

Morsels for the Mind Book Group

Date: August 28, 2014

Book Title: The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker

Hostess: Sandy Oato

Food Served: Gaeng Gai Bama (Burmese Chicken Curry), Jasmine Rice, Tropical Fruit Salad, Veggie plate with Curry Dip, Sanin Makin (Burmese Semolina Pudding/Cake) served with Toasted Coconut Ice Cream

Book Synopsis: First published in 2002 in Germany as Das Herzenhoren, this lovely book was translated into English by Kevin Wiliarty. Julia Win flies to Kalaw, Burma (Myanmar) to find out why her Burmese father, Tin Win, disappeared after reading a love letter he wrote to Mimi, his childhood sweetheart. Julia meets U Ba who tells the crux of this love story (enduring a 50-year separation) about her father as a blind young man and his relationship with Mi Mi whom he carries on his back.

Review: Everyone loved this book!

Highlights of Discussion: How the sense of hearing is highly developed when blind; different causes of curable blindness, possibly cataracts?; different aspects of "love"; Mi Mi's crippling caused by club feet? The lack of medical care in Kalaw, the dangerous conditions in the country today as expressed by Sendker's online journal. All wore sarongs and some wore them as longyis, Burma's customary clothing. Many interested in Burma/Myanmar's geography/location in SE Asia. Several discussed the ingredients that went into the chicken curry, the veggie dip and the dessert.

Attendance: Laura, Anne S., Ginny, Mary, Nancy D., Nancy M, Sandy.

Absent: Nancy S., Julie and Anne H.

Business: Next book - The Luncheon of the Boating Party by Susan Vreeland. Meet for Art Prize @ Ford Museum 3:00. Dinner @ Women's City Club 5:30. Date: Sept. 29