

DECEMBER 08 - SUMMARY – Travel Book Sharing and Cookie Eating

We had a fun meeting, even though the streets were becoming whiter and whiter with each passing minute. Nine plus one readers harnessed up the huskies and arrived at the meeting. Nine were in attendance and Leslie joined us after most the members had already left.

We laid out the bounty of cookies as we began, and I for one, ate my way through the entire meeting. Little cheesecakes from Helen, chocolate chips from Barb, wickedly good chocolate/apricot cookies and Mexican Wedding cookies from Sam and Paula, robust oatmeal raisin treats from David, bourbon balls from Jane and snickerdoodles from Rose. Nothing says Christmas like the smell of cinnamon! Phyllis and Keith were not able to attend in December, but I understand Phyllis will freeze her cookies and bring them to January's meeting. Something edible to look forward to!

The goal for this meeting was to share with the group previously read and loved travel books that we have not gotten to yet and have some time to meet and talk.

Helen brought - *My Year on the Mekong* by Edward Gargan. A river journey along the meandering river.

Barbara brought two Rick Steves books, *Austria* and *Europe Through The Back Door*. Rick is my guru for all things Europe.

Paula and Sam brought - *Wanderlust* by Rebecca Sotinz - She explores the pleasures of walking during travel.

Willie brought - *White Tiger* by Aravind Adiga (a Booker prize winner) and *A Fine Balance* by Rohinton Mistry, both about India.

David brought - *Don't Go There* by Peter Greenberg (not recommended by David or Jane) and the *Travelers Reading Guide* by Maggy Simony (a book about what to read before you go to a country!) and *the Iranians* by Sandra Mackey. David also shared his favorite Travel Magazines - National Geo Traveler and Adventurer and International Travel News.

Jane brought - *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay* by Cornelia Otis Skinner and Emily Kimbrough about innocents abroad in the 1920s. Also two books by Alice Steinbach, *Educating Alice* and *Without Reservations*.

Lorie brought - *Facing the Lion* - a National Geographic publication by Joseph Lemsolai Luketon.

Rose brought - *Shogun* by James and also *Pillars of the Earth* and *World without End* by Ken Follett

We have these books scheduled through May and I have asked Lorie, Helen and David to submit titles for the group to vote on by the end of the year for June and July.

January 12	Travels with Charley	Steinbeck	3 copies on hold
February 9	Embarrassment of Mangoes	Vanderhoof	
March 9	Take Me With You	Newsham	
April 13	Jungle Child	Kuegler	5 copies on hold
May 11	My Path leads to Tibet	Tenberken	

Included in the email about voting on the books, I will send out a short survey for the entire mailing list to check on our progress as a book club and how we want to proceed.

You can expect the ballot and survey by the middle of next week.

Thanks again for your continued interest and support. I look forward to reading with you in 2009.

Happy Holidays.

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