



Sunriver Books & Music

April 2023 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Author Events

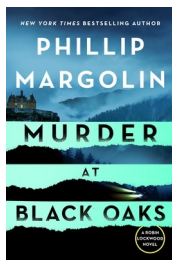
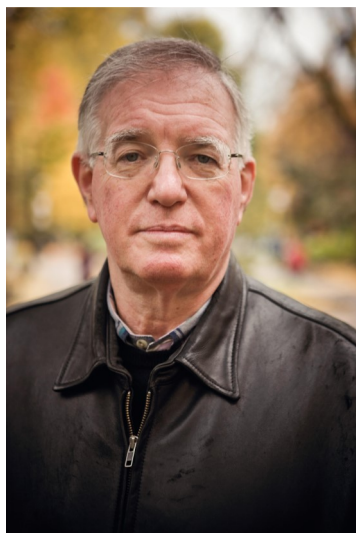
In the past we would always find room at our author events for whoever wanted to attend and were grateful for having a good audience to appreciate the author's generosity in visiting Sunriver. While we still want the author to feel good about their event in Sunriver and want to have a good showing of audience members, we can no longer pack the space. This is a change Covid-19 has wrought in our calculations for author events. It just seems, to us, irresponsible to pack people too close together so we are limiting the number at events, hoping to fill every chair, but also being firm about leaving a little space between the chairs. This will actually be more comfortable for the audience and safer in case of emergency. And it just seems wrong to be potentially spreading anything that might make someone else sick. No one really wants to experience the common cold or flu, much less Covid-19. A little pre-caution seems like the right way to go.

As we restart gathering in person we are navigating new ways. Covid-19 has changed a lot about society. Actions that used to be commonplace now give pause. People are more apt to be careful about not exposing others to flu or colds. It is no longer cool to take a coughing child around others, or to shop with a cold. This is probably good. But the divisions over politics and science remain stark. Someone was in the bookstore the other day talking about how their neighborhood has changed, it used to be a closeknit neighborhood full of children playing with one another, but during Covid-19 some parents believed in the virus and some did not, their political boundaries were just as stark, being deeply opposed to each other's views. Things escalated to the point the children were divided too, no longer pals, now reflecting their parents' anger. This is so sad. I have friends who do not agree with my political beliefs and I don't share theirs either, but I recognize they are good people, they are wonderful, smart, funny, caring, kind, all the things you want in a friend. I would not damage those relationships because we differ in opinions on viruses and politicians! And they are just as tolerant of my beliefs. So I wanted to start April's newsletter and present our protocols for author events with a request for tolerance and a hope that as a community, as a country, we can move away from anger and toward looking for the good in one another.

Last fall we asked for feedback via our newsletters and at Book Club meetings in preparation for restarting in person author events. What we have come up with is having people pre-register to attend. For author events please email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com to register to attend. Once the space is full, we will have a waiting list as it is inevitable that some people's schedules will change and space will open up. We hope you will help us in making this work for fun author events, community safety, and comfort.

As I said, we are navigating new ways, we will adjust as we try to find the best fit for the community.

UPCOMING AUTHOR EVENTS.



New York Times Bestselling author Phil Margolin presents the latest in his Robin Lockwood series, ***Murder at Black Oaks***, at 5 PM Saturday April 8. Space is limited at this free event, reserve a seat by emailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com. Once the space is filled, we will have a waiting list, there are always cancellations as people's schedules change. Refreshments will be served and there will be drawings for prizes. Phil is an entertaining speaker. We are grateful to Phil Margolin for his generosity, excellent mysteries, and fun presentations. Purchases of Phil Margolin's book are appreciated.

I hope Phil Margolin had as much fun writing ***Murder at Black Oaks*** as I had reading it! Robin Lockwood is a successful criminal defense attorney in Portland Oregon. She has earned a reputation for thinking outside the box and winning cases. As the story opens, Robin is hoping for a case that will occupy her attention and ease her mind from dwelling on a recent personal tragedy.

Francis Melville requests an unusual meeting. He doesn't leave his home. Black Oaks, is a gothic mansion, and an exact replica of a cursed English mansion built in 1682 that was the site of bloody mayhem. It sits on a remote mountain top, with a facility for the criminally insane below, reached by a winding road with steep drop offs. Francis wants Robin to come to Black Oaks for a matter he will only discuss in person.

Francis has been on both sides of the aisle. He was a hotshot district attorney prosecuting death penalty cases with a reputation for winning. He switched to being a defense attorney where he was equally successful. Then he just quit and started trying to free the wrongly convicted.

Thirty years have passed since Melville put Jose Alvarez on death row for murdering his girlfriend, it was a solid conviction backed by the evidence, he wants Robin to free Alvarez. It will not be easy, there are complicated legal issues, but Robin has always been good at the long shots, so she agrees to try.

March's newsletter has a list and description of Phil Margolin's Robin Lockwood series. ***Murder at Black Oaks*** is April's Mystery Book Club selection.

Margolin's years as a successful attorney, arguing death penalty cases before the Supreme Court, is evident in his writing.

Upcoming Author Events



Saturday May 13 at 5 PM Bill Sullivan will give a slide presentation on his updated hiking guide, **100 Hikes in the Central Oregon Cascades**. Sullivan always gives spectacular slide shows, popular with anyone who enjoys the out of doors. The last couple years have brought many changes; forest fires, new regulations, and new hikes. Sullivan details it all, his hiking guides are immensely popular and reliable. Watching one of Sullivan's slide shows will make you want to lace up your hiking boots and hit the trails! More information on this event in May's newsletter.

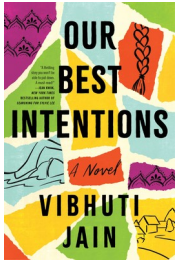
Saturday June 24 at 5 PM Marie Bostwick presents her latest novel, **Esme Cahill Fails Spectacularly**. Esme was raised by her grandparents, Adele and George, in Asheville North Carolina. They ran a little retreat on a picturesque lake with cabins where people could come to fish, relax, or just enjoy the scenery. Esme moved to New York as soon as she was out of school, she wanted to be a writer, when that didn't work out she became an editor and thought she was living the life. Things do not always work out in predictable ways, as Esme is about to find out. Marie Bostwick is a former Sunriver resident, best selling author, and ardent quilter. It should be a fun event! More information on this event in June's newsletter.



Register to attend either event by emailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com. Space will be limited, register early for these free events. There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes.

New Releases

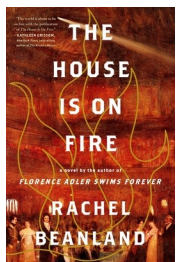
Staff Recommendations.



Our Best Intentions by Vibhuti Jain explores racism, immigrants, white privilege, and teenage angst in this moving story. Babur "Bobby" Singh believes in the American Dream, he works hard, intent on giving his daughter, Angie, the best opportunity for a successful life. Babur has raised Angie alone, since his wife left when their child was just an infant. They live in a suburb of New York in a good school district.

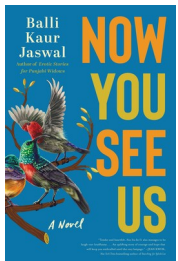
Angie is a swimmer with great potential, it might mean a scholarship to a good college, it might even mean a shot at the Olympics. But Babur doesn't have the money to afford joining a swim club, so Angie uses the school pool during the summer. Walking home after a workout, she comes upon a scene that has already escalated way out of control. Henry McCleary, from a powerful family, is in distress, having just been stabbed. Angie makes the 911 call, and thereby is flung into the vortex of the violent act.

The main suspect is a young black student, Chiara Thompkins, who was seen running away and is hiding. While the police search for Chiara, Angie tries to make sense of the situation. The McCleary's clearly have a narrative they want to promote, and Babur wants what is best for Angie even though their ideas might differ.



The House is On Fire By Rachel Beanland is set around the tragic 1811 conflagration that destroyed the Richmond theater, the story is a page turner! Focusing on four main characters; Cecily a slave facing a grim future, Jack Gibson an orphaned teenager who found work as a stagehand for the Placide & Green Theater Company, Sally Henry Campbell a recent widow who has fond memories of attending the theater with her husband. All three are in the theater on Thursday December 26 when it erupts in flames. Gilbert Hunt a blacksmith slave rushes to the theater to try and find a young white woman who had done him a kindness. Both Gilbert Hunt and Sally Henry Campbell are real historic figures.

What must it have been like to be a widow in 1811 Virginia? Or a slave with no control whatsoever over your fate and people holding power with the inclination to be cruel. Or a teenage orphan who hopes to advance and become an actor? As the theater burns, each will have to think quickly if they hope to survive. In the aftermath the entire town is caught up in the magnitude of the tragedy. This is a fascinating account of people facing life and death decisions.



Now You See Us by Balli Kaur Jaswal. March 17, 1995 Flor Contemplacion, a Filipina maid, was executed in Singapore for murdering her employer. But did she? Or is a maid just someone easy to blame. That is part of the question explored in Balli Kaur Jaswal's lively novel about 3 friends, Corazon, Donita, and Angel, Filipina maids, working in Singapore.

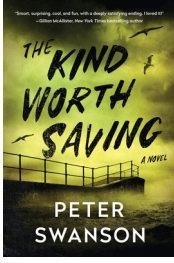
Florideliza Martinez, knowing this is Donita's first time working in Singapore, tries to help the younger woman with advice and information. When Florideliza is arrested for the murder of her employer, Donita cannot believe she is guilty. Corazon and Angel, remember what happened years ago, when a maid was executed. They feel the police are yet again picking a Filipina woman as an easy target, someone without the means to defend herself against the accusation. Donita, Corazon, and Angel, are not willing to stand by for this miscarriage of justice. They start trying to piece together what really happened.

Meanwhile each is facing her own challenges and choices. Donita's employer is not an easy woman, constantly finding fault.

Donita is young and finds it hard to cope with the restrictions and demands placed upon her. The older maids, who have worked in Singapore before try to help her

Angel is working for an elderly employer whose son makes her uneasy. Corazon has returned from the Philippines with a dangerous secret.

New Releases, Staff Recommendations.

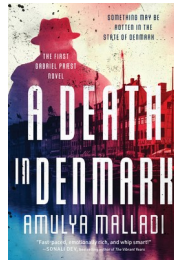


The Kind Worth Saving by Peter Swanson is one of those morally ambiguous stories filled with secrets and cunning. It is Henry Kimball's misfortune to by coincidence or design end up embroiled in situations way beyond his ken, until it is too late.

Henry was a high school English teacher when a tragic incident propelled him toward police work. He wanted to do well, to protect and serve, he really did, until he ran into Lily Kintner. Now on his third career, he is a private detective. And that is where Joan finds him when she wants someone to follow her husband. She is positive the man is cheating on her. One of those odd connections brought her to his door. She recognized the name, and was curious if he was the same Henry Kimball who taught her English class. Henry had always found Joan to be a bit disturbing, even more so now as she reminds him of the tragedy. Nonetheless he needs the work and she wants the information on her cheating husband.

The husband owns a real estate company and is comfortably well off, scheduling a tryst into his day, not a problem. Henry starts following the man and the suspected paramour, a path that leads to a vacant house and two dead bodies. Poor Henry is right back in the thick of things, much to his dismay. He is also starting to suspect that Joan knows more than she is telling.

My favorite character from the book? Lily Kintner. Want to know more about her? Read ***The Kind Worth Saving***.



A Death in Denmark by Amulya Malladi is the first in a new series featuring Gabriel Priest set in Denmark. Gabriel is a snazzy dressing private detective and part time musician. He lives in the house he inherited from his grandmother, a home he has been remodeling for the past decade, trying to get it just right. The light of his life is his daughter, Sophie, an idealistic college student. Gabriel stayed friends with Sophie's mother, Stine, and her step-father Erik, often doing work for Erik's law firm. Gabriel is a likeable entry into the mystery genre!

There is one case no private eye in Copenhagen would want to take, trying to prove the innocence of Yousef Ahmed, an Iraqi refugee convicted of killing Sonne Melgaard, an anti-immigrant politician complicit in causing the death of his son. There is one woman who could cause Gabriel to take the case, Leila, a strikingly beautiful attorney and the woman Gabriel has never been able to get over losing.

There are powerful people with secrets, going back to the time of WWII and the Nazis, who do not want Yousef Ahmed's case reopened. They take exception to Gabriel's investigation and are powerful enough to take measures, permanent solutions, to stopping him. But Gabriel is tenacious, and aided by his friends (he has cool friends!) he keeps on going until he has the answers.

Now Available in Paperback.

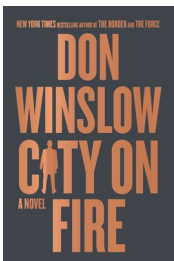


Love Marriage by Monica Ali. Yasmin Ghorami is living the dream, a twenty-six-year-old studying to be a doctor, following in the footsteps of her father, Shaokat, an Indian immigrant who has done well as a London physician. She is engaged to Joe Sangster, from an upper-class family and also a young doctor doing his residency. Everything is going swimmingly. There are just a couple hurdles before her happiness is complete.

The hurdle causing Yasmin the most anxiety is the dinner where the two families will meet. Helen, Joe's mother, is a controversial author, an ardent feminist, and a progressive with extremely bold views. Joe and his mother live in a gorgeous house in a tony neighborhood. Helen has invited the Ghorami family, their past includes disastrously bad outcomes from dinner invitations.

Anisah, Yasmin's mother, has never really assimilated into London society, has never learned to drive, she spends her days taking care of her family and helping out elderly neighbors. For the past several days Anisah has closeted herself in the kitchen, a whirlwind of cooking, creating all of her best Indian dishes to share with the Sangsters. Yasmin is worried her family will fall short, be considered provincial against the progressive, wealthy Sangsters. She has forbidden her brother Arif, who is prone to teasing her, from attending. Her parents are Moslem, her mother, despite marrying a "love match", is quite conservative. How will they blend with the free-wheeling Helen?

This is a delightful comedy with teeth as Yasmin discovers her foundational beliefs are built on secrets and lies. Lots of fun to read! It will have you laughing one moment and then realizing what it has to say about important topics of the day the next moment.

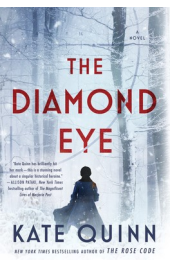


City on Fire by Don Winslow. She came out of the water like a siren, water dripping like diamonds off of her sculpted body. Every eye on that beach was on her, especially the young Irish and Italians. She was the catalyst that would turn their world into a conflagration.

Summers the Irish crew would rent places on the beach, the Italians were there too, and they would all have a grand time. Hang out on the beach, have barbeques, hit a shipment or two and make some money. They got along, with some ruffles, the Irish ran the docks, the unions, did a few robberies, that sort of thing. The Italians had the gambling, girls, and drugs. It had worked out for generations.

That day they saw something on the beach they all wanted. A woman men would go to war over, would kill, to possess. Once the violence starts, it flames hot until all that is left of their prior way of life is ashes.

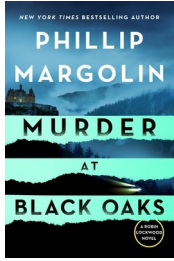
Danny Ryan looked, sure he did, but he had the only woman he wanted, his wife, Terri. He didn't really have the disposition to be a gangster, although his dad used to be head of the Irish mob until he turned to drink. Now his father-in-law is top man but the carnage as the Irish and Italians go to war hits too close to home. Danny was never cut out to be a mobster, never wanted to run a gang, but a beautiful flame came out of the water destroying everything in its path.



The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn. Known for outstanding historic fiction set around WWII, Kate Quinn has outdone herself, this is her best! Lyudmila Pavlichenko was a regular person, a librarian. She rose to meet the challenge of her time, a world at war, becoming a proficient and deadly sniper. Pavlichenko is credited with 309 kills, a remarkable number for a field of endeavor that usually ended in death. As her fame spread, she was sent on a tour of America to boost the war effort where she made friends with Eleanor Roosevelt, a friendship that endured for years.

What a story! Eleanor Roosevelt, First Lady of the United States, and Lyudmila Pavlichenko, a devastatingly accurate sniper known as Lady Death, become friends. A woman steps onto the battlefield becoming a sniper feared by the Nazis, a sniper they wanted to kill. Quinn's latest is historic fiction of Pavlichenko's life. It is rich in history, and brings the story alive. If you enjoy historic fiction, this is a real treat!

Phil Margolin will be here Saturday April 8 at 5 PM for a presentation on his latest in the Robin Lockwood series set in Oregon, **Murder at Black Oaks**. Space is limited, email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com if you would like to attend.



Mystery Book Club will discuss **Murder at Black Oaks** via Zoom on Monday April 3 at 6PM and in-person on Monday April 10 at 4:30 PM. **Murder at Black Oaks** is an entertaining legal thriller that is generously filled with twists and turns!

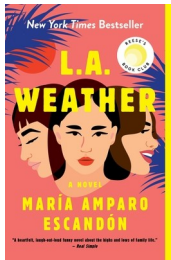
Attorney Robin Lockwood agrees to travel to Black Oaks, the remote hilltop home of former prosecutor Frank Melville, for a meeting to discuss something he will only divulge in person. Black Oaks is a complete replica of a 1682 gothic English mansion with a dark history involving murder and a curse. It is believed to be haunted. It is reached by a winding road up a mountainside. A facility for the criminally insane sits farther down the mountain.

Melville has been successful in his professional life, first as a district attorney where he was known for winning cases. Then in private practice, where he switched sides and argued for the defense. He quit rather suddenly, and no longer leaves Black Oaks. Melville now spends his time and money overturning wrongful convictions.

Thirty years ago, when Melville was a prosecutor, he put Jose Alvarez on death row for murdering his girlfriend. It was a solid conviction backed up by evidence. He asked Robin to meet with him because he wants her to overturn the conviction. The case has a plethora of challenges, both legally and logistically. Robin Lockwood doesn't back away from challenges, she meets them head on with gusto.

A storm will strand Robin Lockwood along with several other guests at Black Oaks until the storm abates. Someone will die of violence, the murder weapon connected to the ancient curse. The murder seems impossible, but the body is definitely dead. Until they can get out, they are caught together with a killer.

Phil Margolin was a successful defense attorney in Portland Oregon arguing death penalty cases and appearing before the US Supreme Court. He knows well the world he writes about in the Robin Lockwood series!



2023 is the twentieth anniversary of Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea, the county wide read. To celebrate this auspicious anniversary, the Deschutes County Library is featuring four authors and four books. **Listening Still** by Anne Griffin, **The Guide** by Peter Heller, **The Brothers K** by David James Duncan, and **L.A. Weather** by Maria Amparo Escandon. Check with Deschutes County Library, they have many interesting programs scheduled. <https://www.deschuteslibrary.org/calendar/novelidea>

As our Fiction Book Club had already discussed some of the books, they decided on discussing **L.A. Weather** via Zoom on Monday April 17 at 6 PM and in-person on Monday April 24 at 4:30 PM.

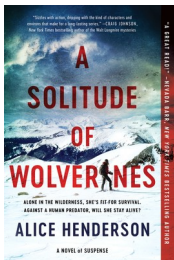
The Alvarado family is beset by troubles. A tightknit group, they are facing personal storm clouds while the patriarch, Oscar peers out the window hoping for rain and obsessively watches the weather channel. But the California skies scorn his desires for a little bit of moisture. Oscar has completely withdrawn into his compulsive weather watching (window and TV) leaving no room in his life for connecting with his wife, Kelia.

Oscar and Kelia have three grown daughters. Olivia earns her living flipping houses in the fast-moving California real estate market, gentrifying neighborhoods. Claudia is a celebrity chef and caterer. Patricia is a media influencer who puts her talents to work for corporations, feels intensely bonded to her audience, and unable to connect in a less electronic more personal way.

The novel opens with Kelia babysitting for Olivia's twin daughters while Olivia attends a function with her husband. A moment's inattention leads to the first of many crises the family experiences over the course of the story. Shortly thereafter Kelia, feeling her marriage is no longer fulfilling, announces she wants to divorce Oscar, her husband of 39 years, throwing her daughters into chaos.

Escandon seasons the story with humor and celebration of family. Many catastrophic events assail the Alvarado family, providing abundant subjects for discussion.

Book Clubs are a great way to get together with other readers and have an enjoyable time talking about books. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to attend a discussion, email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com



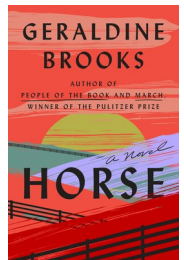
Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM

Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held in person at 4:30 & via Zoom at 6 PM on Mondays.

May

May 1 at 6 PM via Zoom & May 8 at 4:30 in person, **A Solitude of Wolverines** by Alice Henderson, Mystery Book Club

May **Horse** by Geraldine Brooks, Fiction Book Club



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