

Date: April 15, 1999

Book Title: Memoirs of a Geisha

Hostess: Sandy Oato

Food served: A light Japanese meal: rice crackers, green tea, miso soup with tofu and wakame (seaweed), rice and barazushi (seasoned rice w/ carrots, green beans, shiitake mushrooms), teriyake strips, & tangerines for dessert.

Book Synopsis: Life of a geisha accurately portrayed from an orphaned fishing-village girl in 1929 through her trials & tribulations to attain top status at the height of her popularity & on to middle age as the mistress of the patron of her dreams.

Review: Unanimously positive! Disagreed with some negative reviews from Amazon.com. Majority of those present displayed strong empathy for Sayuri. Many were surprised at the intricate, subtle and indirect ways of the Japanese geisha in her often cruel relationships with her peers & in pleasing men.

Highlights of Discussion: Recognition of the fact that geishas are not prostitutes but highly trained artisans

Delightful discussion on the differences between women's roles in the East the the West

Attendance: Ginny Stuart, Anne Hill, Nancy McQuate, Nancy Schellenberg, Nancy Bodenhorn, Ann Stark, Mary Grant, Linda Ryan, Sandy Oato

Absent: Sally, Nancy D., Laura

Suggestions/Business Nancy Dausman called in her suggestions for book selections - Nicholas & Alexandra and The Passions of the Mind (about Sigmund Freud.)

May 20, 1999 Tuesdays with Morrie at Nancy McQuate's (received email - changed to 5/18 - Tues.!)

June ? Color of Water Rick McBride at Ann Stark's cottage on Lake Macatawa (?)

July ? Where the Heart Is, Billie Letts

(see back for other books suggested)