



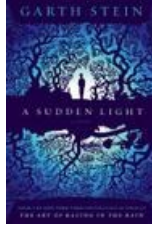
Sunriver Books & Music

February 2015

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com

541-593-2525



Garth Stein is one of the most beloved and popular authors of our time, Saturday February 14th we have the honor of presenting him at 5:00 PM at the SHARC, Sunriver's excellent event facility. We are grateful Sunriver has such a wonderful facility to show this talented author! ***The Art of Racing In The Rain***, spent an amazing 3 years on the New York Times Best Seller's List, since 2008 we have all been eagerly awaiting the next novel from Garth Stein. ***A Sudden Light*** more than rewards us. It was my pick for the best work of fiction in 2014 and our Fiction Book Club voted it their favorite of 2014 by a wide margin.

Set on a decaying estate north of Seattle, the story combines historical detail with a riveting tale of a young boy coming of age during a period of great turmoil for his family. Garth Stein wields magical realism like an enchanted sword, somewhere Gabriel Garcia Marques is smiling.

Trevor is 14 when his world implodes. His parents are broke and estranged; their home in Connecticut gone. Mom left for her native Cornwall and Trevor's Dad is taking his son to their ancestral home in Puget Sound. Trevor is sullen and withdrawn when he is gob-smacked by the sheer, immense beauty of the land of his forebearers. Jagged snow covered mountains, enormous trees, the changing colors of the white capped waters of Puget Sound, overwhelming.

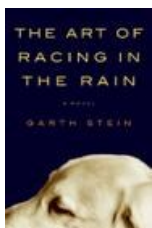
This is Trevor's first visit to the immense, neglected mansion of his Grandfather. The plan is to place his Grandfather, in the early stages of dementia, into a reputable facility then sell the two hundred acre forested estate with the decaying old mansion thus curing his father's financial ills, setting free his enigmatic aunt Serena, and making possible a brighter future for himself (Trevor hopes also healing the breach between his parents). Complications ensue. Trevor finds his aunt complicated and dangerous. Grandpa Samuel isn't so straightforward either.

In the Northwest his family name meant power and wealth, in the early years the Riddells were timber barons, logging vast swaths of the pristine forests, all that remains by the 1990's is the family estate Trevor's father and aunt seek to sell. What is our responsibility to family, to our ancestors, to promises made, to the land that embraces us? Heady questions for a sad teenage boy. Questions the other occupant of Riddell House waits for Trevor to face. The Ghost of his great-uncle Ben resides in the old mansion too, bound there until an obligation is fulfilled. Trevor confronts these issues alone, Mom is far away, and Dad is battling his own demons as secrets from the past engulf on him. As Ben's approaches to Trevor become more direct the teen realizes his faith must come from within. We are all connected, the past, the present, those we love now, those who walked before us, all living with the consequences of the decisions made, all responsible to walk gently on the earth.

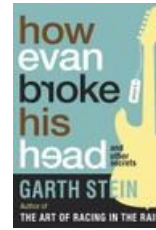
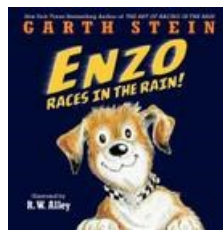
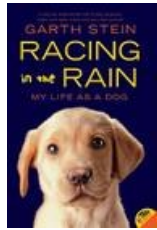
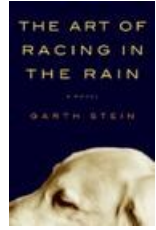
A Sudden Light may have a charismatic ghost but the story encompasses so much more. It is filled with history of the Pacific Northwest, a wonderful work of historic fiction skillfully blending real events with imagined to give a compelling look at a majestic land. The family journey is epic, generations touching generations, the sins of the fathers visited on their progeny. There is compelling mystery as Trevor uncovers the secrets haunting his family. When the obligations of the past meet the desires of the future in the hands of a confused teenage boy this novel shines.

The authors who live through history, those we remember, take us new places with each book. ***Great Expectations*** and ***Bleak House*** share the wit and beautiful prose of Charles Dickens, but are very different stories, with different characters, atmosphere and plot. Over a century later Dickens is still a name known well by passionate readers. Garth Stein's body of work shares this trait, the stories are each unique, yet they all share the graceful prose he brings so seamlessly to the page. I would be remiss if I did not mention Garth's other novels in case you have not read them.

The Art of Racing In The Rain is an award winner and an International Best Seller, spending 3 years on the New York Time's Best Seller List. Sometimes if you are very lucky fate gives you a special friend. Denny's friend Enzo will stand by him through some of the best and worst times of his life, his faith in Denny bone deep. Enzo is a dog with a very old soul; he looks at Denny seeing all that is good, a man full of the possibilities of life. Denny has magic in his hands; a race driver with natural talent. Deft hands, hair trigger reactions, and ferocious courage can only take you so far. Life changes direction in a heartbeat. Who knows what is around the next bend? Denny's heart change is Eve, a woman he loves with all his being. Together they build a life in Seattle; Denny finds work in an upscale car repair shop. Their family soon includes a cherished daughter. Life may be about to take another curve. Denny's life turns down dark alleys, but Enzo is right by his side, always steadfast, ready to help, his belief in Denny unwavering. ***The Art of Racing in the Rain*** is poignant, funny, and highly relevant to life; who we are, who we are willing to become, and what we will countenance to achieve our goals. There are life lessons on the pages; believing in yourself, really listening to one another, cherishing those close to you, and sometimes being willing to risk it all!



Enzo is such a beloved character that Garth Stein, a devoted father, wrote ***Racing in the Rain*** for adolescents, the story of a loyal dog who yearned to be a race car driver, and shared his adventures with humor. It is a favorite of our young readers! ***Enzo Races In The Rain*** released October 2014, a funny picture book for children, sure to delight.



How Evan Broke His Head and Other Secrets is another award winning story set in the Northwest. Evan is a rock musician, thirty years old, still avoiding responsibility for his life, worried that he is a one song wonder. Epilepsy complicates his life. Garth Stein's sister suffers from the disease, in his career as a documentary filmmaker he showed the struggle of those afflicted with epilepsy. He brings this knowledge to the story of Evan with respect and empathy. Evan's father is a noted surgeon, upset by his son's drift less navigation of life. His parents live in the quiet upscale Magnolia neighborhood of Seattle. In his teens Evan had a child, a son he has never met. The child's mother has died; it is finally time for Evan to grow up. The story moves from Yakima, to Seattle, to Walla Walla taking the reader into the music scene and into the life of a young man learning to be a father. **How Evan**

Broke His Head and Other Secrets is about the choices we make in life, the consequences they bear, and whether we get a chance to re-write our life's script.

Raven Stole The Moon blends the folklore of Garth Stein's Tlingit heritage with the story of a Seattle woman whose son dies in a boating accident on vacation in Alaska. Two years after the drowning death of her son Robert, Jenna feels compelled to return to Alaska, the scene of his death. Leaving her husband in Seattle, she heads north. Garth uses the natural beauty of the landscape almost as a character in the story, making the reader feel they are on the journey right along with Jenna. Feeling vulnerable and alone in her grief, Jenna's journey must be to one of strength and connection with those she loves. On the ferry to Alaska she is given a kushtaka charm of a Tlingit spirit. Soon it will have greater significance for her.

Please sign up early to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com, or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Events with Garth Stein are a real pleasure! He is not only a brilliantly talented author and a wonderful person; he is also a great entertainer! We will have refreshments and drawings for prizes. The SHARC is a spacious facility we are grateful to have such a comfortable event space within Sunriver.



Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday April 11th 2015 **Slayed On The Slopes** by Kate Dyer Seeley

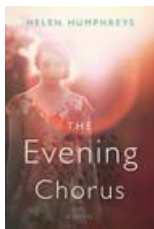
Saturday May 2nd 2015 **New Hikes In Eastern Oregon** by Bill Sullivan

Saturday June 27, 2015 Jane Kirkpatrick, Phil Margolin, and Greg Nokes.

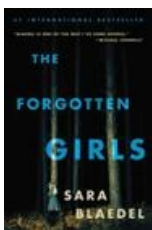
Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events. Check our web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

Staff Recommendations.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.



The Evening Chorus, by Helen Humphreys. It is 1940, England is at war. James and Rose are newlyweds when James is sent on a mission, and then taken prisoner by the Germans. He has decided that he will make the best of his grim situation and takes up the study of birds nesting where he can observe. In the meantime, Rose, his new wife, is living in their cottage with her new dog, Harris. Young, inexperienced, and very lonely, Rose becomes enchanted with a young pilot who is staying nearby in the village. Enid, James' sister is bombed out of her London home. She is fairly devastated, losing nearly everything, including her lover. Enid, having no place to go, comes to live with Rose for a while. While the relationship between James and Rose wanes, Enid and Rose overcome their mistrust of one another and become close friends. Meanwhile James finds that his interest in birds is the constant that motivates him to survive the war as a prisoner. The tragedy of the lives of these three people is dealt with in such a way that this reader will be left reflecting on their story for a long time to come.



The Forgotten Girls, by Sara Blaedel. In a remote forest in Denmark, a body is discovered. The identification should be easy because of the distinctive scar on the dead woman's face. However there have been no missing persons reported that remotely resemble her. At first, it seems that there is nothing to denote the woman's existence. However, Louise Rick, the chief investigator, releases the victim's photo to the media. A woman calls soon after to tell the police that she once cared for the woman in the photo when she was a little girl. Her name is Lismette, and she has a twin. This leads the investigators to an institution for the mentally handicapped. The institution has long since been closed, and the two girls reported as deceased. More crimes are committed, which at first seem unrelated. But as the story builds the threads that bind the murders together become apparent.

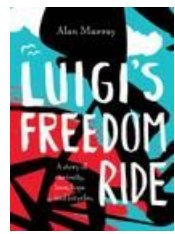
Louise, as she is pulled closer to her childhood home, begins to find links to her own past. The secrets that she did not have the courage to explore when so long ago, now cannot be avoided.

Staff Recommendations.

Deon Recommends.



A Spool of Blue Thread by Anne Tyler stitches together an endearing portrait of a family in this heartwarming story. Red and Abby raised four children together, two daughters and two sons. They live in Red's childhood home, built by his father in one of Baltimore's tonier neighborhoods. Junior, Red's Dad, was a self-made man, a southern transplant who started from nothing and went on to do quite handsomely in construction. He longed for acceptance from his upper middle class neighbors, but would never fit in. Red was an easier going sort, smitten from an early age by the irrepressible Abby. He lived a life that suited him well; comfortable in the house he grew up in, married to the woman he loved, surrounded by family. Abby, a social worker, had a tendency to bring home strays, people she ran into who seemed like they needed a little attention. She brought the same intrusive zeal to raising her children. Denny was a secretive little chap from an early age, he chaffed at Abby's intense involvement in her children's lives. While the other three remained close, Denny flitted into and out of each other's lives. As the book opens, Abby has started to lose moments, to experience blank spaces, and the grown children are facing the dilemma of aging parents. Tyler skillfully blends the story of all four generations; Red's parents, Abby and Red, their children, and their crop of grandchildren. Tyler deftly explores the dynamics of family, the choices made, and how we remain individual while also part of something greater.



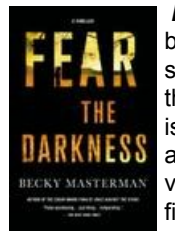
Luigi's Freedom Ride by Alan Murray. Luigi's childhood is spent in the Tuscan hills with a loving mother, doting uncle, and best friend ready to share all adventures. An Englishman passes through on a bike trek to Rome in 1931. Already Brown Shirts and Fascists are making their presence felt. They cause an accident that leaves the Englishman injured and the bike too damaged to proceed to Rome. The Englishman, grateful for the care and concern of the Italian family, gives the bike to Luigi. Assisted by his uncle, Luigi spends the summer repairing his bike; in the years to come it gives him freedom and fun. Luigi lives into his 80's, through times of upheaval, war, and prosperity. He sees many changes. WWII will try him, travel will give him a new perspective, and emigration to Australia will be his new homeland. Luigi lives a life full of friendship, love, and a concern for doing the right thing. There is much hardship in the war years, but there will also be freedom and joy. This is a charming story, to be savored slowly.



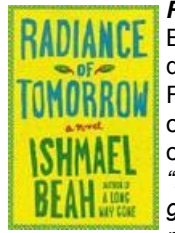
The Siege Winter by Ariana Franklin. Empress Matilda and King Stephen both claim the crown of England, but only one may prevail. Their war throws the country into chaos as bands of armies and mercenaries crisscross the countryside burning villages, raping women, and causing mayhem. It is hard to choose a side, pledge fealty to the wrong aspirant for the throne and you may lose your property, or your life. Noblemen switched sides, back and forth, depending on who looked most likely to prevail. Peasants just tried to stay out of the way of the fighting. Maud, an attractive orphan with extensive lands, is forced into a marriage she does not want with a brutish, much older man because her castle is strategic and her so called protectors want to deliver it to the cause of King Stephen. Emma is a bright, brash eleven year old peasant girl who has the severe misfortune of coming to the notice of an evil monk, a sexually depraved man who is attracted to the bright red tresses adorning the child. Gwyl, an archer, discovers the violated child, who has no memory of her prior life. Unwilling to continue as a girl, she takes the name Penda and becomes Gwyl's apprentice. These two resourceful, strong women must find a way to survive and thrive as Empress Matilda and King Stephen tear the country apart. Their stories will converge. Maud's dead father gave her advice she should have heeded. This is an engrossing and entertaining historical fiction.



Watch Me Go by Mark Wisniewski. Deesh surely made more bad moves than any man had a right to. Those erroneous choices have landed him in jail facing charges in three murders. Trying to make a buck, Deesh and two friends from way back agree to haul away a sealed barrel. Just looking at the thing, they know the contents cannot be good. The woman is willing to pay \$1000 to have it taken away, no questions asked. Filled with foreboding, the men are lured by the money, and it isn't until they are heading down the road, the barrel loaded in the back, that the full measure of what they might have done sinks in. Things go from bad to worse for Deesh, in no time he is on the run from the cops. Jan, a woman he meets for the first time when she visits him in prison, just might be the only person who can save him, she is dead certain he had nothing to do with the first corpse, but what about the other two dead men? Jan's father was a jockey with considerable talent. That ability to ride and love of the sport was passed down to his daughter. When he died, she moved with her mother into the home of one of her father's friends, an ex-jockey with a serious gambling habit. Time spent at the Finger Lakes racetrack exposes Jan to the grittier side of racing. The story is told in alternating chapters from Deesh's perspective and Jan's.

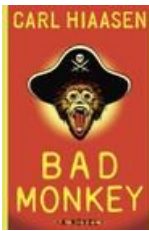


Fear The Darkness by Becky Masterman. Brigid Quinn retired from the FBI, intending to lead a quiet life with her husband and dogs in Tucson. Working as a private investigator and teaching self-defense at the local women's shelter should be a step away from the danger involved in hunting killers. She makes friends, settles in, and thinks this will be a quiet life. Then things turn sinister. Her sister-in-law dies, leaving a teenage daughter to be raised. Brigid cannot turn away family; Gemma-Kate is added to the household, an unsettling influence. Gemma-Kate is a strange youngster, with dark habits, bad things happen around her. Brigid's cases are not as mundane and routine as she thought they would be either. A local couple needs help investigating the death of their son. It is a pleasure reading about a take charge woman who is no longer young but still physically fit, active, and involved. Even more so in that this sleuth has a rich family life.



Radiance of Tomorrow by Ishmael Beah was one of my picks for the Top Ten of 2014, it is now available in paperback. 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**. Now his work of fiction, **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.

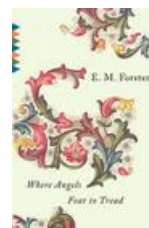
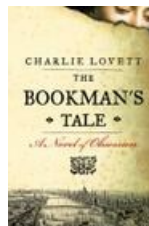
February 2015 Book Clubs.



February 9th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***Bad Monkey*** by Carl Hiaasen, with his usual entertaining blend of chaos and humor set in Florida. Yancy, a Key West cop, is in trouble over assaulting his girlfriend's husband with a home cleaning appliance, his choice of venue was unfortunately quite public and cell phone videos proliferated. This hot headed misbehavior cost him a job he is both good at and enjoys. The new police chief possesses political aspirations; he is most concerned with keeping the local business community and tourists happy. A detective starring on YouTube assaulting a citizen gets Yancy busted down to roach patrol, an assignment that plays havoc with his appetite. When a fisherman snags a human arm the chief just wants it to go away. Yancy is curious about who was attached to the appendage and what might have happened to him. They are at cross purposes, but Yancy has the vain hope that solving the increasingly complicated mystery will put him back in the chief's good graces after his rather public plunge into YouTube notoriety. Adding to Yancy's trouble is the new house next door. I really feel for Yancy, I also live next door to an unattractive gargantuan edifice constructed with no sensitivity to either aesthetics, the community or the environment. Like the house next door to mine, the new house next door to Yancy totally fails to blend into its forest setting. Felling trees, altering the habitat of wildlife, looming over the neighbors, altering the natural light, and causing a blight on the sylvan setting clearly shows the me-only attitude of having more money than sense coupled with supremely poor taste. Haven't these people heard of conspicuous consumption, carbon footprints, environmental enlightenment or obscene opulence? Yancy has a retaliatory streak that wreaks havoc on his neighbor's plans to sell the overblown construction. Fortunately for my neighbor I do not have Yancy's streak of retaliatory invention, but it was fun reading and made me chuckle. Hiaasen has a whole subplot going on the many ways Yancy plagues the developer next door. Then there is the monkey, an animal with a serious attitude issue. The action goes all over the place; from Yancy's campaign against his next door neighbor in the Florida Keys, to Miami where he romances a comely coroner, to the Bahamas where his path crosses with the monkey. Hiaasen is shocking and outrageously funny.



February 23rd the Fiction Book Club discusses ***The Goldfinch*** by Donna Tartt, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. Luminous prose and a plot that keeps you guessing set this spellbinding novel apart. The story opens in Amsterdam with our narrator, Theo, remembering the past. Quickly the story moves to teenage Theo, experiencing a day that began as an ordinary but upsetting day then quickly turned tragic. His mother was called to a conference at his school, missing a day's work. Money is tight for the pair as Theo's father has absconded. The day quickly darkens; the taxi they climb into for their journey to the school is vile, when they decide to walk the heavens open with a punishing rainstorm, and then they take shelter in the Metropolitan Museum with spectacular bad timing. These minor ordinary choices soon have life altering consequences. From this explosive opening we follow Theo's life as his circumstances and locations change. His father comes back into the picture spiriting Theo away from New York, to a soulless suburb in Las Vegas. Throughout, at the heart of the story, is the painting, the ***Goldfinch***, a very real painting that hangs safely in The Hague, and has not experienced the adventures it faces in Tarrt's work of fiction. A cast of well-developed characters that would do Dickens proud people the novel. Intricately plotted and beautifully written, the Pulitzer judges chose well.



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

March 9th 2015 ***The Bookman's Tale*** by Charlie Lovett [Mystery Book Club](#)

March 16th 2015 ***In The Time Of Butterflies*** by Julia Alvarez [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 23 2015 ***Where Angels Fear to Tread*** by E.M. Forster [Classics Book Club](#)

April 6th 2015 ***An Officer And A Spy*** by Robert Harris [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 13th 2015 ***Boys In The Boat*** by Daniel James Brown [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

April 20th 2015 ***A Tale for the Time Being*** by Ruth Ozeki, the Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection
[Fiction Book Club](#)

May 4th 2015 ***The Son*** by Jo Nesbo [Mystery Book Club](#)

May 11th 2015 ***Travels With Charley*** by John Steinbeck [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

May 18th ***Fourth of July Creek*** by Smith Henderson [Fiction Book Club](#)

June 1st 2015 ***The Home Place*** by Carrie La Seur [Mystery Book Club](#)

June 15th 2015 ***The Bartender's Tale*** by Ivan Doig [Fiction Book Club](#)

June 29th 2015 ***A River Runs Through It*** by Noman Maclean [Classics Book Club](#)

July 13th 2015 ***I Am Pilgrim*** by Terry Hayes [Mystery Book Club](#)

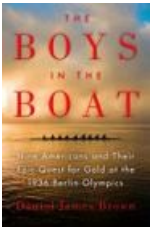
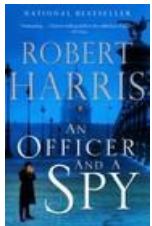
July 27th ***Middlemarch*** by George Eliot [Classics Book Club](#)

August 3rd 2015 ***Unbroken*** by Laura Hillenbrand [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

August 17th 2015 ***The Moonstone*** by Wilkie Collins [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 31st 2015 ***Martin Chuzzlewit*** by Charles Dickens [Classics Book Club](#)

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



If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy 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 . To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music.

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, 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.