

A New Phase of Life by Cheryl Rambour

Where did the time go? My husband and I are officially empty nesters. So, I decided to rekindle some of my hobbies that have taken a backseat while raising kids. I have always enjoyed reading, but I had hardly read any books in the past 5 years. That changed when I joined a book club.

This particular group has been together for over 20 years. I admit I was a bit intimidated at first, even though I know and consider half of the group of women as friends. Most of the time this group meets at the Chamber. The hostess provides drinks and a dessert. Another member is assigned to review the book. The reviews usually begin with information on the author. There are several online resources that provide questions for discussion. I was not sure of what I was getting myself into but after the first night with good food, wine and discussion, I was at ease.

A quick review of a couple of my favorite reads from book club.

The first book we read was "The Other Einstein". It is a story about Albert Einstein's first wife, who was a scientist herself, and her debated contribution to several of his scientific theories.

The young adult novel, "All We Have Left" is a mystery about how two teenagers who didn't know each other, end up in the twin towers together on 9/11.

Another read was the classic by Daphne du Maurier entitled, "Rebecca". I vaguely remember watching the movie as a child. It is a story about a rich widower who marries a naïve young woman and brings her back to his estate where she is not welcomed by some of the staff. There is a mystery about his first wife, Rebecca and how she died.

In November each member of the book club brings books that she would like to be considered as a read in 2018. The group likes to have a book in several categories, such as a Nebraskan author, a young adult book, and a biography. I am looking forward to contributing several of my old favorites.

On another note, I also decided in my empty nest stage to apply to be on the library board last year. I have learned so much about our library and how a library board and city government work together. I have met and worked with other board members that I would never have otherwise crossed paths with. There is quite a learning curve involved for me, but I am beginning to feel that I am contributing and I look forward to what has become for me an important part of my life, reading and our library.