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We invite all members and groups at Skidmore College to participate in an ongoing celebration of good reading and good conversation, the first annual cycle to begin later this spring with book nominations by any individuals and by invited groups. We plan the selection process to be complete in time for an announcement at Family Weekend in October, followed by ongoing activities throughout the winter and early spring, with a culminating event on Mother's Day weekend 2005. We hope for widespread participation, as suits the interests and activities of students, staff, and faculty, departments and programs across the College. To share ideas, suggestions, questions and concerns, please contact Marie Glotzbach ("mglotzba") or Phyllis Roth ("paroth") on Skidmore email. We will be in touch as plans move forward.

## **SARATOGA READS!**

### ***One Book, One Community***

#### **Mission Statement**

Our goal is to invite as many members of the Saratoga community as would like to participate in a program designed to create an extensive and shared conversation for all ages and various areas of interest. Centering on the community-wide reading of a novel rich enough to sustain invigorating dialogue, the conversation will build upon resources available at Skidmore College and in the wider Saratoga Springs community. Having selected the novel, members of the college community and Saratoga community organizations may create and/or participate in group discussions, enactments, literacy and library experiences, school and arts events.....toward the end of relishing the place and play of community-wide engagement.

#### **Project Description**

This project provides a framework to bring members of the Saratoga community and Skidmore College together to read and discuss the same novel at the same time. There will be a community-wide process to select the book and a kick-off event to launch the reading of the novel. There will be a Saratoga Reads! Website, and weekly topics or themes will be discussed in the local media. A talk by the author and/or a symposium will be held on campus, and community organizations and partners will be invited to participate with events or activities to enhance engagement with the selected novel. Teachers could incorporate the book and its themes and ideas into classroom work. Special displays in stores, the Public Library and at Skidmore will provide information related to the book. The project may culminate in showings of a film made from the book as part of a community-wide event. This transformative project will promote reading and literacy as it fosters stronger community and college connections by creating a dialogue with neighbors and friends within the community.