

We met at Maggie's house today for discussion of *The Correspondent*. We began the day with loading the 60 gallons of water we brought to help ease the effects of this year's drought on Maggie's well. They are surviving but definitely conserving water usage, and they are pondering what actions to take (like digging a deeper well) to help ensure this doesn't happen again. This was a special meeting because all 12 local Bookenders were present, as well as Mickie's friend Ginny from New Mexico who is also a book club enthusiast. We sat out on Maggie's patio and enjoyed the breathtaking view, then went inside for our "picnic" lunch which included shrimp salad, quiche, corn bread and delicious peanut butter and chocolate brownies for dessert.

*The Correspondent* was a lovely book. It is written in the epistolary style which means the story is told exclusively via letters and emails. This was interesting because we learned about the characters and the plot through these small snippets of correspondence. But the characters were well developed and the plot was enthralling. A movie may be coming out starring Jane Fonda as Sybil! We all enjoyed this unique book.

Maggie asked us all to do some homework before our gathering. We were each to write a letter, then we read them to the group. What wonderful letters! This is certainly not surprising coming from this group of very thoughtful and compassionate women. One was written to Sybil, one to Theo of Golden, many to friends and relatives, and Jan wrote to the man who hit her car. Much thought and effort was put into these letters, and we all agreed that actual letter writing (as opposed to emails and/or texts) should be preserved. Saving letters and re-reading them years later can be a very enriching exercise. Thank you Maggie for encouraging us to break out of our usual comfort zones and take on this project! It was also interesting that no one could find any stationery at home, so most letters were written on any paper that was found around the house!

Other topics that were brought up included the event center called Freight in Leadville which Barb recommends. She also recommended Quincy's Steak House in Leadville. Carla commented on the Argo Mine and cable car in Idaho Springs; worth the ride up and then a nice lunch at the top. Maggie also told us about her anniversary party in Colorado Springs. A lot of work and preparation went into it, but everyone seemed to have a great time, so it was a success. She recommends the Marigold restaurant in the Springs.

It started to rain on the drive home. Hopefully that will be helpful! We will meet in September at Barb's to discuss *No One's Coming* by Kevin Hazard - date to be determined. Enjoy these last few weeks of summer. And vote for Coco in the Summit Pet Rescue calendar.

*Laura*