## Morsels of the Mind Book Group

Date: January 22, 2004

Book Title: Aging With Grace by David Snowdon

Hostess: Nancy Schellenberg

Food Served: Healthy treats: tuna cheese dip, red pepper hummous, spinach squares, olives, watermelon, mixed berry crisp, wassail, punch, wine and coffee

Book Synopsis: Very old Catholic nuns who agree to be studied as a control group by David Snowdon, an epidemiologist researching the dementia of Alzheimer's disease. Their habits, health, early writings, education and memories were studied, and their brains were autopsied after death.

Review: Our group had mixed reactions to the book. Some felt it was a downer, others felt it was uplifting. A lively discussion ensued, and all admired the nuns who participated in the study. We felt that David Snowdon's approach to his subjects was very personal and engaging.

Highlights of Discussion: Laura and Ginny shared their vitamin regimens, which generated quite a discussion about foods, vitamins and healthy habits. Nancy shared an article about aspirin and Alzheimer's, and an article about the top 10 healthy foods.

Attendance: Linda Ryan and Mary Grant were absent.

Suggestions/Business: We revised the 2004 schedule somewhat due to the change in the KDL Author visit. Ginny will host our next meeting: <u>Death by Chocolate</u> on February 19.