

TALK Series - Food for Thought

Food is important. Farmers have known since the earliest days of agriculture that without the food they raise, humankind would be in a fix. Cooking and serving food has always been important emotionally. Old and new generations learn family recipes and share family traditions; larger communities come together at community events and eating places to get to know one another and to build common identities.

At the same time, conflict can appear wherever people raise, cook or eat food. In order to survive, today's family farmers face pressure to grow new crops, in new ways, for new markets. But this can run counter to the very reasons many continue to farm: their love of existing foods and traditional farming family relationships. New generations of families also struggle with changes to family tradition. New generations want to find their own ways of doing things. Some amend their inherited traditions, and some reclaim them. Community meeting places aren't always happy, affirming places. Quite often, they can reflect the worst of communities in turmoil and individuals in conflict.

"Food For Thought's" four skilled writers have created books shaped by both the power and the conflicts surrounding food. Two are non-fiction accounts of their writers' own experiences: one describes a farmer's struggle to grow really good-tasting food (*Epitaph for a Peach*). The other is a story about the decision to return to traditional Jewish kosher cooking traditions (*Miriam's Kitchen*). The other two books are fiction. Both take place in cafe settings, but these cafes are very different. In one, a son struggles to construct his own path within the world of his two strong, loving parents' different food traditions (*Secrets of the Tsil Café*). *Empire Falls* reveals the world of a decaying New England mill town, populated by struggling characters whose lives come dangerously close to spinning out of control.

Food For Thought

Adult Winter Book TALK Series

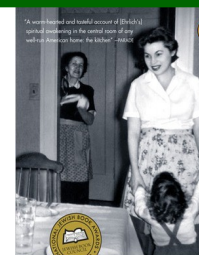


January 22 7:00PM

Miriam's Kitchen

by Elizabeth Ehrlich

Discussion Leader:
Marilyn Klaus, M.A., M.Div.
Lecturer with Religious, African
& African-American Studies, KU



MIRIAM'S KITCHEN

Elizabeth Ehrlich

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

Empire Falls

BEST NOVEL OF THE YEAR
THE NEW YORK TIMES



RICHARD
RUSSO

Author of *Sherry's Fall* and *Straight Man*

"This collection, elegantly constructed... Early Mr. Russo's most sensitive book thus far." —*The New York Times*

SECRETS OF THE TSIL CAFÉ

Thomas Fox Averill

"The use of characters to explore food and politics in the novel... FRESH, POWERFUL, TOUCHING!" —*The New York Times*

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February 19 7:00PM

Empire Falls

by Richard Russo

Discussion Leader:
Thomas Prasch, Ph.D
Historian, Washburn University

March 12 7:00PM

Secrets of the Tsil Café

by Thomas Fox Averill

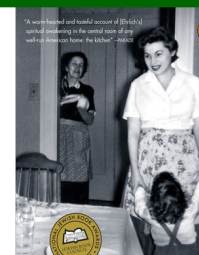
Discussion Leader:
Michaeline Chance-Reay, Ph.D
Author and Historian
Kansas State University

April 9 7:00PM

Epitaph for a Peach

by David Mas Masumoto

Discussion Leader:
Gene T. Chavez, Ed.D
Consultant on Diversity Issues
Chavez & Associates



epitaph for a peach

four seasons on my family farm

DAVID MAS MASUMOTO

"Epitaph... an important book."

—*Kansas Humanities Council Book Review*



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