

St. Louis County Library **News Release: January 26, 2008**
Contact: Jennifer McBride, 314-994-9411 x332 or jmcbride@slcl.org

Best Selling Fiction Writer Susan Vreeland Kicks-Off 2008 Adult Reading Club

The St. Louis County Library Foundation is pleased to launch the 2008 Adult Reading Club with bestselling author of “Girl in Hyacinth Blue,” Susan Vreeland. Vreeland will discuss and sign her latest novel “Luncheon of the Boating Party” on Tuesday, February 26, at 7:00 p.m. at Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

The program is free and open to the public. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Left Bank Books will provide copies of Ms. Vreeland’s books for purchase at the program.

Award-winning author Susan Vreeland, is known for historical fiction on art-related themes. Her novels include “Girl in Hyacinth Blue,” a finalist for the 1999 Book Sense Book of the Year, “The Passion of Artemisia,” “The Forest Lover,” and “Life Studies.” Vreeland’s novels have been translated into twenty-five languages and are a part of Literature and Art History curriculum at numerous universities across the country.

In her latest novel, “Luncheon of the Boating Party,” Vreeland vividly brings to life the fourteen individuals depicted in Auguste Renoir’s painting by the same name, which is widely considered the greatest masterpiece of Impressionist figure painting. Vreeland also intimately explores Renoir’s creative process and relationships with his subjects. Ms. Vreeland’s talk will be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation on Renoir and the Impressionist movement.

St. Louis County Library’s Adult Reading Club encourages participants to complete 10 books or 50 hours of reading time during the 13 week period (March 1 – May 31, 2008). Participants record their progress in an ARC Reading Journal and, upon completion, are entered into a raffle for numerous prizes from local co-sponsors. The Library will host events with several nationally recognized authors during the three month period. For more information, please visit the Library’s website: www.slcl.org.

At 1:00 p.m. on February 26, Ms. Vreeland will also participate in an education project sponsored by the St. Louis County Library and the Cooperating School Districts of Greater St. Louis. Ms. Vreeland will discuss her distinctive merging of art history and historical fiction and answer the questions of English and Art students from numerous area high schools via a live video conference. The video conference will take place at the Cooperating School Districts’ headquarters at 1460 Craig Rd.

Program sites are accessible. Upon two weeks notice, accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Contact St. Louis County Library by phone 314-994-3300, (TDD\TTY) 314-994-9255 or visit www.slcl.org.

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