



Sunriver Books & Music January 2018 Newsletter

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Happy New Year!



One of the joys of being a bookseller is the pleasure of introducing a brilliant new author to the community. We were delighted to introduce Craig Johnson and Garth Stein before their superstar status and we are tremendously grateful to both of them for their continued loyalty and support. Carrie Le Seur is another talented author, writing about important subjects while letting her reader step into a grand story. We are honored to have her back on Saturday January 27 at 5:00 PM for a presentation of her second

book, *The Weight of an Infinite Sky*.

Montana's wide open spaces are beautifully rendered in this lovely story so evocative of the vast plains. Ranching is a hard life, with risks and harsh conditions, carried out by people who hold within themselves the heritage of their forebears who settled the land. They are people who prize quiet and privacy but will be Johnny on the spot if a neighbor is in trouble, ready to lend a helping hand. Threats to this rugged, individualistic way of life are changing the landscape. Coal companies offer generous buy outs to ranchers teetering on the edge. Family ranches, often surviving from season to season, find the next generation is occasionally not willing to commit to a life of freezing winters, hot summers, hard labor on those lonesome plains, with little financial recompense for their effort.

Anthony Fry is an only son, his father hopes he will take over the ranch, do his duty to the land that has been in their family for generations. Instead he bolts for New York, trying to make it on the stage. When his father dies, with his acting career going nowhere, Anthony returns to Montana, finding employment leading a creative summer camp in Billings. Another shock waits on the home front, his uncle, a man he has never liked, moved into the family home and is running the ranch for his mother. Struggling with having it both ways, Anthony wants his uncle out but doesn't want to step into the role of rancher himself. Pivotal among their disagreements is Anthony's vehement opposition to the coal mining that his uncle is ready to embrace.

La Seur captures the tension between the generations, the economic reality of a ranching community offered substantial sums to become a mining area, and the way a young man must decide if he will step into the boots of his father or forge a new path away from Montana. The scenes with the ranchers pulling together, their struggles, and their victories are inspiring. This modern story has all the passions and conflicts of its inspiration, Shakespeare's Hamlet.

The Home Place, Carrie La Seur's first novel, opens on a winter night with a woman walking out alone into the intense cold, leaving her daughter behind in a house filled with drug addled men. It is the last time Brittany sees her mother alive. Alma fled Montana, left behind the tragedies and secrets, made her way through law school, and achieved success as a high powered attorney in Seattle. A phone call from the Billings police will challenge the careful life she constructed. Her niece Brittany is refusing to speak, her sister Vicky was discovered frozen to death not far from the house where her daughter awaited her return. When Alma arrives in Montana, she steps back into a landscape that speaks to her of home in bone deep ways. She is coming home to a place that is in trouble, her sister's death is in question. Did she get drunk, fall, and freeze? Or was she killed? Secrets are held in her family, dangerous to the careful life Alma so conscientiously created. This great story focuses on the role of place in a person's life, what you would do to protect family, and the dark secrets of the human heart.

Carrie La Seur creates fully realized, interesting characters and captures perfectly the vast, windswept big sky landscape of Montana. The setting is so well rendered, the reader steps into the story and can feel the bitter cold, the mournful cry of the wind, the immense spaces and loneliness. She does for Montana what Kent Haruf did for Colorado in ***Plainsong***, both illuminate tough, kind hearted ranching communities, and the power a place has in the hearts of the people who live within its geography. The best writing has this power, to allow the reader to enter the story.

Refreshments will be served and there will be drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend this free event by emailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com or calling 541-593-2525 or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday April 28, 2018 *Just in Time* by Marie Bostwick

Saturday May 12, 2018 *The Third Victim* by Phillip Margolin

Saturday June 9, 2018 *In Cave Danger* by Kate Dyer Seeley

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes.

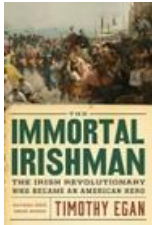
Sign up to attend these free events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events.

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

Winners of the Book Club's votes for the favorites of 2017.

Every year our Book Clubs vote on their favorites of the year's selections. The winners are posted in the January newsletter. Here are this year's winners by genre.

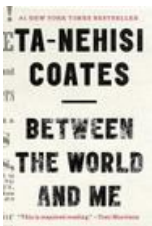
Non-Fiction



Immortal Irishman by Timothy Egan, reviewed by Rich Stonehouse. Timothy Egan is adept at picking unusual and mostly unknown parts of American history and writing enlightening stories of everything from the Dust Bowl survivors to photographer Edward Curtis. Egan tells the story of Thomas Meager, an Irishman born in 1823 to a wealthy family, who eschewed a soft life to embrace the independence movement after being radicalized by the potato famine. Rising up against the British occupiers who favored the wealthy gentry over the starving peasants, he narrowly escaped a death sentence and was exiled to Tasmania. With his background as a gifted orator and possessing a keen intellect, he soon escaped and ended up in New York. When the American Civil War erupted, Meager realized a way to gather likeminded Irishmen into a fighting force that later could be used to return to Ireland to oust the British. When the war ended he fell into despair when his brigade failed to follow him into the fight against the British. As with many tales of Ireland, this one also ends in tragedy, but is nonetheless a fascinating story.



Life Without a Recipe: A Memoir of Food and Family by Diana Abu-Jaber. Diana is one of my favorite authors; she writes stories that face important issues with humor and compassion. Her characters, in fiction and non-fiction, are memorable and full of zest. All of her books are both great fun to read and enlightening. In her memoir she uses those gifts to tell the story of her family, paying homage to two of the people most influential in her life, her Jordanian father and her New Jersey grandmother. Both instilled a love of good stories and an appreciation for cooking. Anyone who enjoys cooking will relish the descriptions of young Diana with her Grandmother Grace baking pastry, or her Father cooking meals redolent of his Jordanian heritage. They each loved her fiercely, their passions fired through their different backgrounds and cultures made them opponents in the battle for Diana's regard. Each wanted what is best and each had a very different opinion of what that might be. Diana lost both of them in recent years; here she focuses on their life force, their joys, triumphs and loss along with their meaning in her own life. This is also Diana's story of deciding to be a mother and her adoption of the baby girl who bears her grandmother's name, Grace. Adoption is not necessarily an easy process, Diana is open in describing her fears about becoming a parent and the tumultuous day that ultimately resulted in the arrival of a beautiful baby girl. Her writing is always a delight to read, both lively and insightful. Learn more about this talented author in her memoir, it is brave and honest. Her prior works of fiction are excellent. Their settings range from California to Iraq in ***Crescent*** to New York and New Jersey in ***Origin*** and Miami in ***Birds of Paradise***. Diana's earlier memoir, ***Language of Baklava*** celebrates the meals that reflected the two cultures, American and Jordanian, that influenced her early years. All are written with lively prose, interesting characters, and clever plots.



Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates. 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.

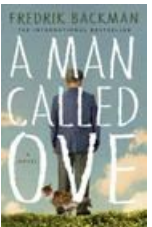
Everyone Brave is Forgiven by Chris Cleave and *The Fifth Heart* by Dan Simmons tied for first place.



Everyone Brave is Forgiven by Chris Cleave. Set during WWII, the story begins brash and full of youthful enthusiasm. Mary skied down Mont-Chuoi, escaped finishing school, and arrived in London going straight to the War Office where she volunteered to lend a hand during the hostilities. Assuming she would be assigned to a General or made a spy; she was disappointed when Whitehall sent her to teach school, an occupation she undertook with much verve and originality to the dismay of the principal. Mary came from a prestigious wealthy family; her father was inches away from becoming a member of the Cabinet. The world was her oyster and she was determined not to miss any excitement the war might provide. Of course, reality tends to intrude on our fantasy, there is real destruction, people suffer unbearable harm, and put in harm's way people die. As the war intensifies, Mary realizes the cost to those without her advantages and she matures. Alistair worked at the Tate, his roommate, Tom, was in charge of the schools. Alistair joins up and is shocked by the brutality of war, first in France then in the siege of Malta. He faced situations where good intentions led to tragedy. Alistair goes from being a happy young man quick with quips and passionate about art to an officer doing his best for the men under his command. He is compassionate with a strong sense of justice. Another memorable character is Zachary, one of Mary's students, a black child who suffers racism and loss yet moves through life with a kind of cocky, grace. The characters start out so young, innocent and hopeful, they are exposed to terrible situations, yet manage to hold a core of bravery and goodness despite it all. Cleave shows clearly how war is worse than people imagine; how wasteful, capricious and brutal it is. Alistair is inspired by Cleave's grandfather who survived the siege of Malta and squired around Randolph Churchill and Mary is inspired by his Grandmother



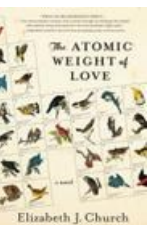
The Fifth Heart by Dan Simmons brings together Henry James and Sherlock Holmes in a joyous, romp of a book. Sherlock Holmes intervenes on a dismal grey Paris evening when Henry James intends to commit suicide by jumping into the Seine. Both have a problem. Henry James is depressed and Sherlock Holmes is worried that he may be a fictional character. No matter, the game is afoot! Holmes persuades James to accompany him on a journey to America; their ship will depart the next day. Holmes has been commissioned to investigate the suicide of Clover Adams, a close friend of James'. Their American sojourn has an even greater cause; Mycroft (Sherlock Holmes' older brother) has sent Sherlock to prevent a plot set in motion to bring down nations. The book is full of historic figures; Marian "Clover" Adams, Henry Adams, John Hay, Mark Twain, Henry Cabot Lodge and a slew of others. Simmons is a clever writer; he blends well researched historic detail with a rip snorting tale of murder and intrigue.



A Man Called Ove by Fredrick Backman. Prepare to be charmed by this quirky, heartwarming 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.



Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi. For 300 years the story follows the fates of the descendants of two sisters, unknown to each other. From the slave trade in Ghana to the plantations of the American South, from African Colonial Rule to the Civil War and its aftermath, as each generation moves forward the story describes their lives. Effia's father has big plans for his beautiful daughter. He hopes to wed her to the young chief thus securing a prominent position for his family in their tribe. Scheming for a higher bride price and to be rid of this unwanted daughter, his wife arranges a "marriage" to one of the Brits at the Castle. James Collins is kind to Effia, she lives in the Castle overlooking the sea on the coast of Ghana. Esi's fate is not so good, while Effia resides in comfort; Esi is crowded into the dark, fetid dungeon below the Castle, subjected to cruelty and deprivation. Soon she is loaded onto a ship, transported in horrible conditions to the American South, and sold into slavery where she will live out her brief unhappy life. Each generation will face challenges; the effect of selling fellow Africans into slavery on the tribes of Ghana, life as a slave in the American South, the years when a free black could be grabbed off the streets of the north to be sold south into slavery, the decades when to be black limited choices on jobs, housing, where you could dine, while passing for white opened those opportunities, and the racial tensions of the 60's. This book moves with a blistering pace illuminating lives and captivating readers. Yaa Gyasi has a powerful voice and a brilliant use of story.



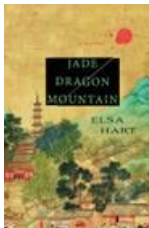
The Atomic Weight of Love by Elizabeth J. Church asks big questions. What do we truly want in life? What do you do if the path you choose is false? In the remains of your days can life be meaningful? Meridian Wallace is uber smart and ambitious. From childhood she has been attracted to birds and science, determined to get a PHD and become an ornithologist. While in college she falls for her physics professor, Alden Whetstone. She sees herself finishing her degree and joining Alden in a marriage of partnership, full of scientific discussions, sharing their passions for their work and each other. Not going to happen. In the 1940's Alden's expertise is needed in Los Alamos, New Mexico where the scientists are cooking up a new kind of bomb and the women are expected to subordinate their desires to supporting the work of the men. What started out as putting off studying for her PHD for a year and being a housewife while Alden works in top secret for the government, stretches out becoming her role in life. Meeting a Vietnam vet jolts Meridian into questioning the choices she has made. Lots of history takes place between the 1940's and 2011, the book reflects the changes in society. Meridian's observation of crows is fascinating; bird watchers will find much to love. She also goes riding through beautiful country, hikes, has friendships and partakes of the sorts of things that make up a life.

Winners of the Mystery Book Club's votes for the favorites of 2017.

There were an unusual number of ties in 2017's voting and the Mystery Book Club fully indulged in this phenomena. **Mississippi Blood** by Greg Iles and **Jade Dragon Mountain** by Elsa Hart tied for second place. **The Passenger** by Lisa Lutz and **I'm Traveling Alone** by Samuel Bjork tied for third place. **Mycroft Holmes** by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and **Girl Waits With Gun** by Amy Stewart tied for fourth place. **The Lake House** by Kate Morton won first place by a country mile.



The Lake House by Kate Morton. Set on a lushly gardened estate in Cornwall England, surrounded by woods, bordered by the lake, near the sea, is a perfect a setting for such a beautiful house. We see **The Lake House** in two time eras, its glory days in 1933 and in 2003 when it is abandoned and neglected. In 1933 **The Lake House** is home to Eleanor and Anthony Edevene, a handsome and devoted couple, and their three daughters, Deborah, Alice, and Clementine. Alice was a bright sixteen year old, spending her time writing stories in her journal. Every year a Midsummer Night Party was held on the estate, a huge occasion with bonfires, fireworks, gondola rides on the lake, music, and feasting. This year the party was expected to be especially joyous. The Edevenes had a young son, Theo, a jolly, beautiful baby adored by the whole family. Instead the fairy tale idyll of the loving family at **The Lake House** would end. In 2003 Sadie Sparrow is a cop with a few secrets of her own. She has broken a cardinal rule, becoming way too emotionally involved in the case of an abandoned little girl. Sent on a forced leave, she takes refuge with her Grandfather in Cornwall. Sadie loves being a cop, she is a good detective and is terribly upset about her current situation. While on a run with her Grandfather's two boisterous Labrador retrievers, she discovers **The Lake House** and becomes obsessed with uncovering its secrets. Alice Edevane is in her 80's and about to publish her 50th mystery novel. Alice is not at all certain she wants those secrets uncovered. Kate Morton writes stories to be enjoyed. They are populated by likeable characters, include glimpses of historic events, and the settings are lush. There is such humanity and compassion in her stories. For instance when Sadie is sitting in her Grandfather's cottage, she has a moment with one of his dogs: "Ramsay had honored her by coming to sit upon her feet and she reached down to scratch beneath his chin". That is how I feel about my animals!



Jade Dragon Mountain by Elsa Hart. Li Du was once a librarian in the Forbidden City. Banished by the Emperor, he has been traveling remote regions of China with nothing more than the rucksack he carries filled with his meager belongings. As Li Du approaches Dayan, he is unaware the Emperor is expected soon for an imperial visit, a display of his divinity as an eclipse of the sun will darken the sky. Li Du only wants to get his travel permit signed by the magistrate and go on his way; he is surprised to find the town crowded to overflowing. His cousin, Tulishen, is magistrate; the meeting of the two men is awkward after so much time and the estrangement of Li Du's expulsion. However Tulishen has need of his cousin's skills. Li Du can speak Latin, the language of the Jesuits who have come for the Emperor's festival and the spectacle of the eclipse. Tulishen is ambitious, everything for the Emperor's visit must be perfect, but he does not speak the tongue of these foreigners nor does he understand their ways. Li Du must stay and help with the Jesuits, and then he can go on his way before the Emperor arrives. Of course all does not go as planned. One of the foreigners will die. Li Du will pursue the truth. A lush, beautiful portrayal of China and interesting characters make this a pure pleasure to read. Li Du is a very likeable sleuth, intelligent and compassionate.



Mississippi Blood by Greg Iles. Mayor Penn Cage is trying to keep the surviving members of the Double Eagles, a sadistic offshoot of the KKK (inspired by a real group), from killing his family members. His father, respected doctor Tom Cage, is going on trial for the murder of his former nurse, Viola Turner, who came back to Natchez Mississippi to die. Viola and Tom have a history together, when she was his nurse they had a passionate affair resulting in the birth of a son kept secret. Penn is dealing with all of this while suffering grief from the violent death of someone close to him and trying to help his young daughter cope with the mayhem and violence surrounding them. It would be safe to say the Mayor has a lot on his mind. None of the dangers facing him are made any easier by his father's insistence on not telling Penn what really happened with Viola or disclosing the secrets of the past that brought him so closely in the orbit of the Double Eagles. Tom Page seems to be determined to keep his secrets. All the notoriety has attracted the attention of Serenity, a gorgeous black author and former soldier, who arrives in town with the intention of writing about Dr. Tom Cage. Penn and Serenity will join forces to discover the truth and defeat the Double Eagles. Greg Iles delivers lots of action with a historic perspective in this conclusion to the trilogy started with **Natchez Burning**. All three books in the trilogy have been book club selections, and all three have been selected as favorites of the year in the voting for the best Book Club selections.

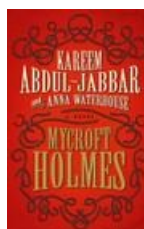


The Passenger by Lisa Lutz takes the reader by surprise at every turn, this is a devilishly grand story! Tanya's husband lies dead at the bottom of the stairs; clearly the widow is not bereaved. Fearing nasty questions from the police she splits town in hurry, putting miles between herself and the dead man. Tanya assures the reader she didn't do it, but we have only her word that Frank wasn't helped falling down those stairs, and Tanya's relationship with the truth has lots of room for flexibility. Within 48 hours Tanya is gone, vanished. Her hair, clothes, car, name are all new. This woman sheds identities and places with speed as she attempts to outrun her past, keeping her secrets hidden. It isn't easy living with an identity unlikely to pass official scrutiny, becoming someone new, keeping watch for any sign of danger and fleeing to places unknown. What is she running from? What secrets does she possess that require such a fugitive life? Is she a killer or a victim? Hard to say. Trying on a new persona, she meets Blue, a blond beauty whose ice cold eyes lock onto her with soul deep knowledge, there is no hiding from their recognition. Will Blue be a friend and savior or a dangerous foe?

Winners of the Mystery Book Club's votes for the favorites of 2017 continued.



I'm Traveling Alone by Samuel Bjork introducing another Norwegian to join the ranks of Jo Nesbo, Karin Fossum, and Camilla Lackberg. The body of a young girl found hanging in a tree by a reluctant dog walker sends Holger Munch across Norway to the remote island home of Mia Kruger. It has been a couple years since the fallout from their last investigation resulted in Holger's banishment to Honefoss and Mia's isolation. Holger used to head an elite homicide unit in Oslo, Mia was his best investigator. Now they are needed again. Holger and Mia are interesting and likeable. Their back stories give depth to the characters and contribute to the puzzle. Holger is brilliant; his hobby is figuring out rather tricky math equations. Dedicated to solving the crimes set before him, he has always let his job come first. It cost him a wife and put a sense of distance in the relationship with his daughter. Even now, a decade later, Holger is still not resolved to the divorce. He is not making the same mistake with his granddaughter, Marion. He adores the child and would do anything for her. Mia has her own baggage. She was also brilliant, in a different way than Holger. Highly intuitive, able to see the evil in people, she complimented her boss' style perfectly. Mia left the force, under a suspicious cloud, to live out her days in a drug and alcohol fueled haze until the tenth anniversary of her sister's death. On that day Mia will join her twin. It would take something big to derail Mia's suicide plans. Holger is crossing Norway with just that something; the murder of a child, indications that more will follow, and the need for the best and brightest to stop the killer. Holger is shocked by Mia's condition; the fit cop he knew wasn't involved with pills and booze. Still she has it, that ability to see the things others missed. Soon the team is reassembled. Will they be in time to save the next victim? The threads of this story go in a million directions, until the author brings them all back together as he reaches a climax sure to leave the reader breathless.



Mycroft Holmes by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. While this Mycroft is probably a bit more emotional than envisioned by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, he is also very entertaining and gives the reader one possible version of Mycroft as a young man. I think Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would like him. The story moves swiftly, there is lots of daring, and it is fun to read. Mycroft is engaged to Georgianna, he is totally besotted. She shares a common background with Mycroft's best friend Cyrus Douglas, a tobacco vendor. They both hail from Trinidad, although there the similarity ends. Douglas is a black man from a small village; Georgianna is a blond beauty the daughter of a plantation owner. Mycroft and Douglas are enjoying a cigar together after winning a wager when Douglas confides his worries about his family back in Trinidad. Children have gone missing, from the areas along the waterfront. When Mycroft shares this news with his fiancée wondering if she might have heard something that would soothe Douglas' concerns, her reaction is dramatic. She declares her intention to leave for Trinidad immediately to see her family, and admonishes Mycroft not to try and follow. Of course he does follow, accompanied by Douglas. No sooner are the two men on the boat then they are set upon by thugs. Someone is willing to go through a great deal of trouble to keep them from investigating the missing children. The story takes off at a galloping pace. Abdul-Jabbar's Mycroft is a likeable, interesting character, but for me Douglas steals the story, a fascinating and sympathetic man. Hopefully Abdul-Jabbar will continue the story with both Mycroft and Douglas; they are great fun to read!



Girl Waits With Gun by Amy Stewart. Constance Kopp lives a quiet life on a small isolated farm with her two sisters, Norma (who prefers to be outside with her pigeons or working on the farm) and Fluerette (a bit of a drama queen who likes to dress up and enjoys going to town). It is 1914, so trips to town are with a horse and buggy. On such a trip, the three Kopp sisters are run into by thugs driving an automobile erratically. The buggy is destroyed; luckily their horse survives the encounter. Constance is a tall, strong woman with a determined streak of independence, she is not about to let these thugs push her around. She demands restitution. They respond with intimidation and threats. Constance will not back down. The aforementioned gun in the title was given to the sisters by the local Sheriff when the actions of the thugs made him concerned for their safety. Written with a light touch, Amy Stewart based her mystery on real events. Constance and her sisters were real people, their buggy was hit by Henry Kaufman, owner of the local factory, who turned to intimidation and bullying when Constance held him accountable. Constance was appointed the first woman deputy in the US. Stewart gives her due credit in the story for her accomplishments.

Winners of the Classics Book Club's votes for the favorites of 2017.

Keeping with the notion of ties, the Classics Book Club had a four way tie for first place, they liked the selections equally.

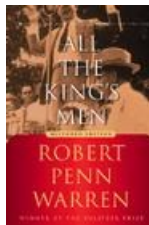


The Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens. This is the book that started it all; Dickens was only 24 when he wrote ***The Pickwick Papers***. In fact he was not even the main inspiration for the publication. Robert Seymour was a talented, popular artist. He wanted to put humorous stories to some of his illustrations, the publisher, Chapman and Hall, hired Dickens who was starting to be noticed writing articles under the pseudonym Boz. The illustrations Seymour had in mind were sporting scenes, young Dickens did not know much about the sporting world, and instead he envisioned a club dedicated to exploring life where the character would travel around London and England having the opportunity to get into all kinds of humorous situations meeting various quirky characters. The publisher liked this concept so changes were proposed to the illustrations and creative control was wrested from Seymour and given to Dickens. Depressed, Seymour committed suicide; Hablot Browne was eventually chosen as illustrator, a good fit for Dickens. The story was serialized, the first few serializations did not sell well, then the public got a taste for Dickens writing and the rest is history. It took off, trouncing the competition, with eager readers waiting for each new installment. It is great fun reading about Pickwick's adventures as he travels about with his trusty valet Sam.

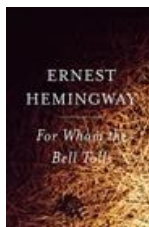
Winners of the Classics Book Club's votes for the favorites of 2017 continued.



Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather, is a quiet, lovely book. In 1851 New Mexico was now part of the United States, a vast territory with miles between settlements. The Catholic Church sent Father Jean Marie Latour as Apostolic Vicar, eventually Archbishop, as their representative in this untamed land. American in name only, many of the inhabitants were Mexican and Indian, with a variety of melded belief systems. Father Latour investigates this land, approaching the people with kindness and respect, while dealing with bad priests, occasionally dangerous men, and Native Americans suspicious of whites who do not always treat them with the respect they are due. He is comforted and aided by his good friend Father Joseph Vaillant, the two men are French and have known each other for many years. They travel on beautiful cream colored mules, Contento and Angelica, who have a great affection for each other. This is a splendid book to read slowly, savor the thought of such good men, kind to animals, trying amid difficult circumstances to serve the interest of the people in their care.



All The King's Men by Robert Penn Warren. Set in the 1930's it tells the story of Willie Talos' (or Stark depending on the version you are reading) rise to power as Governor of Louisiana. Talos is most probably a thinly fictionalized version of Senator Huey Long, a charismatic politician who shook up the status quo. Long was a complex politician, a man of the people and a populist but not immune to corruption, he was assassinated in 1935. Willie does a lot of good for the people of his state but he is not opposed to using whatever method for achieving his goals is most efficient, not necessarily considered the most correct. The story's other main character is a newspaperman who goes to work for Willie; it is through him we see the historic context and local influences. Both men are fully rendered, complicated, rich characters. Willie is charismatic, able to give rousing speeches that bring his people to their feet. His energy is boundless, his ambition equally so. **All the King's Men** won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, Robert Penn Warren was also a Pulitzer Prize winner for his poetry.



For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway is set during the intense fighting of the Spanish Civil War, a conflict Hemingway participated in as a journalist. The story focuses on the willingness of men to die in the service of a cause, even when those deaths will ultimately be meaningless. The setting is a pivotal battle against Franco, the writing does not flinch from portraying the cruelty and violence of war, but then Hemingway was not known for flinching. The main character, Robert Jordan, is an American. He volunteers to undertake a suicide mission, the destruction of a crucial bridge. Of course, he has a love interest. Maria is a village girl whose family was killed by the fascists. The bond men develop in war, the bravery required of them, the pain of betrayal by comrades, and the ultimate price of armed conflict are all dealt with deftly.

This concludes the winners of 2017's Book Club votes.

The lineup for upcoming Book Club selections for 2018 is available on sunriverbooks.com.

Starting off 2018, here are a few Staff Recommendations.

Nancy Nelson recommends.



The Fifth Petal by Brunonia Barry. On Halloween night in 2014, a boy was apparently murdered. On Halloween night of 1989 three young women were violently murdered. The event came to be known as the Goddess Murders. John Rafferty, the chief of police believes that there is a connection to the boy's death and the infamous Goddess Murders. The general consensus around town is that the deed was done by Rose Whelan, once a noted and respected historian, now homeless and to the eyes of most, weird. Rose was committed to a mental hospital for an extended period of time. Rose's obsession in life is to discover the location of the bodies of the victims of the witch trials of Salem of 1692, and if possible to find the oak tree from which they were hung. In the meantime Callie, the daughter of one of the murdered goddesses discovers that Rose is still alive and seeks her out as the only family she has left. The story has a haunting quality that reminds us that the past is ever a part of the present, and the stories of the past are a vital part of the thinking and the identities of those living in the here and now. The urgency to find the killer increases, leading to a surprising and intense ending.

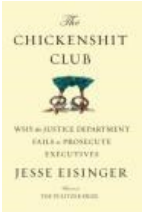
Rich Stonehouse Recommends.



A Rift In the Earth by James Reston, Jr. A story that mirrored the divisiveness of the Vietnam War played out during the process to design and build a memorial to honor the men and women who died during that war. The story has everything: patriotism, racism, misogyny, politics, art criticism, all in competition with the heroic effort to build a symbol that would ultimately result in reconciliation and healing to many who were on both sides of the conflict. Reston does a masterful job of showing the divisiveness, rancor and vileness shown by many during the aftermath of the design competition. The main characters Maya Lin, winner of the international design competition, and later Frederick Hart were instrumental in creating a lasting and honorable memorial that has brought solace and closure to many who served and to those who lost loved ones during the war. The book is richly illustrated with pictures of the era and representatives of the design competition that show the varied approaches each person took to show their vision that embodied the idea of honoring the veterans who died in the war.

Staff Recommendations.

Rich Stonehouse recommends.



The Chickenshit Club by Jesse Eisinger. After the collapse of Enron in 2001, the public was outraged and wanted blood. Federal prosecutors convicted the accounting firm Arthur Andersen and its top three executives of white collar crime and Enron's CEO was jailed for 14 years. Fast forward to 2010 and the prosecution of the perpetrators of the 2007-08 financial crisis. After investigating the illegal, criminal, and financially devastating actions of the big banks, investment firms and accounting offices, the Justice Department announced that it would take no criminal action and settle for fines. What changed? Eisinger's intriguing story lays out the truth: Since the turn of the century changes in politics, the defense bar, federal courts and most importantly the Justice Department have made it impossible to prosecute white collar crime. Politicians embraced big business, Treasury was taken over by Wall Street and Justice was outsourced to corporate law firms. This brought on a "revolving door" of the same people getting along and not risking losing cases, imposing large fines and moving on. The title of the book comes from James Comey's description of U.S. attorney's who have never lost a trial. All of these cozy relationships and lack of accountability gives the public the feeling that the system is "rigged". Eisinger's book convincingly shows that sadly, it is.

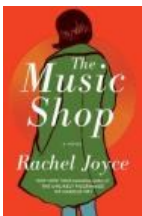


The Best Land Under Heaven by Michael Wallis. With the backdrop of Manifest Destiny, the Donner-Reed party left Independence, Missouri in 1846 seeking land, opportunity and adventure. They hoped to fulfill America's longing to be the best, and to achieve anything if you worked hard enough and were lucky too. Comprising 87 people of varied backgrounds, the wagon train chose a new, non-traditional route, heading south through Wyoming towards the Great Salt Lake with California as its destination. This proved to be a fatal mistake. Beset by breakdowns, loss of oxen, and a lack of discipline the party reached the foothills of the Sierras in October, woefully behind schedule, starving and demoralized. Split into two camps, a deadly blizzard descended upon them causing them to hunker down and wait out the storms. Weeks went by and it wasn't until April 29th that the last survivors emerged. Rescuers described horrific scenes of desperation and starvation that scarcely could be imagined. Wallis does a masterful job of sifting through the tabloid accounts and unreliable stories to explore the absolute limits of human existence when confronted with such horrible choices. Of the 48 survivors, there were heroes and villains. Wallis gives us a true account of humans facing adversity and strips away the myths and sensationalism. This is a real page turner.

Deon Recommends New Releases.



The Woman in the Window by A.J. Finn. Spellbinding! Hitchcock would have wished he had written it and would be clamoring to film it! Agnes was a respected child psychologist with a loving husband and vibrant 8 year old daughter until something happened. What happened? Well you will have to wait several delicious chapters to find out! Now her family is elsewhere and she is housebound, in an elegant Harlem brownstone, felled by agoraphobia. She cannot even go to the grocery store, enjoy her garden, or meander to the corner coffee shop. Although she knows better, Agnes drinks excessive quantities of wine, mixing it with her medication. You might wonder why a woman who is a trained psychologist would mix her drugs in such a dangerous fashion. Be patient, you will find out. Her home backs onto a park, Agnes spends much of her time watching her neighbors and indulging her interest in photography. The rest of Agnes' time is devoted to watching classic films, such as **Rear Window** directed by Alfred Hitchcock. She has an extensive collection; the films are salted throughout the story. Film buffs will love it! The arrival of a new neighbor is a highlight in her day, someone new to observe. When she sees something she shouldn't reality and imagination blur, what is real, what isn't? Will anyone believe her if it is? Splendid mystery, keeps the tension high, wicked twists at every turn.



The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce. If you love music, this novel is a treasure. Frank has a gift, a unique talent. Customers coming to his **Music Shop** discover that, like magic, he will know the perfect selection for them. Perhaps it will not be the song, or even the artist, they professed to desire but it will be just the right selection for what their soul needs. The story is set in 1988 in an old part of town where a developer would like to purchase the modest shops on the short street to build something modern. Frank sells vinyl, only vinyl. He resists the efforts of sales reps to convince him to stock cd's; no, only vinyl will do for Frank. When he talks about music people listen, because Frank knows music in deep down ways. The denizens of this humble street of merchants are a quirky entertaining lot, they like hanging out at Frank's place. One day a beautiful young woman, Ilse, appears, she stirs something in Frank that makes him nervous. Relationships scare the Dickens out of Frank; he steers clear of emotional entanglements. Ilse wants Frank to teach her to enjoy music, as the lessons progress they grow closer. Both these people have secrets, things they need to deal with before they can move forward in life. But can they? Will the secrets of the past prevent the promise of the future? Great fun to read!

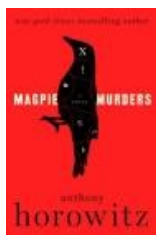


Beneath The Mountain by Luca D'Andrea. Italy's Dolomite Mountains are among the most awesome and beautiful on earth. They make a fitting location for this edgy mystery involving film makers and mountain rescue teams. Mike and Jeremy are hotshot reality filmmakers from New York. When Jeremy marries Annelise, a woman from the Dolomites, he interests Mike in filming the mountain rescue team. His wife's father was a legendary member, one of the founders of the service, so he has an in. Tragedy will occur leaving Jeremy at loose ends, home with his wife and his daughter, Clara. A chance snippet of overheard conversation leads to an obsession with a horrific murder committed decades ago in rugged Bletterbach Gorge, it has never been solved. Blamed by the community for the tragedy in the mountains, determined to solve the old murder, Jeremy puts his marriage and his life in jeopardy.

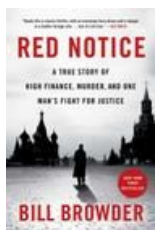
Happy 2018!

May the Year Bring joy, good health, prosperity and lots of great books to all!

January 2018 Book Clubs.



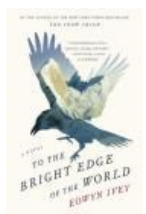
January 8 the Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Magpie Murders*** by Anthony Horowitz. Devilish grand fun to read! Susan Ryland has edited all of Alan Conway's bestselling Atticus Pund mystery series from the first book, years ago; she is intimately acquainted with the fictional detective. The series made Alan a wealthy man and truth be told it goes quite a ways to keeping the publishing firm she works for afloat. While Susan doesn't like Alan, she does enjoy his Atticus Pund mysteries, as ***Magpie Murders*** opens Alan has just turned in the latest manuscript. Susan settles down to spend a pleasant weekend with Atticus Pund. Susan and the reader are drawn into a clever mystery as Atticus and his assistant James are called to a picturesque English Village where the housekeeper of Pye Hall, home of Sir Magnus and Lady Pye, dies in what appears to be a tragic accident. Written with the style and atmosphere of Dame Agatha Christie, the mystery soon has the reader engrossed, eager to unravel what is happening in this lovely little village. However, all is not smooth sailing, Susan is soon convinced that something different is going on with this story, and there are clues within the mystery. Soon the reader is involved in two mysteries full of all those juicy stalwarts of the genre: greed, jealousy, and dark secrets along with a few murders to spice things up. It literally turns the mystery genre on its head in a literary whodunit with some very inventive twists.



January 15 the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses ***Red Notice*** by Bill Browder reviewed by Rich Stonehouse. This is a story right off the headlines of today's newspapers. ***Red Notice*** begins with the author graduating from Stanford Business School and moving into the high-flying hedge fund world of Russia in the 1990's. Making millions of dollars in his fund, Browder was swindled by the Russian oligarchs who were raiding his fund's wealth, so he set out to expose the corruption and theft perpetrated by the Russian government. Led by Putin, Browder was expelled from Russia. Browder's tax attorney uncovered a vast, corrupt enterprise, which ultimately led to his arrest and imprisonment. The lawyer's name was Sergei Magnitsky. Not willing to let the full extent of the corruption become known, Magnitsky was beaten to death in his cell. Browder became transformed after his friend was murdered, vowing to seek revenge and justice. Browder lobbied the U.S. Congress which imposed sanctions on Russia which infuriated Putin. It is believed that much of the alleged meddling in the 2016 presidential election stems from Russia trying to find a friendly candidate that would be willing to ease or rescind the sanctions imposed on Russia by the Magnitsky act. This is a great financial mystery, a thrilling political revenge story and a saga of a man willing to risk everything to avenge his friend's murder. Watch the latest headlines as this story is still part of current events taking place today.



January 22 the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Constellation of Vital Phenomena*** by Anthony Marra. If you admired ***Cutting for Stone*** by Abraham Verghese and long for a novel of similar power, it has arrived. Set in Chechnya, the story is haunting. Akhmed is a good man, but good men can succumb to fear, especially when resistance is pointless. He cowers with his invalid wife in his house when Russian soldiers come for his neighbor and friend. Akhmed watches as startling red flames claim his neighbor's house, fearful to venture forth until he is certain the Russians will not return. Cautiously Akhmed makes his way to the smoldering ruins, searching for his neighbor's daughter Havaa. He finds the child at the edge of the woods. Keeping her with him in the small village is impossible; the neighborhood informant would tell the Russians. They would return for her taking Akhmed and his wife too. He takes the child to the hospital, persuading Dr. Sonia Rabina to hide Havaa. Like all momentous actions, this one will bear consequences. What shines through is the quiet nobility of the characters and how they struggle to bravely do what is right even when they are afraid.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

Happy 2018!

February 5, 2018 ***Redemption Road*** by John Hart [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 19, 2018 ***To The Bright Edge of the World*** by Eowyn Ivey [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 5, 2018 ***The Girl From Venice*** by Martin Cruz Smith [Mystery Book Club](#)

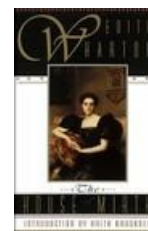
March 19, ***House of Mirth*** by Edith Wharton [Classic Book Club](#)

April 2, 2018 ***The Unquiet Dead*** by Asuma Zehanat Khan [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 16, 2018 ***No One Can Pronounce My Name*** by Rakesh Saytal [Deschutes County Library Novel Idea](#)

April 30, 2018 ***And Then All Hell Broke Loose*** by Richard Engel [Non-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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