

Rumor Rag

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 2007

Dates to Remember:

Date: Hostess: Book:

Mar 8	Betsy	March
Apr 23	Kathy	Faith Club
May 17	Eddi	Dinner!

Other Dates to Anticipate:

Apr 27-	Rob Blake in Music Man
May 5 -	Kentucky Derby Party
TBD -	Hoodie Wildwood Weekend
TBD -	Hoodie Dine Around

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Calamity in February

Our first short story collection, *Calamity*, by Daphne Kalotay was well received by the Hoodies. With Marilyn facilitating a thoughtful discussion, favorite stories included *Calamity*, *Prom Season* and *Man from Alston Electric*. Readers discussed their appreciation for how carefully a short story must be crafted, with every word having to count. We agreed, with the exception of *Difficult Thoughts*, that Kalotay crafted her stories with depth and multiple layers, and was skillful in creating a thread that tied them all together. *Hoodies* ranked the book at 3.09, or a solid B.

Also, at the meeting, Kay discussed American Heart Association's "Go Red" campaign. All Hoodies wore Red and received "Go Red" dress pins to raise awareness for Women's Heart Disease.

And finally, Kay won our Valentine Fabulous Prize for answering the *Romantic Books Match Game*. For your chance this month, please see the *Civil War Fiction Match Game* on page 3. ®



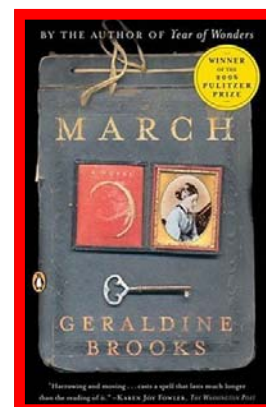
Which ones are *The Dreamgirls*?
You're right if you guessed both pictures!

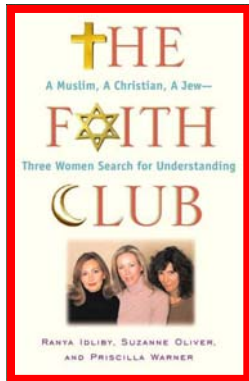


March on Midway

We'll be heading out of the 'hood this month for our March 8 meeting at Betsy's home. Happy hour will start at 7 PM, followed by Wendy's facilitation of our discussion on Geraldine Brooks' award winning novel, *March*. Set in the civil war era, this story recounts the adventures of the absent father figure from Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. For your chance to enter the drawing for March's Fabulous prize, please play the *Civil War Fiction Match Game* on page 3.

Entries must be received via email by midnight on Wednesday, March 7. And as we will select our last book of the reading year, **please bring your suggestions for our May title.** ®





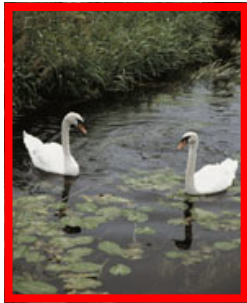
Upcoming April Meeting

April will find us at Kathy' house, while Kay facilitates what should prove to be a lively discussion on the new best-seller, *The Faith Club* by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver and Priscilla Warner. Quoting from *USAToday*:

“When the news abounds with incendiary stereotypes, contradictory theologies and confusing cultural identities, can any ordinary person sort it all out? Yes, if

they're bold, persistent and open-minded, say the three women of the Faith Club: Ranya Idliby, a Muslim; Suzanne Oliver, a Christian; and Priscilla Warner, a Jew. This New York City trio is out to share with a fractious world their way of fostering inter-religious understanding soul to soul. “

I can't wait for this discussion! ®



Capote's Circus Castle

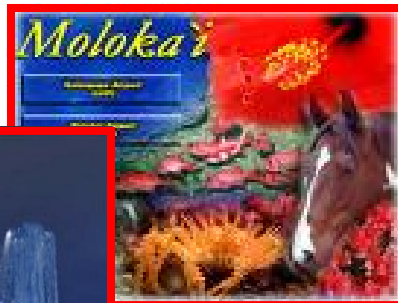
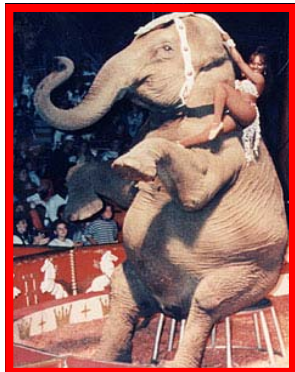
Well *Hoodies*, I finally have a break between my duties at Simon Legree's, putting up (and then down) my Santas, trudging through the 8-feet snow in Montana and New York, and coordinating the application process for high schools.

So we have some catching up to do on our last book summary, don't we?

This was a quite a long book, and I'm glad we had the whole year to read it. Our protagonist is a brave Chinese woman, named Wild Swan, who protracts Hansen's disease and is subsequently torn from her communist family—where she was a bare-foot animal doctor—and forced to join the

circus since, after all, this is the depression and there are no jobs. But being the resilient woman that she is, she gets a job as a model in New York City where she breakfasts at Tiffany's, all the while still looking for her Glass Castle so that she can make fruitcakes with Truman Capote for the president and his wife. The fruitcakes are later found by a dumpster diver who breaks a tooth on the petrified fruit and must go to the animal doctor turned dentist. So our story comes full circle.

Don't you love it when everything ties up in a neat little bow at the end? What a great book. Thanks for suggesting it,



Civil War Fiction Match Game

In honor of our March selection, *March*, which is set in the Civil War era, please Match the Civil War Fiction work on the left with one of its main characters on the right. As always, please respond by Wednesday by midnight to enter the drawing for March's Fabulous Prize:

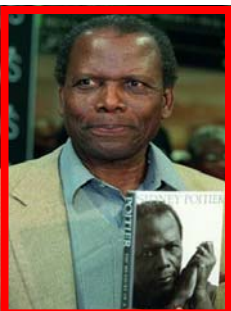
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|--|-------------------------------|
| 1) <i>Absalom, Absalom</i> , William Faulkner (1936) | a) Ada Monroe |
| 2) <i>Cold Mountain</i> , by Charles Frazier (1997) | b) Adair Colley |
| 3) <i>Enemy Women</i> , by Paulette Jiles (2002) | c) Carrie McGavock |
| 4) <i>Gods and Generals</i> , by Jeff Shaara (1996) | d) Corporal Blake |
| 5) <i>Jacob's Ladder</i> , by Donald McCraig (1998) | e) Duncan Gatewood |
| 6) <i>The Killer Angels</i> , Michael Shaara (1974) | f) General Joseph E. Johnston |
| 7) <i>The March</i> , E.L. Doctorow (2005) | g) George Harris |
| 8) <i>North and South</i> , by John Jakes (1992) | h) George Hazzard |
| 9) <i>The Red Badge of Courage</i> , by Steven Crane (1895) | i) Henry Fleming |
| 10) <i>Shiloh</i> , by Shelby Foote (1952) | j) John Buford |
| 11) <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> , by Harriet Beecher Stowe (1852) | k) Thomas Sutpen |
| 12) <i>Widow of the South</i> , by Robert Hicks (2002) | l) Winfield Scott Hancock ® |



God Bless Oprah (or What Others are Reading)

National:

Go On Girl: *The Pursuit of Happiness*, By Chris Gardner
 New York Times: *The Shakespeare Wars*, By Ron Rosebaum
 Oprah: *The Measure of a Man*, by Sidney Poitier
 Pulpwood Queens: *Miss American Pie: A Diary*, by Margaret Sartor



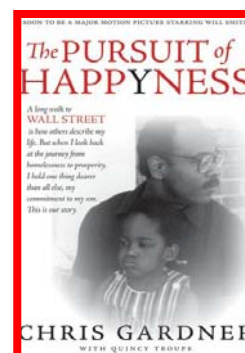
Today Show: *Women and Money*, by Suze Orman
Northern California:
 Avid Reader, Davis: *Our Inner Ape*, by de Frans Waal
 Next Chapter, Woodland: *Crying of Lot 49*,

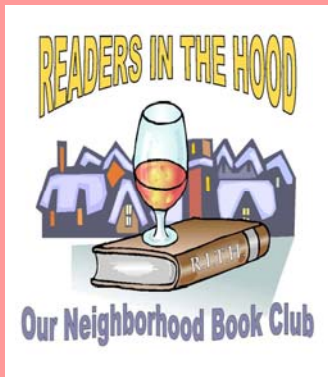
by Thomas Pynchon
 Book Passage, Corte Madera: *Suite Francaise*, by Irene Nemirovsky



Hoodies:

After This, by Alice McDermott
Atlas Shrugged, by Ayn Rand
The Courtesan, by Sarah Dunant
Eat, Pray, Love, by Elizabeth Gilbert
The Language of Baklava, by Diana Abu-Jaber
The Round-heeled Woman, by Jane Juska
Syringa Tree, by Pamela Gien ®





Readers in the Hood is a neighborhood reading group consisting of a dozen wonderful women who get together monthly to discuss a good book and catch up on each other's lives—usually over a glass of Chardonnay.

Rumor Rag is the newsletter of **Reader's in the Hood**. Its goal is to keep **Readers** informed of group happenings, as well as keep us connected between meetings.

Hoodie Happenings...

Readers take a trip to China, *Wild Swans*, September '06



Hoodies Join Kathy's Darlings for Komen Race



Readers Go Hawaii, Molokai, October '06



Kathy, our newest victim, I mean, Hoodie



Big Winners!



Hoodies and Alice McDermott at Sac Author's Luncheon