



Sunriver Books & Music

December 2009 Newsletter

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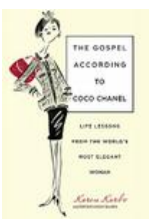
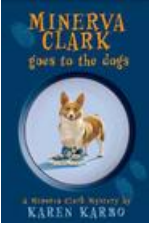


Featured Authors

December brings the Holiday Season and the end of a 2009, a year full of great books. Two talented and engaging authors will be with us this month, hopefully adding to your Holiday Cheer.



Karen Karbo is being very generous with her time this Holiday Season! She will be giving a presentation on Friday December 4th for the children at Three Rivers School. Saturday December 5th Karen will give two presentations at Sunriver Books & Music. Karen is a Northwest author with a wry sense of humor and a talent for telling a good story. Her first presentation will be at 2:00 PM Saturday and will feature her Minerva Clark series for young readers. I love Minerva Clark's independence and spirit. Here is a 13 year old girl able to make decisions for herself, feel good about who she is, and not be intimidated by the "cool crowd". The books are set in Portland Oregon, so they go places that are familiar. **Minerva Clark Gets a Clue** is the first book in the series. Minerva starts out as an average teenager, worried about fitting in, being accepted by her peers. Her day goes seriously awry, her cousin is arrested and she is struck by lightning. Something weird happens, Minerva is no longer worried about being part of the popular crowd, and all of a sudden she is comfortable in her skin. With her new self confidence and her trusty ferret she solves the crime. **Minerva Clark Goes to the Dogs** finds Minerva spending her summer vacation solving a crime involving the theft of a diamond. Her investigation takes her to the Humane Society and all over town. **Minerva Clark Gives Up the Ghost** has the intrepid young sleuth solving an arson.



At 5:00 PM Karen Karbo gives a presentation on her latest book, **The Gospel According to Coco Chanel**. Coco was a legend in her own time; she remains a huge influence on the fashion world. A movie will release soon on the life of this fashion icon. Karen has blended a lively book on the life of Coco Chanel with the search for a Chanel jacket. If you are at all interested in the world of fashion, this is going to be a fabulous event. Coco Chanel's life is the classic rags to riches story; she rose from poverty and obscurity to fame and wealth. Born in a poor house, not an auspicious start, she persevered eventually ruling the world of fashion. Along the way she re-invented herself. Her life was not lacking in drama. From the death of a lover to choosing her friends injudiciously, Coco lived a fascinating life.



Saturday December 19th at 5:00 PM Jessica Maxwell gives a presentation on **Roll Around Heaven**. Jessica Maxwell's travel writing has delighted me for years. Her stories are full of the joy of discovery, her writing is so friendly and cheerful she soon feels like an old friend. She writes lively stories about everything from golfing to fly fishing. And the woman does manage to get herself into the most interesting predicaments. Her latest book is a departure, it tells of her spiritual journey. Over the past few months several people requested that we have an event during the Holiday Season for a "spiritual" book. David asked about the possibility of a



"spiritual" author event and suggested Jessica Maxwell. Bingo! Jessica Maxwell is a perfect choice for the season. Her writing is so friendly and upbeat, it is sure to bring a smile. **Roll Around Heaven** is about Jessica's search for truth and answers. Her father's death was a catalyst for the beginning of a long journey. Jessica describes the beginning of this journey thusly "Lucky for me, I'd never given God or Jesus or any holy anybody a second thought until He/She/it grabbed me by the ear, marched me into the divine principal's office, and told me in no uncertain terms to stop goofing off and start paying attention." She started having profound spiritual experiences and meeting people who helped her understand. Her quest to find truth and meaning sent her searching from the Pacific Northwest to India to Bhutan and Oman. She sought answers from many belief systems and does not close her heart to hearing from people who have something of value to share. This is a book about belief, but it is also a book about inclusion, about hope, and about having the courage to explore and believe. I think you will like her message and be entertained by this friendly, lively woman who has managed to retain a sense of child-like wonder.

Stop by, call or e-mail to sign up to attend the free events and be entered in the drawings for prizes. Refreshments will be served.

Upcoming Author Appearances

- Saturday January 16th at 5:00 PM **All Roads Lead Me Back to You** by Kennedy Foster
- Saturday March 6th at 5:00 PM **When She Flew** by Jennie Shortridge and **The School of Essential Ingredients** by Erica Bauermeister
- Saturday April 3rd at 5:00 PM **Seeing Stars** by Diane Hammond
- Saturday April 17th at 5:00 PM **An Absence So Great** by Jane Kirkpatrick
- Saturday May 8th at 5:00 PM **100 Hikes in Southern Oregon** by William Sullivan
- Saturday May 15th at 5:00 PM **A Night of Mystery** with Lisa Jackson and Nancy Bush, authors of **Wicked Games**
- Saturday July 12th at 5:00 PM **Bend Overall** by Scott Cook

We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak often 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 newsletter or web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

Sunriver Village shops have some wonderful ideas for your Holiday Shopping. At Sunriver Books & Music we have a variety of great books, games, journals, puzzles, beautiful dog collars, Victorinox Travel Gear and gorgeous fine pens.



A fine pen is a gift that will bring memories every time it is used, it is a gift to last a lifetime. We have a variety of prices and styles starting at \$47 and going into limited edition pens priced in the thousands. If you want to give a gift that will be cherished and remembered, a pen is a wonderful gift.

Monteverde has teamed up with Walt Disney to create limited edition tribute pens. Sleeping Beauty is pictured on the left. It is nearing the 50th anniversary for Walt Disney's enchanting movie. Now Monteverde has created a vision in white to reflect the delicate charm of Sleeping Beauty. It is handcrafted with sculpted pearl white resin and engraved with motifs from the film including a rose on the crown. Snowflake colored gemstones adorn the clip. The fountain pen has a 14 carat gold nib. The pens come in a beautiful hand made solid wood gift box. The roller-ball is currently priced at \$325.00 and the Fountain Pen at \$395.00. The edition is limited to 1959 pieces of each.

We would be happy to help with suggestions to help you find the perfect gift for your holiday shopping list, we enjoy helping. You can leave helpful hints for your friends and family on our gift register cards. All of Sunriver Village's shops have wonderful gift ideas. It has been a tough year for Sunriver merchants, the double whammy of the economy and construction have taken a toll. While we are all hugely excited to see the construction get underway it has had an impact on the shops. We hope you will all support your local village and take a look in Sunriver before going elsewhere for your holiday shopping. We thank you for shopping Sunriver Village!

Another great gift idea from Sunriver Books & Music is **Carole's Surprise**. Receive a surprise book every month! **Carole's Surprise** comes in 3, 6 or 12 month versions. It will be appreciated by the readers on your gift list and don't forget to give yourself a subscription too! Sign up for **Carole's Surprise** for yourself and be delighted by a surprise book every month! Give a gift subscription and spread the joy of reading to your friends and family. **Carole's Surprise** for the first quarter of 2010 costs \$42 picked up in the store and \$48 mailed in the US. The first six months of 2010 cost \$85.94 picked up in the store or \$97.94 mailed in the US. Give your self the whole year of 2010 for \$172.89 picked up in the store or \$196.84 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book. Carole enjoys discovering new books and authors. You might enjoy them too! I know I enjoy selecting them for you! In 2009 **Carole's Surprise** featured **So Brave Young & Handsome** by Leif Enger, **The Air Between Us** by Deborah Johnson, **Nightbirds** by Thomas Maltman, **Skeletons at the Feast** by Chris Bohjalian and **Louisiana Power & Light** by John DuFresne What will 2010 bring? Sign up for **Carole's Surprise** and discover month by month.



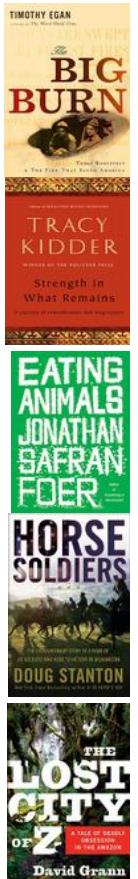
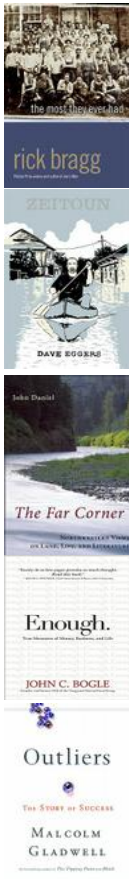
**December 27– January 2 Share the Holiday Spirit!
Donate a book to Three Rivers School!**

It is hard for school districts to find the funds to keep their libraries and classrooms thriving with good literature. Help fuel the school children's passion for reading. Buy any book in the children's section at 35% off, we keep the book and deliver it to Three Rivers School with your name & address. The first child to read the book will write you a thank you note, thereafter the book is available for the Three Rivers students. A \$19.99 book would cost you \$12.99, a \$16.99 book will be \$11.05, a \$12.99 book becomes \$8.44, \$9.99 reduces to \$6.49, and \$6.99 is just \$4.54. It is not expensive to spread the joy of reading!

2009 is almost over, it is time to celebrate our favorite books of the year! Here are our choices for

**The Best Books of 2009!
Top Ten Non Fiction**

- The Most They Ever Had** by Rick Bragg. The fate of an Alabama mill town illustrates the real heroes of America, back when we were a nation that created and built, before we became a nation of financiers who sold the ponzi schemes dreamed up by the bad boys of Wall Street. Rick Bragg holds the Pulitzer Prize for reporting.
- The Big Burn** by Timothy Egan. The biggest forest fire in US history, over 3 million acres burned, is so vividly told the flames crackle and leap from the pages! Teddy Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot fought to preserve the forests. Timothy Egan holds the Pulitzer Prize for reporting and The National Book Award for **The Worst Hard Times**.
- Zeitoun** by Dave Eggers. A family man with a respectable business and long term connections to the community stays behind to ride out Hurricane Katrina in his home. In the aftermath he helps many of his neighbors and stranded strangers only to be arrested. His crime? His Middle Eastern heritage and religion. Folks we should worry when our civil liberties are so easily abandoned.
- Strength in What Remains** by Tracy Kidder. Escaping genocide in Burundi and Rwanda, a young man rises from being a refugee in New York to graduating from medical school. Tracy Kidder holds the Pulitzer Prize.
- The Far Corner** by John Daniel. Essays about life in the Pacific Northwest show his sense of awe and respect for the glory of our natural environment. John Daniel has the PNBA award for **The Rogue River Journal**.
- Eating Animals** by Jonathan Safran Foer. The birth of his first child inspired Foer to investigate the choice to eat meat, which would be healthier eating meat or not?
- Enough** by John Bogle. Years of chasing excess, scheming to achieve unsustainable yields, and vastly overextending has left the country saddled with huge tax bailouts. Perhaps more reasonable strategies and a return to earlier values (see #1 above) are in order. Bogle is the creator of the Vanguard Fund.
- Horse Soldiers** by Doug Stanton. Whether you were opposed to or in favor of the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan, we should all respect the sacrifices made by our troops. **Horse Soldiers** is the remarkable story of the special forces dropped into Afghanistan to ride with the War Lords battling the Taliban.
- Outliers** by Malcolm Gladwell. A new take on success, what makes a superstar from Bill Gates to Mozart?
- The Lost City of Z** by David Grann. A rousing good tale about the ill fated 1925 Amazon expedition of Percy Fawcett.
- Cheap** by Ellen Ruppel Shell. There are some substantial hidden costs to America's obsession with the discount culture. Buy from a local shop, the dollars stay in the local economy. The shop uses local printers, painters, accountants, etc, all mid level jobs. Big discount stores bring minimum wages and little benefit to the local economy.



Top Ten Fiction

1. **The Weight of Heaven** by Thrity Umrigar. Frank and Ellie had a great life, with a beautiful home, jobs they enjoyed, and a son they adored. Then he was gone. Consumed by grief, Ellie encourages Frank to accept a position in India, thinking they can make a new start. She is energized by India, Frank is overwhelmed. His one joy is the son of their Indian servants. It is dangerous to covet the child of another.
2. **The Four Corners of the Sky** by Michael Malone. A rousing good tale about a Naval Aviator's efforts to track down her erstwhile father. Sunken treasure, gangsters, the FBI, and all sorts of harrowing obstacles challenge her quest.
3. **Lacuna** by Barbara Kingsolver. Young Harrison Shepherd finds work in the home of painters Diego Rivera and Freda Kahlo where he meets Leon Trotsky. Historical fiction at its best!
4. **South of Broad** by Pat Conroy. Read the first sumptuous page and you will be hooked on Conroy's sensuous beautiful prose. Four friends from high school reunite as adults.
5. **The Museum of Innocence** by Orhan Pamuk. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we recognized the moment we were happiest in life as it happens, so we could clutch the happiness close and never let it go? Pamuk's character is alas too human, he lets his happiness slip away and spends his life building a personal museum.
6. **The Angel's Game** by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. A mysterious stranger makes a tempting offer to an author, he wants a particular book written and is willing to be generous. Full of dark alleys, evil secrets, and gorgeous writing.
7. **You or Someone Like You** by Chandler Burr. Howard leaves his gentile wife, Anne, after decades of a happy marriage to reconnect with his Jewish roots. Anne's only way of communicating with Howard is through her weekly book club meetings.
8. **Into the Beautiful North** by Louis Alberto Urrea. Inspired by The Magnificent Seven, girls from a Mexican Village go **Into the Beautiful North** to bring back the men who have fled their country.
9. **That Old Cape Magic** by Richard Russo. Griffen isn't sure he is living the life he wanted or the life his wife chose or if he has just become another version of his parents.
10. **Last Night in Twisted River** by John Irving. A young boy makes a horrible mistake, a woman is dead, an unscrupulous, homicidal cowboy sheriff is in hot pursuit as the boy and his father spend their lives running.
11. **Baking Cakes in Kigali** by Gaile Parkin. Everyone in Rawanda knows you need to have one of Angel's cakes to have a successful party. As her customers describe the cake of their dreams, they tell Angel their secrets.

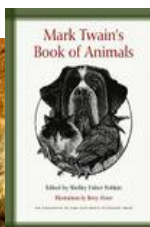
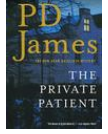
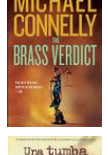
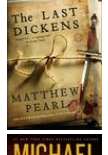
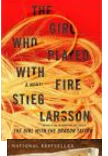
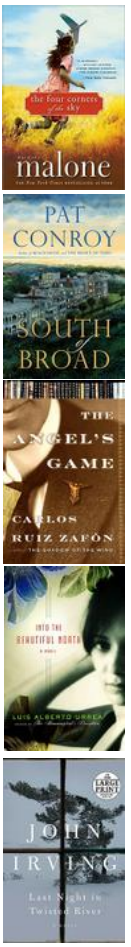
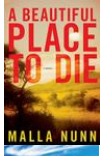
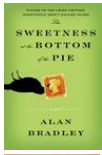
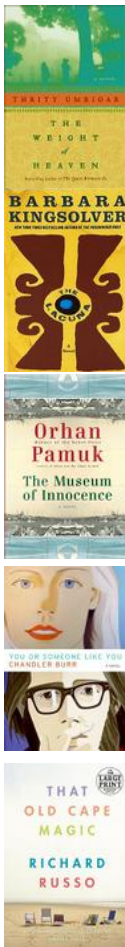
In Fiction and Non Fiction there were so many wonderful books I could not keep the list to ten, I just had to add 11 as an honorable mention. In Mystery we used books that released either in hardback or paperback in 2009.

Top Ten Mystery

1. **The Dark Horse** by Craig Johnson. Hang onto your hats! **Dark Horse** will take you for the ride of your life, fast enough to shoot up flames!
2. **The Girl Who Played With Fire** and **The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo** by Steig Larsson. A reporter and a reclusive but brilliant hacker solve crimes in this complex, original, compelling series.
3. **Finding Nouf** by Zoe Ferraris. A woman goes missing in the desert, her death poses uncomfortable questions. Set in Saudi Arabia, it takes you behind the chador without denigrating the culture and tells a good story too.
4. **The Last Dickens** by Matthew Pearl. Dickens died with his last book half finished. The publishing industry gets deadly as the missing chapters are hunted.
5. **The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** by Alan Bradley. A lively mystery set in an English Village.
6. **The Brass Verdict** by Michael Connelly. Tightly plotted, timely and engrossing. Connelly rocks!
7. **A Grave in Gaza** by Matt Beynon Rees. Dark and complex, Rees draws on his days as a reporter for this series set in Palestine.
8. **A Beautiful Place to Die** by Malla Nunn. During apartheid in South Africa when a police captain is murdered it is far more convenient to round up a likely black man than to seek the uncomfortable truth.
9. **The Private Patient** by P.D. James. Dalglish must find out why a prominent reporter was murdered.
10. **Dog on It** By Spencer Quinn. This detective has the nose to follow any trail, now if he could only stop being distracted by rabbits.

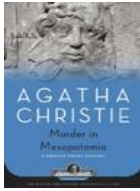
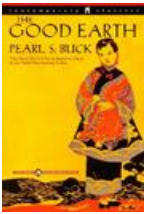
Flashman's Picks for the Top Ten in Animals!

1. **Carl's Snowy Afternoon** by Alexandra Day
2. **The Lion & the Mouse** by Jerry Pinkney
3. **Mark Twain's Book of Animals** by Mark Twain
4. **Crazy Good** by Chalres Leerhen
5. **Beyond the Homestretch** by Lynn Reardon
6. **Hope for Animals and Their World** by Jane Goodall
7. **Animal Magnetism** by Rita Mae Brown
8. **Dogtown** by Stefan Bechtel
9. **Rescue Tails** by Brian Nice
10. **The Dog Lover's Companion to the Pacific Northwest** by Val Malinson
(Flashman thinks Dogs make wonderful travel companions)



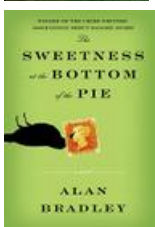
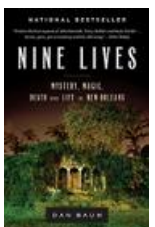
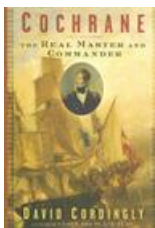
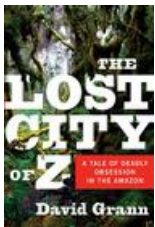
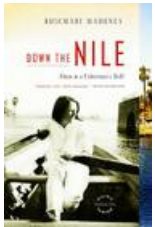
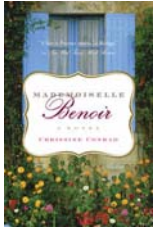
December 2009 Book Clubs

Monday December 7th at 6:30 the Classics Book Club discusses a Pulitzer Prize winning novel, **The Good Earth** by Pearl S. Buck. Deceptively simple, this powerful story follows the life of a poor rural farmer. He suffers famine, poverty and eventual wealth, but always it is the land that brings him back to his roots. Poignant and filled with rich human drama, the story paints a vivid picture of life in a small rural Chinese Village and the suffering possible when fate is uncontrolled. Pearl Buck was the first American woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature.



Monday December 14th at 6:30 the Mystery Book Club discusses **Murder in Mesopotamia** by Dame Agatha Christie. I confess, Hercule Poirot is my favorite Agatha Christie character so I am most pleased we will be discussing him this Holiday Season. Even better, Hercule plays second fiddle to a woman in solving this crime. Amy Leatheren is hired by the head man on an archeological dig to look after his delusional wife. Amy assumes the woman is just paranoid, until Louise is murdered. Clearly Louise had something real to be frightened of and now Amy and Hercule will have to get to the bottom of the mystery.

Monday December 21st at 6:30 the Fiction Book Club discusses **Mademoiselle Benoit** by Christine Conrad. It is a little gem of a book about a math professor from New York who moves to France and buys a remote dilapidated farmhouse. The book is in the form of letters. Tim's parents are worried about him living in such a remote location and giving up teaching for art. Tim starts to settle in, meets people in the village, and makes friends with an older aristocratic woman, Catherine Benoit. As their friendship deepens and turns to passion, Catherine's sister Pauline goes right off the rails. Her attempts to stop them are wickedly determined. I wonder why it is considered fine for a man in his mid 50's to marry a woman in her 30's or younger, while it is NOT okay for the woman to be the older party? Seems strange to me. It seemed strange to Tim too. The Fiction Book Club will have fun.



Non Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 January 11th 2010 **The Most They Ever Had** by Rick Bragg

Monday 6:30 March 29th 2010 **The Limits of Power** by Andrew Bacevich

Monday 6:30 April 26th 2010 **Nine Lives** by Dan Baum

Monday 6:30 May 24th 2010 **Mornings on Horseback** by David McCullough

Monday 6:30 June 14th 2010 **Cochrane: The Real Master & Commander** by David Cordingly

Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30PM January 18th 2010 **The Given Day** by Dennis Lehane

Monday 6:30 PM February 22nd 2010 **The Piano Teacher** by Janice Y.K. Lee

Monday 6:30 March 22nd 2010 **Mudbound** by Hilary Jordan

Monday 6:30 April 12th 2010 **Tree of Smoke** by Denis Johnson

Classics

Monday 6:30 PM March 1st 2010 **The Monkey Wrench Gang** by Edward Abbey

Monday 6:30 PM April 19th 2010 **Song of Solomon** by Toni Morrison

Monday 6:30 PM June 28th 2010 **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee

Mystery Book Club

Monday 6:30 January 4th 2010 **Catskill Eagle** by Robert Parker

Monday 6:30 February 15th 2010 **A Beautiful Blue Death** by Charles Finch

Monday 6:30 March 18th 2010 **Half of Paradise** by James Lee Burke

Monday 6:30 April 5th 2010 **Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** by Alan Bradley

Monday 6:30 May 3rd 2010 **Still Life** by Louise Penney

Monday 6:30 June 7th 2010 **The Black Tower** by Louis Bayard

Monday 6:30 July 5th 2010 **The Coroner's Lunch** by Colin Cotterill

Monday 6:30 August 2nd 2010 **The Scarlett Ruse** by John D. MacDonald

Monday 6:30 September 2010 **Red Harvest** by Dashiell Hammett

Travel Essay Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM January 25th 2010 **Down the Nile** by Rosemary Mahoney

Monday 6:30 PM March 15th 2010 **Catfish & Mandela** by Andrew X. Pham

Monday 6:30 PM May 10th 2010 **Following the Equator** by Mark Twain

Monday 6:30 PM July 26th 2010 **Following Isabella** by Robert Root

Monday 6:30 PM August 30th 2010 **The Lost City of Z** by David Grann

Monday 6:30 November 8th 2010 **Outposts** by Simon Winchester

