



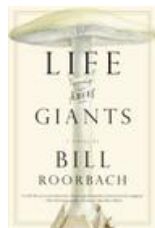
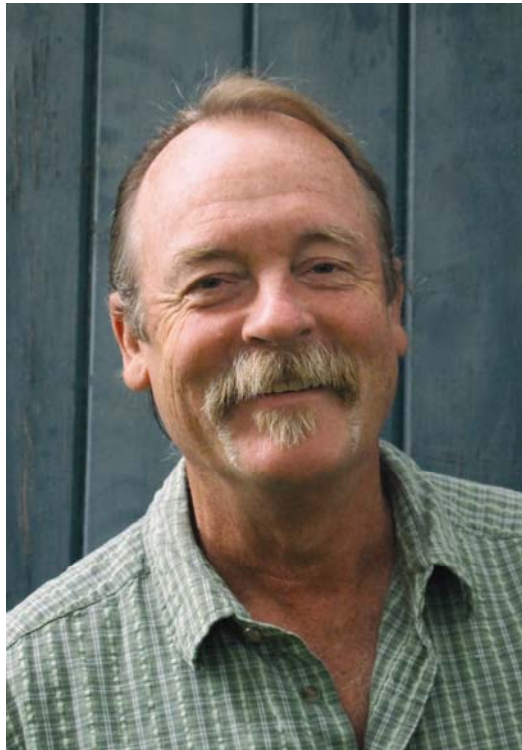
Sunriver Books & Music

January 2013 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



Happy New Year
May 2013 bring peace, health, and happiness
for everyone



January 2013 Author Events at Sunriver Books & Music
Book Review by Lori Gascon

January 12th at 5:00 PM, Bill Roorbach will be at Sunriver Books & Music for a presentation on his latest novel, LIFE AMONG GIANTS. Bill is from Maine, taught at the University of Maine, Colby College, and Ohio State, has been featured on NPR, and played in a band. He has worn many hats in his life, and “cook” must be in there somewhere because his newest novel definitely involves some good food:

Life Among Giants
By Bill Roorbach

At seventeen, high school football player David “Lizard” Hochmeyer, finds humor, drama, and love with the girls at school, gets kicked off the football team because he refuses to cut his long hair, and is an intimidating six-foot-eight. Just when he should be thinking about college, he experiences family tragedy up close, starting with the arrest of his charismatic father, Nick. Nick claims he is the scapegoat for the company’s fraudulent dealings, but has not been totally honest himself. Mom is disappointed with their middle-class life, having come from a well-to-do family, possibly being the catalyst for Nick’s undoing. When Sylphide, a world famous ballerina, and her rock star husband Dabney, move into the “High Side” mansion near Lizard’s family home, Mom and Dad see ways to improve their life: Dad can sell them investments, and Mom can give tennis lessons and rub elbows with the rich & famous. Lizard and older sister Kate become friends with the sweet handicapped stepson, and soon find themselves becoming more involved with the private couple than Mom and Dad would ever know. Unfortunately, because Nick is unable to gain Sylphide and Dabney’s trust, he looks at other ways to earn an extra buck from these rich neighbors. One day the chauffeur, butler and bodyguard from High Side appear at Lizard’s home demanding his father return some missing

paintings of Sylphide’s. A tussle ensues, leaving Lizard to wonder what is really going on with his father and the neighbors. Snatches of conversations are heard in the evenings after dinner, and Lizard hears things like “money-laundering”, “missing persons”, and descriptions of mafia-style hits. Events at work eventually catch the attention of the FBI, which leads to the arrest.

At home Lizard feels another loss in sister Kate’s leaving for college. Kate, always “daddy’s girl”, a beautiful tennis player, is attending Princeton, and has broken herself off from the family. She is harboring anger towards her mother, and, strangely, Sylphide, yet she is grieving a loss she cannot fully explain.

Conspiracy and mystery surround Nick’s dealings with work and the neighbors. The Witness Protection Plan will be Nick’s ticket out of trouble. Someone, though, wants to keep him quiet, permanently, and accomplishes just that, getting mom in the crosshairs also, right in front of Lizard. Now alone, Lizard and Kate become obsessed with finding clues to the mysterious murders, with Lizard learning more about Dad’s secrets than he had ever imagined. Eventually he moves on with his life, going to Princeton himself, then playing professional football which leads to a restaurant venture with a couple of fellow teammates. Sylphide dances in and out of Lizard’s life as the years go by and their relationship is comforting, and solid; tangible while they are together, like the smooth stone they share with each encounter.

The clues to the murders still haunt he and Kate: “Kaiser” –the last word Dad spoke, a missing briefcase, and those stolen paintings. One day, many years later, the killer walks into Lizard’s restaurant...and Lizard is ready.

Woven throughout this satisfying story is food: the delicious food found in a favorite restaurant; a meal cooked by a dear mother; the last meal you may eat before you die. Lust, greed, revenge, and seduction play big parts in this interesting, fast-paced novel that moves back and forth in time, with tidbits of history, football facts, and cooking techniques thrown in. I enjoyed it!

Light refreshments will be served and there will be drawings for door prizes. Please sign up to attend this free event by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Sunday April 21st at 5:00 PM **100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon** by Bill Sullivan
Saturday May 4th 2013 at 5:00 PM Jane Kirkpatrick
Sunday May 5th 2013 at 11:30 Jane Kirkpatrick’s Newberry Habitat for Humanity Walk
Saturday July 20th at 5:00 PM **Sleight of Hand** by Phillip Margolin

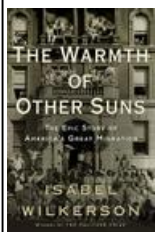
Watch our website, sunriverbooks.com, for more information on upcoming authors as they are scheduled.

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.

Book Club's Top Choices from 2012.

Every year we vote on the favorites of all the book club selections. Here are the winners by category for 2012

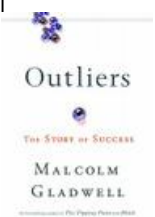
Non Fiction Book Club



1. **The Warmth of Other Suns:** by Isabel Wilkerson. From 1915 to 1970 nearly six million blacks fled the south. Wilkerson focuses on 3 individuals in telling her story to give this overwhelming exodus a human face. In 1937 Ida Mae Gladney's cousin was almost beaten to death after being falsely accused of stealing a white man's turkeys. Ida Mae left Mississippi heading north. In 1945 George Swanson Starling's Florida employer was arranging a "neck tie" party. George headed to Harlem. In 1953 Robert Foster's opportunities were limited in Louisiana, but in California he prospered becoming Ray Charles' personal physician. Wilkerson weaves in the details of millions of people setting out for better lives. This is a book that will inspire you with the resilience, perseverance, and grace of a persecuted people seeking better lives. Wilkerson is the first black woman to win the Pulitzer Prize for journalism.



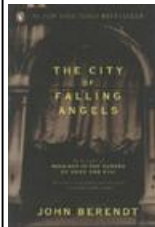
2. Author Greg Nokes led the discussion of **Massacred for Gold**. The Pacific Northwest is the site of the worst massacre of Chinese in US history. In Hell's Canyon by a bend in the Snake River up to 34 Chinese miners were murdered. Worse yet, some of the killers were mere school boys, teenagers lured toward easy money and a quick kill by a nefarious horse thieving rancher. Prejudice and hate are sorrowful emotions. **Massacred for Gold** brings to light the contribution of Chinese workers. They were integral to the building of our railroads, working harder and for less money than US citizens. These men were willing to hang off cliffs to set dynamite charges, work every day, and endure horrid conditions. Instead of being thanked for their hard work, appreciated for their sacrifices, they were hated. Racial hatred fueled an environment of despair for the Chinese. They were ridiculed, beaten, robbed without any hope of justice or protection. Gold mining was beyond the means of the Chinese when the claims were paying but as the claims played out the Chinese came in to work extracting the last reluctant grains of gold. The massacred men had been working a claim, a little bit better than most, for about a year and they had accumulated some gold. The Chinese were sitting ducks for their killers. Sheer cliff walls and fast flowing water gave them nowhere to run. Hells Canyon, the Snake River, and the Imnaha River Gorge is a forbidding remote landscape, a lonely place to die.



3. **Outliers: The Story of Success** by Malcolm Gladwell. Is Bill Gates such an outrageously talented genius that he would have succeeded in any environment? Or was Bill helped along a bit by coming of age just at the dawn of the computer age? Did the circumstances of his birth in an area that afforded him opportunity prepare the way for his success? Gladwell delves into what makes some people successful while others miss the boat. He looks at the role of intelligence and chance. From Mozart to Robert Oppenheimer, what role did hidden advantages play in their success? The subject matter and Gladwell's compelling narrative keep the book interesting and enlightening.



4. **Cleopatra: A Life** by Stacy Schiff. One of the most fascinating characters in history, Cleopatra lived big. Married off to her 10 year old brother and co-ruler Ptolemy, she attempted to oust him and was exiled. An allegiance with Rome could solve her problems and put her back on the throne. Cleopatra had herself stuffed into a sack, smuggled back into her own palace, and presented to Julius Caesar. Cleopatra was an astute ruler, a politician who knew the value of spectacle, and an incredibly intelligent woman. After Caesar's death she captivated Marc Anthony and continued her allegiance with Rome. Schiff is a masterful writer; she presents us with a fascinating biography of one of history's strongest women.



Travel Essay Book Club

1. **City of Falling Angels** by John Berendt. Venice is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, all blowsy, shimmering color, twisting alleys, grand piazzas, and turquoise blue canal surrounded by decadently gorgeous mansions. John Berendt arrived in 1996 a short while after a conflagration with flames reaching to the heavens ruined the famed opera house, La Fenice. Known for his dark, moody book, **Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil**, he thought there might be a book in this story too. Have you ever visited a gorgeous place and thought why not stay a while? John acted on that impulse thus giving us a fascinating book. It is the story of the fire, the story of some of Venice's residents, and an intimate portrait of a truly beautiful city. He tells how the widow and estate of Ezra Pound was probably bilked by the wife of an employee of the Guggenheim museum. The Save Venice foundation is rife with internal strife. A maestro of glassblowing creates wildly imaginative art commemorating the destruction of La Fenice.



2. **Menagerie Manor** by Gerald Durrell, OBE. This is the 3rd of his books discussed in Travel Essay Book Club. From an early age Durrell was fascinated with nature. He grew up (although it is amazing he survived childhood) to be a leading conservationist and the founder of a zoo on the Isle of Jersey. His love of the animal kingdom caused all kinds of havoc in family life and in his zoo. Durrell is an amazing man; he brought passion and care to saving endangered species and trying to give zoo animals more dignified and enriched lives. He is not the only family member with literary talent, his brother Lawrence was a celebrated author. Durrell's books are full of observations on natural life, hilarious stories, and are fun to read.



3. **Modoc** by Ralph Helfer. Bram and Modoc were born on the same day, the boy and the elephant would form a bond so strong it would last the rest of their lives. The early years in Germany are good, but trouble comes when Bram's father dies and the circus is sold to an unscrupulous man. Modoc and Bram have many adventures, a shipwreck, hiding out in the teak forests of India, attack by rebels, fire, and more. They travel far and wide, but overall this is a book about the remarkable bond between a man and an elephant who endure cruelty and hardship but stay true to one another.

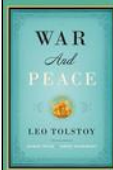


4. **Mayflower** by Nathaniel Philbrick brings the voyage of the Mayflower into focus, with his knowledge of all things nautical he lets the reader experience what crossing the ocean would have been like in the 1600's. These pilgrims were deeply religious people who banded together to form a community based on their beliefs with a desire to live in solitude and isolation. Their experience is not so gentle. North America was already occupied, the intent of the pilgrims to convert the natives to Christianity and their sense of superiority lead inevitably to conflict and violence.



Classics Book Club

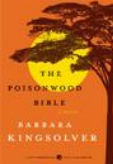
1. **The Shipping News** by Annie Proulx. Winning both the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize is a rare honor, and this is a rare book. Beautifully written, haunting, melancholy, and funny. Quoyale is a mediocre newspaper man, with a disastrous family life. His adulterous wife runs off with her lover, tries to sell his daughters, and is killed in a car crash. Quoyale's aunt persuades him to leave the city and return to their ancestral home in Newfoundland, a place he had never visited. In this isolated, stark landscape he just might put his torments to rest and find joy.



2. **War and Peace** by Count Leo Tolstoy is considered one of the best works of literature ever written. Full of passion, betrayal, war and intrigue, this is an epic story. It begins with a party where we meet many of the main characters and leads on to France's invasion of Russia in the Napoleonic war. Characters are complex and richly drawn, the history is enlightening, and the story is ambitious. Tolstoy's take on the Emperor Napoleon is fascinating.

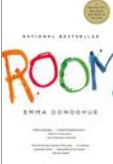


3. **The Enchanted April** by Elizabeth Von Arnim, is a lovely story. Lottie is a young wife married to a very exacting lawyer; all stiff upper lip British, wanting things done just so and hoping his wife will be an asset to his business. She doesn't fit well into such a strict life. It is 1920's Britain, rainy and grey. Lottie stops at her women's club on her shopping rounds and sees an ad in a newspaper to rent a house in Italy for the month of April. She thinks if only she could have this little time away, one month, to be on her own and free then she could endure trying to do things just right. She sees Rose reading the same ad. Eventually 4 unhappy women go to the house in bella Italy. Who can stay sad with all the glorious sunshine, blue sea, and fragrant gardens? Everything in their lives changes and nothing changes, pure magic.

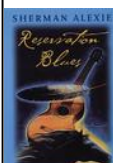


4. **Breakfast At Tiffany's** by Truman Capote. This novel contains not only the novella made famous by the Cary Grant-Audrey Hepburn film but also 3 other short stories. **Breakfast at Tiffany's** is the story of a free spirit, Holiday Golightly, a woman of many secrets and much panache. Set in New York in 1943, the story revolves around Holly and her relationship to a variety of people, including the narrator, a young man residing in the same brownstone apartment building.

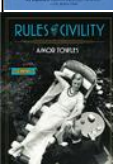
Fiction Book Club



1. **The Poisonwood Bible** by Barbara Kingsolver is set against the dramatic backdrop of tremendous political unrest as the Belgian Congo struggled for independence. A missionary takes his family from the American South to the Congo in 1959: they are ill prepared for the culture or geography of Africa. The story is told through the viewpoints of the four daughters and mother, but at its heart it examines the hubris of a man bent on converting an unwilling indigenous people to his hardline beliefs. The family arrives in Africa with a set of preconceived notions about the people and country that are soon challenged by reality. Kingsolver captures the voice of the women as their lives change and their consciousness expands.



2. **Room** by Emma Donoghue. The only world 5 year old Jack knows is one small room. The only people in his world are his mother and the man who has held her captive since he abducted her as a 19 year old college student. Jack's mother tries to keep him safe, but it is growing more difficult. The man who comes in the night is acting more erratically; he has lost his job and may become even more unstable. Jack's mother knows she must somehow get her child to safety. The novel is told through 5 year old Jack's perspective. He thinks his room constitutes the world, that the images on the television are all fantasy. Donoghue is a masterful storyteller; she ratchets up the tension as the necessity to escape becomes unavoidable, and then immerses the reader in Jack's confusion when his senses are overwhelmed by the real world.



3. **Reservation Blues** by Sherman Alexie. Robert Johnson sold his soul to the devil for a screaming guitar. Now Johnson is looking for redemption, he heard of a spiritual woman on the Spokane Reservation who might be able to help him. Thomas Builds The Fire delivers Johnson to the woman and inherits the guitar. Oh baby does this guitar want to play! Possessed of this wickedly good instrument Thomas forms a rock and blues band, Coyote Springs, and soon they are traveling to Seattle and New York. But there is a price with guitars gifted from the devil. Funny and poignant this is a blistering portrayal of life as a Native American.

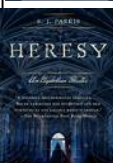


4. **Rules of Civility** by Amor Towles. Katey and Eve are young and full of themselves, ready to conquer New York. New Year's Eve 1937 Katey and Eve head out into a New York rife with opportunity and adventure with only \$3 between them. Tinker enters as 1938 dawns, elegant and handsome he sets the girls dreaming and shows them a good time. Decades later Katey finds a picture of Tinker while perusing an art exhibit.

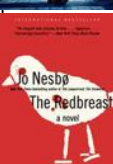
Mystery Book Club



1. **Junkyard Dogs** by Craig Johnson is beautifully written, tightly plotted, and often quite funny. Sheriff Walt Longmire's has trouble on his hands. George Stewart's dump is smack dab up against a multi-million dollar housing development. The developer would prefer his customers gaze stay on the majestic mountains not the smelly dump next door. He wants the dump to go away, big time. Tensions run high. Throw in a version of Romeo and Juliet for the older set and you have a heady brew of mystery, greed and passion.



2. **Heresy** by S.J. Parris is a story full of real characters. Giordano Bruno ran afoul of the Inquisition. Bruno held such outlandish beliefs as the earth revolving around the sun, imagine. Truth being stranger than fiction, he escaped Italy and after a time landed in England where he became useful to Queen Elizabeth's spymaster Sir Francis Walsingham. Eventually the Inquisition will catch up with Bruno, burning him at the stake in 1600. This heretic monk is too interesting for Parris to resist, he was perfect for crafting a mystery series. In **Heresy**, the first in the series, Bruno travels to Oxford in 1583 to debate John Underhill while spying at the behest of Walsingham who fears Catholic plots to overthrow the queen. Soon after Bruno arrives a grisly murder raises the stakes.



3. **The Redbreast** by Jo Nesbo. Great writing and riveting plots are hallmarks of Nesbo's Harry Hole series. Harry is charged with taking part in the security detail when the American President visits Norway, something goes horribly awry. The powers that be do not want the press to get wind of their errors, so the easiest thing to do is remove the weak link. Harry is reassigned to keep watch on the Neo-Nazis and their nasty little plans. But Harry is distracted by information that someone has recently bought a very specialized sniper rifle, an expensive and hard to come by gun, a gun that would be not only out of the price range of most of the Neo-Nazis but way out of their league too. So who purchased the smuggled gun and who are they planning to kill? The trail will lead back more than sixty years to a cold winter on the Russian front. **The Redbreast** was awarded the Norwegian Book-seller's Prize 2000 for Best Novel of the Year.



4. **Faithful Place** by Tana French. Dysfunctional is a good description of Frank's family. Motivated to get out early in life, Frank and his teenage sweetheart arrange to rendezvous and run away together. He waits at their meeting place until it is clear she is not going to show up. Frank hoofs off alone and twenty years later is a homicide detective. Always assuming that Rosie had abandoned him, he is shocked when her suitcase is found in an old vacant house. Soon buried bones give proof that Rosie never made it away from **Faithful Place**.

January 2013 Book Clubs

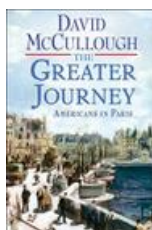
Happy New Year! May 2013 bring happiness and wellbeing for all.

The roster for 2013's Book Club selections is available at sunriverbooks.com under Book Clubs. Book clubs are held on Monday evenings at 6:30 and everyone is welcome.

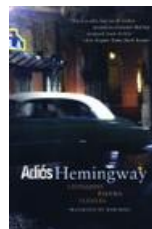
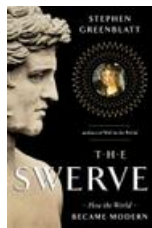


January 7th the Mystery Book Club begins a great year of reading by discussing *In The Shadow Of Gotham* by Stefanie Pintoff. The early 1900's brought innovation to police work. In 1905 fingerprinting, crime photos, and forensic evidence gathering were new ideas. Detective Simon Ziele left New York for a small town after losing his fiancée, Hannah, in the sinking of the General Slocum steamship, he could no longer walk the big city streets haunted by her memory. Dobson, New York seemed the kind of sleepy burg where a detective could go for years without encountering violent crime, just the sort of place a man could recover. Alas, it will not prove to be the case. The Wingate mansion sits in the part of town unused to violent crime. Beautiful Sarah Wingate's horrific murder shocks the town and puts Simon into the kind of investigation that can take over a man's soul. Simon is an adherent of the modern ways, his superior, Joe, is leery of the newfangled ways and worried that Simon might be after his job. Law enforcement is just beginning the science of criminology, of studying the mind of a killer. Simon's path crosses with a professor from Columbia versed in this new way of studying a murderer's method. The two men feel the pressure of finding this heinous killer before he strikes again. Pintoff seamlessly blends historical detail with an intricate, well written mystery.

January 14th the Fiction Book Club discusses *The Borrower* by Rebecca Makkai. Lucy refused to use her family's connections, instead she settled for becoming the children's librarian in Hannibal Missouri, a decision her parents found frustrating and a location they considered the back of beyond. Nonetheless it should be a position with little possibility for dangerous hijinks. Not so with Lucy, she either kidnaps or is kidnapped by her favorite patron, ten year old Ian Drake. The young boy is a voracious reader with a quick mind. He devours books, coming to Lucy for recommendations and conversation. She appreciates his intelligence and creativity. The two form a close bond. Ian's parents have a different view, fundamentalist Christian, they do not believe in free and easy access to all the worlds books can offer. Lucy colludes with the young boy, slipping him copies of *A Wrinkle in Time* and *The Princess Bride*. Ian's lack of interest in sports and his preoccupation with reading disturb his parents, they see the potential for the child to be gay and they see that as bad. Ian's attitude and mood darken when he is enrolled in an "anti-gay" program with a controversial minister. Disturbed by what is happening to Ian, Lucy gets caught up in a dynamic that just might be well beyond her ability to solve. And kidnapping could cause some problems in her own future. This is a fascinating, quirky, highly entertaining story that touches on so many great themes for discussion. Not the least is the relationship Lucy has with her own parents. I am looking forward to discussing this wonderful, sprightly book just brimming with topics.



January 21st the Non Fiction Book Club has the pleasure of discussing David McCullough's *The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris*. McCullough is one of the most reliable, popular and readable authors of historical non-fiction and this is one of his best. He uses Paris as a focal point for what was at the time the center of arts, architecture, science and political thought. Our best and brightest made the pilgrimage to Paris from 1830 to 1900. Mostly single men, but women and families also traveled to the City of Light. Oliver Wendell Holmes, Charles Sumner, Elizabeth Blackwell, James Fenimore Cooper, and Samuel Morse all traveled to Paris, to learn, to expand their horizons. The city offered the inspiration, art, and exposure to new ideas. Both countries benefited from this exchange, the travelers returned to the US full of new zeal in their various fields. This book reads like a love letter to Paris and a tribute to those who traveled there and returned with fresh enthusiasm.



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

2013! Happy New Year!

February 4th 2013 *Pride & Prejudice* by Jane Austen [Classics Book Club](#) Jane Austen Month

February 11th 2013 *Death Comes to Pemberley* by P.D. James [Mystery Book Club](#) Jane Austen Month

February 18th 2013 *Jane Austen Book Club* by Karen Joy Fowler [Fiction Book Club](#) Jane Austen Month

February 25th 2013 *Swerve* by Stephen Greenblatt [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

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](#)

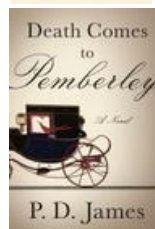
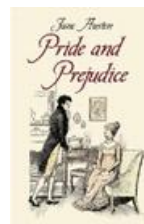
April 8th 2013 *Monstrous Regiment of Women* by Laurie King [Mystery Book Club](#)

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](#)

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



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 as well a search feature for e-books and print books. In support of Independent Booksellers publishers sometimes offer specials that we pass onto you. Watch our website to see when they are available. We greatly appreciate your support and hope that you consider your Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating the purchase of 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.