

Barb welcomed eight of us at her beautiful home for lunch yesterday. She served two quiches (broccoli cheddar or lorraine), a delightful salad, warm croissants, and delectable homemade apple turnovers with ice cream for dessert. She also served "Lifesavers" sparkling water which was also a clue to our book *No One's Coming*, since they were definitely saving lives. Dee gifted us each with aroma filled lemon soaps that she picked up on Capri Island. We also discussed mahjong which seems to be taking over get togethers. Many of the attendees are playing it (or at least attempting)!

Our discussion of *No One's Coming* started with some interesting facts about the author, Kevin Hazard. It turns out that Rick met a man randomly at the DMV one day, and he and his wife became friends with Rick and Barb. And their daughter is Kevin Hazard's wife! Barb reached out to them and was able to ask Kevin a list of questions which he very generously answered. Kevin was an ambulance driver/EMT for years, then added writing to his career, and is currently working as a nurse in Atlanta. There appears to be some interest in making the book into a movie, although Kevin said that if and when that may come to be is highly unknown. He commented on Phoenix Air and its creators, Dent and Mark Thompson. These two brothers are complete opposites: Dent being loud and engaging while Mark is quiet and reserved. Kevin pointed out that the two can drive each other crazy although they can and do still run Phoenix Air successfully. Kevin was disappointed that he'd never been able to interview President Obama before writing the book; Obama was president during the 2014 Ebola outbreak and he ultimately approved all the missions that Phoenix Air flew. The medical community has learned since the 2014 outbreak that flooding Ebola patients with potassium is key to treating the virus. Kent and Nancy (the first two Ebola patients that Phoenix Air rescued) were laden with survivor's guilt because they'd left their coworkers behind in Africa. Realizing that everything they learned through these mission trips helped in their treatment of the patients still in Africa helps to alleviate the guilt knowing that it has all helped to make their care better.

Barb also played a bit of a podcast which included Kevin and a nurse who cared for Kent at Emory when he was flown back to the US. Barb said she just typed in "discussion questions for *No One's Coming*" and this podcast popped up. We all enjoyed the book and were humbled by these American heroes. Phoenix Air's mission was very controversial: should these people who volunteered to help those infected with Ebola but then got infected themselves be rescued? Of course they should, except that that also meant bringing the Ebola virus to America where the risk of outbreak here was very real. The risk was very real not only for the potential exposure to the citizens at large, but very, very real for those Phoenix Air employees who were the first to come in contact with these highly contagious individuals. As Dent Thompson often commented, "You can't make this shit up!"

There seems to be a bit of confusion concerning our October and November meetings. Mickie wasn't sure how *Making the Best of What's Next* by Judith Viorst got picked for her and Jan to host. We've ended up switching Mickie and Jan to November (book to be announced) and Carolyn will host in October (book to be announced). Please email us as soon as book and date decisions have been made. Along the same note, everyone should be deciding what and when they want to host in 2027. Carla (of course) is one step ahead of the rest of us and has already chosen her book and date. She passed out save the date cards for March 11, 2027 for discussion

of The Calamity Club. She's thoughtfully giving us this advance notice because the book is 641 pages, so we will likely need more than one month to get through it.

We'll meet again in October at Carolyn's - details to follow. Until then enjoy these fall colors as our seasons change!

*Laura*