

The Center for Lifelong Learning at Columbia Theological Seminary

701 S. Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30031

Date: May 6, 2009

To: Theology and Literature Study Group Members

From: Cheryl Vaughan

Last night at our May meeting, we discussed *Out Stealing Horses*, with unanimous acclamation. "Exquisitely written" was the misspelled consensus. We came to love the untidy nature of the book--the fact that we were left with questions and things were not resolved in the end. We thought that this tale was, in opposition to Dickens' work, true to life. We also loved the descriptions of nature and discussed the theological implications of creation (and experience) as revelatory of the Divine. Other theological reflections centered on relationship and a discussion of whether one could ever be utterly alone. A good read, don't miss it if you haven't read it yet.

The book group will continue as it has for the next month (June) and then we will be self sustaining. The seminary will continue to allow us access to the facilities, but we will have to take care of all our administrative needs. Therefore, I am asking all those who were not at last night's meeting to respond to Marion Eugeno marioneugeno@bellsouth.net with your email address as the seminary will not disclose your email without your permission. Those of you present last night, gave your permission so I am forwarding your addresses to Marion. And thanks to you, Marion, for agreeing to be our Dean of Communications!

At our next meeting, June 2, 7:30-9, we will be discussing:

Mr. Pip by Lloyd Jones.

We will also be choosing our summer reading list, so come with your suggestions. A few titles that have been suggested already follow in case you want to check them out.

The Book Thief, Michael Zusak

After This, Alice McDermott

Life Class, Pat Parker

Peace, Robert Bausch (still in hard back only)

Until June,
Cheryl

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Date: April 20, 2009

To: Theology and Literature Study Group Members

From: Cheryl Vaughan

At the April meeting, we discussed the mixed reviews of *Everything Is Illuminated* to the strains of jazz outside our window. Regardless of our views on the book itself, the subject matter provided a rich ground for items of discussion.

We also discussed possibilities for the continuation of the book group after June. As you may have heard, the seminary is having to implement budgetary cutbacks which include the Theology and Literature Book Group. The group unanimously agreed that this group must not end. Therefore we (the group members present and the seminary) have made the following arrangements: After June, the group will continue with as a volunteer organization. We will have a volunteer from the group to send out the email notices to the group. Group members need to provide permission to release email info to this volunteer. I can continue to 'lead' the group without the responsibility of providing write ups or communication, as after June I also will not be associated with the seminary (part of said budgetary cutbacks). The seminary is willing to provide us with the space to meet as long as we have a person who will arrange this space with the facilities coordinator, which I am happy to do. On a happy note, the group will be self-sustaining and FREE!

I hope this will work well for you all, so that we may continue your long lived commitment to reading and theological discussion...not to mention that I would miss seeing your faces each month!

May 5 *Out Stealing Horses* by Pers Petterson

June 2 *Mr. Pip* by Lloyd Jones

I look forward to discussing our new book, coming up really soon!!!!

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701 S. Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30031

Date: March 12, 2009

To: Theology and Literature Study Group Members

From: Cheryl Vaughan

Re: Book List

At the March meeting, we selected the books we shall read through the month of June. Please note that due to Spring Break, our April meeting will be the second Tuesday.

April 14 *Everything Is Illuminated* by Jonathan Safran Foer
(note change to the 2nd Tuesday of the month in April due to Spring Break)
May 5 *Out Stealing Horses* by Pers Petterson
June 2 *Mr. Pip* by Lloyd Jones

I look forward to our 'illuminated' discussion next month. Have a Blessed Lent and Holy Week.