

NMPL Book Club – January 14, 2014 @ 6:30

- 1) As in any group, the women described in *The Astronaut Wives Club* are diverse and do not fit any one particular mold. Think about these women... with whom did you most sympathize with, admire, or dislike? What about these women caused these emotions?
- 2) What did you find most impressive about the level of support the women provided to each other? Do you belong to any group that you feel resembles the bond that developed among these wives of the astronauts?
- 3) These women were under a combination of stresses from invasion of privacy and absentee husbands to marital infidelity and anxiety for their husbands' lives. Which of the multitude of stresses was the most difficult for them? Which one would have been most difficult for you? Were these women's lives any more difficult than other military wives?
- 4) Although these negative aspects were prevalent, the astronaut wives also enjoyed some benefits because of their husbands' celebrity status. Did you find any aspect of the wives' lives to be enviable?
- 5) Reflect upon the wives of the three astronauts killed in the pre-launch test of Apollo 1... Betty Grissom, Pat White, and Martha Chaffee. How did each differ in the way that they handled this tragedy?
- 6) How did the lifestyles and stresses of the astronauts' lives affect their marital relationships?
- 7) How would the lives of these women be different today because of the change in society's attitudes toward women?
- 8) Did you see similarities between the treatment of these women and our modern celebrities? Did the media approach these women differently than they would today?

Quotes Worth Noting...