BIBLIOPHILES BOOK CLUB

Sixteen avid readers gathered on Wednesday (12/2) in the private dining room at the Brazen Head restaurant. Terry Haney again made the special arrangements for us to have a suitable discussion space and individual checks.

Loen Kruse announced the publication of THE POLITICAL IMPACT OF FAITH, his new book (available to book clubs for $10) which examines religious and values issues that were highlighted in the legislative process during his 8 years in the Nebraska Senate.

After lunch, Kent Kirwan offered a chapter-by-chapter summary of FOUNDING BROTHERS, capturing the essence of the several deep sampling incidents used by Joseph Ellis to impart the sense of pervasive risk and uncertainty experienced by our country’s founders in the crucial decade of the 1790’s.

Lively discussion focused on the hard-won compromises wrought by key leaders to rescue the fragile union of diverse states from intense personal and political confrontations that recurrently threatened deadlock or dissolution. Likewise, Ellis imparted the sense of unplanned “messiness” and improvisation that pervaded most aspects of congressional and legislative leadership in the early period of the republic.

Questions about the difference between the American and French revolutions, and especially their outcomes, lead to an interesting discussion of the context, culture and conditions that led to a democracy in America versus a dictatorial takeover in France.

A pair of books was selected for our next discussion because one or the other of them is already familiar to some readers. THE KITE RUNNER and A THOUSANDS SPLENDID SUNS by Khalid Hosseini are two highly acclaimed, recent novels focusing on the turbulence and unrest in Afghanistan. We will meet again at the Brazen Head on Wednesday, February 3 at 11:30 a.m. to discuss these extraordinary books.

We look forward to seeing you there. Your reporter welcomes questions and comments (rrunyon@unomaha.edu; 393-3320)