

## *Morsels of the Mind Book Group*

**Date:** October 25, 2007

**Book Title:** Stealing Buddha's Dinner, by Bich Minh Nguyen

**Hostess:** Laura

**Food Served:** Vietnamese Spring Rolls and Mexico Tosquitos, an assortment of junk food: Hostess Twinkies, Pringles, Candy Bars, Candy necklaces, Koolaide, and a BIG Toll House Cookie with ice cream and chocolate sauce for dessert!

**Book Synopsis:** The memoir of a Vietnamese girl with a Hispanic step mother, growing up in Grand Rapids in the 1980s, and how she wanted so much to be like her Dutch blonde/blue-eyed schoolmates she becomes consumed with American processed, and fast foods.

**Review:** 4 ½ stars on Amazon; It was used as the Hope College, "All Freshman Read" book for 2007, A Booksense pick and one of the Today show's "10 Books to Snuggle up with this Winter".

**Highlights of Discussion:** Morsels all enjoyed the book, the characters, the food and the music! Lots of memories and referrals to Grand Rapids. Some felt it dwelled too much in Bich's early childhood and we wondered if Bich's issues were unusual for immigrants? Or typical for those living in poverty?

**Attendance:** Nancy Dausman, McQuate, Schellenberg, Ann Hill and Starke, Ginny, Sandy and Laura

**Suggestions/Business:** Made arrangements for our December Christmas dinner at Seoul Garden for December 6.