Celebrate National Reading Group Month

According to the Women’s National Book Association, October is National Reading Group Month. Exploring new book selections is a wonderful way to celebrate. As you are searching for titles for discussion, be sure to check out www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.com. It was great to see some books that I have enjoyed and many that are currently on my To Read list as well. Here are six titles that I have spotlighted for your consideration:

**America for Beginners** by Leah Franqui
A widow from India travels to California to learn the truth about what happened to the son who was declared dead shortly after he revealed his sexual orientation to their traditional family.

**Dear Mrs. Bird** by A.J. Pearce
An adventurous young woman takes a typist job to assist the war effort and lands in the employ of a renowned advice columnist before she begins secretly replying to heart-wrenching letters rejected as unsuitable.

**The Home for Unwanted Girls** by Joanna Goodman
Unable to forget the daughter she was forced to give up 17 years earlier, Maggie Hughes, now married to a businessman eager to start a family, is reunited with a man from her past who helps her realize that she must take what she wants from life and go in search of her long-lost daughter.

**The Lido** by Libby Page
An anxiety-ridden cub reporter for a small London paper is assigned to cover the closing of a local rec center and bonds with an 86-year-old widow who has swum in the community pool every day since childhood.

**The Second Mrs. Hockaday** by Susan Rivers
Follows the war efforts of Civil War veteran Major Gryffith Hockaday to discern the truth about his teen bride, who during the two years he was at war was convicted and imprisoned for allegedly having a baby in his absence and killing it.

**Sold on a Monday** by Kristina McMorris
When struggling reporter Ellis Reed takes a photograph of a sign advertising two children for sale in 1931, it leads to his big break and evokes memories from his past.

All Summaries are from the publishers.

Jean Simpson, Readers’ Services Librarian

“**What is the use of a book, thought Alice, without ....conversations?**”

- Lewis Carroll
Looking Ahead to November...the Holidays are Coming!

November is the time when a lot of us start to think about the holidays coming up: Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Christmas. Many of those thoughts center on what foods and drinks we might be serving, bringing or consuming at gatherings with friends and family. Your book club might want to use the November meeting to read and share some cookbooks! For this meeting, each member can bring a favorite cookbook, share some of their favorite recipes and spark some new ideas for each other’s holiday celebrations. Or if you don’t have a favorite at home, come into the library and borrow one of ours. Here’s a sampling:

- Platters and Boards: Beautiful, Casual Spreads for Every Occasion by Shelly Westerhausen
- Friendsgiving: Celebrate Your Family Of Friends by Alexandra Shytman
- Vegan Holiday Kitchen by Nava Atlas
- The Pioneer Woman Cooks: A Year of Holidays by Ree Drummond
- Around the Table: Recipes and Inspiration for Gatherings Throughout the Year by Martina McBride
- Family Table: Favorite Staff Meals from Our Restaurants to Your Home by Michael Romano and Karen Stabiner
- Jacques Pépin Celebrates by Jacques Pépin
- Lidia’s Celebrate Like an Italian by Lidia Bastianich
- How to Celebrate Everything by Jenny Rosenstrach

30 Years of BookPage

Pick up a copy of October’s BookPage, where they are celebrating 30 years of the best in books. BookPage is available at the Readers’ Services, Reference and Information desks. BookPage started publishing in 1988. Here are some of their favorite books from their first year:

- The Bean Trees by Barbara Kingsolver - Young, bright Taylor Greer leaves her poverty-stricken life in Kentucky and heads west, picking up an abandoned Native American baby girl whom she names Turtle and finds a new home in Tucson with Mattie, an old woman who takes in Central American refugees.

- The Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie - Gibreel Farishta, India’s legendary movie star, and Saladin Chamcha, the man of a thousand voices, fall earthward from a bombed jet toward the sea, singing rival verses in an eternal wrestling match between good and evil.

- Cat’s Eye by Margaret Atwood - Years after painter Elaine Risley flees Toronto for Vancouver, she returns to search for long-missing parts of her life and pursue the elusive Cordelia, her best friend and sometimes enemy.

Pick up a copy of the above books along with a copy of BookPage. BookPage is available every month at the public desks.

Summaries from the publishers.

-Evelyn Hershkowitz, Readers’ Services Librarian