

**Date: August 20, 2018**

**Hostess: Sandy Oato**

**Book Title: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood**

**Author: Trevor Noah**

**Book Synopsis:** A coming of age story of an intelligent, mischievous young boy; surviving pitfalls of dating in high school; misadventures as an enterprising young man with his buddies from the hood; his experiences growing up with an unconventional mother and a stepfather who was cruel when he drank. Trevor Noah's raw account of his path from apartheid South Africa to the desk of The Daily Show began with a criminal act: his birth. Trevor was born to a white Swiss father and a black Xhosa mother at a time when such a union was punishable by five years in prison. Living proof of his parents' indiscretion. Trevor Noah writes in a way that shows an incisive wit; it is moving and searingly funny! (Partially taken from Amazon, B & N)

**Our Review:** Everyone liked the book. Many expressed admiration for Trevor Noah's mother and how she raised him. Some were unaware of his role in The Daily Show on the Comedy Channel and made it a point to watch or record it. Most of us were unaware of his life between the time his book ends and his present age of 31 in New York City. Laura and Nancy M. shared South African music and photos of Trevor Noah's girlfriend.

**Food Served:** South African Chutney Chicken, Swiss Potato Rosti (for his Swiss father), a veggie tray, cheese and crackers, South African Shiraz wine, Dove dark chocolates. (I tried to find alcohol filled chocolates but discovered they are illegal in Michigan and couldn't find the kind of chocolates into which to inject spirits with a syringe! Remember those oranges, Linda?)

**Highlights of Discussion:** We marveled at how Trevor Noah's mother survived being shot many times by his stepfather. She attributed it to prayer. We also discussed her child raising strategies. We learned more about the difference between the "colored" and "black" populations. Another highlight was how brilliant Trevor was in being able to speak many native / tribal languages in order to fit in in different situations due to his being biracial. We all agreed that this was an enlightening, moving and fun read!

**Attendance:** Mary, Laura, Ginny, Julie, Nancy D, Nancy S, Nancy M, and Sandy

**Business/Suggestions:** Attending the Art Fair in September was discussed in lieu of a meeting. On October 22 Julie is hosting our discussion on [The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#) by Lisa See.