

Mary Baldwin College Alumnae/i Book Club

August 2006

What we are reading in 2006:

Jan 3: *No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith

Feb 2: *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens*

Mar 2: *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver*

Apr 6: *Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons* by Lorna Landvik

May 4: *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

June 1: *Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd

July 6: *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant

Aug 3: *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult

Sept 7: *Girl With a Pearl Earring* by Tracy Chevalier

Oct 5: *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

Nov 2: *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi

Dec 7: *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards

*These are selections from the MBC Reading Group for faculty and staff on campus.



Next Year's Reading List!!!!!!

On Thursday night the Richmond group came up with a list of books that we thought would be interesting to read. I also made sure I included the books that were recommended in the online group in the discussion. In keeping with what we have done in the past because it keeps things interesting we have chosen some books that cross all genres.

Here's what we have so far:

November - *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi; This book is a memoir that talks about another culture and deals with banned books.

December - *The Memory Keeper's Daughter* by Kim Edwards; general fiction

January - We have found that this is a good month to read a light mystery because everyone is recovering from the holidays. I suggested an Agatha Christie novel. She can also be considered a classic. I have heard very good things about her Mrs. Marple series so I suggest *The Body in the Library*.

February - *Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro; general fiction

March - *The Empress Orchid* by Anchee Min; general fiction

April - *Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood; science fiction

May - *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls; memoir

June - It was suggested that maybe we read a Toni Morrison book. Unfortunately we couldn't decide which one to read. One of the members said they tried to read *Beloved* and found it very difficult. A few people have read *The Bluest Eye* and found it to be very good. Her other books include *Tar Baby*, *Paradise*, *Love*, *Jazz*, *Sula* and *Song of Solomon*. I am open for suggestions.

Stopping here gives us the opportunity to shake things up the rest of the year if we need to and also allow for other suggestions. So keep them coming!



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

When did you graduate from Baldwin? What program were you in while at Baldwin.....Traditional, PEG, ADP, etc? What is your favorite memory from Baldwin? Where are you living now? What do you do for a living?

We are on the MBC website!!
www.mbc.edu/alumnae

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MBCAlumBookClub>

If you are in the Richmond, VA area we would love for you to join us! All meeting times are 7pm and last approximately 1 hour.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Theresa Cash Lewis '99 at tlewis41203@yahoo.com or the Alumnae/i office at 1-800-763-7359.



Your Guide to the Classics: *Mrs. Dalloway*

As Clarissa Dalloway walks through London on a fine June morning, a sky-writing plane captures her attention. Crowds stare upwards to decipher the message while the plane turns and loops, leaving off one letter, picking up another. Like the airplane's swooping path, Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway* follows Clarissa and those whose lives brush hers--from Peter Walsh, whom she spurned years ago, to her daughter Elizabeth, the girl's angry teacher, Doris Kilman, and war-shocked Septimus Warren Smith, who is sinking into madness.

As Mrs. Dalloway prepares for the party she is giving that evening, a series of events intrudes on her composure. Her husband is invited, without her, to lunch with Lady Bruton (who, Clarissa notes anxiously, gives the most amusing luncheons). Meanwhile, Peter Walsh appears, recently from India, to criticize and confide in her. His sudden arrival evokes memories of a distant past, the choices she made then, and her wistful friendship with Sally Seton.

Woolf then explores the relationships between women and men, and between women, as Clarissa muses, "It was something central which permeated; something warm which broke up surfaces and rippled the cold contact of man and woman, or of women together.... Her relation in the old days with Sally Seton. Had not that, after all, been love?" While Clarissa is transported to past afternoons with Sally, and as she sits mending her green dress, Warren Smith catapults desperately into his delusions. Although his troubles form a tangent to Clarissa's web, they undeniably touch it, and the strands connecting all these characters draw tighter as evening deepens. As she immerses us in each inner life, Virginia Woolf offers exquisite, painful images of the past bleeding into the present, of desire overwhelmed by society's demands.

www.amazon.com

About the author: Virginia Woolf

Born in 1882, the daughter of Julia Jackson Duckworth and Victorian scholar Sir Leslie Stephen, Virginia Stephen settled in 46 Gordon Square, Bloomsbury, in 1904. This house would become the first meeting place of the now-famous Bloomsbury Group-writers, artists, and intellectuals such as E. M. Forster, John Maynard Keynes, and Lytton Strachey who, along with Virginia and her sister Vanessa, shared an intense belief in the importance of the arts and a skepticism regarding their society's conventions and restraints. It was after Virginia's 1912 marriage to Leonard Woolf--a remarkable and supportive twenty-nine-year-union--that she began to publish her major work.

The victim of a lifetime of mental illness, Woolf committed suicide in 1941. She left behind her a literary legacy, including The Hogarth Press, established with Leonard in 1917, which published not only Woolf's own work but that of an increasingly influential group of innovative writers--including T. S. Eliot, James Joyce, and Katherine Mansfield.

www.readinggroupguide.com