



Sunriver Books & Music

December 2015

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday December 12th at 5:00 PM Eliot Treichel will give a presentation on ***A Series of Small Maneuvers***.

This novel crosses genre lines, it works as adult fiction, is highly appropriate for the young adult audiences too, and anyone interested in the outdoors will love it!

Emma Wilson is a strong main character facing both life changing and life threatening challenges. She is 15, at that age where she is forging an identity separate from her family, feeling isolated, questing to see who she will become. Being outdoors; camping, hiking, fishing and canoeing were family activities for the Wilsons. Emma's Dad was a world traveler, hiking, climbing, white water rafting. This was a man well versed in the exhilaration and responsibility of truly forming a bond with the wilderness and passing on that joy to his family. As he sees his daughter growing into a woman, he doesn't want to lose his connection with her. A father daughter canoe trip is embarked upon, a time for bonding, for getting to know each other better as people, not just parent and child. Emma's feelings

are complicated, she loves her Dad but she is also at an age where relationships are changing, feel more difficult. The two set out, canoeing into the back country. They go for a long hike, Emma's thighs burning as she keeps up with her athletic parent. There will be an accident claiming the life of her Dad, Emma's involvement in the circumstances causes her enormous guilt, and leaves her miles from nowhere alone in the Rio Tinto Wilderness of New Mexico. She will have to trek alone miles back to the river, face white water rapids by herself, and fight to survive. The novel follows Emma's struggle to journey out of the wilderness alone, the response of rescuers, flashbacks to her childhood with her family, and the healing process of coming to terms with her grief and guilt.

This is a life affirming story with a gutsy young woman vividly portraying what it would be like to be suddenly on her own, in a the back country surviving on her wits, also a moving story of what a family can mean.

Author events are free and all are welcome. Light refreshments will be served and there will be drawings for prizes. Please sign up to attend by e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or calling 541-593-2525 or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday February 27th 2016 ***Lovecraft Country*** by Matt Ruff

Saturday April 30th 2016 at 5:00 PM ***New Hikes On The Oregon Coast***, slide show presentation by Bill Sullivan.

Saturday July 9th 2016 ***The Passenger*** by Lisa Lutz

Saturday July 16th 2016 ***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.

We wish you much joy in the Holiday Season. May the time be filled with moments of grace that will become treasured memories.

Holiday Gift Ideas From Sunriver Books & Music

Our Book of the Month Club is a gift that keeps on giving throughout the year.

Unwrapping gifts at the Holidays is fun, with a Book of the Month Club subscription the pleasure can continue. Every month brings a surprise book. Readers on your gift list will be delighted! Every month will feel like the holidays with a new book to discover.

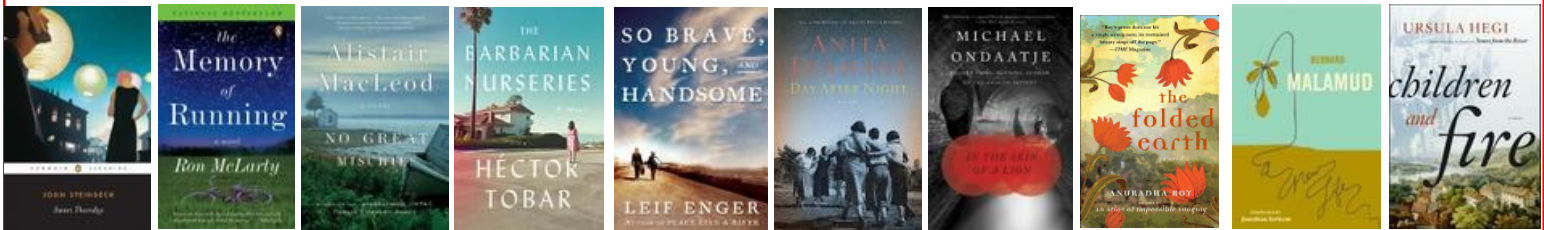
Be nice to yourself too, purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and receive a new book every month. It is a great way to find new authors to enjoy. Holidays can be stressful, be kind to yourself, purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription, look forward to a something good to read every month.

I am honored to be trusted to select books for you and take seriously choosing the books for Book of the Month Club. We try to have well written books that might be a bit less known, an undiscovered treasure. For instance, most passionate readers know John Steinbeck penned **Cannery Row** set in Monterey California. A Book of the Month Club selection was **Sweet Thursday** by John Steinbeck, continuing the story of the characters from **Cannery Row**. Other past selections include **Memory of Running** by Ron McLarty, **Lying Awake** by Mark Salzman, **No Great Mischief** by Alistair MacLeod, **Last Town on Earth** by Thomas Mullen, **Sweetness in the Belly** by Camilla Gibb, **Red River** by Lalita Tademy, **Louisiana Power and Light** by John Dufresne, **Bastard of Istanbul** by Elif Shafak, **So Brave Young And Handsome** by Leif Enger, **Skeletons At The Feast** by Chris Bohjalian, **The Air Between Us** by Deborah Johnson, **City of Thieves** by David Benioff, **Far Country** by Daniel Mason, **New Life** by Bernard Malamud, **Day After Night** by Anita Diamant, **Jacob's Ladder** by Donald McCaig, **Fragile Beasts** by Tawni O'Dell, **In The Skin of a Lion** by Michael Ondaatje, **Children and Fire** by Ursula Heigi, **Hummingbird's Daughter** by Luis Alberto Urrea, **Barbarian Nurseries** by Hector Tobar, **Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox** by Maggie O'Farrel, **Housekeeping** by Marilynne Robinson, **The Folded Earth** by Anuradha Roy and **Sunnyside** by Glen David Gold. I can whole heartedly recommend each of these books! What will 2016 bring? Purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and enjoy the surprise every month.

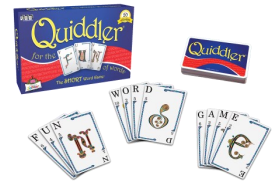
Picked up in the store the first six month subscription of 2016 costs \$93.93 and a subscription for all of 2016 costs \$188.76.

Mailed in the USA the first six month of 2016 subscription costs \$105.93 and a subscription for 2016 costs \$ 212.76.

Give a gift that keeps on giving! Purchase a Book of the Month Club subscription and enjoy a surprise book every month of the year! Purchase a subscription for yourself too and spread the joy!



Games make great stocking stuffers! We carry quite a few. Banagrams and Quiddler are word games.

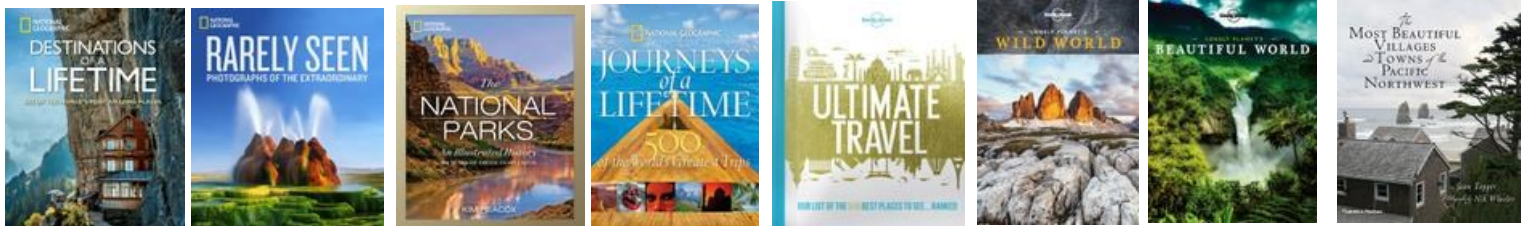


Probably our most popular game is Dog-opoly.



Puzzles are also popular. The Central Oregon puzzle features Sunriver! We carry a variety including Ravensberger and Piatnik.

Do you have a traveler on your Holiday list? Travel picture books make splendid gifts.



Holiday Gift Ideas.

Pens make wonderful intimate gifts. Every time they are touched, the memory returns of the giver, bringing joyful memories. We carry a variety of gorgeous pens from Acme Studio's lively, often whimsical, designs priced from \$75.00 to Montegrappa of Italy's sensuous, beautiful works of art priced into the thousands. Pictured are some of my favorites: from the Acme Studio line, Dogs and Cats by artist Nancy Wolf, and the Best of Luck Italian Style with Delta's Lucky Pen priced at \$395.00 for the rollerball and \$550.00 for the fountain pen.



Gifts that keep giving through time are special. Pens bring a memory of the giver when they are held and can be used with pleasure for many years.

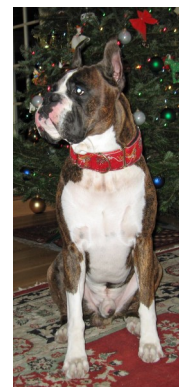
We also carry lovely journals.

Book journals for reader's, travel journals for travelers, bike journals, blank journals, all sorts!



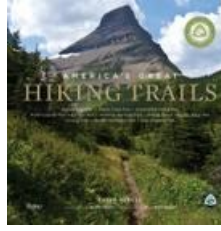
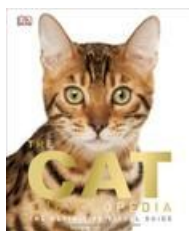
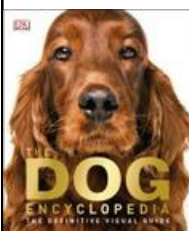
Holiday Gift Ideas!

For the furry member of your household we have an array of dog collars, leashes, Planet Dog toys, and Sweet Potato Chews. Flashman, modeled Holiday design collars., he was a handsome fellow who liked being a well dressed dog.



Flashman 7-19-2002 to 1-31-2015

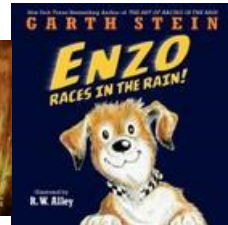
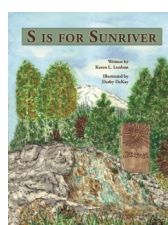
For the animal lover on your shopping list we have a wide variety of books that would be enjoyed. There are also great books for the hiking enthusiast that would make wonderful gifts!



Holiday Shopping at Sunriver Village is fun!



Inspire a young reader to share your passion for the written word with the gift of a book that will lead to a life of shared stories.



Avoid the hustle and bustle, shop with local merchants who are members of the community and value your patronage. A gift might mean more coming from a place you know well, rather than a box store or an impersonal internet purchase. Sunriver Village merchants want you to be happy, we care about helping you find pleasing gifts, it is very personal to us. Shopping in Sunriver Village is welcoming, the parking lots are usually manageable, the stores are not overly crowded, and the staff is eager to help. Avoid a Holiday Season with overflowing parking lots, big box stores so full of shoppers it is hard to navigate the aisles and the noise is distracting, and serve yourself atmosphere that leaves you wandering those clogged aisles. I enjoy shopping locally, it is much less stressful!

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!

Every year we enjoy putting together a Top Ten list. Here are our favorites of the books released in 2015.

Top Ten Fiction of 2015.

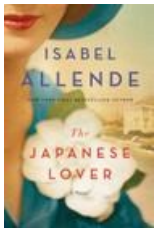
Our Souls At Night by Kent Haruf. Set in the ranching community of Holt Colorado, this is a haunting, beautifully written story, showcasing Haruf's tremendous craftsmanship in portraying the extraordinary grace in the lives of ordinary people. Addie and Louis live alone in the big houses they raised their families in before their spouses died. Addie was friends with Louis's wife. Now they are old and alone. One day in May Addie calls on Louis and a friendship begins, deepening into something that defeats the loneliness in their days. This friendship is precious, but will it endure? This lovely story tells of their adventures, their laughter, their recapturing of life's goodness, and of their sorrows.



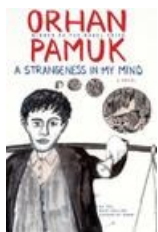
Above the Waterfall by Ron Rash. Les has been sheriff for a long time, over the years he learned to compromise in favor of his version of right, not necessarily always the version in the rule books. Although only in his fifties, he is preparing to retire. Les lived his whole life in the same town, earning the obligations and regrets that such a long association can bring. Becky is a park ranger with a troubled past. Trust does not come easy but she works at it, navigating human emotions without a true compass. While the world of man may be confusing, Becky has a rare connection with nature, mastering the ability to be truly present in the moment. A variety of interests in the community are heading toward conflict; an upscale resort wanting to shield its tourists from contact with the real Appalachia, meth heads willing to do anything to stay high, an old man who has lived in these hills all his life refusing to bend to the new order. Ron Rash has a melodic voice that brings a haunting power to his stories.



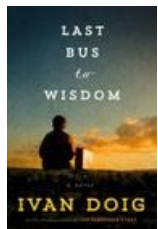
The Japanese Lover by Isabel Allende. Alma left Poland in 1939, as a precaution, to stay with her aunt and uncle in a magnificent estate overlooking San Francisco. Her brother had already joined the British RAF to fight Hitler, her parents remained behind not ready to believe in the rapidly unfolding future. Alma misses her parents and the big brother she adored. Nathaniel, her cousin, realizes her visit may be long. He introduces her to the Japanese gardener who tends their estate and the gardener's son Ichi. They forge a bond that lasts a lifetime. Allende packs an incredible amount of history into this slim, but wonderfully enjoyable, novel; managing to encompass moments from WWII, the internment of Japanese to the changing roles of women and a variety of other major events that I do not want to give away for fear of spoiling any of your pleasure in reading this lovely book.



A Strangeness in My Mind by Orhan Pamuk. Men from Mevlut's village travel to Istanbul to make their fortunes, sending for their sons as soon as they are old enough to help. Melvut is eager to join his father too, but their path does not lead to riches. Watching relatives prosper, they remain poor. As a young man, Melvut attends the wedding of his cousin and is enraptured by the beauty of the bride's youngest sister. For three years he writes to her passionate love letters, pouring out his heart, as he completes his military service. He arranges to elope with his beloved, only to be misled in the night, eloping with the wrong sister. Melvut grows to love his wife but his fortunes in business do not change. He remains a street vendor, venturing into the night selling boza, a traditional drink. The history of Melvut melds with the history of Istanbul; the treachery of families blending with the treachery of nations, along with all the wonderful and sad things that make up a life. Orhan Pamuk is a Nobel Prize winner and a playful author. In addition to Melvut's perspective, the story is liberally salted with other character's often opposing views.



The Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig. Donal lives with his grandmother on the Double W ranch in the Two Medicine Country of the Montana Rockies, a gorgeous landscape with Maxfield Parish sunsets, jagged peaked mountains, and swift rivers. He was orphaned young and raised by his grandmother, the ranch cook. He is only 11 years old in 1951 when health issues force her to put him on a bus to Wisconsin to stay with her sister, Kate, for the summer. Donal has never met his great aunt, he is worried about his grandmother's upcoming surgery, and he has never been out of Montana. Traveling alone on a Greyhound Bus is quite an adventure. Donal's troubles are not over when he arrives, Kate is a despotic, ill tempered, self-serving woman lacking any empathy for a lonely young boy. Her husband Herman the German is Donal's refuge. Herman is obsessed by anything Western. When Kate chucks Donal out, sending him back to Montana on the bus, Herman sneaks aboard too. The traveling companions scuttle Kate's plans and light out for adventure in the west. Boy Howdy, do they ever find it!



How to Start a Fire by Lisa Lutz. Celebrating the bonds of friendship over twenty years, this is one of those books you want to read every word and are sorry to see it end. Kate, Anna, and George meet in college at UC Santa Cruz. The three young women come from vastly different backgrounds, have opposing views on many issues, and are not similar in personality yet they form a whole. No matter what happens, they have each other's back. Anna comes from a privileged East Coast background; she is impulsive, bright, and driven. An un-tamable wild child from the get go with a self-destructive streak that runs deep. Kate grew up in Santa Cruz, orphaned in adolescence she was reared by her beloved grandfather. Kate has her life all figured out, she will graduate and take over the family diner. Everything in her future is all nicely planned, until it isn't any longer. George is a beauty, the woman every man wants, with an unfortunate tendency to pick the worst guy. She loves the outdoors, is happiest in nature, hiking and camping. As the years go by, the women betray each other but never break the bonds of the friendship formed in college when they were young and the world sat before them full of promise.

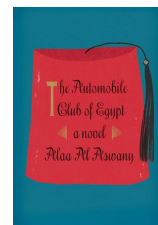


City on Fire by Garth Risk Hallberg. This sweeping epic of a book recalls the grand storytelling of earlier eras, with a cast of characters from all walks of life, and a plot that is both entertaining and richly complicated. Time frames shift, from the 1960's into the next century, but most of the action takes place in the 1970-s when New York was rougher and a black out left the populace vulnerable at a critical moment. Exhibits enter into the plot giving the reader background or a taste of what's to come. From punk rockers, to the upper echelon of the financial world, bound by betrayal, double dealing, and a yearning for something unknown, the author ultimately weaves his gripping story together. The characters are a rich mix, I liked Mercer immensely, couldn't help myself from liking Billy too. This is the type of book you want to spend time enjoying.



Top Ten Fiction of 2015 continued.

The Automobile Club of Egypt by Alaa Al Aswany. This story of a family's tragedy is also a rollicking tale told with humor and verve. It opens with the creation of what would be the Mercedes Benz automobile, touches on the craze for motor cars that followed, then veers into family fortunes (or lack thereof) and the political upheaval that accompanied Egypt's burgeoning desire to be free of the British. Abd el-Aziz Gaafar came from wealth, a landowner that his community looked up to and admired. They also came to him for help; he was not of a temperament to refuse. His fortune drained, Abd el-Aziz moved his family to an apartment in Cairo and took employment at the Automobile Club of Egypt, a place set up to serve the Brits. James Wright, the Brit in charge, disdains the locals, leaving the running of the place to the King's Nubian servant Alku. Abd el-Aziz is a good man, he is educating not only of his three sons but also his daughter Saleha, school fees are expensive. He needs his job but finds it difficult to put up with the degradation dished out by Alku, the King's favorite servant who rules underlings like a despot, having them insulted and beaten. Abd el-Aziz retorts to one too many insults, the beating ordered by Alku is deadly. Facing penury, two of his sons agree to work at the Automobile Club. The reader is drawn into the lives of the widow and her children, their travails both humorous and serious.



The Truth According To Us by Annie Barrows. Layla Beck lived the good life, pampered by her wealthy father. All is going swimmingly; until she spurns the man her parents find acceptable son-in-law material. After years of life in the lap of luxury, Layla is turned out of the parental home and told to earn a living. Her uncle runs the Federal Writer's Project, it falls to him to find her employment during the Depression. He settles on the small town of Macedonia, West Virginia where Layla will board with the Romeyn family and write a brief history of the town. The Romeyn's used to be a force to be reckoned with in the small community, Jottie and Felix's father was president of the local factory. By 1938 Jottie is taking in boarders, hence becoming Layla's landlord, and Felix is a traveling salesman and possibly a bootlegger. Felix has two daughters, doted on by their aunt. While Layla embarks on a quest to uncover the town's secrets, twelve year old Willa begins discovering the dark secrets in her family. Add to the mix Layla's beauty and Felix's proclivities with women (somewhat reminiscent of those of a tom cat) for a combination sure to cause trouble. Barrows writes with the same gentle touch and humor that served her well in ***The Guemsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society***.

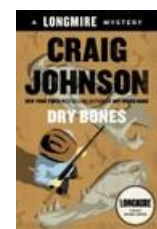


Twain and Stanley Enter Paradise by Oscar Hijuelos. A friendship between two of history's most fascinating men, Sir Henry Morton Stanley the explorer, and Mark Twain one of the greatest American authors of all time, is the subject of this enjoyable historical fiction. Beginning from their youth, both sons of the South, Mark Twain through birth, and Henry Stanley by way of Wales and adoption, the story shows how their attitudes developed and matured. Both were opposed to slavery at a time it was prevalent. Taking in over three decades of their lives, the story begins after Stanley's death as his wife, the renowned artist Dorothy Tennant, tries to learn more about her husband's early years with Twain, appealing to the famous author to enlighten her. Both men were adventurous; there is much to remember including their trips to Cuba.



Top Ten Mystery of 2015.

Dry Bones by Craig Johnson is a book that grabs you from the very beginning and doesn't let go, I stayed up until the wee hours to finish because I just had to know what happened. If there is a lot of money in the equation, the sum total is bound to be trouble. The last place a cop, any cop, wants to be is in the middle of a territorial dispute between the FBI, the Justice Department, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, a local ranching family, and a museum of sorts. That's exactly where Sheriff Walt Longmire finds himself when the largest most complete T-Rex skeleton is discovered on a ranch owned by the Lone Elk family. Soon thereafter the body of the family patriarch, Danny Lone Elk, is discovered face down in a pond, foul play a definite possibility. Making things even worse, Wyoming's Acting Deputy Attorney is one of those all hat and no cattle politicians that manage to stumble through life avoiding opportunities to learn and thriving on publicity. His speech is locked in sound bite mode, self-importance is his main trait, and he doesn't even understand the concept of empathy. Millions, many of them, are up for grabs but the issues of ownership in the case are murky. Did Danny sell the bones to the local museum? Are they the property of the Northern Cheyenne? Do they belong to the Lone Elk family? Or can the Feds grab them? Lots of players and no easy answer. If that is not enough to stress out anyone, Walt's daughter, Cady, is arriving for a visit with his five month old granddaughter, Lola. Events in Philadelphia will cause Walt serious worry.



The Strangler Vine by M.J. Carter. Jeremy Blake is one of my favorite sleuths since Sherlock Holmes! Brilliant, a master of disguises, and not too fond of suffering fools gladly. Ensign William Avery is sent by his masters, the East India Company, to persuade Jeremy Blake to do their bidding. The mighty East India Company is not the least intimidating to Jeremy Blake. Nevertheless Jeremy is intrigued; the Company wants a famous author found. Mountstuart writes florid tales of adventure and romance, beguiling his readers with India and scandalizing the powers that be in Calcutta. Now he has gone missing at a remote station where he intended to write about the Thuggee Cult. The East India Company wants him found fast. Blake is saddled with young Ensign Avery on the project, a condition neither man finds advantageous. Avery is full of the glory of the British Raj, while Blake is of the opinion the Brits are a bit tarnished and there is another side to the story.



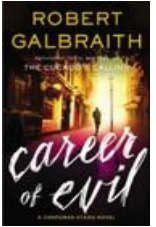
Jade Dragon Mountain by Elsa Hart is a perfect gem of a book! Li Du was once a librarian in the Forbidden City. Banned by the Emperor, he has traveled remote regions of China with only the rucksack he carries filled with his meager belongings. As Li Du approaches Dayan, he is unaware the Emperor is expected soon for an imperial visit, a display of his divinity as an eclipse of the sun will darken the sky. Li Du needs his travel permit signed by the magistrate to go on his way; he is surprised the town is so crowded. His cousin, Tulishen, is magistrate; the meeting of the two men is awkward after the estrangement of Li Du's expulsion. Tulishen needs his cousin's skills. Li Du speaks Latin, the language of the Jesuits who arrived for the Emperor's festival. Tulishen is ambitious, everything for the Emperor's visit must be perfect, but he does not speak the tongue of these foreigners nor does he understand their ways. Li Du must stay to help with the Jesuits. One of the foreigners will die and Li Du will pursue the truth.



Fatal Flame by Lyndsay Faye. The action is hot as Hades in 1840's New York as a fire bug torches the property of wealthy local Alderman, Robert Symmes. Detective Timothy Wilde has good reason to fear flames, his parents died in a fire when he was a child, and not that long ago his face was scarred in an inferno that destroyed a good chunk of New York City. Adding to Timothy's distress, his debauched, self-destructive older brother, Valentine Wilde, is a fireman who rushes into the flames instead of away to safety. Valentine Wilde is one of fiction's more interesting characters; vice ridden, brilliant, remarkably brave, a good friend to hold close and the wrong man to make an enemy. Robert Symmes is a seriously bad dude, but he is well connected at Tammany Hall and as dangerous as a bad tempered snake. Valentine served the political party well. He took orders cheerfully until Symmes pushes him too far and offers a bribe that offends even the dissolute Valentine. Lindsay Faye gives a good account of the power of the political parties, the plight of women toiling in harsh conditions, and the challenges facing a population swelled by immigrants fleeing the potato famine while also telling a rousing good story.



Career of Evil by Robert Galbraith (J.K. Rowling). As days at the office go, this one starts very unpleasantly. Preparing for her upcoming wedding, Robin Ellacot has been accepting deliveries at work. A package containing a woman's severed leg was not anticipated. She is shocked when her boss, Cormoran Strike admits to knowing four people who might send such a package. One of the four is a known gangster, the police quickly focus on him, while Cormoran finds the others more plausible. Worried about Robin being addressed as the recipient, Cormoran launches his own investigation, trying without much success to keep Robin away from the action and safe. Of course Robin is equally determined to be in the thick of things. More is shared about both Cormoran and Robin's past in this intricately plotted story.



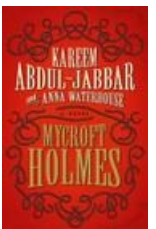
Leaving Berlin by Joseph Kanon. Taut, historical thrillers are Kanon's forte and he shows his mastery of the subject in this gripping story set in Berlin during the airlift in the days after WWII. Everyone wants ground. The Russians, the Brits, the Americans, and Germans all want Berlin. Some of the 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. 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. 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 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.



House of the Rising Sun by James Lee Burke. In the battle of good versus evil, Hackberry Holland is racking up the body count. Formidable odds do not deter this Texas Ranger, as the book opens he takes on a house full of Mexican soldiers. The story spans a couple decades in the early 1890's from Revolutionary Mexico to Europe during WW1 concluding in the early days of Hollywood as hackberry seeks to be reunited with his son Ishmael. While Hack's father skills may have needed a bit of polish, his record with the ladies truly gets him in trouble. And what a grand group of feisty women! There is his wife Maggie, also a part time lover of the Sundance Kid, Ruby, the mother of his child, and Beatrice, a brothel madam who tries fruitlessly to keep Hack out of trouble. Along they way Hackberry gets on the wrong side of a sociopathic arms dealer with a taste for revenge.



Mycroft Holmes by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Mycroft is engaged to Georgianna, who shares a common background with Mycroft's best friend Cyrus Douglas, a tobacco vendor. They both hail from Trinidad, although there the similarity ends. Douglas is a black man from a small village; Georgianna is a blond beauty the daughter of a plantation owner. Douglas confides his worries about his family back in Trinidad. Children have gone missing, from the areas along the waterfront. When Mycroft shares this news with his fiancée wondering if she might have heard something that would soothe Douglas' concerns, her reaction is dramatic. She leaves for Trinidad immediately, admonishing Mycroft not to follow. Of course he does follow, accompanied by Douglas. Abdul-Jabbar's Mycroft is a likeable, interesting character, but for me Douglas steals the story, a fascinating and sympathetic man.



Girl Waits With Gun by Amy Stewart. Three sisters travel from their small farm to town with their horse and buggy, expecting nothing more than the peaceful running of errands. Instead they are smashed into by a horseless carriage (noisy automobile) driven by a group of thugs. The buggy is a shambles, the horse distressed, the sisters tossed about. The thugs are anything but apologetic. Constance is not one to let an injustice go, she demands restitution for the damage to the buggy. Angry words soon escalate to a war of bricks and bullets. Constance does not back down. Based on a real incident involving one of the first female deputy sheriffs.



Bull Mountain by Brian Panowich. Clayton Burroughs forebears were tough, violent men, involved in selling moonshine then drugs. They come from **Bull Mountain** in Georgia, a remote, heavily wooded, place where a still or a man or a body could disappear for a long, long time. His brothers stayed with the program, moving into meth production while Clayton became a lawman. He married a good woman, settled down, and left his kin to their more nefarious endeavors. A federal agent has come to town, he has a plan for shutting down the drug trade, a plan that would let Clayton's brother Halford walk. The problem, as Clayton well knows, is that Halford isn't likely to be interested in the fed's plan.



Top Ten Non-Fiction of 2015.

My Southern Journey by Rick Bragg. There is no better writer to encapsulate and venerate the southern experience than Rick Bragg. He is a master storyteller, he hooks you with his first sentence. He always seems proud and mystified of what people in the south can do, both good and bad. Anything good or bad that is thrown at a southerner can be taken with grace and good humor or defiance at their lot in life. The stories in this collection are of humor, sadness, befuddlement, and sometimes all three combined. An afternoon at a flea market with Rick reveals unexpected treasure and danger. This guy just knows how to have fun! He has a way with words that leaves you in awe, shaking your head and saying “*how does he do it?*” Rich Bragg won the Pulitzer Prize for journalism in 1996, in 1992 he was awarded the Neiman Fellowship at Harvard University. While his journalism is serious, his essays, stories, and novels are great fun!

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates, winner of the National Book Award. Coates' book is in the form of a heartfelt letter to his son about living in an America plagued by racial inequality and the real threats facing a black man. Coates dedicated his book to a friend who died at the hands of police; a case of mistaken identity. Coates explains his experiences growing up in Baltimore and what shaped him as a man and a black person. He also reflects on being a father and his hopes and fears for his son. Coates writes “*You are all we have, and you come to us endangered. I think we would like to kill you ourselves before seeing you killed by the streets that America made*”. This very powerful, important book should be read by everyone!

The Unraveling by Emma Sky. A British citizen, Sky volunteered to help in the rebuilding of Iraq after the 2003 invasion to oust Saddam Hussein, she had little idea of what she was getting herself into. Based in Kirkuk in the north, she became a close confidante to General Ordierno, the military leader of the coalition. Known for outsider opinion and blunt assessments of the war effort, she was front and center during the majority of the most painful and disheartening stages of the war. The war turned into civil war, witnessed the drawdown of American troops and the ultimate rise of the Islamic State. This is a fascinating look at the hubris and failure of US strategy to remake the Middle East into a version of itself.

Saving Capitalism by Robert Reich. The middle class is imploding as capitalism is benefiting only and elite percentage of Americans causing the rise of tremendous economic inequality. Reich shows how the economic system has been “rigged” in favor to few at the expense of the many. He sees the solution to this inequality through grass roots legislative action and large changes to the unfair rules and laws that benefit only the wealthy and powerful. One of the best books on the economy I have read in a long time. Tremendously readable and full of information to help steer the country in a better direction with a healthier middle class.

Dead Wake by Erik Larson. The tragic fate of the passenger cruise ship Lusitania in 1915 is well known, but Larson is a master at creating a compelling narrative of a known event that is thrilling and filled with anticipation until the very end. Combining an interesting examination of the politics leading up to and during WWI, nautical craftsmanship, and the strategy of the two involved vessels, Larson weaves a tale that brings a human face to a well known tragedy.

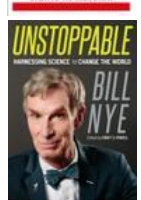
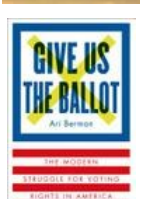
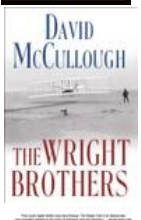
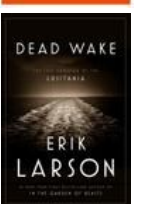
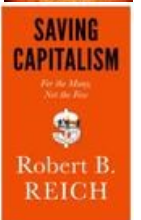
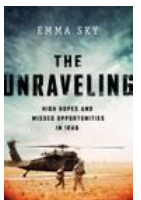
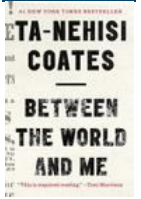
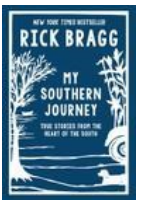
The Wright Brothers by David McCullough. One of my favorite writers of historical non-fiction gives us a detailed and fascinating story of the Wright brothers and their ground breaking achievements in human flight. As always McCullough gives us a human and full dimensioned look at their lives, from modest beginnings to phenomenal achievements without benefit of wealth or well connected backers. He gives an intimate look at the close relationship of both brothers and their sister Katherine. From this family comes the very American idea that with determination, natural genius and focus much could be achieved that changed history.

The Oregon Trail by Rinker Buck. Part travel memoir, part history, and part grand adventure, if you like history or are interested in the west, it is an entertaining story. Rinker Buck sets out from St. Joseph Missouri to Baker City Oregon on the Oregon Trail with a mule team and covered wagon accompanied by his brother Nick and Olive Oyl, a Jack Russell Terrier. Buck shares some of the less well known bits of history about the Oregon Trail, bonds with his mules, and has the sort of adventures you might anticipate (or that might come as a complete shock) if you abandoned your car for mules and a wagon. Many things happen to Buck, sometimes involving the aforementioned mules. To be fair, Buck's mules had to contend with things earlier denizens of the Oregon Trail avoided, like trains and trucks making them nervous.

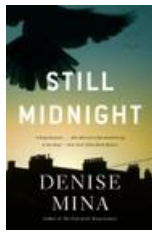
Skyfaring by Mark Vanhoenacker. I have always loved flying, allowing me to experience the world in a whole new perspective, to be able to see the third dimension of the earth below. Vanhoenacker, a pilot, has written a poetic, lovingly told tale of what it is like being able to do what I have dreamed of doing. Describing the mundane physical aspects of flight from start to finish he makes you appreciate flight in a whole new way. His description of the modern airliner as akin to the human body is revelatory. This is an engaging book on the beauty and exhilaration of what flying is all about.

Give Us The Ballot by Ari Berman. The civil rights movement in America has struggled to enfranchise minorities into full participation in our democracy. The Voting Rights Act passage in 1965 transformed American democracy but also spawned a counterrevolution that sought to limit and deny voting rights to this day. The fight to keep voting rights has changed from racist attacks and raw bigotry against minorities to legislative and federal courts denying the very rights enacted in the VRA. Berman vividly writes a historical account of this struggle, shining a light on one of the most pressing civil rights issues today.

Unstoppable by Bill Nye. Best known for his folksy, unthreatening way of describing many of today's scientific and cultural questions, Nye has written a book on making a better world through science. Focusing on climate change, he sees the scientist's need for knowledge, understanding and quantifying the problem with the engineer's inquisitiveness, imagination and can-do attitude in solving even the most intractable problems. This book was a lot of fun to read.



December 2015 Book Clubs.



Ascendant by Drew Chapman moved to December 2016, we are sorry for any inconvenience. December 14th the Mystery Book Club discusses **Still Midnight** by Denise Mina. I like this gritty series about a gutsy female detective in Glasgow. DS Alex Morrow came up the hard way, no hands up the ladder for this woman, she worked her way up the ranks to a position for those usually more politically astute than the feisty Alex. Not to mention her background, secrets lurk therein. Her marriage is in tatters. Social interactions are not her strong point, even when she tries she generally wrong foots it. Alex has a deep desire for order, but even that seems to fail her lately. What keeps her going is a job she does well and cares about fiercely. The next plum assignment was promised to her but when a man is kidnapped from his home at gunpoint, her rival, DS Bannerman is picked to head the investigation with Alex assisting. Bannerman has all the social niceties and political connections Alex lacks, he is third generation police. Fuming over the unfairness, she does what she is best at. She investigates. The armed intruders burst into the house demanding "Bob". There were no Bob's present; the sons of the family were Omar and Billal. When no Bobs were forthcoming they kidnapped one of the family and fled, demanding a king's ransom. The home was a modest middle class abode, comfortably appointed but not lavish, full of the pleasant odors of home cooking. It was not the type of place to justify a belief in that kind of ransom potential. As the clock ticks on, Alex keeps her focus on solving the puzzle and saving the victim. Lots of twists and turns.



December 21st the Fiction Book Club discusses **The Steady Running of the Hour** by Justin Go. Tristan Campbell is given a secret, a puzzle, and a challenge. Just out of college and without funds, Tristan is contacted by an obscure British law firm. In 1924 a wealthy man, Ashley Walsingham, died attempting to summit Mt. Everest leaving his worldly goods to a woman he had a tempestuous affair with. Imogene Soames-Andersson was an unusual woman for her times, perhaps for any time, headstrong, bright, and unpredictable. When news comes of Ashley's death, Imogene is nowhere to be found. Ashley's will stipulates his wealth is to go to Imogene or her direct descendant. If they cannot be found within 80 years, the money will go to a charity. Only two months remain before the funds held in trust would be transferred to charity when the lawyers discover Tristan. A vague letter implies he might be the only direct descendant of Imogene; the will requires absolute secrecy and demands proof. Tristan has less than two months to discover his link to Imogene and find proof of their connection. The story shifts back and forth in time taking the reader from WWI, to the sheer sides of Mt. Everest, and to Iceland as Tristan pieces together the story of a remarkable woman and the man who loved her.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

2016!!!

January 4th **Oscar Wilde and A Death of No Importance** by Gyles Brandreth [Mystery Book Club](#)

January 18th **Short Stories** by Oscar Wilde [Classics & Fiction Book Club](#)

February 1st **Ice Princess** by Camilla Lackberg [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 15th **Countdown** by Alan Weisman [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

February 29th **Year of Wonder** by Gerladine Brooks [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 7th **Now You See Me** by S. J. Bolton [Mystery Book Club](#)

March 21st **Signature of All Things** by Elizabeth Gilbert [Fiction Book Club](#)

April **The Keeper of Lost Causes** by Jussi Adler-Olsen [Mystery Book Club](#)

April **True American** by Anand Giridharadas [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

April Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection.

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

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

June **Time's Witness** by Michael Malone [Mystery Book Club](#)

June **Lookaway, Lookaway** by Wilton Barnhardt [Fiction Book Club](#)

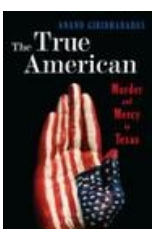
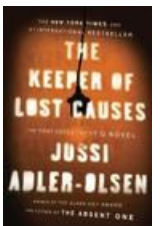
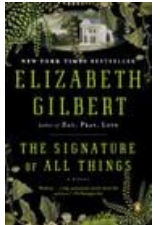
June **Look Homeward Angel** by Thomas Wolfe [Classics Book Club](#)

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](#)

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



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 Village restaurants and browse in the many shops.

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