THE BIBLIOPHILES BOOK CLUB

On September 1, 2010, about 20 returning readers gathered at the Venice Inn for an enthusiastic discussion of Alice Schroeder’s *THE SNOWBALL: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life*. At 838 pages (not including notes), this was a challenging read, but everyone seemed to be up to it. Bob Welk reported having also read the several hundred pages of appendix notes.

The meeting began with discussion of UNO’s Lifelong Learning Initiative, which has provided the BIBLIOPHILES with its programmatic home and website support since it’s beginning in 2009. It was indicated that funding for the LLI carries forward only through December of this year. Members were asked to provide advice regarding funding support, so that LLI might continue to support its regular classes and the book club. Donna Turner, Loen Kruse and Kathleen Vance, LLI advisory board members, described its programs and future needs. LLI’s comprehensive, new website is available at http://lifelonglearningomaha.onefireplace.org/

Beginning our discussion, Steve Wiitala related an interesting possible reason for Buffett finally agreeing to cooperate with Alice Schroeder as his authorized biographer. It was the news that Kitty Kelly, a noted gossip columnist, had been considering her own book on the subject. Buffett would obviously be more comfortable with Schroeder, a brilliant financial analyst, whose work he knew and respected.

Readers were impressed with how early in life Buffett found his strength, and pursued focused financial goals with an all-consuming drive and undivided attention. The book vividly reveals his continuing difficulties in balancing his intensive work life with family responsibilities. Several readers had personal contact and experience with Buffett and his family members over the years, and shared their memories and anecdotes with the group.
Discussion of the next book and meeting date led to the selection of *AMERICAN LION: Andrew Jackson in the White House*, by Jon Meacham, for our next meeting, scheduled for **Wednesday, November 3rd**, again at 11:30 at the Caniglia’s Venice Inn. This title is available at the Book Worm, Countryside Village at 20% discount for Bibliophiles. (Reported by Bob Runyon, 9/13/2010, rrunyon@unomaha.edu)