



Sunriver Books & Music

June 2021

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Video's of prior events are linked to videos at sunriverbooks.com we hope you enjoy them!

Craig Johnson, along with Katee Sackhoff and Lou Diamond Phillips, gave an entertaining presentation on the latest in the Walt Longmire series, **Next to Last Stand**. It includes a video of a chapter of the book being read at the site of the Battle of the Little Bighorn, it was quite moving.

Photographer Bart Smith joined hiking guide authors William Sullivan and Craig Romano for a gorgeous photography book, **Hiking Trails of the Pacific Northwest**, featuring some of the most spectacular hikes in the region. Their presentation included gorgeous photography.

Dana Haynes' **Sirocco** is the second in his highly propulsive thriller series, if you read Lee Child's Jack Reacher series, and would like the bad guys taken down by a seriously deadly women, this is right up your alley!

Marie Bostwick's event for **The Restoration of Celia Fairchild** should be up shortly, technical difficulties are being fixed. Check at sunriverbooks.com



Covid-19 protocols at Sunriver Books.

CDC is, rightly, celebrating the performance of vaccine. As of May 27, 50.62% of Deschutes County residents were vaccinated. While that is great progress, it still leaves quite a few vulnerable to infection. In mid-May Deschutes County's daily number of infections rivaled numbers from the height of the pandemic. So for a while longer, we will continue to require masks and the use of hand sanitizer (that makes it safer to touch the books). The number of people that can be inside at one time has expanded. Our staff is fully vaccinated. These measures are to protect our customers and community. We thank you for your patience, it is appreciated. Things change rapidly, if progress on vaccine continues, we may soon to be able to return to more normal times. We hope to have in store events and book clubs by July.



Join us via Zoom for a couple interesting author events this June. In store events are great fun, and we are looking forward to the day that is possible again. Meanwhile, Zoom also has advantages. It allows authors from areas far away an easier method to take part too. Our June 26 event will be with an author from the UK. Register in advance for these author events via the link at sunriverbooks.com. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the Zoom webinar.

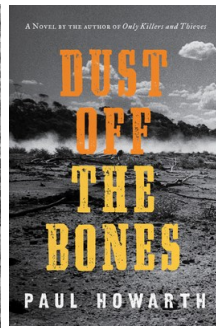
Saturday June 12 at 5 PM Arlene Sachitano will present **Double Knit**, a new series set in Portland, Oregon. She is best known in Sunriver for her entertaining presentations on the day of Sunriver's Quilt Show featuring her mystery series about a quilting guild set in the Pacific Northwest. Hopefully, if Covid-19 is controlled by then and the Quilt Show is held this August, she will be here this year too with a new quilting mystery, as of yet, we don't know.

Double Knit. Introduces a likeable cast of characters and a unique premise. Permelia thought her life was set, she raised eight children with her husband on their ranch, there was hard work but it was a good life. Then she learns her husband is dating a woman in the same age group as her kids. Worse still, the woman is pregnant and the feckless husband finds no reason to move away from their small community. So, at a time in life Permelia thought her future was settled, instead she is moving several hours away to start over in Portland.

The city morgue is in a nice neighborhood of stately older homes with shops and restaurants close by. A separate apartment on the upper floor is for rent, it has room for Permelia's spinning, good light for knitting, and feels like it would be a peaceful place to live. Her Bengal cat, Fenton (a delightful character!) will enjoy taking walks on his leash on the

tree lined sidewalks. Two of Permelia's daughters live in Portland, she brings them along to view the apartment, their reactions are starkly different. Katy, the younger daughter, finds the apartment charming. While Jennifer is horrified and begins a determined campaign to persuade her mother to move into an retirement facility.

No sooner does Permelia move in than she is embroiled in a puzzling murder (of course, this is a mystery!). During the night a murdered man, Ed Anderson, is brought to the morgue. In the morning a woman, Betty, comes searching for her missing husband, Eid FitzAndreu. Assured no one by that name is in the morgue, she is about to leave when Permelia approaches with a knit hat she found in the parking lot. When Betty spots the hat she faints, and away we go!



Saturday June 26 at 3 PM Paul Howarth presents ***Dust Off The Bones***. Howarth writes with feeling, giving the reader a sense of the way people lived in the past. Indigenous people have not been treated well through history. This is particularly true of Native Americans and Australian Aborigines. From the beginning, in 1859, Queensland's Native Police dealt harshly with the Aborigines. Nobody really wanted to know what measures they used, just get the job done so the settlers could occupy the land and run their ranches without annoyance or protest. Often those measures were deadly. Settlers didn't think too much about how long the people they were displacing had called this land home.

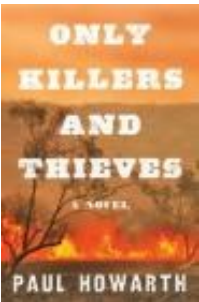
Dust Off the Bones explores what happens to two teenaged boys who respond to the tragic murder of their parents by participating in the massacre of Aborigines. They believed the Aborigines had been involved in the murder, they were following the lead of John Sullivan, the most prominent rancher in the area, and Inspector Edmund Noone leading the Queensland Native Police. What does such cruel and senseless violence do to the souls of the teenagers? How does it shape the rest of their lives?

As the story opens, Katherine Sullivan, just a few years older than the McBride boys, is a young widow attracted to Billy. Tommy fled, he is working in cattle stations accompanied by Arthur, an Aborigine who worked on their ranch. Nightmares tear Tommy apart, causing his bunk mates to distrust and torment him. While Billy avoids dealing with the trauma and guilt, Tommy cannot es-

cape it. Billy roots himself in the land, determined to be successful, he doesn't look back. Tommy is mired in the past; circumstances lead him to be secretive and rootless.

Noone scares most people who cross his path, if they are smart. But a young lawyer, Henry Wells, believes in the rule of law, believes it applies to everyone. When he learns of the massacre, he initiates a judicial investigation, drawing Noone and Billy into a court of law to relive the events. Consequences ensue.

History is well served in Paul Howarth's books. Australia in the early days is vivid, the harsh landscape of Queensland's ranching community, the miles of wilderness where Tommy and Arthur flee. But what makes the books special is the characters. Tommy is such a likeable character, tormented by what he did, but his nature is kind and gentle. Arthur looks out for him, showing wisdom and forgiveness. Katherine is a strong woman; she comes into her own as the story progresses. Billy is brash and bold, with charisma and determination. Both brothers are fond of horses, bonded to the land, caring deeply about their country. And Officer Edmund Noone? He may be a close as you can come to true evil. Howarth explores the injustice of frontier history, the ruthlessness of power, and a quest for honor. Great book.



Paul Howarth's earlier novel, ***Only Killers and Thieves***, is a beautifully written account of ranching life and introduces the McBride brothers. In the far reaches of 1880's Australia, the land is sere, hot, desolate, survival demanding toughness and unforgiving of error. Aborigines lived here for eons, but now the Europeans own the land and a devastating drought leaves them cranky and unwilling to share its resources.

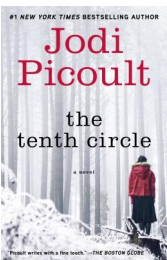
The sparsity of forage and water has hit the McBride family hard; Ned McBride isn't a game hand at running a ranch in the best of times. His two sons, Tommy 14 and Billy 16 try to help out by hunting what little wildlife has survived but still it is a struggle. Billy admires the confidence of their neighbor, John Sullivan, who uses Inspector Edmund Noone and the Queensland Native Police to push his goal of eradicating Aborigines from the land. Sullivan is a much more successful farmer, something Billy aspires to be himself. Tommy isn't so sure about the merit of their neighbor Sullivan; his parents do not admire Sullivan at all. He likes Arthur, their Aborigine ranch hand, is sure of his kindness and goodwill. Arthur has

been with the McBride family a long time. Clearly Sullivan's attitude to Aborigines is harsh.

Finally, rain comes, joyous wonderful rain. The two teenage boys ride to a favorite swimming hole to spend the day. When they return, the farm is ominously quiet, unnaturally so. Their parents are both dead, their sister grievously wounded. Earlier Ned McBride had an argument with Joseph an Aborigine working for him, resulting in his dismissal. Billy is certain this man is the villain. He overrides Tommy's suggestion of heading to town with their injured sister; instead taking her to Sullivan's spread where he has a medical man on staff. Things go from bad to worse, as Sullivan uses this as his excuse to unleash his fury on the native population with far reaching consequences for the brothers.

Every year we focus for the month of June on a region, state, or city in the USA. As a lead up to the 4th of July, it is a good time to celebrate the diversity, varied landscape, and regional cultural differences that make the USA a special place. This is a vast country with a rich cultural diversity. From north to south, east to west, our landscape and customs change dramatically. Each part is unique, made so by the variety of people and the grandeur of the land. This year we focus on Alaska.

Staff recommendations set in Alaska



Tenth Circle by Jodie Picoult. Interesting stories with social relevance are Jodie Picoult's bailiwick. And she usually has a wicked twist that can catch the reader by surprise. ***Tenth Circle*** explores date rape and the aftermath. Trixie is a young teenager, suffering first love. She takes it hard when she is dumped by her boyfriend, Jason, a popular older boy. Later, they both attend the same party. Trixie returns home in obvious distress, claiming he raped her. Daniel, her father, is a graphic artist working on a story about a father following his daughter into the circles of hell to save her. Trixie only knows her father as a gentle person, an artist. He grew up in an Alaskan Eskimo village where he was bullied until he became a violent hell raiser. He left that all behind, put aside rage, to be an artist and family man. When Trixie takes off to Alaska, he goes after her. Dante's influence runs through the book, as a shadow, Trixie's Mom, Laura, is a professor teaching ***Dante's Inferno***. Fast pace, lots of tension, good story.

Staff recommendations set in Alaska.



Winterdance by Gary Paulson is one of my favorite books about the Iditarod, there is such liveliness and joy in the writing. Gary shows us what the race is like a bit farther back in the pack, and it is a fascinating view. I laughed myself silly reading about the way Gary's dogs started the race a little bit differently than the other contestants.

Gary writes about the intense training needed to prepare for the Iditarod. It does not always go as planned. His shamelessly speed crazed dogs were not above ditching him during practice runs and leaving him stranded to walk home while they took off to discover just how fast they could go once they lightened the sled of their pesky human cargo. Like Jeff King, Gary loves his dogs and it shows, it is all about the dogs.

If you want to get in the mood for the race, you could not do better than **Winterdance**. It gives a real feeling of what the mushers and dogs go through in this grueling feat of endurance. Gary details his experiences on the trail, tells of the other mushers, and writes about his dogs with real affection. He can be quite funny.

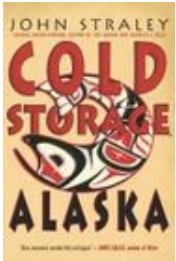


The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey. The writing is haunting and beautiful; it updates a Russian fairytale to 1920's Alaska. Mabel and Jack have tried to come to terms with being childless. They left their boisterous family behind on the east coast for the quiet loneliness of remote Alaska. Creating a farm out of this unforgiving land is a tough job for the young; it is hard, weary going for middle aged Mabel and Jack. Grasping for a moment of joy out of the first snowfall of the year, they build a snow girl in the yard. The next morning the snow is gone, but a blond girl, like a snow sprite, is glimpsed near the trees. They come to love the young girl as their own child, but you know fairy tales are not without danger.

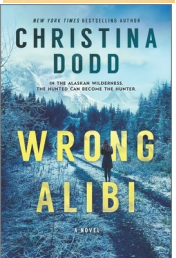


Raven Stole The Moon is Garth Stein's first book, a very different story from the wildly popular **The Art of Racing in the Rain**, but with the same inspired writing. Mixing Tlingit legend with the story of a bereft young woman from Seattle, he weaves a tale of loss and redemption. How far would a woman go to save the soul of her child? Jenna's son drowned two years ago on a vacation in Alaska, on the anniversary of his death she is drawn back to Wrangell Alaska. On the ferry to Alaska she is given a kushtaka charm of a Tlingit spirit. From a Shaman she learns the legend of the Kushtakas

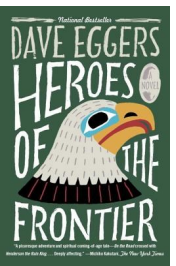
Garth uses the natural beauty of the landscape almost as a character in the story, making the reader feel they are on the journey right along with Jenna. Garth vividly blends legend, belief, and a rousing adventure. Jenna is a sympathetic character, you will root for her.



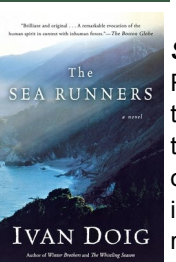
Cold Storage Alaska by John Straley. Clive is finally getting out of prison, after seven long years. His priorities are retrieving his dog and his money, and then heading North to Alaska to reconnect with his mother and brother in the tiny village of Cold Storage. Miles served his country in Iraq and then returned home to be the EMT, actually the only medical help, in his small hometown. While his brother was dealing coke then doing time, Miles was the dutiful son, taking care of their mother, fighting in a war, and then attending to the medical needs of their small community. The two brothers hardly know each other anymore, but Clive is determined to turn over a new leaf and wants to build a relationship with Miles. While the story is written as a screwball comedy, with a cast of quirky characters, it has deeper moments too as the townsfolk deal with the elements, the remoteness, and their relationships to each other.



Wrong Alibi by Christina Dodd. Petie lives year round in a cabin at a remote lodge, has for 8 years. Hawley, the owner of the Midnight Sun, has learned to trust and depend on her. In season it is a high end vacation destination with powerful people returning year after year. Petie isn't who she seems to be, she is a convicted killer, an escapee living under an alias. She used to be Evelyn Jones, a troubled teen who ended up in Juvie and when she turned 18 took a job in Alaska working for Donald White. He skedaddled leaving Evelyn to face a double murder charge for the brutal killing of a woman and child. The only way to clear her name would be to find Donald White, before he finds her, and prove her innocence. But to do that she will have to come out of hiding.



Heroes of the Frontier by David Eggers is the road trip of a lifetime with a bit of comedy and lots of misadventure. Josie is a dentist from Ohio whose philandering husband left her for another woman. She fears papers are about to be served forcing her to allow his new paramour to be part of her children's lives. No way is Josie about to put up with that scenario! She takes off for Alaska with her children, where she rents a decrepit RV and embarks on a series of adventures and mishaps as she tries to stay under the radar of her ex. Josie doesn't have just a closet full of skeletons, she has a stadium sized stack of issues she needs to deal with, from feelings of guilt over decisions in her professional life all the way back to her childhood. She wants her children to be bold and free, not shackled by insignificant everyday things that can crowd our lives. Alaska seems to be a good place to start that process, sort of trial by fire. Paul, her 8 year old son, is an old soul in a child's body, while Ana her 5 year old daughter is high maintenance.



Sea Runners by Ivan Doig, his first work of fiction, was based on a real event; the escape of 4 Swedish men from a Russian fur trading company in Sitka Alaska in 1852. They steal an Indian canoe and paddle south, over dangerous waters through Indian territory, heading to Astoria, Oregon. They are a mismatched group with no knowledge of the land they are traveling. Tensions flare between them. Melander planned the escape and has the most sea knowledge, Karlsson is an able outdoorsman, Braaf is along to steal things (such as the canoe, their supplies, and so forth), and Wennberg muscled his way into the escape at the last minute, his hair trigger temper causes complications. It is a long, often brutal, journey that gives the reader a view of history and of Alaska before it was a state..

Book Club discussions are held via Zoom, to attend one of the discussions email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com and we will send you the link the day of or day before the discussion. Everyone is welcome. Book Club discussions are at 6PM on Mondays.



June 7 the Mystery Book Clubs discusses **All the Winters After** by Sere Prince Halverson. Kachemak Winkel left Alaska after graduation with nary a backward glance, giving up a promising future in music, to study business. After college he stayed in Austin Texas, had a good job and avoided all those ghosts of his past lurking in Alaska.

Two things have put Kachemak in the seat of an airliner on the 20th anniversary of the plane crash that took his parent's life. His grandmother is ailing; she is no longer able to make the trip to Austin for visits and he is unemployed. Six months ago he was made redundant, there is no longer a compelling reason to stay in Texas.

Kach relied on his aunt to keep up his parent's home, everyone has their secrets, and his aunt couldn't face the home place either. For twenty years it has been neglected. He heads to the remote home-place for the first time in two decades, expecting to see a dilapidated mess, the Alaskan winters being particularly unforgiving on untended property.

Instead he finds the home in pristine condition, every item is in place as if his parents had only stepped out for a short while and would be back any moment. The curator of this unauthorized museum is Nadia, a frightened Russian woman, kept company by a beautiful Husky dog. Kach is shocked, also intrigued. His initial response of wondering who was squatting in his property quickly turned to gratitude that Nadia had preserved his home with such care.

Nadia spent ten years totally alone in Kach's family home, an isolated 400 acre homestead bordered by a deep canyon, overshadowed by majestic mountains. Why is she so afraid to leave? What secrets is she hiding? Read this lovely story and find out!



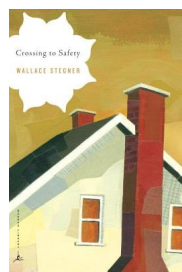
June 21 Fiction Book Club discusses **The Great Alone** by Kristin Hannah. Leni is a lonely teen; her Dad came home from Vietnam, a POW decorated for bravery, finding civilian life a hard adjustment. The things that are important while fighting in those faraway jungles did not translate to successful lifestyles back in the Pacific Northwest. They move. A lot. It is hard for Leni to always be the new kid, to feel awkward around others but she loves her Dad and tries to understand.

Cora and Ernt have crazy wild chemistry, sparks shoot off of this couple like wildfire, they are hot for one another and always have been. But since he returned from Vietnam, Ernt is no longer an easy-going guy, his temper is explosive and getting worse, home is the new battlefield. Jobs are hard to hold, and his temper is vented on his family.

When out of the blue the family inherits a piece of land and small home in Alaska, it seems like it just might be the fresh start they need. Away from the hustle and bustle of Seattle, alone with nature in peace and quiet, perhaps adjusting would be easier for Ernt.

House is a generous description of the structure on the property. However, the grandeur of the land and the welcoming spirit of the people bond them to Alaska. But there is a darker side too. Winter brings continual darkness and dangerous cold, not an easy environment for the emotionally volatile. Ernt makes things worse by becoming best buds with a group who share his paranoia and survivalist tendencies.

Sometimes home is the most perilous of all environments.



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

Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held via Zoom. On Mondays at 6 PM.
Times and dates are tentative due to current situation.

July

July 12, 2021 **The Perfect Alibi** by Phillip Margolin **Mystery Book Club**
July 26, 2021 **Crossing to Safety** by Wallace Stegner **Fiction and Classics Book Club**

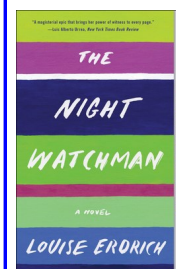
August

August 9, 2021 **Mr. Churchill's Secretary** by Susan Elia MacNeal **Mystery Book Club**
August 23, 2021 **The Night Watchman** by Louise Erdrich **Fiction Book Club**

September

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