Welcome to the first (that I know of) Smith College Club of Hartford Book Group Newsletter! I figured I’d try something different; a little more colorful than an e-mail to share with you the books that were selected for the upcoming reading season. I know many of you are getting ready to travel (if you’re not there already) and are anxious to know what books you might want to take with you.

–Amy Magno

The group discussed the challenge of finding hostesses and so we decided to would try meeting at Borders Bookstore just past the West Farms Mall. We’ll try it for the fall and see if it’s a good place to meet. For directions, please go to www.borders.com and click on “Store Locator.” It’s the one in Farmington at 1600 South East Road.

In June the group met at Ronnie McNamara’s house; she’s simply an amazing hostess. We had such a great time discussing books; it was very difficult to narrow down which books to choose for discussion!

A book is like a garden carried in the pocket. ~Chinese Proverb
Book Discussion Schedule

September 21
The Help
Kathryn Stockett
451 pages

October 19
The Thirteenth Tale: A Novel
Diane Setterfield
423 pages

November 16
Drinking Coffee Elsewhere
ZZ Packer
238 pages

January 18
Special Topics in Calamity Physics
Marisha Pessl
514 pages

February 15
Mansfield Park
Jane Austen
494 pages

March 15
Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love
Dava Sobel
368 pages

April 19
Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close: A Novel
Jonathan Safran Foer
368 pages

May 17
The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
Junot Díaz
335 pages

The group decided to continue our meeting time to be the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm.

Let’s also reserve Tuesday June 21st to choose books for the 2011/2012 discussions.

Other Books Considered

While these books weren’t chosen, we had a great conversation about many of them.

Ronnie often used her Kindle so that we could see a sample of the writing:

- A Thousand Days in Venice – Marlena De Blasi
- The Imperfectionists – Tom Rachman
- Let the Great World Spin – Colum McCann
- Little Bee – Chris Cleave
- Cutting for Stone – Abraham Verghese
- The Cellist of Sarajevo – Steven Galloway
- The Lacuna – Barbara Kingsolver
- Stoner – John Williams
- The History of Love – Nicole Krauss
- Tinkers – Paul Harding
- White Noise – Don DeLillo
- The Last of Her Kind – Sigrid Nunez
- Veronica – Mary Gaitskill
- Sway – Ori Brafman & Rom Brafman

Please visit the clubs’ website for up-to-date news!
http://alumnae.smith.edu/smithcms/hartford/