

Susan hosted us at her sister's condo in Frisco today to discuss What Kind of Paradise by Janelle Brown.

This book is about Jane, a teenage girl raised by her father in isolation in the backwoods of Montana. She discovers her life is built on lies and flees to San Francisco where she confronts her past and the emerging internet era. It's a story that touches on issues like familial love and loyalty and the impending power of the internet. We discussed how the development of the internet in the story compares to the development of AI today as well as the right and wrong of some of the characters' decisions. Brown researched real people like Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber, and incorporated elements of his life into the life and character of Jane's father. Carla shared facts that showed what Brown had done, as well as photos of Kaczynski and the actual Western Cafe in Bozeman where a couple of scenes from the book took place. We all agreed that this was an excellent read with lots of underlying layers.

Susan treated us to an assortment of appetizers before we sat down to a yummy "Paradise" meal that included beans, potatoes, and oatmeal. She and her husband Bob prepared two fabulous chilis; Bob's was more traditional with beef, and Susan's was vegetarian with sweet **potatoes** and **beans**. We had several choices of toppings for the chiles like cilantro, grated cheese, Fritos, and sour cream. She also served a fun salad of grapes, avocados, edamame, sweet peppers, tomatoes, cashews, and feta along with homemade cornbread. For dessert we had **oatmeal** cookies and fruit.

As if all this wasn't enough, we got to meet Cooper, their new rescue dog. He managed to get lots of love from each and every one of us. Even though we know he has some problems, he is a sweetheart, and all the "aunties" were smitten by his charm.

We talked about what to do with this year's donated dollars and decided that under the circumstances of the last couple of months, we wanted to keep our money in the County and give it all to Cafe Rescue who supports several local food charities. We all thought this would be a great use of our resources.

Chuck Lamar went home from the hospital today. He had a bad case of the flu, and fortunately with the excellent care of our hospital, he is a lot better. Such great news!

Dee has generously volunteered to host a holiday luncheon in December. The date is TBD.

Our January meeting will be at Donna's on Wednesday, January 14, at Noon, and we will be discussing The Art Thief by Michael Finkel.

And, finally, since we no longer are able to have our personal information on our website, I'd like to make a new, current list. Will each of you please send me the following?

- physical address
- mailing address if different from physical
- email address
- phone number
- birthday

Once I've made a new list, I'll email it to everyone. Thanks!

We missed all of you who couldn't be with us this afternoon. Happy Thanksgiving!

Donna