

## AVID READERS IN DC!

An American Book Club

Our book club is held monthly, on the third Thursday of the month (with the exception of school events or vacations), in the evenings, from 8:15pm to 10:00pm (and beyond sometimes!).

We read North American authors exclusively, mostly from the United States and sometimes from Canada. We also read international authors that have written about the American experience. Thus, we have read the very British Fanny Trollope's *Domestic Manners of the Americans*, as well as the delightful and hilarious *Ciao America*, by Beppe Severgnini, an Italian journalist who lived in Georgetown in 1994-1995.

The books are read in their original version and the discussions are also in Steinbeck's English. It is a great way to practice your language skills.

Throughout the year the Book Club also organizes other activities. Amongst what we have done in recent years: going in the Spring to the Shakespeare in the Park Free Festival, going to the Arena Stage Theater (*Of Mice And Men*), taking a stroll in Georgetown, walking in the steps of the heroine of *River, Cross My Heart*, attending Literature Nobel Prize Toni Morrison's reading, receiving our friends from the independent bookstore Chapters for a fabulous presentation on American poetry, receiving local author Stacey Sauter on her second thriller, *One False Move*, welcoming Russian Literature Professor at Georgetown University, Dr. Olga Meerson, on Nabokov's *Lolita*.

We have also planned exciting activities for this year: we are hoping to invite two authors: Robert Ghirardi for his book, *Madeleine's Ghost*, as well as Azar Nafisi for *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, for which we will ask Dr. Meerson to come back.

Our list is arbitrarily decided upon together with my co-chair, Jane Singleton-Paul. We only suggest books that we have read (even if we did not like them, for the benefit of discussion).

The list for 2004-2005 is the following:

- *Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides, meeting on Thursday September 30, at Claire Guimbert's house, 4000 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington DC.
- *A Prayer For Owen Meany*, by John Irving.
- *Dearest Friend, A Life of Abigail Adams*, by Lynne Whitey.
- *Madeleine's Ghost*, by Robert Ghirardi.
- *Paris To The Moon*, by Adam Gopnik (to be read together with: *French Toast*, by Harriet Welty Rochefort).
- *Reading Lolita in Tehran*, by Azar Nafisi.
- *Love*, by Toni Morrison.
- *Why Are All The Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* (And other conversations about race), by Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph. D.
- *Douglass's Women*, by Jewell Parker Rhodes.