



# Sunriver Books & Music

## April 2023 Newsletter

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### Author Events

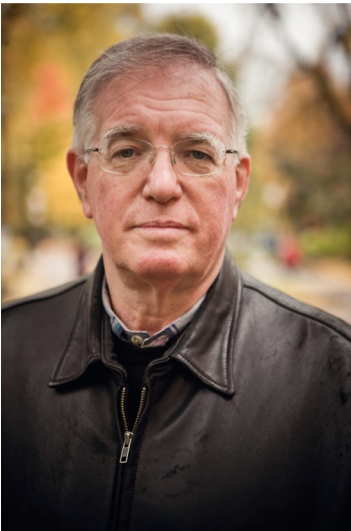
In the past we would always find room at our author events for whoever wanted to attend and were grateful for having a good audience to appreciate the author's generosity in visiting Sunriver. While we still want the author to feel good about their event in Sunriver and want to have a good showing of 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.