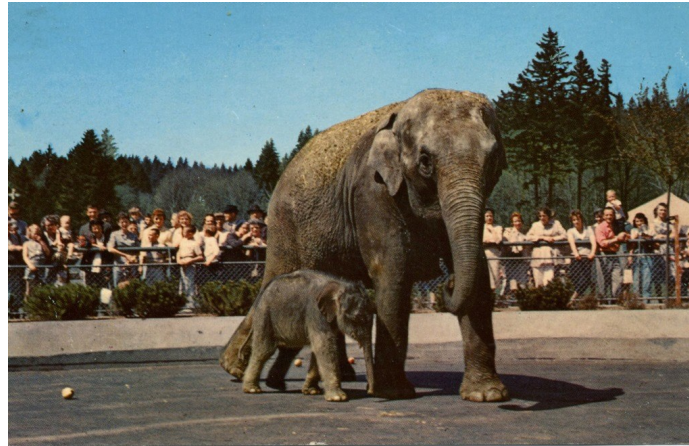




Sunriver Books & Music

March 2020 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday
March 7 at 5
P.M. Melissa
Crandall pre-
sents **Ele-
phant Speak:
A Devoted
Keeper's Life
Among the
Herd**, the
story of ele-
phant keeper

Roger Henneous and the ele-
phants at the Portland Zoo. This
should be a particularly meaning-
ful event. I am in awe of these
noble animals, jealous of the good
fortune of spending a life with

them, and intensely grateful for the times I have been able to interact with elephants in ways that left
a lasting, happy impression with me and I hope was satisfying to the pachyderm. So, reading a book
about the Portland elephants was special for me. I hope you enjoy hearing about them too!

Crandall gives interesting details about the beginning of the Portland Zoo; it had an unusual start in
life. An English pharmacist, Richard Knight, was supposedly not fond of animals but kept buying
them. His wife was not a fan either. Yet the menagerie continued to grow, a monkey here a bird
there. When he purchased a pregnant Grizzly Bear, that was the last straw. His wife insisted he get
rid of the animals before their children were hurt. Now where did the woman get the idea playing with
a pregnant Grizzly Bear might be harmful to children? Anyway, the city was contacted and that is how it all began. Interesting history.

Elephants are special, I remember visiting Rosy and standing in line to see baby Packy. These majestic animals are intelligent, empathetic, and
have elaborate social structures. Roger Henneous was fortunate to spend thirty years at the Portland Zoo. To know intimately these marvelous
animals. What a life!

Roger started out as a farm kid, working with animals on a daily basis. He spent days with his dog Laddie doing kid and dog stuff in the Iowa
countryside. There is an endearing picture of young Roger and Laddie (a cool looking dog). Later he acquires a sweet-tempered horse, Lady
and takes to riding, herding the cows. Spending time with animals, it is not surprising that Roger comes to recognize their intelligence and re-
spect their emotional lives. He develops a fondness for animals that stays with him throughout his life.

Landing a job at the Portland Zoo is Roger's dream job. In his job interview Roger was asked about his expectation for working hours and im-
pressed Bill Scott with his response. *"If I learned anything during my years as a farm boy, it's that caring for livestock is a seven-days-a-week,
twenty-four-hours-a-day, fifty-two-weeks-a-year proposition. Animals don't know that it's Christmas or Thanksgiving or your birthday or whatever
and wouldn't give a damn if they did. They're standing in their own crap, they're hungry, they need a drink, and some need medical attention. If
you're worth half a shit, you'll do those things. If you're not prepared to, then you need to get a desk job shuffling papers"*. Roger brought that
dedication and passion to his life at the Portland Zoo. He was rewarded with relationships with amazing animals. He cared.

Elephant Speak rewards the reader with an intimate look at Packy, Rosy, Belle, Me-Tu, and the rest of Portland Zoo's herd over the years.
There are stories of Pet outwitting a scientist to garner more treats, of elephant's relationships with each other, of sadness and joy. All sorts of
elephant stories that I do not want to give away because I want you to enjoy them
fully, just as I have enjoyed them. I particularly liked the story of Hugo, and the
story of Rama's curiosity about cars and love of bananas. To find out why, read
Elephant Speak!

Elephants form strong bonds, in the wild they live in matriarchal herds. They have
elaborate social structures, protect their young, and mourn their dead. Encroach-
ment on their territory, diminishment of their ancestral paths have reduced their
numbers alarmingly. It absolutely appalls me that anyone would want to shoot an
elephant! Botswana, a country with an economy relying heavily on tourist dollars,
tourists who enjoy seeing wild elephants unmolested, is auctioning hunting permits
to kill elephants. They will not let animal activists purchase the permits to spare the
elephants. I think tourists should avoid Botswana in protest.

There will be refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend this
free event by calling 541-593-2525, emailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com.





Saturday March 21 at 5 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.

Never have I played a computer game beyond solitaire. Not even once. **88 Names** is set in the world of computer gaming and I could not put it down, finished it in one night (albeit a late night). Matt makes this world come alive! Who knew there is fishing involved!!! Yes, there is violence, but strategy too, and adventure. No, I have not been lured into trying a computer game, but I can see its allure. I especially liked the 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.

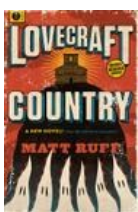
John Chu is a Sherpa with **88 Names** enabling him to guide his clients through a variety of gaming adventures. He employs several helpers to aid in showing the clients a good time, battling starships, fighting giants, whatever thrills them. Jolene is a fit 50ish IT professional in her day job. Gaming 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 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 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; she deems them worthy of investigation and the game is afoot!

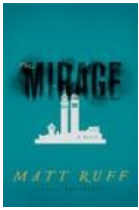
What starts out as a game quickly turns into something more serious and potentially deadly. It is easy to get caught up in this story! The characters are fun, the story has things to say about our world today, and the writing sizzles. Enjoy!



Lovecraft Country combines fantasy with a sharp look at the 1950's Jim Crow world. This tome is fun to read while also revealing a darker reality. What would it be like to be African-American in the 1950's? Even in the north. It would mean you could not be served in most restaurants, hotel doors would be closed to you, and even if you were a decorated war veteran, like the main character Atticus Turner, you could still be pulled over and harassed (or worse) by any cop with an attitude sitting along a highway.

Atticus and his father, Montrose, have a prickly relationship. The two battled over just about everything, from Montrose's obsession with his dead wife's background to Atticus' reading material. Like many young men, Atticus likes Science Fiction, especially the dark work of H. P. Lovecraft, an obscure author who died in penury in 1937. Montrose points out men of color are not treated well in those stories, why pay someone to insult you? Why spend time with the writings of racists? Nonetheless Atticus likes the stories. So father and son are estranged when Atticus receives a letter from Montrose claiming he had discovered the ancestral roots of Atticus' mother.

By the time Atticus reaches Chicago (using the Safe Negro Travel Guide published by his uncle George), his father has gone missing. Clues lead Atticus to believe his father is at the mansion of Samuel Braithwaite in New England. Accompanied by his uncle George and a childhood friend, Letitia, Atticus heads out to find his father. Getting there is not easy, there are racist cops and strange spirits right out of the stories Atticus and George are fond of reading. Bizarrely, they are expected when they arrive. But all is not well at the Braithwaite mansion, Montrose is held in chains, and a secret cult is itching to use Atticus in some strange ritual. Blending several genres, Matt Ruff created memorable and likeable characters, with a good story to tell.



The Mirage is a daring reimagining of history. What if the Twin Towers were not in New York but in Baghdad? 11/9/2001 Christian fundamentalists hijack four jetliners and slam two of them into the Tigris and Euphrates World Trade Centers in Baghdad. The third Jetliner crashes into the Arab Defense Ministry in Riyadh. Courageous passengers bring down the fourth jet before it can reach its intended target, thought to be the Holy city Mecca. In 2009 Homeland Security is dealing with suicide bombers while the Marines are trying to subdue the insurgents wrecking havoc in Virginia. Yet there are nebulous hints that this world is all a mirage. Mustafa al Baghdadi, a Homeland Security Agent, keeps hearing odd stories when he interrogates suicide bombers. All the usual suspects show up: Sadaam Hussein, Bushes 1 and 2, Osama, and there is a marvelous cameo with Lyndon Baines Johnson. Bold, brash and brilliant, **Mirage** turns the world upside down and gives it a good shake. I liked the characters a lot! Mustafa is a sympathetic, intelligent man. Amal is a woman working in a very male dominated society, she is whip smart, an integral part of Mustafa's team but has her own battles to fight. This is the best sort of book, a great story that keeps you turning pages, makes you laugh at times, and definitely makes you think. Matt Ruff's other books include **Bad Monkeys**, **Set This House In Order**, **Fool on the Hill**, and **Sewer Gas & Electric**

Please call 541-593-2525 or e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend this free presentation. There will be drawings for prizes and light refreshments.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday April 11, 2020 at 5:00 PM **Catch and Release** by Les AuCoin

Saturday April 18, 2020 at 5:00 PM **A Reasonable Doubt** by Phil Margolin

Saturday June 27, 2020 at 5:00 PM **Deep Creek** by Pam Houston

Saturday September 5, 2020 at 5:00 PM **Something Worth Doing** by Jane Kirkpatrick

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Many Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events.

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

SUNRIVER STARS THEATER ANNOUNCES WINTER SHOW

"Let Him Sleep - 'til It's Time For His Funeral" written by Peg Kehret, is the next production in the Sunriver Stars Community Theater current season. This show, to be directed by Sharon Sackett, is a comedy portraying a depressed 49 year old man with an upcoming 50th birthday. He thinks his life is over due to this prospect of unavoidable old age. His loving wife wants to bring him out of the doldrums, so she devises a plan, along with her friendly neighbor, to give him a surprise funeral, aka birthday party, complete with flowers, casket, and organ music, so all his friends can tell him what a great guy he is. The plot thickens and several subplots unfold, filled with innuendos that make for misconceptions and misunderstandings by all, producing hilarious situations.

Some of our SSCT veterans have been selected as the cast, including Dave Schmerber (Oliver.), Susan Quesada (Nanna's Naughty Knickers), Renee Anderson (Drinking Habits), Ben Ives (The Butler Did It), Culley Calkins (Wild Wild Wildest West) and Isabella Lane, new to our stage.



The play is well written and this accomplished cast will produce a wonderful night of laughter and fun for the whole family. The play will run on February 28, 29 and March 5, 6, 7 at The Door in the Business Park across from Three Rivers School. Adult beverages will be provided for sale by Sunriver Brewing, along with substantial food items for purchase by Wallow at all the shows. Times and tickets are now available on our website at www.sunriverstars.org. Theater doors will open ½ hour before showtime.

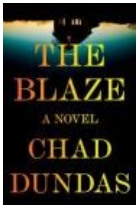
Sunriver Stars Announces Auditions

Auditions for "Greater Tuna" will be held Sunday March 29 & Monday March 30, 7 pm in room 208 in the Village Properties building in the Sunriver business park. (:56835 Venture Lane)

Sandy is seeking 10 men and women of various ages for the upcoming production of Greater Tuna, by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard. Greater Tuna is a comedy about a small town in Texas named Tuna...Texas's third smallest town. The wacky but lovable inhabitants of the town take to the stage in all their outrageous glory and remind us about what's important in life. Relevant and irreverent, the townspeople talk about everything from politics to the meaning of life and in the process we come to learn what makes them (and us) tick! Originally, Greater Tuna was performed by two men playing all 20 characters, but casting more people is allowed and will be done with this production. Cast members may be asked to play multiple characters, with some males playing female roles and females playing male roles. For more information, e mail Sandy Klein mustangsandy1963@gmail.com or call 541-598-5262.

Staff Recommendations.

New Releases.



The Blaze by Chad Dundas. Iraq left Mathew Rose with a gaping hole in his memory where the first two decades of his life should have been. Coming home he spent a few months in Florida with his mom and step-dad, people he no longer remembered. When he learned of his father's death in Montana it seemed like going back to the place he grew up, settling his dad's affairs, might be a catalyst to bring back some of those early memories. He tried to reach his father when he returned from the Middle East, but his dad wouldn't take his calls. Why? Now maybe he would find out.

Georgie Porter was his childhood friend, then his girlfriend, until they broke up just before college. Georgie picking Matt up at the airport was a surreal experience, two people who knew each other so well, for so long, now only one of them remembers. On Matt's first night back, walking the streets of Missoula, he sees a fire painting the sky red, inside a young coed has died in the home of her professor. Soon there will be clues to an earlier fire, it's genesis unresolved.

What are the connections between these events, why did his father turn against him, what propelled him into the military? I enjoyed Dundas' earlier book, **Champion of the World**, and was delighted to discover this new book. Dundas has a gift for crafting interesting characters, writing in a way that invites the reader into the story, and creating a plot that keeps you guessing.



The Missing American by Kwei Quartey. Emma Djan revered her policeman father, planned on following in his footsteps as a homicide detective for the Ghana police. When her career path is destroyed, she is happy to find work as a private detective for a respected agency. Although investigating cheating spouses is not as compelling as her passion for police work. The new job is about to get a lot more exciting, not to mention dangerous.

Gordon Tilson, a middle-aged widower from Washington D.C., has been counseling people through their grief in an online Facebook community, but has never gotten over his own despair and loneliness. He keeps that sadness from his adult son, Derek, presenting a brave face. Lately Gordon has found hope for the future; Helena a widow from Ghana joined the online community for widows and widowers. Over the months their online relationship deepened. Gordon is attracted to Helena, during his youth he spent time in Ghana with the Peace Corps where he met and married his wife. When Helena's sister is in an accident, it seems right to send her money. But when Derek finds out about his father's online relationship and funds going to Helena, he is upset. Despite his son's misgivings, Gordon hops a plane to Ghana, intending to surprise the woman he hopes will be part of a happier future. Soon thereafter, poof! Gordon disappears.

Derek follows his father to Ghana, worried about what might have happened. When Emma is put on the case, it quickly grows more complicated with powerful people involved and danger around every corner.



The Tenant by Katrine Engberg. Esther de Laurentis, now retired in her sixties, is trying out new things that her career as a professor kept her from indulging fully. She has two beloved Pug dogs for companionship. Kristoffer, her singing instructor, is a warm friend whose company she enjoys. They both relish cooking, so dine together frequently. She enjoyed reading mysteries, especially Dorothy Sayers, now she has time to try her hand at writing too. Esther lives in the building she grew up in, living on the top floor and renting out the other three. She knows her building and community well, so it seemed the logical setting for her first mystery; she joined a writing group to have feedback as the story progresses.

On the surface it appears to be a good retirement, but Esther has secrets from the past and drinks way too much. This is why she does not hear when one of her tenants is brutally slain in the night. Loud knocking on her door the next morning by Copenhagen Police Investigators Jeppe Korner and Anette Werner woke her from sleep, groggy, hung over, and not remembering too much from the night before. The victim was a beautiful young woman, friendly and well liked, who rented the first-floor apartment with a friend. Why anyone would want to harm her is a puzzle. The nature of the crime, has the city on edge. There are troubling similarities to the story Esther is writing.

Solving the murder are two detectives who could not be more different, in style and personality, but both are committed to bringing the killer to justice. Jeppe is a wiry greyhound of a man, adverse to germs (not a dog loving kind of guy). Devastated by his divorce and bothered by back pain, he is indulging a reliance on prescription drugs that has gotten out of hand. Anette has a happy home with an adored husband and two border collies. She is great with animals, shares with them an intensity that might be off putting to coworkers. But once she sinks her teeth into a case, she doesn't let go.

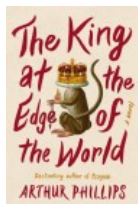
It would be a pleasure to read more from this author about these interesting characters.



Saint X by Alexis Schaitkin. Alison is a golden girl, gorgeous to the point of distraction, enrolled in an Ivy league college and bright enough to excel, a child of privilege and wealth. Claire is only 7 the year the family vacations on a Caribbean Island. She adores her older sister, lives in the shadow of her more charismatic sibling. Adjusting to Alison being away at school has been difficult for Claire, she relishes being together on this trip. But Alison is feeling the weight of her privilege, noticing the ostentatious comfort afforded her parents and other tourists while the locals have little. Testing her freedom, she hangs out with a couple local guys who work at the resort. No good comes of it. Alison will go missing, days later her body will be found in a remote location. Although the two men are suspected, no one is charged in her death. Years later, living in New York, Claire spots one of the men. She becomes obsessed with stalking him, determined to discover the truth of what happened to Alison all those years ago.

Staff Recommendations.

New Releases.



The King at the Edge of the World by Arthur Phillips. In 1591 Murad the Great sent an envoy to England, trying to understand the Virgin Queen and foster better relations between their countries. Dr. Mahmoud Ezzedine is a reluctant member of the group, he would far rather have remained with his wife and child. The drizzly wet weather of Britain does not suit, he prefers the warmer climes of home. His one solace is a burgeoning friendship with Jonathan Dee. By 1601 the English Queen is dying without an heir. Next in line for her throne is James, but will the Scottish monarch continue to defend the Protestant faith or is he a secret Catholic. Queen Elizabeth's spy masters fear the consequences of a Catholic on the throne, but how best to discover the answer? Geoffrey Belloc creates an intricate plan, putting Ezzedine in the center of a dangerous plot. Lots of intrigue, history, and one man caught up in the workings of royalty.

Staff Recommendations.

Now Available in Paperback.



Fall of Angels by Barbara Cleverly. Fans of Cleverly's popular Joe Sandilands series will find much to like in her new series featuring Detective Inspector John Redfyre. Aunt Henrietta, a formidable woman, has tickets she cannot use for the St. Barnabas Christmas Concert; John is to go in her stead. A generation of men died in WWI, the role of women is changing, but not fast enough to embrace a woman playing the trumpet. John settles into his seat expecting an enjoyable evening relaxing with beautiful music when he receives two jolts. The first is the identity of the person using the second of Henrietta's tickets; the second is Juno Proudfoot, the drop dead gorgeous trumpeter. Her solo is so moving she has the crowd spellbound. When the program concludes, Proudfoot either suffers a dangerous fall down poorly lit stairs or someone is trying to kill her and came close to achieving the goal. Thankfully John is right on hand to begin investigating; posh and educated, he is accepted by the college in ways the rest of Cambridge's cops are not. Was Proudfoot attacked because someone did not relish a woman playing trumpet or was there a more personal reason? An appealing setting, interesting characters, and a lead detective who is easy to like will make this a new series to enjoy. Strong women abound in the story too.



Lake Success by Gary Shteyngar. Barry Cohen is solidly in that top 1% where all the goodies of financial wealth make life sweet. He is a hedge fund manager controlling billions of dollars and lives in a sumptuous condo, only one floor down from Murdock's opulent top floor penthouse. His personal wealth is astronomical; he married a hot looking, intelligent lawyer, Seema, and has a son, Shiva. And therein the perfection of Barry's existence is threatened. His son has autism and Barry is unwilling to come to grips with anything less than his version of perfect. The pressures mount with questions from the SEC about some of his fast and loose practices. Seema accepts a dinner invitation from a couple living many floors lower in the condo, people Barry feels are beneath him. Conversation flows into perilous areas, Barry's tongue loosened by too much expensive booze, makes an embarrassing spectacle. When they return home, things get out of hand with Seema and Barry flees. Eager to escape all the demons tormenting his perfect life, he romanticizes his college days and leaves New York on a Greyhound bus (rather than his usual NetJet) in search of his college girlfriend and earlier, easier times. Shteyngar has a real talent for inserting cutting edge humor into stories with significant import. He does it again with a hilarious view of that upper 1%.



The Dante Chamber by Matthew Pearl. In 1870 a man stumbles into the night, a crushing stone cruelly attached in a device to his neck, on the stone is a verse from Dante's ***Divine Comedy***. Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes is attempting to escape the nightmares from five years earlier when he helped the poet Longfellow solve a series of murders in Boston inspired by Dante's ***Inferno***. He journeys to Europe with his daughter in hopes of finding peace. In London peace is not to be found, instead another murder inspired by Dante's ***Divine Comedy***. The Rossetti children were raised by a Dante scholar, Christina Rossetti quickly realizes the death of the man crushed by the stone has dangerous implications for her brother, Dante Gabriel Rossetti. She joins with Robert Browning, Alfred Tennyson, and Oliver Wendell Holmes in searching for her brother before he too is a victim. Inspector Aldolphus Williamson, celebrated and feared for his fierce intellect and uncanny success in catching the bad guys, is eager to find Dante Gabriel Rossetti too; he suspects the famous painter and poet may be more killer than victim. As the bodies mount, with more verses from Dante's ***Divine Comedy*** portrayed in cruel detail, both groups search for the missing man. Is he to be another victim or killer? Book lovers will find much to relish in this literary mystery using real characters from history.

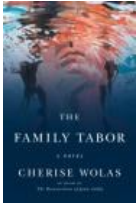


The Witch Elm by Tana French. Toby's life has been sweet. Popular in high school and college, he is quick witted, friendly, and has an easy way with people. Puppy cute, a guy the women find attractive and friends like spending time with. Toby works in a job he enjoys, as the PR Director for an art gallery, and has a girlfriend, Melissa, he adores. One violent night smashes that golden life to pieces, ultimately exposing all of the hidden missteps. Toby messes up by not disclosing to the gallery owner a falsehood being perpetrated by a co-worker, instead helping to cover it up. When Toby is forgiven, he opts for a night out with his two best mates in a local pub. They drink too much, tease each other, make plans for a vacation and head home. In the wee hours, two guys break into Toby's apartment, beating him nearly to death. Toby will never be the same. No longer strong and flexible of limb, his easy charm gone, and his mind too clouded for his earlier eloquence.

His uncle Hugo is dying of a brain tumor, Toby takes shelter helping his uncle and trying to figure out what his life will be in future. The discovery of a human skull in the Elm tree in Hugo's garden brings police and a whole array of new questions. This novel is outside French's popular Dublin Castle series, and darker in tone. It is a great book club selection with many issues worthy of discussion such as the way we treat each other, the small missteps that lead to unintended damaging consequences, listening compassionately, and the responsibility we bear for using our lives kindly.

Staff Recommendations.

Now Available in Paperback.



The Family Tabor by Cherise Wolas. What does it mean to be a truly good man? Harry Tabor is about to be honored as The Man of the Decade, an accolade for the decades he has spent helping Jewish refugees from strife torn places relocate to the Palm Springs area to start new lives. Harry has not sought publicity, leading a quiet life with his beloved wife Roma, a child psychologist. He stays in shape playing tennis and swimming in his pool and at 70 is still a fit, good looking man. Harry is proud of his family, his son Simon is an attorney working to reclaim art stolen in WWII, his daughter Phoebe has a law firm specializing in representing entertainers in LA, and his daughter Camille is a respected anthropologist.

Yes, Harry has toiled tirelessly, taking care to do good in the world and at home. On the surface everything looks great. But there was a time before, decades ago, when he worked in a different field and lived on the other side of the continent. Why did he leave a successful career, his New England home, to cross the country and live in the desert doing good works? What secrets might there be on that other coast? The children each hold damaging secrets too.

As the story unfolds, the reader is drawn to these likeable, empathetic characters whose secrets are troubling them. The writing is elegant and sophisticated, the themes of merit (such as the meaning of a life well lived), and the story engrossing.



Vox by Christina Dalcher. Following a charismatic black President the country swung hard right, electing a president who promised to return the country to family values. At first as civil liberties were curtailed concerned people marched and relied on the checks and balances in the government to keep things from getting too out of hand. Didn't work, the "Pure" movement continued to gain power, the President went unchallenged in his goals. Gays were sent to camps, women were removed from the work force causing families to struggle with one income. Reading material was censored, mostly banned. And then the wrist bands were placed on the wrists of all females, including tiny little girls, limiting them to 100 words per day. If the word count exceeded 100 words a nasty shock would be administered, keep talking and the power of the shock increased. Jean was involved in research on restoring speech to victims of stroke and brain trauma when the ban of women working went into effect.

She is the foremost authority on this type of speech loss. When the President's brother is injured in an accident, Jean is called upon to help despite her gender.



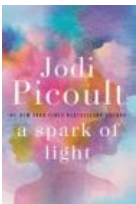
The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict. Before Hedy Lamarr was a Hollywood bombshell, she was Hedy Kiesler, a young woman from an affluent Jewish family in Vienna pursuing a career on the stage.

Times were changing in 1933 when she caught the fancy of Fredrick Mandl, owner of a munitions factory and extremely well connected with those in power. His nickname was The Merchant of Death, but with those changing times Hedy's father thought it would be far too dangerous to turn away the handsome older man. To her surprise Hedy found Fredrick good company; urbane and intelligent. When he proposed, her father thought he might provide protection they would need as the Jewish population's position in society changed dramatically. Once married, things changed. Fredrick liked to be in control and demanded obedience to his will. As the political climate became more dangerous, his associates changed too, until they included Adolph Hitler.

Hedy made a dramatic escape, becoming the legendary Hollywood siren. Less well known are her scientific accomplishments. She had a strong interest in science, a brilliant mind, and access to the best scientists of the day in her husband's factory along with his extensive library. She longed to contribute in a meaningful way to the war effort in defeating Hitler. If you are using a cell phone today, it was made possible by a discovery patented by Hedy Lamar during WWII. A fascinating account of a woman of many talents.



The Shape of Ruins by Juan Gabriel Vasquez. An innovative novel that begins with a man arrested for trying to steal the bullet torn jacket of the victim of political assassination from a museum. Decades of political discord and conspiracy lead back to April 9, 1948 when Jorge Eliecer Gaitan, a lawyer and liberal politician, was gunned down in Bogotá outside his home by Juan Roa Sierra, a Nazi sympathizer. The main character and narrator in this inventive novel is the author. Vasquez runs into Dr. Benavides, a highly respected surgeon, when Vasquez' wife was confined to a hospital room awaiting the birth of their twin daughters. The two men fell into conversation, a friendship forms over a mutual interest in the assassination of Gaitan. Vasquez is a writer of great power and beauty, his prose relives some of the dark pages of Columbia's history. I enjoyed the way Vasquez refers to his other novels in the story too.



A Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult. Hugh McElroy is a hostage negotiator, as such he is saddened but not surprised to be summoned to the site when a violent gunman invades a reproductive health center killing and taking hostages. Violence is not uncommon at clinics that perform abortion. Except, unbeknownst to Hugh, this time it going to be different. He is about to discover his daughter, Wren, is one of the hostages. Although protocol demands that he step aside, let someone else without a family member inside be in charge, there is no way Hugh will follow procedure. He keeps his daughter a secret as he faces his biggest challenge, keeping her alive.

George Goddard is a troubled veteran, his deepest feelings reserved for his daughter. At first he saw taking over the clinic as an act of retribution, a holy crusade, but killing and wounding people is a messy, upsetting endeavor. The people inside are not so different from his child.

Two men, from very different ideologies, both devoted fathers, face off with the fates of the innocent in their hands. Picoult has written a riveting exploration of abortion in America and done it well. The story is told from a variety of perspectives. This is a great book club selection and a starting point for a discussion about the role of abortion, regardless if you are pro-choice, respecting a woman's right to choose what happens with her body, or anti-abortion with a belief that sentient life begins at conception.

Donna Leon's Commissario Brunetti Series.

Brunetti is a charmer, a cop with heart and a penchant for reading the classics. Venice is the perfect setting for a mystery series, all those beautiful blowsy colorful buildings, foggy alleys, and quiet canals. If you enjoy Louise Penny's Gamashe series set in Canada, you will enjoy Commissario Brunetti's devotion to his wife and children and his empathy. Fans of Martin Walker's Bruno series set in France's Dordogne will appreciate Brunetti's gourmet tendencies.

Trace Elements by Donna Leon. Brunetti's latest case has implications far beyond a murder and may involve the well being of his beloved Venice. It begins simply enough, a dying woman claims her husband's accident was murder. Brunetti, trying to bring comfort to the woman, promises to check into the case, solving murder is right up his alley. The situation becomes more complicated when Brunetti learns the woman's husband was employed by the company that is responsible for keeping tabs on the quality and safety of Venice's water supply. The man had recently been out in the field collecting contaminated samples. And away we go!

Unto Us A Son is Given. Gonzalo Rodriguez de Tejada is lonely and old. Once the darling of the art crowd, he now feels irrelevant. A young man takes his fancy, someone to care for him. Italian inheritance law requires the bulk of an estate go to the family. Gonzalo adopts the young man to bequeath him a fortune thus hoping for affection. Commissario Brunetti's father-in-law would appreciate discreet inquiries to the background of the young man; he fears Gonzalo, one his oldest friends, is being foolish. Two people die suddenly, leaving to Brunetti's sorrow proof that inheritance, fortunes, and family make for treachery and betrayal.

The Temptation of Forgiveness. Professoressa Crosera teaches at the university where Brunetti's wife, Paola, teaches, although in different departments. She comes to the police to seek out Brunetti due to concerns over her son. Both families have teenagers, a boy and a girl, of about the same ages. Professoressa Crosera's son Sandro has become withdrawn, formerly a good student, he stopped studying, and her daughter reported a rumor of drugs. Shortly thereafter Professoressa Crosera's husband sustains a serious injury tha may not have been accidental.

Earthly Remains. Commissario Guido Brunetti is good at his job, but the sadness from the cruelty people visit upon one another takes a toll. A couple weeks leave from the Questura, letting someone else deal with the bad guys, will give time to relax with people who have not committed lethal crimes and recover from his melancholia. Paola, his wife, swiftly arranges a stay at a villa on a quiet island in the lagoon, Sant'Erasmo, belonging to one of her relatives. Paola will stay in Venice with their children and her Henry James novels, while Brunetti goes to the island. The caretaker, David Casati, and Brunetti quickly form a strong rapport. A violent storm assaults the island, lashing winds, spectacular lightening, driving rain, high waves, rather impressive in its ferocity. The next day Casati is missing.

The Waters of Eternal Youth. Brunetti investigates the near drowning of a young woman 15 years ago, was it an accident?

Falling In Love brings back Flavia, the opera singer from the first book in the series **Death at La Fenice**. An anonymous fan is showering her with yellow roses, it is starting to feel sinister.

By Its Cover begins with someone stealing pages from rare books at the library and proceeds to murder.

The Golden Egg. Brunetti's wife Paola asks him to investigate the death of a deaf man.

Beastly Things . A murder victim in a canal leads Brunetti into an investigation of corruption.

Drawing Conclusions. It appears an elderly woman succumbed to a heart attack, Brunetti suspects murder.

A Question of Belief. Before Brunetti can join his family on vacation, he is embroiled in a murder investigation.

About Face. A wealthy woman has connections to a trucking company owner murdered in his office.

The Girl of His Dreams. Brunetti pulls from the canal the body of a girl, a child no one has reported missing.

Suffer the Little Children. Three men attacked a doctor in his home, then took his 18 month old child.

Through a Glass Darkly. The body of the night watchman at a glass factory is found next to a copy of Dante's Inferno.

Blood From a Stone. Tourists on Christmas vacation witness the murder of a street vendor.

Doctored Evidence. The maid is prime suspect in the brutal murder of an elderly woman.

Uniform Justice. A cadet at the military academy is murdered, the investigation is hampered by the code of silence.

Willful Behavior. A young woman seeking to clear her grandfather's name is murdered.

Sea of Troubles. Signorina Ellettra, secretary to Brunetti's boss, is involved in a murder investigation causing complications.

Friends in High Places. A renovation project, a bureaucrat, and a scaffolding lead to murder.

Fatal Remedies. Brunetti investigates a robbery that may have connections to the Mafia.

A Noble Radiance. The son and heir to an aristocratic Venetian family is discovered in a grave in the Dolomites.

Quietly In Their Sleep. A young nun leaves the convent when five patients die unexpectedly.

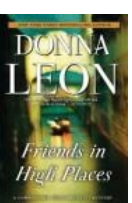
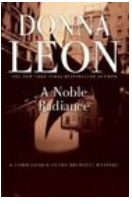
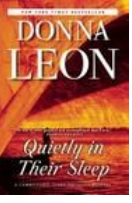
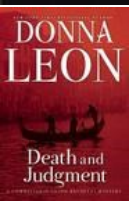
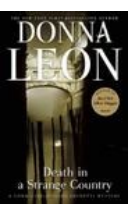
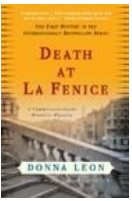
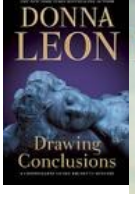
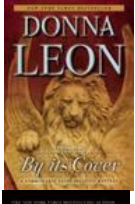
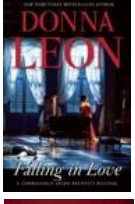
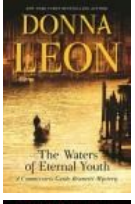
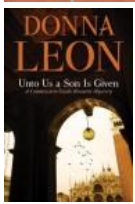
Aqua Alta. Brett Lynch, an American involved in arranging an exhibition of Chinese Pottery, is beaten by two men.

Death and Judgement. A truck accident spills dangerous cargo in the Dolomites, a man is murdered on a train.

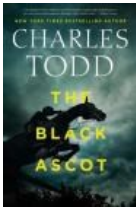
Dressed for Death. The discovery of a body in a field thwarts Brunetti's plans for an August vacation.

Death in a Strange Country. A body pulled out of the canal leads to links to a high level conspiracy

Death at La Fenice, the first in the series. Maestro Helmut Wellauer, a musical genius, is found dead at La Fenice.



March 2020 Book Clubs



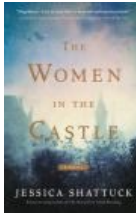
March 9 Mystery Book Club discusses ***Black Ascot*** by Charles Todd. In 1910 a royal race was held, the Black Ascot, to honor the fallen monarch, King Edward VII. Harold and Blanche Fletcher-Munro attended, their day would end tragically with Blanche killed and Harold horribly injured. The press had a field day when suspicion fell on Alan Barrington, another member of the aristocracy. He fled Scotland Yard's clutches, embarrassing the police. A decade later Inspector Ian Rutledge was driving back to London when he chanced on a bit of drama involving a recently released convict. He did the man a good turn and the grateful fellow gave him a tip, telling him Alan Barrington was back in England. Rutledge's superior officer, keen to clear the reputation of Scotland Yard by capturing the elusive Barrington, instructs Rutledge to investigate on the q.t.. The case will put Rutledge in personal jeopardy with his sanity questioned and only his nearest and dearest in his corner. As usual, my favorite character is Hamish, the specter from WWI that haunts Rutledge offering clever asides to his investigations.



March 23 Classics Book Club discusses ***This Side of Paradise*** by F. Scott Fitzgerald, one of the most significant authors of the last century. Fitzgerald began his career and made his reputation with this story recounting the career of an Ivy League student, Amory Blaine, as he matures from a callow, self-absorbed youth reflecting the obsessions of his time. Set in the Jazz age, this novel is lively and shows with an insightful view of college life among the privileged.



March 30 Fiction Book Club discusses ***Women in the Castle*** by Jessica Shattuck. What was it like in Germany, a country renowned for its Universities, rule of law, and well educated populace as a hate monger came to power? How did the citizens react, what were their personal consequences, and how did they attempt to heal from the horror after defeat? In rich prose, Shattuck explores these questions through the lives of three women.



Marianne von Lingenfels was of the upper class, her husband held a responsible position in government. As the story opens on November 9, 1938, she is helping his aunt, the Countess von Lingenfels, put on a soiree at the family castle. The night is significant, known as Kristallnacht, when violence against the Jewish population erupted and a brave few pledged opposition to the evil that was consuming their nation. Marianne will return to the castle a widow, her husband executed for his part in opposing Hitler. There she will seek out the widows of others who gave their lives trying to stop the evil regime.

Benita grew up in a village, not a member of the hoi polloi, a pretty girl who by chance met and married Marianne's best friend who was also executed for his part in the plot against Hitler. After the executions, Marianne first finds Benita's son, Martin, then discovers Benita in very poor condition, bringing her to the castle to heal.

Ania is found in a refugee camp with her children. The three women and their children form a matriarchal family, innovating ways to survive as Germany plunges deeper into chaos.

Their bonds strengthen as they help each other and reach out to others in need. Each woman has strengths and weaknesses of her own; each came to this situation in a different way giving the reader a broad look at the experiences of Germany's civilians during war years under the mad rule of Hitler. They will face choices and challenges that test them both during and after the war. Marianne's sense of moral certainty will cause her to take actions with far reaching consequences, teaching her that life is lived in the grey zone and attempts to interpret it in shades of black or white can be harmful. The story culminates in 1991, having shared with the reader not only the experiences of the war years, but also the aftermath.



[Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM](#)

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

April

April 13 ***When Will There Be Good News*** by Kate Atkinson [Mystery Book Club](#)
 April 20 Deschutes County Novel Idea selection, ***When All I Said And Done*** by Anne Griffen. [Fiction Book Club](#)
 April 27 ***Tightrope*** by Nicholas Kristoff and Sheryl WuDunn [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

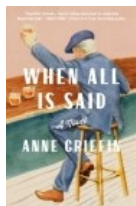
May

May 4 ***Tortilla Flats*** by John Steinbeck. [Classics Book Club](#)
 May 11 ***American Spy*** by Lauren Wilkerson. [Mystery Book Club](#)
 May 18 ***Overstory*** by Richard Powers. [Fiction Book Club](#)

June

June ***Bad Luck and Trouble*** by Lee Child [Mystery Book Club](#) for our **Month of Nevada**.
 June ***Northline*** by Willy Vlautin [Fiction Book Club](#) **Month of Nevada**.

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Community Room.

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.