

Date: Thursday, June 17, 1999

Book Title: The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother

Hostess: Anne Starke

Food served: Pulled pork sandwiches, kosher dills, chips, salad and black & white brownies

Book Synopsis: James McBride writes about his mother, Ruth McBride Jordan, the daughter of an angry, failed Orthodox Jewish rabbi in the South. He also describes the inner confusions he felt as a black child of a white mother and of the love and faith with which his mother surrounded their large family.

Review: Our group for the most part enjoyed this book and were amazed by the courage shown by this mother who managed to raise 12 children, all of whom have gone on to successful careers.

Highlights of Discussion: When as a child, McBride asks his mother if he is black or white, she replies, 'you're a human, being. Educate yourself or you'll be a nobody.' 'If you're a nobody, it doesn't matter what color you are.'

Attendance: Anne Starke, Nancy McCreate, Nancy Schellenberg, Ginny Stewart, Linda Ryan, Anne Hill, Nancy Bodendian

Suggestions/Business Discussed a get-away week-end in Sept to Chicago. Anne Hill invited us to her cottage in Pentwater.