



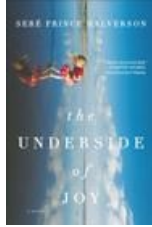
Sunriver Books & Music

April 2016

Newsletter

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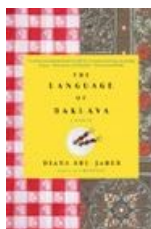
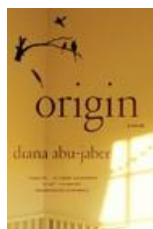
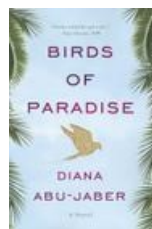
Sere Prince Halverson will give a presentation at 5:00 PM April 23rd 2016 on her luminous novel, ***All the Winters After***. Kachemak Winkel left Alaska after graduation with nary a backward glance, giving up a promising future in music, to study business. After college he stayed in Austin Texas, had a good job and avoided all those ghosts of his past lurking in Alaska. Two things have put Kachemak in the seat of an airliner on the 20th anniversary of the plane crash that took his parent's life. His grandmother is ailing; she is no longer able to make the trip to Austin for visits and he is unemployed. Six months ago he was made redundant, settled into a funk, and has not emerged, there is no longer a compelling reason to stay in Texas. Kach relied on his aunt to keep up his parent's home, everyone has their secrets, and his aunt couldn't face the home place either. For twenty years it has been neglected. He heads to the remote home-place for the first time in two decades, expecting to see a dilapidated mess, the Alaskan winters being particularly unforgiving on untended property. Instead he finds the home in pristine condition, every item in place as if his parents had only stepped out for a short while and would be back any moment. The curator of this unauthorized museum is Nadia, a frightened Russian woman, kept company by a beautiful Husky dog. Kach is shocked, also intrigued. His initial response of wondering who was squatting in his property quickly turned to gratitude that Nadia had preserved his home with such care. Nadia has spent ten years totally alone in Kach's family home, an isolated 400 acre homestead bordered by a deep canyon, overshadowed by majestic mountains. Why is she so afraid to leave? What secrets is she hiding from? Read this lovely story and find out! The story had me blown away! Excellent writing, use of its magnificent setting that draws you in, and an engaging story.

The Underside of Joy, Halverson's last novel works on so many levels. Ella finds her piece of paradise in the Redwood forest when she stops on a drive north in a small town and meets Joe. They set off fireworks right from the start. Joe's wife has left him alone with their two adorable toddlers. Ella fits right into the family, she has always wanted children and she loves the little boy and girl fiercely. Joe calls her Ella Bella and makes her believe in forever. His sudden death shatters her joyful home. She realizes they never talked about the hard stuff; his failing business, the children's biological mother, the sorry state of their finances. Their little Eden had secrets, now the subjects they avoided are coming home to roost. What rights does a step-parent have when the biological mother comes calling?



Wednesday April 27th at 5:30 we have the great pleasure of presenting Diana Abu-Jaber for her latest book, ***Life Without a Recipe: A Memoir of Food and Family***. Diana is one of my favorite authors, she has the gift of being able to create stories that focus on serious issues while also giving the reader memorable characters all told with wit and a dose of humor to entertain as well as enlighten. In her memoir she uses those gifts to tell the story of her family, paying homage to two of the people most influential in her life, her Jordanian father and her Southern grandmother. Both instilled a love of good stories and an appreciation for cooking. Anyone who enjoys cooking will relish the descriptions of young Diana with her Grandmother Grace baking pastry, or her Father cooking meals redolent of his Jordanian heritage. They each loved her fiercely, their passions fired through their different backgrounds and cultures made them opponents in the battle for Diana's regard. Each wanted what is best and each had a very different opinion of what that might be. Diana lost both of them in recent years; here she focuses on their life force, their joys, triumphs and loss along with their meaning in her own life. This is also Diana's story of deciding to be a mother and her adoption of the baby girl who bears her grandmother's name, Grace. Adoption is not necessarily an easy process, Diana is open in describing her fears about becoming a parent and the tumultuous day that ultimately resulted in the arrival of a beautiful baby girl. Diana's writing is always both lively and insightful. Read her memoir and be entertained, learn a bit more about this very gifted author. Her prior works of fiction are excellent. Their settings range from California to Iraq to New York and Miami. All are written with lively prose, interesting characters, and clever plots.

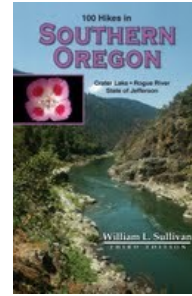
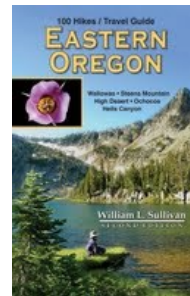
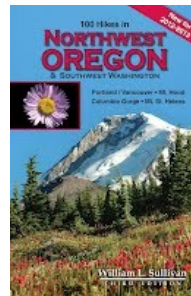
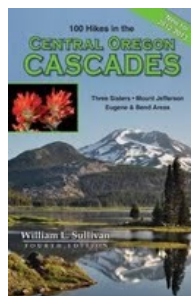
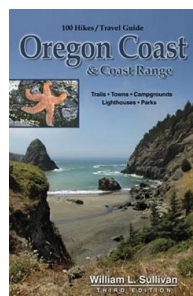
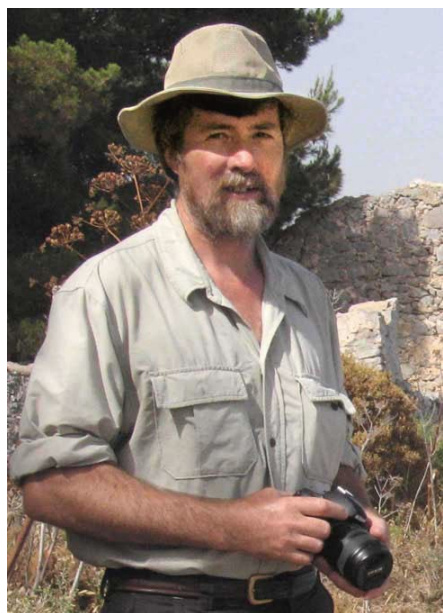
In ***Crescent***, Sirine, a 39 year old Iraqi-American, is happy with her life as a chef in a Lebanese restaurant. She lives with her uncle, a professor, and her adoring dog. I enjoyed reading about a character who was a 39 year old, confident woman. Sirine's life is going along just fine; she rides her bike to work and enjoys cooking. Then her uncle introduces her to a handsome fellow professor, an Iraqi refugee who turns her life upside down. The book is set in California and Iraq, and it uses its setting well. Diana is very inventive. At the beginning of each chapter is a continuing fable. Eventually the fable includes Omar Sharif, speaking of gorgeous, Omar is serious eye candy. Be wary, the food scenes will make you hungry! ***Crescent*** was one of our Fiction Book Club selections in 2009. At the end of the year the Book Club votes on their top four favorites, ***Crescent*** was a winner.



Birds of Paradise is a lovely book. Miami heat, the pulsing neon lights color the night sky, and a young girl carries her secrets creating the drama of a family torn asunder. Felice is a beautiful child, with the face of Elizabeth Taylor. She overshadowed her less showy brother, Stanley. Avis adores her daughter. Life was going pretty well for Avis; she is married to Brian, a caring but distracted man, she has a thriving business creating amazing pastries that challenge her creatively, and children she loves. And then Felice leaves, running off into those hot Miami nights as a vulnerable thirteen year old child, taking all the magic away. Avis, Brian and Stanley are left in the wreckage of their lives to try coping with the absence of Felice. As Felice's 18th birthday approaches her presence seems to haunt her family while the young girl tries to grapple with the secrets she bears and the choices that set her adrift on the streets of Miami.

Origin is set in Syracuse New York during winter, a cold blustery place. Lena lives a quiet life, taking pride in her work as a fingerprint analyst but not expecting much fulfillment outside of the job. Divorced from her philandering husband and living in a flophouse apartment, her main entertainment is taking long walks on the weekend. She looks forward to her walks, spending hours out of doors, stretching her legs as she moves around the city. She accepted her husband's infidelity, believing she did not deserve more, until he left her shattered and alone. Lena grew up without any information on her ancestry, a foster child allowed to believe the fantastic story that she was rescued by apes and lived in a rain forest. This fantasy leads Lena to look at the natural world intensely, to feel comfortable in the out of doors but also to feel different from others. Her foster mother did not give young Lena the affection she so sorely needed. She grew up lacking an easy way with people. A distraught woman, certain her baby's death was not SIDS, approaches Lena asking her to investigate. As she starts looking at the baby's death, she notices there have been an unusual number of similar infant deaths. Is someone killing innocent babies and covering it up as SIDS?

The Language of Baklava is Diana's earlier memoir about growing up with a Jordanian father, passionate about cooking great food, and an American mother. It is humorous, lively, and will make you hungry!



Saturday April 30th at 5:00 PM William Sullivan gives a slide show titled **New Hikes On The Oregon Coast** featuring hikes from his popular **100 Hikes/Travel Guide: Oregon Coast and Coast Range**. The book features the best of the Oregon Coast hikes, places to camp, museums, lighthouses and points of interest.

Sullivan has hiked every major trail in Oregon. This 5th generation Oregonian knows the state thoroughly, his hiking guides are well researched and reliable. Sullivan has a keen appreciation for the history, geography, flora and fauna as well as the jaw dropping beauty of Oregon's scenery. We always look forward to one of his slide shows because they are not only gorgeous, they inspire us to get outdoors and start walking. Sullivan includes information on campgrounds, cabin rentals, and the wildflowers you may encounter along the trail. Color pictures show the spectacular beauty awaiting you on the trail.

William Sullivan's popular hiking guides include the following: **100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades**, **100 Hikes in Southern Oregon**, **100 Hikes/Travel Guide Eastern Oregon**, **Oregon's Favorites: Trails and Tales**, **Atlas of Oregon Wilderness**, **Hiking Oregon's History**, **Trails of Crater Lake and Oregon Caves**, **Oregon Trips and Trails**, and **Oregon Map and Travel Guide**. Whew! Sullivan definitely knows Oregon! In addition to his popular guides, he has works of nonfiction; **Oregon's Greatest Natural Disasters**, **Listening for Coyote**, and **Cabin Fever**.

Sullivan is also adept at writing entertaining and interesting works of fiction. He has written a mystery, **The Case of Einstein's Violin**, an Oregon historical fiction, **A Deeper Wild**, an entertaining and fascinating mystery about one of the Northwest's most infamous characters, **The Case of D.B. Cooper's Parachute**, a historical fiction on a Viking Queen, **The Ship In The Hill**, and **Oregon Variations** featuring a short story set in every county in Oregon.

We always look forward to Sullivan's events; he is a witty, entertaining speaker, has spectacular slides and puts on a good show.

Please call 541-593-2525 or e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend this free presentation. There will be drawings for prizes and light refreshments.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday June 4th 2016 at 5:00 PM ***Silenced In the Surf*** by Kate Dyer-Seeley

Saturday June 18th 2016 at 5:00 PM ***Dog Gone*** by Pauls Toutonghi

Saturday July 9th 2016 at 5:00 PM ***The Passenger*** by Lisa Lutz

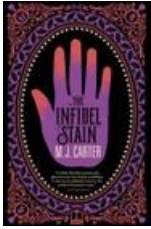
Saturday July 16th 2016 At 5:00 PM ***American Copper*** by Shann Ray

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.

Staff Recommendations, New Releases. Deon recommends.



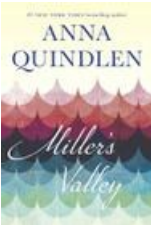
The Infidel Stain by M.J. Carter. Blake and Avery are back in England after their time in India with Avery playing Watson to Blake's brilliant Sherlock. Lord Allington has employed them to go into the poorer districts of London to discover who brutally murdered two printers. Both murders were carried out with identical ritualistic savagery, implying the work of the same killer, but the police are disinterested and the neighbors will not talk. The 1840's were a time of upheaval in England, the Chartists are agitating for all citizens to have the right to vote, not just the landed gentry. The poor are starving, children working long hours and living in poverty, while the wealthy classes live in luxury. Lord Allington opposes the Chartists, but is among the few in parliament who work toward easing the burden on the poor. A deeply religious man, he is involved along with his sister, in a variety of charities. Appalled at the murders and the police's refusal to investigate, he charges Blake and Avery with finding the murderer. Carter will take you into the alleyways familiar to readers of Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, show a country deeply divided between the poor and the wealthy, and give a juicy complicated mystery. Blake and Avery are great characters! In ***The Infidel Stain*** they are joined by a feisty young, street girl, Matty, who adds to the story. I hope Carter includes her in future stories. ***The Strangler Vine***, 1st in this series set in India, is an August Book Club selection.



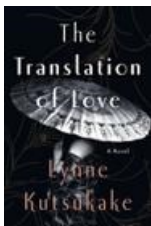
The Railwayman's Wife by Ashley Hay releases April 5th. Ani Lachlan leads a lovely life, for a time. She is adored by her husband, Mac, they have a bright young daughter, Isabel, and they live near the sea in a small town in Australia. Many men died or were damaged by WWII, but Mac's job on the railway kept him home, safe with her. Mac's passions are his family and his job. It is a good life. Until it is shattered. Until the day it is not Mac who comes home, but a black car carrying officials from the railroad with the news that Mac was killed in a tragic accident, his body too battered for Ani to even view. It wasn't supposed to be like this. The war was over, the men safe now, but of course he wasn't safe. Tomorrow is not a guarantee. While this is a book about grief, loss, and the damage inflicted by war, it is also a book about hope, remembrance, and the beauty of love. As Ani struggles to build a new life for herself and Isabel, she remembers her time with Mac. Ani also befriends two men from the community who bear the damage inflicted by war. Roy is a poet whose wartime experiences have left him adrift. Frank a doctor who suffers guilt for those he did not save. Ani takes a post in the library to make ends meet; it is through books they may find solace and new beginnings. The writing is lyrical and hauntingly beautiful.



Journey to Munich by Jacqueline Winspear. Maisie is still reeling from her status as a widow, dealing with the grief and anger of loss. Priscilla provides a safe shelter within her family, but Maisie is an independent woman who needs to be on her own. The hunt for an apartment has commenced. It is in this frame of mind she is approached by Brian Huntley and Robert MacFarlane of the secret service. Her country needs her. One of England's boffins has been locked up by the Nazis in Dachau. Already in 1938 it is clear to the men in the secret service that they may well have need of a boffin, a man who invents things and has a gift for figuring out problems. The Germans have no idea of their prisoner's talents and so a deal has been struck for his release, but it has conditions. Instead of the usual methods, they will only release him to a member of his family. Maisie's assignment is to pretend to be the daughter, go to Munich and collect the man. Complications ensue. Not least of which is the help requested by a man she holds responsible for her husband's death. Winspear paints a vivid picture of Germany under Hitler before the war. An American enters the story in a brash manner, adding to the storyline. I look forward to each new entry in the Maisie Dobbs series!

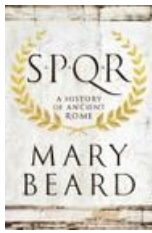


Miller's Valley by Anna Quindlen releases April 5th. Mimi Miller's family has deep roots in Miller's Valley. Generations of Miller's have lived on the farm, raised families and been part of the community. Mimi's mother is a nurse and knows far more about their neighbors than she will ever tell. He father farms, but more and more he makes his living fixing things for people, broken motors, that sort of thing. Her aunt Ruth is a recluse, living in the cottage behind the main house and refusing to come out even for a family dinner. The story begins in the 1960's and takes the Millers through many changes. Mimi's charismatic brother Tommy will be forever changed by Vietnam. The very landscape will change, the water authority intends to flood Miller's Valley creating a lake for recreation and eliminating the sometimes damaging floods from the river. This is a quiet novel that takes Mimi from childhood on; allowing her to make mistakes, grow, figure out her role in the world, and uncover dark family secrets.

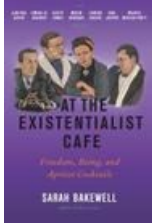


The Translation of Love by Lynne Kutsukake releases April 5th. Aya Shimamura's family was ripped from their Vancouver, British Columbia home to be interred in the mountains during WWII. There the housing is inadequate; the bitter cold and isolation take a harsh toll. Aya's mother does not survive. The men have been removed from their families and put to work by the Canadian Government; Aya's father does not even know his wife perished. When WWII is over the families are not permitted to return to their homes, they will not be permitted west of the Rocky Mountains. They are given the choice of either moving to Eastern Canada or being deported to Japan. Aya's father chooses Japan. He has lost everything; the wife he loved, the house he struggled so hard to purchase, his livelihood. Why stay in a country where he is hated? The transition is hard for 13 year old Aya. She does not speak Japanese well, they will be quite poor, and she has no friends. On Aya's first day of school, Fumi is tasked with mentoring her, an obligation she fails. Fumi finds Aya an annoyance; until she realizes she needs Aya's help. Fumi has not heard from her big sister in a long time, she worries that something may have happened. General MacArthur is in charge of the US occupation of Japan, there is a rumor that he will help people in trouble but Fumi's English is not good. Aya, on the other hand, speaks English better than Japanese. A friendship begins as the two girls hope to discover the whereabouts of Fumi's sister. This fascinating book gives an interesting account of life in Japan under MacArthur, while also telling a touching story of a lonely young girl and her father.

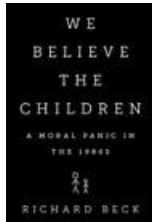
Rich Recommends Non-Fiction



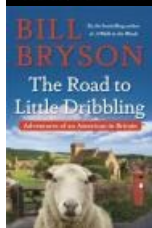
SPQR by Mary Beard. **SPQR** (Senatus Populus Que Romanus) meaning the Senate and People of Rome covers nearly a thousand years of Roman history from the founding of the city to the freeing of all inhabitants of the Roman empire to become Roman citizens. Beard is honest about what is known about the Roman empire, warts and all. From the familiar characters (Julius Caesar, Cicero, and Nero) to the mundane (slaves, conspirators, and everyday inhabitants) she expands our perceptions of what Roman history really is. This is a fun and fascinating read.



At The Existentialist Café by Sarah Bakewell handles intellectual concepts of phenomenology and existentialism with a group biography of the heavy hitters of philosophy: Sartre, de Beauvoir, Camus, Heidegger, et al. She uses the setting of a café that one overhears conversations about life, death, choice, realism, and freedom. The concepts and insights provided by these discussions reinforce their continued relevance even in the 21st century.



We Believe the Children by Richard Beck. During the 1980's there were numerous instances of daycare centers, baby sitters, and other child care providers accused and convicted of horrible sexual crimes against the children entrusted to their care. What ultimately came to light is that there was a collective hysteria unseen since the Salem witch trials. Using coercive interview techniques, the interviewers heard what they wanted to hear from the children. The national media was also culpable in enflaming the situation by zealous journalists hoping to make a name for themselves, and aggressive prosecutors making their careers through bullying tactics. The effects of these overzealous actions are still being felt today.



The Road to Little Dribbling by Bill Bryson is another great travel expose on the odd and quirky of Great Britain that amuses him so much. The book is based on a travel itinerary along a line from the most north and south points in Britain. Mostly looking at what is odd, bewildering, beautiful and endearing, he points out things he feels are what makes Britain so "British". He strays somewhat into politics and growing old: some funny and some ways not so funny. This book is so much like Bryson's other work, it will be a favorite of his fans and new readers alike.

Staff Recommendations, now available in paperback.

Nancy Nelson recommends.



England and Other Stories by Graham Swift is a compilation of several short stories. They are a quick lovely commentary on everyday life in England. There is, for example, the story "People are Life" in which the author explores the meaning of friendship. "I had friends when I was a kid, I mean a little kid. We were in and out of each other's homes, each other's lives. We never thought twice about it. That's having friends." Life has many issues, love is the big one explored in the story of Holly and Polly, two clinical embryologists working together. Some of his stories present ordinary lives in microscopic detail exposing the deeper meanings that show ordinary is only a façade. Mr. Swift talks about marriage, loneliness, joy and all of the emotions in between. He demonstrates that we could all take a second look at each other and see with greater and deeper appreciation. His writing and his stories are delightful.



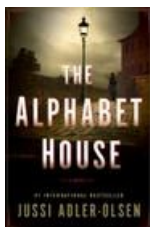
Diamond Head by Cecily Wong. Frank Leong is a very successful businessman in China in the year 1909. China is going through a great deal of turmoil. So, Frank moves his family to Hawaii. The Leongs become one of the most prominent families on the island, as their considerable wealth continues to grow. Mistakes have been made, and people hurt along the way. The secrets which all of the adults are keeping will eventually come to be exposed. According to a Chinese legend, there is a red cord that binds us all to our perfect love match. When mistakes in love are made, a knot is formed that is passed from one generation to the next. The knot represents the degree of difficulty that will be faced in life either by those who make their mistakes, or if not resolved, then by their heirs. This theme follows the events and the family secrets throughout the story. When Frank dies suddenly and under mysterious circumstances, it is then that his devastating secrets begin to surface, with tragic consequences for the family. In the end Theresa, Frank's only grandchild will inherit the legacy of her family's history, which along with the secrets and sadness of past mistakes, includes tremendous acts of sacrifice, kindness, and hope. I found this to be a story which presents lessons to be endlessly pondered. Wonderful book!



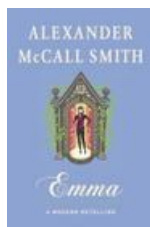
Girl at War by Sara Novic. For those of us who have never experienced war or violent altercations, it is hard to imagine how quickly life can change from a generally peaceful attitude to one that clearly separates and distinguishes people as "us" or "them". Our story takes place in Yugoslavia in the town of Zagreb. Ten year old Ana Juric becomes aware of the growing tensions between Serbs and Croats when, while on an errand she must distinguish between which ethnicity she must choose for buying cigarettes. Milosevic comes on the TV claiming that the land must be cleansed. Traveling is limited or stopped because it has become dangerous and the Serbs have blocked the roads. Ana's family might have stayed in their home in relative safety to wait out the civil war, but her baby sister, Rahela is very sick. There is not adequate medical service available locally. So, the family is forced to travel across borders guarded by soldiers who are unfriendly to Croats. Though they manage to get the baby the medical attention she needs, it is at a great cost to the family. At ten years old, Ana's childhood is interrupted by senseless atrocities. In her struggle to survive, she learns to shoot a gun and to kill a human being. Written like a memoir in Ana's voice, we see her struggle with loss, identity, loyalty, memory a place she can call home. The reader is given an intimate window into Ana's torn life, one not to be forgotten.



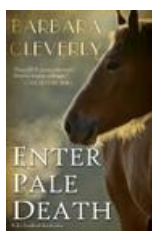
The Water Knife by Paolo Bacigalupi. In a scarily believable future, water is scarce. Forget gold, if you want power control the water source. Drought rendered most of the southwest a wasteland with ferocious dust storms. Live outside and the elements make existence hard, dirty, and dry. For the wealthy there is another alternative, live in one of Catherine Case's arcology developments in Las Vegas with water falls, streams, lush foliage and plenty water. Catherine keeps her power, and the lush green atmosphere of her developments, by controlling much of the Colorado River. Water rights rule and Catherine makes sure she has the goods. Battles over water are fierce, with California, Nevada, and Arizona fighting it out for possession of the Colorado River. Angel Velasquez is Catherine's enforcer, her "Water Knife". When she wins a dispute over water, he shuts down the opposition, violently if necessary. Lucy Monroe is a journalist, she moved to Arizona for the story of an area disintegrating, she stays in Phoenix because it morphed from story setting to home. There are rumors of a document in Phoenix that might tip the balance of power. Angel is sent to investigate. Their paths will cross. Violence, betrayal, strange bedfellows, and the naked use of power will all play a part.



The Alphabet House by Jussi Adler-Olsen. Two British flyboys are commandeered for a daredevil mission to spy on what the Germans might be up to near Dresden. It is a rip-snorting opening as Bryan and James fly into inescapable jeopardy, with anti-aircraft guns firing, fighter pilots chasing them down, and then the crash into a frozen, snow covered landscape where they will be chased with deadly intent until forced into a horrific choice. With the enemy hot on their tails, they will either be shot or they can jump onto a train moving east back into Germany. They take the train. It turns out to be a special train carrying wounded SS officers, many of them mentally ill, to a hospital. It is a moment's decision to switch places with an SS officer and pretend to be shell shocked. Once at the hospital, the pace slows as Bryan and James undergo electric shock therapy and a variety of drugs. A cat and mouse game ensues with potentially deadly consequences as it is soon apparent they are not the only patients feigning illness. The second half of the book takes place in the 1970s when the fallout from their time in WWII must be addressed and re-deemed.



Emma by Alexander McCall Smith. Jane Austen's story has delighted readers for over 200 years. Alexander McCall Smith has a go at updating it for today. His Emma darts around in a Mini Cooper leaving mayhem in her wake. The father takes a large part in the updated version, and is a thoroughly likeable chap with a bit of an anxiety complex. Jane Austen's story had more subtlety; Alexander McCall Smith plays it with a more broad comedic take. Emma is intent on getting involved in just about anything happening in her village, most often with disastrous results that will keep the reader entertained. It is an enjoyable story, especially if you regard highly these two fine authors, Austen and McCall Smith.



Enter Pale Death by Barbara Cleverly. What a splendid mystery! Joe Sandilands, now risen to the rank of Assistant Commissioner, is at his handsome best. Sir James Truelove, on track to be the next Home Secretary thus Joe's boss, wants a favor, just nip over to the auction house and surreptitiously bid on a couple paintings that went missing ages back from the Truelove manse. The man makes Joe uneasy; a feeling aggravated by Truelove's attention to the woman Joe fancies. His uneasiness grows when he is lured to Suffolk to look into the deaths of inconvenient women on Truelove's estate. The latest victim, Truelove's wife, a woman not mourned by any. On the surface it looks like death by misadventure. Lady Lavinia was an aggressive horsewoman, able to ride anything on four legs with hooves. The estate recently acquired an impressive stallion, nicknamed Lucifer for his deadly disposition. Headstrong Lavinia insisted on going in with the agitated horse, earning herself a death sen-

tence. Things may not be as they seem, they seldom are in a good mystery and this story does not disappoint. I loved the bits with Joe and the horses; the man has a talent for soothing and attracting the equine heart. Strong women characters abound, from the lady veterinarian, to Lily (Joe's favorite undercover operative), the dowager, and Dorcas (the object of Joe's affection). Cleverly combines a nice juicy mystery, plenty of secrets uncovered, with a drawing room scene Dame Agatha's fans will relish. I eagerly await the next installment in Cleverly's entertaining Joe Sandilands series.



Empire of the Senses by Alexis Landau. Lev married into a German family with an aristocratic edge, a family unaccustomed to a Jew in their midst. Josephine turns her back on her family to marry Lev, but as the years pass, Lev does well in business, and grandchildren appear, there is a rapprochement. At least with Josephine, Lev is still considered other. He enlists to fight in WWI, proving to his in-laws that he is a true German. However the reality of war is far more brutal, senseless, and horrific than he had conceived. These realities and the relationships forged from them change Lev. Meanwhile on the home front Josephine feels alone and abandoned, while her family remains disapproving. Decades later their children are affected by the lead up to WWII. Franz becomes a Brown Shirt, buying into the notion of a master race, cleaving to his mother's heritage and distancing himself from his father's. Vicki, the apple of her father's eye, is brash and adventurous; she loves Jazz and is willing to take chances. Life becomes more complicated when she falls for a young Jewish man with ambitions to immigrate to Palestine. This is not just a war story or a Holocaust story, rather the story of the effects these cataclysmic events have on people.



The Truth and Other Lies by Sascha Arango. Mistakes were made, many of them deadly bad. Reminiscent of a kinder, gentler Patricia Highsmith, the story keeps you entertained. Henry Hayden is a hugely successful author, the kind of guy people like spending time with, attractive to the ladies. He is a bit of a loner, preferring to spend time home cooking for his wife or walking in the woods with his dog. He is also a lie, Henry has never written a word, the novels that made him wealthy were penned by his wife who shuns notoriety, and he has dark secrets in his past he prefers to keep that way (secret and past). Nonetheless Henry is generally a happy guy; he has a comfortable life and enjoys the wealth his success brings. All is going just fine until his mistress announces she is pregnant and wants a promotion to the position now held by Henry's wife. It is at this point that things begin to go tragically awry as Henry plots to keep his life from spinning out of control. Not a sure thing at all with a determined police detective soon hot on his trail. Darkly funny, cleverly plotted, and engaging, I found Henry far more likeable than Highsmith's Ridley, although both men show a pronounced preference for self-preservation. In fact, I found myself often rooting for Henry, this worried me a bit.

Deon recommends.



My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry by Fredrick Backman. Elsa is seven years old, a precociously brilliant child with an old soul, apt to see things in an entirely different way than her classmates. Of course she is bullied! Sensing her difference and her vulnerability, the other children make school a living hell for Elsa. Home is complicated too. Her father and mother are divorced; Mom has a new guy and is expecting a child, Dad is remarried with a new family. Everyone has important jobs, much to do, and that would leave Elsa pretty much alone and defenseless except for her grandmother. The woman is a hell raiser, prone to causing all kinds of trouble and totally devoted to her granddaughter. While the days may be fraught with tension, the nights belong to Elsa's grandmother and the fantastic stories she tells. A whole fantasy world has been constructed for Elsa, a place with legends and fables, where being normal is not a requirement. When Elsa's grandmother dies, she leaves Elsa a task; a series of letters to be delivered to people with an apology. As Elsa grieves for her grandmother and begins deliver-

ing the letters, she learns more about the other residents of her apartment building, about her grandmother, and ultimately about herself. A heartwarming, entertaining story that will often make you laugh. Don't miss Backman's earlier novel, **Man Called Ove**.



Leaving Berlin by Joseph Kanon. Taut, historical thrillers are Kanon's forte and he shows his mastery of the subject in this gripping story set in Berlin during the airlift in the days after WWII. Everyone wants ground. The Russians, the Brits, the Americans, and Germans all want Berlin. Some of the defeated Germans want to be left alone while others are willing to bow to their new Russian masters. Meanwhile back in the good ole USA, Senator McCarthy is showing how nasty we can be, ferreting out anyone suspected of communist or socialist leanings. What was that saying about "*Land of the Free, Home of the Brave*"? I think Senator McCarthy missed it entirely, he has a vision of what is and is not desirable in the USA, and it is neither free nor brave. Into this maelstrom Alex Meier, an author of some note, is thrust. Fleeing Nazi Germany, he settled in California. Married, had a child he adores, and thought life was going to be sweet. Somehow after seeing what the Nazis had wrought, he just was not willing to play ball with Senator McCarthy and found his welcome in the USA revoked. He can be redeemed, be welcomed

back to the USA, and reunited with his child, only he has to do a little favor for the spy guys. Play along, go the Russian sector of Berlin as a returned German, be their golden boy, keep his ears open and report back, shouldn't be any problem, the war is over. Easy assurances, but false. It will be all sorts of problem. Day one will establish the danger is still deadly real. Alex will find himself alone, the moral boundaries murky, unable to trust anyone as he does his best to find a way out.

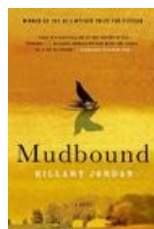


The Flying Circus by Susan Crandall. In the years after WWI pilots would cross the country putting on feats of daring. They would soar into the air, twirling and spinning, and occasionally, far too often, crashing. Flight was new, no cross country airlines back then, travel was slower and the sight of a plane setting down in a field brought the towns folk out to investigate. Then the shows would begin. Henry, Cora Rose, and Gil meet on a fateful afternoon in a cow pasture. Each has something to hide, secrets that will cause heartache. Henry, an orphan from a farming community, is fleeing a crime. Cora Rose wants freedom, she comes from a privileged back ground, her mother expects her to make a good match and restore the family fortunes. Gil carries many dark memories. Cora Rose is a daredevil, fearless and competitive from the get go. She is racing Gil's plane on a motorcycle when a pond gets in the way. Henry, trying to travel far away fast, sees the crash, not realizing the rider was a girl he rushes to help. Gil lands with the same intention. Three people brought together by chance in a cow pasture. Henry has always been

good with anything mechanical; he is smitten by Gil's plane, and overjoyed at his good fortune when Gil agrees to let him ride along. Gil makes a living of sorts landing and selling short rides when the people show up to investigate the arrival of his plane. Gil and Henry have no sooner got settled in the next town than Cora Rose arrives unexpectedly, determined to be part of the show, to incorporate her motorcycle racing into a side event, pulling in a bigger crowd and launching her on the way to a career. Before long a stray dog has joined the threesome. As their act evolves the stunts with Cora Rose become more and more dangerous, setting the men's nerves on edge. Eventually they will involve wing-walking, with a long, long way to fall. Secrets have a way of bearing consequences. A fascinating tale of a bygone era and three good friends who reached for the sky.

Past treasures.

Deon recommends a few titles worth remembering published prior to 2010.



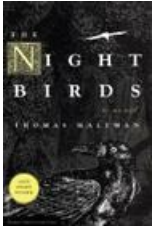
Mudbound by Hilary Jordan is a searing tale of life in a small southern town right after WWII. It is told from the shifting perspectives of the main characters. Laura resigned herself to being an aunt, not a mother. She lived with her parents in Memphis and enjoyed her job teaching school. Hope for a family and home of her own bloomed when her brother's friend Henry starts to call. She marries Henry and settles into raising a family. Henry doesn't share his dream for owning a farm with Laura, it comes as a shock when he announces his purchase of a farm in a lonely part of the Mississippi Delta. It is an even worse shock when she is told her racist father in law will be living with them, making her life a misery. Henry is full of land fever, the need to own it, farm it, make it produce. He is not a bad man, but he has the attitudes of a southern man of his time and background. His younger brother Jamie is a charmer, life away fighting in WWII has both damaged him and freed him from the prevailing attitudes of his southern home. Ronsel, the son of tenants on Henry's farm, has natural charisma. He has been away fighting too. It was a shock to be in Europe where the front door was open to him and he did not have to sit in the back of the bus. It is a shock to return to the south where the back door, down cast eyes, and the back of the bus are his lot. Befriending a white man is dangerous. Their lives intersect in tragedy.



Three Bags Full by Leonie Swann is a mystery with a twist; the investigators are a flock of sheep. But do not worry, Robert Parker says "Sheep make great detectives" and he should know a thing or two about mysteries! George was a good Sheppard; he read to his flock every day and gave them tasty treats. His death is a blow to the flock; they want to do right by him. They want justice. All that reading has provided them with an interesting vocabulary. Fortunately they have Miss Maple, the cleverest sheep in Glenkill and quite possibly the cleverest sheep in the world. They set to work and come up with a list of suspects. Ham, the butcher, immediately makes the list (no big surprise, the sheep are not fond of the butcher). God is right up there with Ham at the top of the suspect list too. They will need to use all their cunning to figure out what happened to George.

Past treasures.

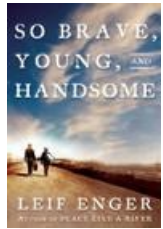
Deon recommends a few titles worth remembering published prior to 2010.



The Night Birds by Thomas Maltman is the story of a Native American uprising in 1862 and the subsequent retribution. The Senger family moves west to Minnesota when Mr. Senger's abolitionist views put them in danger. Unfortunately they settle in the middle of what will become a battleground. While at first they form a peaceful friendship with the Dakota living across the river, even teaching them English, the peace is shattered by an act of violence. Asa is 14 in 1876 when his Aunt Hazel comes to live with his family and he learns the truth of the uprising and his family secrets. Asa and Hazel are amazing characters, I enjoyed their story. Maltman is able to focus on the misunderstandings and unfairness that started the uprising as well as the prejudice, and lust for revenge that fueled a bloody retribution.



The Street of a Thousand Blossoms by Gail Tsukiyama is a compelling look at Japan around WWII. Hiroshi and Kenji were orphaned as mere babes. They live in a comfortable neighborhood in Tokyo with their adoring grandparents. Tsukiyama brings us to care about these characters before the war begins. As their lives change, we see the impact of the war. Food is scarce, people are starving, bombs fall causing fire and death. Kenji is sent to the countryside for safety but there is no safety in war. He is foraging in a field with his cousin when the planes come strafing the people. My Mom has told me about her youth in Germany when US planes were feared by the women and children in the fields, the same happens in Japan. Tsukiyama's writing brings home the fact that war means death and terror to everyone, civilians and soldiers. Death comes from the sky for Japan. Huge fire storms erupt from the bombing, roaring into conflagrations that tear across Tokyo. The nationalist pride that led Japan to war leaves it in ruins. Japan will have to find a new way forward. Hiroshi and Kenji will need to find their paths to the future too. This is a moving, powerhouse of a book with likeable characters!

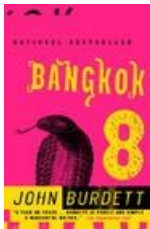


What Joy! To read a book by a fabulously talented author that is not only beautifully written but a hoot to boot, it is pure pleasure. **So Brave, Young, and Handsome** by Lief Enger is that rare book. Monte worked at the post office until he wrote his first book and was surprised by its success. Writing seemed more alluring than his post office job, he quit, planning to write a 1000 pages a day. Well those pages did not fly off his fingertips easily, after five years he is still searching for the words to put on the page. He suspects he may have only had the one book in him. As he sits on his dock by the river one day, hoping for inspiration, a man goes by standing up in the boat. Monte is charmed by the image and curious about the man. His son, Redstart, tracks down the boater (not much gets past Redstart) and drags him home to dinner. It turns out the mystery man, Glendon, really does have secrets. Twenty years ago he vamoosed just ahead of the law, leaving behind his young bride. He wants to find her and apologize. Monte goes along to help; finding a lot more adventure than he planned. Glendon turns out to have been a real Hole In the Wall gang bandit, he was running from the law in earnest, not just escaping from a one time crime. Pretty soon

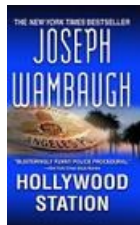
we have a Pinkerton agent, sharp shooting rodeo queens, escapes from the law, conflagrations and floods! Monte begins to wonder if he will ever see his lovely wife Susannah or son Redstart again. All of this and beautiful writing too! What a lark!



Writing a book with such weighty topics as alcohol addiction and abuse that is insightful, well written, and funny should be nigh on impossible. Not for Marian Keyes. **This Charming Man** tells the story from the perspective of 4 very different women, Lola, Grace, Marnie, and Alicia. What the women have in common is Paddy de Courcy, a handsome Irish politician exuding charisma and sex appeal by the bucketful. Paddy is every woman's dream, but a hard man to hold onto. Loosing Paddy affects them in different ways and colors their relationship with men in future. The story opens with Paddy's engagement to Alicia and its effect on Lola, Marnie and Grace. Keyes has written a fast paced, page turner about flawed people (aren't we all). There will be moments where you will say "WHAT were you thinking???" and then realize thinking didn't enter into the equation, sometimes our decisions are made by our heart and our vulnerabilities. Along the way, there are laughs and a good story.

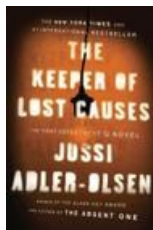


Bangkok 8 by John Burdett is a romp of a mystery. Sonchai Jipleechep is a Bangkok policeman; he is also an arhat, on the path to enlightenment, most inconvenient as it means he cannot take bribes. He feels he is letting down his fellow cops, not contributing to the communal pot. Sonchai's latest murder case has him partnered with the FBI because the dead man is a US serviceman, killed in a most unusual manner. The FBI is having a little trouble following Sonchai's tendency to see the influence of past lives on their case, the FBI is pretty sure this life is complicated enough without involving past centuries. If you are ready for something lively & completely different, try it! Adult theme.

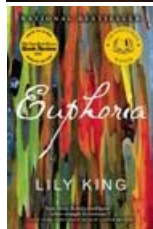


Hollywood Station by Joseph Wambaugh is about the LAPD, with a large cast of characters. He centers on the lives of the cops at the Hollywood Station. They are tired, harassed, way over worked, and trying to do their best. The book reads like a tribute to the men and women who try their best to keep us safe. Think about what they face every day, children injured by hideous adults, people throwing their life away on Meth, husbands beating wives, the list is endless. How police officers stand up to all of this without going insane or becoming so jaded they loose their humanity is beyond me, but they endure it day after day. Wambaugh is able to convey the life these officers lead; it gives some understanding to the challenge they face in not going over the line. Wambaugh's writing is so good, when one of the cops is attacked by a pimp, I would have been quite content to see the cops administer some street justice. The incident illustrates the tremendous pressure police officers face every day. Wambaugh is even able to make the bad guys sympathetic. I found myself rooting for Olive, a Meth addict, a reaction that surprised me. Wambaugh's books also have a keen sense of fun. If you are looking for Wambaugh's usual wacky characters, you will not be disappointed.

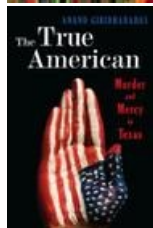
April 2016 Book Clubs.



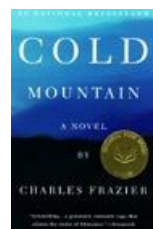
April 4th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Keeper of Lost Causes*** by Jussi Adler-Olsen, the first in the Department Q series. Carl Morck experienced the tragedy no cop wants to face, an attack that left one of his team dead and the other paralyzed while he escaped serious injury. Back on the job for just a short while, Homicide Chief Marcus Jacobsen is already being beseeched by his deputy, Lars Bjorn, to get rid of him. Carl is not a warm and cuddly kind of guy. He does not suffer fools gladly, actually he does not suffer fools at all. Lars wants him gone, but Marcus is not about to give up one of Copenhagen's best detectives just because he has high standards and can be a bit prickly. Instead they move Carl to a basement office and create Department Q, using the new initiative from the Denmark government, where he can concentrate on cold cases and be out of everyone's hair. That may have been an optimistic plan, Carl's first cold case involves a high profile missing person. This well written series opens with a puzzle that takes the reader into a complex investigation and introduces a detective dedicated to finding the truth, wherever that may lead. It is highly entertaining.



April 11th the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Euphoria*** by Lily King, this year's Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection. Inspired by Anthropologist Margaret Mead, King gives us a story about a trio of young anthropologists studying cultures in New Guinea in the 1930s. Nell Stone, whose first book caused quite a stir, her husband Schuyler Fenwick, a man quick to anger, and Andrew Bankson, a Brit of keen intelligence grieving the deaths of his brothers. The book opens with Nell and Fen on the river leaving the Mumbanyo, an aggressive tribe, with the intention of traveling to Australia to study aborigines of a less violent disposition. It is Christmas Eve, the pair plan to spend the night at Government Station in Angoram. There they run into Banson who persuades them to reconsider. Nell is in rough shape with an injured ankle, a cut hand, and lesions on her body. Bankson tends to her wounds and is awestruck by her passion and intellect. The story depicts the intersections of differing cultures, the natives and the anthropologists. It captures a time and place in vivid detail. This is a good selection for Novel Idea, a well-regarded, finely written novel. It should be a good discussion.



April 25th the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses ***The True American*** by Anand Girdharadas. A quick book to read, one that draws you in and keeps interest high, it asks some important questions. Has America failed a significant number of its citizens? Do we have two Americas, one with comfortable homes, functional cars, book clubs, wine tastings, and the accoutrements of the American Dream, the other with meth labs, poor schools, dysfunctional parenting, and prison sentences? Do those of us fortunate enough to live in the America of dreams, live blissfully unaware of that more violent America where hate and drugs hold sway? Who are the ***True Americans***? Are some of us following an earlier regime that required Aryan blood for the designation of a true citizen? Or is America still a land of diversity that welcomes vitality, the land whose Statue of Liberty proclaims "***Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!***" Ten days after the Twin Towers collapsed in a fiery inferno that brutally, horrifically claimed the lives of thousands; Mark Stroman went on a Texas Jihad that would land him on death row. He decided to kill Middle Eastern people in revenge for September 11th. He focused on workers in convenience stores. Two men died the third, Rais Bhulyan, was severely wounded but survived. Neither man was Middle Eastern, Rais was Bangladeshi. Rais grasped at the American dream, striving in the way many Americans before him toiled, to make something of himself. Injuries inflicted on him by Stroman would have permanent consequences, still Rais struggled to capture the dream. A decade later Rais had succeeded, his next mission is breathtaking. Recognizing these two Americas, the America of dreams that propelled him forward, and the America of fear and hatred that held people in poverty, Rais determined to work to stop hatred. Rais believed that his religion compelled him to forgive, to grant mercy. The first step on his journey was to publicly forgive his attacker and to sue the state of Texas in an attempt to stop the execution. There are so many issues raised in this insightful look at what it means to be an American.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

May 9th ***Descent*** by Tim Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#)

May 23rd ***Cold Mountain*** by Charles Frazier [Fiction Book Club](#)

June 6th ***Time's Witness*** by Michael Malone [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month Of North Carolina](#)

June 13th ***Lookaway, Lookaway*** by Wilton Barnhardt [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month Of North Carolina](#)

June 27th ***Look Homeward Angel*** by Thomas Wolfe [Classics Book Club](#) [Month Of North Carolina](#)

July ***The Last Bookaneer*** by Matthew Pearl [Mystery Book Club](#)

July ***Under The Wide and Starry Sky*** by Nancy Horan [Fiction Book Club](#)

July ***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club](#)

August ***Strangler Vine*** by M. J. Carter [Mystery Book Club](#)

August ***Cloudsplitter*** by Russell Banks [Fiction Book Club](#)

August ***The Wright Brothers*** by David McCullough [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

September ***The Gift of Darkness*** by Valentina Giambanco [Mystery Book Club](#)

September ***The Satanic Verses*** by Salman Rushdie [Fiction and Classics Book Club](#)

October 10th ***Independent People*** by Haldr Laxness [for A Month of Iceland](#) [Classics Book Club](#)

October 17th ***Jar City*** by Arnaldur Indridason [for A Month of Iceland](#) [Mystery Book Club](#)

October 24th ***Burial Rights*** by Hannah Kent [for A Month of Iceland](#) [Fiction Book Club](#)

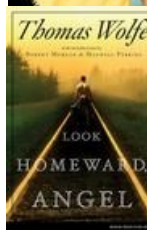
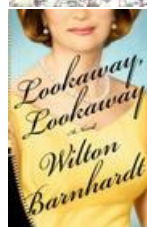
November ***The Bone Tree*** by Greg Iles [Mystery Book Club](#)

November ***Our Souls At Night*** by Kent Haruf [Fiction Book Club](#)

November ***Dead Wake*** by Erik Larson [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December ***Sidney Chambers and the Shadow of Death*** by James Runcie [Mystery Book Club](#)

December ***All The Light We Cannot See*** by Anthony Doerr [Fiction Book Club](#)



If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy using space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation. Using the space is free. To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music. Sunriver Village is an ideal place to meet. After concluding the day's agenda enjoy a meal at one of the Vil-

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 We hope that you consider an Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating purchasing 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 choose.