For immediate release

Contact: Mary Mackay, 312-280-1532, mmackay@ala.org

Booklist chosen again as partner for National Reading Group Month

CHICAGO — October 1, 2009 — <u>Booklist</u>, the <u>American Library Association's</u> review source, is proud to have been selected again as a partner for the Women's National Book Association's <u>National Reading Group Month</u> in October, its third year.

The popular *Booklist* blog <u>Book Group Buzz</u>, offering helpful and entertaining information to reading groups both in and outside libraries, has again been selected as the official partner blog for National Reading Group Month. Book Group Buzz includes informative, wise, witty, and salutary posts by expert contributors from around the country, plus links to a wide range of free book group-related guides, tips and other resources. "This online destination for reading groups is the ideal blog for National Reading Group Month," said NRGM Chair, Jill Tardiff. "We are delighted to partner with ALA's *Booklist* and to make Book Group Buzz a visible part of the program. We're impressed by the scope of this one-stop resource for reading groups."

As a new initiative for National Reading Group Month this year, nine "Great Group Reads" (eight novels and a memoir) have been selected on the basis of their appeal to reading groups, covering timely and provocative topics. <u>Booklist</u> is making reviews of the Great Group Reads available free to non-subscribers at <u>Booklist Online</u>. Booklist Online is also a vibrant resource for book groups throughout the year, with wide-ranging free content from enewsletters to featured reviews of the day.

National Reading Group Month celebrates shared reading by promoting reading groups. "People are reading less and less for pleasure, yet month in and month out, thousands of groups nationwide gather to discuss the latest and to revisit older titles," observed Tardiff.

To learn more about <u>National Reading Group Month</u> and scheduled events, visit <u>www.NationalReadingGroupMonth.org</u>. Events featuring reading-group favorite authors are planned nationwide in the Association's 10 chapter cities, with partners from libraries and all areas of the book industry supporting the initiative.

Booklist's free one-stop resource, <u>Book Group Buzz</u>, can be found at <u>http://bookgroupbuzz.booklistonline.com</u>

<u>Booklist</u> is the book review magazine of the American Library Association, considered an essential collection development and readers advisory tool by thousands of librarians for more than 100 years. <u>Booklist Online</u> includes more than 125,000 reviews as well as a free Web site offering the latest news and views on books and media.

The <u>Women's National Book Association</u>, founded in 1917, is the oldest continuously running women's literary organization in the USA. For the past 90 years, it has united women - and now men - from every corner of the book world: writers, editors, librarians, bookstore owners, and more. It provides a vehicle through which members can act on their professional and personal commitment to champion the book and to stimulate the increased tolerance, social awareness, and civic involvement associated with reading.