



Sunriver Books & Music

February 2013

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



February does not have any author events scheduled, that said, we have great authors coming thereafter!
Upcoming Author Appearances

5:00 PM Saturday March 9th *Fifty Places to ...* by Chris Santella (This should be a great event!)

5:00 PM **Sunday** April 21st at 5:00 PM *100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon* by Bill Sullivan

Saturday May 4th 2013 at 5:00 PM *One Glorious Ambition : The Compassionate Crusade of Dorothea Dix, A Novel* by Jane Kirkpatrick

Sunday May 5th 2013 at 11:30 Jane Kirkpatrick's Newberry Habitat for Humanity Walk, Tickets cost \$10.00.

5:00 PM Saturday May 25th by *The Barbed Crown* by William Dietrich

5:00 PM Saturday June 1st *The Missing Italian Girl: A Mystery in Paris* by Barbara Corrado Pope

5:00 PM Saturday June 15th at 5:00 PM *Sleight of Hand* by Phillip Margolin

5:00 PM Saturday September 14th *The Ship In The Hill* by William Sullivan

Watch the event calendar for Craig Johnson in July!

Check our website, sunriverbooks.com, for more information on upcoming authors as they are scheduled.

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.

Staff Recommendations

Lori Gascon recommends.



The Drowning House By Elizabeth Black. The sultry, stormy June weather in Galveston, Texas is the influential backdrop to this dramatic debut novel.

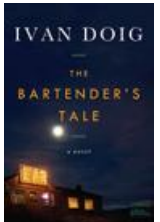
Clare Porterfield is an aspiring photographer, coming back home to Galveston to do an exhibit of her hometown's history and the influence and power of the wealthy Carraday Family. At the center of many town stories is the Carraday house and how it survived the terrible storm of 1900, and the drowning death of the beautiful young Stella Carraday. Descendants Will Carraday and his family have continued to live in the house, a popular tourist attraction, and were Clare's neighbors while she was growing up, she being best friends with son Patrick. The two kids, she with her brownie camera and a penchant for snooping, and Patrick, with a hidden embarrassment of his family's money, were considered troublemakers. Their antics lead to the accidental death of a young girl resulting in each being sent away to live with other relatives. They have not seen each other in many years when Clare returns to Galveston for the photo work. Patrick is reluctant to see her again, and she does not understand why.

Clare has been managing the grief of losing her daughter, while letting go of a failing marriage. She has never really been close with her mother and sister, her father has passed away some years ago, and so Clare falls back on her snoop, inquisitive self to deal with the past. Why is her mother anxious for Clare to leave? Why do people in town seem to know things about her life that she herself doesn't? Events from the past are uncovered that have to do with the neighboring Carradays and her own life. In her research of old local photos, she discovers a dark and disturbing secret about the Carradays, and the real truth of Stella's death and the stories surrounding it.

The weather seems to predict the events and emotions of the story, and the final climax of the novel comes when the worst storm of the season is in full swing. The story has an interesting, well-written plot with descriptions that put you right there with the characters; it kept me reading to the end.

Deon recommends.

The Bartender's Tale by Ivan Doig. Rusty spends his first six years being tormented by his obnoxious cousins while living with his aunt in Arizona. Rusty's origins are a bit murky. His father is charismatic Tom Harry, a bar tender par excellent in Gros Vetre Montana. The only thing Rusty knows about his Mom is that she is gone. Tom rescues Rusty from his spiteful cousins and he settles into a bachelor's life with his dad in a big old house behind the bar in the remote Montana town. It is a pretty good life, uncomplicated and harmonious, father and son looking out for each other. All goes swimmingly until Rusty turns twelve and Proxy, an old flame of Tom's, hits town with her teenage daughter. Is the daughter Rusty's sister? And what will happen now to Rusty's idyllic life with Tom? Ivan Doig's lyrical prose, wry humor, and rich storytelling are a treasure. You go Ivan!



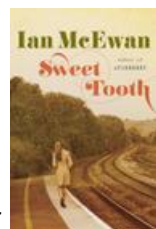
Deon Recommends recent releases.

The Twelve Tribes of Hattie by Ayana Mathis is a powerful story. Hattie came of age in a state and time when a white man could take anything he wanted from a black man, including his life. Like many others, she fled north with her mother and sister, seeking safety and the chance for a better life. Hattie is just 15 when life teaches her these lessons, 16 when her twin babies die in her arms. She bears 9 more babies and fiercely teaches them the realities of life. Her story is told in alternating chapters through the children she raised, the trials they gave her, and the way she kept getting up and going on every time life knocked her down. This is the story of a woman's strength and determination, it is the story of children yearning for soft in a world full of hard angles, and the story of a nation as it wrestled with the oppression of blacks and their striving to achieve equality in a world that judged by the color of skin. Also consider reading the non fiction **Warmth of Other Suns** by Isabel Wilkerson, the story of the black migration away from the south in search of better lives. Wilkerson was the first black woman in history to win the Pulitzer Prize for journalism.



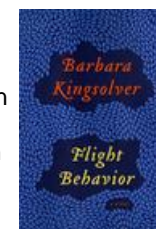
White Dog Fell From The Sky by Eleanor Morse. It was not difficult to get on the wrong side of the authorities in 1976 South Africa if you are black; in fact it is very easy. Isaac Mutherthe, a young medical student, witnessed the murder of his friend by authorities, now his life is in jeopardy and he must flee into neighboring Botswana leaving his family behind. Isaac meets two special beings in Botswana; white dog and Alice Mendelssohn. Without papers or prospects his options are few. Isaac is fortunate to find work as a gardener. Alice sees that Isaac is a bright young man; she intuits that he is in some kind of trouble; and forges a friendship with her young gardener. When he goes missing Alice refuses to believe that Isaac abandoned his job, she searches for him learning truths about herself and Africa that will change her life. Luminous writing, a poignant story, and moments of grace make this a sure bet to be one of my favorites in 2013.

Sweet Tooth by Ian McEwan. In 1972 MI5 has a splendid idea, find and cultivate a few tame authors. Serena is Brit upper class, her Dad a Bishop and her Mom the perfect wife. Drifting through life reading novels, appeals to young Serena. She wants to study English but Mum is not about to let her throw away her natural aptitude for math. With a little parental maneuvering Serena is enrolled in Cambridge studying math. A pretty girl, she becomes the lover of a professor whose secondary occupation is a spy, he arranges an interview. Serena is a voracious reader, now MI5 has the perfect girl to infiltrate literary circles and groom authors. Full of all the twists and turns a spy novel should possess, the story also has a wry sense of humor and fun. If you liked *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn, give this a try.



The Aviator's Wife by Melanie Benjamin. Flitting across oceans in bright silver planes seems quite ordinary today, but until May 20th 1927 it had never been done. Charles Lindbergh, a fearless and precise young man conquered the air and launched himself into history. His life was forever changed, crowds mobbed him wherever he went, and riots started because people just wanted to be near him. Anne Morrow was the shy, bookish daughter of the US Ambassador to Mexico when she met Lindbergh. From the first, he challenged her and expanded her horizons. Many of the main issues of their lives are well known history; Charles' historic flight, the kidnapping of their first child, and their unfortunate political beliefs in WWII, but there is a lot more to Anne Lindbergh's story. She learned to fly, navigated planes with her famous husband, acted as his co-pilot, was the first American woman to earn a glider pilot's license, was hurtled off mountains in gliders, traveled the world, oh my gosh did this woman live! **The Aviator's Wife** is Anne Morrow Lindbergh's story, and it is fascinating.

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver. Dellarobia's future was settled in high school; teen age hormones and an unplanned pregnancy cut short her plans for college. Cub did the right thing, manned up, married Dellarobia, and took her home to the family farm. He is a faithful, good hearted husband, but cowed by his parents, reluctant to stand up for himself, happy to spend his evenings in front of the TV. A decade later Dellarobia has two children she adores and a life that feels wrong. Bowed down by poverty and the disapproving oversight of her in-laws, she relieves her yearning with flirtations, something to get the pulse racing. Everything changes when a sky of golden orange covers the hillside; millions of Monarch butterflies carpet the forest in orange flame. It is a sight that evokes wonder and awe, a moment of grace. Their arrival is claimed by the church as an act of God, by the scientist who arrives to study them as a cataclysmic disaster, and by her father in-law as an inconvenience to his plans on clear cutting the hillside. The story illustrates timely themes as everyone reacts to the butterflies through the filter of their station in life; science, religion, and the poor hill people most invested in staying afloat themselves.



Three Graves Full by Jamie Mason. It would do you well, if you are contemplating murder, to give some thought to the disposition of the body. Of course Jason Getty wasn't planning a murder when, pushed over the edge, he killed a man, nor did he realize when he planted his stiff in the backyard that the property might have more skeletons already in residence. Jason feels pretty confident hiring gardeners to tidy up the yard around the house, he has them working well away from his little secret in the backyard, but they find graves anyway. Two of them. Both are a total shock to Jason. Detective Bayard doesn't know why Jason keeps occupying his thoughts, the bodies in both graves were there well before Jason owned the property, but something is not right about the guy. Jason is not sure what to do about his undiscovered corpse. A chaotic mix of colorful characters, an entertaining plot, and dark humor make this a lot of fun to read.

The Roots Of The Olive Tree by Courtney Miller Santo. Women in the Keller family tend to live a long time, many years give abundant opportunity to make mistakes. Five generations of the Keller women live in the family home on an olive orchard in the lush Sacramento Valley. Matriarch Anna is 112, determined to be the oldest person alive, and the odds look good for succeeding. Dr. Hashmi wants to discover what makes the women live so long, but his research may reveal secrets they would just as soon keep hidden.



A Good American by Alex George releases in paperback this month. **A Good American** is the choice for the bookseller's book club at the American Booksellers Association's Winter Institute, it is the book booksellers choose to discuss. A great swath of American history is let loose in this beguiling tome. And it all starts in a garden in Germany where Fredrick lurks behind a hedge preparing to serenade his ladylove Jette. It is not a union smiled upon by Jette's social climbing mother. She forbids them contact so they go underground and soon are fleeing the mother's wrath heading for the New World. Narrated by James, their grandson, the story is an endearing and insightful family drama with a full cast of entertaining extras including jazz musicians, nefarious bartenders and a malevolent dwarf.

Staff Recommendations for books Recently Released in Paperback.

Nancy Nelson recommends.

Lone Wolf by Jodi Picoult. Lone Wolf is both the story of a family trying to cope with the consequences of a terrible accident and Luke Warren's story about wolves and how they impacted his life. Each chapter is told from the perspective of a family member interspersed with Luke's narrative. Luke is a wolf naturalist; his daughter Cara describes him as "being a wolf". Luke left his family behind going off into the forests of Canada with the hopes of being accepted by a wolf pack. He was gone for roughly 2 years, living among wolves most of the time. Luke and his wife divorce, Cara goes to live with her father. A tragic accident leaves Cara badly hurt and Luke on life support with traumatic brain injury. Cara hopes for a miracle to save her father while her brother wants life support disconnected. The family grapples with both their personal relationships and the consequences of choices made rashly. Meanwhile Luke continues to tell his story about wolf packs, their hierarchy, their interdependence and self sacrifice for the sake of the pack. I was interested from beginning to end. Picoult had a great deal to say about both wolf and human behavior. I highly recommend this book.



Deon recommends.



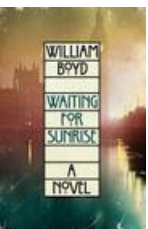
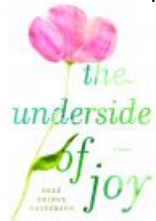
Contents May Have Shifted by Pam Houston was #1 on my Fiction Top Ten List for 2012. Pam Houston is one of my favorite authors; her writing has such clarity and passion. She has a pitch perfect western voice inspired and sent soaring by vast untamable landscapes. Tall white mountains, fast rushing rivers, and meadows erupting in wildflowers come to life so strongly in her books that you feel like you are walking those trails too, stepping right into the story. It is a rare gift to write so vividly that the reader is transported into another place, Pam has the gift. **Contents May Have Shifted** is a series of vignettes that take the reader careening around the globe; hiking in the high country, rafting rivers, dealing with faithless love, finding strength in the loyal bonds of friends, and discovering happiness too. The stories range in setting from Bhutan to Bend Oregon. The vignettes are the linked stories of a woman's life. They give brief glimpses into the cares and pleasures of a woman facing the sorts of challenges that pepper her lifetime. She struggles with a love that cannot be true, discovers a love that might be true but has complications, hops planes to fantastic destinations, walks on the wild side, and shares her adventurous nature and wry sense of humor. She has a cadre of friends, funny and wise, who give an outstanding example of the value of friendship. The format is daring, vignettes of a life, but ultimately a lot of fun to read. It works; the reader is carried through the story gleefully by the narrator.

In One Person by John Irving was #4 on my Fiction Top Ten list of 2012. This is an important book on a subject that bears notice. Why do we make it so hard for each other? Why do we put people in boxes, dictate what they are by the vagaries of their sexual orientation? Am I defined by being a straight female? I don't think so. I am so much more than that. And so are the characters in Irving's brave book, there sexual identity just one aspect of complex, loving people. Billy, the bi-sexual narrator of the story, comes of age in a small Vermont town where he grapples with his sexual identity and feels the disapproval of his once loving mother. Billy travels, falls in and out of love, and grows older. He matures into the kind of person who would be a wonderful friend, someone thoughtful and understanding. A plague hits the gay community, good people dying cruel deaths in staggering numbers, with Billy there to bear witness to the waste. Billy is a likeable narrator and Irving's trademark humor is not absent from this poignant story. There is a line in the book that feels so right. "...please don't put a label on me – don't make me a category before you get to know me!"



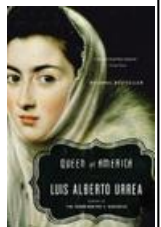
Truth Like The Sun by Jim Lynch was #5 on my Top Ten Fiction list of 2012. Seattle is one of the world's most beautiful cities and **Truth Like The Sun** reads like a love song to the spectacular, jaw dropping beauty, the vitality, the over the top outrageous glory of the place. The 1962 World's Fair put the spotlight on Seattle, a city so overwhelmed by staggering natural beauty it dazzles no matter which direction you look. Roger is in love with this glorious city, the World's Fair is his creation. He hangs out with Elvis, greets Prince Phillip, and chats up LBJ. Roger is an idea man, a promoter, bursting with dreams for his city and the energy to make them come true. Fast forward to 2001 and Roger is still in love with his city, but he knows it could be so much more! He is tired of being behind the scenes, being the power behind the throne; he steps out front and center in a run for mayor. Helen was hired by the Seattle PI, the Pulitzer fuels her daydreams. Taking down charismatic Roger just might be her ticket to the big time. You cannot stay active in city politics and back room deals for forty years and stay clean. Roger's closets have to house a few skeletons and Helen intends to find them, in whatever sorry form available. Lynch has written this entertaining and thought provoking book like a celebration of a city. Seattle truly is that beautiful with white capped mountains in every direction you look, lots of blue water bedazzled by diamonds in the sun, and seductively lush green gardens that bloom in a riot of color come spring. Roger is a pretty cool guy, hang out with him at the fair for a while and revisit the past, it is closer than you think

The Underside of Joy by Sere Prince Halvorsen. Ella finds her piece of paradise in the Redwood forest when she stops on a drive north in a small town and meets Joe. They set off fireworks right from the start. Joe's wife has left him alone with their two adorable toddlers. Ella fits right into the family, she has always wanted children and she loves the little boy and girl fiercely. Joe calls her Ella Bella and makes her believe in forever. His sudden death shatters her joyful home. She realizes they never talked about the hard stuff; his failing business, the children's biological mother, the sorry state of their finances. Their little Eden had secrets, now the subjects they avoided are coming home to roost.



Waiting For Sunrise by William Boyd. Lysander travels from England to Vienna to undergo therapy; it is all the rage now for curing problems of an intimate nature. He meets Hettie in his analyst's office. If ever a woman signified bad news and trouble it is Hettie, she is practically a walking advertisement for the sort of woman who will lead a man to ruin. Lysander is oblivious; he embarks on a passionate affair with Hettie that ends when she has him arrested for rape. Rescued from jail by a pair of diplomats from the British Embassy, he is aided in fleeing the country. But their help does not come without consequences. With WWI in full swing, Lysander finds his past putting demands on his future. Those helpful diplomats have a few tasks for him to perform, plunging him into the world of spies and recrimination.

Queen of America by Luis Alberto Urrea is historical fiction at its best, based on the life of his great aunt Teresita. **Queen of America** starts where **The Hummingbird's Daughter** concluded with Teresita and her father fleeing their homeland in Mexico in the aftermath of the Tomochic rebellion. Peasants and believers still flock to Teresita hoping for cures to what ails them, whether she is in a hamlet in the Arizona desert, the frontier of El Paso, or in New York City. Men ride from Mexico, sent to kill Teresita, the Saint of Cabora. Her path is not easy; she makes mistakes along the way. Teresita lives her life with passion.



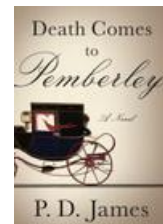
February 2013 Book Clubs

The first three book club meetings of February will concentrate on Jane Austen, an elegant wordsmith whose work has survived for over 200 years. Then the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses *The Swerve* by Stephen Greenblatt, an excellent work of history. Book clubs are a great way to get together with readers in the community for a pleasant evening discussing books. Book clubs meet Monday evenings at 6:30, everyone is welcome.



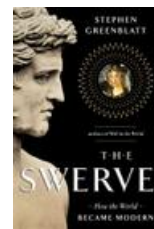
February 4th the Classics Book Club discusses *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. Is there a sprightlier opening than the beginning lines of this time treasured novel? "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife." *Pride and Prejudice* is considered one of the most entertaining and romantic of stories, a love story for the ages. Perhaps it is much more, was Jane Austen also a feminist? While *Pride and Prejudice* does tell the love stories of Jane and Mr. Bingley and Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy, it is also the story of a family, the burdens of having daughters instead of sons, and the options open to women of the era. The Bennett family has five daughters, the family home and estate will pass on the death of the father to the next male heir in line, a rather tiresome clergyman. If the daughters have not found suitable husbands by that time, they will be penniless and at the mercy of their distant relative, a precarious financial position indeed. Austen knew well of the world she creates in her stories. She lived this life, endured uncertain financial times as an unmarried woman, and lived by the generosity of her brothers. So while *Pride and Prejudice* will certainly entertain us with the love story of Darcy and Elizabeth, it will also grant a look at the realities of life in the early 1800's. As the saying goes, we've come a long way baby.

February 11th the Mystery Book Club discusses *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P.D. James. Jane Austen's novels are among my favorites; normally I do not like to see her characters used by other authors, they belong to Ms. Austen. *Death Comes To Pemberley* is the exception. P. D. James is an ardent fan of Austen's body of work as well as a gifted author in her own right. She recreates the world of *Pride and Prejudice* to perfection. The story is set six years after the marriage of Elizabeth and Mr. Darcy. They have two young sons and the degree of matrimonial happiness one expected for them. As the story opens, the Bingleys and the Darcys are dining together when a coach comes careening up the drive containing a hysterical Lydia (is there any other kind?). There has been a murder at Pemberley and of course the feckless Mr. Wickham is involved. They mystery book club should have a grand time with this selection.



February 18th the Fiction Book Club discusses the light, lively novel, *The Jane Austen Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler. Five women and one man meet monthly to discuss six books by Jane Austen. The novel takes on the recent phenomenon of book clubs, pays homage to the work of Jane Austen, and blends in the stories, often humorous, of the book club members. As the months progress, the stories of the book club members show the differences in attitude and community from the days of Austen's novels. If you enjoy Jane Austen, this is a rare opportunity to indulge in the pleasure of discussing her work, as discussed by a fictional book club of rather engaging characters. Sounds like fun.

February 25th the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses *The Swerve* by Stephen Greenblatt. It was Rich's pick for the best non-fiction book of 2011, more importantly to the author; it also won both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award. On Thursday March 7th Stephen Greenblatt will be in Bend Oregon as part of the Deschutes County Library's Author Author series. It seems like a fine time to be discussing this excellent work. Poggio Bracciolini's discovery of the lost manuscript of "On the Nature Of Things" by Lucretius, a manuscript that had been lost to the world for a thousand years, was hugely influential to the Renaissance. This was one of the most important discoveries of its age with far reaching consequences. Lucretius' powerful poem had a profound impact on many of the finest minds of their times including Galileo, Darwin, Montaigne, and Thomas Jefferson. Stephen Greenblatt is a professor of humanities at Harvard but he is also an author with a very accessible, intimate style of writing.



[Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM](#)

March 4th 2013 *Adios Hemingway* by Leonardo Fuentes Padura [Mystery Book Club](#) Hemingway Month

March 11th 2013 *Paris Wife* by Paula McClain [Fiction Book Club](#) Hemingway Month

March 18th 2013 *Farewell To Arms* by Ernest Hemingway [Classics Book Club](#) Hemingway Month

March 25th 2013 *Moveable Feast* by Ernest Hemingway [Travel Essay Book Club](#) Hemingway Month

April 1st 2013 *Snow Child* by Eowyn Ivey [Fiction Book Club](#)

April 8th 2013 *Monstrous Regiment of Women* by Laurie King [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 15th 2013 *My Antonia* by Willa Cather, [Classics Book Club](#) celebrating World Book Night on April 23rd.

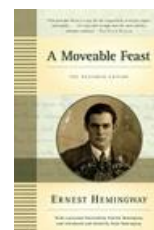
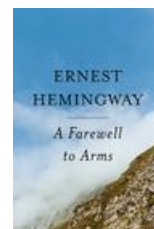
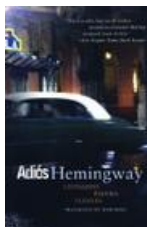
April 22nd *Great Divergence* by Timothy Noah [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

May 13th 2013 *Butterflies of the Grand Canyon* by Margaret Erhart [Mystery Book Club](#)

May 20th 2013 *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks [Fiction Book Club](#)

May 27 *The Exploration of the Colorado River And Its Canyons* by John Wesley Powell [Travel Essay](#)

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



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