Inside This Issue:
- Books to help you find your next book club title!
- New short story collection from Emma Donoghue
- Book Club top 10 for October

To register your book club and receive this newsletter straight into your inbox, contact any Readers’ Services Librarian.

Upcoming Events For Readers
Afternoon Book Club
Rules of Civility
by Amor Towles
(rescheduled from Oct 30, 2012)
& Forgotten Country
By Catherine Chung
Tuesday, Nov 27, 2012
at 1:30 PM
Title Swap with Librarians
Share titles with librarians and other patrons
Tuesday, December 4
at 1:30 PM
Author Visit
Catherine Chung
will discuss her novel,
Forgotten Country
Friday, Dec 7, 2012
at 2 PM

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The Book Club Insider
Monthly Newsletter

Books to help you find your next book club title!

As librarians, we use many resources to try and find our next book club title. Usually, we get lucky. The librarians in the Readers’ Services Department are all big readers and typically we are able to use a book we have already read that truly impressed us. Unfortunately, this is not always the case and we must use our resources to find a discussable title. Not only do we access websites and blogs, but also books in the library focusing on finding your next great read. My personal favorite resource being 1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die. I know the title sounds harsh, but it is filled with 1001 titles compiled by the editors (many of which are English Professors) with the intention of encouraging people to read. The best part about this book is that titles are listed by year, which is great for our department because sometimes we like to celebrate the significant anniversaries of the publication of a book or the birthday of a favorite author. 1001 Books You Must Read Before You Die makes it easy!

In the “mood” for a certain kind of book: happy, light-hearted, holiday inspired, sad, or bittersweet? Try these two titles to find the perfect read: 1001 Books for Every Mood by Hallie Ephron or More Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Reason by Nancy Pearl.

Another great idea: The Book Club Cookbook by Judy Gelman and Vicki Levy Krupp combines book club titles with suggested dishes to serve at your meeting. Each recipe is in some way inspired by the storyline. Picking the right dish can help enhance a particular aspect of the story such as time, place or culture. For example, when reading Corelli’s Mandolin which takes place in Greece during World War II, the authors suggest a “Spanakopita” dish consisting of such items as spinach, scallions, feta, butter, eggs, phyllo dough, etc. (see recipe on page 82 for details).

Still at a loss? More suggested titles can be found in the following:

- The Readers’ Choice by Victoria Golden McMains
- For the Love of Books: 115 Celebrated Writers on the Books They Love Most by Ronald B. Shwartz
- Classics for Pleasure by Michael Dirda
- The Mother-Daughter Book Club by Shireen Dodson

- Jackie Ranaldo, Head of Readers’ Services
NEW SHORT STORY COLLECTION FROM EMMA DONOGHUE, THE AUTHOR OF ROOM

Author Emma Donoghue has penned a new book of short stories entitled Astray. Astray is a collection of 14 fact based short stories about travels to, within and from North America during the 1630’s to the 1960’s. The stories all come from historical records. Each one concludes with the actual historical account that inspired it. This allows the reader to compare fact with Donoghue’s fictional touches. Most of the characters in these stories face some type of struggle or loss that not only crosses geographical boundaries but social and economical ones as well. Astray is a definite departure from Donoghue’s 2010 novel Room which was a Man Booker Finalist and a New York Times Best Book of 2010. Barbara Hoffert of Library Journal wrote the following in her review of Astray, “Working in a different vein from Room, Donoghue has created masterly pieces that show what short story fiction can do”. Emma Donoghue has written 7 novels. Her 2010 national bestseller Room is available as a Book Club in a Bag selection for Syosset patrons to reserve.

-Lisa Jones, Readers’ Services Librarian

“I cannot remember the books I’ve read any more than the meals I have eaten; even so, they have made me.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

Top Book Club Books in October

The following were the most popular book club books* during October 2012 based on votes from readers and leaders of more than 80,000 book clubs registered with ShelfAwareness.com, which publishes two free e-newsletters about the book industry: one for readers (Tuesday and Friday) and one for book trade professionals (daily).

1. Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn
2. The Light Between Oceans by M.L. Stedman
3. Wild: From Lost to Found on the Pacific Crest Trail by Cheryl Strayed
4. Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption by Laura Hillenbrand
5. The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
6. Defending Jacob by William Landay
7. The Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling
8. The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern
9. What Alice Forgot by Liane Moriarty
10. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

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.

Should your book club like to reserve copies of any of the books mentioned above, please contact the Readers’ Services Desk. -Sonia Grgas, Readers’ Services Librarian

*Source: Shelf Awareness Pro Newsletter Monday, November 12, 2012