It’s a Spooky Time of Year
...try a scary story for your next Book Club selection

Autumn is finally here and with it comes falling leaves, chilly breezes, warm apple cider and …Halloween! Why not try something a little different this month? Read a spooky story for your next Book Club Selection. Trying to get into the “spirit” of the season? Throw a Book Club Halloween party! Ask everyone to come in costume and serve some spooky snacks. Stop by a local farm stand and grab a few pumpkins for your group members to carve or decorate. Need some inspiration? Or spooky recipes? We have plenty of books to help you. My personal favorite recipe: the Cobweb Salad in the book *A Ghastly-Good Halloween* from *Gooseberry Patch*. Matthew Mead also provides plenty of craft ideas and decorating advice in his books: *Halloween Tricks and Treats* and *Matthew Mead’s Monster Book of Halloween*. I will be following his recipe for Candy Corn Parfait (*pictured*); a simple treat made by layering Vanilla Ice Cream, Orange and Lemon Sorbet in clear glassware. Easy and adorable for your book club members! Let’s not forget Tom Nardone and his amazing Jack-o-lantern designs in the *Extreme Pumpkins* series.

Don’t have time for all the prep work? Take your book group on a field trip. Have everyone meet up at one of the locations noted in Kerriann Flanagan Brosky’s books: *Ghosts of Long Island* and *Ghosts of Long Island II*. There are some great locations right around the corner from Syosset. Enjoy your spooky book club!

- Jackie Ranaldo, Head of Readers’ Services

Suggested Reading Selections:

**Classic Titles**
- *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley
- *The Fall of the House of Usher* by Edgar Allan Poe
- *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving
- *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson

**Contemporary Titles**
- *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James
- *The Little Stranger* by Sarah Waters
- *The Cypress House* by Michael Koryta
- *Her Fearful Symmetry* by Audrey Niffenegger
- *The Shining* by Stephen King
- *Interview with the Vampire* by Anne Rice
October is National Reading Group Month

National Reading Group Month was started by the Women’s National Book Association in October 2007 to promote the value of shared reading. The mission of National Reading Group Month is to:

- Increase public awareness of the joy and value of shared reading
- Provide a time for reading groups to celebrate their accomplishments and plan for the future
- Provide opportunities for individuals to join an existing reading group or start a new one
- Encourage libraries, bookstores, and organizations to host special reading group events

Each year National Reading Group Month issues a list of books especially recommended for book clubs:

**Great Group Reads 2012 Selections**

- The Absolutist by John Boyne
- An Age of Madness by David Maine
- The Art of Fielding by Chad Harbach
- The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker
- Blue Asylum by Kathy Hepinstall
- Boleto by Alyson Hagy
- The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman
- Equal of the Sun by Anita Amirrezvani
- Faith by Jennifer Haigh
- A Land More Kind Than Home by Wiley Cash
- I Married You for Happiness by Lily Tuck
- In the Shadow of the Banyan by Vaddey Ratner
- The O’Briens by Peter Behrens
- The Orchardist by Amanda Coplin
- The Right-Hand Shore by Christopher Tilghman
- Running the Rift by Naomi Benaron
- Salvage the Bones by Jesmyn Ward
- The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey
- What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty
- Why Be Happy When You Could Be Normal? by Jeanette Winterson

Annotations for the books on this list can be found by visiting the group’s website::

[www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org](http://www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org)

The website has more information of interest to book groups including the Great Group Reads selections from prior years.

- Sonia Grgas, Readers’ Services Librarian

If your Book Club would like to recommend a book to our readers, please send us an email at Readersservices@syossetlibrary.org and we will share it in a future newsletter.

“"I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.”

-Groucho Marx

---

**New & Noteworthy Fiction**

I just finished reading Lisa Genova’s latest book *Love Anthony*. The book is about two women who have experienced life altering events that have left them wounded and in need of deep soul searching.

Olivia’s son, Anthony, was diagnosed with autism at age 3. He never spoke, made eye contact or wanted to be hugged. Beth finds out her husband of 14 years had an affair with a co-worker. She turns to her first love, writing, as a means to cope. Beth begins a new book inspired by a dream about a boy with autism. Olivia and Beth have a chance meeting that enables them to come to terms with the past and move forward.

*Love Anthony* deals with the effects a young boy’s autism has on his parents, especially his mother. Genova, who wrote *Still Alice* and *Left Neglected*, captures what is going on inside Anthony’s head even though he is unable to verbally communicate with his parents.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Love Anthony* and believe it would be a great choice for book groups to discuss. Genova, who has a degree in neuroscience from Harvard, has written about Alzheimer’s, traumatic brain injury and now autism.

We currently have *Left Neglected* by Lisa Genova as a Book Club in a Bag selection for patrons to reserve.

- Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian