



Sunriver Books & Music

June 2010 Newsletter

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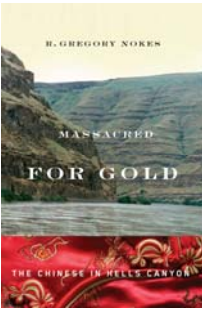


Author Events!

Call, stop by, or e-mail to sign up to attend and be entered in the drawing for prizes.



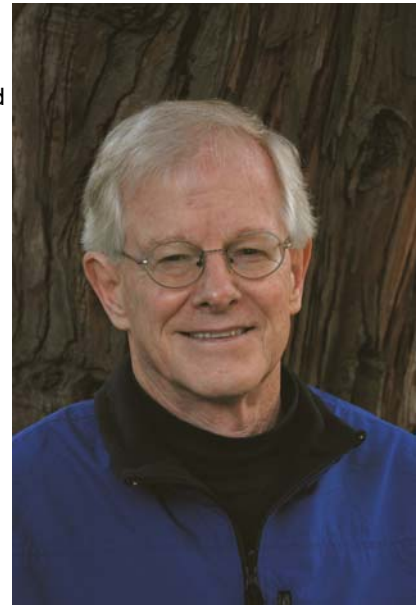
Before we start telling you about June, let me mention Saturday July 3rd. We have a real treat for you! Craig Johnson returns for his latest book, ***Junkyard Dogs***. Walt Longmire is busy keeping the peace in the wide open spaces of Wyoming. Complications ensue when a ritzy development builds next to the dump. The neighbors have differing priorities. The opening chapter is riotous good fun, it had me falling off my chair I was laughing so hard. Craig is one of my favorite authors, his writing is sublime. He also knows how to entertain a crowd; we usually have big turnouts for Craig so sign up to attend early! You can find more information on Craig's event, or any of the other events at sunriverbooks.com. Or stop by the bookstore and we will be happy to fill you in on any of our events and book clubs.



Save June 5th at 5:00 PM for R. Gregory Nokes, he gave a fabulous presentation last November on ***Massacred for Gold***. Many people stopped by the bookstore to tell us how much they enjoyed the presentation and to comment that they would have liked to hear more. Many people stopped to remark that they had missed the event and wished they had been able to attend. Their wishes shall be answered. Greg Nokes is very generously coming back to Sunriver for another presentation on ***Massacred for Gold***.

The Pacific Northwest is the site of the worst massacre of Chinese in US history. Right here in Hell's Canyon by a bend in the Snake River up to 34 Chinese miners were murdered. Worse yet, some of the killers were mere school boys, teenagers lured toward easy money and a quick kill by a nefarious horse thieving rancher. It is best not to turn our backs on the past lest the same mistakes are perpetuated. Prejudice and hate are sorrowful emotions. Those Chinese miners could have been robbed without taking their lives, but they were hated for being different. The taking of those lives would stay with those kids forever. Might it be a good idea to reflect on the cost to our souls of racial hatred?

Massacred for Gold brings to light the contribution of Chinese workers. They were integral to the building of our railroads, working harder and for less money than US citizens. These men were willing to hang off cliffs to set dynamite charges, work every day, and endure horrid conditions. Unlike other groups of immigrants, the Chinese wanted to make enough money to help their families then return home. They missed their homeland and loved ones ferociously. Instead of being thanked for their hard work, appreciated for their sacrifices, they were hated. Racial hatred fueled an environment of despair for the Chinese. They were ridiculed, beaten, robbed without any hope of justice or protection.



Gold mining was beyond the means of the Chinese when the claims were paying but as the claims played out the Chinese came in to labor extracting the last reluctant grains of gold. The claim the massacred men had been working was thought to be one of the better claims mined by Chinese. They had been working about a year, so there was gold to be taken. The Chinese were sitting ducks for their killers. Sheer cliff walls and fast flowing water gave them nowhere to run. Hells Canyon, the Snake River, and the Imnaha River Gorge is a forbidding remote landscape. It was a lonely place to die so far from their homeland at the hand of outlaws who would never pay for their crime. Wallowa County Oregon is gifted with glorious natural beauty, from the austere beauty of Hells Canyon to the majestic Wallowa Mountains. Hidden in that beauty is a dark past stained with injustice. Chief Joseph and the Nez Pierce tribe were forced from the land of their ancestors so the white settlers could take their land. The killing of the Chinese miners went unpunished. Greg Nokes has documented this shameful episode. Greg worked as a reporter for the Associated Press and The Oregonian, retiring after 43 years to write this story. He has put together a fascinating slide show and presentation. I hope you are able to come listen to Greg and learn about this chapter in Oregon's history.



Sujatha Hampton will be with us at 5:00 PM on June 12th for a presentation ***As It Was Written***, a lively work of fiction. Dr. Raman Nair is living the good life in Virginia with his five beautiful daughters and loving wife. His safe haven may be in jeopardy. Dr. Nair's sister Gita is determined to write the family history. Suffering from a star crossed love affair, she pours her passion into the project. Will retelling the tale reactivate the curse that dogged their family in India? Will the curse that doomed one woman to die for love each generation in India now find his happy home in Virginia? Will he lose one of his beautiful daughters? I liked the characters and enjoyed the story, it is heartwarming and engaging. Want to find out what happens to the lovely daughters, come hear Sujatha's presentation. It will be fun! It is always a real pleasure to find a new author with such a powerhouse talent.



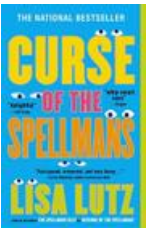
Lisa Lutz is returning to Sunriver June 19th at 5:00 PM and we are thrilled! In the years since her last visit her books have done very well indeed. Paramount Pictures has plans to turn *The Spellman Files* into a movie with Barry Sonnenfeld directing. Every book she has written has been chosen by independent bookseller's across the nation as an Indie Next List selection.

San Francisco, Lisa Lutz's home town, is the setting for her stories. Reading the books is almost like taking a quick trip to the city by the bay. The Spellman family runs a private investigation business out of their Victorian style home, they are a well meaning crew but apt to be a bit removed from normal. The parents figure the best way to keep up with their kids is

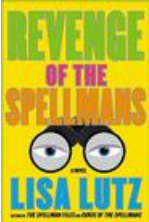


to bug their rooms and tail their cars. It makes their middle child, Izzy, crazy. She expends a formidable amount of energy acting up. David, the oldest child, seems to have come through unscarred; he is a successful, conservative attorney not at all prone to breaking the law. Rae, the youngest, is a natural. She tails random people just to sharpen her skills. Rae might be a bit obsessive. She gets a dose of normal from Inspector Henry Stone; the long suffering cop lets her do homework in his office and tries to inspire her toward a more conventional life.

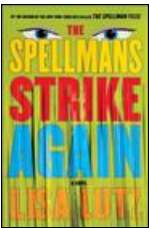
The Spellman Files introduces you to the crew. Izzy is trying to solve a cold case. 15 year old Rae is tailing Izzy, reporting back to the parental unit on the boyfriend situation. This passes as normal life in the Spellman household until a disappearance raises the stakes too high.



Curse of the Spellmans has Izzy moving back home where she promptly decides the hunky next door neighbor is acting very suspicious. Izzy is convinced he is up to no good, the deeper she digs the more certain she becomes that good looking John is one very bad hombre. How far would Izzy go to discover the truth and stop a villain. Well probably way over the line and then some.



Revenge of the Spellmans has Izzy facing some hard choices, she is not sure about rejoining the family business. She has doubts she is cut out to be a detective, her last case left her wondering if she might be just a tad bit obsessive or lacking in commonsense. Oh and she does have that pesky court ordered therapy to finish. Milo asks (insists) she help his friend Ernie find out if his wife is cheating. Izzy isn't too fond of cheating wife cases, but she figures she needs to test herself and solve a case before deciding to jump back into the game. Izzy's Mom and Dad want her to take over the family detective agency; she is getting a high dose of parental pressure. All the usual gang is here, Rae is still bugging Henry, David is hiding secrets; Henry is trying to have a love life.



The Spellmans Strike Again has Izzy wondering why her parent's San Francisco house is starting to shed its parts; door handles, light fixtures, all oddly disappearing. Teenage Rae is coloring way outside the lines, busily black-mailing her family and getting herself into heaps of trouble. Her heart is in the right place, she wants to help Maggie free a man wrongly convicted, but her methods have more in common with Al Capone than Mother Theresa.

Any Lisa Lutz appearance is bound to be interesting, entertaining, and not to be missed! If you like to laugh, pick up any of Lisa Lutz's books. Splendidly quirky, the Spellman clan recklessly charges through life with the vigor and finesse of a bull in a porcelain shop. Breakage is always a possibility.



Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday July 3rd at 5:00 PM *Junkyard Dog* by Craig Johnson

Saturday July 17th at 5:00 PM *Bend Overall* by Scott Cook

Saturday August 7th at 5:00 PM *Quilt As You Go* by Arlene Sachitano

Saturday August 14th at 5:00 PM *Border Songs* by James Lynch

Saturday August 21st at 5:00 PM *The Crying Tree* by Naseem Rakha

Saturday August 28th at 5:00 PM *Roll Around Heaven* by Jessica Maxwell

We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak often 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 newsletter or web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

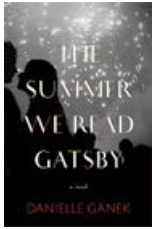
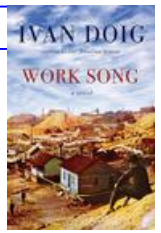
Book Club meetings are listed on the last page of the newsletter. A more complete listing can be found at sunriverbooks.com.

As of this moment Sunriver Village has no designated facilities for indoor events and to the best of our knowledge no plans for such a facility in future. We have been gratefully using the space adjacent to the bookstore, now we have been informed that will probably stop very shortly. During warm weather we will hopefully be able to hold events outdoors. Hence we will not be able to schedule anymore events past October. We are sorry. Events have been a big part of Sunriver Books & Music. Hopefully we will find a solution, but probably not in time for the kind of lineup we would like to bring the community. There is one BIG event scheduled for October 9th (details later) but it will not be held in Sunriver Village.

Construction is not an easy process, it is fraught with frustration for contractor and tenant alike. We want to thank all of you who have braved the obstacles of shopping in a construction site to support Sunriver Books & Music. Please know we appreciate you. Hopefully the Village's attractive new look will soon replace the construction and we can all enjoy Sunriver Village. Thanks for your continued patronage.

Neat new features make our website more interesting. Check out sunriverbooks.com to see what is new. Book Clubs listings for the year are now available with comments on the year's past meetings. You can make comments too, just click on the comments links at the bottom of pages. The events calendar is easier to navigate with lots of featured events upcoming. The newsletter is available online too. Just click on Newsletter on the home page for a list of the available newsletters. We hope you like the new look, please let us know your thoughts.

Work Song by Ivan Doig brings back Morrie from *Whistling Season*, one of my favorite characters. When last seen, Morrie set out for parts unknown, heading in the general direction of Australia. He is lured back by the promise of wealth in the “richest city in the world”, Butte, Montana. What all that hype didn’t include was the venal, brutal nature of the men who ran Butte and held the purse strings. Nor was there any mention of the danger and despair of the miners sent down far into ground to bring forth riches for the town’s masters. But, like a cat, Morrie tends to land on his feet. It is pure pleasure to see just how he goes about staying one step ahead. It is always a pleasure to read a book by Ivan Doig, he is a Northwest treasure.



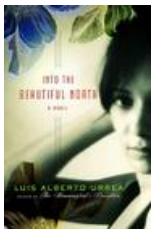
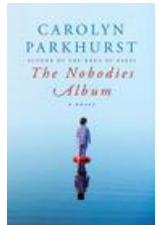
The Summer We Read Gatsby by Danielle Ganek is sprinkled liberally with delicious literary allusions. Cassie and Peck are sisters, not that it would be apparent to anyone. Cassie was raised in Switzerland, growing up to be a journalist with a studious streak. Peck was raised in New York, growing up to be an actress thirsty for the limelight. They couldn’t be more different. They even look different, one thin and dark, the other fair and zaftig. Their one common thread was Aunt Lydia, their Father’s sister, and summers at her home in Southampton. Lydia’s death has brought the girls together for one last summer. Her will left them the house in Southampton with the stipulation they spend the summer together, promising there was something of value to be found in the house. This could be the perfect summer read,

Backseat Saints by Joshilyn Jackson is fast passed, well written, and compelling. Jackson breathes life into her characters; quirky, hopelessly flawed, and full of heart. Rose Mae Lolly’s mother ran off leaving the child with her father, a man fond of strong drink and quick to use his fists. After one beating too many Rose Mae took off making her way from diner to diner along the interstate. Thom finds her and makes her Mrs. Ro Grandee. Ro loves her handsome Thom, loves him with all her feisty heart. But she loves life too and she knows one of these days Thom is going to hit her too bad, is going to break her in ways the local hospital can’t fix. Maybe only one of them can live and Ro would prefer to keep on breathing.



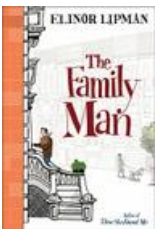
The Madonnas of Echo Park by Brando Skyhorse is an intricate book about cultural identity and home. An army of Hispanics go forth from Echo Park every day to work in the gardens, tidy the houses, and watch the children of the Anglos in the City of Angels. Anglos who feel entitled, forgetting that not so long ago Los Angeles was the home of proud Hidalgos, not even a part of the US that so closely guards the borders today. Now the Hispanics clean for the Anglos in the city they once ruled. Aurora Esperanza grows up in Echo Park, eventually learning what it means to be Hispanic, proud, and to be home. Told through shifting viewpoints, this is a lyrical, heartwarming novel.

The Nobodies Album by Carolyn Parkhurst is on the quirky side, not your run of the mill linear story. But oh, it is fun to read. Octavia Frost has a little ritual when she turns in a manuscript to her publisher. Rather than trust her tome to the mail, she travels to New York and delivers it personally. She is a little nervous about the response to her latest effort. Instead of writing a new book, she has written a book of new endings for all of her previous books. It is not an idea her publisher encouraged. Today’s outing to New York is not going to go as planned. Octavia has been estranged from her son, rock star Milo Frost. On the way to her publisher’s office Octavia is stunned to hear her son has been arrested for murder! She will drop everything to fly to his side, wanted or not, and unravel the puzzle of their lives.



Into The Beautiful North by Luis Alberto Urrea releases this month in paperback. What do you do if the men have left your village, leaving it unprotected and a target for bandits? Follow across the border *Into the Beautiful North* where the favors of the Promised Land may prove elusive. Inspired by watching the Magnificent Seven the girls of the village decide to take action. Nayeli and her friends are on a quest to bring a few good men home to the village. Nayeli’s Aunt Irma is the village Mayor, she has her own reasons for wanting the girls to head north on a manhunt. The book is full of memorable, funny, bright characters. Everyone wants to come across the border, but perhaps it is not salvation but ruin that waits. The writing is beautiful and the magnificent story is full of humor and humanity.

The Family Man by Elinor Lipman has released in paperback. Henry is a likeable chap with a pretty good life; his one regret is not fighting to remain a part of his step-daughter’s life when his ex-wife, Denise, left him for greener pastures. He feels he gave up too easily. Henry is an attractive gay man, he has a lovely home, he retired young enough to enjoy life but he feels bad about Thalia. Denise’s greener pastures have come to a sudden end. Her husband died unexpectedly after 24 1/2 years of wedded bliss (well relatively speaking wedded bliss). The number is significant. Denise’s pre-nuptial agreement leaves her with very little unless the marriage lasts 25 years. Her step sons hate Denise and are not about to share their father’s estate, they see the missing months as significant. In her time of trouble Denise turns to Henry. He is exasperated but it gives him the impetus to make contact with Thalia. This is a lovely, light, heartwarming story



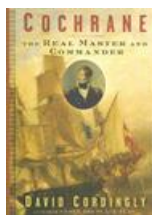
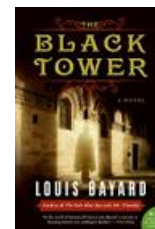
Last Night in Twisted River by John Irving releases in paperback this month. Daniel’s life takes some wicked bad twists starting at the tender age of 12 when, mistaking his father’s lover for a bear, he accidentally kills the woman with a cast iron skillet. Daniel’s unfortunate mistake lands him and his father on the lam from the woman’s boyfriend, an obnoxious cowboy sherriff with a taste for revenge. Aided by their loyal friend, Ketchum, they make their escape from Twisted River and a long pursuit ensues. Always the specter of the murderous cowboy lawman is lurking in the shadows. John Irving creates such marvelously quirky, memorable characters. Like all his books, this one is full of razor sharp wit and beautiful writing

That Old Cape Magic by Richard Russo is releasing in paperback. Jack and Joy stayed true to the plans they made on their honeymoon. Jack was intent on charting a different path than his difficult parents. Jack and Joy built a good life, with a beautiful house, teaching career, and a grown daughter. But what if his choices weren’t really his own? Is he just living the life Joy wanted, or worse, has he turned into his parents? Jack heads to tinsel town, risking everything he holds dear, in a vain attempt to turn back the clock and recapture his youth. Clocks are notoriously resistant to being turned back and the things that are important in life can be quite fragile.



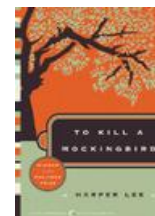
June 2010 Book Clubs

Monday June 7th at 6:30 the Mystery Book Club discusses **The Black Tower** by Louis Bayard. Using one of history's more interesting characters as his sleuth, Bayard sets his mystery after the French revolution. Hector Carpentier is shocked to be of interest to the notorious Vidocq. It is not a pleasant sensation. Hector's life is never going to be the same. Vidocq was the creator of France's Surete, he was a spy, a criminal, a ladies man. Victor Hugo used Vidocq as the model for both the hero and villain in his masterpiece, Les Miserables. He was more than up to solving a little mystery with Hector. But this is not just any mystery; powerful forces are at work.

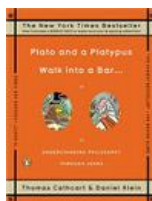


Monday June 14th at 6:30 the Non Fiction Book Club discusses **Cochrane: The Real Master and Commander** by David Cordingly. Patrick O'Brian wrote a series of twenty fabulous books set during the Napoleonic wars. Rich enjoyed them so much he has read the series 3 times! Cochrane was an inspiration for the O'Brian's series. Cochrane was a naval captain of great daring, striking at the French in lightning like raids. Nicknamed the Sea Wolf, he was a cunning and courageous man. Discredited in a financial mess after the war, he left England for South America where he fought valiantly against the Spanish. His life was so full of adventure; it is more fantastic than fiction!

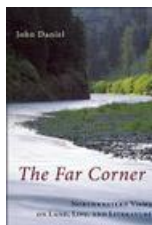
Monday June 21st at 6:30 the Classics Book Club discusses **To Kill A Mockingbird** by Harper Lee, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. On its 50th anniversary this masterpiece is just as alive and relevant as the year it was written. A black man is falsely accused of rape. His defense falls heavily on the shoulders of his lawyer, Atticus. Set in 1930's Alabama, it was not a time a white man would be lauded for defending a black. Nor is Atticus' daughter Scout or son Jem immune from public ire over their father's controversial case. Told through Scout's perspective, the story is compelling. I like these characters, I suspect you will too. They have stood the test of time.



Monday June 28th at 6:30 the Fiction Book Club discusses Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson. Lively, endearing, full of likeable characters this is one of those special books that are such a joy to read you do not want the book to end. Major Pettigrew is a ramrod straight, stiff upper lip, proper British gentleman. He lives alone in a small village. His brother's sudden death throws him for a loop. The morning he hears the news of his brother's demise, Mrs. Ali, the local shopkeeper, knocks on his door. She quickly understands the major's distress and comforts him, an unlikely friendship blossoms. It is an unlikely alliance. Jasmina Ali's Pakistani heritage has kept her outside the social scene in the Village. All sorts of complications ensue as these two people from very different backgrounds find comfort in each other's company. There are all sorts of turmoil roiling through the story, from a village pageant to development of the local estate to bitterness over an inherited gun to the angst of family members. English village life at its best, complete with the local vicar, the lord of the manor and a full cast of marvelous characters. It is all great fun.



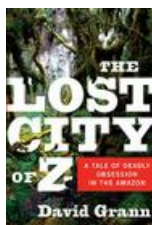
- [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- Monday 6:30 July 12th 2010 **Plato and a Platypus Walk Into a Bar** by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein
- Monday 6:30 PM August 16th 2010 **The Far Corner** by John Daniel
- Monday 6:30 PM September 20th 2010 **American Lightning** by Howard Blum



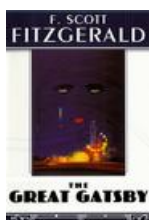
- [Fiction Book Club](#)
- Monday 6:30 PM July 19th **The Gifted Gabaldon Sisters** by Lorraine Lopez
- Monday 6:30 PM August 9th 2010 **Alice's Tulips** by Sandra Dallas
- Monday 6:30 PM September 27th 2010 **The Angel's Game** by Carlos Ruiz Zafon
- Monday 6:30 PM October 11th 2010 **The Camel Bookmobile** by Marsha Hamilton **A Month of Africa**



- [Classics](#)
- Monday 6:30 PM August 23rd 2010 **The Brothers Karamozov** by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- Monday 6:30 PM September 13th 2010 **The Great Gatsby** by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- Monday 6:30 PM October 25th 2010 **Cry the Beloved Country** by Alan Paton **A Month of Africa**



- [Mystery Book Club](#)
- Monday 6:30 PM July 5th 2010 **The Coroner's Lunch** by Colin Cottrill
- Monday 6:30 PM August 2nd 2010 **Cinnamon Skin** by John D. MacDonald
- Monday 6:30 PM September 6th 2010 **Red Harvest** by Dashiell Hammett
- Monday 6:30 PM October 4th 2010 **Mark of the Lion** by Suzanne Arruda **A Month of Africa**
- Monday 6:30 PM November 1st, 2010 **Mistress of the Art of Death** by Ariana Franklin



- [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- Monday 6:30 PM July 26th 2010 **Following Isabella** by Robert Root
- Monday 6:30 PM August 30th 2010 **The Lost City of Z** by David Grann
- Monday 6:30 PM October 18th **Out of Africa & Shadows on the Grass** by Isak Dinesen **A Month of Africa**

You can comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at Sunriver-books.com. It is our hope to keep to the schedule listed above and on our website, but all events and book club meetings past September are subject to change or cancellation. We are sorry.,

