



ENTERTAINING

# Page-Turning Party

MOST AMERICANS HIT THE BEACH ARMED WITH A BOOK IN THE SUMMER, when leisure time expands with the lengthened days. But, in Seattle, the nation's most literate city mind you, summer is too short. So summer is when we tend to pull our nose out of books (unless they describe kayak routes or hiking trails), to undertake more active exploits. When autumn returns, however, we replace the campground with the library, grab an entertaining volume and seek out the company of friends to settle into the comfort of our book clubs. ✱ Book clubs provide the opportunity to be bookish and social, an ideal Northwest couplet. Naturally, hosting a book club provides a wonderful opportunity to compose a library out of our living rooms. Pull your book collection off of the bookshelf and place stacks on the mantel, next to chairs and on tables for your guests to explore. Make a trip to Ophelia's Books (3504 Fremont Ave. N; 206.632.3759; opheliasbooks.com) and add to your collection; the more the merrier. Nestle candlesticks and a collection of your favorite sculpture or objects amongst your favorite books to add warmth and personality. ✱ Kick off the season with a potpourri of titles, inviting members to bring their favorite books of all time to share. A book selection is almost as revealing as a friend's pet choice, and title sharing will generate discussions about recent favorite reads. The conversation will quickly liven as one person's preferred protagonist wrestles with another guest's superb subplot. Autumn has returned; so pour some wine and hit the books. ✱

*Kelley L. Moore is an entertaining and lifestyle expert for NWH+G and Seattle magazines and KING 5 News on KONG TV.*

HOW TO THROW A BOOK CLUB SOCIAL THAT WILL HAVE THEM TALKING.  
BY KELLEY L. MOORE



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Friends gather to share their favorite reads: Crai Bower, Kelley Moore, Darek Mazzone with Lyra Mazzone, Kim Kinzer and JJ McKay. Opposite page: My guests' all-time favorite books—Kelley L. Moore, *To Kill A Mocking Bird*; JJ McKay, *Mr. Ives' Christmas*; Crai Bower, *Ulysses*; Darek Mazzone, *Golden Compass*; and Kim Kinzer, *Gone With the Wind*.



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the goods ✱

1. Send your guests home with something they can use anytime they read. Charming buttons made from vintage scarves (\$2 each, Flourish, 1705 N 45th St.; 206.675.0777; flourishgreetings.com). Add the button to a 1 1/2-inch wide grosgrain ribbon (\$.93 per yard, Packaging Specialties, 515 S Michigan St.; 206.762.0540; ps-stores.com) layered with a 3/8-inch double faced satin ribbon (\$.70 per yard) tying in the color palette of the button. Wrap the bookmark around a scalloped card with a scalloped "Thank You" tag in calligraphy (\$.50 each, scalloped card; \$.50 each, Packaging Specialties). 2. Tools of the book-club trade: Nancy Pearl's *Book Lust* series (\$16.95, The Elliott Bay Book Co., 101 S Main St.; 206.624.6600; elliotbaybook.com) is a fabulous resource for those in search of their next book-club reads (book recommendations are even sorted by mood). *The Book Lust Journal* (Sasquatch Books, 2005; \$12.95) will assist in tracking commentary as you share insights during those heated book-club discussions. 3. Brass link Roost vases from Zanadia (\$60.95 each, Zanadia, 1815 N 45th St., Space 218; 206.547.0884; zanadia.com) add a modern element to this collection of vintage books. 4. As your guests explore the stacks of your book collection, you may find yourself loaning some of your favorites. Ensure that the books come back to you by personalizing them with these book plates (\$6.75 each, Flourish). 5. Pairing wine with cheese can be tricky because the flavors can compete with one another. These selections from Dan and Jay at McCarthy & Schiering (2401 B Queen Anne Ave. N; 206.282.8500; mccarthyandschiering.com) are the perfect complement: 2004 Red Splendor, \$16; Rulo Syrah 2004, \$20; and Januik Red (Cabernet/Merlot blend) 2004, \$18. 6. Short on time, but still want to impress your guests? Create an inventive centerpiece by stacking books at different heights and placing a slate floor tile (\$1.79 per square foot, Home Depot, 2701 Utah Ave. S; 206.467.9200; homedepot.com) on top of each stack to serve as a platform for a gathering of cheeses paired with nuts and dried berries for color. ✱



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