



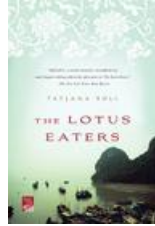
Sunriver Books & Music

April 2011

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com

541-593-2525



Tatjana Soli will be with us at 5:00 PM on Saturday April 16th for a presentation on her engrossing book, **The Lotus Eaters**. A page turner, it is.

Vietnam is remembered by images, vivid scarring images. A little girl burned by napalm runs screaming down the street, a news segment on TV with a man held captive, a gun to his head, the next instant blown apart, we sat at home, a world away, looking at the carnage and suffering. Those images will stay with me even though I have never stepped foot in Vietnam. They made the war horribly real for me and I don't think I will ever get them out of my mind. The images were taken by photo-journalists, people who risked their lives right along with the troops to bear testimony to the outrage of war.

When we think of women in Vietnam we think of nurses, rushing madly to try help patch back together the broken bodies of our young men. But women played other roles too. Catherine LeRoy, a French photo-journalist, arrived in Vietnam in 1966, she was captured by the Viet Cong in 1968 and not only talked them into releasing her but also into allowing her to photograph her captors. Dickey Chappelle landed with the marines at Iwo Jima in WWII. She went with her cameras wherever the stories of war took her, even jumping out of perfectly good airplanes with paratroopers to land in the thick of the action. She died on patrol with marines in Vietnam on November 4th, 1965. Barbara Gluck photographed Viet Cong troops for the cover of the New York Times. Some remarkable women were there too, risking their lives along with the men.

The Lotus Eaters is a rich complicated novel about such a woman. Helen feels compelled to go to Vietnam after her brother dies in combat. Her preparation for photo-journalism is taking pictures for the school newspapers, woefully inadequate at best. But she learns, and as she learns the war takes over her life. She bears witness with her pictures to the suffering, the carnage, the inhumanity of war. She gives honor to the soldiers sent to fight and die by men in government far away in the safety of their offices. She walks into the jungle with these brave men, enduring leeches, hardship, and danger by their side.

Fast paced and engaging, **The Lotus Eaters**, is also the story of Helen's love for two men. Sam Darrow is an award winning photojournalist, his pictures on the cover of Life magazine. He takes Helen under his wing, allowing her a bit of his magic, teaching her to frame the right shot that tells a truth far more vividly than prose. Sam is larger than life, a legend.

Linh is a Vietnamese photojournalist and an interesting choice as a love interest for Helen. I am glad Tatjana Soli gave us the character of Linh. He perfectly shows the conflicts of the Vietnamese. North and South were too simple a descriptive for their complex loyalties and ties. Linh is a sympathetic character, a man savaged by the losses of war. Helen brings him back to life and he tries his best to keep her in one piece. A formidable task given the times and her dedication to getting the right shot, bearing witness to the war.

Tatjana Soli has written a story that puts a woman in an active role during wartime. Helen confronts her fears, grows, sacrifices, takes chances, and falls in love. How the war changes this woman, matures her and obsesses her gives the book its focus. Linh is an admirable Vietnamese character, richer and more complex, burdened by the conflicting demands of surviving with honor in a war zone.

Stop by Sunriver Books & Music, call 541-593-2525, or e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com to sign up to attend. The event is free, refreshments will be served, and there will be drawing for door prizes.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday May 14th at 5:00 PM **A Daughter's Walk** by Jane Kirkpatrick

Sunday May 15th Walk With Jane Kirkpatrick starts at 11:30 at Sunriver Books & Music. **Cost is \$10 per ticket. Proceeds benefit Newberry Habitat for Humanity.**

Saturday May 21st at 5:00 PM **Bend Overall** by Scott Cook (slide show)

Saturday June 11th at 5:00 PM **Pilgrimage to the Edge** by Jonathan Stewart (slide show)

Sunday July 3rd at 5:00 PM Hell is Empty by Craig Johnson. The location is still being determined. Sign up early, Craig's audience fills up fast. He puts on an excellent show!

Saturday August 13th **Joy for Beginners** by Erica Bauermeister

Saturday October 8th at 5:00 **Feathers** by Thor Hanson

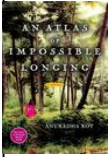
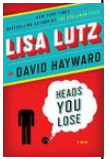
We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free unless otherwise noted with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings.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

Things are happening at Sunriver Village! We have a splendid new ice rink, a flower shop is opening soon, rumor has it a toy store will be opening this summer, there is an art gallery featuring local artists, and a fashionable jeans store. We have exciting news! Fred Foisset is expanding his Orvis Store and moving to larger digs in Building 23. This means he will be carrying all that luscious Orvis clothing, including women's clothes that fit real women. Fred plans to have the store open between April 15th and April 23rd.

Receive a surprise book every month! **Carole's Surprise** is available in 3, 6 or 9 month versions. **Carole's Surprise** for the 2nd quarter of 2011 costs \$43.95 picked up in the store and \$49.95 mailed in the US. For April to Oct of 2011 it costs \$87.94 picked up in the store or \$99.94 mailed in the US. April to December of 2011 is \$131.94 picked up in the store or \$149.94 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book.

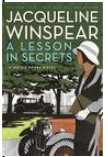
Books, Books, & More Books!

Heads You Lose by Lisa Lutz and David Hayward is hoot! What fun! Two talented authors writing a rip snorting mystery in alternating chapters. Paul and Lacey are siblings, nominally adult, living in the family home and growing a cash crop in the basement. They are startled to find a headless corpse in the yard one night. Calling the men in blue is not an option; pesky questions could crop up about all the plants under grow lights. So they move the body. It is a wild ride from the start. The authors can do what they will in their alternating chapters, they soon start to kill off each other's favorite characters and create general mayhem. I couldn't wait to get from one chapter to the next to see what the response would be and I was never disappointed. They always had something new up their sleeve. Loved the ending.



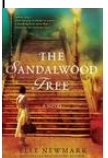
An Atlas of Impossible Longing by Anuradha Roy combines lush, sensuous writing with a story filled with passion, longing, betrayal, and redemption making it a must read. Amulya moves his wife and sons to a remote village in India where he revels in the seclusion, packaging herbal cures from the forest in his profitable factory. His wife is not comforted by the seclusion, she misses family and friends, soon losing herself in the quiet that stalks her home. But the main story is the bond that develops between Bakul and the orphan Makunda. Layered and beautiful, it touches on loyalty, love, and finding the right path. Do we ever?

Red on Red by Edward Conlon has muscular prose and powerful storytelling, this is a fascinating look at the lives of two New York City cops. Meehan is intellectual but a bit aloof, the puzzles interest him but he has trouble connecting with people. Esposito is sensuous, impulsive, and intuitive, he touches people quickly. With Esposito there is no middle ground. They remind me a bit of Dostoevsky's characters, I see Ivan in Meehan, with his tortured yearning to understand. And Esposito has Dmitri's wild, passionate nature. The plot is complex and deftly brought together. A young woman's suicide, the gangland killing of a street tough, and a predator on the loose keep the detectives moving on the mean streets of the big city.



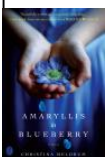
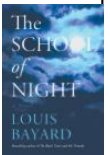
A Lesson in Secrets by Jacqueline Winspear finds Masie adjusting to her new circumstances. The cloak and dagger boys have recognized the merits of having a cool, intuitive woman on their team. Maisie is sent to Cambridge where pacifist Greville Liddicote founded a college with an antiwar philosophy. Liddicote is famous for writing a children's book that inspired troops to lay down arms during WWI. The powers that be are worried his college might be involved in activity not in the best interest of the realm, or at least that part of the realm that wants to use firearms. Maisie is more concerned about the chill wind blowing from Germany in 1932.

The Free World by David Bezmozgis captures the emigrant experience perfectly while telling a moving story. In the 1970's a small crack opened in the Iron Curtain surrounding the Soviet Union. Jewish families headed through the breach into new lives in the west. The Krasnansky family brings 3 generations to live in a strange new land. Samuil, the patriarch, was a respected communist with a chest full of decorations for his service to his country. He is not at all eager to leave, but his sons are determined and he knows he would not be viewed the same once they are gone. Karl, the eldest, is ready to do what it takes to make a good future for his sons and wife. Alec has charm to burn and a fun loving spirit, but he sees life as a game not realizing how high the stakes are in this wager. Polina is a gentile from a good family who may have risked too much marrying Alec, those bright eyes of his stray too easily. As the family struggles to navigate the bureaucracy of emigration, they encounter unimagined challenges.



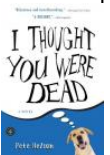
The Sandalwood Tree by Elle Newmark moves between two time frames. Martin comes home to Evie after WWII with images of war seared into his soul. Where he once was sensitive, caring, and funny he is now withdrawn, quiet, and somber. In 1947 he wins a Fulbright Scholarship to study the partition of India. Evie thinks this might jolt to their family back on track, might give Martin a new lease on life. Wrong they are, Partition is a violent, frightening time. Martin is even more frantic, worried that he has put his family in harms way. Evie finds a cache of old letters in their rental home, written in 1857 by an English woman. She becomes obsessed with finding out what happened to the woman; did she survive the violent uprising of 1857? Newmark brings together the story of two cataclysmic years in India's history, 1947 and 1857.

The School of Night by Louis Bayard is dark, mysterious, everything you could want in a great mystery. Henry mourns the suicide of his friend Alonzo, and tries to understand Clarissa. Why did Alonzo jump into that cold dark water? Why does Clarissa have a strange connection to a woman who lived 300 hundred years ago? Time frames shift from the present day to the era of Sir Walter Raleigh when Thomas Harriot tried to bend the elements to his bidding to save the woman he would love through time.



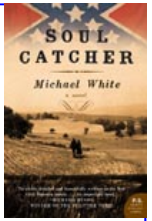
Amaryllis in Blueberry by Christina Meldrum is a powerful family drama that uses the sensuous pull of Africa and the devastation of dark secrets. Unintended consequences can destroy the dreams of those who fervently believe they know best. Dr. Dick Slepny totes his wife and his four daughters from their home in Michigan to Africa as missionaries. He is not capable of seeing the spell Africa will weave on his daughters and wife. His stern manner is no contest for the myth and magic they encounter.

I Thought You Were Dead by Pete Nelson is an edgy, endearing, often funny novel we can all relate to. Paul has a few problems, his wife divorced him, his relationship with his girl friend might be on the rocks too, his father has a stroke, and his parents lost significant money in the stock market. Money, relationship issues, and parents with failing health, these are the reefs that the ships of life crash upon. His solution is to spend his free time at the local bar drowning his sorrows. The strategy is not working. Facing such huge life issues, and struggling with them, Paul needs a friend, a wise confidant who sees the best in him and gives sage advice. It is his good fortune that he has such a friend, Stella his aging dog. She loves and understands Paul down to the bone. She also knows all his foibles and is not reluctant to point out the error of his ways. Stella gets after Paul, tries to set him on the right path, dusts him off when he stumbles, and encourages him. Dog lovers will recognize Stella's reaction to thunderstorms. It is releasing in paperback. . .



This year marks the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War. It is a good time for reflection.

Soul Catcher by Michael White is set in the years leading up to the Civil War. Augustus Cain has one talent, catching slaves. It is a proficiency that gives him no pleasure, he is determined to quit. Augustus is not an easy man; he doesn't get along real well with any creature except his horse, he drinks too much, and gambles unwisely. He awakens one morning to find wealthy Mr. Eberly and his thug ready to offer him a proposition. Augustus drank too much and wagered injudiciously the prior evening. He even bet his trusted horse. Mr. Eberly holds the gambling chips, testament to Augustus's folly. Left little choice, either go for the slaves and be paid handsomely or prison, a beating, and lose his horse, he heads after the slaves. It is journey that will change his life.



Lincoln by Gore Vidal is fine historical fiction. Lincoln took to heart an old adage to "keep your friends close and your enemies closer". Filling his cabinet with men who opposed him bitterly, he was able to keep track of them while profiting from being exposed to other viewpoints. David Herbert Donald, a noted Lincoln scholar, checked the historical facts in the book for Gore Vidal. By using journals, letters and historic records in this work of fiction, Gore Vidal is able to blend fact with fiction to give us a very clear look at a difficult period in American history and a remarkable President. The book is full of characters important in American History: John Hays, William Seward, Salmon Chase, and many others. Vidal's acerbic wit keeps the story lively while staying true to Abraham Lincoln. If you prefer taking your history from Non Fiction, read **Team of Rivals** by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Both are great books, but I enjoy all the devious, astringent prose packed into books by Gore Vidal.

The March by E. L. Doctorow sets a blistering pace as it follows Sherman's march across the south. Sherman had ground to cover, he had 60,000 men to lead into battle. He needed to conquer territory and move on down the road. Johnny Reb would be right on his tail and not in a very good mood. For the freed slaves and poor whites left in Sherman's wake, the following Rebel Army could be quite insensitive. So they attached themselves to Sherman's backside with the tenacity of barnacles. It drove Sherman mad! He had to move that army, speed was his ally. Thousands upon thousands of civilians desperate to stay out of Johnny Reb's reach, fashioning makeshift encampments on his hindquarters, they were beyond an impediment. They were a potential disaster. The story moves with the dizzying speed of Sherman's Army. Characters swirl in and out, painting vivid pictures of the south during the Civil War. Pearl, a slave girl, deserved a whole book of her own!



March by Geraldine Brooks won the Pulitzer Prize. Brooks uses the journals and letters of Louisa May Alcott's father to craft the personality of Mr. March, the father in Alcott's endearing book, **Little Women**. Alcott's father did not fight in the Civil War, but he did lead a remarkable life, a committed vegetarian, and educator, friends with Thoreau and Emerson, his journals provide Mr. March with a very interesting character. To fill in the Civil War details, Brooks used the journals and letters of a chaplain's experiences. Mr. March leaves Concord full of high ideals, going off to war to minister to the spiritual needs of the troops and help free slaves. He soon comes face to face with the bloody, harsh reality of armed battle. His fellow Union troops are, for the most part, not champions of the rights of the black man, but young men fighting and dying in a conflict they do not fully understand. Brooks is a superb author; she is fully able to convey the horror of war.



Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell won the Pulitzer Prize, it is the only book of Mitchell's published during her lifetime and is one of the best selling books of all time. The writing is sublime. It reads like a rebel yell for the south, definitely a book with a southern sensibility. **Gone with the Wind** seethes with passion and high drama. Atlanta burns, the Civil War rages, Rhett and Scarlet smolder. They never quite get it right, still as Scarlet says, "tomorrow is another day".



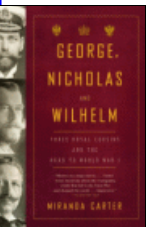
The Union Quilters by Jennifer Chiaverini blends the story of the women who stay behind with reports from their men fighting for the Union. Sacrifice and hardship are endured by both the families and the soldiers. The community is strongly abolitionist, they support the justness of freeing slaves. Even so there are tensions when a pacifist refuses to fight and a black man finds the Union doesn't want him to fight, no matter how skilled he is at sharp shooting.



Jacob's Ladder and **Canaan** by Donald McCaig are both superb books about the Civil War and its aftermath. Told from many viewpoints, slave, plantation owner, cavalry officer, carpet bagger are all part of the story. The writing is fast paced and engaging. Characters carry over into both books. A slave is sold, her husband runs away to search for her causing tribulation for the white family that gives him shelter. Cavalry officers engage in horrific battles, leading them into despair. Between the books the story will span from the Civil War to Custer's Last Stand.



Rich's Recommendations



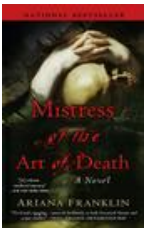
George, Nicholas and Wilhelm by Miranda Carter. The three main characters of Carter's insightful book involves the interaction between imperial cousins of 1914—Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, Czar Nicholas II of Russia and King George V of Britain. The main reasons for the outbreak of WWI are found more in Prussian militarism and the belief that they were falling behind in the rush to arm themselves against foreign powers, Carter weaves a very interesting narrative of the three cousins and their involvement in the start and prosecution of WWI.

For All The Tea In China by Sara Rose. In the mid 1800's a Scotsman, Robert Fortune committed an act of industrial espionage that had huge consequences to history and helped shape a cultural revolution within the largest empire of its day. What Fortune accomplished was to steal one of the most secret and best guarded industries in China; tea. English people were already cultivating inferior teas in India. The East India Co. saw the establishment of huge tea plantations growing the finest of Chinese teas in the Himalayas as a way to reverse its economic decline and to make the British empire again the most powerful in the world. Rose portrays Fortune's success and failure to steal the best and most valuable teas and bring them to India for cultivation. Using disguises and stealth, his theft of the tea seedlings later fueled an industrial revolution at home in Britain and made him the darling of tea drinkers to this day.



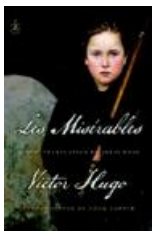
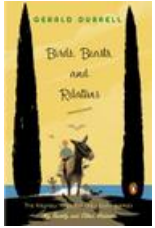
April 2011 Book Clubs

April 4th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***Mistress of the Art of Death*** by Ariana Franklin. King Henry II has a problem, 4 children have been horribly murdered in Cambridge. The local populace put the blame squarely on the Jews, never mind that they have been locked up in the castle to protect them from the hysterical mob since the first murder, they must have flown over the castle walls in the dead of night to kill the other 3 innocent children. The king is certain there is a more earthly solution than Jewish people flying over castle walls, he requires a crafty investigator. Adelia is perfectly content in Salerno where she teaches at the medical school, she is a ***Mistress of the Art of Death***, the forerunner of today's forensic pathologists. Adelia is not pleased to be summoned to England in order to help solve a crime for the King, but the voices of the dead cry out to her for justice and it is justice they shall have.

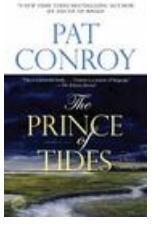
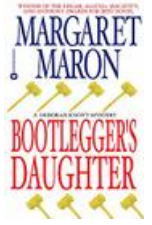


April 11th the Fiction Book Club will discuss this year's selection for Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea, ***Kapitoil*** by Teddy Wayne. Karim Issar travels from his home in Qatar to Manhattan to work for Schrub Equities preparing for Y2K. Karim is ambitious and eager to prove himself in the financial world. He develops a program that brings him to the attention of the upper echelons of Schrub Equities. Karim is faced with a moral dilemma, he will have to decide between wealth and doing what he believes is right. The writing style gives an interesting take on what it would be like to immigrate to the US for work. Karim has studied English grammar and the technical jargon of finance and computer work, but he is unacquainted with the common English used by the average New Yorker. The library is supplying study guides for the discussion.

April 18th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses ***Birds, Beasts & Relatives*** by Gerald Durrell, OBE. This is the second of his books discussed by the Travel Essay Book Club, earlier we discussed ***My Family and Other Animals*** about his family's move to Corfu when he was a young boy. ***Birds, Beasts & Relatives*** continues with more stories of their life on Corfu and Gerald's early and ardent interest in the natural world. He grew up (although it is amazing he survived childhood) to be a leading conservationist and the founder of a zoo on the Isle of Jersey. From an early age he was in love with the animal kingdom, this causes all kinds of havoc in family life. And an illustrious family it was, his brother Lawrence was a celebrated author. Set in Corfu between 1935 and 1939, the book is chockfull of observations on natural life, humorous stories, and is great fun to read.



April 25th the Classics Book Club discusses one of the greatest novels of all time, ***Les Misérables*** by Victor Hugo. For the Mystery Book Club members the characters of Jean Valjean and Javert would seem familiar, they are inspired by Eugene Francois Vidocq, a convict turned cop and the creator of the Surete de France. He was the a main character in ***The Black Tower*** by Louis Bayard. Victor Hugo was inspired by Vidocq in creating Valjean and Javert. Jean Valjean's life has been brutal; convicted of stealing a loaf of bread to feed his family he sent away to prison coming out many years later a hardened, bitter, dangerous man. Valjean is redeemed by the kindness of a good man. Javert is a police inspector of considerable cunning, his determination making him a feared hunter of men. Their paths will cross. Set during a turbulent period in French history, the story begins in 1815, the year Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo and goes on to the Paris Uprising of 1832. Blending historical fact with a masterful work of fiction, it is a story brimming with good and evil, destiny and despair, cruelty and mercy. There is passion, suspense, and grandeur in this timeless, compelling story.



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

May 2nd 2011 ***The Big Burn*** by Timothy Egan [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

May 9th ***Ordinary Thunderstorms*** by William Boyd [Mystery Book Club](#)

May 16th 2011 an author led discussion of ***The Daughter's Walk*** by Jane Kirkpatrick [Fiction Book Club](#)

May 23rd 2011 ***Stones Into Schools*** by Greg Mortenson [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

May 30th 2011 ***Passing by Nella*** Larson [Classics Book Club](#)

June 6th 2011 ***Bootlegger's Daughter*** by Margaret Maron [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Americana, the South](#)

6/13/11 ***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*** by Mark Twain [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Americana, the South](#)

June 20th 2011 ***Prince of Tides*** by Pat Conroy [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Americana, the South](#)

June 27th 2011 ***Old Glory*** by Jonathan Raban [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Americana, the South](#)

July 11th 2011 ***Six Suspects*** by Vikas Swarup [Mystery Book Club](#)

July 18th 2011 ***The Night Birds*** by Thomas Maltman [Fiction Book Club](#)

July 25th 2011 ***The Way We Live Now*** by Anthony Trollope [Classics Book Club](#)

August 1st 2011 ***The Man Who Walked Through Time*** by Colin Fletcher [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

August 8th 2011 ***Stone's Fall*** by Ian Pears [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 15th ***Devil in the White City*** by Erik Larson [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

August 22nd 2011 ***Cutting for Stone*** by Abraham Verghese [Fiction Book Club](#)

August 29th 2011 ***The Razor's Edge*** by W. Somerset Maugham [Classics Book Club](#)

September 5th 2011 ***The Last Child*** by John Hart [Mystery Book Club](#)

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

