

Morsels for the Mind Book Group

Date: *May 18, 2015*

Book Title: *Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Olympics*

Hostess: *Sandy Oato*

Food Served: *Salmon Rillettes (like a spread), Crostini, Crackers, Melon, Vegetable Platter, Schnitzel (pork tenderloin), German beers (Bitburger, Hofbrau Dunkel) and wines (Riesling, Liebfraumilch), Apfelstrudel (apple strudel), ice cream with caramel sauce, coffee and tea.*

Book Synopsis: *The Boys in the Boat is about nine working class boys from the state of Washington who pulled together and rowed for gold in the 1936 men's Olympic eight-oar rowing event and how they got there, especially focusing on Joe Rantz's heart rending story of how he learned to trust himself and his teammates. He was abandoned by his family at an early age and learned to fend for himself.*

(The Weinstein Company has purchased the rights to adapt this book for a feature film.)

Review: *Barnes and Noble gave this book 4.5 stars while Amazon gave it 5 stars. All enjoyed this book although some found the details a bit of a challenge.*

Highlights of Discussion: *It helped to have 2 women, Amy West and Donna, from the Grand Rapids Rowing Association board enlighten us about those rowing details. We learned a lot from them! Also, Donna shared that her favorite book is A Town Like Alice.*

Attendance: *Ginny, Anne H, Anne S, Nancy D, Nancy M, Nancy S, (Amy and Donna from the Grand Rapids Rowing Association), Sandy*

Suggestions/ Business: *Amy and Donna from Grand Rapids Rowing Association invited us to a 'Learn-to-Row Day' event coming up on Saturday, May 30, from 9:00am - 1:00pm.*

Please view the videoclip on Daniel James Brown's

website <http://www.danieljamesbrown.com> for actual footage of the 1936 Olympics 8-oar rowing event in Berlin. His other books are: The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of a Donner Party Bride and Under a Flaming Sky: The Great Hinckley Firestorm of 1894.

Next month: *The Girl Who Came Home* by Gaynor on June 29th, 4:00 PM at Anne Starke's cottage