



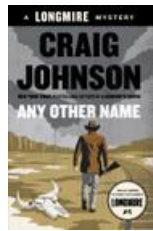
Sunriver Books & Music

April 2014 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Craig Johnson is pictured with Sunriver Police Chief Marc Mills on the left and Black Butte Police Chief Denny Kelley to the right. Picture by Dan & Kim Feer. .



Craig Johnson returns Sunday May 18th 5:00 PM at the SHARC Center for the latest in the Longmire Series, *Any Other Name*.

Sign up early to attend by e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or calling 541-593-2525 or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Any Other Name is a real page turner, Lucian and Walt get into a whole lot of trouble, they will keep your heart rate high! The book releases May 13th, we are happy to pre-order for you. For your convenience, on pre-orders that are pre-paid, we will deliver the books to the SHARC center in a bag with your name to be picked up at the event.

Diane Hammond presents **Friday's Harbor** on Sunday April 6th at 5:00 PM. Many of you may remember Keiko the Killer Whale rehabilitated at the Aquarium



in Newport. Both Diane and her husband, Nolan, were intimately involved with Keiko. We will have a special treat at this event, Diane is sharing a slide show featuring Nolan and Keiko. Diane uses their experience in crafting **Friday's Harbor**. The story is set three years after the conclusion of **Hannah's Dream** and brings back many of the characters. Truman is now zoo director at the Max L. Biedelman Zoo, Sam retired but still helps out, and Neva is managing a doggie daycare. In South America a Killer Whale swims in warm water in a tiny pool. Gabriel, a specialist on working with whales, gives him a year at best; he will perish if not moved to better surroundings. Truman's aunt has a passion for animals and the money to make things happen. She cajoles her favorite nephew into accepting the whale and bankrolls his move from Columbia to the Pacific Northwest. Diane's experience with Keiko brings Friday to life for the reader. This whale has personality! The scenes between Gabriel and Friday are often based on interactions between Nolan and Keiko. There is a wonderful scene where Friday approaches Gabriel as he cleans the pool, the large animal resting his chin lightly on Gabriel's shoulder; this touching moment comes from Nolan and Keiko. Outside the pool, the Killer Whale is causing a media frenzy. Groups with their own agendas jockey for attention. Some will stop at nothing to further their cause. A less than ethical local journalist, thinking the media circus surrounding the Killer Whale is his ticket to the big time, unscrupulously uses an animal communicator to create controversy. Through it all, the killer whale stars and will capture the reader's heart.



Hannah's Dream introduces the characters at the Max L. Biedelman Zoo. Sam's nights are haunted by a vivid dream of lush meadows, deep ponds, and the trumpeting of elephants. He knows he is sharing this dream with Hannah. Sam has been Hannah's keeper for over 40 years, starting under the tutelage of Max Biedelman, when she kept a private zoo on her scrumptious estate. The glory days have passed, no longer is Hannah living in part of a private estate with exquisite landscaping. Max left the property to the city to be a zoo; vendor carts and concrete have obliterated the earlier opulence. The zoo has fallen on hard times; Harriet was hired to turn things around. She is determined to succeed, but has no understanding of the needs of an elephant, only certain knowledge of its star power. Standing on concrete, huddling in the barn on all the moist rainy days of a Northwestern winter, and living alone is not the right life for the majesty of an elephant. Sam share's Hannah's dream yet all he can offer her is a sack of Dunkin Donuts. Sam spent most of his life caring for Hannah, he is worried, will she have a future when he retires? A man and an elephant share a dream, can it become reality?

Diane Hammond is also the author of **Seeing Stars**, **Going to Bend** and **Homesick Creek**. Her stories are crafted with characters that feel real, everyday people doing their best to get by.



Saturday April 12th Peter Mountford will give a presentation on **The Dismal Science**. Vincent D'Orsi, is a widower from Italy who achieved success as an economist for the World Bank. He is just at the right age for a bit of a middle age melt down. Vincent's wife died a couple years back in an accident, one minute she was riding to work

with him in the mornings, the next she was gone without even a chance to say goodbye. Vincent has avoided dealing in any meaningful way with his grief. Although he would like a closer relationship with his adult daughter, he failed to lay the groundwork (always too busy at work) and now he does not understand her needs or his failure to communicate his feelings. As the story opens, Vincent's daughter is visiting and the World Bank is being targeted by protesters. Pressure from the US Administration to be harsh with Bolivia if a certain presi-

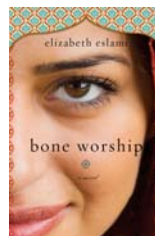
dential candidate is elected tips Vincent right over the edge. His sense of self is tied up with his position at the World Bank, when he resigns he also loses that identity. Becoming embroiled in Bolivia does not simplify things for him either. It is an interesting story about a lonely middle age guy trying to figure out what comes next.

Peter Mountford's last book, the brilliant **A Young Man's Guide to Capitalism**, is acerbic and highly entertaining. A journalist takes a position with an unscrupulous hedge fund near the height of the financial bubble. He is sent to Bolivia in a quest for insider information on the presidential election. Things go awry.

April 19th at 5:00 PM Rene Denfeld will give a presentation on **The Enchanted**, her debut work of fiction. Denfeld is an experienced journalist and death penalty investigator. She has written three works of non-fiction on important topics. Hemingway had something to say about writing fiction "All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you.... If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer." - **The Enchanted** is Denfeld's foray into this truer truth found in works of fiction. One of the joys of being a bookseller is to read and share with other readers a powerful new voice. Denfeld is such a voice, she takes my breath away.



Golden horses run under the stone foundation of the old prison, their eyes wild, manes flowing, molten heat emanating from their bodies as they run. An inmate on death row leads the reader into the world of fantasy only he sees and the stark, violent reality of prison life. He watches as an unnamed lady researches the lives of killers sentenced to die, finding clues in their backgrounds that might grant them the leniency of life in prison over death. The secrets she holds close permit her an uncanny understanding of the natures of her clients. A fallen priest comforts the inmates and watches the lady, wondering if she might possess redemption for him. Haunting and beautifully written, this is a powerhouse story and we are honored to have Rene Denfeld appearing at Sunriver Books & Music.



Saturday April 26th at 5:00 PM Elizabeth Eslami will give a presentation on **Hibernate**, a collection of short stories and winner of the Ohio State University Prize in Short Fiction.

The collection opens with **Jocko Hollow** a story about two brothers who spent childhood afternoons fishing in a sun dappled Montana stream and hunting for arrowheads. The intrusion of an act of violence will be forever reflected in what comes after. **New Year** goes to Iran, the home of quick and cheap nose jobs. Parviz's sisters want new noses; he is persuaded to go along to take care of them. The family left Iran for the USA; this is his first trip back. Parviz has a wife and child, but no job so he is elected as he has time to be away. He learns a bit about himself, his life, and his sisters. **Victory Forge** is a young man's genesis from carefree young brother to soldier and his sister's reaction as she feels her brother slipping away into a

darker reality. **Sour Milk** has a young man born into poverty with a father who will soon be gone, and a mother who should have given reproduction a pass. He grows up to be a solitary fellow who dreams of a better life and struggles against the reality of his options. **Continuity in Filmmaking** is told through the perspective of a woman's trying to understand the new reality of her situation as she sits home waiting for Geoffrey. He trains dogs for the movies, relating more to the canines than people. **Advok**, **Pantokrator** is a hauntingly beautiful story about a boy whose mother is accused of an indiscretion causing all sorts of cracks in the fault lines of his family's life. Eventually he emigrates from Sudan to the US where he begins to understand and thus understanding realizes how little we truly control.

Eslami delighted me with her debut novel, ***Bone Worship***, an insightful, entertaining, poignant, funny story about a family divided between two cultures. Jasmine's Mum is a Southern belle and her Dad is an Iranian doctor. They raised Jasmine and her brother in Arrowhead, a small Southern town. Jasmine went off to the University of Chicago, her father hoping she would follow in his footsteps by becoming a doctor. As the book opens Jasmine returns home not in the bright splendor of graduation parties and congratulations about her promising future in medicine, but instead as a young woman who failed to graduate. She wasn't even studying medicine with Dad's money. Jasmine was tackling a double major in zoology and biology, doing quite well too until that last disastrous quarter. While Jasmine is uncertain what the future might hold, her father has no similar doubts. She is to be married; he will arrange it quite soon. This book is a lovely cornucopia of complicated family life. Jasmine has to discover that her father really does care deeply for her and like the rest of us is just doing his best. There are wonderful contradictions, after all her father did not follow tradition, he married a southern girl. How this all works out in Jasmine's life is a reflection on this family grappling with tradition, the future, and each other. Jasmine's search for a cultural identity is heartwarming and often hilarious.

Author events are free and everyone is welcome. Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Refreshments will be served and we will have drawings for prizes.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday May 10th 2014 at 5:00 PM ***Oregon For The Curious*** by William Sullivan

Sunday May 18th at 5:00 PM at the SHARC Center *Any Other Name* by Craig Johnson

Saturday May 24th 2014 at 5:00 PM ***The Three Emperors*** by William Dietrich

Thursday May 29th 2014 at 5:30 PM ***Ruin Falls*** by Jenny Milchman

Saturday September 6th at 5:00 PM ***A Light In The Wilderness*** by Jane Kirkpatrick.

Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak 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 web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

Sunriver Books & Music Book of the Month Club

Be nice to yourself, purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and receive a surprise book every month! This is a great way to find a new author to enjoy. We care that Book of the Month Club selections are wonderful books. I take choosing the month's books very seriously and enjoy spending time deliberating over the choices, trying to pick the best books for you. Past selections have included ***Housekeeping*** by Marilynne Robinson, ***Sweet Thursday*** by John Steinbeck, ***Let The Northern Lights Erase Your Name*** by Vendela Vida, ***The Folded Earth*** by Anuradha Roy and ***Sunnyside*** by Glen David Gold. What will 2014 bring? Purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and enjoy the surprise every month. Book of the Month Club subscriptions for the year 2014 with the books picked up in the store costs \$179.82 or \$203.82 mailed in the USA. last nine months of 2014 cost \$134.88 picked up in the store, \$152.88 mailed. The second 3 months (April, May, June) of 2014 is \$43.99 picked up in the store or \$49.94 mailed in the USA.

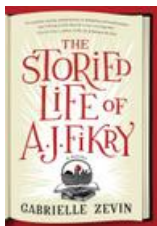
Sunriver Stars Community Theater presents **Radio Star!**

Featuring talented local thespians recreating an earlier era.

April 4, 5, and 6, Purchase tickets at the SHARC. Saturday night Dinner Theater catered by Marcello's.

Staff Recommendations.

Deon Recommends



The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin combines the zest of ***Where'd You Go Bernadette*** by Maria Semple and the charm of ***The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society*** by Mary Ann Shaffer, ***The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*** does not disappoint. Fikry is a curmudgeonly book seller who is not really dealing with the death of his wife and is far more comfortable with his stacks of books than people. Fussy he is about those books too! No vampires or maudlin memoirs in his book store. Amelia Loman is Fikry's new sales rep for Knightly Press. Let's just say their first meeting does not go well, bringing out the worst in Fikry's prickly character. Under that crusty exterior, Fikry's heart beats true, full of passion for well written words. A rare book will be stolen from Fikry and something surprising left in his store, those two events will change everything. At the beginning of each chapter is a book review by the irascible bookseller. If you love books, enjoy reading, and like your story spiced with just the right amount of humor, do not miss this incredible book. I did not stop turning pages until the story ended, and then I was sad because I would have enjoyed reading even more about these delightful characters.

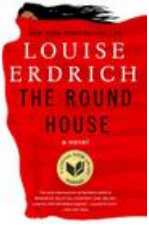


The Steady Running of the Hour by Justin Go is a fascinating story. Tristan Campbell is given a secret, a puzzle, and a challenge. Just out of college and without funds, Tristan is contacted by an obscure British law firm. In 1924 a wealthy man, Ashley Walsingham, died attempting to summit Mt. Everest leaving his worldly goods to a woman he had a tempestuous affair with. Imogene Soames-Andersson was an unusual woman for her times, perhaps for any time, headstrong, bright, and unpredictable. When news comes of Ashley's death, Imogene is nowhere to be found. Ashley's will stipulates his wealth is to go to Imogene or her direct descendant. If they cannot be found within 80 years, the money will go to a charity. Only two months remain before the funds held in trust would be transferred to charity when the lawyers discover Tristan. A vague letter implies he might be the only direct descendant of Imogene; the will requires absolute secrecy and demands proof. Tristan has less than two months to discover his link to Imogene and find convincing proof of their connection. The story shifts back and forth in time taking the reader from WWI, to the sheer sides of Mt. Everest, and to Iceland as Tristan pieces together the story of a remarkable woman and the man who loved her.

Staff Recommendations.

Now available in paperback or releasing soon.

Rachel Kelley recommends.



The Round House by Louise Erdrich begins with a startlingly violent crime on a reservation in North Dakota. Joe's mother is so stricken by her injuries (both physical and mental) that she begins to slip away from the world and, more importantly, her family. Joe watches as his mother's soul deteriorates and sets himself on a dangerous path to bring her back to the world. We follow Joe in the aftermath of this event, his mother's path to recovery, and his father's desperate attempts to seek justice in the legal system he knows so well. But it falls to Joe to seek true justice, and the need for revenge burns in him, transforming him into an adult at just thirteen years old. Beautifully written and tragically moving, *The Round House* gives us a glimpse of life on the reservation, the struggle with tribal laws, and the coming of age of a young boy hellbent on justice.

Lori Gascon recommends.

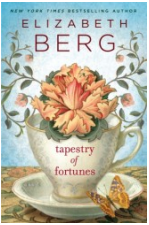


The Drowning House By Elizabeth Black. The sultry, stormy June weather in Galveston, Texas is the influential backdrop to this dramatic debut novel. Clare Porterfield is an aspiring photographer, coming back home to Galveston to do an exhibit of her hometown's history and the influence and power of the wealthy Carraday Family. At the center of many town stories is the Carraday house and how it survived the terrible storm of 1900, and the drowning death of the beautiful young Stella Carraday. Descendants Will Carraday and his family have continued to live in the house, a popular tourist attraction, and were Clare's neighbors while she was growing up, she being best friends with son Patrick. The two kids, she with her brownie camera and a penchant for snooping, and Patrick, with a hidden embarrassment of his family's money, were considered troublemakers. Their antics lead to the accidental death of a young girl resulting in each being sent away to live with other relatives. They have not seen each other in many years when Clare returns to Galveston for the photo work. Patrick is reluctant to see her again, and she does not understand why.

Clare has been managing the grief of losing her daughter, while letting go of a failing marriage. She has never really been close with her mother and sister, her father has passed away some years ago, and so Clare falls back on her snoop, inquisitive self to deal with the past. Why is her mother anxious for Clare to leave? Why do people in town seem to know things about her life that she herself doesn't? Events from the past are uncovered that have to do with the neighboring Carradays and her own life. In her research of old local photos, she discovers a dark and disturbing secret about the Carradays, and the real truth of Stella's death and the stories surrounding it.

The weather seems to predict the events and emotions of the story, and the final climax of the novel comes when the worst storm of the season is in full swing. The story has an interesting, well-written plot with descriptions that put you right there with the characters; it kept me reading to the end.

Tapestry of Fortunes by Elizabeth Berg



The power of friendship can transcend life and death in this warm, uplifting novel surrounding four women who, in becoming friends, take a trip together which changes each of their lives.

Cecelia Ross, "Cece", is a motivational speaker, traveling to various cities encouraging women to "affirm your innermost beliefs: bring them into the light." "You can help create not only your history, but your destiny".

Her inspiring presentations have helped women leave abusive relationships, start their "dream job", and fulfill needs & wants that have long gone unfilled. But Cece herself does not live by her beliefs. She is working constantly, traveling weekly, and expecting there will always be time to take that dream vacation, with best friend Penny. Now Cece is struggling to move on, as Penny has recently passed away. She trusts in her tarot cards, and although the "communication" with Penny helps console her, life is just not the same without her best friend. Along comes a postcard from Dennis, her one true love, lost due to Cece's unwillingness to start an adventure. Maybe now is the time to actually do something for herself, and start living what she preaches.

Cece makes the decision to write back to Dennis, sell her home, and start over. This decision brings into her life three older women who also have issues (who doesn't?):

Lise is an elegant, successful doctor, with a twenty-year-old daughter; their relationship has been troubled since the divorce.

Renie has a short spiky temperament, (a lot like her hair), and works for a newspaper answering an advice column with gutsy answers. She does not care for yoga – people are judged for their ability to "act like a heron" - why would anyone want to do that? She has a secret she has been hiding for many years.

Joni is a widowed blonde, an amazing cook with a stressful job as the sous-chef at a very exclusive restaurant. She is afraid of seat belts, looking for love, and will unknowingly find inspiration to make a life-changing decision.

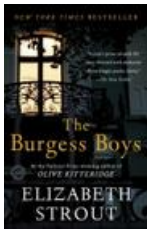
Along the way the ladies will all experience closure with the ordeals in their lives by way of a fun road trip – for women only! Road-side pie shops, tattoo parlors, cooking stores, truck-stop breakfasts, cigarettes that don't have *tobacco* in them, lying outside looking up at the stars, and meeting some amazing people are just some of the highlights of this fun adventure.

You will be tempted to plan your own fun road trip, to see what you can find along the way. I enjoyed it!

Staff Recommendations.

Now available in paperback or releasing soon.

Nancy Nelson recommends.



The Burgess Boys, by Elizabeth Strout tells of a family whose future is forever altered by an accident that occurred when the children were very young. The father left his three children in the car. One of the children disengaged the gears, the dad was killed. The younger of the two boys thinks it was his fault. He carries the guilt with him throughout his life, though he was only 4 years old at the time. As adults, Jim, the eldest brother becomes a very successful renowned lawyer. His much kinder more sensitive younger brother Bob works as an attorney for Legal Aid in New York City. The younger sister, Susan, Bob's twin, remains in Shirley Falls, Maine, the town where they grew up. One day the brothers receive an urgent call from Susan. She tells them that her son Zach is in trouble for throwing a pig's head into the local mosque. The immigrant Somalis who worship there are incensed and want the culprit punished. No one is hurt, but the authorities want to treat the case like a hate crime. The real story is about how the siblings react, how they respond to one another as well as to the situation at hand. Zach is extremely lonely and isolated, especially since his father has left the family. His mother Susan is unaware of his sadness, as she is also isolated and alone. Jim demeans Bob in nearly every conversation the two have. Susan and Bob respond to Jim as though he is incapable of error. Though this may sound like a very sad story, it is so very much more than that. Surprisingly, as events unfold, the reader is offered hope. Strout tells the family story with sensitivity and compassion, letting the reader see that things are not always as they may seem. Lovely, lovely book!



River of Dust, by Virginia Pye releases in paperback April 15th. This is the story of a family of missionaries in the year 1910, shortly after what is known as the Boxer Rebellion. Reverend John Wesley Watson is a man who stands very tall and is quite powerful looking. Reverend Watson is zealous in his task to bring faith in Jesus to the heathen peasants. His faith however, is tried when his first born son, Wesley, is stolen by group of Mongol nomads. After the kidnapping, his life, his wife's and his servants' change drastically. The Reverend becomes obsessive about finding his son. He soon becomes known as "Ghost Man" famous for his ability to perform miracles and evade death. The revelations he experiences bring him to a better understanding of these people he had so fervently wanted to convert to Christianity, and to his own part in this tragedy of his family. The story is also about his young wife, Grace who barely manages to stay alive after the loss of her son. She is very pregnant and sickly. Thanks to the expertise of her amah, she survives. Her faith in her husband has changed; she sees him less as a deity, more as a man with flaws. In the end, both husband and wife are very different people than the two young idealists who once thought that they had the answers to the world's problems. The story was well told, one that I very much enjoyed reading.



Visitation Street by Ivy Pochoda releases in paperback April 15th. The story takes place in the down on its heels Red Hook neighborhood. Teenagers June and Val go out from the Jersey shore in a flimsy pink toy raft. Val is found barely breathing under the pier by the High School music teacher. June has simply disappeared. Investigating officers suspect foul play. It is a watershed event in Val's life; June was a part of every significant moment of her past. Without her friend she is lost. The magic that brings the book to life are the vibrant, diverse residents of Red Hook, all the various ethnic groups cleave to their own while remaining a part of the whole. As the author weaves the story of all the main characters the neighborhood becomes a part of the tale, the way the different groups face their problems, the way life goes on in a neighborhood on the fringes of society. The reader is made to care about all the characters, people we might not give a second thought become important.



Telling the Bees, by Peggy Hesketh. Albert Honig is a very elderly man who has been a beekeeper all of his life, as was his father and his grandfather. He never married or had a family. He has always lived in the same house. Aside from his bees, the only friendship he has ever had was with his neighbor, Claire. He is very well versed in the lives of bees, but not so much with people. Thus he has difficulty in understanding his friend. Their relationship is often rocky and perplexing. He nevertheless cherishes her. One day the older Albert is drawn to his neighbors' house by the sound of bees humming. He senses that something is amiss and thus enters. Claire and her sister Hilda are bound and gagged. What initially looks like a robbery gone awry eventually is discovered to be something more. Albert then tells the reader his story of friendship and loss interlaced with the story of bees and the remarkable relationship he has with them. He is deeply sorry for the silence between Claire and himself in the later years, sorry for words that he could not take back, most especially as his awareness unfolds about Claire's life. This was an intriguing story laced with a lot of information about bees, lovely writing.

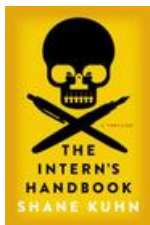


After Her, by Joyce Maynard. It is the summer of 1979, Marin County, California. Sisters Rachael and Patty are growing up exploring Mount Tamalpais just behind their house, sharing secrets, acting out plays, enjoying their childhoods with very little adult interference or direction. One day the body of a young woman is found on the mountain park trails. Their father, Detective Torricelli is in charge of the investigation. Soon after, another body is found, then another. The kids at Rachael's school hold the detective in very high esteem. Locals are generally afraid; the hiking trails are pretty much abandoned. Rachael, with Patty's cooperation collects data that might be pertinent to the case. Years pass, and the serial murders continue for a while, remaining unsolved. In the meantime, Rachael's efforts to discover the identity of the serial killer have brought on some serious and life altering consequences. The story takes the reader into a family situation, complicated by ordinary problems of life family, and divorce, exacerbated by the unsolved crimes. I found myself thinking "if only this person could have realized". The book is an engaging mixture of murder mystery, childhood memoir, coming of age story told by Rachael.

Staff Recommendations

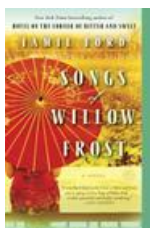
New Releases.

Deon Recommends



The Intern's Handbook by Shane Kuhn. John Lago is an intern with a difference, while delivering gourmet coffee to his boss or showing a prodigious talent for paperwork, he is really plotting the best way to dispatch his quarry. John is an assassin with a string of hits to his name, not that his name really is his name, best not to leave too much information available to his enemies. He is the top of his field at infiltrating companies then taking out his mark with precision. Nobody ever suspects the lowly intern. The hand book project came from John's desire to share his knowledge with the next batch of eager young assassins, let them know a few of the pitfalls so they survive the game a little longer. John's on a new case too; with a difference. He is sent into a company as an intern not knowing the mark. If that doesn't make things challenging enough for him, the guy is about to make the worst mistake an assassin could contemplate; involvement with a comely woman. If the babe is dripping in sex appeal and armed with razor sharp wit, the careful assassin will know she brings trouble. John used to be so careful. Madcap humor marries murdering mayhem in this riotous jaunt into the life of an assassin.

Now available in paperback.



Songs of Willow Frost by Jamie Ford, author of the very popular *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, has released in paperback. Jamie Ford brings Depression Era Seattle alive on the pages in this story focusing on a twelve year old Chinese boy, William Eng, living in Sacred Hearts Orphanage and his vulnerable, damaged mother. The voice shifts back and forth between mother and son. William's last sight of his mother was her limp body being carried down the stairs of their tenement building apartment. The child refuses to believe that his mother is dead, despite the assurance of the Nuns running the orphanage and the evidence of his memory. While William will capture your heart, his Mom's story will take you back to the Roaring Twenties, and the beginning of the Depression, letting you look into the culture of Seattle's Chinese district and the many dangers and pitfalls awaiting the women of the era. Add in sultry Willow's powerful voice for one of those special novels where you do not want the end to come because you do not want to leave these characters.



The Last Word by Lisa Lutz has been retitled **Spellman 6: The Next Generation** and released in paperback. At the conclusion of *The Spellman's Strike Again*, Izzy solved her employment issues by outflanking her parental units and securing the majority share of Spellman Investigations. Things are not so tranquil and satisfying as she anticipated as head honcho. Mutiny is afoot. Bills are piling up, the troops are not behaving, and Izzy is nearing her wits end (sometimes not a far journey). If running the agency were not enough of a challenge, the FBI is on her for embezzling funds from Mr. Slayter, her main client and benefactor. She won't need to worry about the bills or the mutiny if she does not figure out why the FBI has her down as a thief and prove her innocence. Razor sharp wit, a plot with a gratifying number of twists and turns, and truly original characters make this one of the most fun series to read. I always look forward to any new entry in the Spellman series, they do not disappoint.



Blood & Beauty by Sarah Dunant. The Borgias were one of the most fascinating families. In 1492 the Spaniard Rodrigo Borgia became Pope Alexander VI, a pope who openly acknowledged his children and had a mistress whose beauty was the envy of all Rome. These were turbulent times for the Catholic Church; the French were feeling frisky, ready to take on some Italian real estate. The Pope would have to be a wily politician to navigate through the dangerous alliances and double crosses. Borgia was well up to the task. His children were an interesting group; the family Borgia was close (not always with kind results). Lucrezia was the love of her brother Cesare's life. Juan, was the apple of his father's eye, a bad boy who defied conventions, enjoyed the favors of many women, and was despised by his older brother Cesare. Jofre, Laura, and Romano were also children of the Pope. Dunant makes the story of these turbulent times and the larger than life Pope both interesting and fun to read. I hope she continues the story of the Borgias in another book!



The Last Summer of the Camperdowns by Elizabeth Kelly. Riddle is just 12 years old when she makes the choice that will mar her life forevermore. Born into the lap of luxury, her Dad named her James Riddle Camperdown after Jimmy Hoffa. Camp has political aspirations; he is running for office, his reluctant daughter pressed into appearances on the campaign trail. Riddle's Mom is a former movie star, still glamour queen beautiful, with a razor sharp tongue that can leave her opponents in tatters. Mom's interests are horses and dogs. They have plenty room to indulge both passions in a big old rambling house surrounded by acreage by the sea at Cape Cod. It's a pretty good life for a kid, until it goes horribly awry as one misstep leads to another. We all make errors in judgment; usually those made in childhood are not quite so significant. Family secrets compound the tragedy in ways Riddle could not imagine until it is far too late. Kelly is a grand storyteller.



A Constellation of Vital Phenomena by Anthony Marra. If you appreciated *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese and have been longing for a novel of similar power, it has arrived. Set in Chechnya, the story is haunting. Akhmed is a good man, but good men can succumb to fear, especially when resistance is pointless. He cowers with his invalid wife in his house when Russian soldiers come for his neighbor and friend. Akhmed watches as the startling red flames claim his neighbor's house, fearful to venture forth until he is certain the Russians will not return. Cautiously Akhmed makes his way to the smoldering house, searching for his neighbor's daughter Havaa. He finds the child sitting on her suitcase at the edge of the woods. Keeping her with him in the small village is impossible; the neighborhood informant would tell the Russians. They would return for her taking Akhmed and his wife too. He takes the child to the hospital, persuading Dr. Sonia Rabina to hide the her. Like all momentous actions, this one will bear consequences. What shines through is the quiet nobility of the characters and how they struggle to bravely do what is right even when they are afraid. The writing is beautiful, the story compelling, and the characters are so very real on the page.

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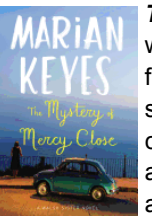
The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker. Unlikely though they may be, *The Golem and the Jinni* breathe life into this astonishing story as they walk the nighttime streets of 1899 New York and develop a friendship that reaches across the chasm of very different natures. Both mythical creatures, the Golem is a creature made of clay, created to obey every command of her master and the Jinni is born of fire. This Golem's master barely lasted long enough to pay the purveyor of dark magic for his creation and get her loaded on board a ship headed for the New World. He dies before the ship docks, leaving a very new Golem to find her way in a world not comfortable with such creatures. The Jinni's trip to New York is no less astonishing, trapped for a thousand years in a jug by an evil wizard; he is released by a tinsmith in the Little Syria district of New York City. Imagine the Jinni's astonishment, when last he was free, he lived in a Middle Eastern desert where the population was scarce, tall buildings not even imagined. Both creatures must learn to live as humans in order to survive, it does not come easily. They are helped along by some good people. The Golem is taken under the wing of a kind Rabbi and the tinsmith does his best to help the Jinni navigate this magical city so different from his desert home. They meet and begin walking the city at night, where they discover that because of their strange situation they can talk to each other in ways they could never disclose to others. You will root for them when inevitably they must face the evil that men do.



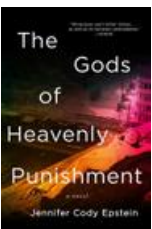
The View From Penthouse B by Elinor Lipman. Plan on slowing down as you near the last page because you will not want this book to end; it is one of those guilty pleasures that make you feel good. Two sisters face cataclysmic events; Gwen-Laura's husband died in his sleep, Margot's marriage ended in divorce after a dramatic and very public, not to mention illegal, betrayal. The women agree to share Margot's penthouse apartment, pooling their resources, after Margot loses her savings in Bernie Madoff's Ponzi scheme. Margot spends time blogging about living on a budget and the perfidy of Madoff. Gwen-Laura tries to figure out what her life will be without Edwin. Lipman allows the sisters to grow and blossom, she peppers the story with interesting and endearing characters, and she liberally seasons with humor.



Reconstructing Amelia by Kimberly McCreight. Kate believes she has a pretty good relationship with her daughter Amelia, sure she feels guilt about all the time spent at work trying to make partner in a prestigious law firm, but she feels they are there for each other in all the important ways. She holds that belief until the day she is called out of an important meeting for an emergency at her daughter's tony private school, arriving shortly thereafter to learn her child committed suicide. Why would beautiful Amelia, an honor student with a bright future, take her own life? Kate is devastated. She cannot make sense of the tragedy, on her first day back at work she starts to receive messages saying her daughter's death was not a suicide. Join Kate as she uncovers secrets and learns while she follows tenuous leads to uncover the truth.



The Mystery of Mercy Close by Marian Keyes. Marian Keyes has a talent for writing light amusing novels that contain within weightier subjects deftly handled. On the one hand this is an amusing tale about a dysfunctional PI hired by a former boyfriend to find the missing fourth member of a famous nineties boys band set to do a big comeback concert. On the other hand this is the story of a young woman battling depression, trying to survive an unforgiving economic collapse while working in the financially precarious field of private detection, and suffering the ignominy of resorting to moving back in with her parents after losing her dream apartment. There are all the requisite high jinx attendant on association with popular musicians and ex-boyfriends. Mercy's sisters are quick to help out when called; the bond of the women is strong. Funny it is, but it will make you think too.



The Gods of Heavenly Punishment by Jennifer Cody Epstein. Three lives are tragically linked in this beautifully written, haunting story of wartime Japan. Cam Richards adores his wife Lacy, he has everything to live for when he climbs into the cockpit of his plane and heads toward Tokyo on a daredevil fire bombing raid that will decimate the city. Yoshi's Mom was multi-lingual, western educated and drop dead gorgeous, and her Dad was a very traditional Japanese man with a successful business as a building contractor. It was not an auspicious union. Yoshi is in Tokyo when those planes reach their target. Billy's Dad Anton is a gifted architect; they lived in Japan for years before the war. As WWII heats up, Anton will help the Pentagon destroy the landscape he helped create. Billy is an occupation soldier back in Japan with his camera and his secret. These characters feel real, their story both tragic and hopeful.



White Dog Fell From The Sky by Eleanor Morse. It was not difficult to get on the wrong side of the authorities in 1976 South Africa if you are black; in fact it is very easy. Isaac Mutherthe, a young medical student, witnessed the murder of his friend by authorities, now his life is in jeopardy and he must flee into neighboring Botswana leaving his family behind. Isaac meets two special beings in Botswana; white dog and Alice Mendelssohn. Without papers or prospects his options are few. Isaac is fortunate to find work as a gardener. Alice sees that Isaac is a bright young man; she intuits that he is in some kind of trouble; she forges a friendship with her young gardener. When he goes missing Alice refuses to believe that Isaac abandoned his job, she searches for him learning truths about herself and Africa that will change her life. Luminous writing, a poignant story, and moments of grace.

E-readers are changing the landscape for books, not always in gentle ways. Many Independent Bookstores offer e-books for sale, including Sunriver Books & Music. On the right hand side of our website, sunriverbooks.com, you will find information on buying e-books as well a search feature for e-books and print books. In support of Independent Booksellers publishers sometimes offer specials that we pass onto you. Watch our website to see when they are available. We greatly appreciate your support and hope that you consider your Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating the purchase of an e-reader, please know that Amazon's kindle dictates your e-books be purchased from Amazon while the I-pad, the Sony e-reader, and others allow you the freedom to chose.

April 2014 Book Clubs.

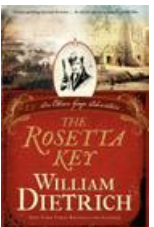
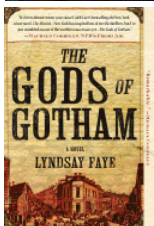
April is the month for World Book Night and the Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea. We celebrate both events with 3 book club selections. Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea is a month long celebration of literature with the whole community invited to read and attend events based on the title selected, this year's book is ***The Dog Stars*** by Peter Heller.

April 23rd is World Book Night. It started in 2011 in the United Kingdom and Ireland. In 2012 it spread to the United States and Germany with about 80,000 volunteer givers passing out 2 1/5 million books to encourage a passion for the written word. The date is special for me as it celebrates my favorite author; it is the anniversary of the death of Miguel de Cervantes (also the birth of William Shakespeare). In the Catalan region of Spain, Cervantes death is remembered by giving a book and a flower to a loved one. Reading changes lives, it allows the reader to live a different experience through the pages of the book, expanding empathy and understanding, inspiring and comforting. Look for World Book Night Givers around Central Oregon on April 23rd as they search for people to inspire a love of reading by giving a book. The staff at Sunriver Books & Music have volunteered as givers. If you would like more information, the website is www.worldbooknight.org.

April 7th the Fiction Book Club discusses ***The Dog Stars*** by Peter Heller, this year's Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection and a World Book Night selection. This dystopian novel is quietly moving with a unique style of storytelling. A deadly flu plague wipes out much of the world's population; it is followed by a fatal blood disease killing many of the survivors. Those remaining are generally either infected with the blood disease or not very nice people. The story takes place 9 years after the pandemic. Cities are waste lands, weeds crop up through the asphalt, the people are gone except for roving bands of violent men. Hig's wife died of the flu. His friends are all gone too. He lives with his dog Jasper at an abandoned airport. The choice is not random, Hig can fly the surrounding area in his Cessna to see that it is clear of intruders, he has a reasonably defensible perimeter, and the stored fuel will last a while. Bangley, another survivor, amazingly adept with guns, is his only other companion. Hig's love for Jasper, his yearning for the lost landscape, and his grief all make him a very empathetic character. His loneliness will eventually lead him to risk a flight, farther than safety warrants, chasing a radio signal in hopes of other survivors.

April 14th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***After the Funeral*** by Agatha Christie, a World Book Night Selection. You can't go wrong with Dame Agatha, she does not disappoint. Richard Abernethie was a very wealthy man. At his funeral the relatives gather with one burning question. How much will they inherit? Cora, long estranged from the family, comes out with the shocking suggestion that Richard was murdered. The man was ill and murder was not on anyone's mind until Cora's outrageous statement. Although Cora is known for blurring inappropriate disclosures, they are often laced with truth. Mr. Entwistle was more than Richard Abernethie's lawyer, he was a friend. He cannot let the matter rest and he knows who to approach with his concerns. His friend Hercule Poirot is just the man to find the truth. There are plenty of clues and red herrings for the mystery buff. It kept me guessing to the very end.

April 21st the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Where'd You Go, Bernadette*** by Maria Semple, a World Book Night selection. This book is a hoot! If you are looking for something fun to read, look no further. Bernadette's husband accepted a position with Microsoft. The family moved from LA to Seattle settling in a huge old fixer in a prime part of Queen Anne Hill. Bee, their precocious daughter, goes to a private school where the Moms are heavily involved. Bernadette fails to fit in, spectacularly fails to fit in either with the Microsofties or the Old Money crowd. She hunkers down in their huge derelict house, avoiding social contact. Fifteen year old Bee aces her report card earning a promised reward of a family trip to Antarctica setting in motion Bernadette's meltdown. Bernadette goes AWOL. Bee starts assembling documents, searching for clues to the whereabouts of the missing Bernadette. Maria Semple has a lively writing style filled with humor!



Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM

- May 5th 2014 ***My Beloved World*** by Sonia Sotomayor [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
- May 12th 2014 ***The Gods of Gotham*** by Lindsay Faye [Mystery Book Club](#)
- May 26th 2014 ***The Rosetta Key*** by William Dietrich Author led discussion. [Fiction Book Club](#)

- June 2nd 2014 ***The Poet*** by Michael Connelly [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
- June 19th 2014 ***The Delectable Mountains*** by Michael Malone [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
- June 16th 2014 ***Nothing Daunted*** by Dorothy Wickenden [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
- June 23rd 2014 ***Plainsong*** by Kent Haruf [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)

- July 14th 2014 ***The Count of Monte Cristo*** by Alexandre Dumas [Fiction Book Club](#)
- July 21st 2014 ***The Black Count*** by Tom Reiss [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
- July 28th 2014 ***The Case of the Missing Servant*** by Tarquin Hall [Mystery Book Club](#)

- August 11th 2014 ***The Execution of Noa P. Singleton*** by Elizabeth Silver [Mystery Book Club](#)
- August 18th 2014 ***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison [Fiction Book Club](#)

- 9-1-14 ***The Sunday Philosophy Club*** by Alexander McCall Smith [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
- September 8th 2014 ***Letters From Skye*** by Jessica Brockmole [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
- September 15th 2014 ***Kidnapped*** by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
- September 22nd ***A Journey To The Western Islands of Scotland and the Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*** by Samuel Johnson and James Boswell [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)

- October 6th 2014 ***Zorro*** by Isabel Allende [Fiction Book Club](#) [Banned Book Selection](#)
- October 13th 2014 ***The Light In The Ruins*** by Chris Bohjalian [Mystery Book Club](#)
- October 20th 2014 ***Midnight's Children*** by Salman Rushdie [Classics Book Club](#)

- November 3rd, 2014 ***Black Betty*** by Walter Mosley [Mystery Book Club](#)
- November 10th 2014 ***In The Time Of Butterflies*** by Julia Alvarez [Fiction Book Club](#)
- November 17th 2014 ***Behind The Beautiful Forevers*** by Katherine Boo [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

- December 8th 2014 ***Spirit of Steamboat*** by Craig Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#) and [Fiction Book Club](#)
- December 15th 2014 ***A Christmas Carol*** by Charles Dickens [Fiction Book Club](#) and [Classics Book Club](#)

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

