

Date: July 20, 2015

Hostess: Mary Grant

Book Title: This Golden Land

Author: Barbara Wood

Book Synopsis: A sweeping historical saga of Australia and a love story of one determined young woman who must choose between the two devoted men she loves.

Eighteen-year-old Hannah Conroy has always dreamed of following in her father's footsteps as a healer. But in nineteenth-century England, the medical profession is closed to women. She sees midwifery as a back door into that world, but her fledgling career is crushed by personal tragedy. Seeking to escape a possible murder conviction in England, Hannah's world is turned upside down as she boards a boat bound for Melbourne. Young and naïve, with some laboratory notes and a handful of medical instruments, she hopes Australia is a place of a new beginning and a fresh start, a place where she can begin a midwife practice. Arriving during a period of enormous change in Australia, Hannah faces a myriad of challenges. Not only must she fight for acceptance as a medical professional, but she also falls in love with and must decide between two men: an American photographer seeking a new life in Australia, and a rowdy outlaw fleeing arrest. This Golden Land presents a love story that neither time nor distance can erase.

Our Review: The consensus was that most enjoyed the book especially Hannah Conroy and her role in the advances in medical practices.

Food Served: A potluck of truly delicious "Golden Dishes" including Golden oreos, a golden delicious apple salad, golden curry dip, couscous salad, Sandy's amazing corn pudding, Shrimp on the Barbie (although it was cooked in a wok as it was raining), pineapple upside down cake, and a lovely Authentic Australian blueberry bread pudding. We even had Goldschlager – a cinnamon schnapps with flecks of real gold leaf!

Highlights of Discussion:

1. Advancement in medical practices
2. Neal Scott's walk about
3. Barbara Wood's other name, Katherine Harvey and the books written under that name.
4. Hannah's romantic dilemma.

Attendance: Nancy D., Nancy S., Nancy M., Julie, Laura, Sandy

Business/Suggestions: A detailed list of books was developed and some dates with chosen books and hostesses. The lists were emailed to everyone.