



Sunriver Books & Music

May 2010 Newsletter

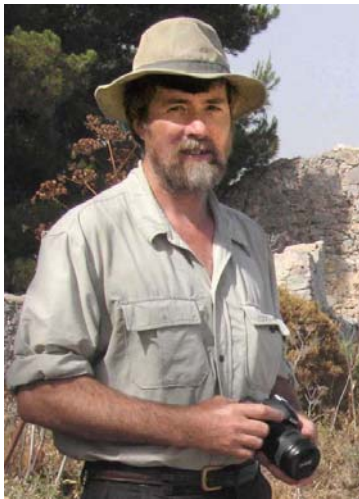
Sunriverbooks.com

541-593-2525



Author Events!

Call, stop by, or e-mail to sign up to attend and be entered in the drawing for prizes.



William Sullivan will be with us at 5:00 PM on Saturday May 8th, he has hiked every major trail in the state of Oregon. If you want a good experience hiking, pick up one of his well researched guide books. This fifth generation Oregonian knows our state's natural wonders and history from top to bottom. We always look forward to one of his slide shows because they are not only gorgeous, they inspire us to get out and hit the trail. This year he has updated his **100 Hikes in Southern Oregon**. Crater Lake is a gob-smacking natural wonder, it is a perfect day trip from Sunriver and surrounded by great hikes. Yes **100 Hikes in Central Oregon** is a fabulous book, but there are a lot of hiking trails in the south of our state that are an easy drive from Sunriver and quite fabulous too. Sullivan will show us some of them in living color with descriptions of their highlights that will make you want to lace up your hiking boots and head south. Sullivan has hiking books on Central Oregon, Eastern Oregon, Northwest Oregon and the Oregon Coast to keep you on the trail. If you are interested in the history of Oregon, his **Hiking Oregon's History** will take you up close and personal to places of historic significance off the beaten track. Sullivan has also written a comprehensive **Atlas of Oregon Wilderness** and **Oregon's Greatest Natural Disasters**. He has two memoirs, **Listening for Coyote** and **Cabin Fever**, those interested in the out of doors will enjoy. Sullivan has also written a light, funny mystery, **The Case of Einstein's Violin**, and a historical fiction, **A Deeper Wild**. He puts on a great show, is a witty entertaining speaker, and has seriously beautiful slides.



A Night of Mystery Saturday May 15th at 5:00 PM brings two fabulous northwest authors back to Sunriver Books & Music. Their last event with us in 2007 was outrageously great fun. Our readers are still talking about the event and asking for a return booking! Be sure not to miss them this time. Lisa Jackson is a New York Times bestselling author with an impressive body of work. Her latest, **Without Mercy** is set at a school for wayward kids right here in Oregon. Shay's mother is tired of her trouble making ways. The Blue Rock Academy sounds worth a try to turn the troubled teen around. Jules, Shay's half sister, is not so sure. She has a bad feeling about the place and takes a teaching position to lookout for her sibling. **Malice**, another recent release, has Detective Ricky Bentz eager to be back at work in New Orleans after recovering from a horrible accident. He is starting to see his ex-wife, a problem since the woman is dead. It makes him a bit twitchy, and then someone sends him a copy of her death certificate with a question mark. When he tracks down her friends, people start dying. Someone is up to no good. **Left To Die** and **Chosen to Die** feature Detective Regan Pescoli battling a serial killer in Montana's lonely Bitterroot Mountains. She keeps the pace fast and the tension high, the stories will scare you witless.

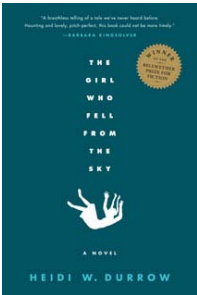
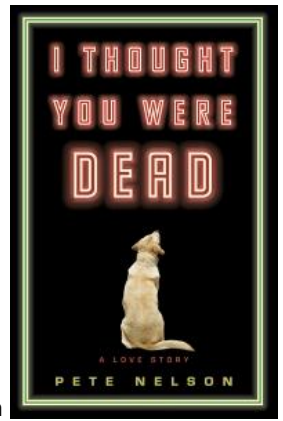


Nancy Bush is the author of the popular Jane Kelly mystery series set right here in Oregon. **Candy Apple Red**, **Electric Blue**, and **Ultra Violet** have Jane and her pug Binkster on the case. Working as a process server while becoming a detective, Jane is up to her pretty neck in trouble. Her hunky boss thinks she will make a great detective; Jane would like to stay alive while she learns. Binkster does not shirk his part of the action. Jane is a plucky protagonist, the series is great fun, and the Portland area settings add to the pleasure. Lisa Jackson and Nancy Bush teamed up to write **Wicked Games**. Jessie Brentwood disappeared twenty years ago; Detective McNally reopens the case when bones are found at Jessie's school. Set in Oregon, this one will keep you on the edge of your seat. **Unseen** is another suspenseful story by Nancy Bush set in Oregon. If you enjoy mysteries, spend a fun evening with two bestselling authors!





Pete Nelson will be with us at 5:00 PM on Sunday May 16th for a presentation on his latest book, *I Thought You Were Dead*. This is an edgy, endearing, often funny novel we can all relate to. Paul has a few problems, his wife divorced him, his relationship with his girl friend might be on the rocks too, his father has a stroke, and his parents lost significant money in the stock market. Money, relationship issues, and parents with failing health, these are the reefs that the ships of life crash upon. His solution is to spend his free time at the local bar drowning his sorrows. His strategy is not working. Facing such huge life issues, and struggling with them, Paul needs a friend, a wise confidant who sees the best in him and gives sage advice. It is to his good fortune that he has such a friend, Stella his aging dog. She loves and understands Paul down to the bone. She also knows all his foibles and is not reluctant to point out the error of his ways. Stella gets after Paul, tries to set him on the right path, dusts him off when he stumbles, and encourages him. Dog lovers will recognize Stella's reaction to thunderstorms. Through all Paul's trials he starts to assume responsibility for his life. *I Thought You Were Dead* has just released and is already getting major attention. It was the cover book on April's Inde Next List. Pete Nelson is an interesting guy; this should be an entertaining event.



Heidi Durrow will be with us Saturday May 22nd at 5:00 PM. *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky*, winner of The Bellwether Prize, has been gathering abundant critical praise. Rachel arrives at her Grandmother's home in the Albina district of Portland after a family tragedy in Chicago. Haunted by her staggering loss, she is thrown into a new school where she stands apart, different from her classmates. Her Danish Mom handed down sky blue eyes and her Black GI Dad gave her soft, caramel colored skin. Rachel is unsure what defines her, the white heritage of her dead mother, or the black of her father. Are we so easily defined? Does the color of our skin really dictate who we are? Rachel will have to invent herself or accept the definitions society provides. As Rachel grapples with fitting into her new home, slowly the tragic circumstances of her move to Portland are revealed. The characters are interesting, the setting used well, and the issues raised are significant. This is a masterful novel, a compelling story about a family tragedy and a young girl's search for cultural and racial identity. We are sometimes gifted with the chance to introduce you to a major new talent; this will be such an evening. Heidi Durrow's writing is powerful.



Upcoming Author Appearances

- Saturday June 5th at 5:00 PM *Massacred for Gold* by Greg Nokes
- Saturday June 12th at 5:00 PM *As It Was Written* by Sujatha Hampton
- Saturday June 19th at 5:00 PM *The Spellmans Strike Back* by Lisa Lutz
- Saturday July 3rd at 5:00 PM *Junkyard Dog* by Craig Johnson
- Saturday July 10th at 5:00 PM *Bend Overall* by Scott Cook
- Saturday August 7th at 5:00 PM *Quilt As You Go* by Arlene Sachitano
- Saturday August 21st at 5:00 PM *The Crying Tree* by Naseem Rakha

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, Sunriverbooks.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.

May and June are months with abundant gift giving opportunities. Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Graduation are all on the horizon. This year consider a gift that will bring memories for years. A fine pen will give a warm glow every time your loved one picks it up to write a note. Plus it is a lot more fun to write with a fine pen than a throwaway! Enjoy the sensuous feeling of a fine writing instrument. The Lucky Pen handcrafted by Delta of Italy pictured at right starts at \$325 for a roller-ball and brings a lifetime of memories and good luck. Jazz Rock by Acme Studio pictured below is \$67.95 and should keep you happily humming while you write. We

have pens priced starting from \$47 up to some truly exquisite hand crafted pens in both roller-ball and fountain pens. Pens can bring a moment of joy!

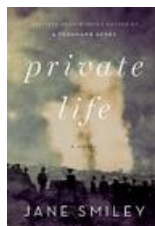


Matterhorn by Karl Marlantes is a work of staggering intensity. Every generation seems to have its war, for my generation it was Vietnam, a war that tore the country asunder and leaves gaping wounds that are painful to probe even today. I cannot think of anyone of my generation who has not been touched in some way by Vietnam. Books and movies can give a voice to the experiences of a war. Until now I thought the defining works on Vietnam were Oliver Stone's heartbreaking movie, *Platoon*, **The Brothers K** by David James Duncan gave a clear view of the effects of Vietnam on the home-front, and **Tree of Smoke** by Denis Johnson, winner of the National Book Award, with its intricate look at the forces that fueled the war. **Matterhorn** brings to vivid, terrifying life the experiences of the troops. I just bet there are guys who will pick up this book and feel like they have been given a voice for the first time. This is, in my opinion, the definitive work of fiction on Vietnam. It is devastating, visceral, and oh so real. And Marlantes can write! In chapter two he describes dusk turning to dark in Vietnam. *The light died. Voices were silenced. Darkness and fear replaced light and reason. The whisper of a leaf scraping on bark would make heads turn involuntarily and hearts gallop. The surrounding blackness and unseen wall of dripping growth left no place to run. In that black wet nothingness the perimeter became just a memory. Only imagination gave it form.* The New York Times Book Review described this book as being more like a deployment than reading, it is that real.



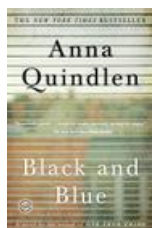
What is Left the Daughter by Howard Norman is an interesting study on how life can go awry. On the same day, from two separate bridges, Wyatt's parents jumped into the cold, turbulent water leaving him orphaned. Only 17, Wyatt needs the comfort of family; his uncle offers him an apprenticeship in his toboggan shop. Tilda, his bodacious cousin, claims his heart. The course of young love rarely runs smooth; Wyatt's cousin gives her heart to a German university student. Fear and rumor make being a German difficult during WWII in the small burg of Middle Economy. It does not matter that Tilda's German fled his homeland and carries no blame for the atrocious acts of the Fatherland. Norman masterfully blends fact and fiction.

Parrot & Oliver in America by Peter Carey tells a rousing good story. Through a series of unfortunate events Oliver, the son of aristocrats who survived (barely) the French Revolution, ends up heading to America accompanied by a reluctant servant, Parrot. Poor Parrot survived fire, the Australian penal colony, and a variety of mishaps only to be saddled with keeping the snobbish Oliver out of harm's way. America is a bit of a shock to Oliver's upper class sensibilities. But it is just the type of environment for Parrot's talents to thrive. The story is great fun, told with humor and verve.



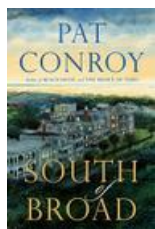
Private Life by Jane Smiley spans a lot of history. Margaret was introduced to tragedy early in life, with the deaths of her brothers followed closely by the loss of her father. A woman in the 1880's was expected to marry, preferably finding a good provider. Margaret's sisters follow the program but at 27 Margaret is still unclaimed. Andrew Early proposes and moves her from Missouri to California. They will experience the San Francisco's Earthquake and fire, and two world wars. Andrew is a difficult man, wrapped up in a quest to understand the order of the universe. Affable when he is questioning but rigid once he thinks he has the answer. His confidence in his own assumptions and dismissal of other opinions is fierce. Arrogance and hubris cause much damage in the world.

Grounded by Seth Stevenson makes me want adventure. Have you ever wanted to escape? Leave all the hustle and bustle, go walk about for a good long time? Seth Stevenson and his wife go around the world, afoot, afloat, on bikes or other time honored conveyances other than jumbo jet. It sounds like fun! Sure there is hardship, but what an excellent adventure!



Black and Blue by Anna Quindlen is a gripping story. Bobby Benedetto used to make Fran's skin flame red as he heated every nerve ending in her young body. Now he turns that delicate skin a different hue, black, blue and broken. Fran tries, she tries so hard. She tries to learn his moods, to dress the way he wants, keep everything just the way he likes it and avoid those powerful fists. She resists the knowledge that in order to live, she must run. Turning her back on everything familiar, she takes her son Robert, and heads into the unknown stripped of her identity. How would life be with all your identity stripped away? The person your sense of self gone, nothing left but fear and a fake name? No friends who shared the silly, endearing, or sad moments of your past would be there for you. Quindlen gets this story right.

Sacred Hearts is Sarah Dunant's latest historical fiction. Set in Italy during the 16th Century when it was much less expensive to put a daughter behind the walls of a convent than to pay the dowry for a suitable marriage. Suora Zuana found herself reluctantly placed in the convent of Santa Caterina after the death of her father, a professor of medicine. Suora Zuana's father was fond of his daughter, giving her more freedom and a broader education than a woman of her time could expect. She becomes the convent's apothecary and eventually settles into the routine of life behind the high walls of the convent. Serafina is intended to marry, her father engages a music instructor to train her glorious voice. Young Serafina's heart is captured by her teacher. Her father is not about to have his daughter given in such an unsuitable match, he bundles her off to the convent assuring the abbess Serafina possess the voice of a nightingale. On her first night she wails with the distressing power of a banshee, her screams reverberating off the walls. Suora Zuana administers a sleeping potion, hoping to quiet and calm the mercurial young girl. The two unlikely women become friends. Suora Zuana will soon have to decide what she is willing to risk.



South of Broad by Pat Conroy releases in paperback this May. Honey rolls off this man's pen! Pat Conroy's prose is achingly beautiful. Set in Charleston, the story follows a group of high school friends. Leo is the son of the high school principal and the glue that keeps the group together across two decades. They are buffeted by life's vagaries, shaken by the winds of a hurricane and menaced by a seriously nasty villain. Sumptuous writing, a good story, and a gorgeous setting are all right here.

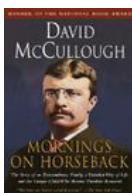
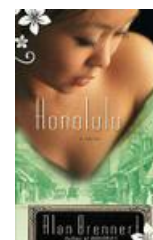
May 2010 Book Clubs

Monday 6:30 May 3rd the Mystery Book Club discusses ***A Beautiful Blue Death*** by Charles Finch. This is the first in a series set in England starting in 1865. Gentleman Charles Lenox likes solving puzzles, he is aided in his sleuthing by his butler Graham. Lady Jane, Charles' good friend and neighbor, asks him to look into the death of her former servant, Prue. The young woman found employment in the house of wealthy George Barnard to be near her fiancée. She was found dead in her room. While Barnard loudly proclaims the girl committed suicide, Lady Jane fears foul play. Charles grabs his good friend Dr. McConnell and pops round to the scene of the crime. There are suspects aplenty. But Charles has to tread lightly, Barnard is a very powerful man. Meanwhile Graham chats up the servants to see what they might know. Anticipate a good story and a likeable new sleuth.



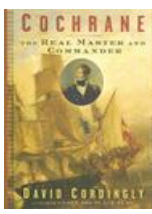
Monday 6:30 PM May 10th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses ***Following the Equator*** by Mark Twain. Anything by Mark Twain is worth reading just for the joy of his writing. Twain was an ardent traveler, in 1897 he set out to circle the world. Hawaii, India, Africa, Australia and New Zealand are wild, beautiful places when Twain visits. It is an era when the sun does not set on The British Empire. His trip is not so long past the Indian Uprising of 1857, when the country ran red with blood. Memsahibs are a nervous lot. He is not impressed with the effects the missionaries are having on local culture, I think he would have found a friend in Paul Theroux who expresses similar misgivings over a hundred years later. The book is filled with Twain's sharp observations, keen wit, and beautiful writing. We will travel back in time to go around the world with Mark Twain.

Monday 6:30 May 17th the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Honolulu*** by Alan Brennert. Jen chafes against the traditional life intended for her in Korea. She watches her brothers go off to school and longs to join them. She objects to being sequestered within the courtyard of her family home. Jen's chance for a broader horizon comes through a matchmaker. Korean men living in Hawaii need brides. The matchmaker shows Jen a picture of a handsome man in beautiful Hawaii, a place where women are given an education. Jen jumps at the chance to immigrate to Hawaii as a picture bride. W.C. Fields could have told Jen a thing or two about that matchmaker, but W. C. Fields isn't in this book so she will have to make her unhappy discoveries alone. Hawaii is an untamed place when Jen arrives. Wealthy white plantation owners live like kings, the real royalty of Hawaii has been deposed, immigrants work like slaves in the sugar cane fields, and US sailors amuse themselves on a street of brothels. It is a place where anything can happen, a land of great beauty and great promise. History is woven into the story. Clarence Darrow dims his star by championing the wrong side. The real life Charlie Chan, Chang Apana, is here in a work of fiction. Somerset Maugham makes a brief appearance. I felt like I stepped back in time to a Hawaii not paved over by developers, but still full of the possibility.



Monday 6:30 May 24th the Non Fiction book club discusses ***Mornings on Horseback*** by David McCullough. Teddy Roosevelt is my favorite president. McCullough's focuses on Teddy's youth and his inspiring journey from being a frail, sickly child to a force of nature. Teddy can be upsetting, the man was full of contradictions. He had the upper class attitudes of his time, but he would grow up to battle for the common man as president. He was keenly interested in shooting almost anything that moved, yet he was our greatest President for conservation. This boy would grow to lead men into battle, be President, and an ardent explorer. McCullough fleshes out the earlier years of this remarkable man full of wonder and enthusiasm for life.

Monday 6:30 May 31st the Fiction Book Club discusses ***The Help*** by Kathryn Stockett, this year's Deschutes County Novel Idea selection. Black women in the south during the 1960's worked as servants in white households where they cooked and served the food, changed the linen, and raised the children. But if these women needed to use the facilities, they had to go outside the house. Eugenia Skeeter Phelan comes home from college determined to be a writer. She is a bit of a wild card, able to think for herself. She begins collecting the stories of the black maids, an activity not without some serious risk in the south at the time. Most of all for the maids, whose jobs keep food on the table and who know that some of the white population favor white sheets as an evening fashion. ***The Help*** just won the Indie Choice award for best Debut Fiction of 2010. It is a compelling story.



Non Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 June 14th 2010 ***Cochrane: The Real Master & Commander*** by David Cordingly

Monday 6:30 July 12th 2010 ***Plato and a Platypus Walk Into a Bar*** by Thomas Cathcart and Daniel Klein

Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 June 28th 2010 ***Major Pettigrew's Last Stand*** by Helen Simonson

Monday 6:30 July 19th ***The Gifted Gabaldon Sisters*** by Lorraine Lopez

Classics

Monday 6:30 PM June 21st 2010 ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee

Monday 6:30 PM August 23rd 2010 ***The Brothers Karamozov*** by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Monday 6:30 September 13th 2010 ***The Great Gatsby*** by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Mystery Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM June 7th 2010 ***The Black Tower*** by Louis Bayard

Monday 6:30 PM July 5th 2010 ***The Coroner's Lunch*** by Colin Cottrill

Travel Essay Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM July 26th 2010 ***Following Isabella*** by Robert Root

Monday 6:30 PM August 30th 2010 ***The Lost City of Z*** by David Grann

Sunriverbooks.com has the full year's upcoming book clubs listed along with comments on prior book clubs. You can comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information on the books on the website.

