

Lamorinda Reads Finale a Great Success

By Sophie Braccini



Waiting for Steinbeck... Linda Waldroup and a group of Lamorinda readers

Photo Sophie Braccini

The author of "Down to a Soundless Sea", Thomas Steinbeck, is a handsome 60- something fellow with a wonderful sense of humor. He delighted an audience of more than 120 Lamorindans who came to the Orinda Community Center last Thursday night for the grand finale of the Lamorinda Reads program. Six hundred copies of Steinbeck's book were read, circulated and discussed throughout Lamorinda.

The son of the great John Steinbeck professed a love of stories; true stories, false stories and tall tells as well. He affirmed that all the stories in "The Soundless Sea" were based on real stories. Responding to a question from the audience, Steinbeck explained that it can take him months to write a story, and that the most important part happens in his woodshop or while fishing: "You need to day-dream your story," he said, "tell it

to your self until it is as familiar to you as your grandmother's story, then you can sit down and write it." His last advice to the audience was to write themselves, "You all have short stories in you, you just have to let them out." Book signing was the final and traditional ending for the evening.

As she was interacting with guests, Moraga Librarian Linda Waldroup acknowledged that many of the books that had been distributed around town had not been returned to the libraries yet. "They might still be passed on from family members to neighbors," she said, "but I expect they will eventually find their way to our offices and we plan to give the extra copies to the Acalanes School District."



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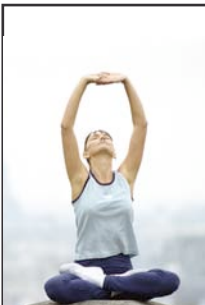
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