

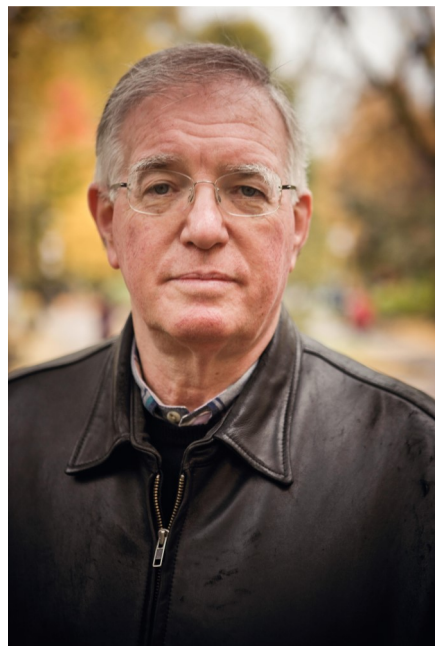


Sunriver Books & Music

March 2023

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Join us April 8 at 5 PM for an entertaining in-person event with New York Times Best-selling author Phil Margolin for the latest in his Robin Lockwood series, ***Murder at Black Oaks***. Space is limited at this free event, reserve a seat by emailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com. There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes. Phil is a great raconteur; he always puts on a good show. We are grateful to Phil Margolin for his generosity, excellent mysteries, and fun presentations. Purchases of Phil Margolin's book are appreciated.

In the mood for a good mystery? ***Murder at Black Oaks*** has it all! Portland Oregon criminal defense attorney Robin Lockwood is laid low by the anniversary of the worst day of her young life. She needs a distraction, an interesting case that would stop her dwelling on her tragic loss. Boy howdy do the fates accommodate her with a gargantuan distraction, a case that will test her legal ingenuity and involve her in a seemingly impossible murder. Francis Melville's daughter calls requesting an unusual meeting. He has a matter to discuss with Robin that he will disclose only to her and only in person. Melville does not leave his home; he wants Robin to come to Black Oaks. She is intrigued and agrees to the meeting.

Black Oaks is a gothic mansion built as an exact replica of an English mansion constructed in 1682, a cursed structure with a history of bloody mayhem believed to be haunted. Melville's replica sits on a remote mountaintop beyond a facility housing the criminally insane. What could be more forbidding?

Years ago Frank Melville was a hotshot district attorney, a prosecutor who argued death penalty cases with a reputation for winning. After he put Jose Alvarez on death row for murdering his girlfriend, being a prosecutor no longer felt right. The case was solid, but Melville had lost his taste for prosecution. He joined a law firm and went into private practice racking up a string of victories as a defense litigator.

Then he quit quite suddenly, retiring to his mountaintop and focusing on freeing the wrongly convicted.

Thirty years have passed since Melville put Jose Alvarez on death row, he wants Robin to free him. It will not be an easy task, there are complicated legal issues, but Robin has always been good at the long shots, so she agrees to try.

There will be a gathering at Black Oaks on a stormy night, a night that locks together those gathered until the storm breaks. A murder will take place, the murder weapon connected to the curse. Robin is more interested in the human agent of the murder, finding out who done it before they do it again!

What more could you want from a mystery? A possibly wrongly convicted man, a cursed gothic mansion on a remote, isolated mountaintop, an epic storm trapping people together, and, of course, a murder!



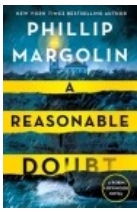
The first in the Robin Lockwood series is ***The Third Victim***. Whisper Lake is a small community in rural Oregon where the population swells in summer with the owners of vacation cabins. Winter it is deserted and quiet. Caleb White is shocked when a woman stumbles out of the woods in front of his vehicle, disheveled, blood caked, mud covered, and incoherent. He takes the woman to his cousin, a local cop. Meredith Fenner was held in a remote cabin and repeatedly tortured. She bonds with Detective Harry White, relying on assurance she is safe now. Meredith was abducted in Portland; a powerful attorney, the owner of the cabin, is the prime suspect. The case against Alex Mason is convincing; Meredith identified his cabin, there is physical evidence inside, and the man's wife attests he is sexually sadistic. He can afford the best legal defense; he knows Regina Barrister is as good as it gets.

Robin Lockwood will be helping with the defense. Robin was clerking for Oregon Supreme Court Judge Stanley Cloud when she was offered the job, it was an easy choice. Regina is her hero, a role model for the younger woman. At times watching Regina, Robin feels fortunate to be learning from the best, but then there will be odd things, erratic behavior that makes her nervous. Devious twists that will keep you guessing to the very last page, a masterful puzzle. However the heart of this story is the bravery of a woman at the top of her game realizing something is not right in her thought process. Margolin shows these two incredibly strong women, Regina and Robin, one at the pinnacle of a career she loves, the other just getting started and filled with bright promise, facing difficult issues with grace,



Perfect Alibi is second in the series. A well-regarded attorney is brutally murdered, when suspicion falls on his equally popular partner, Robin Lockwood is called to defend. A young woman from a background lacking in financial wealth is raped by a popular athlete, on his way to a brilliant career, from one of Portland's wealthiest neighborhoods. Robin is hired to represent the woman in a civil suit for damages.

Margolin's years as a successful lawyer, arguing death penalty cases before the Supreme Court, is evident as he takes the reader inside the busy office of a highly capable attorney. With quick, sharp sentences he moves the cases along, Robin delving relentlessly for the path best suited to meet the needs of her clients while adhering to a strict moral code. Fascinating. Lots of fast paced action, multiple murders, and an intricate plot. Margolin has a gripping thriller that also touches on such serious topics as reliance on forensic evidence, the difference in the way societal classes are treated and bullying. And, oh boy, does he ever have the twists and surprises! Great reading.



A Reasonable Doubt has mystery, magic, and a complicated puzzle. Robert Chesterfield is a master magician with a posh British accent, but not a nice guy. He was charged with killing two people, he walked because he hired the best, attorney Regina Barrister. Known as the sorceress for her brilliance as a defense attorney, Regina effortlessly left the prosecutor in tatters, her client cleared of the crime.

Robin Lockwood, Regina's protégé, is contacted by Chesterfield because he may need a criminal attorney on retainer in the near future. Robin isn't thrilled with the client, but she has a lifelong fascination with magic, so she accepts. Invited to his palatial home on the Oregon Coast for a special showing of his new illusion, the Chamber of Death, Robin is present when the magic goes awry and the magician disappears. His timing is good, he leaves behind a string of debtors, including a mobster who takes running out on a debt as a sign of disrespect.

Years later, the Portland papers announce the debut of Robert Chesterfield's Chamber of Death at the Imperial Theater. The illusion again ends differently than anticipated. This time Robert Chesterfield is not going to escape, murdered in front of a full theater of people with no one the wiser as to who put an end to the magician. In the audience are a plethora of Chesterfield's enemies, and the two defense attorneys.



A Matter of Life and Death has all of the surprise twists we expect in any book by Phil Margolin. Robin Lockwood is tough as nails, and she needs to be, in her latest case defending a boxer who has all the evidence stacked against him! The DA has a wheelbarrow full of evidence, all pointing to her client's guilt. But Robin believes Joe Lattimore when he says he didn't kill Judge Anthony Carasco's wife. Joe Lattimore was homeless and living rough with his wife and child when he was recruited for a job that would put a roof over their heads. Taking that job is the first step down a slippery slope into a living nightmare that might just conclude with the death penalty.

Robin teams up with Amanda Jaffe, a dream team of defense lawyers. Can they find a way to prove Joe's innocence despite the mountain of evidence against him? Read it and find out, this legal thriller will keep you turning pages. Margolin uses the Portland settings beautifully. I thoroughly enjoyed this latest in the Robin Lockwood series, especially with Amanda Jaffee included too!



The Darkest Place has Robin Lockwood facing her greatest challenge. Robin is tough, made her way through Yale as an MMA fighter and keeps in practice. Smart too, she is known for coming up with innovative defense strategies that win in court. Courageous, sometimes more than she should be, as she is willing to put herself in physical danger to face down the bad guys. But sometimes, no matter how tough, smart, and courageous, fate throws a punch that is a knock out. Robin's world implodes as she faces a situation she cannot control, now she has to pick up the pieces.

Judge Harold Wright cajoles Robin into defending Lloyd Arness, a rapist no lawyer wants to defend, someone so reprehensible that being in the same room makes a person feel slimed and in need of a shower. This isn't something Robin wants to tackle, but she believes strongly in everyone's right to competent counsel and succumbs to Judge Wright's persuasion. It is a choice she will regret the rest of her life. In the aftermath, Robin goes back to Elk Grove, the small Midwestern town where she grew up. Here, while surrounded by her mother and brothers, she will have to decide how to face the future.

Meanwhile, detectives Carrie Anders and Roger Dillon are investigating the death of Joel Loman, a slippery rich guy long on enemies and short on friends. Numbered among those who are happier with him dead than alive is his widow, Marjorie. They were going through a nasty, contentious divorce.

As the days go on, Robin's interest in the world outside her mother's home starts to regenerate. She is well known in her small town as a top notch, big city attorney, a hometown girl who made good. When a local lawyer gets a case way out of his comfort zone, he asks if she would help. Marjorie Loman was a surrogate for a local couple, Caleb and Emily Lindstrom. She had signed a binding contract, but after the birth she changed her mind, culminating in assaulting Emily Lindstrom and kidnapping the baby. Marjorie was living in Elk Gove under an assumed name. As the trial progresses, Robin learns that Marjorie is wanted in Portland, Oregon, Robin's home city, for a far more serious crime.

The Darkest Place is full of twists and turns, lots of interesting characters, and a clever ending!

A childhood fascination with Perry Mason led Phil Margolin to a career as a criminal defense attorney who handled death penalty cases and argued before the US Supreme Court. He brings this background, with a rich knowledge of criminal law, to his Robin Lockwood series, legal thrillers at their best.

Join us for an entertaining evening! In addition to being an accomplished attorney and New York Times Bestselling author, Phil Margolin is also a really nice guy. In 1970 he served in the Peace Corps in Liberia, Africa. While attending law school, Phil taught junior high school in the South Bronx. Today he travels widely and stays in touch with the world. Phil Margolin is also a champion of Independent Bookstores!

Mystery Series

At our February Zoom Mystery Book Club discussion we talked a bit about series with interesting characters whose whole series are read and new releases are eagerly anticipated. Kristine Thomas of Sunriver Chamber of Commerce mentioned she would like a list of series. I thought Kristine made an excellent suggestion, here are a few series I recommend.

Literary Series

Craig Johnson's New York Times Bestselling Longmire series inspired the hit drama, Longmire, and has garnered a long list of awards. It starts with **Cold Dish** introducing the characters. Walt is a big guy who prefers talking his way out of trouble to fighting. Henry Standing Bear is tall, soft spoken, thoughtful, whip smart, a favorite of the ladies, and often quite funny. Vic, from a family of tough Philadelphia cops, has a razor sharp tongue, and is gleefully ready for action. Four white boys escaped serious consequences for raping a Native American high school girl. Years later, someone is shooting them. **The Longmire Defense, #19** in the series releases September 2023.

Mystery Series Set in Attractive Locations.

For a mystery set in a beautiful location, I don't think a better series can be found than Donna Leon's Brunetti series set in Venice, Italy. ***Death at La Fenice***, is the first in the series. Maestro Helmut Wellauer, a musical genius, is found dead at La Fenice. ***So Shall You Reap***, #32 in the series, releases March 14, 2023.

Martin Walker's excellent series set in France's Dordogne begins, appropriately, with ***Bruno***. Bruno is a nice guy, the top cop in a lovely small town, who cares about the citizens, likes to cook, teaches the kids soccer, and solves his crimes with intelligence and compassion. ***A Cha-teau Under Siege***, #16 in the series, releases August 29, 2023.

Mystery Series set around WWI and WWII

Jacqueline Winspear's ***Maisie Dobbs*** series set in England spans the time from WWI to WWII. Maisie is an empathetic, extremely intelligent, and ethical detective. The series begins with ***Maisie Dobbs. A Sunlit Weapon***, #17 in the series, will be available in paperback March 21.

Susan Elia MacNeal's Maggie Hope series is set in WWII and includes England and the USA. Maggie's heritage includes both countries. The series begins with ***Mr. Churchill's Secretary***.

Charles Todd's Ian Rutledge series is set just after WWI. Ian Rutledge is a Scotland Yard detective with PTSD is excellent. Ian is a complicated, intelligent detective with a few quirks. ***Test of Wills*** is the first in the series, ***A Game of Fear***, #24 in the series, will be available in paperback February 21.

Cozy Mystery series.

Alan Bradley's charming Flavia de Luce series set in England in the 1950's begins with ***Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie***. Flavia is a precocious 11 year old, keenly intelligent and independent, she gets into all sorts of trouble. The stories are all well written and humorous.

Vicki Delany's fun series is set in a New England bookshop specializing in Sherlock Holmes and run by Gemma Doyle, a Brit with an interesting family. The series starts with ***Elementary, She Read*** and #8, ***The Game is a Footnote***, just released.

This is a short list of a few types of mystery series. There are many more I can recommend! Psychological thrillers, police procedurals, historic mysteries set in the USA, historic mysteries set in other cultures, private detective series, all sorts. Please let me know if the short list I included was of any interest. If you liked it, I will include some other lists in future newsletters.

Thank You Sunriver Brewing Co. for another great Keg Pull Event!

Sunriver Brewing Co. 541-593-3007 not only serves great food and beer, they also put on a fun event with dogs of all sizes pulling kegs across snow in February. It is great fun for humans and dogs!



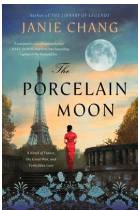
Sunriver Veterinary Clinic 541-593-8128 is a treasured part of our community. Dr. Wendy Merideth is wonderfully caring with animals. She is pictured with clinic staff, Emma, Sarah, & Shelby. Emma's cute puppy, George, ran a great keg pull. George is major cute!

Kipling was attacked as a puppy by a huge dog. It damaged her physically and also caused issues around other dogs. We are fortunate to have Mark Skeen of Central Oregon K9 541-280-6444 working with us to help Kippy relate better to other dogs. Mark has made tremendous strides! Kipling attended the Keg Pull and had a blast kissing almost every dog at the event! We hope someday with Mark's help she will always be like this, for now she still goes off in a rather impressive fit of barking on walks. With Mark, she is totally sweet. And at the Keg Pull she liked every dog!

Kipling is pictured with Sidney Merideth.



Staff Recommendations. New Release.



Porcelain Moon by Janie Chang is set in France during WWI. Pauline Deng lives with her cousin Theo and uncle, Louis, in Paris where she helps in Louis' antique shop, La Pagode. Although they live in Paris, the family is ruled from Shanghai. When Louis' father dies, he returns to China for the funeral, and his First Wife steps up to arrange a marriage for Pauline. The new family patriarch is Louis' older brother who is rigidly adherent to old traditions.

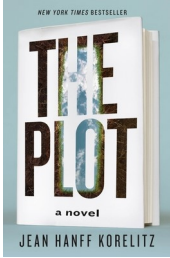
Pauline does not want an arranged marriage; she doesn't want to return to China. She loves living in Paris, having the freedom to walk to the coffee shop, to go shopping, to make choices. Louis has been good to Pauline; she doesn't want to dishonor her uncle. Cousin Theo enlisted in the Chinese Labor Corps where he works as a translator. He is stationed in the countryside.

Pauline's only hope is to find Theo and have him help her dissuade his father from whatever match First Wife is arranging back in Shanghai. A long shot, but it is all she has.

Camille Rousseel married poorly. Her husband, Jean-Paul, is a brute. They live in Noyelles-sur-Mer where Jean-Paul works for the railway and Camille works in the post office. To make a little extra money, they rent out a room in their cottage. Camille is miserable with Jean-Paul and realizes her only hope of survival is to somehow escape. Pauline rents the room from Camille while searching for Theo and the two women become friends. But Camille is hiding a secret that will affect them all.

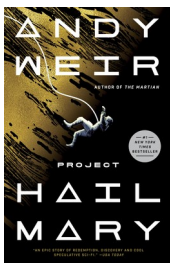
March 2023 Book Clubs

Book Clubs are a great way to meet other passionate readers in the community while having fun discussing an interesting book. Our Book Clubs meet on Mondays via Zoom at 6 PM and in person at 4:30 PM. Everyone is welcome. To attend a discussion, email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com indicating which Book Club meeting you plan to attend.



Mystery Book Club discusses **The Plot** by Jean Hanff Korelitz via Zoom at 6 PM March 6 and in person at 4:30 PM March 13. Teaching a quickie MFA program at Ripley College in northern Vermont was not how Jacob Finch Bonner had imagined he would make a living. From a young age all he wanted to do was write, to become an author whose beautifully crafted sentences would lead the reader into an enthralling story. He saw himself becoming a serious writer. This wasn't a goal encouraged by his parents, a tax attorney and a high school guidance counselor, who feared, rightly so, that he would have difficulty earning a comfortable living. Jake had early success, his first book, *The Invention of Wings*, put him on the map as a young writer of talent, someone to watch. Things went down hill from there, now he is reduced to teaching students who are unwilling or unable to put the work into a two-year MFA program, and are taking the short cut of going to Ripley College. Usually they are students who show little promise of contributing anything meaningful of a literary nature.

But this year one student will be different. Evan Parker is rude and arrogant, but he can write and he has a killer plot! His premise for a novel is sure to not only find a publisher but to be a huge success. As Jake's fortune's continue to fall, he keeps expecting to read about the publication of Parker's book, instead he learns that Parker died without completing the novel. The story definitely would make an author's fortune. Jake knows the plot, no one else is going to write the story. So, he pens it himself, gaining fame and wealth. He is living the dream when he starts to receive disturbing emails from someone who claims to know that Jake stole the plot. Shaken by the allegations, he realizes he doesn't know much about Evan Parker and maybe it would be a good idea to find out a little more about his formerly unpleasant student. Twists, turns, and plenty of surprises will keep the pages flying by.

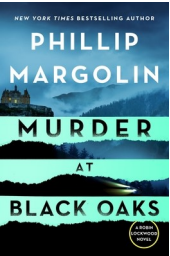
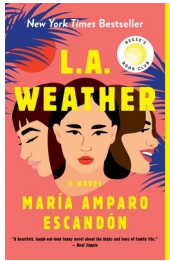


March 20 at 6PM via Zoom and March 27 at 4:30 in-person Fiction Book Club discusses **Project Hail Mary** by Andy Weir best known for writing *The Martian*, a New York Times bestseller that went on to be a successful movie. **Project Hail Mary**, like *The Martian*, has a man facing incredible odds with the potential of terrible consequences while also being very humorous. There is plenty of science for the science fiction reader, but also a fun story. You do not have to be a science buff to enjoy the story! I sped through **Project Hail Mary**, enjoying the humor and eager to find out what happens next as the stakes are high!

Ryland Grace awakens in a strange environment with no recollection of how he got there, doesn't even know his name. It takes him a while to start remembering, and as he does it dawns on him that he is in seriously deep trouble. He is on a space ship, the Hail Mary, along with two dead companions and a bossy computer. He has been asleep for a long, long time, enough time to take him millions of miles away from planet Earth on a seemingly impossible mission.

As his memory returns in bits and pieces, he realizes that Earth is in jeopardy, there is something happening with the sun that could mean the extinction of human life, or at least a significant amount of the population. Why and how to stop the danger is a scientific problem best solved sooner, rather than later, as time runs out. He is alone on the space ship intended to figure out how to save the planet and take action. Science and humor abound in this clever story with a likeable protagonist and quite a few surprises.

Once you have finished reading **Project Hail Mary**, pick up **Artemis**, it is set on Earth's moon with a memorable female protagonist and lots of can't put it down action.



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

Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held in person at 4:30 & via Zoom at 6 PM on Mondays.

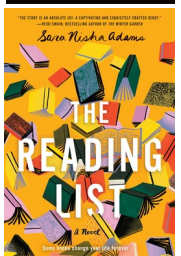
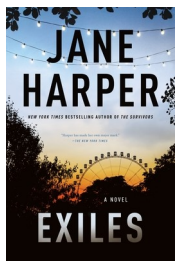
April

April 3 via Zoom & April 10 in-person **Murder at Black Oaks** by Phillip Margolin, Mystery Book Club. .
April 17 via Zoom & April 24 in-person Deschutes County Library Novel Idea selection, **L.A. Weather** by Maria Amparo Escandon, Fiction Book Club selection.

May

May, **Exiles** by Jane Harper, Mystery Book Club.
May **The Reading List** by Sara Nisha Adams Fiction Book Club

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at Sunriverbooks.com



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