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NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION

National Reading Group Month Announces Great Group Reads 2014 Program

NEW YORK – FEBRUARY 10, 2014 – The organizers of National Reading Group Month invite publishers to participate in the Great Group Reads 2014 program. Now in its sixth year, Great Group Reads is a highly regarded and anticipated resource for book clubs and reading groups to choose books—and likewise, for bookstores and libraries to recommend books.

Titles for Great Group Reads are selected on the basis of their appeal to reading groups for whom they are bound to open up lively conversations about a host of timely and provocative topics, from the intimate dynamics of family and personal relationships to major cultural and world issues. The Selection Committee also makes a conscious decision to focus its attention on under-represented books from independent presses and lesser-known mid-list releases from larger houses. All should be books with strong narratives peopled by fully realized characters; books which perhaps have flown under the radar of reviewers and reading groups inundated by the vast number of new releases each year.

Preliminary submission guidelines:

- 1) **Genre:** literary fiction (novels, novellas, short stories) and memoir, including books in translation published in the U.S. between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014;
- 2) **Submissions:** titles for consideration must be submitted by publishers; limited to two titles per publisher or imprint; titles must be readily available through customary distribution channels;
- 3) **Format:** all eligible, including trade-paper reprints published within the designated time frame; exception: original ebooks.
- 4) **Restrictions:** previously submitted titles are ineligible; self-published books are ineligible.

The Selection Committee timeline is as follows: reading period will range from April through July; final decision to be made early-to-mid August; formal announcement will be made to media outlets early-to-mid September.

Submissions on or before Friday, April 4, 2014. Publishers are asked to contact Bebe Brechner, Great Group Reads Chair/Selections Manager, via email at HYPERLINK "<mailto:roz@thereisners.net>" sbrechner@gmail.com (subject line tagged: Great Group Reads 2014).

Great Group Reads 2013 Selections were:

Americanah by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Knopf); *Beautiful Ruins* by Jess Walter (Harper Perennial); *Big Brother* by Lionel Shriver (Harper); *A Constellation of Vital*

Phenomena by Anthony Marra (Hogarth); *David* by Ray Robertson (Biblioasis); *The House Girl* by Tara Conklin (William Morrow); *How It All Began* by Penelope Lively (Penguin Books); *Is This Tomorrow* by Caroline Leavitt (Algonquin Books); *Life After Life* by Kate Atkinson (Reagan Arthur Books); *Margot* by Jillian Cantor (Riverhead Books); *Mary Coin* by Marisa Silver (Blue Rider Press); *The Middlesteins* by Jami Attenberg (Grand Central Publishing); *Nowhere Is a Place* by Bernice L. McFadden (Akashic Books); *The One-Way Bridge* by Cathie Pelletier (Sourcebooks Landmark); *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger (Atria Books); *The Other Typist* by Suzanne Rindell (Amy Einhorn Books); *The Round House* by Louise Erdrich (Harper Perennial); *Schroder* by Amity Gaige (Twelve); *Sparta* by Roxana Robinson (Sarah Crichton Books); *Wash* by Margaret Wrinkle (Atlantic Monthly Press); and, *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers (Back Bay Books).

Great Group Reads marketing campaigns from 2009-2013 have included an array of professionally designed display materials such as shelf-talkers and table-top posters on the National Reading Group Month Web site for anyone to download and use in promoting GGR titles. These and other promotional materials such as bookmarks were made available to indie bookstores through the ABA September Red Box mailing. In addition, GGR authors were extended invitations to participate in nation-wide WNBA chapter National Reading Group Month programs during October.

National Reading Group Month has special partnerships with Book Group Buzz—A Booklist Blog, Reading Group Choices, Reading Group Guides as well as with the American Booksellers Association.

National Reading Group Month is an initiative of the Women's National Book Association (WNBA). Founded in 1917, WNBA promotes the value of books and reading.

Further information is available at: [HYPERLINK "http://www.NationalReadingGroupMonth.org"](http://www.NationalReadingGroupMonth.org) www.NationalReadingGroupMonth.org.

Women's National Book Association, P.O. Box 237, FDR Station, New York, NY 10150-0231; www.wnba-books.org.

Press release prepared on February 3, 2014,
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