen after 1953 is extraordinary and terrifying.

**If These Walls Could Talk: New York Yankees: Stories from the New York Yankees Dugout, Locker Room & Press Box by Jim Kaat**
This book provides a closer look at the great moments and the lowlights that have made the Yankees one of baseball's keystone teams. Readers will find access to the clubhouse for moments such as Jeter's last contest at Yankee Stadium; David Wells' perfect game; and the elation of the 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2000 World Series championships.

**The Natural by Bernard Malamud**
This sports novel follows the career of baseball player Roy Hobbs, a natural with a bat whose dreams of playing in the big leagues are deferred by a youthful indiscretion, but who finally becomes a hero.

**The Chosen by Chaim Potok**
A baseball injury precipitates a friendship between two boys from Hasidic and Zionist families.

**The Great American Novel by Philip Roth**
A third major baseball league tries to survive, but World War II decimates it by 1943.

**When Shea was Home: The Story of the 1975 Mets, Yankees, Giants and Jets**
Four teams, 175 games, 3,738,546 fans one stadium. If 1975 wasn't the most successful year in New York sports, and it wasn't, then it was certainly one of the oddest. For that one crazy season, all four New York teams the Mets, Jets, Yankees, and Giants called Shea Stadium home. This well-written narrative includes information about the stadium, the teams, the players, how the teams coexisted, and how they didn't.

Happy Spring...Let's Go Mets! Let's Go Yankees!

All summaries from the publishers.

Lisa Jones, Readers' Services Librarian
New Memoirs and Biographies Up For Discussion

Book discussion groups are often looking for new titles, and memoirs and biographies are not always the first choice. Since it is entertaining and educational to discover different perspectives on life, your reading group may want to include the genre. I have chosen some interesting selections that your group may be interested in exploring.

**Being Elvis: A Lonely Life** by Ray Connolly
Taking a fresh look at the twentieth-century icon who fundamentally transformed American culture, a veteran rock journalist explores the extravagance and irrationality inherent in the Elvis mythology, offering a thoughtful celebration of an immortal life.

**Change of Seasons: A Memoir** by John Oates with Chris Epting
A memoir by the co-founder of the rock duo Hall & Oates explores the childhood music that shaped his early music perspectives, the unlikely artistic pursuits that led to the band’s first hit, and his personal struggles with fame.

**Charlton Heston: Hollywood’s Last Icon** by Marc Eliot
The first biography of one of the most fascinating, complex, and polarizing legends of cinema’s golden age, Charlton Heston, from the bestselling, prize-winning author of Cary Grant, Walt Disney, and American Rebel.

**Grace Notes: My Recollections** by Katey Sagal
Lyrical, reflective personal essays by the award-winning actress best known as Peggy Bundy on Married with Children trace the highs and lows of her life, from the deaths of her parents and her years in the L.A. rock scene to her early diagnosis with cancer and the stillbirth of her first daughter.

**Prince Charles: The Passions and Paradoxes of an Improbable Life** by Sally Bedell Smith
Presents a revelatory portrait of the heir to the British throne that offers new insights into his lonely childhood, intellectual quests, entrepreneurial pursuits, and marriages.

**Rising Star: The Making of Barack Obama** by David Garrow
Presents a definitive account of the former president’s life before his presidency, offering insights into his formative years, his associates, and his community work in Chicago.

All Summaries are from the publishers.

New to Book Club in a Bag

The Book Club in a Bag Consortium has added the following books to the Book Club in a Bag collection for our Syosset Public Library patrons:

**The Widow** by Fiona Barton
*The New York Times Bestseller*
*An NPR Best Book of 2016*
*One of The Wall Street Journal’s 5 “Killer Books” of the Year*
*A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year*

After Jean’s husband dies, the community wants to know the real truth about the crime he was suspected of—but Jean has secrets of her own.

**When Breath Becomes Air** by Paul Kalanithi
*Named one of the best books of the year by The Washington Post • The New York Times • NPR*

A young neurosurgeon faced with a terminal diagnosis describes his examination into what truly makes a meaningful life.

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 and critical material. Please contact Readers’ Services, 921-7161, ext 239 or 241.

Summaries from the publishers.

Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian