

Morsels for the Mind Book Group

Date: November 15, 2012

Book Title: The 19<sup>th</sup> Wife by David Ebershoff

Hostess: Anne Hill

Food Served: Orange scones as there was a coffee shop in the book called A Woman Sconed. There were little references to food in the book - so basic, American themed food was done - Apple Bread Pudding, an old fashioned dessert for the 1800's setting - raw veggies with <sup>tomato</sup> ranch dip, sliced cheese and crackers, pretzles and cheese dip.

Book Synopsis: Parallel, dual stories of an offshoot of the Latter Day Saints' cult during current times where the 19<sup>th</sup> wife of (Mormons) a leader is accused of shooting & killing her husband. The 1875 story of Brigham Young's 19<sup>th</sup> wife separating from him, filing for divorce and exposing the evils of polygamy is explored with the book switching back & forth between the tales.

Review: Amazon reviews were high 4-5 stars as were individual reviews from the New York Times. Praise for the complexity & plurality of the two, entwined stories.

Highlights of Discussion: The discussion yielded mixed feelings regarding the two tales. Some were more intrigued by the historical story of Ann Eliza Young while others wanted to continue the modern murder mystery. All were surprised by the killer in the present day mystery. Much discussion and curious questions about the sacred underpinnings of the Mormon tradition.

Attendance: All 10 members - Julie, Ginny, Laura, Nancy S., Nancy McQ, Anne S., Nancy D., Mary, Sandy, Anne +

Suggestions/ Business: Children's books were brought for us to donate to a charity. Sandy took nearly all of them for Martin Luther King School, where she volunteers.  
Holiday dinner reminder, Dec 5