

Nine of us met at Barb's yesterday for lunch and discussion of "Saving Vincent." Barb served two delicious quiches, croissants, salad with strawberries and home made candied almonds. Dessert was tiramisu and chocolate tuxedo cake. Yummm!!! The table was beautifully set with sunflowers as the centerpiece and copies of Van Gogh paintings as placemats. Carla brought a delightfully intricate Lego composition which her grandsons had put together. It was a replica of Vincent's Starry Starry Night even including a miniature Vincent painting as he gazes at the starry night before him. It was really special.

Our discussion focused on Jo Van Gogh (Vincent's sister-in-law) and her amazing work to get Vincent's paintings recognized. Jo was a Dutch widow who saw the potential in Vincent's paintings and worked persistently to get him the recognition that she was sure he deserved. Jo faced unbelievable obstacles in reaching her goal. Dutch society in the late 1800's was surprisingly accepting and allowed widows to continue their spouses' businesses. Jo continued managing Vincent's art (as her husband Theo had done); she also established a boarding house which helped pay the bills. French society, on the other hand, was much more strict at that time and forbid Jo from attempting exhibitions in Paris. Despite many setbacks, Jo was successful in getting Vincent's work shown, first in Amsterdam and finally internationally. Without Jo's dauntlessness, VanGogh's works would have been lost to obscurity.

The author Joan Fernandez is a friend of Barb's niece and described her book as a historical fiction parable. She sent a nice note answering some questions and wishing us a wonderful meeting discussing her book.

We are scheduled to meet next at Nina's on September 12 to discuss "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki. Carolyn will host us in October to discuss "Thursday Murder Club." If you weren't at book club yesterday, please remember to bring \$27 when we meet in September for our website fees. We still need a book and hostess for November. Also please start thinking about what book and when you'd like to host in 2026. We'll start making a list in Oct/Nov.

Thanks! Enjoy these final days of summer and get ready for a beautiful fall in Summit County.

*Laura*