

Morsels for the Mind Book Group

Date: April 18, 2013

Book Title: Killing Kennedy by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard

Hostess: Nancy Dausman

Food Served: Cucumbers in cream dressing, pinenuts, mixed seeds & peanuts, sweet corn & basil tart (by Julie), shaved ham on artisan bread, salmon & green peas under biscuits, Lincoln cake with raspberry sauce, cider & wines.

Book Synopsis: The book tells about the end of the Civil War, the killing of President Lincoln, and the search for assassin John Wilkes Booth. Events are told in a chronological order, with perspectives from conspirators, Lincoln and his family, law enforcement, U.S. Grant and other government officials.

Review: Most everyone had trouble with the battles that were described at the beginning of the book, trying to keep all the details straight. We all enjoyed learning more about this historical event and the specifics of what Lincoln was doing in the days/weeks prior to his assassination, as well as Booth's motivations for murdering Lincoln.

Highlights of Discussion:

- Lincoln's political astuteness & ability to listen to all sides of an argument
- Mary Lincoln seen as an outsider in Washington and later as an outcast
- Lack of security for Lincoln, especially at Ford's Theatre when the guard left his post allowing Booth access to Lincoln
- Roles of co-conspirators and were they fairly punished, i.e. Mary Surratt & Dr. Samuel Mudd
- Son Robert's career and success in politics

Attendance:

Julie	Anne H.	Ginny	Nancy S.
Nancy D.	Laura	Nancy McG.	Anne S.

Suggestions/ Business: