

Morsels for the Mind Book Group

Date: June 20, 2016

Book Title: Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng

Hostess: Nancy Dausman

Food Served: Greek pasta salad with chicken, spinach dip with Bugles, Tostito Scoops and Wheat Thins, fruit bowl, dill pickles rolled in ham spread with cream cheese, Chex Mix with mixed nuts, and raspberry pie with whipped cream.

Book Synopsis: “*Lydia is dead*” is the first sentence in the book. Lydia is the oldest daughter of a Chinese-American family and the book takes us on a discovery to find out how Lydia died. The author weaves several themes throughout the book, including alienation, achievement, race, gender, family and identity. As the police try to unravel what happened to Lydia, the Lee family must learn things about their daughter and sister that they didn’t know. As the family unravels during the next few weeks, each member takes a different approach to dealing with Lydia’s death. They are a family that doesn’t really communicate what they think or feel to one another and as a result they are caught in a world of half-truths, broken promises and unachievable expectations.

Review: Amazon gave the book a rating of 4.1 out of 5 stars. Everyone present liked the book and thought it was filled with many topics for discussion.

Highlights of Discussion: Our discussion began during our wine and beverage sampling, continued while we enjoyed the food that was served, and finished after eating. It was a lively discussion that touched on the following topics. 1) Did Lydia commit suicide or did she really believe she could swim to the dock? 2) How difficult would it be to live in a small Ohio town in the 1950s as a member of an interracial family? 3) What were the reasons Lydia’s mother was so adamant about Lydia becoming a doctor? 4) Why did everyone in the family ignore Hannah, the youngest daughter? 5) What role did Jack play in his relationship with Lydia and Nathan? 6) A copy of the Taiwanese cover for the book was distributed and the hidden message was revealed.

Attendance: Julie Coup, Nancy Dausman, Laura Lewakowski, Nancy McQuate, Sandy Oato and Nancy Schellenberg.

Suggestions/ Business: An updated Book Schedule was sent out by Nancy D.