



# Sunriver Books & Music

## July 2020 Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



We are Zooming! Or something like it. Saturday July 25 at 5:30 P.M. we have the pleasure of an event with Matt Ruff for his latest novel, **88 Names**. Matt's imagination defies boundaries, allowing a body of work that challenges and entertains. And he always manages to surprise me. The event will be online, not in the bookstore, and may be a ticketed, check with us for details. For information call Sunriver Books & Music 541-593-2525, email [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stop by Sunriver Books & Music. Please get in touch with us if you wish to attend as it will probably require sending you a link.

way gamers could say "dead to me" when annoyed by someone and poof, they were just gone. That seems like it would be a really cool power, I can think of uses.

Games are elaborate, whole worlds are created. For novices it can be confusing, they can lose their heads (quickly too!). So for those who do not have hours to spend learning (and potentially being decapitated) they can hire Sherpas, experienced gamers who will help them create a persona (different personas have a range of useful abilities), help them amass treasures (such as swords to help keep their heads), and take them through adventures where they can enjoy the game. However, the companies who create games do not like the concept of Sherpas, they prohibit their use and block them when caught, so the Sherpas amass a variety of personas or names to get by the companies.

John Chu is a Sherpa with **88 Names** enabling him to guide his clients through a variety of gaming adventures. He employs several helpers to aid in showing the clients a good time, battling starships, fighting giants, whatever thrills them. Jolene is a fit 50ish IT professional in her day job. Gaming allows her to cut loose, use her skills in fantasy. Anja, a teenage Argentinian was a gymnast before a devastating accident left her paralyzed and dependent on a breathing apparatus. The gaming world allows her the freedom to pretend, to be lithe and flexible online. Ray's sole income is from his work as a Sherpa, John doesn't know much about his background and Jolene is suspicious.

Fun and games should be had by all. But not so fast. There are those pesky rules about Sherpas not being allowed. If a company catches the Sherpa leading a client, the game is over and the Sherpa, at least under one of his names, blocked. The client will then often refuse to pay. Lately John's crew has been having a run of bad fortune with being paid. As the story opens, their latest guiding job went down as the company busted them. The crew suspects they are being sabotaged by a former member of their team. Darla's gaming persona was hot, John was intrigued, actually flat out smitten. The rest of the crew less impressed and more worried about her volatility. When they parted ways, Darla seemed just the type to seek revenge. Getting them busted on a guiding gig is right up her alley. There is a saying "*hell hath no fury like a woman scorned*". Add to that a woman thwarted and Darla fits the bill to a T.

If John cannot stem the incidents depriving his crew of income, he will lose them. Finances are getting tight. Into this desperate situation strolls a new client with rigid demands and a generous offer. Payment beyond John's wildest dreams. But the client, Mr. Jones, seems off. Something about him makes John suspicious that he is not what he seems, and may have ulterior motives. There is another saying, "*don't look a gift horse in the mouth*". This particular gift horse has oodles of cash. But as John looks, he is more inclined to go with the saying "*if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is*". He begins to suspect his Mr. Jones might actually be North Korea's notorious leader, Kim Jong-un.

Fortunately for John, he is not without the resources to dig deep into his new benefactor. John's Mom is high up in a secret government organization, Zero Day, combating cyber terrorism, a serious badass in the world of cyberspace. He takes his suspicions to her, the game is afoot! What starts out as a game quickly turns into something more serious and potentially deadly. It is easy to get caught up in this story! The characters are fun, the story has things to say about our world today, and the writing sizzles. Check [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com) for changes or updates.

Matt Ruff's last novel **Lovecraft Country** about Atticus Freeman's quest to find his missing father accompanied by his Uncle and a friend during the 1950's is being made into a series on HBO. The monsters of Lovecraft's imagination blend with the human monsters in the Jim Crow era.



Please help support Sunriver Nature Center.

Sunriver was founded on a desire to blend with and protect the environment. Covid 19 has impacted the nature center too. Fewer people feel comfortable visiting or joining in programs while social distancing. But the animals still need to eat! Please donate to the nature center so they can continue their important work and the animals stay well fed!



## Black Lives Matter!

George Floyd's death was cruel and senseless. A white officer of the law, someone charged with protecting and defending, knelt on his throat, while hearing his distressed calls that he could not breathe, until his life fled. There was no reason, Floyd was on the ground with four officers of the law present. Yet the white officer just kept kneeling on the still body of George Floyd, minute after minute, on and on. And for what, \$20? Outraged citizens took to the streets in protest, despite the personal danger posed by the pandemic.

The Washington Post has a website, Fatal Force, where they track deadly interactions with the police, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>. In the past year 1030 people have died because of police shootings. Half are white but that is the majority population, indicating people of color are disproportionately the victims. According to Fatal Force, since 2015 there have been 2479 fatal shootings of whites, 1298 African American, 914 Hispanic, and 747 are not designated.

The heartbreaking image of George Floyd's murder ignited the public to demonstrate, not only in the US, but around the world. You would think that police in the aftermath of such a horrific event, would be at pains to show this was not representative of their profession. Instead the police across the nation reacted with further violence. In Atlanta Georgia several officers attacked two college students sitting in a car. In Buffalo New York a 75 year old man was pushed by a baton wielding officer into a fall on concrete that left the victim with blood rushing out of his ear as officers walked past. In California an officer shot and killed a young man. Tear gas, rubber bullets, and swinging batons were used on peaceful demonstrators. The New York Times details these events in an article titled The Crisis That Began With An Image Of Police Violence Keeps Providing More. <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/05/us/police-violence-george-floyd.html> Rayshard Brooks was shot and killed outside a Wendy's in Atlanta Georgia after a tussle with police officers that resulted in Brooks fleeing with one of the officer's taser. Why would police allow a call about a man sleeping drunk in his car to escalate to scuffling and loss of their taser? Why would they shoot the fleeing man? A taser isn't supposed to be a lethal weapon, there was not lethal threat from Mr. Brooks. Why shoot him? What does this say about law and order in our country? Something is seriously broken and has been for a long time.

Imagine being a young black man broke down along the side of the freeway, a cop car approaches, possibly the emotion he would feel is not relief that help is at hand but concern over the attitudes and stability of the officer. I cannot fully know how a black person would feel day to day living in a society where his or her life may be in danger from the officers of the law sworn to protect and defend. The color of my skin has never put me at risk. The color of a person's skin should never put anyone at risk. But it does. In 1963 Martin Luther King, Jr. gave one of the most moving speeches in US history. *"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."* It is past time to make that dream a reality.

The carnage must stop. I am heartened by the outpouring of serious interest in change. Across the country bookstores, publishers, and distributors are running out of titles dealing with the treatment of African Americans. Perhaps meaningful change can be achieved. Martin Luther King said in his speech. *Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children. It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment.* Those words ring true today.

Yet if we are to have meaningful change, all parties should have a place at the table. I doubt meaningful change that is effective and lasting can be achieved without the input of the police. The toll of police violence, the number of police involved in excessive force is staggering. That said, there are good police officers. Many have condemned the killing of George Floyd; Police Chiefs across the country, as detailed in an LA Times Article; *Police chiefs' condemnation of George Floyd killing highlights impact of criminal justice reform movements* <https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-05-28/george-floyd-police-chiefs-criminal-justice-reform> Police are there to help, to step into the most horrible situations, murders and assaults. This is not an easy job, as is detailed by the Officer Down Memorial Page <https://www.odmp.org/search/year/2020> Take the case of Officer Tiffany-Victoria Bilon Enriquez who was shot and killed when she responded to a stabbing. <https://www.odmp.org/officer/24381-officer-tiffany-victoria-bilon-enriquez> Being a cop is the kind of job where it is not guaranteed you will survive the day. Either Edmund Burke, George Orwell, or someone else, made the following statement. *We sleep soundly in our beds because rough men stand ready in the night to visit violence on those who would do us harm.* My hope is that all parties will come together with the goal of achieving an understanding. That this fragile understanding will lead to an exploration of what is possible resulting in a new way of policing that does not involve the use of lethal force in non-life threatening situations. My hope is that we can turn away from a culture of violence, fund mental health and social programs to take those situations off of police officers' tasks, and achieve the type of police forces across this land that will mean a young black man can feel safe not fearful approaching an officer for help.

If you would like to read to achieve a greater understanding of race in America, here are a few suggestions.

### Non Fiction

How to be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi

Stamped; Racism, Antiracism, and You by Ibram X. Kendi and Jason Reynolds

White Fragility by Robin DiAngelo

Between The World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson

The Warmth of Other Suns by Isabel Wilkerson

### Fiction

Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi

Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Darktown by Thomas Mullen

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Twelve Tribes of Hattie by Ayana Mathis

## Sunriver during Covid 19.

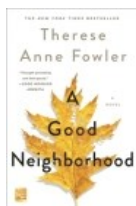
Thank you to everyone making an effort to shop locally in the Village. It is more expensive to operate during these times. The Village shops need your support.

To reduce the risk to shoppers we require masks and using hand sanitizer. We removed most of our display tables to give more room for social distancing. For anyone who feels uncomfortable entering shops, we are still doing curb side service and delivery in Sunriver. We also understand some may feel the risk is exaggerated. I am not a virologist or an expert in infectious diseases. Either way, wearing a mask, using hand sanitizer, and staying a respectful distance apart causes only a minor inconvenience. Thank you for helping to protect the community.

### New Releases!



**The Paris Hours** by Alex George is an elegant time machine transporting the reader to the Jazz age in Paris, those golden hours between the wars. Ravel's music dances through the air, Proust writes feverishly, Hemingway smolders, Josephine Baker seduces with a smile that lights up the room. And the language! Alex George is a wordsmith using gorgeous prose, this is a book you will not want to put down and will look forward to reading again! Alex George made me hear the music, I will be forever grateful. This is one of my favorite books of 2020!

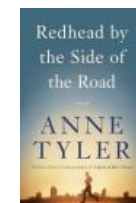


**A Good Neighborhood** by Therese Anne Fowler. Oak Knoll was a Good Neighborhood, a place where neighbors knew each other. They cared about the scale and natural beauty of their surroundings too. At the heart of this North Carolina neighborhood is Valerie Alston-Holt, a college professor, dedicated gardener, and the neighborhood's go to person on all issues ecological. A towering oak tree, a tree old enough to have experienced serious history, graces the yard of her modest home. Her son, Xavier, is a music prodigy, finishing his last year of high school with a scholarship in hand to a prestigious college. Oak Knoll was the sort of neighborhood that appealed to professors and other middle income families, the sort of neighborhood that a black woman, a widow, would be accepted.

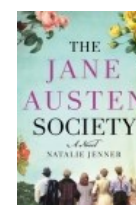
But the neighborhood is changing, it's close in proximity and moderate prices bringing in people with more wealth, people who would tear down the modest homes, raze the trees to use most of the lot, and build McMansions. The reactions of the residents is mixed, the new homes are surely luxurious with large rooms and all the bells and whistles, but homes that big dwarf their surroundings. Such a home is constructed next door to the Alston-Holt residence, its large footprint on the land threatening the root system of the ancient oak. The new neighbor, Brad Whitman, is a self-made man, well known and liked in the community from the TV ads for his heating and cooling company. He takes pride in being able to provide such a luxurious home for his wife Julia, and two daughters. This novel draws you in from the first page, asking important questions about what it means to be a good neighbor, where does race fit in the equation, the use of power, and a Romeo and Juliet story too.



**Valentine** by Elizabeth Wetmore is the story of women and how their lives can be torn asunder by the violence that men do. The story opens February 15, 1976 amidst the Texas oil fields with teenage Gloria Ramirez cowering in the mesquite bushes while nearby her attacker lies passed out drunk in his truck. Knowing he will kill her if he awakens, Gloria slips off to walk toward a distant farm house where Mary Rose Whitehead will discover the broken young girl. The aftermath of the attack has a profound impact on the community as various factions weigh in. Seeking justice, a woman will act with wide ranging consequences. This is a story that touches on issues of race and entitlement, but it is also the story of strong women and what they face to survive. Beautifully written, ultimately uplifting, and important.



**Redhead by the Side of the Road** by Anne Tyler. This is an absolute delight! Micah has determined to live life small, take no risks, and keep his pleasures simple. He has a group of adoring sisters, and their families, a woman friend he avoids committing to, and a routine that works for him. Micah is self-employed, running an IT rescue sort of operation out of his car. He drives around helping people navigate issues with their home computers. He also manages a Baltimore apartment building in return for a basement unit, a home he keeps scrupulously clean. So, all is going along swimmingly, although perhaps a bit rigidly, when a couple things happen. His woman friend, Cass, is being evicted and a young man shows up at his apartment under the impression that Micah is his father. A total surprise to Micah. As these two issues get out of hand (in often hilarious ways) Micah's staid existence is blown apart and he is forced to confront what he really wants his life to be.

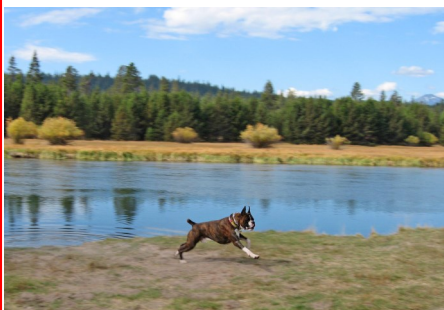


**The Jane Austen Society** by Natalie Jenner is a gentle novel set during and after WWII in Chawton, Jane Austen's final home. It explores the creation of the Jane Austen Society with fictional characters whose lives reflect some of Jane's stories. The last patriarch of the Knights is elderly and in poor health. His only daughter, overwhelmed by her domineering father, spends her days in the family estate, no longer going out in society. A diverse group come together by happenstance to protect Jane's legacy; a farm hand, a doctor, a former school teacher, and a movie star among others. Each has a favorite book or character that has in some way touched their lives, thus the reader has the pleasure of reflections on Jane Austen's novels.



**The Red Lotus** by Chris Bohjalian. Alexis and Austen had more of a meet quirky than meet cute. She was the emergency room doctor when he came in with a bullet wound suffered while playing darts at a bar. One of the patrons brandished a gun and started shooting, Austen was accidental collateral damage. His wounds were not severe, there was a definite attraction, and it turns out they work in the same hospital. Austen is a money man, not involved in the medicine. Months later Alexis is thinking this is a man she could spend her life with. They are on a biking vacation in Vietnam when things spin out of control. Austen took a solitary ride, away from the rest of the tour, to the sites where his uncle was killed in battle and his father wounded, a pilgrimage. Alexis waits, knowing he is a strong rider, the passing time becomes sinister. What happened? Why isn't he here? Austen's ride did not end well, two armed men stepped into the road and his plans are shattered. As Alexis searches for Austen, it soon becomes apparent he was keeping secrets and telling lies. But where does this path lead? What was Austen really doing in Vietnam? Have his actions got him killed and left Alexis in jeopardy? The twists and turns will keep you guessing until the end!





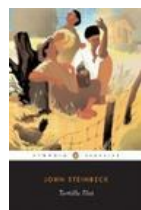
Flashman July 2, 2002– January 31, 2015

Please remember not to leave your pets in a parked car, temperatures can soar within minutes causing death. If you see a dog in a parked car in Sunriver, please call the Sunriver Police Department 541-593-1014 so they can rescue the animal. Animals can be in severe distress in minutes, parking in the shade on our hot days will not save them. It is too hot to leave an animal safely in the car, even in shade temperatures will be deadly.

While we are alerting dog owners to local dangers, Dr. Wendy Merideth of Sunriver Veterinary Clinic 541-593-8128 alerted us to the danger of mushrooms. Every year dogs ingest poisonous mushrooms, sometimes fatally, always requiring prompt medical attention. In the Deschutes National Forest be cautious of leg hold traps that can grievously injure a pet, or a person

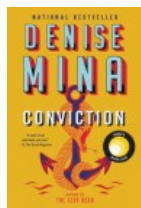
Dogs in Sunriver must be on a leash or under firm voice control, this keeps them from unhappy interactions with resident's cats and other small animals (such as the local porcupines which can cause an emergency vet visit). Caution is necessary with doors too! Dogs love the out of doors! They arrive in Sunriver happy with the forest and meadows. An open door is like an invitation to a party. If they escape without notice, they can be gone in an instant, by the time they are missed, it can be too late. Sunriver is surrounded by forest, many animals live here. Coyote, bobcat, deer, and others can lead to a deadly encounter for the beloved family dog. Be especially careful traveling with people unfamiliar with animals and small children. They may not realize the danger an open door poses to the canine family member. If you are traveling with a cat, escaping to the outside is even more dangerous making doorway vigilance tremendously important.

### July 2020 Book Clubs



Book Clubs bring people together, in person or via zoom, to find common ground in the enjoyment of the written word. In these times, this is even more important. Relax with an interesting book then join in a lively discussion with other passionate readers. It is fun. Due to the uncertainty of the present situation, check with us for time and format on the following meetings. They may be in person or they may be via Zoom.

July 6 Classics Book Club discusses Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck's rollicking **Tortilla Flat**. Written to be a bit of a play on the Arthurian legends, Danny and his pals embark on their own series of adventures in Monterey California. Danny is set on avoiding responsibility, not into the idea of hard toil and savings. He is surrounded by a cadre of like-minded friends prone to trouble.



July 13 Mystery Book Club discusses **Conviction** by Denise Mina. Anna, a Glasgow resident and mother of two, liked listening to true crime podcasts. On the day the story begins, Anna is indulging in the habit, when the podcast shocks her with the murder of a man she used to know, Leon Parker, who perished along with his adult children when his yacht blew up. Of course, there are loose ends. The day goes downhill from there, with her marriage imploding as her husband leaves her for her best friend, and then past secrets she tried to keep hidden send her on the lam. Anna is a force to be reckoned with!

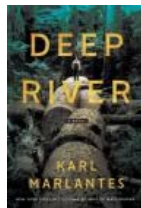
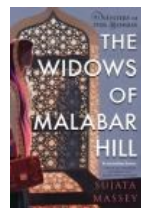


Jul 27 Fiction Book Club discusses **Ask Again, Yes** by Mary Beth Keane. This is a perfect novel for Book Clubs! In 1973 Francis Gleason and Brian Stanhope are fresh out of the Police Academy walking a beat together in the Bronx. Both are Irish American, both with young women they will soon marry. Ironically, they end up living next door to each other in Gillam.

Francis' wife, Lena, didn't really want to leave the city, but she understood Francis' need for the calm and greenery of their new home after his shifts as a New York city cop. She is eager to make friends with Anne Stanhope when they move in next door, but it is not to be, Anne is not the friendly type.

At the heart of the story is the friendship that develops between the children, Kate Gleason and Peter Stanhope. They ride the school bus together, play by the boulders in their back yards, and develop an intense bond. When Kate and Peter are teenagers, a shocking act of violence will leave devastation in its aftermath forcing the Stanhopes to leave. Despite their separation, Kate and Peter never stop thinking of each other, as college students they find their way back together but the ghosts of the past cannot be ignored.

The power of friendship, the need to confront the past in order to move to the future, the responsibility of family, the need for forgiveness, all of these and many other themes make this a rich book for discussion.



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

Everyone is welcome,  
Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

#### August

August 10 **Widows of Malabar Hills** by Sujita Massey [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 24 **Deep River** by Karl Marlantes [Fiction Book Club](#)

#### September

**Paragon Hotel** by Lindsey Faye [Mystery Book Club](#)

**Lolita** by Vladimir Nabokov [Classics Book Club and Fiction Book Club Banned Book Selection](#)

**Tightrope** by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at [Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)



### Digital Audio Books.

Sunriver Books & Music is now able to offer digital audio books through Libro. Sign up at [libro.fm/sunriverbooks](http://libro.fm/sunriverbooks) Sunriver Books & Music's logo should appear on the top right corner of the site. Here is a brief description of Libro and their terms.

- Libro.fm works with all major publishers and has a catalog of over 100,000 audiobooks, including New York Times bestsellers.
- Audiobooks can be purchased individually or through a monthly membership program
- Over 100,000 titles • First month/audiobook for FREE
- • \$14.99 monthly fee (one audiobook/month) • 30% off additional audiobooks and audiobook gifts

For our customers who enjoy audio books as well as reading, we hope you find Libro a good source.