



Sunriver Books & Music

March 2010 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



Author Events!
Start the month with a Double Feature Saturday
March 6th at 5:00

March 6th at 5:00 PM is going to be an ambitious evening! We have two authors speaking about very different books.

Real life events in Portland Oregon inspired Jennie Shortridge to write *When She Flew*. In 2004 a former Marine was discovered living with his 12 year old daughter in Portland's Forest Park. The young girl was clean, articulate, polite, and doing very well academically being home schooled by her father. She was evaluated and there was no evidence of abuse. Living in a hut hidden in Forest Park agreed with the pair. It was also illegal. The police officer in charge of their case found the father work on a horse farm. It looked like a good ending was in sight when the pair were spooked by the media hubbub and fled. Their whereabouts remain unknown. Shortridge was intrigued. She changes the names of places in her work of fiction, but the book is true to the essence of the real life drama of a father and daughter getting on quite well in an unorthodox manner. *When She Flew* tells the story through the perspective of a police officer. Jess is influenced in her reaction to the Forest Park dwellers by her troubled relationship with her own daughter. It is a fascinating book, it will make you think. When is a child in danger and when is a family just leading a life very different than the norm. Jennie Shortridge gave a splendid presentation for us on her last book, *Love & Biology at the Center of the Universe* set in Seattle and along the Oregon coast. I know she will be wonderful this time too with such a well written, compelling story to share.



Erica Bauermeister is also appearing on March 6th at 5:00 PM. *The School of Essential Ingredients* is a lovely book set in a cooking class. Bauermeister writes with an elegant sensuality. If you enjoy cooking, or just enjoy savoring good food, you will like this book. Lillian's mother retreats into her books when her husband leaves, fiction being far more comforting than reality. Lillian feels abandoned, she watches other mothers cooking dinner and baking cookies. Food touches something deep in Lillian; she tries to use it as a means of recapturing her mother. Lillian grows up to be a chef with a successful restaurant and teaches a cooking class. As each class becomes absorbed in creating nurturing food, we learn about the student's lives and how they are changed by the confidence they gain. Each student is changed and enriched in a deeply personal way as they grow in confidence in Lillian's kitchen. Their stories mingle with the dishes Lillian teaches them to create, and the food sounds delicious. The characters are likeable and the setting quite charming. If you enjoy cooking you will be inspired!

Saturday March 13th we have the pleasure of hearing Jeff Mapes, author of *Pedaling Revolution*. Biking is becoming a revolution as cyclists and cars vie for road space. Our dependence on fossil fuels is a contributing factor to the mess in the Middle East, air pollution and a variety of ills. Health care costs are soaring through the roof, with one of the contributing factors being the sedentary nature of Americans. Mapes, an Oregonian reporter, is trying with his marvelous book to lure you out and onto your bikes. From Amsterdam to New York to San Francisco to Portland Oregon people are getting out of their cars and onto their bikes. Mapes cycles with evident glee in Amsterdam where bikes rule. How much healthier would the air quality become (and subsequently the people) if most of the commuting to and from work in cities involved biking? How much fitter would we be if every short trip did not involve sitting in a car? Mapes compares the cycling culture in Europe to the US, highlights individuals, and gives us glimpses of the high cost of our car oriented culture. He casts a reporter's eye on environmental factors, political issues, health and safety while never losing sight of the essential ingredient, cycling can be fun. This is a well researched book that anyone interested in bikes should find interesting. Here in Sunriver, with our miles of bike trails, we are in favor of commuting by bike. The weather is heading into spring, this is the perfect event to get us all primed to hop on our bikes!



Stop by, call or e-mail to sign up to attend the free events and be entered in the drawings for prizes. Refreshments will be served.



Save Saturday April 3rd at 5:00 PM to spend at Sunriver Books & Music for a celebration of Central Oregon resident Diane Hammond's latest book **Seeing Stars**. This book is powerful stuff, set in Hollywood where child stars are obsessed with making the next booking. Diane has created characters that ring true, with a story that is funny, poignant, and engrossing. **Hannah's Dream** by Diane Hammond was voted one of our Fiction Book Club's favorite selections of 2009. It was also on the Top Ten Fiction Best Sellers list from Sunriver Books & Music an all over national best seller lists. **Seeing Stars** has all of that magic and more. It has been named an April Selection for the Indie Next List. This one is a winner; I will tell you more in April's scene, but please save April 3rd for Diane Hammond, you will not regret it! We intend to have fun!



Stop by, call 541-593-2525, or e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com to sign up to attend. The events are free with refreshments served and drawings for door prizes

Upcoming Author Appearances

- Saturday April 3rd at 5:00 PM **Seeing Stars** by Diane Hammond
- Saturday April 17th at 5:00 PM **An Absence So Great** by Jane Kirkpatrick
- Saturday May 15th at 5:00 PM **A Night of Mystery** with Lisa Jackson and Nancy Bush, authors of **Wicked Games**
- Saturday May 22nd at 5:00 PM **The Girl Who Fell From The Sky** Heidi Durrrow
- Saturday June 5th at 5:00 PM **Massacred for Gold** by Greg Nokes
- Saturday June 19th at 5:00 PM **The Spellmans Strike Back** by Lisa Lutz
- Saturday July 10th at 5:00 PM **Bend Overall** by Scott Cook

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, Sunriver-books.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.

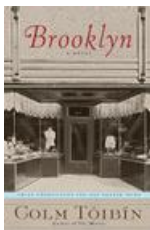
One of our favorite people, Carole Shipman came up with this delightful idea. Receive a surprise book every month! **Carole's Surprise** comes in 3, 6, 9 or 12 month versions. It is will be appreciated by the readers on your gift list and don't forget to give yourself a subscription too! Sign up for **Carole's Surprise** for yourself and be delighted by a surprise book every month! Give a gift subscription and spread the joy of reading to your friends and family.

Carole's Surprise for the April-May-June 2010 costs \$43.94 picked up in the store and \$49.94 mailed in the US. April-September of 2010 costs \$86.94 picked up in the store or \$98.94 mailed in the US. April-December costs \$130.89 picked up in the store or \$148.89 mailed in the US. Give your self the whole year of 2010 for \$172.89 picked up in the store or \$196.89 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book.

Carole enjoys discovering new books and authors. You might enjoy them too! I know I enjoy selecting them for you! In 2009 **Carole's Surprise** featured **So Brave Young & Handsome** by Leif Enger, **The Air Between Us** by Deborah Johnson, **Nightbirds** by Thomas Maltman, **Skeletons at the Feast** by Chris Bohjalian and **Louisiana Power & Light** by John DuFresne What will 2010 bring? Sign up for **Carole's Surprise** and discover month by month.



Books, Books & More Books!



Brooklyn by Colm Toibin releases in paperback in March. In the years following WWII work is hard to find in Ireland. Ellis settles for a part time job in a shop; the prospects for improvement are not good. A priest from America offers to sponsor Ellis's immigration to Brooklyn where he promises to find her employment. Ellis doesn't really want to leave her mother or her sister Rose. She holds inside the turmoil she feels and puts on a brave face. She hopes something will keep her in Ireland, but she is on the boat when it pulls away headed across the Atlantic to a new world. Ellis's homesickness is bone crushing. She misses her mother and sister fiercely. Thankfully the Priest recognizes Ellis's distress and forms a plan to get her back into the stream of life. He signs Ellis up for night classes. Between work and school, she is a busy girl, but not too busy for a young man with beautiful dark eyes. The experience of an Irish immigrant in Brooklyn is described so well you will feel like you are right there with the characters.

Writing a book with such weighty topics as abuse and alcohol addiction that is insightful, well written, and funny should be nigh on impossible. Not for Marian Keyes. **This Charming Man** tells the story from the perspective of 4 very different women, Lola, Grace, Marnie, and Alicia. What the women have in common is Paddy de Courcy, a handsome Irish politician exuding charisma and sex appeal by the bucketful. Paddy is every woman's dream, but a hard man to hold onto. Loosing Paddy affects them in different ways and colors their relationship with men in future. The story opens with Paddy's engagement to Alicia and its effect on Lola, Marnie and Grace. This is a fast paced, page turner about flawed people (aren't we all). There will be moments where you will say "WHAT were you thinking???" and then realize thinking didn't enter into the equation, sometimes our decisions are made by our heart and our vulnerabilities. Along the way, there are plenty laughs and a good story. It has released in paperback.



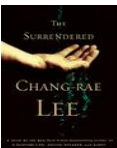
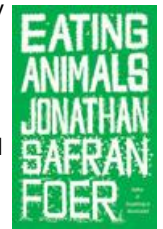
Books, Books, & More Books

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand by Helen Simonson will be a Fiction Book Club selection in May but I could not wait to tell you about it. Every once in a while a novel comes along that is such a pure delight you do not want to reach the last page. This is such a novel. Major Pettigrew is a ramrod straight, stiff upper lip, proper British gentleman. His brother's death throws him for a loop and he finds himself being comforted by Jasmina Ali, the local shopkeeper. Her Pakistani heritage has kept her from being fully accepted by the local villagers. It is an unlikely alliance. 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. This is sure to be one of my favorite new releases this year.



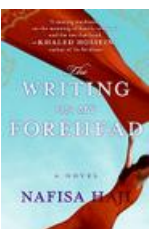
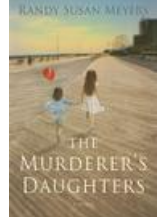
One Good Dog by Susan Wilson manages to blend the rampant greed of the financial sector with dog fighting. Both man and dog have a chance at redemption. Chance was raised to battle in the dog fight pits. Adam slugs it out in the land of hostile takeovers and big money mergers until he makes a terrible mistake. They recognize in each other a fighting spirit. Adam was used to expensive houses, fast cars, and being able to buy anything his family desired. Alone after his downfall, he is clueless about how to interact with a dog. Chance has no experience in going for walks or living in an apartment. Somehow they come to understand and heal one another. In the process they learn to care and to trust. Adam begins to question his values and Chance takes a fancy to soft couches. If you are in the mood for a feel good story with an irascible canine, this is your book.

Eating Animals by Jonathan Safran Foer released in November and was on my Top Ten Non Fiction of 2009 list. Motivated by the birth of his son, Foer delved into the issue of **Eating Animals**. He wanted to be certain his son ate the best possible diet, that he did right for his child. Foer does not start out with an agenda; he is not really even an "animal lover". But he is troubled by his discoveries. His aim is not to make you vegetarian, rather to pass on the information he uncovered in his search. I have to admit to being offended by people believing those little plastic wrapped packages just show up in the grocery store on their own. While I am not trying to make everyone vegetarian either, I do think we all have an obligation to be informed, to make kind choices. It is not just a question of animal suffering, although that is certainly an issue, but the huge agro-industry that has taken over the production of America's food in the last decades also presents health questions. The HINI flu most likely originated in a factory farm, the World Health Organization fears the conditions are ripe for a pandemic. These are issues that should be of concern to all of us. And while I do not eat meat, my best friend Flashman has marked carnivorous preferences. So I share in a responsibility to stay informed and commit to making kind choices.



The Surrendered by Chang-Rae Lee is a moving story. War slams into June, Hector and Sylvie with a tragic ferocity. Their lives will intersect in Korea changing them forever. Epic in its scope, beautifully written, and powerful the story begins in Korea then moves to Manchuria, New Jersey and Italy. What makes us who we are? Can cataclysmic events alter our sense of self beyond redemption?

The Murderer's Daughters by Randy Susan Meyers explores what happens to the children when their father kills their mother. Lulu and Merry's parents have a troubled union. Dad is jealous and fond of drink, a dandy of a man with too much temper and too little maturity. Mom is pinup pretty and not any more gifted with maturity. When they separate it fuels his jealousy and temper, he kills his wife and wounds Merry. Now the daughters have to deal with the aftermath. With no close relative able to give them a home they grow up in an orphanage. Merry stays in touch with her father, visiting him in prison. Lulu cannot forgive his violent act. Lulu and Merry's lives will forever have a shadow hanging over them. This is an excellent look at how two young girls react to the tragedy and how it affects their lives as adults.



The Writing on My Forehead by Nafisa Haji is releasing in paperback. The story centers on two sisters, Ameena and Saira Quadar. Their father is a successful California doctor, their mother is loving and kind. They have a sheltered and protected childhood growing up in a family that holds close the traditions of their faith. Saira is a questioning, venturesome child from an early age, while Ameena is more docile and biddable. Saira's adventurous nature only deepens when she learns of her parents secrets, discovering her grandfather had been a part of Gandhi's independence movement. As Saira uncovers secrets, learning the high cost of life choices, she decides against the traditional role she is expected to fill, she becomes a journalist traveling the world's dangerous places to tell the truth. Her sister Ameena marries and lives near her parents. But world events are about to scoop up her little family in senseless tragedy. This is an important book and an engaging story of family.

The Eleventh Man by Ivan Doig has released in paperback. It will take you back in time and let you have a feel for what the world was like during the WWII. **The Eleventh Man** centers on the members of an undefeated Montana college football team. They end up in different branches of the service.. Ben is plucked out of the fighting by the war department to follow the exploits of his teammates. TPWP, the propaganda machine for WWII, thinks it would be a fine idea to release stories about the legendary undefeated teammates. Ben is the most qualified to write the series, his Dad is a newspaperman. He zips around the globe from the Washington coast to Guam, the Philippines, Europe, catching up with his teammates. And he starts attending funerals, too many funerals. Ben is stationed in Great Falls Montana where WASP's are ferrying planes to Canada for the Russians as part of the Lend Lease program. He falls for Cass, a shapely, sharp tongued WASP Captain who was born to fly.



Who wouldn't fall in love with Cass? Doig has given us a vivid story about compelling characters.

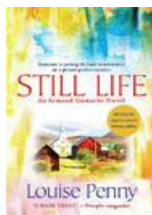


Nothing But a Smile by Steve Amick has just released in paperback. Sal isn't sure how she is going to keep their camera store going while her husband is away in WWII and she doesn't want to trouble him while he is in danger. Times are tough; customers are few and far between. What could he do from the other side of the world anyway? Better to just find a solution and let him think things at home are just hunky dory. Sal needs to think outside the box, color outside the lines. She decides to pose for pinups, be patriotic by cheering the troops and save the shop at the same time. Complications ensue.

March 2010 Book Clubs

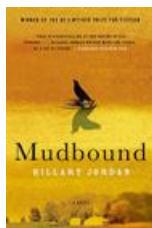
Monday March 1st at 6:30 the Classics Book Club discusses one of my personal favorites, **The Monkey Wrench Gang** by Edward Abbey. Led by the intrepid Hayduke, a motley gang wages war on the big yellow machines that have come to destroy the landscape they love. Hilarious, outrageous, passionate, and totally full of himself, Edward Abbey was an original. He was vehemently opposed to the construction of the Glen Canyon dam, a dam that obliterated Native petro glyphs and is now viewed by quite a few as a mistake. Too late for all that pretty landscape, it has been drowned for a long time now. Abbey pours all the rage and furor of his opposition to despoiling wild places into his fiction. Edward Abbey defies definition, he is not about to fit into any neat little box. An impassioned environmentalist, he was also known to shoot television sets and litter the desert he loved with their debris. His fictional characters are likely to toss beer cans out the window. Ed Abbey was one of those guys who eat up life in great big gulps. In his fiction he lets us have a little taste of what it is like to live large.

EDWARD ABBEY



Monday March 8th at 6:30 the Mystery Book Club discusses **Still Life** by Louise Penney, the first in a delightful mystery series set in the small village of Three Pines outside Montreal. Who would kill retired school teacher Jean Neal? Felled by an arrow, at first the villagers want to believe her death was a horrible accident. Could a confused hunter have mistaken her for a deer? Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surete du Quebec must find the answers. Three Pines has a vibrant community of artists, Jean Neal submitted a painting for the local competition. Could her painting have provoked murder? Or did her money grubbing niece's family kill for inheritance? Gamache is a thoughtful investigator, he will find the truth.

Monday March 15th at 6:30 the Travel Essay Book Club discusses **Catfish & Mandala** by Andrew X. Pham, the chronicle of Pham's bike journey along the west coast of the US and Mexico and onto Vietnam. Pham is a gifted writer. His latest book, **The Eaves of Heaven**, was voted first place in the books discussed by the Non Fiction Book Club in 2009. Pham is able to convey complex viewpoints with great clarity. **Catfish & Mandala** is a book he needed to write, a journey he needed to travel. Pham's family fled Vietnam when he was but a ten year old boy. It was a chaotic, terrifying time for them and left emotional scars. After his sister committed suicide, Pham headed out on his bike to ride the west coast. But he needed to journey farther; he needed to go back to Vietnam and see the family left behind, to see the life he did not live.



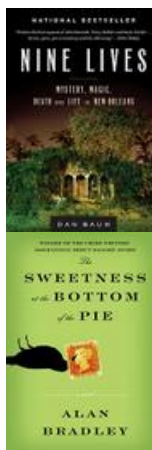
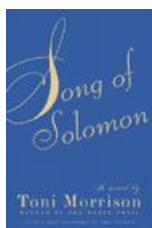
Monday March 22nd at 6:30 the Fiction Book Club discusses **Mudbound** by Hilary Jordan, a searing tale of life in a small southern town after WWII. It is told from the shifting perspectives of the characters. Laura resigned herself to being an aunt, not a mother. She lived with her parents in Memphis and enjoyed her job teaching school. Hope for a family and home of her own bloomed when her brother's friend Henry starts to call. She marries Henry and settles into raising a family. Henry doesn't share his dreams of owning a farm with Laura; it comes as a shock when he announces his purchase of a farm in a lonely part of the Mississippi Delta. It is an even worse shock when she is told her racist father in law will be living with them, making her life a misery. Henry is full of land fever, the need to own it, farm it, make it produce. He is not a bad man, but he has the attitudes of a southern man of his time and background. His younger brother Jamie is a charmer, life away fighting in WWII has both damaged him and freed him from the attitudes of his home. Ronsel is the son of tenants on Henry's farm. He has been away fighting too. It was a shock to be in Europe where the front door was open to him and he did not have to sit in the back of the bus. It is a shock to return to the south where the back door, down cast eyes, and the back of the bus are his lot. Befriending a white man is dangerous.

Monday March 29th at 6:30 the Non Fiction Book Club discusses **The Limits of Power** by Andrew Bacevich. While this is a political book, dealing with vital issues of the day, it is not a partisan book. Bacevich is upset with all presidents and politicians, few escape his ire. President Carter pleased him by calling on the country to make hard choices involving sacrifice. It was an unpopular concept. Bacevich makes many strong points. We cannot continue to drive huge, gas guzzling vehicles with an insatiable desire for foreign oil. We must regulate the financial markets. We have become a country that tears apart companies for their parts then send the jobs overseas, a country of financiers rather than producers. Bacevich is a retired Colonel and West Point graduate; he knows war intimately and is convinced the US cannot police the world.

THE LIMITS OF POWER



The End of American Exceptionalism
ANDREW J. BACEVICH



Non Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 April 26th 2010 **Nine Lives** by Dan Baum

Monday 6:30 May 24th 2010 **Mornings on Horseback** by David McCullough

Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 April 12th 2010 **Tree of Smoke** by Denis Johnson

Monday 6:30 May 17th 2010 **Honolulu** by Alan Brennert

Monday 6:30 May 31st 2010 **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson

Monday 6:30 June 28th 2010 **The Help** by Kathryn Stockett

Classics

Monday 6:30 PM April 19th 2010 **Song of Solomon** by Toni Morrison

Mystery Book Club

Monday 6:30 April 5th 2010 **Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** by Alan Bradley

Monday 6:30 May 3rd 2010 **A Beautiful Blue Death** by Charles Finch

Travel Essay Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM May 10th 2010 **Following the Equator** by Mark Twain

