



Sunriver Books & Music

March 2013

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



We are going to have the most fun on Saturday March 9th at 5:00 PM. Chris Santella will give a presentation and slide show on his **Fifty Places** series. Singer-songwriter John Lennon once said “Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans.” The days go by, filled with appointments, daily tasks and the everyday things that keep us busy. The days turn into years, the things we want to do fall away. Chris Santella will inspire you to grasp ahold of those dreams and live them.

Chris is a Portland resident, avid fly fisherman, and the author of many books. His work has been featured in The New Yorker and Golf, Travel & Leisure. At

our event he will focus on **Fifty Places To Bike Before You Die**, **Fifty Places to Hike Before You Die**, **Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die**, **Fifty More Places to Fly Fish Before You Die**, **Fifty Places to Golf Before You Die**, and **Fifty More Places to Golf Before You Die**. Do you see a theme here? Chris should have us all charged up and ready to grasp life by the tail, or at least head to a comfortable chair by the fire with one of his lovely books. Each book is beautifully bound with spectacular photographs. Chris interviews passionate bike riders, hikers, golfers, and fishermen to come up with lists of the very best places then compile their essays for us in his gorgeous books.

Fifty Places To Bike Before You Die has selections for all levels of interest. Do you like flying down single track, surrounded by jaw dropping scenery on trails that will challenge? Then turn to trip #46 for Kirstin Peterson's essay on the White Rim Trail in Moab Utah. Do you prefer road riding? How about trip #9 through California Wine Country or trip #14 through Burgundy France? I like bike trails, nice paved trails with no cars swooping around me. Try trip #7 the Okanagan Valley, trip #42 in Switzerland, or trip #27 on the Leelanau Peninsula of Michigan. A trip that surprised me for biking was trip # 31, New York City. Who knew the Big Apple had 700 miles of bike lanes? If you want to bike in exotic locations, the book is full of them. Trip #6 has an essay by Joe Kurmaskie about biking the Tour de Tuli in Botswana, Zimbabwe, and South Africa. If you like your bike rides closer to home, there are 3 rides right here in Oregon, and more in the adjoining states (Washington, Idaho, and California). It is a pretty cool book, the forty spectacular color photos are sure to inspire. The rides address all levels of comfort and have information on guided rides for many. **Fifty Places To Bike Before You Die** was on my list of Top Ten travel books for 2012.

Fifty Places To Hike Before You Die does the same for hiking, highlights some of the best trails to walk with essays from experts and grand photography (these books really are beautiful and make great gifts). If you are interested in exotic places, try Bhutan, Argentina, Botswana, China, Iceland, or Oman among others. Would you like an interesting hike to add onto a European vacation? There are selections in Italy, France, Great Britain, Sweden, and Switzerland. There are several hikes in the Pacific Northwest, including Oregon's Mt. Hood. Some of the selections are familiar, like visiting old friends; other descriptions make me want to go on these hikes! The pictures are breathtaking. To stand before those glorious mountains, now that would be something!

Fifty Places to Fly Fish Before You Die and **Fifty More Places To Fly Fish Before You Die** map out some of the best fly fishing destinations. I liked an anonymous quote about fishing, and it relates to golf too. “Catch and Release Fishing is a lot like Golf, you don't have to eat the ball to have a good time.” Having a good time is important, we should do more of it; life goes by too swiftly. Fishermen will find great places to fish, from exotic locations like Brazil, Iceland and Mongolia to places right here in Oregon.

Fifty Places to Golf Before You Die and **Fifty More Places To Golf Before You Die** bring the favorite courses of renowned players, course architects, and avid players to your notice. Hear from such golfing luminaries as Nick Faldo, Pete Dye, and Gary Player. The courses range from Oregon's Bandon Dunes to far flung, exotic locations, such as Scotland's St. Andrews and Thailand's Blue Canyon course. Perhaps you will find your next golfing vacation among the pages.

Fifty Places to Go Birding Before You Die lists 50 great venues for finding birds. Millions of people take pleasure from the hobby of bird watching. Chris Santella interviews David Silby and Steve McCormick CEO of the Nature Conservancy among others to bring you the best spots to aim your binoculars. Places range from the exotic, such as the Silk Road in Uzbekistan to Malheur Refuge right here in Oregon.

Fifty Places to Sail Before You Die and **Fifty Places to Dive Before You Die** use the same idea to highlight great places for fun on the water. There are many exotic and beguiling places in both books. There are challenging places to sail like Antarctica, lovely scenic areas like the San Juan Islands in Washington or tropical waters such as Antigua. A wide variety of possibilities greet the diver in the pages too.

Outside the **Fifty Places** series, Chris Santella is the author of **Once in a Lifetime Trips: the World's Fifty Most Extraordinary and Memorable Travel Experiences**. This truly is a book to sit down and dream with, pick out an adventure and go for it! The travel selections beckon to your adventurous spirit. I hope you are just as enthralled with this series as I am. This event will be eagerly anticipated!

Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. The event is free, everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served and we will have drawings for prizes.

Upcoming Author Appearances

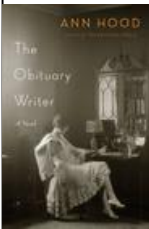
5:00 PM Saturday April 6th, 2013 **Cycling Sojourner** by Elle Thalheimer
5:00 PM **Sunday** April 21st 2013 at 5:00 PM **100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon** by Bill Sullivan
Sat. May 4th 2013 at 5:00 PM **One Glorious Ambition : The Compassionate Crusade of Dorothea Dix, A Novel** by Jane Kirkpatrick
Sunday May 5th 2013 at 11:30 Jane Kirkpatrick's Newberry Habitat for Humanity Walk, Tickets cost \$10.00.
Sat. May 11th 2013 at 5:00 a Double Event! **Love Water Memory** by Jennie Shortridge & **The Lost Art of Mixing** by Erica Bauermeister
Saturday May 18th 2013 at 5:00 PM **Cascade Summer: My Adventure on Oregon's Pacific Crest Trail** by Bob Welch
Saturday May 25th 2013 at 5:00 PM by **The Barbed Crown** by William Dietrich
Saturday June 1st 2013 at 5:00 PM **The Missing Italian Girl: A Mystery in Paris** by Barbara Corrado Pope
Saturday June 15h 2013 at 5:00 PM **Sleight of Hand** by Phillip Margolin
Saturday August 31, 2013 at 5:00 PM **Breaking Chains** by Greg Nokes
Saturday September 14th 2013 at 5:00 PM **The Ship In The Hill** by William Sullivan

Watch the event calendar for Craig Johnson in July!

Check our website, sunriverbooks.com, for more information on upcoming authors as they are scheduled.

Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak 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 web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

Staff Recommendations Lori Gascon recommends.



The Obituary Writer by Ann Hood. Two women's lives are intertwined in Ann Hood's newest interesting novel about love, grief, and longing. It is set in two time periods, and in alternating chapters we crisscross back and forth across history and the lives of Vivien and Claire.

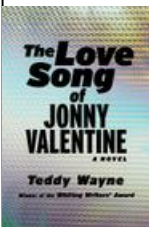
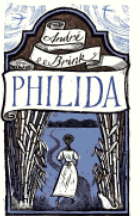
Vivien Lowe is living in quiet comfort in California as an obituary writer in 1919. She recalls as a young woman how she became involved with a handsome, married older man. Tragedy struck with the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, and lead Vivien to spend the next several years looking for the man she loved, certain he had amnesia, wandering somewhere looking for his lost life. In the meantime, with her love of poetry and way with words, she unexpectedly becomes the local obituary writer and folks come to her home from all over the state just to have her put down in words the essence of the person they are grieving.

The writing becomes a catharsis for her own consuming grief, yet when she reads a news article of a man in Colorado with amnesia, she has to let it engulf her once again as she decides to see for herself if this is her missing love.

Claire is a young wife and mother in 1961 when a local 12-year-old turns up missing from their Connecticut neighborhood. That event makes her realize how quickly life can change, and how bored she actually is with her precise life. She does not want for anything, as husband Peter works for the Pentagon, but the house cleaning, caring for a two-year-old, dressing up for her husband's arrival from work with an excellently prepared dinner waiting, along with the perfectly chilled martini, seems to be too much like clockwork. Peter expects of her only a clean house, a good meal, and several children. She is not sure that this is what she wants anymore. The country is watching the JFK inauguration with excitement and wonder, and Claire becomes a volunteer with the local campaign headquarters. There she meets someone who feels the same excitement, and listens to her thoughts and ideas with true interest – something she has not expected, nor experienced from a man before...As the poignant story unfolds between the two ladies' lives, eventually you realize how the two intersect.

Deon recommends.

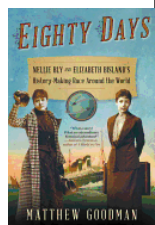
Philida by Andre Brink. This amazing story is based on individuals connected to the author's family. 1832 South Africa a female slave has very few options. Philada bore four children for her owner's son, Francoise, not that she had any say in the matter. He promised her freedom but his bargain was faithless. Francoise father has found him a bride from the right sort of family in Cape Town. Philida is to be sold into the harsh country up north. She has no part in the decision. Determined to have a voice in her future and to seek justice, Philida walks many miles into town, carrying her baby on her back, to the authorities to lodge a complaint against her owner's son and his broken promise. This is an intriguing story about a woman willing to fight for her rights, however few they may be.



The Love Song of Jonny Valentine by Teddy Wayne. Jonny Valentine, at eleven years, is the latest heartthrob to the bubble-gum set, a crooner of senseless pop tunes to screaming audiences of prepubescent girls. He is accompanied on his tour by his hard partying manager Jane, who is also his Mum. Jonny's Dad decamped back when Mom was a grocery checker and Jonny unknown. Jonny is still curious about this absent father and when a strange computer message pops up he starts a clandestine investigation of his own. Jonny goes through all the hullabaloo child stars must face, being told they are the greatest, being packaged and sold, and somewhere in the mix having their childhood forgotten. Teddy Wayne is well able to deliver the comedic goods; the story is both funny and insightful. Jonny does come to see himself and those around him more clearly, but the journey to enlightenment is sure to give the reader some laughs. I loved the way Jonny came to see both his mother's

strengths and weaknesses, appreciating those strengths and forgiving her shortcomings.

Eighty Days by Matthew Goodman. Jules Verne wrote a popular tale about a man circling the globe in eighty days to win a bet. Dynamic reporter Nellie Bly threw her hat in the ring with the declaration that a real woman could beat Phileas Fogg's eighty day record. Hot on her trail was reporter Elizabeth Bisland, a magazine journalist. Would the women beat the fictional record set by Verne? Which woman would come in first? They couldn't have been more different, the scrappy Nellie Bly who had herself committed to Bedlam in order to write an expose and secure a position on Joseph Pulitzer's World and the demure, fashionable Elizabeth Bisland. Both had adventures and traveled to exotic locations. If you like strong women and adventurous travel this story is a veritable feast!

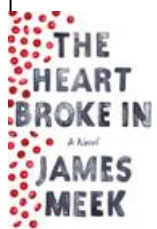


Deon Recommends



Above All Things by Tanis Rideout. Tours now launch expeditions to climb Mt. Everest, but there was a time the mountain remained unknown, shrouded in her cloud cover, lofty and remote, until a determined man pushed his way up the mountain in 1924. This is the riveting story of George Mallory's ascent of the highest mountain on earth. Returned from fighting Germans in WWI, he sets his sight on battling the elements to challenge Everest. He tries three times, once stopped by an avalanche that claims the lives of seven porters. After promising to stay home, to leave the jagged mountain in peace, he returns yet again to attempt a third time to climb the mountain that will claim him. Back home he has a wife and family, waiting, hoping.

Talking to the Dead by Harry Binham. Everyday life baffles Welch detective Fiona Grisham, the right reactions elude her grasp. She watches carefully for social clues on what she should be feeling, but the feelings are not there. Cambridge philosophy majors usually choose other careers than law enforcement, but it suits Fiona. Dead bodies do not make Fiona nervous and she is good at figuring out puzzles. Although she is horrible at following rules, much to the consternation of her superior officers. Fiona is involved in the mind numbingly boring task of following the paper trail of a dirty ex-cop's ill got gains, when the murder of a woman and child takes priority at the station. Janet had been doing well in kicking her habit and cleaning up her act; trying to be a good mother to her daughter April. What brought the mother and child from their tidy apartment to the filthy flop house where they lived the last few weeks of their short, tense lives? Fiona is determined to find justice. The combination of vulnerability and toughness in Fiona works; this is the start of an excellent series.



The Heart Broke In by James Meek is a rollicking, ambitious novel, the story follows the fortunes of a brother and sister, Richie Sheperd, an over the hill rock star and Bec, his scientist sister. Richie has succumbed to the charms of a younger woman, way too much younger. Not only would his family life be ruined if the truth came out, but jail would be a distinct possibility. He justifies the situation by telling himself the girl was well experienced and worldly far before she started pursuing Richie. Okay, so he didn't run too fast and was easy prey, as long as he keeps it secret from his family who is he hurting? Richie has a very flexible conscience. Bec is a serious lass, she wants to make a difference, she is researching malaria and using herself as a test subject. Bec is willing to break the rules if it means saving millions from malaria. Each of these characters decides their version of truth is the right course of action. Throw in a rather demented, right wing, vengeful journalist, and an assortment of quirky characters and you have a fantastic story of love, betrayal, and the oddities of life that will hold you spellbound, make you laugh, and keep you thinking.

San Miguel by T.C. Boyle. San Miguel is an island off the California Coast. This novel is well named, for the main character is the island. Timeless, beautiful, harsh and beguiling, the people come and go but the land continues. From 1888 to WWII, Boyle blends historical fiction and fact. The Waters family is an incongruous group to arrive on San Miguel. Marantha is suffering from TB, she has spent her fortune buying her husband a share in the island's sheep ranching operation, satisfying his obsession and dooming herself. The house is little more than a hovel, medical care too far away, and the climate too harsh for her tender lungs. Captain Waters is still haunted by the Civil War and willing to justify his self-indulgence in stranding his wife so far from her friends, doctors, and comforts. Teenaged Edith, their daughter, is faced with her mother's illness, her stepfather's harsh attitude, and the loneliness of the island. In 1930 Elsie and Herbie try to make a go of sheep ranching on San Miguel. Elsie, a librarian, was settled in her spinster life until Herbie swept her off her feet, out of New York, and onto the island. They shared the dreams of their island paradise, but Herbie has ghosts to fight too. A WWI veteran, he carries the shrapnel of battle in his body and the horror in his soul. Through it all, the island shimmers, always beautiful, always isolated, and indifferent to the fate of the men and women trying to claim it for their own.



The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro. Start with one of the biggest art heists in history, the 1990 robbery of the Gardner Museum, then skillfully blend in the story of a talented artist reduced to doing "reproductions" and seduced into forging a Degas masterpiece and you have a story art lovers will not be able to resist. Claire's career was derailed by her lover, a famous artist, who left her reputation in tatters. She makes a bargain with the devil in the guise of handsome Aiden Markel, a popular gallery owner who could make her future sweet. Something about the Degas does not seem right to Claire, she goes digging into the paintings history even as she labors to reproduce a masterpiece. Will they be caught? Will Claire uncover the Degas' secrets? Will Claire clear her name? Read it and find out! If you love art, this will be a treat.

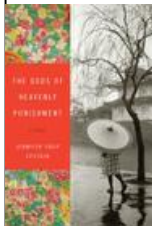
Eight Girls Taking Pictures by Whitney Otto. Eight women spanning time and place all passionate about creating art. Women who stepped outside the boundaries of their time, traveled far from home, endured revolution, overcame the attitudes prevailing at the time to create art. The stories are linked by an artistic passion in a world not always sympathetic to women reaching for roles beyond, daughter, wife, mother. Set in the Pacific Northwest, California, Berlin, New York, South America, and Rome, the landscape traveled adds to the rich complexity of the stories. I also liked that the stories are inspired by real women and the challenges they overcame in becoming photographic artists.



Ghana Must Go by Taiye Selast. Kweku Sai walks out into his beautiful garden at the first blush of dawn and succumbs to a heart attack. Ghana is the land of his birth, he left as a young man to study and then pursue a career as a surgeon in the USA. After practicing in the best of US hospitals he has returned to Ghana and now died in his fifties of a heart attack. As the news of his death spreads, his children and first wife puzzle over his death and the way their lives fell apart. This nuanced story takes you into the heart of a family, into their dark secrets, their fear of failure, and their love.

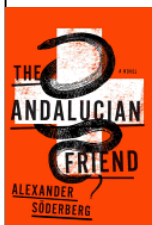
Deon recommends.

The History of Us by Leah Stewart. Eloise's life is going just right. Only 29 and she is a professor already. At Harvard no less, just saying the word makes her smile. Everything is going Eloise's way until the phone call summoning her home to Cincinnati, her sister and brother-in-law have died in a tragic accident, and Eloise is now the guardian of her niece and nephews, Theo, Josh, and Claire. There is no question of Eloise's widowed mother taking in the grieving children; it falls to Eloise to do the right thing, move back to Cincinnati to live in her sister's house and go from a dream career to instant parenthood; a move she makes with compassion and grace. Two decades later the children are grown and Claire is contemplating selling her sister's house. The family falls into turmoil as Claire's mother makes a bid for the house, the children feel like their childhood home is about to be sold away from them, and Claire has to make decisions about the rest of her life. This is a heartwarming story about family, overcoming conflict, and taking responsibility for your life.



The Gods of Heavenly Punishment by Jennifer Cody Epstein. Three lives are tragically linked in this beautifully written, haunting story of wartime Japan. Cam Richards adores his wife Lacy, he has everything to live for when he climbs into the cockpit of his plane and heads toward Tokyo on a daredevil fire bombing raid that will decimate the city. Yoshi's Mom was multi-lingual, western educated and drop dead gorgeous, and her Dad was a very traditional Japanese man with a successful business as a building contractor. It was not an auspicious union. Yoshi is in Tokyo when those planes reach their target. Billy's Dad Anton is a gifted architect; they lived in Japan for years before the war. As WWII heats up, Anton will help the Pentagon destroy the landscape he helped create. Billy is an occupation soldier back in Japan with his camera and his secret. These characters feel real, their story both tragic and hopeful.

The Tin Horse by Janice Steinberg. In 1939 with WWII casting a shadow on the world, audacious Barbara disappears leaving behind her twin sister Elaine and a host of questions. Barbara always danced a bit on the wild side, but on the night of her leaving she clearly crossed boundaries and left Elaine hurt and bewildered. The dynamic in their close Jewish family shifted that night, Barbara took away the sparkle. For years the family searched, always wondering what happened with Barbara; why did she leave? Has she survived? Unanswered questions brought trouble and grief. As the story opens Elaine is in her 80's, a respected judge, moving from her spacious home to a retirement community and donating her papers to USC. Going through a lifetime of memorabilia she discovers documents that hint her elusive twin might be alive. Elaine has to decide if she should risk her heart on one more search.



The Andalusian Friend by Alexander Soderberg. It is hard to tell the good guys from the bad in this elaborate, entertaining mystery. Sophie is a widowed single mother working as a nurse and living a quiet life when she meets Hector. She likes the patient with the dark eyes and courtly manner. This is a friendship that will fundamentally change Sophie and leave her unmoored from all she previously believed. It is quickly apparent that Hector is heavily involved in seriously illegal, not to mention dangerously violent, pursuits. Hector's Dad is the godfather of a crime ring involved in a nasty turf war with a vicious opponent. The cops are keen to bring the mobster down and eager to use law abiding Sophie in their game. But who is really the bad guy and who the good? You might find yourself rooting for charming Hector, to the devil with the rules.

The Accursed by Joyce Carol Oates is a campy gothic tale set in quiet Princeton New Jersey mixing very real, quite prominent figures from history with demons and devils. The story opens with future US President Woodrow Wilson upset about a rival for his position as president of Princeton University. He fears former US President Grover Cleveland is siding with his opponent. Into this bucolic community evil seeps. Yeager Ruggles appeals to his august relative, Woodrow Wilson, for justice when a white mob hangs two blacks in a nearby enclave. It is justice he will be denied. Virginal Annabel Slade is engaged to a dashing young soldier; she is accosted by evil in her grandfather's garden. The year is 1905 and a curse has cast a spell on the quiet village. Let yourself go and enjoy this imaginative novel that spins an elaborate and entertaining story, mixing a tale of horror with historical events and figures. Teddy Roosevelt, Upton Sinclair, the Burrs, Mark Twain, and other important figures populate the pages. The story works on so many levels; a gothic tale, a bit of a ghost story, historic fiction, a bit of mystery and intrigue. Joyce Carol Oates has brewed a heady stew, but this author has the skill to blend it all together into something truly enjoyable to read.



Mila 2.0 by Debra Driza releases March 12th in the young adult section. Mila is a teenaged girl mourning the death of her father, at odds with her overly protective mother about gaining more independence, noticing boys, and hanging out with her gal pal. Just a normal kid, until she finds out she was anything but normal, built in a laboratory and every memory she possesses is false. With knowledge comes danger, the evil scientist who runs the lab is eager to recapture Mila and terminate her, the resources of the US government are at his disposal. Mila is in a desperate run for her life, she doesn't know the rules and no one can be trusted.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.

Telling the Bees by Peggy Hesketh. Albert Honig is a very elderly man who has been a beekeeper all of his life, as was his father and his grandfather. He never married or had a family. He has lived in the same house all of his life. Aside from his bees, the only friendship he has ever had was with his neighbor, Claire Straussman. He is very well versed in the lives of bees, but not so much with people. Thus he has difficulty in understanding his friend. The relationship is often rocky and perplexing. He nevertheless cherishes her and her memory. One day the older Albert is drawn to his neighbors' house by the sound of the humming of bees. He senses that something is amiss and thus enters. Claire and her sister Hilda are bound and gagged, dead. What initially looks like a robbery gone awry eventually is discovered to be something more. Albert then tells the reader his story of friendship and loss interlaced with the story of bees and the remarkable relationship he has with them. He is deeply sorry for the silence between Claire and himself in the later years, sorry for words that he could not take back, most especially as his awareness unfolds about Claire's life. This was an intriguing story laced with a lot of information about bees. I loved the writing.



A couple selections for those who appreciate the divine canine.

Comet's Tale by Steven D. Wolf. Sometimes if you are very lucky the right dog comes along and changes your life. Steven Wolf was suffering from severe degeneration of his back, in constant pain, unable to continue in his lucrative career as an attorney, and exiled from his family in Nebraska to the dryer climes of Arizona. He was lonely and morose. Comet's life had its challenges. She was a racing greyhound. Not being a winner, she was discarded, left in a crate to die. Greyhound Rescue saved her, but the traumatized dog wasn't ready to trust until she chose Steven. He adopts Comet to the consternation of his wife back in Nebraska who feels that Steven has trouble taking care of himself and does not need the complication of a dog. But Steven is lonely, he misses his family and their Golden Retrievers back in Nebraska, he has no one in Arizona and Comet needs a home. The two become the best of friends; Comet is there for Steven, even becoming a service dog, a very unusual career path for a Greyhound. Their friendship changes Steven's life.



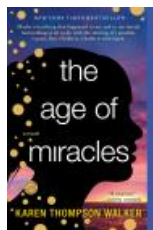
Pukka's Promise by Ted Kerasote. Dogs die too young, way too young. If you have ever loved a dog, and Ted clearly has, the shortness of their lives seems so very wrong, so cruel. In an effort to find out how he might extend the lifespan of Pukka, Ted does a lot of interesting research and shares the results with his readers. Many dog loving people are blithely unaware of the dangers of over vaccinating our canine companions; Ted cites university studies showing the risk of repeated, frequent, probably unneeded vaccination and gives advice on vaccinating responsibly. I wish I had been aware of the dangers earlier. He looks at the pet toy industry and the dog food industry, areas where the wellbeing of dogs should be at the forefront but instead are often ignored. Just this week I read another alert on pet treats that can potentially cause fatal reactions, so Ted's research is timely and necessary. Throughout the book are lovely stories of his adventures with Pukka and the strength of their bond. Pukka plays with his dog pals and does many cute things, dog lovers will appreciate his personality. Ted is outspokenly passionate about his dog and strong in his opinions. I found the book interesting to read, it gave me food for thought on many issues. I vehemently disagree with Ted in some areas; letting a dog run free without supervision is a recipe for disaster (porcupines and fast cars come to mind) not to mention hugely uncaring of the needs of others (the neighbor who does not want to pick up after free running dogs, the jogger who does not want to be chased). Nonetheless, Ted's research gives plenty to think about. A dialogue on why dogs have such short lives might bring about some positive changes in how we care for our beloved companions. This is a book that celebrates the human/canine bond, gives timely, useful information, and challenges you to reevaluate long held opinions. The stories of Pukka are gems you will enjoy.

Staff Recommendations for books now released in paperback. Nancy Nelson recommends.

All Woman And Springtime by Brandon Jones releases in paperback March 12th. Gi is a young North Korean orphan who has grown up in forced labor camps. She is also a mathematical genius. When her life becomes too difficult to bear, she retreats into the world of numbers. As she was on the edge of becoming a woman, she met Il-Sun whom she calls "all woman and springtime". This is the one person whom Gi is able to befriend and trust. The kind and tender Gi does whatever she can in order to help the lovely and irreverent Il-Sun survive. As Il-Sun tries to find a way out of her life in the orphanage, she endangers both of them by her involvement with a man who betrays her. Gi and Il-Sun are spirited across the DMV into South Korea and sold into the sex trade industry. The book "All Woman and Springtime" by Brandon Jones takes the reader through their travails, their suffering, their healing. It is well written, sexually explicit, heart breaking, and fully captivating from beginning to end.



Deon recommends.



The Age of Miracles by Karen Thompson Walker. Julia's family is enjoying a normal weekend morning; Julia's friend Hanna spent the night, her Dad was reading the newspaper, and Mom went to the grocery store. Everything perfectly normal, but then it wasn't normal at all anymore. Her Mom races home to turn on the news reports that the earth's rotation has slowed, extending the day by 56 minutes. No one knows what this will mean, but it sounds like trouble. The earth keeps slowing; the days and nights get longer. People pack up and leave helter skelter looking for safety but you really cannot run away from this; anyplace you go will still be on planet earth. As the days and nights grow ever longer, everything changes. Julia is a marvelous young narrator, fresh and innocent. Seeing the event begin through the perspective of an eleven year old who matures as the ramifications become more serious works well for the story.

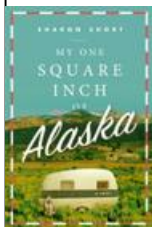
Faith Bass Darling's Last Garage Sale by Lynda Rutledge. Faith Bass Darling has spent her life in a big old mansion just bursting with history, surrounded by the possessions of her ancestors; tiffany lamps, antique furniture, jewels, family portraits and the list goes on. When tragedy struck her world, Faith Bass Darling pushed her daughter away and clung tight to her possessions and the stories behind them, the histories of her forbearers. She spent the last twenty years sequestered in that big old mansion, now Alzheimer's is starting to take away her memory and with it the history of all her things. How important can things, objects, possessions really be? On the eve of the new millennium Faith Bass Darling has a little chat with God, she hasn't been on speaking terms with the Almighty for twenty years but now he is giving her clear direction. Faith Bass Darling is going to have a garage sale, she is going to throw open the doors, drag out the furniture, and sell all the possessions she has clung to these many years. The Almighty was crystal clear, everything must be sold. A lot is going to happen in this one day, some of it quite funny, some of it sad, but all good reading.



The Typewriter Girl by Alison Atlee. Betsey Dobson finds Victorian London hard going for an independent woman. Through sheer determination and hard work she has earned herself a position as a typewriter girl, a job overseen by an unpleasant floor-boss. The wages are a pittance and advancement will be slow coming. She jumps at the opportunity to take a job as an excursions manager at a seaside resort. Her new job stipulated good references but Betsey's leave taking of her typewriter job was anything but pleasant when the overbearing floor-boss tried to put the moves on her. Nonetheless she heads to the seaside, eager to convince her new boss to give her a chance and an opportunity to prove her mettle. Bad luck and trouble follow Betsey like bees to honey and some of her fiascos make very entertaining reading. Mr. Jones, her new employer, doesn't know what to make of this gutsy, ambitious woman. **The Typewriter Girl** gives a good representation of what the era was like for a single woman while telling an entertaining story.

Staff Recommendations for books now released in paperback.
Deon Recommends

The Stonecutter by Camilla Lackberg. If you like mysteries and have not read Camilla Lackberg, start now because you are missing a major talent. Lackberg writes intricately crafted plots with prose that just draws you in. Detective Patrick Hedstrom is not having a good day as the story opens, his new daughter is firmly against parents enjoying a restful night. His day is about to get a lot worse. Tired and grumpy, he answers a call about a fisherman finding a body. The fisherman pulled up a child with his lobster pots. Dead children are always upsetting to the detectives, but this time the victim is known to the cop. She is the daughter of good friends. When it turns out the child did not accidentally drown, but was murdered Patrick is thrown into very tense waters, investigating friends. But the tension will not stop there; the village has disturbing secrets that go back generations.

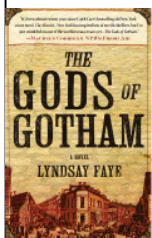


My Square Inch of Alaska by Sharon Short. Donna grew up in the shadow of an absent woman. Her father drank away his livelihood after his wife left him alone with two small children. Her grandmother looks at Donna, the spitting image of her mother, and sees trouble on the way. She spends her days attending her senior year in high school, working two jobs, and taking care of her sickly brother, Will. Every morning Will gobbles Marvel Puffs for breakfast, a tasteless cereal he does not enjoy, in a bid to collect sufficient box tops to win his one square inch of Alaska. Will's other obsession is the mistreated dog of the local junk dealer. When Will's health takes a turn for the worst, Donna packs up her brother and the stolen dog into her mother's convertible with a travel trailer hooked to the back and heads to Alaska. This is a grand little story about the bond between a brother and sister, the strength of dreams, and a plucky young woman willing to shoot the moon.

Becoming Clementine by Jennifer Niven. Lots of action and a plucky heroine make the Velva Jean series entertaining. This is the third in the series. Velva Jean, serving as a WASP, completes the second flight piloted by a woman across the Atlantic. She has an ulterior motive. Her brother, Johnny Clay, is missing. Velva Jean is determined to stay in Europe and find her brother. From a hair raising flight into German territory, our heroine joins the resistance with a new identity. As Clementine she is sent on a dangerous mission to rescue a spy. 38 WASPS lost their lives flying planes in WWII, Velva Jean does them proud.



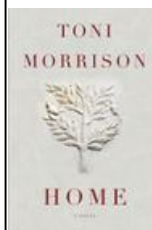
The Gods of Gotham by Lyndsay Faye. It is 1845, New York is just starting its first police department, the Irish potato famine is dumping thousands of poor, starving refugees on the overwhelmed city, and a blazing inferno is about to change Timothy Wilde's life for the second time. Orphaned in a fire as a child, history has repeated and again fire leaves him homeless, without funds, and scarred. With few options Timothy accepts the job his brother engineers for him in the police force. Returning to his new apartment one night a little girl wearing a night gown covered in blood runs smack into him. He takes the terrified child in to be comforted by his landlady. Making the frightened little girl talk quickly gains importance when a little boy is found dead. She tells of a brothel where child prostitutes go missing when a hooded man comes in the night. She tells of a grave that holds dozens of throw away children. Timothy is new at policing and not at all sure it is a good fit, but he knows these children deserve justice and he is willing to put everything on the line for them. Brilliant writing and is a real page turner to boot. If you like historical fiction, this one rocks. It was on my Top Ten mystery list of 2012.



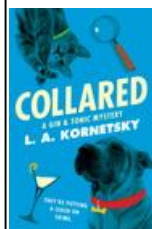
The O'Brians by Peter Behrens. Behrens is such a beautiful writer; he creates strong characters and makes history so vivid. Joe O'Brien is thrust to the head of his family when his father dies and his mother re-marries a slothful, mean man. Joe takes on responsibility no child should have to shoulder, but he meets the challenge head on and finds he has a talent for business running a logging enterprise in their remote part of Canada. In 1904 when their mother dies the O'Brians move south into the US. Iseult comes from a moneyed, protective family. Finding herself alone after the death of her mother, Iseult moves to Venice California where she meets Joe O'Brian and sparks fly. The story spans two world wars and a lot of history while staying true to its focus on Joe and Iseult, both remarkable people.



Home by Toni Morrison. Morrison's writing can break your heart and open your mind. She is amazing. This spare, beautiful and poignant story centers on Frank, a man who faced a few demons in his day. As a child he lived in a world where white men could say go and his community, his family, his neighbors either grabbed what they could carry and fled or died. As a young man he fought in Korea, watched his friends die in the service of a country that held him and others of his color in such low regard that they were banned from the fronts of buses, the schools attended by whites, and the houses in white neighborhoods. His nights are prowled by the specters from that war, vivid nightmares that give him no peace. The one person who looked at Frank and saw the good within was his little sister, Cee. A message calling him to rescue Cee brings Frank a chance at redemption.

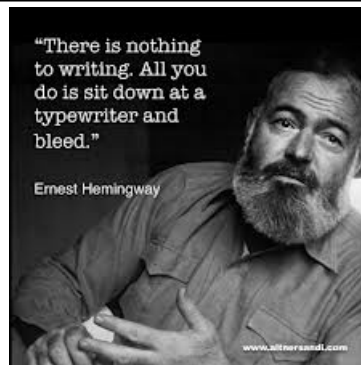


Heading Out To Wonderful by Robert Goolrick. Love isn't always the answer and sometimes it is downright dangerous. Charlie Beale has been traveling since his return from WWII, going about the country looking for a place that would inspire and quiet him, a place to settle. He thinks he has found it in the lovely, verdant valley around Brownsburg Virginia, a small, sleepy town. Charlie finds employment quickly and becomes fond of his boss's young son, Sam. Boaty Glass is a bloated, crude, wealthy man. Not able to find a bride in the normal fashion, he bought himself one. Drove around the back wood hollers until a pretty girl caught his eye, and then paid her Daddy cash money. Sylvan Glass is young, barely a woman, she spends her days at the movies dreaming. Charlie Beale sees Sylvan for the first time and loses all reason; he ignites something hot and dangerous in Sylvan. Their passion becomes a conflagration that destroys, marking young Sam forevermore.



Collard by L.A. Kornetsky. Ginny needs some hard cold cash if she is going to keep her Shar Pei Georgie in kibble, she lands a gig tracking down a businessman's missing uncle and some legal documents. In order to solve the case, Ginny has to enlist the aid of the local bartender, Teddy Tonica, one smart dude. Of course Georgie and Teddy's cat, Mistress Penny have to get into the act. Set in Seattle, this is an engaging mystery with unique characters.

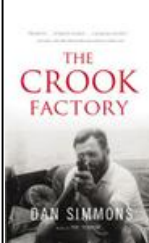
From time to time our Book Clubs concentrate on themed months. In February, three of the Book Club's selections related to Jane Austen. Earnest Hemingway is the focus for March. Hemingway was a complicated man, a gifted author. His quote on writing is exactly how I imagine a wordsmith would approach his craft. "All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you.... If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer." - Ernest Hemingway, "Old Newsman Writes: A Letter from Cuba," 1934. **The Old Man And The Sea** by Hemingway won the Pulitzer Prize. He received the highest accolade, the Nobel Prize for Literature, for his body of work. Having suffered several severe accidents and disillusionment he did not attend the ceremony awarding him the Nobel Prize, he sent a letter. This short paragraph from Hemingway's letter gives a measure of the man. *Writing, at its best, is a lonely life. Organizations for writers palliate the writer's loneliness but I doubt if they improve his writing. He grows in public stature as he sheds his loneliness and often his work deteriorates. For he does his work alone and if he is a good enough writer he must face eternity, or the lack of it, each day.* Hemingway was a "man's man"; hunting, fishing, fighting, and drinking were his pursuits. This masculine attitude informs his writing in his spare, athletic prose. On the last page of the newsletter are the book club books related to Hemingway, here are a few more recommendations staying with the theme of Hemingway.



"There is nothing to writing. All you do is sit down at a typewriter and bleed."

Ernest Hemingway

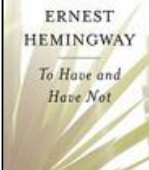
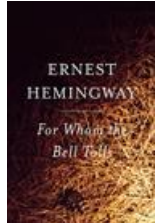
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J. Edgar Hoover played a part in the destruction of one of America's greatest writers. Ernest Hemingway underwent electro-shock therapy that curtailed his ability to craft his stories in some part because his doctors, friends, and wife believed his conviction that the FBI had him under surveillance was paranoia. In a July 1, 2011 article Hemingway's good friend A.E. Hotchner wrote of the FBI's effect on Hemingway. *Decades later, in response to a Freedom of Information petition, the F.B.I. released its Hemingway file. It revealed that beginning in the 1940s J. Edgar Hoover had placed Ernest under surveillance because he was suspicious of Ernest's activities in Cuba. Over the following years, agents filed reports on him and tapped his phones. The surveillance continued all through his confinement at St. Mary's Hospital. It is likely that the phone outside his room was tapped after all. In the years since, I have tried to reconcile Ernest's fear of the F.B.I., which I regretfully misjudged, with the reality of the F.B.I. file. I now believe he truly sensed*

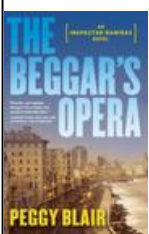
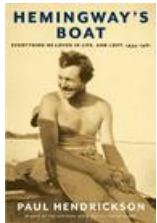
the surveillance, and that it substantially contributed to his anguish and his suicide. **The Crook Factory** by Dan Simmons uses FBI files along with other sources to create a work of fiction based on real events. During WWII Hemingway used his yacht, the Pilar, to troll the waters around Cuba looking for German subs. He assembled a ragtag band he christened **The Crook Factory** for his project. They also tried to discover undercover operatives using Cuba as a base. Simmons story inserts the fictional Joe Lucas, an FBI agent, sent to keep tabs on Hemingway's activities. There is plenty of action, much of it from historical record. If you are interested in Hemingway, Simmons gives a good portrait of the man.

For Whom The Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway is set during the intense fighting of the Spanish Civil War, a conflict Hemingway participated in as a journalist. The story focuses on the willingness of men to die in the service of a cause, even when those deaths will ultimately be meaningless. The setting is a pivotal battle against Franco, the writing does not flinch from portraying the cruelty and violence of war, but then Hemingway was not known for flinching. The main character, Robert Jordan, is an American. He volunteers to undertake a suicide mission, the destruction of a crucial bridge. Of course, he has a love interest. Maria is a village girl whose family was killed by the fascists. The bond men develop in war, the bravery required of them, the pain of betrayal by comrades, and the ultimate price of armed conflict are all dealt with deftly.



To Have And Have Not by Ernest Hemingway centers on Harry Morgan. Like much of Hemingway's writing it is a dark story that focuses on personal bravery, risk, and the defeat men suffer. Harry gets caught up in running rum between Cuba and Key West when chartering his boat for fishing does not pay the bills. A run goes seriously wrong, leaving Harry wounded and boatless. His downward spiral continues as he becomes embroiled in the Cuban revolution. It gives a snapshot of the flashpoints of a society through the efforts of a man caught up in events beyond his control. The characters are unforgettable.

Hemingway's Boat; Everything He Loved In Life, and Lost by Paul Hendrickson focuses on Hemingway's life between 1934 and 1961 through his boat, Pilar. It is an interesting rumination on the man's writing, friendship, family and, of course, his boat. This being a story about Hemingway, there is also fishing, fighting, and women. In a poignant revelation near the end of the book, it is disclosed that the Mayo Psychiatrist, Dr. Howard Rome, treating Hemingway for paranoia because Hemingway believed the FBI had him under surveillance took instruction from FBI agents. This is an innovative reflection on one of America's literary lions.



Hemingway lived in Cuba until just a few years prior to his death. While Peggy Blair's new mystery, **The Beggar's Opera**, is not by or about Hemingway, it is set in Cuba and tells an interesting story. Did Ricardo Ramirez' grandmother give him a curse or a blessing from her deathbed when she told him the dead would be in contact? It seems she may have died from a rare disease she passed on to her grandson. Ramirez heads Havana's major Crimes Unit; he has just seventy two hours to build a case when a tourist is involved. Cop Mike Ellis from Ottawa Canada is in Havana on vacation; trying to save his marriage and recover from the traumatic death of his partner. A street kid is sexually assaulted then murdered, all the clues point to the vacationing Ottawa cop. The clock is running and Ramirez is out to catch the worst kind of killer. Blair has interesting characters, a historic, tropical setting, and a nicely complicated plot; this is a mystery that should keep you turning pages.



[All good books have one thing in common - they are truer than if they had really happened.](#)

[Ernest Hemingway](#)

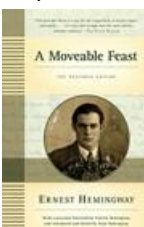
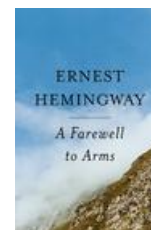
March 2013 Book Clubs. A Month of Hemingway!

March 4th the Mystery Book Club discusses **Adios Hemingway** by Leonardo Padura-Fuentes. Set in Cuba the mystery concerns Hemingway during the last years of his life, a man beset by ill health and the nagging suspicion that the FBI was following him. This suspicion of the FBI, the fear of being under surveillance contributed to Hemingway's eventual downfall and led his doctors to believe he was paranoid. However in an article in the New York Times dated March 11, 1983 by Herbert Mitgang it states that the FBI did, in fact, have Hemingway under surveillance from WWII to as late as a few months before his death in 1961. The mystery novel **Adios Hemingway** takes place in 1958 and the present when the remains of a body along with an FBI shield is found on the grounds of Finca Vigia, Hemingway's 15 acre estate. What happened in 1958? Could Hemingway be a killer? With little evidence to go on, the police turn for help to a former cop, Conde, in an attempt to discover the truth.



March 11th the Fiction Book Club discusses **The Paris Wife** by Paula McLain. Hemingway was a giant of American Literature, a guy who lived life large. Hadley Richardson is a naive 28 year old when she meets young Hemingway in 1920's Chicago. She is swept off her feet despite the warning voice of a good friend. Don't you know girl, you never can win? This man is going to marry words; his mistress will be stories and adventure. Hadley heads with Hemingway to Paris where they meet all sorts of literary icons; F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein. Of course Hadley is the Paris wife, another woman will catch Hemingway's fancy and the Paris interlude will end. In the meantime it is fascinating to read about Paris brimming with all those lions of the written word.

March 18th the Classics Book Club's selection is **A Farewell To Arms** by Ernest Hemingway. After discussing two books with Hemingway as a character, it is time to read the man's words. **A Farewell To Arms** is an honest portrayal of the harshness of WWI. Lieutenant Frederic Henry serves as an ambulance driver on the Italian Front. Nurse Catherine Barkley catches his fancy; their affair is overshadowed by the backdrop of war. Ernest Hemingway served during WWI as an ambulance driver on the Italian Front. He was severely wounded and fell madly in love with a nurse. Hemingway draws the truth from these emotionally charged experiences for his fiction, painting a vivid picture of the raw bleakness of war and the sometimes staggering intensity of love.



March 25th the Travel Essay Book Club concludes our focus on Hemingway with his memoir about Paris, **A Moveable Feast**. This is the absolutely perfect companion book to **The Paris Wife**. Read Hemingway's own words about their time in the glittering city. He describes his walks around the city of light, his relationships with Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, and the Fitzgeralds, and the intensity of his writing life. He writes of his time with Hadley and the image of a young couple, frisky and full of possibility is so clear. This short memoir shows what great writing can do; Hemingway can make you step right into the page with him and walk along in the Paris rain, heading for the warmth and glow of a favorite café.



[Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM](#)

April 1st 2013 **Snow Child** by Eowyn Ivey [Fiction Book Club](#)

April 8th 2013 **Monstrous Regiment of Women** by Laurie King [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 15th 2013 **My Antonia** by Willa Cather, [Classics Book Club](#) celebrating World Book Night on April 23rd.

April 22nd **Great Divergence** by Timothy Noah [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

May 13th 2013 **Butterflies of the Grand Canyon** by Margaret Erhart [Mystery Book Club](#)

May 20th 2013 **Caleb's Crossing** by Geraldine Brooks [Fiction Book Club](#)

May 27 **The Exploration of the Colorado River And Its Canyons** by John Wesley Powell [Travel Essay](#)

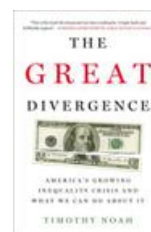
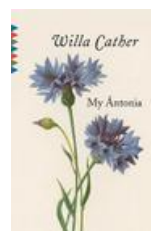
June 3rd, 2013 **A Study In Scarlet** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle [Mystery Book Club](#) [A Month Of SW USA](#)

June 10th 2013 **Doc** by Mary Doia Russell [Fiction Book Club](#) [A Month Of SW USA](#)

June 17th 2013 **Fire On The Mountain** by Edward Abbey [Classics Book Club](#) [A Month Of SW USA](#)

June 24th 2013 **Desert Solitaire** by Edward Abbey [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [A Month Of SW USA](#)

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



A Book Of The Month subscription is a great idea! Sign up for a subscription to receive a surprise book every month! The cost for the second quarter of 2013 is \$45.99 picked up in the store and \$51.99 mailed in the US. The first six months of 2013 costs \$91.96 picked up in the store or \$103.98 mailed in the US> The whole year of 2013 is \$182.62 picked up in the store or \$206.92 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book!

I enjoy selecting the books for you and take seriously my obligation to discover books that will engage the reader. In the past we featured **Burning Bright** by Tracy Chevalier, **That Old Ace In The Hole** by Annie Proulx, and **A Guide To The Birds of East Africa** by Nicholas Drayson. Purchase a subscription and enjoy the next surprise book.

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