



Sunriver Books & Music

February 2014

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
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February Author Events by Nancy Nelson

Saturday February 15th at 5:00 Cate Campbell will give a presentation on her latest historical novel, *Hall of Secrets*. Fans of *Downton Abbey* will enjoy the switch to a Northwestern perspective. Cate is a vivacious enthusiastic speaker who tells her story well. In *Hall of Secrets* the story of *Benedict Hall* continues. One might think that all is finally settled within the Benedict family.

Margot's cousin, Sarah Benedict comes to live with them for a while. Sarah's parents must decide her fate which is in question. Margot's mother is in a continual state of mourning over the tragic fate of her favored son. The issues of the first book continue toward a firmer resolution when the Benedict family story takes an unexpected twist. Once again we find Margot tackling the social issues of post World War I Seattle, Washington. I enjoyed reading of the sibling rivalry and the tension in this family; it is the tensions of life that motivate us to go left or right. All of the characters were interesting and I bonded with them, including the villain. This is a fascinating period, an era of great change. The sensibilities of pre-WWI are vastly different after the war. Women have had to take a much greater role; they stepped out of their cumbersome long dresses to take overt responsibility within the community and within themselves.

I liked this novel by itself; however, if you have read the first in this two-book series, then you will surely want to discover the rest of the story.

Benedict Hall the earlier novel introduces the characters and the circumstances. The story takes place shortly after WW I. Frank Parrish arrives in town, hired to work as an engineer. His would be employer upon seeing Frank is missing an arm, withdraws the job offer. Preston Benedict, a former comrade in arms, insists that Frank come to dinner, and sends his driver, Blake to retrieve him. Frank meets Margot, Preston's sister, and is very attracted to her. Preston's father arranges a job for Frank with Boeing. Margot is a doctor deeply committed to helping to bring greater equality to women. Preston is jealous of the attention and respect she gets from their father. He is ruthless in his ambitious pursuits, one of which is to destroy Margot's life. In the story the author brings out the social issues and the general attitudes of the time. The reader is treated to a full spectrum of human emotions. This story is really well written. Such a great read!

On February 22nd at 5:00 Sheri Speede will give a slide show presentation on *Kindred Beings*, her memoir about building a refuge for chimpanzees. I look forward to hearing her speak about how she established a connection with these animals and how they adapted to living in a more natural setting. I want to see the slides of the animals. I feel I have a connection through reading this story and want to see Dorothy, Jackie, Nama, and Pepe. Jacky was considered crazy, but he wasn't, he was frustrated from his imprisonment. While this is the story of the rescue of animals it is also the story of a woman whose passion for and connection to them led her to abandon a successful career to create a safe haven for these chimps. As a child and young adult, Sheri witnessed plenty of animal suffering inflicted by humans, done merely as an ordinary part of our cultural experience. It was a natural for her to study veterinary medicine. Sheri became partial owner of a veterinary practice in Portland, Oregon with a rosy future. As her need to do more to end the suffering of animals grew to a greater urgency, she sold her practice and joined an animal advocacy group. This association led her to Limbe Wildlife Center in Nigeria where she provided veterinary care primarily to young orphaned chimps, gorillas, and monkeys. The illegal trade in bush meat going on in and around Cameroon, and the sale of the orphans created as a result of the killings was sickening. Leaving all that was familiar in Portland, she moved to the exotic, remote jungles of Cameroon. Urgency became desperation when Sheri and her associate, Estelle found chimpanzees who had spent many years in cages or chains, offered up at hotels as tourist attractions. Freeing them was complicated, but once that happened, she and the people of the nearby village witnessed the blossoming of these animals that were so very human-like. I was touched by the change in the self confidence in the chimps but most especially in Dorothy. She went from being traumatized and withdrawn to realizing her potential as an individual. The stories in this book, made me laugh, made me cry, made me experience a rainbow of feelings. These chimps could have been human if you did not know who you were reading about. Sheri Speede says "From knowing Chimpanzees I have learned to live more honestly and vulnerably." In her books she shares this feeling with her readers.



Sign up to attend these free events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. We will have drawings for prizes and light refreshments.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday March 15th 2014 **The Free** by Willy Vlautin
Saturday March 29th 2013 at 5:00 PM **Worthy Brown's Daughter** by Phillip Margolin
Sunday April 6th 2014 at 5:00 PM **Friday's Harbor** by Diane Hammond
Saturday April 12th 2014 at 5:00 PM **The Dismal Science** by Peter Mountford
Saturday May 10th 2014 at 5:00 PM **Oregon For The Curious** by William Sullivan
Saturday May 17th 2014 at 5:00 PM **The Three Emperors** by William Dietrich
Saturday September 13th at 5:00 PM Jane Kirkpatrick.

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

Nancy Recommends



Perfect, by Rachael Joyce.. It is 1972 in Great Britain. Byron Hemmings and James Lowe are friends, two boys attending private schools with plans of continuing their education at one of the more elite universities. The story begins with Byron's great concern regarding a phenomenon he heard about from James. According to James, 2 seconds have been added to time because it is a leap year. This terrifies Byron. Then his mother accidentally hits a little girl on a bike. She is completely unaware of her mistake. Byron believes that her inability to see what happened is because of the 2 seconds. So, he and his friend James come up with a plan to protect her from knowing, from having to address what happened and the consequences of that awareness. Once she learns the truth, life is never the same. Byron's perfect life, and his perfect mother begin to fall apart. In Byron's world there is little room for forgiveness and understanding. The parallel story, happening many years later, is about Jim. He has spent a large portion of his life at Besley Hill, an institution for the mentally ill. Then, one day Besley Hill closes its doors, leaving the former residents to their own resources. As the story telling flips back and forth between 1972 and about 20 years later, eventually the past and the present come together leaving hope and understanding where once that was lost.



Under The Wide And Starry Sky by Nancy Horan. The year is 1875. Fannie de Grift Osbourne has become weary of her husband Sam's philandering ways. She has secured from him money and a promise of monthly support. Soon after she and her children arrive in Antwerp. Fannie has high hopes of attending the Royal Academy of Fine Art there. Much to her dismay, the school does not accept female students. Disappointment and tragedy bring Fannie and her brood to Paris. There she meets Robert Louis Stevenson, known as "Louis" to his friends. Though he is young, many years younger than Fannie, he finds himself quite smitten with her. Fannie's husband, in the meantime, convinces her to return with him to Monterey, California. The story goes back and forth between Fannie's life and Louis's. We are told that Louis has spent most of his childhood as a near invalid with severe lung problems. Thus he spent his younger years creatively, making up adventure stories, playing with his mind where his body could not participate. His health is an issue with which he must struggle all of his life. Nevertheless, he follows Fannie, fully believing that he can win her over, knowing that she and her husband do not love one another. As their story continues, so does their tumultuous relationship. This is a book that left me a bit breathless, happy to have been able to take that life journey with these two incredibly creative interesting people.

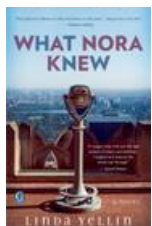


In Falling Snow by Mary Rose McColl. Iris is an elderly Australian woman who appears to have lived a peaceful and uncomplicated life. She and her husband Al have raised their daughter Rose. When Rose died, they raised their granddaughter, Claire. Claire grew up to become a doctor, as well as wife and Mom. She is completely unaware of her grandmother's history, and therefore of her place in that past. Then the memories surface when Iris receives an invitation to attend a reunion at the field hospital, Royamount, in France, which she helped to establish. The story presents Claire's life, intermittently returning to Iris's memory of those times,. Iris had traveled to France with the intention of bringing her little brother Tom home. Tom had run away at the age of 15 to enlist in fighting with the British, lying about his age. On route, she met Dr. Frances Ivens. This very charismatic person convinced Iris to help her to convert a French abbey into a hospital to be run entirely by women. It was there that Iris found her strengths. She became the administrator of the hospital, indispensable to the medical director, Frances. In the meantime, Tom continued to function as a British soldier. Iris returned home with baby Rose near the end of the war. The book brings out circumstances of great courage and dedication. Iris's past reaches into the present to touch Claire's life in unexpected ways. Great story!



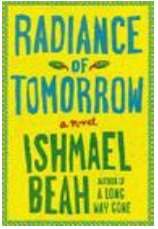
The Winter People by Jennifer McMahon. This book goes back and forth through time periods, from the early 1900's when a horrific murder rocks the small community to present day when a woman goes missing in the same place. The story is told through the perspective of various characters as the time periods shift. There are several twists and turns from the beginning when young Sara comes upon her school friend walking in the woods, a friend who was buried two weeks ago. I think the characters come alive with the wonderful telling of this story. I happily recommend this book to all readers.

Sue Recommends.

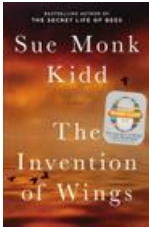


WHAT NORA KNEW by Linda Yellin. Molly Hallberg has frustrations and fun finding out that Nora Ephron's work was not just about having fun, but also courage to jump into uncomfortable situations and enjoy her life as it comes. I knew what the end would be, but enjoyed it anyway. Just like Sleepless in Seattle or You've Got Mail (Molly's favorite movies). Since those are her favorite movies and Nora is one of her favorite authors, she should have caught on earlier, but like most of us she had her idea of what life should be. A fun, well written read that I really enjoyed.

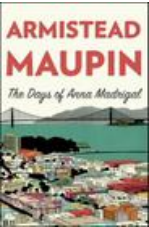
Staff Recommendations. Deon Recommends



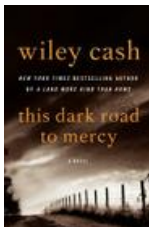
Radiance of Tomorrow by Ishmael Beah should be one of the best books of the year. Beah's prose is lush and beautiful, drawing the reader into a story both devastating and uplifting. What happens after true evil destroys a country? It is a question the world seems to need asking again, and again, and again. Nazi Germany, Pol Pot's Killing Fields in Cambodia, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone. Beah wrote a moving memoir of the carnage, **A Long Way Gone**. **Radiance of Tomorrow** deals with what comes after. How do people confront what they have endured and move on? Beah creates such memorable characters! Mama Kadie who walks home to the ruins of her village on the ancient paths. *"Kadie almost never walked on the roads. She did so only when there was no path. She believed in the knowledge of her great-grandparents, who had made the paths and knew the land better than these foreigners who just get into their machines and carve roads into the earth without thinking about where the land breathes, where it sleeps, where it wakes, where it entertains spirits, where it wants the sun or the shade of a tree."* Papa Moiwa tends to the bones scattered everywhere, gently and with respect finding them places to rest. Benjamin and Bockarie are school teachers, hoping for a better tomorrow. The characters feel so real they will break your heart while they make you hope for the future.



The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd. Sarah and Angelina Grimke were real women, sisters born into slave owning Southern aristocracy who shocked their family and neighbors with their abolitionist passion. Sue Monk Kidd crafts a compelling story around these fascinating women, starting in 1803 on Sarah's eleventh birthday when she tries to turn down the gift of her first slave, Hetty Handful Grimke. Told from both Sarah and Hetty's perspectives, from their childhood days in the south until Sarah and Angelina are prominent abolitionists in the north. There are moving and poignant moments in the novel, such as Hetty sneaking into her master's study to look at his ledger and find out her value. Listed right there with the furniture and other goods are the prices of the live individuals, the slaves. Kidd blends fictional characters with real figures from history. I admired these women; they stood up for their beliefs, eschewing a life of luxury in order to do something with their lives, in order to make a difference. Independent thinkers of the best sort, they could see firsthand the pain, humiliation, and evil of slavery. Not willing to accept the ways of their people, they spoke out.



The Days of Anna Madrigal by Armistead Maupin is a delight to read. Armistead Maupin's **Tales of the City** series has enchanted me from the first book. Who wouldn't want to live in this neighborhood? He has such great concepts, like having no choice on your biological family, but everyone gets to choose a "logical family". At the center of Maupin's fictional "logical family" is Anna Madrigal, now 92, a bit unsteady on her pins and frail but still the center of this quirky, lovely group of people. Anna was one of the pioneers in changing genders, but it took her a while to become who she was always meant to be. As time goes on, she feels a need to revisit Winnemucca Nevada, the home of her youth, to go back in time to acknowledge her past and the secrets too long hidden therein. Michael, Ben, Shawna, Jake and Amos are also heading into the dry flats of Nevada, to Black Rock Desert for the 60,000 strong Burning Man, a city with no cell phones, no news, no commerce, just art that will live for one week until it all goes up in fire. It is always a treat to read about this community, where what you are does not matter nearly as much as who you are. As Anna Madrigal says, *"You cannot be loved by someone who doesn't want to know you"*.



This Dark Road to Mercy by Wiley Cash. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. The Dark Road to Mercy is paved with a few too. Easter and Ruby learn early that life can be a struggle; they made do with little in the way of creature comforts. Their Mother loved them; she just suffered from poor taste in men and a weakness for masking her pain. Easter is twelve years old when their Mother died; as they adjust to life in state care Easter stays beside her little sister. It has been years since the little girls last saw their Daddy, Wade, a minor league baseball player and full time maker of questionable decisions. Wade wants to turn over a new leaf, do right by his daughters. The state is less than eager to hand over the children he abandoned, so again Wade takes the easy road spiriting his daughters away in the middle of the night. Trouble is, Wade made another questionable decision when he took a bundle of cash from the wrong man, someone willing to send a goon after him with violent intentions. Robert Pruitt has a history with Wade, not a good history, he is happy to take on the job helping Wade depart the earth prematurely. If there are little girls involved, well Pruitt is not squeamish. All that cash was from a heist the cops are eager to solve, but no one is too interested in the missing little girls, other than their court appointed guardian, Brady. The story shifts from these varying perspectives. Easter's voice rings bright and true. And you can't help having sympathy for Wade, even as you shake your head at the choices he makes. Wiley Cash is a master at writing stories about people living on the edge, trying to get by and in the process creating chaos.



Jeeves and the Wedding Bells by Sebastian Faulks. P.G. Wodehouse created memorable characters in Jeeves and Wooster, the brilliant butler with a solution to every mishap and the bumbling aristocrat prone to getting himself into many a sticky wicket. I have read and enjoyed all of P. G. Wodehouse's hilarious Jeeves and Wooster stories. It is a real treat to see them in the pages of a new novel. Sebastian Faulks' homage is highly entertaining and written in a style compatible with the original, I think P.G. Wodehouse would be pleased to see Jeeves and Wooster out and about again after all these years. All the familiar elements are here; a love affair stymied, miscommunications leading to hilarious consequences, and a contretemps that only Jeeves can solve.



The Ascendant by Drew Chapman. Garrett Reilly has a gift; he is a genius with numbers, spotting any pattern, even those cleverly hidden. A rising star on Wall Street, he alienates some of his more experienced colleagues with the easy way he makes money and his unmasked gusto over his financial kills. When he spots a pattern involving billions of dollars of US Treasury Bonds, at first he just sees a golden opportunity to fatten his wallet. But billions of US Treasury Bonds being dumped have sinister consequences, soon Garrett is in demand with the spy guys of the US Military while other forces seem bent on ridding the planet of his presence. Fast paced with plenty of twists and turns.

February 2014 Book Clubs.



February 3rd the Mystery Book Club will go back in time to an era rife with intrigue and betrayal. **Malice of Fortune** by Michael Ennis is a moody, tantalizing mystery set in Italy during the days of the Borgias, Niccolo Machiavelli, and Leonardo da Vinci. If you like rich complicated mysteries populated with some of the most fascinating figures in history, this is just the ticket: body parts found in odd places; mysterious victims; Caesar Borgia on the cusp of a deal with the Florentines; crimes that muddle with political maneuvering. It all makes for a fascinating, elegant page turner that keeps you guessing to the very end. **Malice of Fortune** by Michael Ennis is not to be missed!



February 10th the Fiction Book Club discusses a novel that is both entertaining and ambitious in its scope, **Moloka'i** by Alan Brennert. Setting a novel in Molokai's leper colony, conveying the horrors of the disease and the deprivations suffered by those afflicted, while still telling a story that is uplifting, engaging, and ultimately hopeful is a challenge. Brennert succeeds beautifully. The reader meets Rachel Kalama as a happy, boisterous child, beloved by both her parents. Young Rachel's father is a sailor, bringing each of his children home gifts from far off places when he returns to port in Honolulu. Rachel's gifts are dolls; she treasures her collection and dreams of visiting the places her father has been. It is a dream will be overcome by a nightmare as Rachel develops a sore that does not heal and does not feel pain. In the late 1800's the Board of Health ferreted out those suspected of leprosy, confining them to Kalaupapa on a remote corner of the Island of Molokai to await their death. Rachel is only 7 when she is ripped from her family, sent to the leper colony. Rachel's life spans a lot of history, Brennert brings the reader to care for this character as he allows her to grow, learn to cope with her affliction with grace, and do her best to live her days to the fullest. This is a very enjoyable story to read, engrossing and enlightening at the same time.



February 17th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses **Educating Alice: Adventures of a Curious Woman** by Alice Steinbach. The Pulitzer Prize winning journalist so enjoyed her yearlong sabbatical to Europe described in **Without Reservations** that she decided to paint on a bigger canvas, have a grander adventure. Quitting her job on the Baltimore Sun, Alice heads out to far off places. As in her earlier book, Alice combines her travels with learning. She attends a cooking school in France, learns to herd sheep with a Border Collie in Scotland, and takes in a geisha meeting in Japan. She travels to Havana, immersing herself in Cuban culture. In England she tours the land of Jane Austen. Everywhere she goes, Alice stays involved and open to her experiences. Her writing style is lively and her books are a lot of fun.



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

March 3rd 2014 **Drood** by Dan Simmons [Fiction Book Club](#)
March 17th 2014 **Bleak House** by Charles Dickens [Classics Book Club](#)
March 24th 2014 **Solitary House** by Lynn Shepard [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 7th Fiction Book Club discusses **The Dog Stars** by Peter Heller Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea
April 14th 2014 In anticipation of World Book Night, **After the Funeral** by Agatha Christie [Mystery Book Club](#)
April 21 In anticipation of World Book Night, **Where'd You Go Bernadette** by Maria Semple [Fiction Book Club](#)

May 5th 2014 **My Beloved World** by Sonia Sotomayor [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
May 12th 2014 **The Gods of Gotham** by Lindsay Faye [Mystery Book Club](#)
May 19th 2014 **The Rosetta Key** by William Dietrich Author led discussion. [Fiction Book Club](#)

June 2nd 2014 **The Poet** by Michael Connelly [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
June 19th 2014 **The Delectable Mountains** by Michael Malone [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
June 16th 2014 **Nothing Daunted** by Dorothy Wickenden [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
June 23rd 2014 **Plainsong** by Kent Haruf [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)

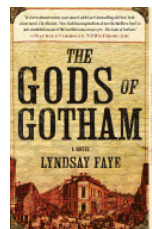
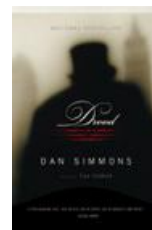
July 14th 2014 **The Count of Monte Cristo** by Alexandre Dumas [Fiction Book Club](#)
July 21st 2014 **The Black Count** by Tom Reiss [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
July 28th 2014 **The Case of the Missing Servant** by Tarquin Hall [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 11th 2014 **The Execution of Noa P. Singleton** by Elizabeth Silver [Mystery Book Club](#)
August 18th 2014 **Beloved** by Toni Morrison [Fiction Book Club](#)

9-1-14 **The Sunday Philosophy Club** by Alexander McCall Smith [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
September 8th 2014 **Letters From Skye** by Jessica Brockmole [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
September 15th 2014 **Kidnapped** by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
September 22nd **A Journey To The Western Islands of Scotland and the Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides** by Samuel Johnson and James Boswell [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)

October 6th 2014 **Zorro** by Isabel Allende [Fiction Book Club](#) [Banned Book Selection](#)
October 13th 2014 **The Light In The Ruins** by Chris Bohjalian [Mystery Book Club](#)
October 20th 2014 **Midnight's Children** by Salman Rushdie [Classics Book Club](#)

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