



Sunriver Books & Music

January 2017

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com

541-593-2525



Saturday January 14th at 5:00 PM Kate Dyer-Seeley will give a presentation on the latest in her Meg Read series, **First Degree Mudder**. Boy Howdy, we are going to have fun with this event! Kate attempts to undergo the same physical challenges in the outdoors as her sleuth, Meg, in order to bring reality in their execution in the story (fortunately Kate is more athletic than Meg). Kate's husband has been filming these escapades, including the outtakes where things do not go exactly as planned. Kate will present a slide show so we can all enjoy her sacrifices for her art, it should be great fun.

Meg lives in Portland and is a reporter for Northwest Extreme, an outdoor adventure magazine, a job that uses her talents as a journalist but goes against her nature (she is a bit of an outdoor wuss). The series goes all over Oregon and is full of interesting items about the state and enjoying the out of doors. Readers will discover tips on all sorts of outdoor activities and places they may want to visit.

First Degree Mudder has Meg entering a 5K mud race, The Mud, Sweat & Beers, on the Mind Over Mudder team for Northwest Extreme Magazine. Billy the Tank, a former drill sergeant and champion mudder runs the group. Meg has a tendency to find bodies; she does so this time in the team's locker room, Billy the Tank has run his last race. Meg's investigative instincts are aroused and she is soon digging up the dirt. The story also touches on Meg's father and the expose he was writing at the time of his death. Sunriver has an annual mud event, contestants leave the field with quite a liberal accumulation of mud.

Scene of the Climb, first in the series, introduces the characters and gives some of Meg's back story. Meg's father was an award winning journalist for Oregon's prime paper. Following in his footsteps seemed natural; she achieved a degree in journalism from the University of Oregon planning to work for her father's paper. No sooner did Meg graduate than the paper laid off forty reporters, it was not an auspicious time for a fledgling journalist. Camped out on the couch of her best friend's loft in Portland's tony Pearl district, Meg's job search was going nowhere. Until she ran into Greg, editor of Northwest Extreme, who just happened to be looking for a new reporter. Meg has the credentials and the talent to write, but she is not outdoorsy, mild hiking about the extent of her athletic prowess. She fakes it, using her friend's adventures on her resume to get her foot in the door. After all, what could go wrong? Quite a lot it seems. Her first assignment takes her hiking at Angel's Rest in the Columbia River Gorge with a group of uber athletes competing in Race The States. Meg is not up to this kind of hike and woefully unprepared. She is also afraid of heights? When a body plunges over the cliff, Meg's investigation puts her in danger.

Slayed on the Slopes, the second in the series, is set on Mt. Hood. Meg is feeling confident as she prepares to join the Ridge Rangers in the Silcox Hut for a feature story on their mountaineering organization. Warm and sunny weather in November convinces her it is probably not going to snow so her inability to ski will go unmasked. A blizzard hits soon followed by a dead body with an abundance of suspects marooned together in the storm. **Silenced in the Surf** is set in Hood River amid the Columbia River Gorge's dramatically spectacular landscape and a destination for windsurfers where Meg is covering a windsurfing event. Of course she has to give windsurfing a go and is swept downstream in the powerful Columbia River. A body snagged on the rocks puts Meg on the trail of a killer.

Kate also writes as Elle Alexander. **Fudge and Jury** is the latest in the series set in Torte, the local bakery, in Ashland Oregon. The Shakespearean Festival gives Ashland an international identity, but it is also home to the Chocolate Festival. Juliet Capshaw has hopes of winning this year. Evan Rowe is a celebrity for his amazing chocolate creations. A bite of Juliet's chocolate cake is the last chocolate he will eat, it kills him. Now Juliet has to figure out why her cake was so deadly before there is another victim.

In **Meet Your Baker**, the first in the series, Juliet Capshaw's marriage is on the rocks, she returns home to Ashland where her mother runs a popular bakery. One of the board members for the Shakespearean festival is making life miserable for everyone. When the woman is found murdered in the bakery, the list of potential suspects is long. **A Batter of Life and Death** has Juliet competing in a reality TV show, Take The Cake, on the Pastry Channel in an attempt to win \$25,000 to put their family bakeshop, Torte, on more firm financial footing. Before the cakes can be judged, Chef Marco is murdered and Juliet is on the hunt, much to the dismay of the local cops and her mother. **On Thin Icing** takes place at the Lake of the Woods Resort during an Ashland winter when Juliet is catering a retreat for the Oregon Shakespearean Festival. A winter blizzard isolates the group and the obnoxious bartender is put on ice, literally. Juliet's estranged husband, the handsome Carlos shows up wanting to resolve differences. Juliet is torn between Carlos and Officer Thomas who was her high school sweetheart. **Caught Bread Handed** has an interesting murder. Mindy Nolan opened a garish new restaurant, painted neon colors, making enemies in this town known for its Elizabethan theme, not for carnival. When Mindy winds up dead, the head of the Ashland Downtown Association is the prime suspect. The Juliet Capshaw series (also known as Jules) includes lots of tasty recipes. As a coffee addict, I appreciate that they include coffee!



Saturday January 21st at 5:00 PM we are thrilled to present Leif Whittaker for a presentation and slide show on his memoir, ***My Old Man and the Mountain***. Of course the Mountain is Everest, highest peak in the world. But what sets this book apart is Leif's gifted writing. He has a happy go lucky style that makes the reader feel

as if you are listening to a good friend recount his adventures. And what magnificent adventures this very young man has lived! While still a school kid, his parents took him and his brother Josh on a four year, home schooled, sailing adventure. They sold their possessions, moved onboard their sailboat, and left everything behind as they embraced any wonders the world cared to put in their way.

Leif started climbing in his teens, spurred on by his brother. I admire his athleticism and commitment to training. He has a love of books, so to build up strength he would load his knapsack with heavy tomes then power uphill on trails near his Port Townsend home. A back injury required surgery and left him with nerve damage in one leg, but that did not slow him down. Commitment and drive are strong in his personality.

For a climber of a certain caliber, the pull of Everest is seductive. This most magnificent of mountains is a dangerous love, the corpses of many are held on Everest. When Leif was offered the opportunity to climb the highest peak in the world, he accepted the challenge. There are many books from climbers who have tackled Everest and about climbers who did not heed Ed Veisturs' advice; "*Getting to the top is optional. Getting down is mandatory.*" What sets this story apart is Leif's lively writing style and refreshing candor. There is so much more to the story than the physical toil of climbing. Leif shares the challenges of climbing Everest, but he also tells his story with wit and such an open, engaging style that it is not just the facts, although they are there, it is also fun to read.

While still in high school, Leif went with his family on a trip to base camp, the beginning of any climb up Everest. He reacts to the mountain with a sense of awe, wonder, and an incredibly sensible emotion, fear. "... I've never seen anything like the Khumbu Icefall. It's a shifting and crumbling maze of glacier, a frozen waterfall about fifteen times taller than the tallest waterfall at Niagara Falls. It's breaking and falling and reorganizing every hour of every day. It's just like Sir Edmund Hillary famously described it: "tottering chaos."" Not so many years hence, he would be traversing that broken landscape in an attempt to reach the summit. His description of the summit is dazzling, it made me want to see that view myself! Reading it was a gift.

Decades ago Everest was the penultimate peak for serious, accomplished, mountaineers; men who risked their lives going where few men had gone before. Today there are guided tours going up the mountain, leaving behind the evidence of their passage in discarded items. How many are too many? How much is the danger increased by the inevitable delays of so many people climbing? These are questions today's climbers face that were not imagined in decades past.

That brings us to the other half of ***My Old Man and the Mountain***. Leif Whittaker's father, Jim, was the first American to reach the summit of Everest. He is climbing royalty. A charismatic, virile, steamroller of a man, he casts a long shadow. Leif grew up in the shade of that shadow and is open about his conflicts with the legacy of being a Whittaker. He yearns to be known for himself, not a reflection of his father. I do not believe this is going to be a problem for him. Read his book and you will see what I mean. Leif Whittaker has a huge talent; this is a writer to watch. Still young, he is coming to terms with the father he admires and loves, while also finding his way out from under the expectations of being the son of a man with such an impressive list of amazing accomplishments. Like I said, not going to be a long term problem, Leif has a talent all his own and he has already stood atop the tallest mountain on the planet. For my opinion, he has nothing more to prove.

Jim Whittaker gave his son the journal of his 1963 climb to take with him. Leif shares accounts of his father's climb along with the accounts of his own. It is fascinating, this juxtaposition of the two climbs, father and son. When he reaches the top, his father, along with other climbers who have gone before, seem to be right there with him. Read the account, it is moving.

Call 541-593-2525 or e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend these free presentations. There will be drawings for prizes and light refreshments.

Happy New Year!

May 2017 bring joy, peace, and good health to everyone.

We have some great author events scheduled in the new year with more planned. Watch for changes and additions on sunriverbooks.com.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday February 18th, 2017 at 5:00 PM **Piano Tide** by Kathleen Dean Moore (music too!)

Saturday April 29th 2017 at 5:00 PM **New Hikes in Southern Oregon** by Bill Sullivan (slide show)

Saturday May 6th 2017 **Curious Gorge** by Scott Cook (slide show)

Saturday June 24th 2017 **Dragon Springs Road** by Janie Chang

Saturday August 12th, 2017 at 5:00 PM **The Case of the Reborn Bhagwan** by Bill Sullivan

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 sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events.

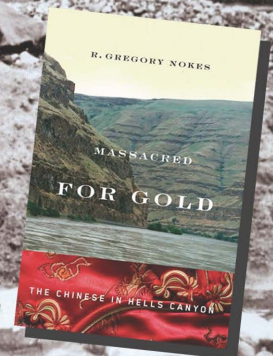
Check sunriverbooks.com for changes or additions to the schedule.

Massacre in Hell's Canyon

on Oregon Public Broadcasting television
Monday, January 23 at 9 p.m.

Inspired by R. Gregory Nokes' book
about the long-forgotten massacre
of Chinese gold miners in 1887.

Available here.

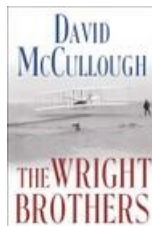


Every year our Book Clubs vote on their favorite of the selections discussed. Here are the Book Club favorites of 2016.

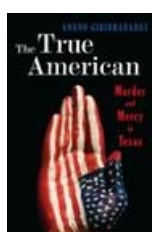
Non-Fiction



Rich Stonehouse reviewed **Dead Wake** by Erik Larson. The tragic fate of the passenger cruise ship Lusitania in 1915 is well known, but Larson is a master at creating a compelling narrative of a known event that is thrilling and filled with anticipation until the very end. Combining an interesting examination of the politics leading up to and during WWI, nautical craftsmanship, and the strategy of the two involved vessels, Larson weaves a tale that brings a human face to a well-known tragedy.



The Wright Brothers by David McCullough, reviewed by Richard Stonehouse. One of my favorite writers of historical non-fiction has given us a detailed and fascinating story of the Wright brothers and their ground breaking achievements in human flight. As always McCullough gives us a human and full dimensioned look at their lives, from modest beginnings to phenomenal achievements without benefit of wealth or well connected backers. He gives an intimate look at the close relationship of both brothers and their sister Katherine. From this family comes the very American idea that with determination, natural genius and focus much could be achieved that changed history.



The True American by Anand Girdharadas. Has America failed a significant number of its citizens? Do we have two Americas, one with comfortable homes, functional cars, book clubs, wine tastings, and the accoutrements of the American Dream, the other with meth labs, poor schools, dysfunctional parenting, and prison sentences? Do those of us fortunate enough to live in the America of dreams, live unaware of that more violent America where hate holds sway? Who are the **True Americans**? Are some of us following an earlier regime that required Aryan blood for the designation of a true citizen? Or is America still a land of diversity that welcomes vitality, the land whose Statue of Liberty proclaims “**Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!**” Ten days after the Twin Towers collapsed in a fiery inferno that horrifically claimed the lives of thousands; Mark Stroman went on a Texas Jihad that would land him on death row. He planned to kill Middle Eastern people in revenge for September 11th, focusing on workers in convenience stores. Two men died the third, Rais Bhulyan, was severely wounded but survived. Rais was Bangladeshi. He grasped at the American dream, striving

in the same way many Americans before him toiled, succeeding despite his injuries. Rais believed that his religion compelled him to forgive, to grant mercy. He publicly forgave his attacker and attempted to stop his execution



Countdown by Alan Weisman, reviewed by Rich Stonehouse. Weisman has written a sobering and detailed account of the problem of world overpopulation and the attendant effects of environmental degradation and loss of habitat sustainability. Through a series of visits to various countries, Weisman looks at each area's ability to cope with its unique situation through religion, governmental organization, demographics or environmental circumstances. Whether we have reached a tipping point of no return on being able to solve the population problem is not certain but Weisman's book is a wake-up call that urgently demands that everyone become aware of the dire consequences of inaction and ignorance. This book is highly recommended and should be required reading for all people who have the power to make and influence the necessary changes to the problem of overpopulation.

Classics Book Club.



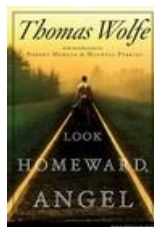
Oscar Wilde: The Complete Short Stories. The short stories taste different aspects of Wilde's writing. **Lord Arthur Savile's Crime** opens at Bentick House where Lady Windermere is having her last reception prior to Easter. The hoi polloi are gathered in great numbers as Lady Windermere's parties are quite popular, a place to see and be seen. Lately the reading of palms has been in vogue and one of the guests brought along a gentleman talented in the practice. He astounds the guests with his accuracy and predictions. Lord Arthur Savile is a pleasant, comely young man. Yet his palm shakes the palm reader to his very core. He has to be pressed to reveal what he has read in the skin of the young man. Great consequences come to pass.

This clever story is a good illustration of Wilde's wit and artistry. **The Canterville Ghost** displays Wilde's humor. Hiram Otis, the American Minister, is in need of a good country home for his family. Lord Canterville has such a country estate, but there is a difficulty in selling the property. It is haunted. For three hundred years **The Canterville Ghost** has terrorized the Canterville family and servants. Ghosts are not an impediment to the brash Americans. A deal is struck, the family moves in and a contest of wills between the ghost and the Americans begin. **The Selfish Giant** is a children's story about a giant who will not allow children to play in his garden. **The Devoted Friend** is set in the animal kingdom where the Duck teaches her Ducklings by example under the scorn of the Water Rat.

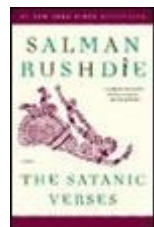


Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson, a rip snorting good tale! Robert Louis Stevenson had just returned to Scotland from his first trip to the USA with his bride and step-children. Eager to make them like him, Stevenson, whose creative talent was prodigious, drew an imaginary map with his stepson, Lloyd Osbourne, hoping to entertain the boy. From this map of a fantasy island, he began a story that would become **Treasure Island**. Jim, the son of an innkeeper comes into possession from a seafaring man of a map of an island where the buried treasure of a pirate awaits discovery. He will meet Long John Silver and set sail for adventure.

Classics Book Club.



Look Homeward Angel by Thomas Wolfe. The story of a young man, Eugene Gant, from a large dysfunctional family in Altamont North Carolina (a fictional Asheville), the novel is largely autobiographical, sharing many similarities with the life of its creator. Wolfe's rich, robust language is a pleasure to read. The story begins with Eugene's ancestors; his grandfather who settled in Pennsylvania, his father learned stonecutting and moved south, settling in North Carolina where he became something of a rambling drunk capable of delivering inventive soliloquies and a town character. Eugene's arrival on the scene is not lacking in drama. The child is adored and soon begins having adventures. What drives this novel is a love of language, words used beautifully. It is a brave coming of age story, Eugene's quest for independence and resolution as he chooses which path to walk in life.

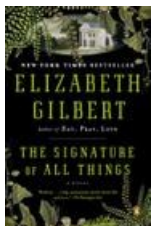


The Satanic Verses by Salman Rushdie captured worldwide attention and sent the author into hiding. Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa calling for the murder of Rushdie. Book stores were bombed for carrying the book. Rushdie's Japanese translator Hitoshi Igarashi was murdered, and his Italian translator, Ettore Capriolo was attacked. People died for this book, including a man bent on carrying out the Ayatollah's fatwa who instead of murdering Rushdie inadvertently blew himself to kingdom come. Rushdie's books are brilliantly written, often showing the author's mischievous, wit, and are meant to challenge their reader, to both entertain and make us think. **The Satanic Verses** opens with the destruction of a jet, the passengers falling from the London sky in a rain of debris. Two men, both actors, will defy the normal order of things and survive. One will develop hooves and horns, the other a halo. It is set in London and Bombay where the men wrestle with their faith and many strange things occur.

Fiction Book Club



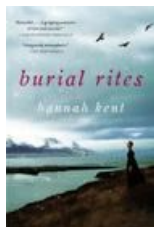
All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. This epic tale of WWII culminating at the battle for Saint-Malo focuses on two unusual characters. Marie Laure is the blind daughter of the keeper of the keys for the Museum of Natural History in Paris. Werner is an exceptionally bright German orphan with a natural talent for science, in particular radios (a very helpful trait during wartime). Marie Laure's father constructs a model city of their neighborhood, every storm drain, doorway and tree represented, to help his daughter feel her surroundings and gain independence. Rumors of war become reality with German soldiers taking over France. Marie Laure and her father make a perilous journey, retreating to the home of their uncle in Saint-Malo. Werner and his sister Jutta grow up in an orphanage. Werner's ability to fix just about everything electronic, and his amazing ability with radios, is soon noticed by the German hierarchy, earning him a place in a prestigious school. Werner wants to learn, to do something important with that knowledge. He is seduced by the rare opportunity of attending the academy. As he tries to fit in, he finds himself a party to actions beyond his control that taint his soul. His sister Jutta is an early dissenter of the Third Reich. She listens to forbidden radio programs, learning of the atrocities being committed. Werner and Marie Laure's stories converge in a way neither could have anticipated. Werner is a likeable kid, bright and eager. The way the Nazi regime subsumes his good nature is chilling. Marie Laure is an intrepid girl, forced by circumstances to bravery. Told through their perspective, this story of WWII is deeply moving.



Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert. Henry Whittaker rose from poverty to wealth. His father was a plantsman at Kew Garden, making just enough to keep a roof over his family's head. Henry was a bright kid with an affinity for plants. Sir Joseph Banks took notice of the lad, sending him on ocean voyages to do his bidding. Henry liked figuring things out, learning how to make the plants evolve into better, stronger specimens. He would have remained Sir Joseph's minion if treated with respect; he couldn't abide being dismissed as lower class. So Henry left Sir Joseph and put his keen intellect to work for his own gain. By the time his daughter Alma is born, he has settled in Pennsylvania and is outlandishly wealthy. He adores his child from first sight and is pleased when her resemblance to him is apparent. Henry's visage on a young woman is not necessarily beneficial, it is certainly not enhancing. Alma inherited more than her father's looks; she also has his keen questing, mind. Henry encourages her education, by the time she is a young woman she is a fine botanist submitting weighty papers for publication. This story is epic in scope and will continue into Alma's old age. From Henry's voyage with Captain Cook to Alma's own travels in the South Seas, a lot of life happens. This is a book about discovery, both personal and scientific. It is a story that allows the reader to gleefully join in with the spirit of discovery.

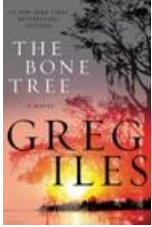


Our Souls At Night by Kent Haruf. Set in the ranching community of Holt Colorado, this is a haunting, beautifully written story, showcasing Haruf's tremendous power in portraying the extraordinary grace in the lives of ordinary people. Addie and Louis live alone in the big houses they raised their families in before their spouses died. Addie was friends with Louis's wife. Now they are old and alone. One day in May Addie calls on Louis and a friendship begins, deepening into something that defeats the loneliness in their days. This friendship is precious, but will it endure? This lovely story tells of their adventures, their laughter, their recapturing of life's goodness, and of their sorrows. It is one of those special books, so rare and so wonderful to read.

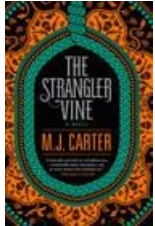


Rachel Kelley reviewed **Burial Rites** by Hannah Kent. Agnes has been condemned, convicted of murder, a maid dehumanized into a monster. All she wants is for someone to listen, so that they might understand what happened that Spring night in 1828. She is taken to the Icelandic farm at Kornsó to stay with the family there while she awaits the day of her execution. Angry and disgusted that they must house a murderess, the family keeps Agnes at arm's length and under watchful eye. That is, until, the Assistant Reverend Toti arrives to prepare Agnes for her journey to God. As they sit in their badstofa by the fire, the family and the reverend finally begin to listen. They could never expect what Agnes would have to say, or that they would come to care for this woman whom they had once feared. Burial Rites follows the tale of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last woman ever to be executed in Iceland, and how she came to that chopping block all those years ago. Elegantly written, this heart-rending tale of a misunderstood woman unfolds, dragging you into Agnes' world one word at a time.

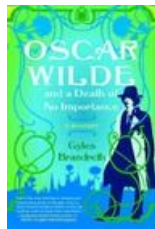
Mystery Book Club



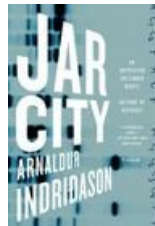
Nancy Nelson reviewed ***The Bone Tree***, by Greg Iles. This is the second novel of the Natchez Burning trilogy. In part I we see that the highly respected Dr. Tom Cage is accused of murdering his former nurse Viola. His son, Penn who is the mayor of Natchez is trying desperately to prove his father's innocence. Dr. Cage has since been silent and on the run, hiding from the law and from the very nasty group called Double Eagles as well. In part II, ***The Bone Tree***, Dr. Cage is still hiding from everyone. Though he would like to turn himself in and have his case handled through the courts, he knows that he cannot do that and expect to live. The Double Eagles are similar to the mafia in that their people are everywhere. The FBI has reason to believe that this group is at least in part responsible for the death of President Kennedy as well as many civil rights workers of the 1960s. John Kaiser, who is leading the ongoing investigation also believes that Dr. Cage may have been a part of that conspiracy. The Double Eagles want him dead because he knows way too much. Tom Cage has lived his life caring for people. He has treated most of the population of Natchez, Mississippi. Thus there are quite a few people who highly regard him, and some who would risk their lives to protect him. As the story continues, we see the nature of the Double Eagles, and the hold they have on virtually everyone. This is a dangerous cat and mouse "game" in which some will die, some will miraculously and courageously live, and secrets will come pouring out like the pestilence from Pandora's box. ***The Bone Tree*** is a page turner of the first order, and I can barely wait to read part III.



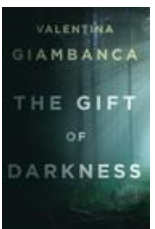
The Strangler Vine by M.J. Carter. Jeremy Blake is one of my favorite sleuths since Sherlock Holmes! Brilliant, a master of disguises, and not fond of suffering fools gladly. Ensign William Avery is sent by his masters, the East India Company, to persuade Jeremy Blake to do their bidding. The mighty East India Company is not the least intimidating to Blake, he sends the young officer off with a flea in his ear. Nevertheless Jeremy is intrigued; the Company wants a famous author found. Mountstuart writes florid tales of adventure and romance, beguiling his readers with India and scandalizing the powers that be in Calcutta. He has gone missing at a remote station where he intended to write about the Thuggee Cult. The East India Company wants him found fast. Jeremy Blake is just the man for the job. Blake is saddled with young Ensign Avery on the project, a condition neither man finds advantageous. Avery is full of the glory of the British Raj, while Blake is of the opinion the Brits are a bit tarnished and there is another side to the story. The mismatched pair has one adventure after another, a thoroughly enjoyable story.



Oscar Wilde and a Death of No Importance by Gyles Brandreth. The story opens with Oscar Wilde fleeing a rented house where he discovered the body of a beautiful young man, a man not unknown to him. Flustered by his discovery, he takes the matter to his friend Robert Sherard and then Arthur Conan Doyle rather than the police. The three men return to the house on Crowley Street, finding it completely vacant, no body and no blood other than a tiny speck in the wallpaper spotted by Conan Doyle. It is Conan Doyle who persuades Wilde to consult a detective at Scotland Yard, a Scot of Conan Doyle's acquaintance. Inspector Aiden Fraser is not enthusiastic about investigating murder without a corpse. Wilde and Sherard are not so hesitant, they plunge into solving the mystery.



Jar City by Arnaldur Indridason. An old man is discovered dead in his basement apartment by the upstairs neighbor out for a walk with his son. The crime seems simple enough, the man was found on his living room floor, the coffee table knocked over beside him, and a heavy ashtray nearby with blood from the head wound that felled him. A few blocks away a young man had broken into the apartment of two elderly women and attacked them, demanding money. Perhaps the same youth had tried burglary here and things escalated out of control. Except there is the note, written at the desk of the dead man, that peculiar note points to a crime that may be more involved than a simple assault gone wrong. As Inspector Erlundur delves into the case, the victims unsavory past discloses a history of violence against women. The solution is richly complicated.

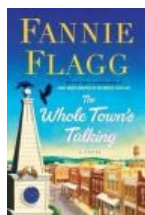


The Gift of Darkness by V.M. Giambanco. Seattle and the rain shrouded Hoh River Valley in the Olympics, are the perfect setting. Detective Alice Madison, a rookie on the murder squad, and Detective Sergeant Brown are called out to the scene of a horrific murder of a family, two young boys and their parents, in a quiet upscale neighborhood, a place more likely to be the scene of a family barbeque than a brutal crime. Detective Madison lives just a few short blocks away, in the home she inherited from her grandparents. Soon a link will be discovered to the kidnapping of three young boys twenty five years ago in the Hoh River Valley, two survived and one vanished. Suspicion quickly centers on a man known to police. Yet something seems wrong to Detective Madison. The killer left a message at the crime scene, thirteen days, the detectives are on a tight time frame. They want to solve the crime before they face whatever he has in store on the thirteenth day. All of the characters in this story are fascinating, often marked by adversity but rising in unique and interesting ways.

Now available in paperback, reviewed by Rachel Kelley.



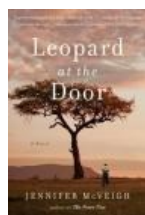
Time of Departure by David Schofield. What begins with an ambitious young female prosecutor, a mysterious cold case, and an intriguing ex-cop who knows too much about both, ends in a series of twists you won't see coming. Claire Talbot has a lot to prove in the masochistic legal world in which she has immersed herself but she puts it all on the line when Marcus Hastings enters her life with an old case that stirs an ominous feeling in the pit of Claire's stomach. Though the string of missing girls occurred before she was born, Claire senses a familiarity with the case, and with Marc that she can't explain. With the ever-infuriating platitude that she will one day understand, Claire begrudgingly follows Marc down a rabbit hole of mystery, phenomena, and romance that will change everything. A wonderful thrill of a book that takes you to unexpected places it will keep you on the edge of your seat to the very last page.



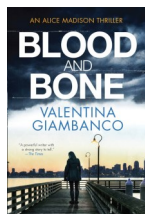
The Whole Town is Talking by Fannie Flagg. In 1889 Lordor Nordstrom happened on a sweet piece of Missouri land perfect for farming, with a natural spring and a hillside with a good outlook. He was only 28, young and ambitious, recently emigrated from Sweden when he bought the property. Working hard, he cleared the land and built himself a dairy; Lordor liked cows (showing a caring nature). He had purchased a big swath of land, advertising in papers he encouraged other young Scandinavians to settle here. Thus begins the small town of Elmwood Springs. Continuing on to 2021, telling the story of a town and its residents, this is one of those lovely novels that make you believe in a place where people care and life is good. Lordor was smart enough to realize that money without community was an empty possession. He was willing to spend his wealth to see that the town had what it needed to thrive, he was willing to extend a helping hand to those in need knowing that people were what made a community, and he was kind to animals too. Thus grounded in Lordor's good will, the town got off to a good start. Lordor also built a cemetery on the hillside overlooking the surrounding area where strange happenings occur as the story progresses. Written with Fannie Flagg's keen sense of humor and a cast of characters showing the kind side of human nature.



Moon glow by Michael Chabon. With a touch of magic Chabon combines the deathbed reminiscences of the character's grandfather with very real events from history giving cameos to such historic villains as Werner Von Braun and such heroes as astronaut Judy Resnick. Mike (who has a lot in common with his author) listens to the secrets of the past as his grandfather's tongue is loosened by the effects of pain killers. This is a family with a lot of secrets, the Grandfather's war time work for Wild Bill Donovan, the exploits of his rabbi turned playboy great uncle Ray, and the madness of his charismatic grandmother, a French refugee who survived the Nazis. His grandfather led a life of ups and downs, marked by his experiences in wartime, tested by his love for a fragile, beautiful woman he could never succeed in making whole, given purpose by his abiding interest in science, space, and rockets. As Mike learns his grandfather's life story, there are twists and turns that will take the reader by surprise. Chabon's writing is captivating, he invites you into the story and invests you with the history of this family striving for meaning in a universe that plays fast and rough with the small pitiful desires of humans. His characteristic humor and willingness to let his characters step across the line make every page count in another fabulous story from this master wordsmith.



Leopard At the Door by Jennifer McVeigh. Rachel's childhood in Kenya was idyllic, growing up surrounded by beauty, animals, and loving, admirable parents. Everything changes when she is twelve. On September 6, 1946, she learns of her mother's death while witnessing a strike at her uncle's place of business. Sent to England, Rachel spends the next six years in boarding school and on holidays in the straight-laced home of her grandparents. Despite her father's advice that she remain in England, as soon as she is 18, Rachel heads for Kenya and the only place she called home. But things have changed in the intervening years. Rachel is shocked to learn her father has a new woman in his life, a woman perfectly suited to play the role of evil step-mother who does not relish Rachel's return. Sara is the complete opposite of Rachel's mother. Sara does not like the remote location of the farm, resents the small community of natives living in huts on land she considers her own, requires the servants to wear uniforms, and disrespects the natives. Rachel's father goes along with Sara's wishes; he does not welcome his daughter with the same affection shown when she was a child. Not only has her family home changed, the whole of Kenya is in a state of change, Mau Mau are inciting the violent overthrow of the whites. The officer in charge of suppressing the Mau Mau was present on that fateful day in September 1946, when everything changed.



Blood and Bone by Valentina Giambanco. Kate Duncan went for a run in Seattle's Lincoln Park, a few blocks from her house, returning she finds her husband Matthew in an ocean of blood, brutally beaten to death. Possibly a burglary gone horribly wrong, but Detective Madison and her partner Sargent Brown dig deeply discovering links to the past that hint of a devious serial killer whose brutality and plotting make him a frightening opponent. It is a case that will take all of Madison's concentration, but there are other events in her life. She is dating the cousin of her best friend, sampling what a normal life might feel like, the DEA Boys from California are flying up to quiz her about John Cameron, and someone is betraying her from inside. John Cameron has also been busy, cleaning up loose ends and dealing with the men who tried to kill him. Cameron is prone to dealing decisively and deadly with those who mean him harm. Giambanco's series uses the Seattle setting beautifully and have plots that will keep you on the edge of your seat. She has created memorable characters that you will come to care about: Nathan Quinn, a brilliant attorney, Detective Madison, Sergeant Brown, and John Cameron a loyal friend and deadly killer whose victims are the worst elements of humanity. You can't help but like Cameron, and Quinn is truly a fascinating character. Giambanco's writing brings them to life, making you eager to read more.

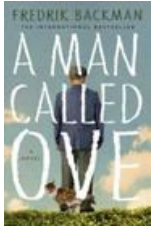


The Girl in Green by Derek B. Miller. In 1991 two men of vastly different character meet at checkpoint Zulu near the Iraqi village Samawh in the first days after the peace accord that ended Operation Desert Storm. Arwood Hobbes is an American serviceman guarding checkpoint Zulu, Thomas Benton is an English journalist. The two men will try to rescue an Iraqi girl wearing a green dress, they will fail. Nothing will be the same; a part of each man's soul will be altered by that desert encounter. Twenty two years later they will reunite and return to the Middle East, this time on the border of Syria and Iraq, in an attempt to recapture what they lost in 1991 and bring a measure of redemption. A brief news video of a girl in a green dress involved in a massacre is the catalyst. This is a hideously dangerous endeavor that may cost them their lives. Marta Strom is a Swedish humanitarian aid worker; she met the men in 1991, now she will try to help them while not feeling entirely comfortable with their methods or goals. Miller spins a brilliant story, the characters are flawed but noble, the action deadly. While it entertains and will keep you on the edge of your seat, it will also make you think. Miller knows the Middle East, wrote his PHD on the 1991 Iraqi civil war. Arwood says this in an exchange with Jamal, their driver. "we will never get along with anyone – not now, not later, not ever – if their mamas don't dance and their daddies don't rock and roll." Frighteningly enough, I think I understand what he is saying. Read the book, it has action, plot twists, and danger to keep those pages turning. Miller's earlier book, **Norwegian by Night**, is one of my favorites. **The Girl in Green** is another brilliant novel.

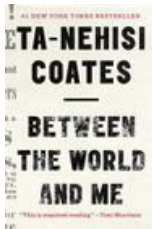
Book Club hours have changed, Book Club now begins at 6:00 PM on Mondays.



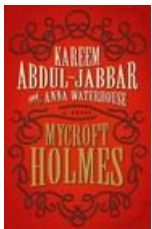
January 2 the Mystery Book Club discusses **Angels Burning** by Tawni O'Dell. Chief Dove Carnahan loves her job; she is top cop in her hometown, lives a quiet life, and wears her fifty years well. Her past gives her some notoriety. Murder is rare in rural Pennsylvania, when Dove was a teenager, her mother, a stunner with poor taste in men, was brutally murdered. It was the most shocking crime in her small town until now. A beautiful young girl has been murdered; her body thrown into a fiery sinkhole to burn. While the State Police will be running the show, (they have the staff and the labs) Chief Carnahan will also be heavily involved. The young girl was ambitious, a high achiever headed to college. Her family is not known for high achievers, they are a clan of rednecks and smalltime criminals. While Dove is involved in the current investigation, the man who served thirty years for killing her mother has been released from prison still swearing he is innocent. Both plot lines are skillfully integrated into the story. Dove is a likeable protagonist. I enjoyed the way the story involved her whole family, and the way she tried to treat everyone with understanding.



January 9 the Fiction Book Club discusses **A Man Called Ove** by Fredrick Backman. Prepare to be charmed by this quirky, heart-warming story. Ove is a man with a lot of rules. There is a right way and a wrong way to do things, Ove prefers doing things right and has no patience for those too clueless not to know the difference. He prizes things that are useful, disdains things that are not. Ove feels he is no longer useful, it is not how he wants to be, but there it is. His wife died and he was forced into retirement, what is left for him? Now all Ove wants is to get his affairs in order and kill himself. Is it too much to ask to be left in peace to carry out this plan? Apparently it is. First a new neighbor with no idea how to properly drive a trailer runs over Ove's mailbox, then a kid leaves a broken bicycle in the common area, it is just one thing after another keeping him from his objective. Soon, much against his wishes, Ove is involved with a scruffy homeless cat, his new neighbor's many crises, and all sorts of the messy, emotional, parts of life Ove preferred to avoid. Ove is a curmudgeon, quick to judge and slow to tolerate, yet there is humanity and goodness in the man the reader will discover. A charming story on the unexpected value of a life.



January 16 the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses **Between the World and Me** by Ta-Nehisi Coates. Richard Jenkins will lead the discussion. There is raw power in this book, really a letter from a father to a son. Ta-Nehisi Coates is writing to let his 15 year old son Samori know the realities of the world he is growing up in, the dangers inherent in being a black man. He advises the young man not to buy into the Dream that shelters most white Americans but to recognize that he will always be at risk, lethally so. He recounts how a friend, Prince Jones, from his Howard University days, a non-violent, deeply religious young man, was killed by police with no consequence to the officer. He observes his son's stunned reaction to the death of Michael Brown. Police are meant to protect and defend the citizens from harm. Too often in the Black community, these very defenders are the harbingers of lethal harm. Coates tells his son about the different opportunities the ages have conferred on black and white. He talks about his hopes and his fears for his son's future. There is anger in Coates heartfelt writing, a rebuke for a world that would treat his son so differently based solely on the color of his skin.



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

Please note, hours for Book Club have changed, book club begins at 6:00 PM.

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

2017! Happy New Year!

February 6 **The Pickwick Papers** by Charles Dickens **Themed to Dickens Classics & Fiction Book Club**
February 27 **Death and Mr. Pickwick** by Stephen Jarvis **Themed to Dickens Mystery Book Club**

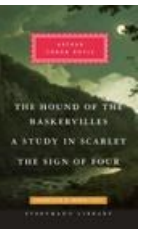
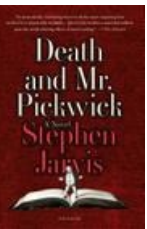
March **The Hound of the Baskervilles** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle **Themed to Doyle & James Mystery Book Club**

March **The Ambassadors** by Henry James **Themed to Doyle & James Classics Book Club**
March **The Fifth Heart** by Dan Simmons **Themed to Doyle & James Fiction Book Club**

April **Mycroft Holmes** by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar **Mystery Book Club**
April **Homegoing** by Yaa Gyasi **Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea Selection Fiction Book Club**
April **Unstoppable** by Bill Nye

May **Mississippi Blood** by Greg Iles **Mystery Book Club**
May **The Atomic Weight of Love** by Elizabeth Church **Fiction 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 using space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation. Using the space is free. To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music. Sunriver Village is an ideal place to meet. After concluding the day's agenda enjoy a meal at one of the Village restaurants and browse in the many shops.

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