

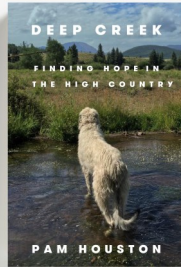


Sunriver Books & Music

February 2019

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday February 9, 2019 at 5:00 PM we have the honor of presenting Pam Houston for **Deep Creek**. A slide show is planned to give a view of the awesome beauty of her mountain home and to intimately share in **Deep Creek's** world.

In 2005 when we opened Sunriver Books & Music it was important to me that Pam Houston be our first author presentation. Her publicist said Pam was not touring at that time, but Pam understood how important it was to us that she be first and graciously agreed. She arrived with two of her regal Irish Wolfhounds and our beautiful Boxer Flashman was promptly awestruck by Fenton who kindly endured our exuberant boy's hero worship. Pam Houston is one of the most talented authors writing today, with a bold clear voice and stories that reach deep. Her books are among the best I have read; amazingly alive and moving.

For over 25 years Pam has lived above 9000 feet surrounded by snow covered mountain peaks in Colorado. At 31 Pam's first book, **Cowboys Are My Weakness**, was a success, granting her a small financial independence (\$21,000) heretofore unknown to the young wordsmith, giving the means to purchase a home (a novel concept to a young woman whose belongings fit in the trunk of her car). Remote, isolated, the 120 acre ranch is home to Pam in visceral ways. **Deep Creek** is the story of this woman's bonding with the land, the way it heals and challenges her. Beautifully written with courageous honesty, it shines with an appreciation for the wilderness and the creatures that also call this Rocky Mountain aerie home. The life of a rancher in the high country is full of hard work, dangerous weather, and care for animals who depend on compassionate handling. Walking gently on the earth,

caring about the wilderness are bone deep commitments to Pam. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, always engrossing, this is an absolutely lovely celebration of a life well lived.

A passionate respect for wilderness and a resolve to experience life with vigor shine throughout **Deep Creek**. There are hikes up into the high country, herd of Elk wandering through meadows, the brilliant blaze of Aspens painting fall days, and over all the embrace of dramatic 12000 feet snowcapped mountains. Pam travels, observing whales in the Northwest Inland Passage then meeting their migration in Hawaii. Her intense connection to the natural world and gift in writing clear, engaging prose give an intimate account of why appreciating and valuing wilderness is important.

Pam acquired animals. Two horses, Roany and Desco, have grown old on her ranch. Icelandic sheep (Wooly Nelson is major cute) make it a working ranch, chickens for eggs. A pair of rescued miniature donkeys, Simon and Isaac joined the crew. The donkeys are playful and mischievous; Isaac has an impressive Napoleon complex that leads him into trouble occasionally. She writes with humorous affection about their adventures. Ranches are hard work, there is hay to stack, wood needed for winter, animals to be fed, fences to be mended. Pam grows into her role of woman rancher; often in winter so isolated she is the only person in the snow covered landscape for miles.

Fire season in recent years has become more dangerous and destructive. In June 2013 fire found Pam's mountains and she learned the jargon of firefighters. The account of that summer is intense; the tension as she watched fire devour trees, and eventually threaten her ranch will leave a lasting impression.

Surviving childhood for Pam was not only emotionally scarring, it was downright dangerous. She is open and honest about the damage caused by her alcoholic, abusive parents. That she grew into such a kind, compassionate woman is a testament to her strength of character and will to survive. She celebrates the friendships that have enriched her life, pays tribute to the ranching community that welcomed her, and shows that she takes seriously the responsibility of being a good friend and community member.

Deep Creek celebrates the land that gave Pam sanctuary and grounding, the land that brought her home. It is also a pure pleasure to read. Pam Houston has won awards and garnered accolades for her books: **Cowboys Are My Weakness, Waltzing the Cat, A Little Bit More About Me, Sight Hound, Contents May Have Shifted**. In addition to being an exceptionally talented author, she is a Professor of English at UC Davis and teaches in The Institute of American Indian Art's Low-Rez MFA program.





Saturday February 23 at 5:00 PM Willy Vlautin will give a presentation on ***Don't Skip Out on Me***, a beautifully written story of a young man's coming of age with the pursuit of a dream that takes him away from the people and place he loves. People living on the margins, on the knife edge of life tend to be the subjects of Willy Vlautin's novels. He gives them a clear, strong voice, inviting the reader to walk for a few well written pages in the other person's shoes. Vlautin treats his characters with compassion and respect.

Don't Skip Out On Me is populated by unforgettable characters facing life with grace in tough situations, the story is one that will stay with you. Mr. Reese lives in the back of beyond, in a rugged part of Nevada eking out a living as a sheep rancher. At 72 the work is rough and the challenges unending. Shepherds hired to watch the flock succumb to the months of loneliness, forsaking the sheep in their care, they sink into depression. Mr. and Mrs. Reese took in a young boy, Horace, part Paiute, part Irish, and came to think of him as they would have a son. They watched him grow up, watched him struggle with feelings of abandonment by his parents, and understood when he felt the need to strike out on his own. There are many things Horace likes about ranch life, he is fond of the animals, cares about the Reese's deeply, and is good at the work. Despite the sadness of leaving this isolated home, Horace wants to make something of himself, needs to feel that he counts, and is determined to make his mark as a boxer, to be like the many heroes of his youth. Abandoning the mountains of Nevada, he journeys to Tucson then Mexico to pursue a dream in a dangerous game. This haunting story is beautifully told. The Reseses are such admirable people; kind to their animals, struggling despite their age to hold onto a way of life that is fast disappearing. Horace is easy to care about, a gentle natured young man trying to achieve a sense of worth. Willy Vlautin writes stories that touch the heart.

The Free, Vlautin's last book is particularly apt for our times. You can't go through a Willy Vlautin story without at least a few "there but for the grace" moments where you see the slippery slope that claimed the characters was steep and hard to avoid. Freddie had a good life going, a mortgage free home he inherited, a marriage and two daughters, then that slope got him and now he is deep in debt, not keeping his head above water, working his day job at the hardware store and a night job as care taker at a group home. Leroy did what a lot of young men do, answered his country's call for soldiers. The Middle East changed everything, now he lives in a group home a galaxy away from everyday reality, lost to his loved ones. Pauline works hard as a nurse, she has a deep reservoir of compassion she keeps veiled by a curtain of reserve, a young girl struggling with life on the streets and drug addiction tugs at her heart. Their stories will converge and as they do Vlautin skillfully intertwines a greater truth. The reader will care for these characters, admire their pluck, and wish them a safe harbor.

Vlautin's earlier novel, ***Motel Life***, Set in Reno, tells the story of two brothers, Frank and Jerry Lee, who live in cheap motels until a tragic, drunk driving, accident puts them on the run. Their belongings are meager, their claim on life tenuous. The story has been made into a well-regarded movie starring Kris Kristofferson, Emile Hirsch, and Dakota Fanning.

Lean on Pete, won big at the Oregon Book Awards, winning both the Ken Kesey Award and the Reader's Choice Award. It is set mostly in Oregon and tells of a lonely teenager, Charley, who moves with his Dad from Spokane to a rental house in the Delta Park neighborhood of Portland and takes a part time job from an unsavory trainer at the race track. His only friend is Pete, a race horse on his last legs, treated poorly by Charley's boss. The boy and the horse run away, but the world is not kind to run away teenagers and erstwhile, over the hill, race horses. In 2018 it was made into a movie directed by Andrew Haigh and starring Charlie Plummer.

Vlautin is multi-talented, he is also lead singer and songwriter for Richmond Fontaine, their music has the same haunting quality found in Vlautin's stories. ***Northline***, an earlier novel about a woman, the choices she made, and the future she fights to hold onto, includes a CD by Richmond Fontaine.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday March 2, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***Pint of No Return*** by Kate Dyer-Seeley

Saturday March 23, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***The Bookshop; a one woman play*** by Patti Siberz

Saturday April 13, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***Perfect Alibi*** by Phil Margolin

Saturday April 20, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***Hope on the Inside*** by Marie Bostwick

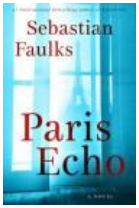
Saturday April 27, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***The Last Woman in the Forest*** by Diane Les Becquets

Saturday May 4, 2019 ***Oregon Wildland Firefighting*** by Sean Davis

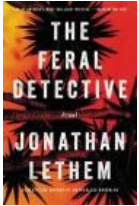
Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend these free events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver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

Check sunriverbooks.com for changes or additions to the schedule.

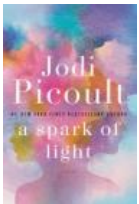
New Releases, Staff Recommendations.



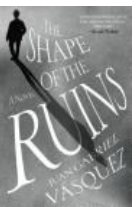
The Paris Echo by Sebastian Faulks. Hannah, a historian, is in France to research information about the role of women in WWII resistance. She spent time in Paris a decade earlier, falling in love with a Russian and returning to America ruined by the experience. The city is familiar to her. On her first night, she reconnects with Julian, one of her instructors during her earlier stay in the city. Tariq is a Moroccan teen with all the usual angst, compulsively interested in sex and eager to finally experience it, with a tendency to gaze at his visage whenever he passes a mirror wondering what others see in him. Frustrated at college, unable to seduce his girlfriend, yearning for information about his French mother, and disillusioned with the life his father expects him to lead, he bolts for Paris. There his path crosses with Hannah who accepts him as a boarder in her apartment. Tariq is shocked by how little he knows of history; Paris and Hannah open him to the past. Through their researches the reader glimpses Paris occupied by Nazis and uncovered secrets. Both characters grow and change in interesting ways.



The Feral Detective by Jonathan Lethem. Phoebe Siegler is becoming a bit unhinged; the election of a man she considers a buffoon to the office of President has shaken her core. She has a tendency of demanding to know who they voted for when meeting new people; it is a bit off putting. Unwilling to continue in her normal life, she quits her job and sublets her apartment. Earlier in her career she worked at NPR, Roslyn Swados was her supervisor, a woman she admired. The two became good friends and that friendship included Roslyn's daughter Arabella. When Arabella quits going to classes and disappears from college, Phoebe agrees to look for her. California is a good place to start; Arabella was obsessed with Leonard Cohen. Phoebe hires Charles Heist, known as the Feral Detective, to help find the girl. These two people could not be more different. Charles is an animal loving, quiet, kind man, with a hot cowboy physique who lives in an Airstream trailer and never enlightens the smoldering Phoebe on his political thoughts (if he has any such thoughts) while he does help enlighten her on many other subjects. And therein lies the heart of the book, as these two mismatched people head into the desert to find the missing teen who may be caught in a violent confrontation between groups of people living far off the grid.



A Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult. Hugh McElroy is a hostage negotiator; as such he is saddened but not surprised to be summoned to the site when a violent gunman invades a reproductive health center killing and taking hostages. Violence is not uncommon at clinics that perform abortion. Except, unbeknownst to Hugh, this time it going to be different. He is about to discover his daughter, Wren, is one of the hostages. Although protocol demands that he step aside, let someone else without a family member inside be in charge, there is no way Hugh will follow procedure. He keeps his daughter a secret as he faces his biggest challenge, keeping her alive. George Goddard is a troubled veteran, his deepest feelings reserved for his daughter. At first he saw taking over the clinic as an act of retribution, a holy crusade, but killing and wounding people is a messy, upsetting endeavor. The people inside are not so different from his child. Two men, from very different ideologies, both devoted fathers, face off with the fates of the innocent in their hands. Picoult has written a riveting exploration of abortion in America and done it well. The story is told from a variety of perspectives. This is a great book club selection and a starting point for a discussion about the role of abortion, regardless if you are pro-choice, respecting a woman's right to choose what happens with her body, or anti-abortion with a belief that sentient life begins at conception.



The Shape of Ruins by Juan Gabriel Vasquez. An innovative novel that begins with a man arrested for trying to steal the bullet torn jacket of the victim of political assassination from a museum. Decades of political discord and conspiracy lead back to April 9, 1948 when Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, a lawyer and liberal politician, was gunned down in Bogotá outside his home by Juan Roa Sierra, a Nazi sympathizer. Gaitan's home is now the aforementioned museum, his murder still the subject of much discussion. The main character and narrator in this inventive novel is the author. Vasquez runs into Dr. Benavides, a highly respected surgeon, when Vasquez' wife was confined to a hospital room awaiting the birth of their twin daughters. The two men fell into conversation, a friendship forms over a mutual interest in the assassination of Gaitan. Vasquez is a writer of great power and beauty, his prose relives some of the dark pages of Columbia's history. I enjoyed the way Vasquez refers to his other novels in the story too.



Car Trouble by Robert Rorke. Nicky Flynn's Dad has a thing for cars, a real talent as a driver with a penchant for picking up old cars and driving them into the ground. Patrick Flynn doesn't have the money for much else; his employment record is spotty. Overly fond of strong drink, willing to use his fists on his family, Patrick has a few issues. Nicky is a bright, sensitive teen enrolled at St. Michaels, looking forward to the day he graduates and can head out into a brighter future. Nicky, his mother and sisters, mark the passage of time by the current car, and watch for Patrick's shift in moods. Humor and pathos blend in this story of family, of a young man coming of age, and of 1970's Brooklyn.

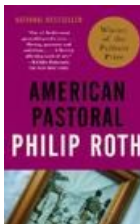


How to Be a Good Creature by Sy Montgomery. An homage to 13 of the animals that shaped her life, animal lovers will find much to appreciate in this collection. On her first visit to the zoo, as a small child, she eluded her parents grasp and escaped into the hippo's cage. Her interest in animals was born early, strong and passionate. The first chapter is about her childhood Scottie, Molly, an animal whose determination and bravery she would try to emulate. As a young environmental reporter Sy traveled to Australia where a trio of emu enthralled her, changing the course of her life. Christopher Hogwood was adopted as a small, sickly piglet. He grew into a handsome, gregarious pig with a tendency to break out of his enclosure and go walkabout visiting the neighbors. Tess was a Border Collie, a breed noted for intelligence and loyalty, she was Sy's constant companion. The stories go on, with 13 animals who enriched Sy's life. Full of heart, fun drawings, and affectionate stories.

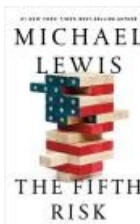
February 2019 Book Clubs



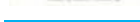
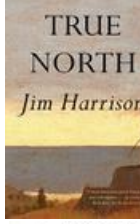
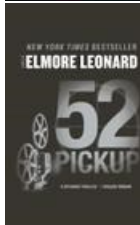
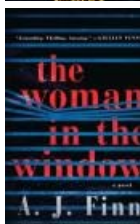
February 11 the mystery Book Club discusses *Lady Cop Makes Trouble* by Amy Stewart. Combining real events and people from history with an intriguing mystery, the story begins with a devious prison escape. Constance Kopp was one of the first Deputy Sheriffs in the USA, quite an accomplishment in the early 1900's. As the story opens, Constance has been pulled off of her deputy duties and assigned the job of prison matron for the female prisoners while the Sheriff navigates the political consequences of hiring a woman deputy. Constance speaks several languages, one of their prisoners, von Matthesius, speaks German. He has been taken to the hospital complaining of a variety of issues, the Sheriff needs Constance to act as interpreter. The hospital is in chaos when they arrive, that chaos provides an opportunity for the prisoner to escape while Constance was on duty. At the time, if a prisoner escaped and is not immediately recaptured, the Sheriff could be jailed to serve the prisoner's term. Constance is horrified by the potential threat to the Sheriff and her role in events. She determines to catch the escapee. Stewart does a great job of providing detail on an independent woman's life in that era, creating a complicated mystery based on real events that show Constance's ingenuity and determination, and it is great fun to read.



February 18 Fiction and Classic Book Clubs combine for a discussion of Phillip Roth's *American Pastoral*, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Seymour Levov was destined to succeed, a popular high school athlete, married a beauty queen, enlisted in the Marine Corp, and then took over the family business; he was living the good life. Then the 60's came, Vietnam tore the country apart, and his daughter Merry destroyed his certainties with her passionate beliefs and reckless actions. It is a powerful story that captures historic events and the impact when a member of the family makes tragic choices. In 2016 Ewan McGregor directed and starred in a film adaptation.



February 25 the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses *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.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

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 Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea, *Rocket Men* by Robert Kurson **Non-Fiction Book Club**

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](#)

July

American by Day by Derek Miller **Mystery Book Club**
Circling the Sun by Paula McLain **Fiction Book Club**
Common Good by Robert Reich **Non-Fiction Book Club**

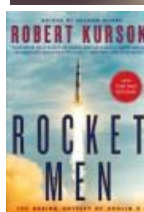
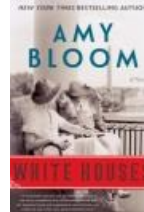
August

Greeks Bearing Gifts by Phillip Kerr **Mystery Book Club**
Almost Sisters by Joshlyn Jackson **Fiction Book Club**

September

The President is Missing by President Bill Clinton and James Patterson **Mystery Book Club**
1984 by George Orwell **Fiction & Classics Book Club Banned Book Selection**

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.