

Morsels for the Mind Book Group

Date: November 19, 2009

Hostess: Laura

Book Title: Rasputin's Daughter

Author: Robert Alexander

Book Synopsis: The account of Grigori Rasputin, legendary Russian mystic, religious healer, and advisor to Nicholas and Alexandra, from his daughter Maria's point of view.

Review: We all agreed that Rasputin was certainly an odd most definitely fascinating, but that the book wasn't that great His "powers" (?) may have been just common sense, but at the time seemed miraculous. (Bedrest? Stop the leeches on a hemophiliac?) His sexual activities were also rather bizarre. How about those flagellants? Then there was the way he was murdered – over and over – and just couldn't be killed?

Highlights of Discussion: Played a multiple choice trivia game I found online.

Food Served: Borscht (Russian Beet Soup) with Dark Rye Bread; Pelmeni (little meat filled dumplings) with sour cream and dill; Petit Fours, Russian Tea Cakes, and Chruschiki; Pavlova with strawberries, raspberries and wild blueberries. Served yummy White Russians and "Novel" Tea (teabags with book lover quotes on the tags).

Attendance: All 3 Nancys, Anne S, Julie, Ginny, Sandy and Laura

Suggestions/Business: Everyone brought children's books to donate to the North Kent Service Center, and we also discussed ideas for our Christmas dinner.