

FOXWOOD VILLAGE BOOK CLUB



Dear Neighbors,

We are writing this month's book club update with more than a hint of sadness. Isle Kaminski, our founder, beloved friend and moderator, announced at our last meeting that she is stepping aside as leader. Isle started the Foxwood Village Book Club several years ago, during the summer of 2010. Since that time we have evolved to a group of around twenty dedicated members, who meet each month "to peel the layers of the onion", as Betty Powers would say. With Isle as our Captain we navigated our way around the world of literature, and what a joy it has been! Isle has expanded our horizons, and our minds, which hasn't been easy! Isle has been an inspiration to us all through her tireless efforts for the group. Each and every month she dealt with the Riverhead library, picking up and dispersing the books, that coupled with her wisdom and endless hours of research have been an inspiration to us all. We learned to think critically and analytically about the books we read, then gather our thoughts to meet with our friends to debate and discuss them. This is what we mean when someone in our group refers to "peeling the onion".

Though Isle is truly irreplaceable our club will go on, albeit changed forever! Diane and Kate will try to navigate our small boat towards new, unknown waters so that our wonderful journeys can continue. Yet I'm sure it won't surprise anyone who knows her when we say that it is going to take at least two people to do the job that Isle did alone! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Here are some notes from our members regarding some of the books we've recently read:

Betty Powers: *Pope Joan* by Donna Woolfolk Cross

I enjoyed Cross's novel. She was able to weave fact and fiction so well, in order to show the probability of Joan's rise from peasant to pope. The only fault I found was the insert of so much Latin, after awhile it became tedious.

Kate Joyce: *Death Comes For the Archbishop*

The novel portrays two well-meaning and devout French priests who are at odds with the very entrenched Spanish American clergy they encounter. They have been sent to the territory acquired when the US went to war with Mexico. The primary character is Jean Marie Latour, who spends the rest of his life establishing the Roman Catholic Church in the state of New Mexico, where he dies in old age. Willa Cather's books are always so lyrical, but this one is different. It's an autobiography of the real life first Archbishop of Santa Fe, Jean Baptiste Lamy. Interesting to read, but not my favorite Willa Cather book!

Victoria Briganti:

You can find many historical works about Pope Joan, the only female pope in Roman Catholic mystic. *Pope Joan*, by Donna Woolfolk Cross is the fictionalized version of fact or fiction. The book presents the reader with many thoughts and ideas, not only about Joan but also women's rights. Joan was an advocate for the poor, the defenseless, women and education. The book holds your attention and certainly begs the question - why not a female pope and female priests. I found this book most enjoyable on so many levels. The discussion in our book club was lively and interesting.

Please Join Us
Diane Capobianco, #94
Kate Joyce, #128