



# Sunriver Books & Music

## December 2018

### Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



*Happy Holidays!*  
*May the season bring you joy, happiness, & wellbeing.*



Saturday December 15 at 5PM Cai Emmons presents ***Weather Woman***, a modern day novel blending science and fantasy.

Bronwyn Atair grew up poor, the daughter of a single woman living with limited means. Scholarship gave her a chance at MIT studying climate as the protégé of Dr. Diane Fenwick, a straight arrow scientist with an impressive reputation. The prestigious school never feels like a good fit, the other students (from more privileged backgrounds) ridicule and diminish her, leaving her no doubt that she is an outsider. Uncomfortable and lacking confidence, Bronwyn turns her back on MIT.

Diane is appalled, she sees the attributes Bronwyn doesn't acknowledge, the intellect, curiosity, and interest in her subject.

Retreating to a small cabin by a river in New Hampshire, she revels in watching the water flow, having coffee on her porch, taking walks and feeling connected to her surroundings. Not having to interact with students who constantly strive to make her feel inadequate lifts the academic pressure from her shoulders.

Bronwyn takes a position as the meteorologist at a small station in New Hampshire. Acquiring with the job a boss who doesn't give a toss for the more serious implications of weather; he wants a pretty woman, happy talk, and soothed viewers avowing they can get their serious news on the internet, TV is for entertainment. Eventually Bronwyn is even expected to sing!

Living close to the land, being outdoors, observing the sky, something strange starts to happen to Bronwyn, she feels herself becoming one with the elements, entering into communication with them. She begins to suspect she can alter conditions, change weather. Then one day she does. There is no going back, although at first Bronwyn doesn't realize this, she is gobsmacked by the power, unsure what it means. Of course the word gets out, and that introduces us to our next character.

Matt works for a sleazy tabloid paper trying to pay off his student debts. When his boss hears of Bronwyn, he sends Matt to write a story. Arriving at the station, he is mesmerized when the petite woman with the blazing red hair sings Johnny Cash's Ring of Fire. Quickly he is smitten, and realizes there is more to Bronwyn than some tabloid tale.

Bronwyn doesn't want to go public, doesn't want to be a media spectacle. Unsure where to get advice, who to tell, what to do with this power, she turns to her childhood idol, legendary weatherman Vince Charmichael in Kansas, right in the path of Tornado alley. As her powers grow and she struggles to understand how best to use them; fires rage in California, beckoning her onward. There are consequences to her interventions, serious consequences. Unsure and conflicted, Bronwyn reunites with Diane. The story reaches a dramatic conclusion in the methane fields of Siberia.

Ultimately this is not only a story about science, the danger of harming the planet we call home, and a woman with an amazing power. It is also the story of a young woman coming into her own, the power of friendship, and the integrity to stand up for beliefs.

Sign up to attend this free author event by emailing [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) calling 541-593-2525, or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes.

#### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday January 12, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***Violet Tendencies, The Pint of No Return, Live and Let Pie***, by Kate Dyer-Seeley also writing as Ellie Alexander

Saturday February 9, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***Deep Creek*** by Pam Houston

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend these free events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events.

Check [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com) for changes or additions to the schedule.

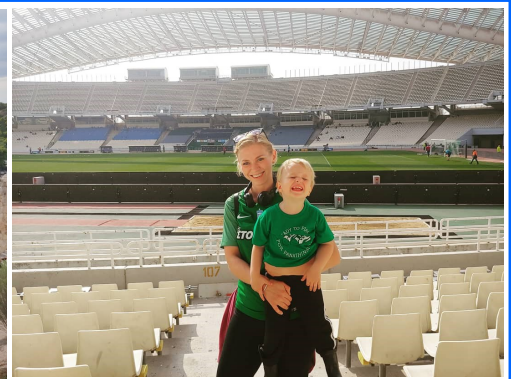
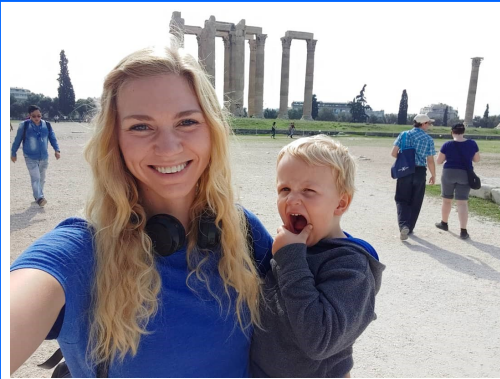


**This Holiday Season consider adding a sweet cat to your family.**

**He is apparently homeless and trying to survive outside in our cold winters in the area of Blue Goose Lane. A beautiful cat, he tries to enter the house of Elisabeth, not a cat person. This is a cat who is used to being inside and probably confused over the situation he finds himself enduring.**

**He purrs, wants to be petted, and is sweet natured. If you have room in your family for a cat, it would be a great Holiday memory to save this fellow. He would reward you with love and affection. Cats can be grand companions; amusing, loveable, creative, and fun.**

**Rich and I would take him, but we have several cats who would protest vigorously. We would be happy to introduce you to this lovely cat needing a home. Rich 541-390-5915 Deon 541-390-3730**



#### **Rachel & Foster's Most Excellent Adventures!**

Rachel's move to Albania where she teaches school is full of adventure. Camping and dancing in Kosovo, visiting historic sites in Greece, and traveling around Europe. While we miss Rachel, we are all glad she is leading a life of adventure, learning a new language, and insuring Foster will be bilingual too. Foster is getting a head start on learning about other cultures too. It will help him grow into a fine young man with empathy for others.

To follow Rachel's adventures visit her blog: <https://kelleyfamilyabroad.wordpress.com/page/2/> There are many pictures and videos.

For the Holiday Season Rachel will be working a few days at Sunriver Books & Music, catch up with her December 23, 24, 29, and 30 to say howdy and hear about her life in Albania.

#### **SUNRIVER STARS "OLIVER" A SELL-OUT**

Five sold out shows and standing O's! The Sunriver Stars Community Theater opened its sixth season with all five shows sold out and all five receiving standing ovations! 45 local residents aged 5 to 86 brought their audience to their feet with the production of "Oliver", under the direction of Artistic Director Victoria Kristy. "I have been directing live theater since 1970", Kristy beamed, and this is the first time I have had a show completely sell out! I am so very proud of my cast and so grateful for the community support!"



"Oliver" was quickly followed by "The Canterbury Tales", directed by Susan Evans Inman, and it was another crowd pleaser! Originally planned to be presented only as a gift to the community at the November Sunriver Potluck, it soon became apparent that additional performances needed to be added due to popular demand! Three laugh-aloud shows delighted the crowds.

SSCT's new platinum, gold, and silver sponsors are delighted to support all four shows presented this season and are very pleased with what they have seen on stage so far! Bend Broadband, Cascade Disposal, Sunriver Brewing Company, Bennington Properties, First Interstate Bank, Neil Kelly, and Vista Capital Partners have shown they believe in the dream by their financial support for the Stars.

Two for two...but they're not done yet! Auditions for the third show, "Suite Surrender" directed by Sunriver favorite, Ron Pugh, will take place December 4, beginning at 6pm at The Door. Set in a luxury hotel during WWII, this comedy requires four men and five women of various ages. Rehearsals begin January 2<sup>nd</sup> and the show runs March 8-9-14-15 and 16<sup>th</sup>.

'Catch a Star! On stage or in the audience, be part of the fun! For additional information, please check out [sunriverstars.org](http://sunriverstars.org)



## 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



## Holiday Gift Ideas From Sunriver Books & Music

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

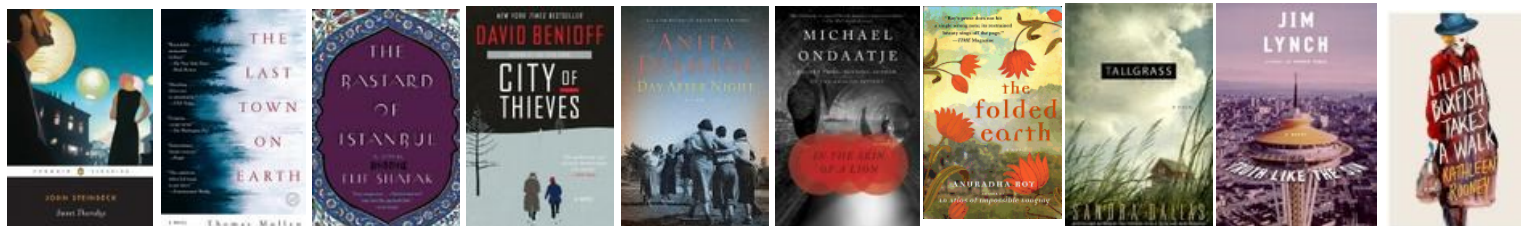
Delight the book lovers on your gift list. Unwrapping gifts at the Holidays is fun, it is also soon over, with a [Book of the Month Club](#) subscription the pleasure continues. Every month brings a surprise book, a little bit of the holiday happens giving fond memories of the gift. Readers will enjoy your thoughtfulness with the arrival of every book!

Holidays can be stressful, be kind to yourself, purchase a [Book of the Month Club](#) subscription for yourself too and discover a new book every month! Being kind to yourself gives a spot of joy with the arrival of every book.

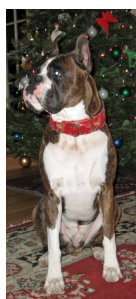
Selecting the titles for [Book of the Month Club](#) is an honor I take seriously, I appreciate being trusted to select books for you. We try to include well written books that might be a bit less known, an undiscovered treasure. Past selections include **Sweet Thursday** by John Steinbeck, **Last Town on Earth** by Thomas Mullen, **Bastard of Istanbul** by Elif Safak, **City of Thieves** by David Benioff, **Day After Night** by Anita Diamant, **In the Skin of a Lion** by Michael Ondaatje, **Folded Earth** by Anuradha Roy, **Tallgrass** by Sandra Dallas, **Patron Saint of Liars** by Ann Patchett, **Thank You Jeeves** by P.G. Wodehouse, **Arthur & George** by Julian Barnes, **Truth Like the Sun** by Jim Lynch, and **Lillian Boxfish Takes A Walk** by Kathleen Rooney. Every one of these books I read and enjoyed, I selected them with the hope that you would enjoy them too. What will 2019 bring? Purchase a [Book of the Month Club](#) subscription and enjoy the surprise every month.

[Book of the Month Club](#) is a great way to discover new authors to enjoy, read something you may not have read otherwise, find an unknown treasure from an author you like, and have something unexpected and different to read every month.

Picked up in the store the first six month subscription of 2019 costs \$100.00 and a subscription for all of 2019 costs \$199.97. Mailed in the USA the first six month of 2019 subscription costs \$112.00 and a subscription for all of 2019 costs \$223.97.



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



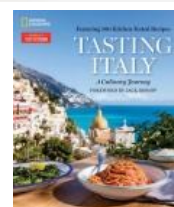
Games make fun gifts! We carry quite a few.

Probably our most popular game is Dogopoly. There are also opoly game featuring cats, horses, golf, countries, and a variety of other interests.



Bananagrams and Quiddler are word games. If you have someone on your list who enjoys scrabble, they would probably have fun with these games too. They are a great size for traveling. Puzzles are also popular. We carry a variety including Ravensburger, Euro-Graphics, White Mountain, Springbok and Piatnik.

Cookbooks can be great gifts! There are cookbooks with a wide variety of recipes from far off countries and every region of the USA; **America the Cookbook** and **America the Great Cookbook** are both good choices. **Tasting Italy** by America's Test Kitchen is gorgeous! It serves as a cookbook with delicious recipes, travel guide, and coffee table photography book!



## Holiday Gift Ideas From Sunriver Books & Music

### *Pens are wonderful intimate gifts.*



Every time they are touched, memories return of the giver bringing joy. We have gorgeous pens from Acme Studio's lively, often whimsical, designs priced \$79.99 to \$95, also Delta and Montegrappa of Italy's sensuous, beautiful works of art priced into the thousands. Pictured is Acme Studios' Cats and Dogs designed by Nancy Wolff along with Frank Lloyd Wright's Playhouse priced at \$79.99 each.



### *Journals make excellent gifts too.*

We carry a beautiful array of journals including Paper Blanks by Harper & Marks, Moleskine, Peter Pauper, and Chronicle. We just added a new line, Ciak from Italy. Combine giving a pen and a journal. One of my friends a few years ago gave his family each a different Acme Studio pen with a Frank Lloyd Wright design, a journal and a copy of Nancy Horan's **Loving Frank**. They received their gifts on Christmas and had a family book club discussion of the book over the New Year Holiday. I thought it was a very clever idea!

### *Enchanted Boxes make great gifts.*

They are available in two sizes and resemble books when put on the shelf. They are a perfect place for keepsakes, attractive too. Enchanted boxes go well with pens as gifts. The boxes are great places to keep cards and letters that have meaning. Or to store your favorite pens.



### *Signed First Editions of Depth of Winter, from the Longmire series, by Craig Johnson!*

Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire series set in Wyoming are international best-sellers, award winners, and the inspiration for the hit TV series Longmire.

**Depth of Winter** opens with Sheriff Walt Longmire ignoring the orders of FBI Special Agent Mike McGroder and crossing into Mexico in a desperate attempt to rescue his daughter Cady from a stone cold killer. Without jurisdiction or official sanction, he will travel into the hot, remote, unforgiving desert country to face down an army of trigger happy drug runners in the employ of the man holding his daughter captive.

Great characters and deadly action make this a page turner. Captain Guzman of the Border Patrol views the law's flexibility in much the same way as Vic, if not more so. A useful man. He knows people who might be of assistance to Longmire in this quest with long odds on survival. Craig is pictured with Flashman, photo by Dan Feer.

Surprise someone with the thoughtful gift of a book signed by the author! We have limited stock of several other titles too.



### *Stocking Stuffer Ideas!*

Book-lights, Chico Bags, Cute sticky notes, Bookmarks. Workout journals. Book journals, Coloring books, Brightly colored pencils, Calendars. Pins with book covers, Book totes, and more. We are happy to help with suggestions.

### *Shop Local This Holiday Season!*

Sunriver has several great clothing stores, specializing in outdoor wear, fashion, imported traditional fabric wear, or clever sweatshirts. Even the Flyfishing shop has comfortable clothing and gifts! The Artists Gallery has beautiful, locally created works of art. The Lazy Daisy has many gift ideas. Rocks and crystals make unique gifts. There is a jewelry store (great for a special gift!), toy store, flower shop, and several bike shops. In the business park, the Camp Abbott Trading Company has many items.

There may be the perfect gift for everyone on your list right here in Sunriver. Avoid the crowds, park easily, and we all truly want to make your holiday shopping a pleasure. Ask us for suggestions!



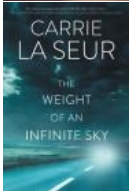
## 2018 Top Ten Fiction.



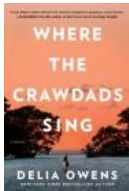
**Unsheltered** by Barbara Kingsolver is a brilliant novel set in two different centuries, both eras where lies trumped truth, and superstition overruled science. Kingsolver illustrates the human toll with insight, humor, and compassion in this deeply satisfying novel. While showing the cost of leadership built on false promises and lies, it also illustrates the strength of the human spirit with characters who will not be broken by their times, no matter the price. Kingsolver's characters shine as they make their way through the maze of survival set before them. She uses real historic people in Vineland, such as Mary Treat and Charles Landis.



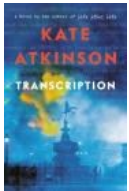
**Warlight** by Michael Ondaatje. In 1945 Nathaniel is 14, Rachel almost 16 when their parents travel to Singapore leaving the children in London to be looked after by the upstairs lodger, a man referred to as the Moth. Quickly the children suspect their guardian's activities might not be strictly legal. He was a bit loose on rules too, but seemed to have their best interests to heart. A variety of colorful characters come to see the Moth, bound by their war experiences. An act of violence will change their lives. Ondaatje blends humor and tragedy, the moodiness of London, the chaos of the war years, and the actions people are forced to take.



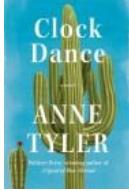
**The Weight of an Infinite Sky** by Carrie La Seur. Ranching is a hard life carried out by people whose forebears settled the land. Threats to this way of life are changing the landscape. Coal companies offer generous buy outs. Family ranches find the next generation occasionally unwilling to commit to a life of freezing winters, hot summers, hard labor on lonesome plains, and little financial reward. Anthony Fry is an only son, when his father dies he returns to Montana, but does not want to step into his father's boots and take over the ranch. His uncle, a man he never liked, is running the ranch for Anthony's mother. They disagree over Anthony's opposition to the coal mining that his uncle is ready to embrace. This modern story has all the passions and conflicts of its inspiration, Shakespeare's Hamlet.



**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens. Kya grew up in the marsh lands along the North Carolina coast. Her daddy was a brutal man; Kya was 6 in 1952 when her mother fled. Her siblings escaped too, leaving her alone with her father until he failed to return and her loneliness was absolute. Folks in town called her the Marsh Girl; a strange girl living alone in the marsh. Tate, a friend of Kya's brother Jodie, taught her to read, opening a world of wonder. As she matures, she realizes the marsh is her family and her home. In 1969 Chase Andrews is found dead in suspicious circumstances, Kya is suspected. Kya's strong sense of belonging to the natural world, her passion for the environment of the marsh is beautiful and compelling. I loved this book!



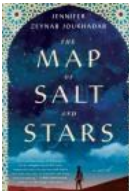
**Transcription** by Kate Atkinson. Juliet was hired in 1940 to work for MI5; at first, it was lots of typing and a bit boring. She is taken from the general typing pool to sit in an apartment and type up surveillance tapes from meetings next door of a group of Fascist sympathizers. Then she is sent undercover, consequences ensue, and Juliet's innocence perishes. A decade later Juliet works for the BBC, doing radio programs for children, when her old handlers call with new tasks. The Cold War is being fought, and Juliet is just the ticket to give a hand now and then. Except Juliet is learning just how high the price is for her involvement.



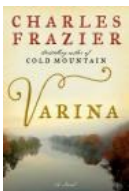
**Clock Dance** by Anne Tyler. In 1967 Willa spends her childhood with a kindly father in thrall to his volatile wife oblivious to the effect of her actions on their two daughters. 1977 brought an offer of marriage from Derek, a good looking, popular guy. By 1997 Willa is a young widow with two sons. In 2017 she is remarried living in Arizona, yearning for grandchildren. The phone rings with a call from Baltimore where her son Sean's last girlfriend has been shot, is in the hospital expected to make a recovery, meanwhile someone needs to take care of her little girl and the family dog. This lovely book portrays a woman coming into her own.



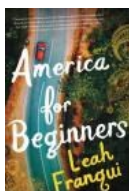
**American by Day** by Derek Miller features Sigrid, from **Norwegian by Night**, in an entertaining novel tackling cop shootings, racism, the role of women in society, and the differences in America and Norway. Sigrid's father gives her a ticket to New York to find her missing brother Marcus. On arrival she discovers Marcus is wanted by the local police in connection with the a murder. Her American counterpart, Sheriff Irving Wylie, is a middle aged, Republican, graduate of Loyola divinity school with no background in law enforcement prior to his election. Irv is wicked smart, sly, and funny.



**The Map of Salt and Stars** by Jennifer Zeynab Joukhadar is set in 2011 and 1154. A recently widowed mother takes her three daughters from New York home to her native Syria and the comfort of family. When the violence of war tears the country asunder, they are thrust into a sea of refugees. Centuries ago Rawiya disguises herself as a boy to study with master cartographer al-Irdisi (his maps are in museums today). Tasked by King Roger to map the known world, they travel battling mystical creatures in their quest to chart its wonders. Maps are a cleverly woven through the story. Joukhadar blends history and fantasy in a tale of daring.



**Varina** by Charles Frazier. Jefferson Davis was a widower, still in love with his dead wife, when he wed Varina. A teenager, much younger than Davis, with few prospects for a good match due to her father's financial shenanigans. Varina was classically educated, a fearless horsewoman, and feisty. She thrived on life in Washington D.C., hoped for Davis to achieve the highest office in the land until the country split asunder. The end of the Civil War put Varina on the road with her children attempting to escape Yankee retribution.

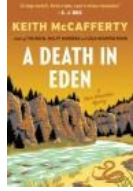


**America For Beginners** by Leah Franqui. Three people travel across America and it changes them forever. Pival Sengupta, a recent widow, books a first class tour to America, with a secret mission. She will cross from New York to LA, to find her son, Rahi. She doesn't know if he is dead or alive. Satya is in the US from Bangladesh less than a year, never leaving New York. He is new at his travel agent job, Pival his first client; if he does poorly he fears he will be fired. Rebecca is a New York actress, failing to land roles and needs to pay the rent. She agrees to work as a travel companion to the Indian widow for this one trip. Different backgrounds, different social and economic classes, even different languages but they find common ground.

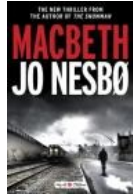
## Top Ten Mystery 2018



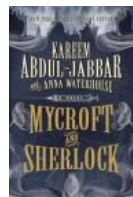
**Depth of Winter** by Craig Johnson. Sheriff Walt Longmire, against the wishes of the US Government, travels into the heat of the Mexican desert, where he has no jurisdiction or official standing, in a desperate attempt to save his daughter being held by a sadistic drug runner with a grudge against Walt. Captain Guzman of the Border Patrol's motto might just be full speed ahead and let the Devil take the hindmost. He knows people who may be able to help Walt; there is no sympathy in Guzman's heart for the drug cartels. It may be a suicide mission, nonetheless, the big cowboy from Wyoming is not about to let his only child perish at the hands of a violent man without trying to save her. If he dies trying, so be it. Lots of action, great characters, and a dramatic setting.



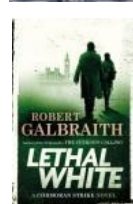
**A Death in Eden** by Keith McCafferty. Harold Little Feather just finished an undercover investigation involving reprehensible men poaching bear to sell gallbladders; Harold does not take kindly to hurting animals. His new assignment is odd but welcome. Montana's Smith River is gorgeous and remote; it is a 7 year wait to receive a permit to float the river. Someone has put up scarecrows above the river, with signs saying "NOT ON MY WATCH" and "NO SMITH RIVER MINE", sentiments Harold might agree with but the powers that be want the perpetrator caught before anyone gets hurt.



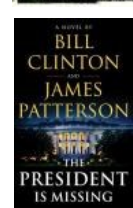
Jo Nesbo uses Shakespeare's play as a skeleton for **MacBeth** set during the 1970's. The story is dark and moody, taking place in a Scottish town where Industry fled, those with the means to do so have moved on, leaving behind empty vacant buildings. Two drug lords vie for supremacy, while the idealistic new police chief hopes to roust the drug lords and clean up police corruption. Vengeance, greed, betrayal, and violence hold sway as Macbeth battles the forces arrayed against him, some beyond his ken. The Bard created a tale for the ages in 1606; in 2018 Nesbo honors it with a retelling.



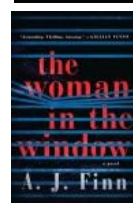
**Mycroft and Sherlock** by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar presents the famous sleuth and his older, smarter brother as young men; Sherlock is in University and Mycroft already occasionally advises royalty. Mycroft's best friend, Cyrus Douglas, an importer/exporter of tobacco, runs an orphanage-school helping young street children. One of his shipments runs aground in English waters. Mycroft parks a reluctant Sherlock at the school as a tutor while Douglas is away trying to salvage goods from the grounded ship. A young boy dies unexpectedly pulling Sherlock, Mycroft, and Douglas into a mystery. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would be pleased.



**Lethal White** by Robert Galbraith (J.K. Rowling) Cormoran Strike is finding the publicity from his last case trying. The interplay between Cormoran and Robin Ellacott gives the story richness as their professional and personal relationships evolve. Robin is suffering PTSD from the case that brought them acclaim, she is newly married and finding it a challenge, and also trying to grow in proficiency as an investigator. While Robin is on honeymoon, a young man with mental issues seeks out Cormoran with a need to tell about the little girl he witnessed being killed near a horse many years ago. The details are sketchy but the troubled young man's story touches a chord with Cormoran and off we go.



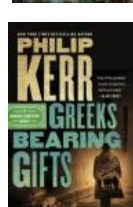
**The President is Missing** by Bill Clinton and James Patterson. President Duncan receives a message outside normal channels leading him to believe the country is facing a cyberattack. He abandons protocol to meet alone in order to gain information. Things go awry and bullets fly. There is plausibility in an attack using the computers that keep the country running in everything from the water we drink, to the electricity that turns on our lights, or the credit cards that allow us to make purchases. It is a chilling possibility. President Clinton puts his knowledge of the White House and potential cyber attacks to use telling a rip snorting tale.



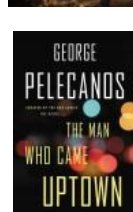
**The Woman in the Window** by A.J. Finn. Agnes was a respected child psychologist with a loving husband and vibrant 8 year old daughter until something happened. Now her family is elsewhere and she is housebound, in an elegant Harlem brownstone, felled by agoraphobia. Although she knows better, Agnes drinks excessive quantities of wine, mixing it with medication. Agnes spends time watching her neighbors, indulging her interest in photography and watching classic films, such as **Rear Window** directed by Alfred Hitchcock. She has an extensive collection; film buffs will love it! When she sees something she shouldn't, reality and imagination blur, what is real, what isn't? Will anyone believe her? Splendid mystery, keeps tension high, wicked twists at every turn.



**Sweet After Death** by Valentina Giambanco sends Detective Alice Madison, Detective Sergeant Kevin Brown, and Crime Scene Investigator Amy Sorenson from Seattle to the remote hamlet of Ludlow. The town has just suffered its first murder. Attorney Nathan Quinn of the office of US Attorney for the Western District of Washington explains a new pilot program sending experienced homicide investigators to rural communities where it is unlikely anyone has experience with murder. The investigators are now in unknown territory, among people who have known each other for years. They must balance local knowledge against their intimate acquaintance with murder. Nathan Quinn is a great character!

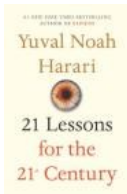


**Greeks Bearing Gifts** by Phillip Kerr. Bernie Gunther has a new name, Christof Ganz, and identity card allowing him to return to Germany. He lands a job as an insurance adjuster and is sent on assignment to Greece on a maritime claim that leads to murder. Bernie Gunther is a cynical lead in a well written series salted with sly humor set after WW!! Here is a taste of Bernie's philosophy. *"Trusting people is simply a matter of ignoring your best instincts and all your experience and suspending disbelief. The fact is, the only way you can rely on someone or not is to go ahead and rely on them. But that doesn't always work out so well. People usually behave like people and let you down and that's that. Of course, if you know they're going to let you down then you won't be disappointed."*



**The Man Who Came Uptown** by George Pelecanos. Anna, the prison librarian, ignites in Michael a passion for reading, opening new vistas. When he gets out, determined to go straight, one of his first acts is to start collecting books. He lands a job and settles back into being home. His Washington DC neighborhood has changed, with trendy restaurants (where he lands a job), coffee shops, and bookstores (he loves bookstores!). Then his old life comes calling, one more job he is obligated to take,

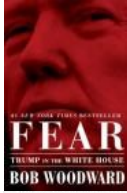




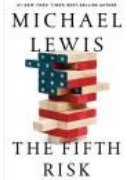
**21 Lessons for the 21st Century** by Yuval Noah Harari. Over the last century things on planet earth have changed rapidly, like a spinning top. Harari makes sense of the changes; possessed of an inquiring mind he focuses on where these changes might lead. Take computers for instance. They have made possible scientific discoveries that benefited humans, have facilitated speedy communication, regulate our utility systems, and guide missiles to their targets. They also made possible Facebook, leave us vulnerable to hacking, and collect data on individuals. In 21 chapters, Harari explores the issues he finds most challenging such as global cooperation, population, terrorism, and community.



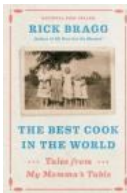
**Beautiful Country Burn Again** by Ben Fountain. In a series of essays mixing history with the 2016 election, Fountain persuades that the country has reached a flash point, ready to burn again, to be reinvented yet anew. In the Civil War and the Great Depression America faced the question of who we are as a nation. America is facing the precipice again. Are we going to be a nation of racists, a nation where a small minority enjoys most of the benefits while the majority struggles, a nation that favors the rights of corporations over those of citizens? Where is the next Lincoln or Roosevelt when you need them? Fountain writes beautifully as he reflects on what brought us to now and where might go from here.



**Fear** by Bob Woodward shows his dedication to fact and clear, no nonsense reporting. Facts are checked and reported. Among those facts are the way staffers have taken documents from the desk of the President to prevent an action that would be, at best, injudicious and could be potentially destabilizing for relations with other countries. The facts build to a portrayal of a President unprepared for and emotionally unsuited to the office he holds. Senator Nancy Pelosi once stated that the current President might learn on the job. Perhaps the position of President with such accoutrements as a standing army, a nuclear annihilation button, and one of the largest and most complex economies in the world should not be a learn as you go proposition. Seems too risky.



**The Fifth Risk** by Michael Lewis. Breathing fresh air (or at least air that is not imminently dangerous), eating safe food, avoiding a nuclear melt down, ensuring that future generations will have wilderness to enjoy; these and many other facets of life in the USA have been protected by departments of government. While it may be fashionable to oppose bureaucracy, I don't think any of us would get very far without air to breath or food to eat. In the past these departments were staffed by scientists, economists, and people who knew a bit about the work they were doing for the American people. Times have changed. Lewis explains what is happening in some of these departments essential to the running of our country. In the Department of Energy, tasked with such mundane issues as risk assessment for nuclear reactors, we lost essential personnel. In the Department of Agriculture staff that could tell one end of a steer from another were replaced by such great hires as a cabana operator unversed in anything agricultural.



**The Best Cook in the World** by Rick Bragg. Part cook book, part memoir, and altogether delightful, read it and you will want to read more from Rick Bragg. He can write the serious subjects, won the Pulitzer Prize in 1996, and if he can't break your heart with *Prince of Frogtown*, well then you might have something in common with the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz. But in **The Best Cook in the World** Rick Bragg is writing about his Mama and food, Bragg is a Southern Man, those are subjects dear to his heart. Each recipe has a story, most of them will have you laughing out loud. A born storyteller, he entertains and treats you to down home Southern food, what could be better?



**The Soul of America** by John Meacham has the goal of reminding us the country has been divided before. Violently so in the Civil War. Like Ben Fountain, Meacham is disturbed by the racism infecting our country. An historian with a Pulitzer Prize for his biography of Andrew Jackson, Meacham is well versed in the Presidents of the past. He writes engagingly of Lincoln, the Roosevelts, Truman, Johnson and others giving examples of the ways they led. This book is an appeal to the American people to get involved, to put our country back on a more enlightened path.



**Enlightenment Now** by Steven Pinker argues that a lot of progress has been made through science and humanism. He uses statistics to show that people are living longer, healthier lives, that we are kinder to each other though recognizing and accepting our differences, and education. This is a book that will encourage readers not to buy into fear, but to look on the bright side of the accomplishments that have been made while striving toward even more progress.



**The Perfectionists** by Simon Winchester pays homage to those brave enough to create and build in fields where to err is not an option, perfection the only acceptable outcome. Precision engineers have a lot riding on their calculations. Get the stress load wrong, and a second story balcony of swaying dancers can crash down killing people. Make an error in the system that keeps a plane's nose where it belongs and hundreds could die. Winchester takes the reader from the development of the steam engine, to the early days of cars, flight, assembly lines, and the development of many of the things we take for granted as part of daily life.

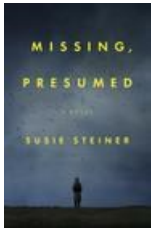


**How to Change Your Mind** by Michael Pollan investigates psychedelic experiences, LSD, psilocybin, and other agents. Focusing on their potential uses in helping with mental illness as well their ability to raise consciousness and spirituality. Pollan samples psychedelics, writing of his experiences. He gives an account of the history of psychedelics, separating fact from fiction. An interesting account of what may lead to progress in a variety of fields.



**Heartland** by Sarah Smarsh is a poignant memoir about growing up poor on a farm outside of Wichita Kansas. It is an unsparing look at what life is like for people who have no choice but to work hard to survive, lack funds for adequate medical insurance, and make do with little. Men take their frustrations out on their wives while their daughters absorb what the future may hold. Big agribusiness takes over, pushing a living wage for small farmers out of reach. Both a moving personal memoir and an indictment of the American Dream.

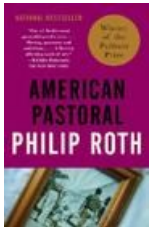
## December 2018 Book Clubs



December 10 the Mystery Book Club discusses **Missing Presumed** by Susie Steiner. Detective Sergeant Manon Bradshaw may not be so great at the dating game, but she is brilliant at her job. A high profile young Cambridge student, Edith Hind the daughter of Sir Ian and Lady Hind, has gone missing; blood at the scene indicates possible foul play. Edith Hind's father, Sir Ian, a famous surgeon, is physician to the Royal Family and pals with the Home Secretary. This is the kind of case that can make or break a career. Diving into the questioning of friends and family, Bradshaw discovers Edith was behaving oddly. Her friend Helena, who delivered Edith home right before she disappeared, clearly has something to hide. A convicted sex offender, who served his time and knows the ropes of police interviews, becomes a person of interest. Then the body of a young man is found in the river. Manon methodically goes after all the leads tying them together in a surprising conclusion. The story is told from various perspectives, which works well. An interesting mystery with twists and turns along with likable and complex characters.



December 17 the Fiction Book Club discusses **A Gentleman of Moscow** by Amor Towles. Every word is sublime. In 1922 Count Alexander Rostov is sentenced to house arrest at the Metropol Hotel. The hotel was choice digs of the hoi polloi until the monarchy was overthrown and communism turned the country a dull grey. Count Rostov was fortunate, he could have been shot for his aristocratic heritage, instead he would spend decades inside a hotel well known to him from happier times. He experienced the changes in Russia from the glittering days when the Metropol was an international destination to the years of deprivation and slo-gan spewing bureaucracy. Count Rostov is one of those grand characters familiar to readers of Tolstoy or Dickens, simply splendid, time spent with him is a gift. He grows and adapts as his circumstances change from enjoying the privileges of being a wealthy aristocrat to living in the attic of a hotel, forbidden to step outside. Yet his world is rich in emotional experiences and he never loses his charisma, a larger than life character. Towles is a playful author with an elegant turn of phrase. Read this book for the pure pleasure of reading, along the way you will discover its depth and grace. The pages are filled with humor, warmth, and history. This is a book I plan to re-read frequently.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

**Happy New Year! 2019!**

#### January

January 7 **Bar Harbor Retirement Home For Famous Writers** by Terri Lynne Defino [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 14, 2019 **White Mirror** by Elsa Hart [Mystery Book Club](#)

#### February

February 11 **Lady Cop Makes Trouble** by Amy Stewart. [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 18 **American Pastoral** by Phillip Roth [Classics & Fiction Book Club](#)

February 25 **The Fifth Risk** by Michael Lewis [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

#### March

March 11 **Kill The Father** by Sandrone Dazieri [Mystery Book Club](#)

March 25 **Boston Girl** by Anita Diamant [Fiction Book Club](#)

#### April

April 8 **Last Thing I Told You** by Emily Arsenault [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 15 **White Houses** by Amy Bloom [Fiction Book Club](#)

April 29 the Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection

#### May

May **Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah [Fiction Book Club](#)

May **Woman in the Window** by A.J. Finn [Mystery Book Club](#)

#### June Month of Michigan

June 52 **Pickup** by Elmore Leonard [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Michigan](#)

June **True North** by Jim Harrison [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Michigan](#)

June **Two Hearted River** by Ernest Hemingway [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Michigan](#)

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at [Sunriverbooks.com](http://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.

E-readers are changing the landscape for books, not always in gentle ways. Many Independent Bookstores offer e-books for sale, including Sunriver Books & Music. On the right hand side of our website, [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com), you will find information on buying e-books. We hope that you consider an Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating purchasing an e-reader, please know that Amazon's kindle dictates your e-books be purchased from Amazon while the I-pad, the Sony e-reader, and others allow you the freedom to choose.