Morsels of the Mind Book Group

Date: January 17, 2008

Book Title: Things We Couldn't Say by Diet Eman

Hostess: Nancy Schellenberg

Food Served: Dutch: mettworst, sauerkraut, Edam in croute, rye bread, crème horns, windmill cookies, and Droste chocolates.

German Riesling represented the Nazi occupation.

Dutch salt and pepper sets and tulips graced the table.

Book Synopsis: The book is a memoir of Diet's life during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands during WWII. Diet worked in the Dutch Resistance hiding Jews. She also traveled delivering forged IDs, ration cards and money. She was eventually arrested and incarcerated in a jail and a concentration camp. Although Diet survives, many friends, including her fiancé, died.

Review: Opinions of Diet's writing style varied, but all Morsels admired her courage and spunk in the face of overwhelming danger.

Highlights of Discussion: We discussed Diet's strategy of appearing to be stupid as a way of escaping prosecution. Later, she created a new identity which kept the Nazis from finding out about her friends, family and illegal activities. Diet kept a clear head during her Resistance activities and her imprisonment. We were in awe that a young person had such inner resources.

Attendance: All but Sandy and Mary.

Suggestions/Business: Our next meeting is at Literary Life on Wealthy on Feb. 28. Those who wish will meet for an early dinner at The Green Well. Our next book is <u>The Girls</u>.

See photo of Diet on the next page, courtesy of Nancy McQuate.