

## Morsels for the Mind Book Group

**Date:** August 28, 2017

**Hostess:** Nancy Dausman

**Book Title:** Glory Over Everything

**Author:** Kathleen Grissom

**Book Synopsis:** The story's main character, Jamie Pyke, is the son of a black slave and a white plantation owner. He was forced to flee his Virginia home to avoid being sold as a slave. The story begins in Philadelphia in 1830, where Jamie now passes as the white Mr. James Burton, an artist and silversmith. After his lover dies during childbirth, James learns that slave catchers have abducted his young servant, Pan. As a debt to Pan's father, James sets out to rescue Pan in North Carolina. With the help of a slave from his former home, and help from Underground Railroad sympathizers, James must face up to his true identity and some of his greatest fears.

**Our Review:** Everyone in attendance enjoyed the book. Some had read the author's previous novel, **The Kitchen House**, and remembered Jamie's previous life of privilege and the circumstances that forced him to flee his home.

**Food Served:** Spinach Artichoke Quiche, Eggs Benedict Bubble-up, Hashbrown Potato Bake, Bacon Cheddar Pigs in a Blanket, Fruit Skewers, Frozen Caramel Apple Crunch Cake.

**Highlights of Discussion:** A short video of Kathleen Grissom discussing her book was shown for some background information about the research she had done prior to writing the book. Family dynamics was discussed by the group in detail, beginning with the relationship that developed between James and the couple who adopted him. There were people in James' past that betrayed him because they knew he was passing as white, and our discussion centered on that theme for some time. We talked about the hardships James endured during his journey to rescue Pan and the friendships he developed with the people who helped him. The end of the book had James creating a family of diverse individuals, and we tried to envision how that family would be accepted in Philadelphia in the mid-1800s.

**Attendance:** Julie Coup, Anne Hill, Nancy McQuate, Sandy Oato, Nancy Shellenberg and Nancy Dausman.

**Business/Suggestions:** None at this time.