



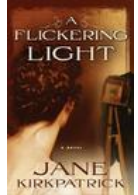
Sunriver Books & Music

May 2013 Newsletter

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Saturday May 4th at 5:00 PM Jane Kirkpatrick will give one of her fascinating presentations. What I enjoy most about Jane Kirkpatrick's books is the way they bring to life the stories of strong women who had a positive influence on their time. **One Glorious Ambition; The Compassionate Crusade of Dorothea Dix** is the story of such a woman. Thank heavens for the zealots, the true believers who look on a wrong in the world and have the chutzpah to believe they can make a difference. Edmond Burke said "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Let's amend that to include women. Dorothea Dix was always involved in fixing, or at least trying to fix, wrongs, she did not stand by. As a mere child she trudged miles through winter snow to reach her grandmother's house in an appeal to help her siblings. As a teenager she opened a school. Her life changed when she taught a Sunday school class to a group of women incarcerated in a Massachusetts prison. She toured the part of the prison housing debtors and the insane; the conditions rocked her to the core. She could not countenance the keeping of those unable to fend for themselves in such horrific conditions. So she set out to change it. One woman. Did I mention this was prior to the Civil War, when women could not vote and the men owned the property? Dorothea, a woman, set out to change the existing order to bring compassion to those afflicted with mental disorders. Massachusetts was not the end of her ambition. She worked for change across the US and Europe, now that is a grand ambition, one that makes a great story too. Reading Dorothea's campaign to save those poor incarcerated people was like reading a thriller, on the edge of your seat rooting for her to succeed. Dorothea was a complicated woman, stubborn and difficult at times too, people who believe they can change the world often are. She made a difference; one woman, one cause, facing tremendous odds. Kirkpatrick worked in the mental health field, she writes this story with passion. Dix is a woman who deserves to be remembered, I suspect she would like Kirkpatrick's account of her life.



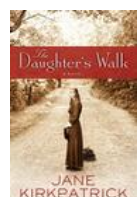
Jane Kirkpatrick has many books that tell the stories of strong women who contributed to history in meaningful ways, these stories would be lost without her. Spring has always meant the scent of lilacs blooming to me. If you love that scent like I do, a visit to Hulda Klager's beautiful and intoxicatingly fragrant garden in Woodland Washington is a real treat. **Where Lilacs Still Bloom** should spark new interest in Hulda Klager, it is fascinating to read about this passionate gardener who contributed so much. She created a slew of gorgeous, fragrant new lilac cultivars at a time women were not expected to have interests outside homemaking. She also lived through major events including the VanPort flood that wiped out a city and covered Woodland in water. **An Absence so Great** and **A Flickering Light** tell the story of Jane's grandmother Jessie. By writing the fictional account of her Grandmother's life, she allows her to live again in the pages of a book. Jessie was captivated by photography. Fortune smiled on her when she landed a job in the photographic studio of F. J. Bauer. **Aurora** is a work of non-fiction full of historical detail and pictures about the founding of Aurora Oregon. It shows the beautiful quilts women created while they created homes for themselves in the Pacific Northwest. Emma Geisy overcame adversity and was an important part of Aurora's history. Emma's struggles and triumphs inspired a trilogy; **A Clearing in the Wild**, **A Tendering in the Storm** and **A Mending at the Edge**. Helga Estby's walk across the US in a desperate bid to save the family farm was documented in **Bold Spirit** by Linda Hunt, but what about the daughter, Clara, who accompanied her on the trek? Jane Kirkpatrick tells her story in **The Daughter's Walk**. In 1896 the two lone women set out on foot heading from Spokane to New York, taking only the possessions they could carry to sustain them on their journey. They walked in dresses and jackets, with simple shoes. No Gore-Tex rain gear, ultra-light tents, or soft cushy sleeping bags for them. Their options as they walked through rain, snow, blazing heat, mud and whatever nature threw at them were to stay near the railroad tracks and find shelter overnight in the terminal. These are just a few of Jane Kirkpatrick's historical fiction featuring brave, gutsy women.



Kirkpatrick also wrote a lively and very funny, contemporary fiction about an author finding her way, **Barcelona Calling**. Annie is published by a romance publisher. Understandably her publisher expects the books to follow the program, boy meets girl, boy gets girl (or vice versa). Annie's books don't adhere to the format; they tell stories of people facing conflict and the choices they make in overcoming the obstacles in their lives. They are warm stories full of humanity but lacking in the girl gets boy department. Annie is afraid she will be dropped. Her pals rally round with wild ideas to gain the notice Oprah Winfrey and turn Annie into a best seller.



Committing to work towards effecting positive change is something Jane Kirkpatrick practices in her own life. Every year she donates time to lead a walk here in Sunriver benefiting Newberry Habitat for Humanity. We have good, hardworking families in Central Oregon unable to afford a home. That just seems so wrong. May is a lovely month, just the promise of summer with comfortable temperatures perfect for walking. Walk along with Jane Kirkpatrick and help your neighbors reach the goal of owning a home. Tickets are \$10 with all the proceeds benefiting Newberry Habitat for Humanity. You can have fun while effecting positive change. On Sunday **May 5th at 11:30 AM** join Jane Kirkpatrick for a grand walk. The 3.1 mile route begins at Sunriver Books & Music, proceeds to the Lodge, across the meadow with a view of Mt. Bachelor and returns to Sunriver Books & Music. To purchase tickets costing \$10 for the walk contact Sunriver Books & Music.

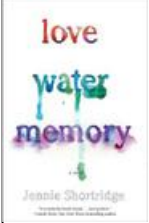




Saturday May 11th at 5:00 PM we have a double feature! Jennifer Shortridge and Erica Bauermeister will give presentations on their latest books.



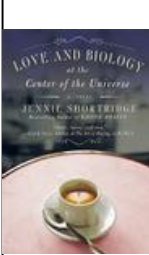
Love Water Memory by Jennie Shortridge introduces characters that will capture the reader's heart. The novel is inspired by a real incident here in the Pacific Northwest. Set in San Francisco and Seattle, the story takes you into the lives of the three main characters, each voice is clear and compelling. Lucie stands confused and alone in the frigid waters of San Francisco Bay. She does not have a name to give her rescuers; she has no clue as to her identity or her home. Grady, her handsome fiancé, papers their Seattle neighborhood with posters and pesters the police in three states trying to find his missing love. The nightly news ends his search with an account of an amnesiac patient in San Francisco. The Lucie he finds in the psych ward bears little resemblance to the resplendent woman he has loved for the past half a decade. Helen is alone at the end of her life, worried that she needs to atone. As the three stories come together, the reader is drawn ever deeper toward the secrets of the past. I wanted to know what would happen in their lives; how they would either overcome or succumb to the burdens they carried.



When She Flew is a fictional account of the father and daughter found living in Portland's Forest Park. The young girl was clean, articulate, polite, and doing very well academically being home schooled by her father, a former Marine. She was evaluated and there was no evidence of abuse. Living in a hut hidden in Forest Park agreed with the pair. It was also illegal. The police officer in charge of their case found the father work. It looked like a good ending was in sight when the pair were spooked by the media hubbub and fled. Their whereabouts remain unknown. Shortridge was intrigued. She changes the names of places in her work of fiction, but the book is true to the essence of the real life drama of a father and daughter getting on quite well in an unorthodox manner. **When She Flew** tells the story through the perspective of a police officer.



Love and Biology at the Center of the Universe, by Jennie Shortridge is set along the Oregon Coast and in the Fremont district of Seattle. Mira married her college sweetheart and settled in her small, hometown near Tillamook. She likes teaching school, she fosters rescue dogs, and has good friends. With her daughter grown, Mira can start traveling with Parker, taking fun trips together. Until Parker confesses he is not happy with their life, he thinks there should be more, he isn't sure he loves Mira, and he finds a blond sales rep cute. What does he mean he doesn't know if he loves Mira??? He has had years to be sure!!! Mira's life explodes into chaos. She heads north with her dog Patsy Cline, crying a river along the way. She ends up in Seattle's Fremont district, also known as the Center of the Universe, a quirky neighborhood with a Volkswagen eating troll, art galleries, high tech millionaires, Hell's Angels, and a cornucopia of eccentric characters. Life sometimes takes strange detours.



The Lost Art of Mixing by Erica Bauermeister continues the characters from **The School of Essential Ingredients**. Sensuous prose is a hallmark of Bauermeister's writing. She crafts stories that draw the reader into the lives of the characters as if they were old friends. Lillian's restaurant is the common thread that brings the characters together. Isabelle is sinking into dementia; her housemate Chloe, a sous chef at Lillian's restaurant, keeps things on even keel for the moment but Isabel's daughter worries about the near future. Finnegan showed up one day out of the blue, took a job as a dishwasher at the restaurant and yearns for a closer relationship with Chloe. Al, Lillian's accountant, is in a loveless marriage, his wife's disappointment and anger are moving from simmer to boil at a frothy pace. Lillian's relationship with Tom is taking a few unexpected turns on the bumpy road to love. All their stories converge and coalesce into a novel that is sure to leave the reader feeling good.

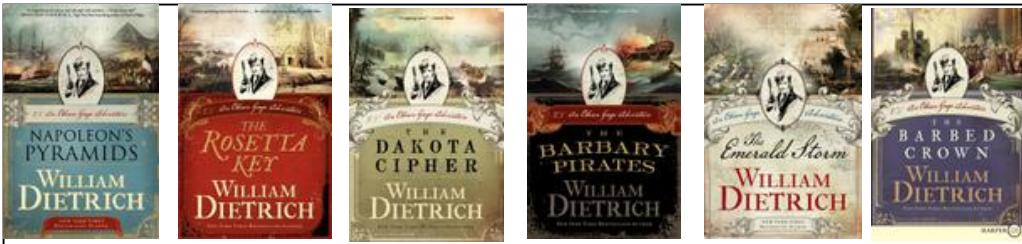


The School of Essential Ingredients is set in a cooking class Lillian teaches in her restaurant. As each class becomes absorbed in creating nurturing food, we learn about the student's lives and how they are changed by the confidence they gain. Each student is transformed and enriched in a deeply personal way in Lillian's kitchen. Their stories mingle with the dishes Lillian teaches them to create, and the food sounds delicious. The characters are likeable and the setting quite charming. If you enjoy cooking you will be inspired!

Bauermeister wrote a book of second chances, **Joy for Beginners**. Kate's victory over the Emperor of Maladies is being celebrated with an intimate dinner party for six of her closest friends. Her daughter put a brochure for rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in the kitchen. Kate's friends encourage her to go, as a grand celebration of her renewed health. She agrees provided each of her guests allows her to choose a challenge for them too. Each woman faces a challenge that ultimately enriches their lives; this is a heartwarming, life affirming story. Erica Bauermeister writes with sensuous, lush prose; her books are a joy to read.



Sat. May 18th Bob Welch will give a presentation on **Cascade Summer**, his memoir of hiking Oregon's portion of the Pacific Crest Trail. Bob and his brother-in-law Glenn Peterson planned to walk 452 miles across Oregon. Along the way Bob reflects on Judge John Breckenridge Waldo, an avid outdoorsman and advocate for wilderness heavily involved in protecting the Cascade Range and Crater Lake. Judge Waldo was a native Oregonian, his parents having arrived in the state from Virginia via covered wagon on the Oregon Trail. One of my favorite places is named for the jurist, Waldo Lake. Bob's memoir tells of his time preparing for his excellent adventure, hiking the trail, and his reflections on Judge Waldo. The Pacific Crest Trail is such a grand achievement! From Mexico to Canada, one trail connecting the states and the wilderness. Miles of it are right here in our backyard. Summer is coming, hiking time is near, Bob's adventure may inspire you to go out on the trail.



Saturday May 25th William Dietrich will give a presentation on the latest in his Ethan Gage series. Dietrich is a Harvard educated, Pulitzer Prize winner. His time as a reporter at the Seattle Times (we always enjoyed his columns) left him with a highly honed ability to research, an ability he puts to excellent use in his historic fiction featuring the intrepid Ethan Gage.

This swashbuckling adventure series is great fun to read! Ethan is always in the most dire of difficulties, he is very resourceful in his escapes. Dietrich writes interesting stories spiced up with humor and thrills. The history is correct; Ethan is inserted into significant historic events, with entertaining results.

Napoleon's Pyramids starts the series with Napoleon's ill-fated invasion of Egypt. ***The Rosetta Stone*** follows Ethan as he flees into Jerusalem in search of a beautiful woman. Before Lewis & Clark, President Thomas Jefferson sent Egan Gage to scout the west in ***The Dakota Cypher***, our hero's ulterior motive is the pursuit of a Norse Legend. From France to Greece to Italy Ethan Gage hunts a valuable artifact while being pursued by dangerous pirates in ***Barbary Pirates***. ***Emerald Storm*** has Ethan carting around a stolen emerald with a long line of people willing to hurt him to take possession of the treasure. After a meeting with Napoleon, Ethan is thrown into cahoots with the Brits and sent to rescue Toussaint L'Ouverture from a prison in the French Alps. The action moves to the Caribbean where Ethan and his beautiful wife Astiza are on a treasure hunt for the riches of Montezuma and are drawn into the action during the slave revolt on Haiti.

The Barbed Crown by William Dietrich continues the saga. Ethan Gage last saw his beautiful bride being carried out to sea in the grip of a violent wave during a fierce storm. Napoleon is to blame and Ethan is nursing a grudge. He packs his young son off to the care of a couple in America and heads off to France with vengeance in his heart. Ethan's anger and grief fit in fine with the plans of the spy masters, they want Napoleon assassinated. A canny smuggler outfoxes French ships, sailing into dangerous waters to deliver Ethan and his fellow spy (naturally a beautiful woman spy). Imagine Ethan's surprise when he finds his gorgeous, exotic wife alive, already in France, and accompanied by the son he left in America. Now what is he supposed to do? Kill Napoleon? Dietrich tells a rousing good story, blending action, adventure, and humor with very real incidents of historic significance including the crowning of Napoleon and the Battle of Trafalgar. By inserting Ethan into the happenings of the age, Dietrich brings them to life, making history into a very enjoyable story. We hope you can join us to enjoy this very interesting author presentation!

June 1st Barbara Corrado Pope will give a presentation on ***The Missing Italian Girl: A Mystery in Paris***. I enjoy this series very much and Barbara puts on an informative, interesting presentation. The story is set in Paris in 1897 with protagonists Clarie and Bernard Martin. Barbara Corrado Pope will be featured in June's newsletter but as the event is early in the month I thought I would give you a heads up before hand.

Author events are free with the exception of Jane Kirkpatrick's Newberry Habitat for Humanity Walk. Light refreshments are served and we have drawings for door prizes. Sign up to attend any of the events by contacting Sunriver Books & Music at sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com or 541-593-2525 or stop by the store.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday June 1st 2013 at 5:00 PM ***The Missing Italian Girl: A Mystery in Paris*** by Barbara Corrado Pope

Saturday June 15th 2013 at 5:00 PM ***Sleight of Hand*** by Phillip Margolin

Saturday July 6th 2013 at 5:00 PM ***Little Century*** by Anna Keeseey

Friday July 19th at 5:30 *A Serpents Tooth* by Craig Johnson at the SHARC, sign up early!

Saturday August 3rd 2013 at 5:30 ***A Harriet Truman/Loose Threads Mystery*** by Arlene Sachitano

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

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.

If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy using space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation . To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music.

Staff Recommendations for New Releases.

Nancy Nelson Recommends

River of Dust by Virginia Pye is the story of a family of missionaries in the year 1910, shortly after what is known as the Boxer Rebellion. Reverend John Wesley Watson is a man who stands very tall and is quite powerful looking. Reverend Watson is zealous in his task to bring faith in Jesus to the heathen peasants. His faith however, is tried when his first born son, Wesley, is stolen by group of Mongol nomads. After the kidnapping, his life, his wife's and his servants' change drastically. The Reverend becomes obsessive about finding his son. He soon becomes known as "Ghost Man" famous for his ability to perform miracles and evade death. The revelations he experiences bring him to a better understanding of these people he had so fervently wanted to convert to Christianity, and to his own part in this tragedy of his family. The story is also about his young wife, Grace who barely manages to stay alive after the loss of her son. She is very pregnant and sickly. Thanks to the expertise of her amah, she survives. Her faith in her husband has changed; she sees him less as a deity, more as a man with flaws. In the end, both husband and wife are very different people than the two young idealists who once thought that they had the answers to the world's problems. The story was well told, one that I very much enjoyed.



The Third Son by Julie Wu takes place in 1943. Taiwan is occupied by the Japanese. Saburo is the narrator. During an air raid the 8 year old Saburo is fleeing home when he comes upon Yoshiko, another fleeing student. They both narrowly escape the bullets from an American plane, finding a safe place until the bombing stops. Saburo cherishes this moment for the rest of his life. Yoshiko talks about her family and her life. She is well loved. Saburo, on the other hand is at best dismissed, at worst physically and verbally abused. As Saburo grows up the reader is informed of the responsibilities that one inherits in this culture. Saburo dreams of freedom. After the war the Japanese leave only to be replaced by the Chinese Nationalists. They are at least as severe. Saburo's dreams seem unattainable. We see the gentle Saburo summoning the strength it takes to fight for love, education, and for the chance to make the choices required of him to master his own life. On reading about the third (and least wanted) son, Saburo, it was second nature to root for him, to feel his pain, and the joy of his successes. It was also rewarding to read about the circumstances surrounding the history of Taiwan, and to get a glimpse of how the people of the island were personally impacted by their cultures, their governments. I very much liked this book

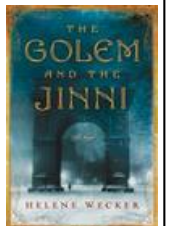
Deon Recommends

A Constellation of Vital Phenomena by Anthony Marra. If you appreciated ***Cutting for Stone*** by Abraham Verghese and have been longing for a novel of similar power, it has arrived. Set in Chechnya, the story is haunting. Akhmed is a good man, but good men can succumb to fear, especially when resistance is pointless. He cowers with his invalid wife in his house when Russian soldiers come for his neighbor and friend. Akhmed watches as the startling red flames claim his neighbor's house, fearful to venture forth until he is certain the Russians will not return. Cautiously Akhmed makes his way to the smoldering house, searching for his neighbor's daughter Havaa. He finds the child sitting on her suitcase at the edge of the woods. Keeping her with him in the small village is impossible; the neighborhood informant would tell the Russians. They would return for her taking Akhmed and his wife too. He takes the child to the hospital, persuading Dr. Sonia Rabina to hide the child. Like all momentous actions, this one will bear consequences. What shines through is the quiet nobility of the characters and how they struggle to bravely do what is right even when they are afraid. The writing is beautiful, the story compelling, and the characters are so very real on the page.



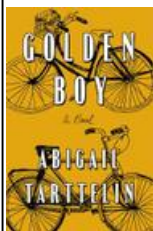
The Last Train to Zona Verde by Paul Theroux, he is a master at travel writing. He has had a decades long love affair with Africa, and perhaps like any intense relationships it has hit a rocky patch. Paul first came to Africa as a bright eyed, bushy tailed Peace Corps volunteer. His son was born in Africa; it has emotional baggage for him. The passing years have brought changes, both to the continent and the man. Western intervention failed to be the panacea the planners and dreamers imagined; instead the continent has fragmented into fractious countries with myriad problems and disenfranchised populations. Paul has changed too in the years between his twenties and his seventies, always a fiercely independent individual, he has grown less willing to risk his neck in overcrowded careening busses, sleep in bug infested hovels, or bear witness to the suffering of the masses. This trip has a bittersweet quality, it is an opportunity for the reader to share a passionate traveler's realization that he might not need to do the truly rugged, crazy dangerous, hard travel anymore. The emotional journey to a realization of the changing limitations he faces as well as reaching a sense of acceptance enriches the writing. That is not to say that Paul Theroux has gone soft, he is still giving us a great trip. He goes overland from Cape Town South Africa on to Namibia, into Botswana and Angola, covering a lot of territory, 2,500 miles. His elephant safari in Botswana is a treasure! There is intensity to this trip, recognition that this might be the last trip to Africa and a desire to see it clearly. Paul says it best: "*Knowing that a return to Africa for me was probably out of the question – how much more can these bones take?- made me want to be scrupulously truthful. None of it was trivial, all of it was meaningful; everything I saw mattered much more.*"

The Golem and the Jinni by Helene Wecker is one of my favorites. Unlikely though they may be, ***The Golem and the Jinni*** breathe life into this astonishing story as they walk the nighttime streets of 1899 New York and develop a friendship that reaches across the chasm of very different natures. Both mythical creatures, the Golem is a creature made of clay, created to obey every command of her master and the Jinni is born of fire. This Golem's master barely lasted long enough to pay the purveyor of dark magic for his creation and get her loaded on board a ship headed for the New World. He dies before the ship docks, leaving a very new Golem to find her way in a world not comfortable with such creatures. The Jinni's trip to New York is no less astonishing, trapped for a thousand years in a jug by an evil wizard; he is released by a tinsmith in the Little Syria district of New York City. Imagine the Jinni's astonishment, when last he was free, he lived in a Middle Eastern desert where the population was scarce, tall buildings not even imagined. Both creatures must learn to live as humans in order to survive, it does not come easily. They are helped along by some good people. The Golem is taken under the wing of a kind Rabbi and the tinsmith does his best to help the Jinni navigate this magical city so different from his desert home. ***The Golem and the Jinni*** meet and begin walking the city at night, where they discover that because of their strange situation they can talk to each other in ways they could never disclose to others. You will root for them when inevitably they must face the evil that men do.



Staff Recommendations New Releases

Deon Recommends

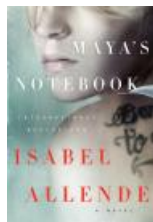


Golden Boy by Abigail Tarttelin will make you consider subjects without easy answers. Max is a golden youth; a sunny disposition, quick to smile, with a halo of baby soft golden hair. He is smart, handsome, intelligent, fun to be around, and a gifted athlete on the football field. Girls flock to him, boys find him an amiable companion. Max is the opposite of his younger brother Daniel who is bright but irritable and determined. Daniel is so definitely not a morning person. Max has never given his parents, Karen and Steve, a difficult day. But Max is special. Karen and Steve have sworn him to silence. When a childhood friend betrays Max's trust the family will be forced to face the cost of keeping their secret. Book Club groups, pay attention to this one. It has rich topics for discussion. Should a child be coached to keep secret his very nature if disclosure would put him at risk? Who should make decisions that will change the tenor and nature of a child's future life; the parent? Or the child? Add in the dilemma of the effect of the secret on the highly public nature of Karen's career as a successful attorney and Steve's political aspirations. What makes the story even more compelling is the caring of this family, they all want to do what is right for each other, and they just have very different views on what that might be.

The One Way Bridge by Cathie Pelletier is fun to read. Mattagash Maine is remote, very cold, and populated by a quirky assortment of endearing characters, it is a great place to spend some time. Orville Craft, the local mailman, has a tendency to take himself a mite too seriously. He has an ongoing feud with Harry Plunkett over the unusual nature of Harry's mailbox. Edna is in the throes of a little midlife readjustment. And the whole town is wondering what will happen to the new guy, Billy Thunder, when winter hits and his little rented trailer turns into an impromptu ice box. This small town seems to be filled with unique, rugged individuals with interesting stories to tell. These characters and more will charm and amuse. This is one of those books you just feel good reading.



Maya's Notebook by Isabel Allende is set in current days, an interesting departure from Allende's magnificent historical fiction. Maya went off the deep end when her beloved grandfather died. Abandoned by her mother as an infant, Maya was raised in the loving, indulgent household of her grandparents. Her grandmother was a Chilean immigrant and activist married to a Berkeley professor. Even after her father remarried and made a home for his daughter, Maya would spend most of her time with her grandparents in their big old hilltop home. Unmoored by her loss, Maya started running with a rough crowd, indulging in controlled substances, and in general putting herself in harm's way. She gets involved with the wrong people and eventually finds herself bound to a rather seriously dangerous crime boss. With her life in jeopardy, the bad guys and the FBI after her, Maya turns for help to her grandmother. The solution is to hide Maya on a remote island in Chile with a friend from her grandmother's youth. Here Maya's pace of life shifts, she starts to see the change of seasons, to connect with the people in the tiny community, and to reflect on her actions. The story works both as a thriller and a coming of age story. This is a departure for Allende, who usually writes excellent historical fiction. I enjoyed it very much..



Staff Recommendations recently releasing in paperback.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.

The Light Between Oceans by M. L. Stedman is a book that stirs the emotions. In the end I found myself smiling through my tears. Tom Shelbourne has just come to the town of Point Partageuse after having served his tour of duty at the Western Front of WW I. He is a kind, sensitive, meticulous man who wants only to put the horrors of the past four years behind him. He begins a new life as lighthouse keeper on the lonely desolate island of Janus Rock, and fairly soon after marries Isabel. The two are happy, planning on a family. Isabel eventually has two miscarriages, then a baby who is stillborn. She is devastated. One night the miracle happens. They hear the sounds of a baby crying. A shipwrecked boat is found. Inside are a two month old baby girl and the body of her dead father. Tom is ready to report the incident, but Isabel talks him out of it. They keep the little girl, raising her as their own. Tom is both disturbed by the moral ambiguity of keeping this secret, and enchanted with the baby. As they eventually discover the identity of the mother, they are faced with the problem of telling the truth. Isabel cannot. Throughout the rest of the story the reader is drawn into the heartbreaks and the complications brought on by their initial decision to keep this secret. Whatever they do, someone will be hurt. I found I could not put this book down as I experienced their losses and their joys. The characters were very believable, the main characters endearing. I loved this book and highly recommend it.



The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce. Harold is retired and lives with his wife Maureen in a small town in the southern part of England. The story, "The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry" begins with Harold receiving a letter from a former co-worker of 20 years past, Queenie Hennessy. He is moved and distraught on learning that she is dying of cancer. She wanted to say goodbye and to let him know how grateful she was for the kindness he showed her so long ago. He writes her back, takes a walk to mail his letter, and feeling that his letter is inadequate, continues to walk. As he walks further he encounters a young woman who inspires him, leads him to believe that he can make a difference in Queenie's life. Maybe he can save her, at least for a little while longer. With that thought in mind, and wearing yachting shoes and a light cotton jacket, no cell phone or provisions, Harold makes the decision to walk the rest of the 500 or so miles to Berwick on Tweed. He calls his wife, Maureen, and tells her that he is going to save Queenie. She is shocked, disdainful, and completely certain he will change his mind. He continues to walk, and meets many strangers in the process. In hearing their stories, he discovers bits and pieces of himself. The reader is privileged to share in his life's discoveries. It becomes the unraveling of Harold Fry's life, the joys and woes of his past, and his unfinished business. This also becomes another kind of journey for his wife, Maureen, as she is forced to take a better look at herself, putting her relationship with Harold into a much different perspective. This is perhaps the most intimate story I can recall reading. I was moved beyond my ability to express.

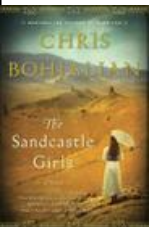


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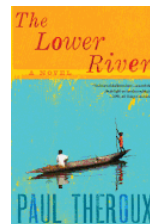
The Mirage by Matt Ruff. What if the Twin Towers were not in New York but in Baghdad? 11/9/2001 Christian fundamentalists hijack four jetliners and slam two of them into the Tigris and Euphrates World Trade Centers in Baghdad. The third Jetliner crashes into the Arab Defense Ministry in Riyadh. Courageous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

Istanbul Passage by Joseph Kanon. A labyrinth of plot twists, an incredible setting, and brilliant writing make this post WWII story a winner. Istanbul has the glamor and intrigue of sitting at the gate between West and East. It is a city full of dark alleys, black water sparkling in the city lights at night, and colorful mosques; a visually dazzling place. Leon's wife helped shepherd Jews fleeing the Nazis through the city on their way to Palestine. It was dangerous, dismal work that left her catatonic in an expensive care facility. Leon started with delivering packages to do his bit, as an American businessman he had the perfect cover for going from place to place. Then the packages became people and the game was something more. With the war over his handler in the US Embassy wants him to deliver one more man; it should have been easy and relatively safe. Instead, the night explodes in violence and leaves Leon with dangerous human cargo and no backup. Now he has to figure his way through the maze of disinformation and double cross.



The Sandcastle Girls by Chris Bohjalian. Evil thrives in dark and secret places, spots where the world has turned away and forgotten. In 1915 there were many distractions, a world war was raging. While attention was focused elsewhere, the Turks unleashed horrific cruelty and death on the Armenians. A young American, Elizabeth Endicott, travels to Aleppo, Syria to work with Armenian refugees. Her life will never be the same. Armen has lost everything a man holds dear, his family destroyed in the Genocide. He befriends the young American, moved by her zest for life and commitment to helping his people. In 2012 Laura Petrosian, a novelist, begins to research her Armenian heritage. These are characters you will root for, full of spirit and a desire to make a difference.

The Lower River by Paul Theroux. You wouldn't think an upgrade in cell phones could cause such an upheaval in a man's life but Ellis's gift of a new smart phone lays waste to his little world. His wife bought him the phone and then used it to download all his e-mail, finding all his chatty little messages with so many women not of her acquaintance. The divorce leaves Ellis the family business and a small condo. Not that the family business has his heart, it was the path expected of him when his father died. He didn't dream of becoming the proprietor of a menswear store, he was born into the job. With the store failing Ellis is foot loose and fancy free for the first time since his youth. His happiest memories are of the four years he spent in a tiny village of Malawi for the Peace Corps. He felt he was doing something worthy, that he was fully alive and truly helping people. Nothing is tying him down now; he decides to re-visit Malawi. Ellis will find an Africa much changed after decades of relying on foreign aid. It can be a sad and sometimes dangerous thing to try recapturing the past. Theroux has written an interesting treatise on Africa, facing the passage of time, and the strength of a man's character.

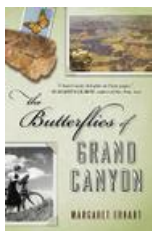


Gold by Chris Cleave (author of **Little Bee**) is an entertaining novel; this story will capture your imagination. What is it like to be an Olympian? To sacrifice everything to stand on that podium with your nation's anthem playing in the background? Zoe and Kate are intense, determined, talented 19 year old cyclists who meet in training. Both women dreamed of Olympic Gold since childhood, both are consumed, obsessed with standing at the pinnacle of that podium. Zoe has drive to burn; she will sacrifice everything to win. On the verge of realizing her dream, Kate gives up her chance at Olympic Gold to stay home with baby Sophie while Jack goes off to compete in Greece. Now 8 years later it is Kate's chance at Olympic Gold as she tries for London but Sophie may need her again. Sophie is battling a reoccurrence of leukemia, a disease that almost claimed her at three. There are so many great things about this book! Reading it I was reminded of Lance Armstrong and his battles with illness to go on and become a legend in cycling, no matter the controversy that brought him down he was a racing phenomena. The way the two women each face the desires and pressures of competing for Olympic Gold is insightful, giving a real feeling to the determination required to compete at this level. Jack is not hampered by being a father; he goes off to compete in Greece while Kate stays home to take care of their infant daughter. **Gold** really shows a woman's sacrifice and the commitment to be a contender. It is a winner.

Constance Harding's (Rather) Startling Year by Ceri Radford is an entertaining summer story when you are in the mood for something light. Constance has it pretty good; a lovely estate, a successful husband, and two grown children. Yet she is lonely, so her son Rupert sets her up a blog. It is much better than trying to talk to her elusive children or husband. Into her blog she pours all her little frustrations. It is soon clear to the reader that dear Constance is pretty clueless about most of the happenings around her. We see trouble looming right from the get go, while Constance blithely trips on totally unaware. She has a fondness for match making far in excess of any ability with hilariously disastrous results. When Constance's little piece of paradise melts down, she comes of age (rather late in life) and finds herself as a woman able to embrace life in ways she never dreamed. Funny, light hearted, and full of interesting little twists.

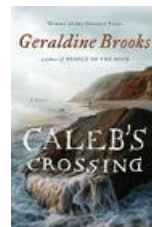


May 2013 Book Clubs.

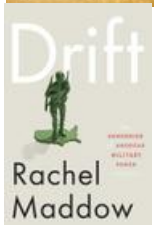
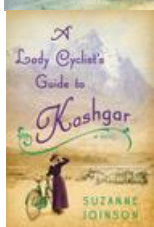


May 13th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***Butterflies of the Grand Canyon*** by Margaret Erhart. In 1951 two women scientists, Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter, travel to the Grand Canyon at the behest of Chief Park Naturalist Louis Schellbach to aid in unraveling a mystery involving Emery Kolb that goes back to a trip the women took running the Colorado River through the canyon in 1938. In 1951 Jane and Morris Merkle have been married five years. They are taking a trip to visit Morris's sister Dotty and her husband Oliver. Jane will be staying the summer while Morris travels back to their St. Louis home and his job. Jane is much younger than Morris and not impervious to the charms of handsome rangers. The story is told from different perspectives, giving it a richness and shrouding the central puzzle in mystery. Erhart mixes real characters with her fictional characters. Elzada Clover and Lois Jotter were botanists and the first two women to successfully float the Colorado through the Grand Canyon led by legendary river rat, Norman Nevills. Chief Park Naturalist Louis Schellbach and Park Superintendent HC Bryant are also real characters. Butterflies dance throughout the story, with most of the characters in hot pursuit of the flying beauties with their gossamer wings.

May 20th the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Caleb's Crossing*** by Geraldine Brooks. Caleb Cheeshahteamuck crossed over from his native culture to the white man's world becoming one of the earliest graduates of Harvard University. His story is narrated by the fictional character Bethia Mayfield. She meets Caleb when she is a mere slip of a girl, while gathering food away from the colony. The two children cross cultural barriers to form a secret friendship that will last their lifetime despite the considerable pressures of their respective clans. Caleb is the son of a Chief, the nephew of a Shaman, neither would approve of his friendship with the little white girl. Bethia is the daughter of the local minister and granddaughter of a magistrate. Her people view the natives as savages. Yet understanding grows between the two youngsters that bridges their differing cultures to offer glimpses of common ground and understanding.



May 27th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses ***The Exploration of the Colorado River and Its Canyons*** by John Wesley Powell. In 1869 Powell a Civil War hero who lost his arm at the battle of Shiloh set off into the unknown. He would be the first white man to run the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon. It had to be a fearsome prospect. Back in 1869 the river ran wild and free, unfettered by dams that drained its ferocious power. The rapids deep below the canyon walls would have roared, the sound carrying back to the expedition as a challenge. Powell's goal was to explore the Canyon and map this last uncharted bit of the west. It is an amazing journey.



Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM

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](#)

July 8th 2013 ***The Yard*** by Alex Grecian [Mystery Book Club](#)

July 15th 2013 ***A Lady Cyclist's Guide To Kashgar*** by Suzanne Joinson [Fiction Book Club](#)

July 22nd 2013 ***Drift*** by Rachel Maddow [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

August 5th 2013 ***The Invisible Ones*** by Stef Penny [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 12th 2013 ***Beautiful Ruins*** by Jess Walter [Fiction Book Club](#)

August 19th 2013 ***What It Is Like To Go To War*** by Karl Marlantes [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

September 9th 2013 ***The Indian Bride*** by Karin Fossum [Mystery Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

Sept 16th 2013 ***The Ship In The Hill*** by William Sullivan, (author led), [Fiction Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

September 23, 2013 ***Kristin Lavransdatter*** by Sigrid Undset [Classics Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

Sept 30th, 2013 ***The Fellowship of Ghosts*** by Paul Watkins [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

October 7th, 2013 ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*** by Sherman Alexie [Fiction Book Club](#)

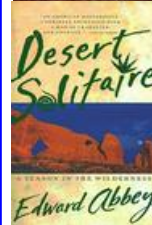
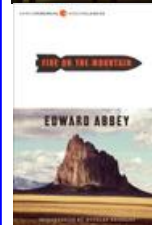
October 28th, 2013 ***Instrument of Darkness*** by Imogen Robertson [Mystery Book Club](#)

November 4th 2013 ***Running the Rift*** by Naomi Benaron [Fiction Book Club](#)

November 11th 2013 ***Gone Girl*** by Gillian Flynn [Mystery Book Club](#)

November 18th 2013 ***Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher*** by Timothy Egan [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

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.

E-readers are changing the landscape for books, not always in gentle ways. Many Independent Bookstores offer e-books for sale, including Sunriver Books & Music. On the right hand side of our website, sunriverbooks.com, you will find information on buying e-books as well as a search feature for e-books and print books. In support of Independent Booksellers publishers sometimes offer specials that we pass onto you. Watch our website to see when they are available. We greatly appreciate your support and hope that you consider your Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating the purchase of an e-reader, please know that Amazon's kindle dictates your e-books be purchased from Amazon while the I-pad, the Sony e-reader, and others allow you the freedom to chose.