I need to express my gratitude to Dr. Gary Eller who officiated at the last bibliophilic gathering, while I was lapping up the sunshine in the Caribbean onboard Holland America’s Ryndam. My wife, Sheila, was determined to go south during the winter and this was the opportunity that presented itself. Weather in the 80’s was not too hard to take.

I understand from Gary that the January 8th meeting went well with about 18 bookies around the big table. **THE ROUND HOUSE**: A Novel, by Louise Erdrich apparently elicited mixed reactions (Isn't that the way with most books?). He also mentioned that her body of work is wide and deep: fiction, non-fiction, poetry, children's literature and food recipes. Many are replete with distinguished literary awards. In addition, she runs a distinctive bookstore, Birchbark Books (http://birchbarkbooks.com), in Minneapolis. If there is interest we might invite her to visit Omaha for readings and discussion. Anyone with the courage to run an independent bookstore in this digital age has earned my attention and respect.

For our next book selection, I understand that you have chosen **THE AMERICANIZATION OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN** by Gordon Wood. This looks to me like another great read by and author who is a Bancroft and Pulitzer Prize winner. I have seen Wood on BookTV and he’s also a superb “standup” historian.

I look forward to seeing you all once again at the Venice Inn on **Wednesday, March 5th** at 11:30 a.m.

Diane at the Bookworm tells me she expects to have the paperback edition of this book available in the store by Wednesday, January 29th. As you will remember, Bibliophiles receive a 20% discount, and you also get the good feeling of supporting your local independent bookstore.

Bob Runyon, reporter
rrunyon@unomaha.edu
http://www.unomaha.edu/bookclub/
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