



Sunriver Books & Music

October 2010 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



Author Events!

Sunriver Goes Wild For Garth Stein!



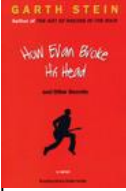
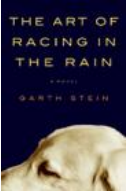
International best selling author Garth Stein will be here October 9th for a fund raiser to benefit Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory. The show will be at **Mavericks** (541-593-2500) located at 18135 Cottonwood Road, just across the street from the North Country Store. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at Sunriver Books & Music. **Buy your tickets early while they last!** Garth's costars are a magnificent Golden Eagle and a very impressive Great Horned Owl. They take the stage from 4:30 to 5:00 PM. Both raptors call Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory home. In **Mavericks** intimate setting you will get a close up experience with these raptors. Garth will speak from 5:00 to 6:00 and sign books from 6:00 to 6:30. He is an entertaining, inspiring speaker.



The Art of Racing in the Rain is soon to be a major motion picture starring Patrick Dempsey. Sometimes if you are very lucky fate gives you a special friend. Denny's friend Enzo will stand by him through some of the best and worst times of his life, his faith in Denny



bone deep. Enzo is a dog with a very old soul; he looks at Denny seeing all that is good, a man full of the possibilities of life. Denny has magic in his hands; he is a race driver with natural talent. Deft hands, hair trigger reactions, and ferocious courage can only take you so far. Talent will not fulfill your destiny on its own; life changes direction in a heartbeat. Who knows what is around the next bend in the road? Denny's life turns down dark alleys, but Enzo is right by his side, always understanding, ready to help. There are life lessons on the pages; believing in yourself, really listening to one another, cherishing those close to you, and sometimes being willing to risk it all!



How Evan Broke His Head & Other Secrets, winner of the PNBA award, is set in Seattle, Walla Walla, and Yakima. Evan is a 31 year old rock musician from Seattle, afraid of being a one song wonder. He has avoided growing up, taking no responsibility for his situation. His life is complicated by Epilepsy. As a teenager Evan fathered a child. His son's mother has died, his son needs him. It is time to grow up. This story is about the choices we make in life, the consequences they bear and whether we get a chance to re-write our life's script.

Raven Stole The Moon mixes Tlingit legend with the story of a bereft young woman from Seattle, weaving a compelling story of loss and redemption. Jenna's son drowned on a vacation in Alaska, on the anniversary of his death she is drawn back to Wrangell Alaska. From a Shaman she learns the legend of the Kushtakas, she begins to suspect they have taken her son. Would you go into the heart of darkness for the child you love? Garth vividly blends legend, belief, and a rousing adventure. Jenna is a sympathetic character, you will root for her.



October 23rd at 5:00 PM Steve Duno will be at Sunriver Books & Music for a presentation of **Last Dog On The Hill**. Sometimes, if you look carefully and you are very lucky, you will see all your promise reflected back to you in the eyes of a dog, a dog that sees in you qualities you did not feel confident you possessed. They know, these dogs, they look at you and challenge you to be better than you thought you could, to grab life in great big gulps, and to love without condition. Steve met such a dog driving through the Redwood Forest with his girlfriend. His heart was hijacked by a homeless tick infested pup. This dog he named Lou would change Steve's life. Plucked from his pack, trundled off to LA where he makes pals with street gangs and sits on the table to watch the city lights, Lou took to life in LA but always kept his wild dignity. He was Steve's best friend, his companion, and his co-worker as Steve became a dog trainer. Lou brought a little cheer into the grim lives of Alzheimer patients, comforted war veterans, and did therapy with people in need of a bit of canine compassion. From LA Steve and Lou make their way north to Seattle and a career in dog training, where they saved many an aggressive dog. Gentle as a lamb with friends, Lou could be ferocious with foes. When a neighbor is raped it is Lou who catches the creep. **Last Dog On The Hill** is a heartwarming tale of the life of an extraordinary dog. Along the way there were hikes to take, friends to make, and people to help. There is a bond between dog and man. We are touched by their grace, come hear Steve Duno celebrate the life of an extraordinary dog. This will be the first event in our new space.



Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday November 6th at 5:00 PM **River House** by Sarahlee Lawrence
 Saturday December 18th at 5:00 PM **The Blood of Lorraine** by Barbara Corrado Pope
 Saturday April 16th at 5:00 PM **The Lotus Eaters** by Tatjana Soli
 Saturday May 14th at 5:00 PM **A Daughter' Walk** by Jane Kirkpatrick
 Sunday May 15th Walk With Jane Kirkpatrick (more details to follow).

We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak often clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events. Check our newsletter or web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

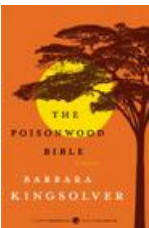
A Month of Africa.

Literature can take us on journeys to distant lands and bridge the gap of cultural differences. We can sink into the pages of a book and live other lives, walk through vastly changed landscapes, and experience other cultures. Literature can help us understand our world. Each year at Sunriver Books & Music we concentrate for one month on books from another region or country. This year we are ambitiously concentrating on Africa, a whole continent! All of the book club selections, the recommendations in our newsletter, and the store picks on our website for the month of October will be related to Africa. I hope you will join us in celebrating a month of Africa. I have enjoyed reading about this fascinating continent. Books allow us to live for a brief while in other cultures and other lands. Reading literature set in far off places expands our world view. More books on Africa will be listed on our website at sunriverbooks.com.



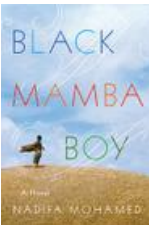
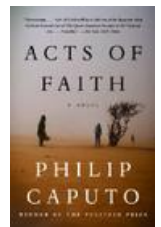
Flashman on the March by George MacDonald Fraser is historical fiction at its funniest. Handsome Sir Harry Flashman V.C. is marching into Africa, across Abyssinia to rescue a small band of English hostages from a mad Abyssinian King. Of course Flashman is out to seduce the ladies and keep his hide out of danger. Events have other things in mind for him, from going over a waterfall, to avoiding brigands, danger is everywhere. Flashman books are rollicking, outrageous fun. George MacDonald Fraser's series about handsome Harry Flashman blends real and fictional characters as he brings history to life with some hilarious twists. Flashman books take him all over the globe into major world events; the America West, the 1857 Uprising in India, the Civil War, the Charge of the Light Brigade. I have read them all. They are not politically correct, using the language of the times for indigenous people, but they give an interesting perspective on history.

How To Read The Air by Dinaw Mengestu has achingly beautiful prose and conflicted, complex characters. Jonas's father escaped from Africa, landing in the USA as a refugee never able to shake his past. Quick to use fists to salve his hurts, Jonas's mother's body bears the marks of his father's pain. Jonas grows up trying not to take up space, to avoid notice. He meets his wife while working at an immigration agency, hearing the sad stories of those lost souls who seek refuge in the USA where the streets should surely be paved with gold. The agency is ran on a shoestring and inevitably the day comes when Jonas is no longer necessary. His next gig is as a teacher at an expensive private school. One day he starts telling his students the story of his father's escape from Ethiopia, helping them imagine a world so far beyond their ken, it could be another planet. Jonas's predilection to pay fast and loose with the truth costs him his marriage. As his world spins out of control, Jonas retraces a road trip his parents took before his birth, at a time when their life still held possibilities.. Stepping into their past just might let him find his future.



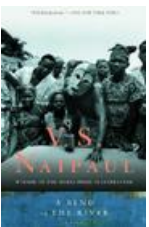
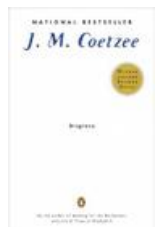
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver is a powerfully written story of the hubris of a missionary bent on bringing the villagers in a remote part of the Belgian Congo to see the light. The story is told from the shifting perspectives of the missionary's wife and four daughters. Arriving in Africa from a small town in Georgia, they are woefully unprepared, in every sense of the word. Timing is not auspicious either, they arrive as the Africans are seeking independence from Belgium. It is a tumultuous time. Kingsolver's writing is so sublime she is able to convey the feeling of life in this small African village. This is my favorite of Barbara Kingsolver's rich body of work.

Acts of Faith by Philip Caputo is set in war torn Sudan, a sad sorry place, and Kenya where aid agencies launch what help they can across the border. Caputo is a Pulitzer Prize winner who earned his chops first as a soldier then a reporter in Vietnam. He knows a bit about the shifting vantage of good intentions. It is amazing what people will do, what means they will justify, to achieve their ends. Fitzhugh, a Kenyan, is booted out of one aid agency when he tips the press off to the massive amount of food going to waste, acutely being burned to cinders. He partners with a brash American pilot, Braithwaite, who intends to fly into off limit areas where supplies are desperately needed. Quinette is a born again Christian from America's heartland working to buy back the slaves taken in raids on the Dinkas. Isn't there a saying about the road to hell being paved with good intentions?



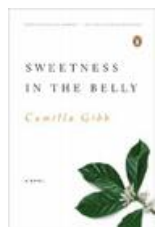
Black Mamba Boy by Nadifa Mohamed wanders all over Africa. Jama's story begins in 1935 in Aden, Yemen where he subsists with his mother living in the house of a harsh relative. His father, a dreamer and a drifter, left his family behind heading off into Africa. When Jama's unfortunate mother dies, he sets off in search of his father. Jama's wanderings take him through Somalia, Eritria, Sudan, and Egypt. Jama is a very likeable character, you find yourself rooting for him as his journey intersects with world events. Nadifa Mohamed found the inspiration for her book in the life of her father.

Disgrace by Nobel Prize winner J.M. Coetzee is a dark and disturbing story set in South Africa after the fall of apartheid. David Lurie, a college professor, has always had a way with the ladies, but at 52 his charms are starting to wane and he is developing a taste for his young students. His seduction of a student leads to the ruin of his career, in disgrace he heads out into the country to stay with his daughter, a small time farmer, seeking a place to lick his wounds in peace. Lucy convinces her Dad to volunteer at the local animal shelter, where far too many unwanted animals end their days. The sanctuary David sought in coming to stay with Lucy is shattered when they are attacked and his daughter is violently raped. This is a slim, but complicated volume. An excellent discussion book.

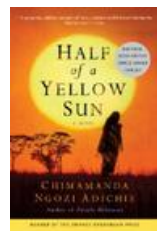


A Bend in the River by Nobel Prize winner V.S. Naipaul is set in a country unidentified in the book, but is most likely the Belgian Congo. Salim's family had lived for generations on the east coast of Africa, but their Indian ancestry made them other, not truly African and not truly Indian. Salim sees their way of life being threatened by political upheaval, he heads in-land, far away to a place that has already suffered upheaval. If the young man was operating on the lightning not striking the same place twice theory, he went woefully awry.

Sweetness in the Belly by Camilla Gibb is a fascinating book. In the free spirited 60's & 70's young people from western cultures went to places like Morocco where the culture was much more rigid. Gibb's book uses this premise well. Lily is an 8 year old child when her parents die in a drug deal gone sour. Alone, with no papers, she is taken in and raised by a Muslim cleric. As a young woman she settles in Ethiopia, until the fall of Hailie Selassie sends her to London as a refugee. I found this story intriguing and Gibb's excellent writing added to the pleasure.

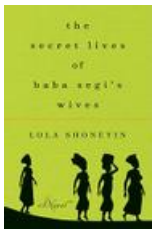
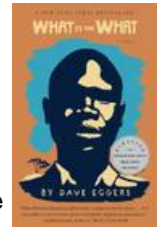


Half a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie is set in the 1960's during Biafra's doomed attempt to establish independence from Nigeria. Twin sisters from a wealthy family chose different paths. Beautiful Olanna is drawn to fiery professor Odenigbo, an ardent supporter of independence. Kainene is being groomed to follow in their father's footsteps, to run the family businesses. At a party she meets Richard, a Brit interested in African art. Another strong voice in the story is Ugwu, Odenigbo's houseboy. Adichie is a talented author, she makes you care about these characters.



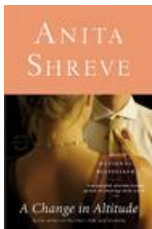
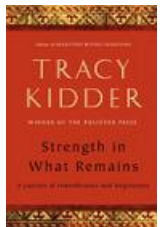
The Syringa Tree by Pamela Gien is set in South Africa during apartheid. Lizzy's Dad is a doctor with an office that serves whites in the front waiting room and blacks in the back, an arraignment distasteful to the kind man. Lizzy is nurtured by Salmina, a servant in the household, adored by her grandparents who live on a remote farm and held in the bosom of her family. Lizzy is delighted when Salmina has a baby, Moliseng, and she is put in charge of keeping the baby hidden. Salmina has a permit allowing her to stay at her employer's home, but the baby is not allowed. Moliseng would be taken to the Soweto ghetto if discovered. Hide away, hide away, Moliseng must hide away good.

What is the What by Dave Eggers is fiction based on the very real life of Valentine Achak Deng. One of the Lost Boys of the Sudan, he walked across war torn Sudan to reach a refugee camp in Ethiopia only to have violence follow. Refuge is found in Kenya, and then an opportunity to emigrate to the US. This is a remarkable story about a young man determined to get an education and do good. He has formed a foundation and is building schools in villages in the Sudan.



The Secret Lives of Baba Segi's Wives by Lola Shoneyin is set in Nigeria. Baba Segi's life has been going quite well. The one cloud on his sunny horizon is his fourth wife's inability to bear him a child. Or maybe he is unaware his sunny little paradise has a few snakes hiding in the apple tree. Could it be his first three wives have secrets to protect? Baba Segi has basked in the respect and devotion of his little family but adding a fourth wife may upset the balance in ways he cannot conceive.

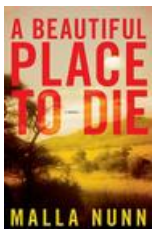
Strength in What Remains by Pulitzer Prize winning author Tracy Kidder is set in Burundi, Rwanda and the USA. Deo is a young medical student when genocide erupts in Burundi. As the killers explode onto the hospital grounds the only thing that saves Deo is that he was too tired to shut his door, so he only has time to roll quickly under the bed as they burst down the hallways. The rooms with shut doors are searched, but his room is only looked into quickly because the door was open.



Shaken and alone, after huddling under his bed while violence ran amok, he emerges with the conviction that he needs to get away fast. He heads for safety in Rwanda. That doesn't work out too well, but he survives and makes his way to the USA where with the help of strangers he rises from delivering groceries to attending Columbia Medical School. Deo is involved in setting up clinics in Burundi and trying to heal the scars of genocide.

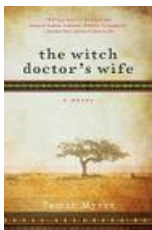
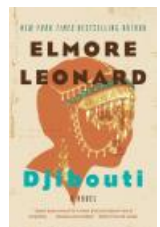
A Change in Altitude by Anita Shreve illuminates how one foolish moment can change everything. Margaret and Patrick set off as newlyweds to spend a year in Kenya thinking it will be a fabulous adventure. Serendipitously they find housing on the graceful verdant estate of wealthy British ex-pats. They form a friendship with their landlords and plan a climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro together. Tragedy will strike changing everything.

Cutting For Stone by Abraham Verghese is best described as epic. Spanning the lives of twin brothers, born to a devout Nun from India who dies giving them life. The twins are adopted by doctors at the hospital and grow up in Haile Selassie's Ethiopia. The writing is luminous, the story compelling, and the characters well developed. The story travels from India to Ethiopia to New York. This one will keep you turning pages!



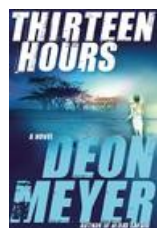
A Beautiful Place to Die by Malla Nunn is set in South Africa in the early days of apartheid, it was not a place where justice dwelled. Detective Emmanuel Cooper is called to the tiny town of Jacob's Rest to investigate the murder of a white police captain. Cooper wants to find the truth, wherever that may take him, not a popular attitude. It is an attitude that just might get him killed. His superiors and the family are certain some black man did the deed. Cooper is not so sure, he is troubled by the attitudes of the captain's friends and family. The Security Branch roll into town, ready to take over the investigation, teach Cooper not to look in unpopular places, and if necessary beat a confession out of any convenient black man. Malla Nunn was born in South Africa, she brings a real tension to apartheid. The next book in the series is **Let the Dead Lie**.

Djibouti by Elmore Leonard has action galore! Documentary filmmaker Dara Barr heads to Djibouti on the Horn of Africa to make a film about pirates. Her right hand man Xavier, a huge 72 year old African American, susses out a few contacts and whamo they are in the thick of things. Throw in an American billionaire aboard an aircraft carrier sized yacht with a penchant for firearms, big firearms. Add the CIA, Terrorists, let it simmer and it is sure to sizzle.



The Witch Doctor's Wife by Tamar Myers is set in the Congo in 1958. Amanda, a young missionary, leaves her South Carolina home to run a guest house for missionaries in a small village. She inherits a surly servant who is not amused when she hires the witch doctor's wife. The witch doctor gains possession of a huge diamond, but diamonds are the purview of the Belgian government, not Africans. This leads, of course, to murder. **The Witch Doctors Wife** has delightful characters, I hope it is the start of a series. Myer was born and raised in the Congo.

Thirteen Hours by Deon Meyer opens with a frantic young girl running through the South African night. You do not know if she will live or die. Her pursuers are hot on her trail. Vacationing in Cape Town has turned into a nightmare. Detective Benny Griessel is her only hope, provided he can stay sober and foil the men intent on killing. Benny also has to solve the murder of a record company executive found lying quite dead next to his drunk wife. Did she kill him? Benny doesn't think so. The pace is blistering!



The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith begins the series featuring Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's only lady detective. The stories are entertaining and the characters likeable. A witch doctor is preying on children, a woman fears her husband is cheating, they all need help. Mma Ramotswe is on the case.

October 2010 Book Clubs. A MONTH OF AFRICA

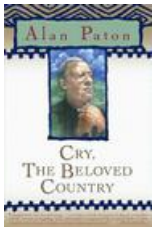
October 4th the Mystery Book Club discusses **Mark of the Lion** by Suanne Arruda. Jade left her New Mexico home to drive an ambulance in WWI. A promise to a dying pilot takes her to Kenya after the war, where she tries to find his brother. Growing up on a ranch Jade learned to ride and shoot with the best of them. A keen ear for language and her wide open American attitude lets her relate to the natives in a different way from the formal Brits. Harry, a local landowner and guide, charms the ladies; he is used to having his way. Jade is easy on the eyes, but this fiery young woman may be too hot to handle. A promise to the dying is sacred, as Jade attempts to fulfill her duty dark forces gather. This is the first in an entertaining series featuring Jade.



October 11th the Fiction Book Club discusses **The Camel Bookmobile** by Masha Hamilton. Kenya's people live in far flung villages just like their ancestors have for many generations. They herd the cattle, pray for rain, and listen to the elders. Big city lights, internet, even electricity are not part of their daily life. American exuberance is a force to be reckoned with, rife with enthusiasm and a belief we can succeed, we are apt to be found just about anywhere trying just about anything. Fi Sweeny is afire with American spirit. She volunteered to bring books to remote villages of Kenya via a camel bookmobile. No one asked the camels if they wanted to volunteer and they can be a bit testy about their part in the scheme. Mr. Abasi, her Kenyan partner in the project, shares the camel's reluctance. He feels resources should be used in the city rather than traipsing around the bush. Fi finds an ally in Matani, a village school teacher who wants to help his people reap the benefits of the modern world. Sometimes with the best of intentions, things can go awry.



October 18th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses **Out of Africa** by Isak Dinesen. Karen Blixen lived on her coffee plantation in Kenya from 1914 to 1931. She writes of an Africa still under the yoke of European colonialism. It is a place of great beauty and great peril. Her Africa has a sky that goes on forever, lions lounging in the tall grass, snakes using that same grass for their purposes, and the natives who served their colonial masters. This book celebrates the grandeur and beauty of Africa.



Oct. 25th Classics Book Club discusses **Cry The Beloved Country** by Alan Paton. Rev. Kumalo lived content in his small village until he received a letter calling him to Johannesburg to rescue his sister. Gertrude went to the big city in search of her husband, Kumalo's son followed her. Rev. Kumalo and his wife received no news until this letter. His discoveries in Johannesburg will not give him comfort. This is a complex ultimately uplifting story of forgiveness and the pain of South Africa.

Non Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM November 22nd 2010 **Cheap** by Ellen Ruppel Shell

Monday 6:30 December 13th 2010 **Zeitoun** by Dave Eggers

Monday 6:30 January 24th 2011 **A People's History of the United States** by Howard Zinn

Monday February 28th 2011 **The Big Burn** by Timothy Egan.

Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM November 15th 2010 **You Or Someone Like You** by Chandler Burr

Monday 6:30 December 20th 2010 **Baking Cakes in Kigali** by Gaile Parkin

Monday 6:30 PM January 17th 2011 **Mister Pip** by Lloyd Jones **Dickens Month**

Monday February 21st at 6:30 PM an author led discussion of **Seeing Stars** by Diane Hammond

Monday May 16th 2011 an author led discussion of **The Daughter's Walk** by Jane Kirkpatrick

Classics

Monday 6:30 PM November 29th 2010 **Catch 22** by Joseph Heller

Monday 6:30 January 11th 2011 **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens **Dickens Month**

Monday 6:30 February 14th 2011 **Love in the Time of Cholera** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Monday 6:30 April 25th **Les Miserables** by Victor Hugo

Monday 6:30 May 23rd **The Way We Live Now** by Anthony Trollope

Monday 6:30 July 18th **Passing** by Nella Larson

Monday 6:30 August 29th **The Razor's Edge** by Somerset Maugham

Monday 6:30 November 28th 2011 **Atlas Shrugged** by Ayn Rand

Mystery Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM November 1st, 2010 **The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest** by Steig Larrson

Monday 6:30 PM December 6th 2010 **Tin Roof Blowdown** by James Lee Burke

Monday 6:30 PM January 3rd 2011 **The Last Dickens** by Mathew Pearl **Dickens Month**

Monday 6:30 PM February 7th 2011 **Pale Kings & Horsemen** by Robert Parker

Monday 6:30 February 7th 2011 **Scarecrow** by Michael Connelly.

Monday 6:30 PM April 4th, 2011 **Mistress of the Art of Death** by Ariana Franklin

Travel Essay Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM November 8th **Outposts** by Winchester.

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at Sunriverbooks.com

