



Sunriver Books & Music
January 2016
Newsletter
Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Happy New Year!

May 2016 bring peace, good healthy, and joy!

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday February 27th 2016 at 5:00 PM *Lovecraft Country* by Matt Ruff

Saturday March 12th 2016 at 5:00 PM *Violent Crimes* by Phil Margolin

Saturday April 23rd 2016 at 5:00 PM *All The Winters After* by Sere Prince Halverson

Saturday April 30th 2016 at 5:00 PM *New Hikes On The Oregon Coast*, slide show presentation by Bill Sullivan.

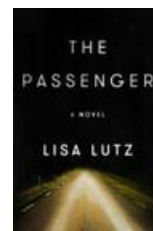
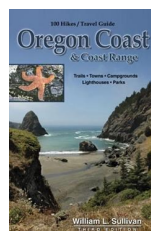
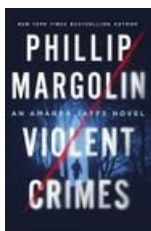
Saturday July 9th 2016 at 5:00 PM *The Passenger* by Lisa Lutz

Saturday July 16th 2016 At 5:00 PM *American Copper* by Shann Ray

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

Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events.

Check our web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.



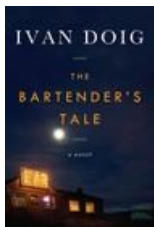
Book Clubs for 2016.

Selections for the Book Clubs of 2016 are listed on the last page of the newsletter. More information can be found on the drop down menu for Book clubs at sunriverbooks.com. Book Clubs are a great way to meet other passionate readers in the community and spend time discussing interesting books. Everyone is welcome and light refreshments are served.

Favorites of 2015.

Every year our Book Clubs vote on their favorites of the years selections. 2015 had an abundance of great books that fueled interesting discussions. There were many excellent titles to chose from, giving the winners tough competition. On the next pages are the top choices from the Book Club selections of 2015 voted on by our Book Clubs. Thank you to our Book Club members, they are truly special!

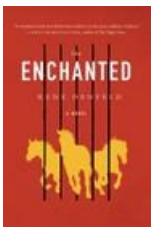
Fiction Book Club's Top Selections of 2015.



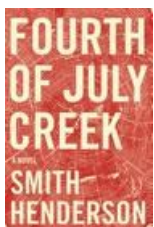
The Bartender's Tale by Ivan Doig. Rusty spent his first six years being tormented by his obnoxious cousins while living with his aunt in Arizona. Rusty's origins are a bit murky. His father is charismatic Tom Harry, a bar tender par excellent in Gros Vetre Montana. But the only thing Rusty knows about his Mom is that she is gone. Tom rescues Rusty from his spiteful cousins and he settles into a bachelor's life with his dad in a big old house behind the bar in the remote Montana town. It is a pretty good life, uncomplicated and harmonious, father and son looking out for each other. All goes swimmingly until Rusty turns twelve and Proxy, an old flame of Tom's, hits town with her teenage daughter. Is the daughter Rusty's sister? And what will happen now to Rusty's idyllic life with Tom? Ivan Doig's lyrical prose, wry humor, and rich storytelling are a treasure.



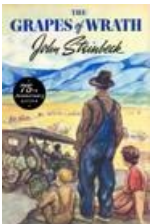
The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. The story opens in Amsterdam with our narrator, Theo, remembering the past. Quickly the story moves to teenage Theo, experiencing a day that began as an ordinary but upsetting day then turned tragic. His mother was called to a conference at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



The Enchanted by Rene Denfeld. Golden horses run under the stone foundation of the old prison, their eyes wild, manes flowing, molten heat emanating from their bodies. An inmate on death row leads the reader into the world of fantasy only he sees and the stark, violent reality of prison life. He watches as an unnamed lady researches the lives of killers sentenced to die, finding clues in their backgrounds that might grant them the leniency of life in prison over death. The secrets she holds close permit her an uncanny understanding of the nature of her clients. A fallen priest comforts the inmates and watches the lady, wondering if she might possess redemption for him. Haunting and beautifully written, this is a powerhouse story.

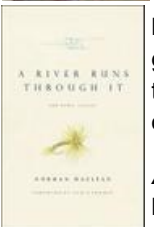


Fourth of July Creek by Smith Henderson. Pete Snow is a complicated guy. He wants to be a good man, strives to make a difference, but his human flaws thwart that ambition. Pete works for Montana's Department of Family Service, the last line of defense for children when their families turn into battle grounds. He is there to witness the worst, the alcoholism, drug dependence, absenteeism, and sexual predation. Pete doesn't bring to his job an altogether clean conscience; his own family is spinning out of control, heading for certain disaster. It is rapidly clear Pete is way too fond of strong drink. This troubled man tries to find his way, although he steps onto the wrong path from time to time. Benjamin Pearl, a feral young boy, lives in the woods with his survivalist father who is itching for a confrontation in what he thinks will be the End Times. Fanatically religious, having declared war on the government, Jerimiah Pearl ignores his son's deterioration from a lack of nourishment and care. Jerimiah harbors secrets, the kind of secrets that will eat at a man. Trying to help Benjamin, developing a measure of contact with Jerimiah, puts Pete in the path of conflict with the FBI right at the time his own family is imploding. Gritty and full of heart, the story has you rooting for the characters.

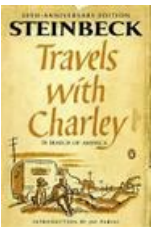


Classics Book Club Selections of 2015.

Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck. Forced by the Great Depression and the Dustbowl to leave their home, the Joad family travels to California in hopes of a new start. This is one of the most powerful works of American fiction ever written. Steinbeck reported on the diaspora of those displaced by those twin events, he brings a power and realism to his work of fiction that grips the reader. When the book came out in 1939 it was banned in Kern County, California officials actually participated in burning the book. Hmmm, seems to me there was also a furor over burning books in a certain European Country about to become notorious.



A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean. Maclean used his life experiences to craft this haunting novel about two brothers in Montana. He had a deep appreciation for the wild places, for the beauty of nature, and for rivers. If you are a fly fisherman, this novel is a must read because rivers and fishing haunt the pages. The story is not long, but it is tremendously powerful, it is a story that will stay with you.

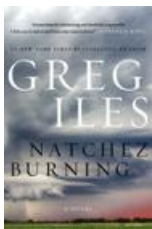


Travels With Charley by John Steinbeck. In 1960 John Steinbeck set out for a cross country journey with the best companion a man can have, his dog Charley. They traveled in a pick-up with a customized camper they named after Don Quixote's horse, Rocinante. The pair have adventures, see a lot of country, and ruminate on many issues as they cross the USA from east to west and back again. Steinbeck was one of the best; this slim volume gives the reader an opportunity to enjoy both his writing prowess and to get to know the man. There is no better way to travel than with your dog.

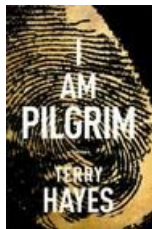


Middlemarch by George Eliot is set in a fictional village with the character's lives intersecting as they make good and bad choices that result in happiness or despair. Dorothea Brooke is an idealistic young woman whose decisions, both good and bad, take her life down paths that may differ from her intent but she stays true to herself. Dr. Lydgate complicates his life as he succumbs to the charms of a woman, proving that we sometimes see what we wish in others only to find that we really did not understand them at all. A financial scandal embroils residents of the village. The role of women is a strong theme throughout. There is a lot going on, not only in the village but the world around it too. **Middlemarch** takes place during a time of great change, 1829 to 1832; the story is rich in historic detail.

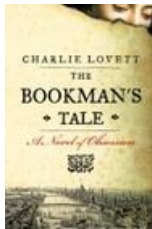
Mystery Book Club's Top Selections of 2015.



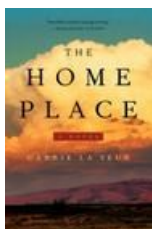
Natchez Burning by Greg Iles, reviewed by Nancy Nelson. “ **Natchez Burning**” is a book that weaves the present with the past. Dr. Thomas Cage has treated most of the residents and is highly regarded by both the black and white populations of Natchez, Mississippi. Now, however, he is accused of murdering the black nurse who once worked for him. The current events of his life are riddled with secrets. In the years between 1964 and 1968 people were openly fighting for the rights of blacks all over the south. A group within the Ku Klux Klan formed their own secret society with the aim of curtailing this quest for equality, and worse. As Thomas tries to protect his own secrets himself and his family, the secret atrocities of the past are bubbling to the surface. Potential witnesses begin to disappear as the real author of the worst corruption in Natchez comes closer to exposure. This was a thrilling mystery that I could not put down clear to the finish.



I Am Pilgrim by Terry Hayes. Razor sharp writing and an intricate plot that keeps you guessing makes this a real page turner. It is also hard to describe because I do not want to give away any of the plot twists, and there are many. In New York City a woman is horribly murdered. The cop in charge calls in a contact from the shadow world. Ben Bradley is a stalwart man, as good as it gets; a cop with great heart who does his best to catch the bad guys but this one has him stumped. Jude (not his real name, just borrowed for the occasion, like many of his aliases) was probably the best operative of his time, whip smart and willing to take the hard actions. He tried to leave the company behind, but escaping the shadow world is not so easy and there will be one more mission. This one will endanger his life and his soul. A devout Muslim feels his people are held under the yoke of oppressive, immoral regimes. The threads of their three lives will come together in shocking ways. At the crime scene in NYC, it appears the killer may have committed the perfect crime. But is it? Or can these two dogged and brilliant men foil a murderer lacking any conscience? I was surprised at how quickly this story drew me in and engaged me. While there are villains, the main characters carry the story and they are richly complex. The story will travel from New York to Paris to Greece to Turkey to the Middle East.

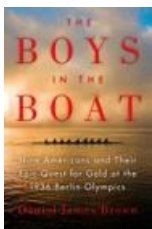


The Bookman's Tale by Charlie Lovett. Peter Byerly is a solitary kind of man; his twin passions are his wife and his career as an antiquarian bookseller. Marrying his college sweetheart gave him great joy until she died and ripped the heart right out of him. She was his avenue into the wider world, the woman who walked by his side and helped him navigate interacting with others. On her death, he left North Carolina and holed up in their English cottage, avoiding all contact until the day he got up the nerve to go into a bookstore, picked up a book from the age of Shakespeare and discovered a painting of his dead wife. How did his wife's image come to be on this ancient painting? Why is it in a book relating to Shakespeare? The Holy Grail of antiquarian bookselling is finding anything written in Shakespeare's hand relating to his plays or sonnets, proving he was the author of the works bearing his name. Peter's quest to discover the origins of the painting lead him onto the trail of the coveted work of William Shakespeare. Are they fake or are they real? As the story unfolds ancient feuds are uncovered and danger mounts.

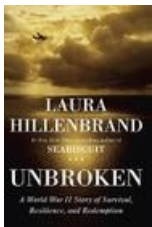


The Home Place by Carrie La Seur. Carrie La Seur is a brave new voice in fiction, tremendously talented, able to evoke place in moving and poignant ways. **The Home Place** is a stark, haunting story set in a Montana ranching community, the vastness of the landscape ever present. Alma left Montana, made her way through law school, moved to Seattle and created a disciplined life for herself as a high powered attorney, keeping the family tragedies of her youth at bay. Her sister Vickey was not so successful. As the story opens, she heads out into the bitter, freezing cold of a Montana night, leaving her daughter Brittany behind in a house filled with drug addicted men. The next morning will bring a call to Seattle informing Alma of her sister's death, a call that will bring her back to **The Home Place**.

Non-Fiction Book Club's Top Selections of 2015.



The Boys in the Boat; Nine Americans and their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown. The University of Washington put the sons of loggers, shipyard workers, and farmers against the elite East Coast rowing teams and won. Their unlikely string of victories defeated Great Britain, and then shocked the world by defeating Hitler's athletic rowing team for Olympic glory. Brown focuses his story on members of the team, most notably Joe Rantz, a poor boy with limited prospects and no real safety net, who rows to prove his mettle and make something of himself greater than he thought possible. Set during the depression, Joe has barely got the money to buy food, yet perseveres. If you like stories about the underdogs coming out on top, Olympic sports, or the people of the Northwest, this is a winner.



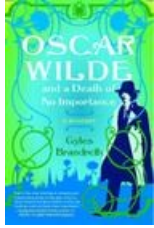
Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand. Louis Zamperini competed as a runner in the 1936 Olympics, so fast he impressed even Hitler. His coach said the only runner that could beat him was **Seabiscuit** (the subject of another biography by Hillenbrand). World events changed the course of his life, he was only 26 when his plane went down in the Pacific, leaving him in a raft with the pilot and surviving crew members for almost 7 weeks. Going from one form of hell to another, he spent the next two years in a Japanese prisoner of war camp, a place of incredible cruelty. That he survived is proof of his courage and tenacity. This is an inspiring story of a man's resilience and perseverance.



Astoria by Peter Stark, reviewed by Rich Stonehouse. The early 1800's saw America settled from the Atlantic coast to the Appalachian Mountains. Lewis & Clark's expedition gave Thomas Jefferson the idea that America could control the commerce and strategic value of the Pacific Northwest if outposts could be established as a counterbalance to British and Russian claims. Seeing the area as a rich source of furs and natural resources, John Jacob Astor took up Jefferson on establishing an outpost that would supply him with the furs that had made him a wealthy man in New York City. Astor sent a two pronged expedition to the Northwest, one by sea and the other over land. The legacy left behind by the outpost was the Oregon Trail blazed by Astor's overland expedition, and the establishment of the seaport Astoria.

January 2016 Book Clubs.

Oscar Wilde was a literary genius, a flamboyant celebrity, and a loyal friend. This January we will discuss in Book Club two works relating to Oscar Wilde. The first is the Mystery Book Club's discussion of *Oscar Wilde and a Death of No Importance* by Gyles Brandreth, a mystery that uses Oscar Wilde, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the creator of Sherlock Holmes), and poet Robert Sherard as characters. Classics and Fiction Book Club combine to discuss selected stories from *Oscar Wilde: The Complete Short Stories* by Oscar Wilde. Book Club meets at 6:30 on Mondays; everyone is welcome and light refreshments are served.



January 4th the Mystery Book Club discusses *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.



January 11th the Classics and Fiction Book Clubs will discuss a few select stories from *Oscar Wilde: The Complete Short Stories*. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is the author's most well-known work of prose, his only full length novel. We are going for a lighter month by sampling a few of the short stories to taste different aspects of Wilde's writing rather than reading a single story so well known. *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; Mrs. Otis, his eldest son Washington, daughter Virginia, and two twin boys, nicknamed Stars and Stripes for their tendency to get into trouble. 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. Wilde liked America, he successfully toured the country as a young man in 1881 making the acquaintance of Oliver Wendell Holmes, Henry Longfellow and Walt Whitman. *The Selfish Giant* is a children's story about a giant who will not allow children to play in his garden. Wilde was devoted to his sons, so we have two of his children's stories in the mix. *The Devoted Friend* is set in the animal kingdom where the Duck teaches her Ducklings by example under the scorn of the Water Rat. The short stories will not take long to read, so this will be an easy book club in preparation, but they will contain plenty of material for discussion.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

2016!!!

February 1st *Ice Princess* by Camilla Lackberg [Mystery Book Club](#)
February 15th *Countdown* by Alan Weisman [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
February 29th *Year of Wonder* by Gerladine Brooks [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 7th *Now You See Me* by S. J. Bolton [Mystery Book Club](#)
March 21st *Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert [Fiction Book Club](#)

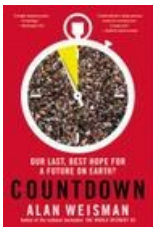
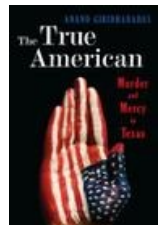
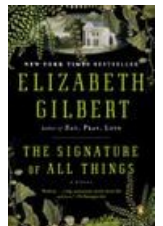
April *The Keeper of Lost Causes* by Jussi Adler-Olson [Mystery Book Club](#)
April *True American* by Anand Giridharadas [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
April Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection.

May *Descent* by Tim Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#)
May *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier [Fiction Book Club](#)

June *Time's Witness* by Michael Malone [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month Of North Carolina](#)
June *Lookaway, Lookaway* by Wilton Barnhardt [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month Of North Carolina](#)
June *Look Homeward Angel* by Thomas Wolfe [Classics Book Club](#) [Month Of North Carolina](#)

July *The Last Bookaneer* by Matthew Pearl [Mystery Book Club](#)
July *Under The Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan [Fiction Book Club](#)
July *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club](#)

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



If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy 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.

E-readers are changing the landscape for books, not always in gentle ways. Many Independent Bookstores offer e-books for sale, including Sunriver Books & Music. On the right hand side of our website, sunriverbooks.com, you will find information on buying e-books We hope that you consider an Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating purchasing an e-reader, please know that Amazon's kindle dictates your e-books be purchased from Amazon while the I-pad, the Sony e-reader, and others allow you the freedom to chose.