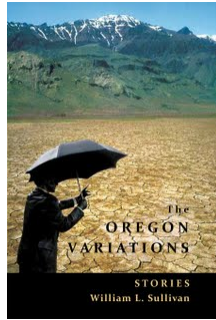
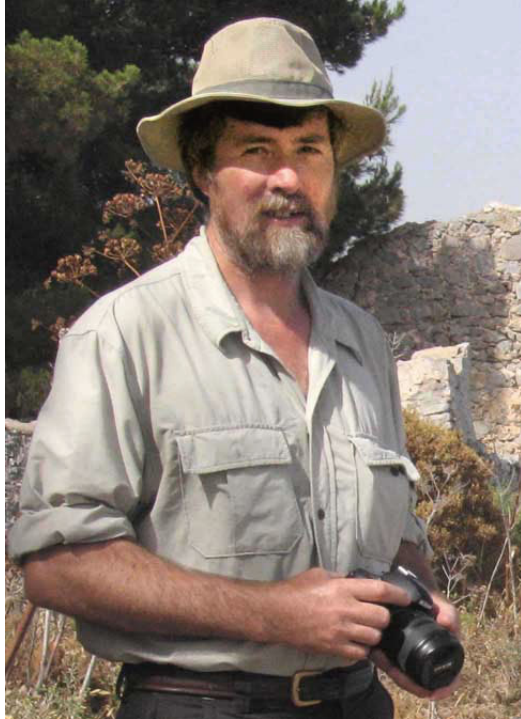




Sunriver Books & Music

May 2014 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday May 10th at 5:00 PM William Sullivan gives a slide show titled Oregon for the Curious showing us some of the stranger places in our beautiful state; places to hike, places to visit, and places used as settings for the stories in his new book, an innovative collection of short stories titled **The Oregon Variations**. Sullivan was inspired by Bach's Goldberg Variations and the loneliness reflected in Kafka's short stories. In his collection he writes a fugue using the structure of Bach's music to craft a work of fiction. The stories are varied, well written and interesting. My favorite is the **Vortex** about a lonely little bookstore battling Amazon, the evil empire, in an incredibly unusual way. **Aria for Tenderfeet** captures perfectly the feeling of ranchland and the melancholy of one generation yearning to pass on the land as it was passed to them. It is a lovely story about a grandfather and two grandsons beginning to understand. **To Say Nothing Of The Dog** has two hit men on the trail of their target on the snowy Crater Lake trail. This daring 31 story collection is set in every county in Oregon. Two of the stories use crossword puzzles. Pictures of Crater Lake need no words, they tell their own stories. It is all highly entertaining and unique. Sullivan, like the ancient Greeks, understands that melancholy and humor can live side by side. While his stories succeed in capturing that sense of loneliness that inspired him, they also use a deft touch to keep the reader entertained.

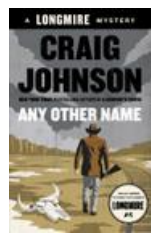
Although Sullivan is best known for his very popular series of Oregon hiking guides, he also writes works of fiction. **The Case of D.B. Cooper's Parachute** is an intriguing take on the fate of the Pacific Northwest's most notorious hijacker. The story starts in Portland with a heart stopping car chase. The cops have a lead that might help them solve the decades old mystery. I liked the interplay between the cop and his daughter, a young woman trying to live independently. Sullivan's descriptions of Portland make you feel like you are right there! **The Case of Einstein's Violin** is a hilarious mystery featuring a scramble to possess the famous scientist's violin case. It starts in Eugene and travels all over Europe. **A Deeper Wild** is a work of historic fiction about a true northwestern character. **The Ship In The Hill** tells the saga of Queen Asa and her burial ship. The ship is quite real and so was the queen. The Osberg ship, dating from 834, was discovered in 1904-1905 by Norwegian archeologist Haakon Shetelig and Swedish archeologist Gabriel Gustafson. Sullivan crafts his story in two time frames, both with strong female characters. In the 800's he tells of Queen Asa of Aghthur. In 1904 Sullivan gives us a fictional American archeologist, Dr. Kirstin Williams, involved in the discovery of the Burial mound of the Dragon Longboat.

If you are in the mood for hiking, William Sullivan is your man! An updated version of **100 Hikes/Travel Guide in the Central Oregon Cascades** has just released. He has hiked every major trail in Oregon. This 5th generation Oregonian knows the state thoroughly, his hiking guides are well researched and reliable. Sullivan has a keen appreciation for the history, geography, flora and fauna as well as the jaw dropping beauty of Oregon's scenery. He includes information on campgrounds, cabin rentals, and the wildflowers you may encounter along the trail. Color pictures show the spectacular beauty awaiting you on the trail. William Sullivan's popular hiking guides include the following: **100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington, 100 Hikes in Southern Oregon, 100 Hikes/Travel Guide Oregon Coast & Coast Range, 100 Hikes/Travel Guide Eastern Oregon, Oregon's Favorites: Trails and Tales, Atlas of Oregon Wilderness, Hiking Oregon's History. Trails of Crater Lake and Oregon Caves, Oregon Trips and Trails**, and an **Oregon Map and Travel Guide**. Whew! Sullivan definitely knows Oregon! In addition to his popular guides, he has works of nonfiction; **Oregon's Greatest Natural Disasters, Listening for Coyote**, and **Cabin Fever**.

William Sullivan is a personable, entertaining speaker. He always puts on a good show!



Craig Johnson at the SHARC Center May 18th, details on the next page!



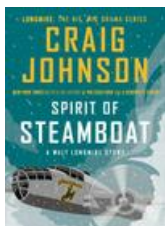
Sunday May 18th at 5:00 PM at the SHARC Center Craig Johnson gives a presentation on the latest in his Walt Longmire series, **Any Other Name**. There are many things you can count on with Craig Johnson; three of them are his talent, his loyalty, and his strong support for Independent Bookstores. We are grateful and honored he continues to visit us, giving great presentations.

Johnson's Walt Longmire novels inspired the hit A&E TV series Longmire. About five million people watch the popular show; it is the number 1 original series drama of all time for A&E. Craig Johnson created such memorable characters; people want to know what is happening with them. I know I wait eagerly for each book. On A&E Walt Longmire is played by Robert Taylor, Henry Standing Bear is played by Lou Diamond Phillips, and Vic is played by Katee Sackoff.

The Walt Longmire series have been Indie Next List picks many times, New York Times Best Sellers, and multiple award winners. They are popular in Europe as well as the USA. Craig Johnson's novels are very literary as well as entertaining. If you have been watching the TV series, read the books and learn more about the characters.

Sunriver community has a great venue at the SHARC Center, we are very grateful to be able to present Craig Johnson to you in such attractive and comfortable surroundings.. Sign up early to attend this free event! His presentations are always popular. He puts on a great show and is the star of our lineup! You can sign up by e-mailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com calling 541-593-2525 or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Any Other Name, the latest in the series, is a real page turner. Lucian Connally and Walt Longmire have ties that go way back, deep and strong. When Lucian asks a favor, Walt cannot decline. One of Lucian's cronies, Detective Gerald Holman, either committed suicide (the official version) or was helped from this world. Either way the widow wants to know why. Holman was steady as a rock, a by the book kind of guy. He was working cold cases, not doing anything that should have turned deadly. It does not make sense to the widow, so she opens Pandora's Box asking her old friend, Former Sheriff Lucian Connally, to find out what really happened for her. And Lucian, of course, asks his former protégée Sheriff Walt Longmire to dig into the last days of Holman's life and figure out what went wrong. Holman lived and worked in an adjacent county, so Walt has to arrange the co-operation of the Sheriff before delving into the detective's death. One of the last cold cases Holman looked at was a missing woman. This case has a gritty, intense feel as Walt uncovers the dark side of the human soul. There is lots of action and Lucian shows that he still has the moves and then some. Meanwhile Walt's first grandchild is about to make an appearance any day and his daughter Cady wants her Daddy there at the birth putting pressure on Walt to solve this case quick! The story tackles issues of violence against women, the difference between our perception of those around us and their real character, and the dangers inherent in discovering the truth. It is a great read! Former Sheriff Lucian Connally is a very entertaining presence. High octane entertainment!



Spirit of Steamboat, covers new territory, it is a story readers of the Longmire series will appreciate and it is just as enjoyable for those who have never read Longmire. The story takes place during Walt's first year as Sheriff. **The Spirit of Steamboat** opens with a mysterious woman seeking former Sheriff, Lucian Connally. She has something to deliver to Lucian. Her visit transports Walt and Lucian back to 1988 when a horrific accident left a little girl hanging onto life by a thread. Wyoming was under siege by one of those maelstroms of snow and wind that come along about once a century just to reassure you how feisty Mother Nature can be. The medevac helicopter cannot make it to Denver. None of the light planes at the small airport have a chance against the ferocity of the wind. There is only one plane, a dinosaur from WWII, with the speed, power, and heft to fight out in the storm. But no pilot is able to fly the old bomber, except former Sheriff Lucian Connolly, the Doolittle Raider is intimately acquainted with the craft though it has been a while since he bailed out over the China Sea back in the big war. Walt, Lucian and Doc prepare to fly a relic into the storm of the century in an attempt to save the life of the young burn victim. Long odds on success and a pretty good chance of being scattered all over the Wyoming landscape. Walt, Lucian, and Doc are men made to eat up such odds. Walt's reply "...it's a question of what you have to do, what you have to live with if you don't." Lucian faced those odds before when he and 79 other men led by Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle climbed into B25B Medium Bombers on the flight deck of the USS Hornet. Walt's courage was tested in the jungles of Vietnam. Neither man was found wanting. Doc experienced Hitler's Germany. When the question on the table is who will risk their life to save another, the men's response is I will.

The picture of Craig Johnson and Flashman above is by Dan and Kim Feer.



Another inspiration Craig Johnson used in *Spirit of Steamboat* is a big, black horse named Steamboat described by Jack Bowers as the closest thing to perpetual motion that ever wore hair.

The Longmire series starts with *Cold Dish*, it introduces the characters. Walt is a big guy who prefers talking his way out of a tough situation to fighting, but if violence is the only reply Walt is well able to answer. Henry Standing Bear is tall, soft spoken, thoughtful, blazingly smart, and a favorite of the ladies. Vic is a transplant from a family of Philadelphia cops. She is street tough, possessed of a razor sharp tongue, and ready to meet all situations head on. The story revolves around four white boys who got off without so much as slapped hands for raping a Native American girl in high school. Now, years later, someone is shooting them dead.

Death Without Company, second in the series, opens with a death in an assisted living facility. The story has ties to the past, a woman hard done by, and the Basque community.

Kindness Goes Unpunished moves the action to Philadelphia where Cady, Walt's daughter, is an up and coming lawyer. Walt wants to meet her new beau. Henry Standing Bear is involved in a photo exhibition so the two men travel together, where they will meet trouble as they always do, side by side.

Another Man's Moccasins finds a dead Vietnamese girl along a roadside in Wyoming with a picture of Walt from many years ago in Vietnam. The story moves back in time to Walt as a young Marine in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Dark Horse has Walt holding a prisoner he fears is innocent. She was discovered with a gun in her hand, a shot

dead husband in her burned out house, and a ready confession. It doesn't add up for Walt, he goes undercover to find the truth. The horse in the story is pretty cool too!

Junkyard Dogs is one of my favorite, and that is saying something because I enjoy them all tremendously. The opening scene is priceless. An expensive new McMansion subdivision looks out to snowcapped mountains and down on a dump. Ozzie wants the dump closed down so he can move some real estate. Add a Romeo and Juliet story for the older set and you have a heady brew of greed, passion, and intrigue.

Hell is Empty lets all the devils loose on a mountain in a snow storm where Walt is following a band of stone cold killers after a hand off of prisoners to the Feds goes tragically awry. Walt climbs alone up the mountainside entering into the circles of hell after armed and deadly men.

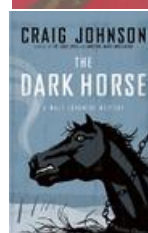
As the Crow Flies introduces Tribal Police Chief Lolo Long. She proved her bravery in Iraq, but her hair trigger temper and inexperience are not ideal in a Police Chief. Walt will have to give quick sheriff lessons if they are to catch a killer.

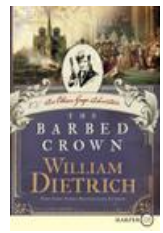
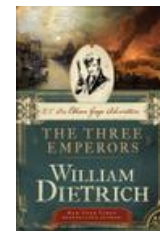
A Serpent's Tooth marries excellent writing with an inventive mystery and characters you cannot help but like. Cord is a "lost boy" ejected from a rogue polygamous Mormon splinter group. Henry Standing Bear and Walt cross state lines to try and find some answers at a heavily armed Mormon compound while Cord discovers movie DVDs and is inspired to try his hand at horse rustling. Cord is soon joined by his self-proclaimed protector, Orrin Porter Rockwell, Man of God, Sun of Thunder blessed by Joseph Smith himself. Walt is having a little trouble with Orrin's identity, Joseph Smith having gone to his greater reward well over a century ago

Wyoming, the setting for the Walt Longmire series, has a wild, starkly beautiful landscape. You can drive for miles and see nothing but distant mountains and wide open spaces. Craig Johnson lives surrounded by this land, he writes so well that you will feel as if you stepped into his part of Wyoming.

Craig Johnson created characters you will want to visit again; they come to feel like old friends. A touch of humor spices each story, for how else would they face the day?

The picture of Craig and Judy Johnson above is by Brooke Snavely of the Sunriver Scene.





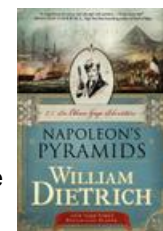
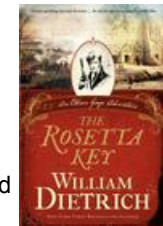
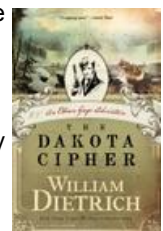
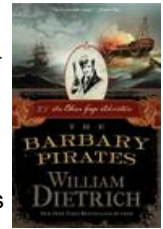
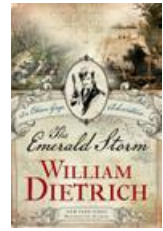
Saturday May 24th at 5:00 PM William Dietrich will give a presentation on the latest in his Ethan Gage series **The Three Emperors** (he usually includes a slide show) and Monday May 26th at 6:30 PM he will lead the Fiction Book Club's discussion of **The Rosetta Key**. Dietrich is a Harvard educated, Pulitzer Prize winner. If you enjoy history, Dietrich gets it right. As a reporter at the Seattle Times (we always enjoyed his columns) he showed a highly honed ability to research, an ability he puts to excellent use in his historic fiction featuring the intrepid Ethan Gage.

This swashbuckling 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. Dropping Ethan into real historic events, the reader enjoys a great adventure story while learning history at the same time.

The Three Emperors opens in Venice where Ethan, having barely escaped the Battle of Trafalgar with his skin, is trying to amass enough money to set out in pursuit of his family. A report has reached him that Astiza and their son Harry are being held captive in the dungeon of an ancient castle by evil men. Their fate is uncertain. His plan is to let the powers that be assume he died in the battle thus leaving himself free of pursuit by his enemies or being shanghaied into the service of either Britain or France enabling him to rush to the aid of his family undetected. You know what they say about best laid plans. Meanwhile Astiza is keeping her captors at bay by stringing them along as she supposedly uses her considerable knowledge of alchemy to create gold and son Harry is showing himself to be a chip off the old block in the rash bravery department. The story is chockfull of intrigue and history on a grand scale. Napoleon is eager to engage the Russians. Ethan and Astiza want to find the Brazen head, rumored to tell the future. A beautiful spy has her own reasons to covet the enigma. Ethan continues to show his unfortunate tendency to land in bodies of water, often dangerous water. Will Ethan be in time to save Astiza and Harry? Will he escape the clutches of the emperors? Will they find the treasure they seek and discover their future? Lots of swashbuckling adventure with danger, epic battle, and betrayal to keep you turning pages.

Napoleon's Pyramids starts the series with Napoleon's invasion of Egypt. **The Rosetta Key** follows Ethan as he flees into Jerusalem in search of a beautiful woman. Before Lewis & Clark, President Thomas Jefferson sent Ethan 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** 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 to France with vengeance in his heart.

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 for this very interesting author presentation!



Thursday May 29th at 5:30 Jenny Milchman presents her latest, **Ruin Falls**. Liz thought she knew her husband well, a rock solid guy, uber smart, and used to being in control. Until the day her two children were snatched and everything she relied on is in question. The family had been off on vacation, taking 8 year old Reid and 6 year old Ally to visit their grandparents and spend time on the farm where Paul grew up in western New York. The grandparents have not been a big part of the children's lives, Paul and his parents were estranged long before he met Liz. The family spent a long day on the road, tiring as only a road trip with small children can be when it is hot, there are many miles to travel, and the landscape lacks the kind of roadside attractions to keep the children interested. Liz sank into her hotel bed exhausted, waking ready for another day in the car only to find her children gone. Panic sets in; Liz is ready to do anything to find her son and daughter. As time wears on, she realizes the man she trusted more than anything, may be her betrayer. There are so many secrets between them, Liz will have to be clever and pay close attention to find her children. One of the aspects I liked most about this book is the way the children were involved in their situation and took an active part in the story, plucky kids. The pace is fast, there is adventure, a bit of romance, and a unique plot.



Jenny's earlier novel, *Cover of Snow*, is also a fast paced, engrossing story. Nora's husband is a cop, steady and brave. On a snowy morning she awakes to find he committed suicide. Everything she counted on and believed in changes. No note is left explaining why this man who loved his family, his job, his community would take his own life. When Nora begins to search for the reasons behind her husband's death, people get nervous.

Both books are set in the Adirondack Mountains of New York State. Nature and the landscape enhance the stories.

Sign up to attend author events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. The event is free, everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served and we will have drawings for prizes. Craig Johnson's event will be held at the SHARC Center, all other events will be at Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday June 21st at 5:00 PM *S is For Sunriver* by Karen Leedom

Saturday September 6th at 5:00 PM *A Light In The Wilderness* by Jane Kirkpatrick.

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.

Memorial Day Sale!

May 13th through June 10th.

Some great titles 30% off!

While Supplies Last!

Fiction, Mystery, Non-Fiction, Travel Essay, Animals, Children, Cookbooks & More!

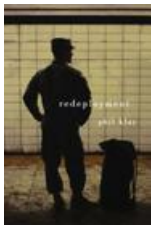
Staff Recommendations



Sue Halverson recommends.

Bellweather Rhapsody by Kate Racculla. Young musicians away from home with chaperons that are not supervising their activities, a huge old hotel, and lots of new friends set the scene for a well written literary mystery with history. Some of the characters (adults) have known each other in the past and of course carry their baggage of past encounters. An old murder/suicide plays a role along with the new disappearance, possible murder, and madness.

Rachel Kelly recommends.



Redeployment by Phil Klay

If you ever wanted to know what it was like for veterans coming home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, this book will bring their experiences to life. Klay writes with vivid imagery and a dark humor that could only come from a man who has been to war. It is a novel that forces the reader to see the truth of war, loss, and long-awaited homecoming.

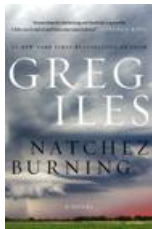
Redeployment follows a cast of characters as they learn to cope with grief, guilt, and even boredom on deployment in the Middle East. You follow the Fobbits and the infantry, the lesser known MOS and the kid who had the dream of Rambo but is now in too deep. Klay shows you the many facets of war experience and what it is like for a soldier transitioning to civilian life.

Klay does not shy away from truth, showing war the way it really is for the men in the thick of it. With refreshing insight, this novel will be held in high esteem by anyone who has been "there".

I recommend this book to anyone who has read the likes of David Abrams (Fobbitt), Karl Marlantes (What It Is Like To Go To War), and Kevin Powers (Yellow Birds) wanting to know more. A very good read.

Staff Recommendations.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.



Natchez Burning, by Greg Iles is a book that weaves the present with the past. Dr. Thomas Cage has treated most of the residents and is highly regarded by both the black and white populations of Natchez, Mississippi. Now, however, he is accused of murdering the black nurse who once worked for him. The current events of his life are riddled with secrets. In the years between 1964 and 1968 people were openly fighting for the rights of blacks all over the south. A group within the Klu Klux Klan formed their own secret society with the aim of curtailing this quest for equality, and worse. As Thomas tries to protect his own secrets himself and his family, the secret atrocities of the past are bubbling to the surface. Potential witnesses begin to disappear as the real author of the worst corruption in Natchez comes closer to exposure. This was a thrilling mystery that I could not put down clear to the finish.

Deon Recommends.



The Garden of Burning Sand by Corban Addison is a powerful story. Zoe Fleming turned her back on a life of privilege in the USA instead she toils as a human rights lawyer in Zambia. Trying to keep a low profile, she does not mention her father the Senator to her co-workers. The rape of a young girl puts the legal team on the path of a wealthy young man whose family enjoys a position of power and prestige. Going after him will place them in, at the very least, a vulnerable position, but it will also send a message that rape will not be tolerated. Adding to the difficulty in prosecuting the crime, the victim has Down's syndrome and was discovered alone and unable to tell her rescuers what happened. Undeterred they embark on a mission of discovery, to find the perpetrator and prove that even those most vulnerable in society will have a voice. There are many things I like about this story, but I especially liked the characters. Joseph Kabuta, the Zambian police officer teamed with Zoe, absolutely steals the book! **The**

Garden of Burning Sand is a fast paced, gripping story full of hidden secrets, twists that take the reader by surprise. It is also a story that illustrates the vulnerability of women, the devastation of HIV/Aids, and the plight of those living on the fringes of society. Corban Addison has accomplished the next to impossible, a great story that makes the reader aware.

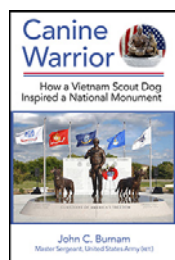


All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr is an epic tale of WWII culminating in the battle for Saint-Malo and focusing on two unusual characters. Marie Laure is the blind daughter of the keeper of the keys for the Museum of Natural History in Paris. Werner is an exceptionally bright German orphan with a natural talent for science, in particular radios (a very helpful trait during wartime). Marie Laure's father constructs a model city of their neighborhood, every storm drain, doorway, and tree represented, to help his daughter feel her surroundings. Rumors of war become reality, German soldiers taking over France. Marie Laure and her father make a perilous journey, retreating to the home of their uncle in Saint-Malo. Werner and his sister Jutta grow up in an orphanage. Werner's ability to fix just about everything electronic, and his amazing ability with radios, soon comes to the attention of the German hierarchy, earning him a place in a prestigious school. Werner wants only to learn, to do something important with that knowledge, to be more than a poor orphan. He is seduced by the rare opportunity of attending the academy.

As he tries to fit in, he finds himself a party to actions beyond his control that taint his soul. His sister Jutta is an early dissenter of the Third Reich. She listens to forbidden radio programs, learns of the atrocities being committed, and is appalled. Werner and Marie Laure's stories will converge in a way neither could have anticipated. I liked the way the story is told through the view of these two main protagonists. Werner is a likeable kid, bright and eager. The way the Nazi regime subsumes his good nature, is chilling. Marie Laure is an intrepid girl, forced by circumstances to bravery. This is an innovative, thought provoking, deeply moving way to tell the story of WWII.



The Last Kind Words Saloon by Larry McMurtry is historical fiction set in the West when men with fast guns rode the plains. McMurtry is known for his clever repartee, he doesn't stint on the snappy dialogue. The main characters are Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, icons of the west. McMurtry brings back some of his favorite characters from earlier books, Charlie Goodnight from **Comanche Moon** and Nellie Courtright from **Telegraph Days**. Wild Bill Hitchcock gets in on the action too. The story begins in Long Grass Texas and ambles across the west culminating in the famous gunfight at the OK Corral in Tombstone Arizona. Along the way McMurtry keeps the story entertaining. Someone really should have advised Lord Ernie, an English Baron with a hankering to be a cattle rancher, about the benefits of knowing the terrain before riding hell-bent, it would have come in handy. If you have an interest in Doc Holliday, do not miss Mary Doria Russell's more nuanced (and probably more factual) **Doc**. It starts in the famous gunfighter's childhood in Georgia and follows as he vainly tries to outrun the consumption that would take his life. The OK Corral is not the focus, it is more the story of a Southern boy forced into a lifestyle and territory alien to his upbringing.



Canine Warrior: How a Vietnam Scout Dog Inspired a National Monument by John Burnam. Books about dogs in war are popular now. A dog went in with the Navy Seals to kill Osama Bin Laden. Dogs help clear the mine fields in Afghanistan, patrol in Iraq, and risk danger right along with their soldiers. We carry many of the titles, and I am conflicted about them. On the one hand I feel the canines deserve this recognition, on the other I do not want to romanticize what they go through. These dogs face dangers, they die, are hurt, and worst of all, in the case of Vietnam were left behind as equipment by a fleeing US military and an unfeeling government. Thanks to President William Jefferson Clinton that should not happen again. He re-classified dogs, after all they are living, feeling beings, with no comparison to a jeep or a tent! Burnam gives a more complete focus on what the dogs endured and a tribute to their unflinching courage, loyalty, and intelligence. Burnam served two tours in Vietnam.

This is the story of dogs, especially Timber and Clipper, of the experiences of John as a young soldier in Vietnam, and of John Burnam's passion to honor the canine soldiers, lobbying Congress and pleading their case for a national monument recognizing the sacrifices and service of the U.S. Military Working Dogs. The monument now stands at Lackland Air Force Base, near San Antonio Texas where the military dogs are trained. The US Government pulled out of Vietnam leaving behind the dogs who walked beside the soldiers into the jungles, risking their lives to save the lives of the troops. Their shameful fate merits disclosure. Their valor merits remembrance. Dogs who served in WWII were given discharge papers and could be adopted by their handlers, released to enjoy well-earned peaceful days after their time on the battlefield. By Vietnam they had been re-classified as equipment. Thankfully they once again can be adopted after service and are no longer considered equipment. John Burnam retired as a master sergeant in 1983. His many honors include The Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart along with many other commendations and medals.

Staff Recommendations.

Recently released in paperback.

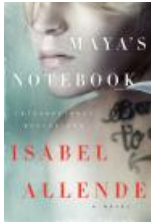
Deon recommends.



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



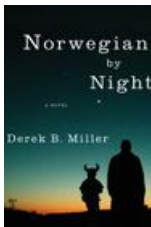
The Edge of the Earth by Christina Schwarz. Trudy had a sheltered and loving childhood in Wisconsin, her life planned out for her from an early age. She would finish college then marry her childhood sweetheart Ernst. As the date for graduation nears she feels stifled, longing for something different makes her vulnerable to Ernst's cousin Oskar. She abandons her pre-ordained, safe life for adventure with Oskar. Trudy is hopelessly young, sheltered and naïve. Life with Oskar will be different than her placid childhood, but perhaps not in the way she imagined. They move across country to work as the assistant lighthouse keeper in remote Point Lucia. The landscape is wild, untamable, and forbidding, the lighthouse perched on a rock above the turbulent sea with mountains to the back cutting them off from everyone. In this lonely place Trudy comes of age. Haunting and beautifully told, it is the story of a woman living a very different sort of life set in the rugged beauty of the Big Sur coastline.



Maya's Notebook by Isabel Allende. 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.



Sisterland by Curtis Sittenfeld. What would you do if you felt fairly certain a natural disaster was imminent and you knew because of an intuition? Vi and Kate are twins, possessing a sensitivity to phenomena lacking in most. They have been odd since childhood. Kate suppressed her gift (or curse) to lead a normal life as a wife and mother. Vi lives on the outskirts, the edgy bits of society, earning her keep as a medium, channeling the questions and desires of others. When Vi sense an approaching cataclysmic event, her actions have profound effects on both sisters. This is a very readable, entertaining, and thought provoking story. It makes you think about how you would use or ignore these insights. What responsibility would you bear for the consequences? It is also an intimate study of two sisters, their relationship to each other and how these twins chose very separate paths.



Norwegian by Night by Derek Miller is a grand book! Sheldon Horowitz is in his 80's, bereft over the death of his wife, burdened by guilt over his son's death in Vietnam, and weighed down by the memories of his service during the Korean War. Hope of some sort of future comes with the news his adored granddaughter Rhea is pregnant, a new generation to carry on the family. Rhea is sure Sheldon is in the beginning stages of dementia. Reluctant to leave her grandfather alone in New York City, she persuades him to move to Norway to live with her. Lars, Rhea's husband, is kind, solicitous, and willing to share their flat with the curmudgeonly old widower. Norway is a whole new world for Sheldon; he does not find any common community, there are only about a thousand Jews in the whole country. The placid, easy going Norwegians are a puzzle. Any hope of a relaxed entry into Norwegian life is shattered when Sheldon gives refuge to their Balkan neighbor and her young son, hiding from a violent man. Norway is relatively crime free, in general, but in this specific flat things are going to get way out of control leaving behind a dead woman and an octogenarian New York Jew on the lam with a traumatized, silent young child dressed as a Jewish Viking. Segrid, the police officer in charge, finds herself matching wits with the surprisingly resourceful Sheldon and the Serbian thug who will surely do him harm in a mad dash across Norway. I liked these characters, Sheldon and Sigrid, as they each used all of their wiles.



Fin & Lady by Cathleen Schine. Fin is a charmer. The bright eleven year old boy's life changes when his mother dies consigning him to the care of his older half-sister Lady. Fin leaves behind the bucolic Connecticut countryside and his mother's dairy farm with the sweet cows. Fin along with his loyal dog Gus head to New York City with Lady in her Karmann Ghia, driving fast, Lady's only speed. Lady is a bright and shining creature, shy of commitment, full of boundless enthusiasms; she is way ahead of her time in 1964 and totally clueless as to how to raise a young boy. Fin's only prior exposure to Lady was six years earlier when Lady left her fiancé standing at the altar and escaped to Capri. Their father followed to bring his erstwhile daughter back to the USA, accompanied by Fin and his mother. Fin was instantly smitten with this magical creature who could defy their formidable father. Lady might be older, but it soon becomes clear that Fin is the protector of his spirited sister, a woman beset by unsuitable suitors and prone to impetuous actions. A lot of history takes place over the course of the story; the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War. Set in Greenwich Village New York and on mystical isle of Capri, the places become like characters too. This is a delightful story, about the bonds between a brother and a sister.



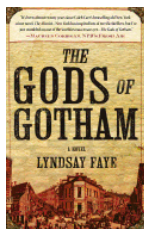
Guests on Earth by Lee Smith. Evalina Toussaint's mother lived by the kindness of men, an unstable sort of life that ended too soon. Mr. Graves tries to do right by the 13 year old child of his mistress, bringing her into his family; it is an attempt that fails. Evalina is sent to the Highland Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina where Dr. Robert Carroll is trying a new brand of therapy on the mentally ill; exercise, walks outdoors, gardening, music, art to keep them active and involved. Evalina's musical talents are encouraged, she flourishes. Notorious Zelda Fitzgerald, wife of the famous author, F. Scott Fitzgerald, is one of the fellow residents. The two form a friendship that is strengthened over the years as circumstances return them to the Highland Hospital until that fateful night in 1948 when a fire will claim the life of Zelda and 8 other patients.

May 2014 Book Clubs.

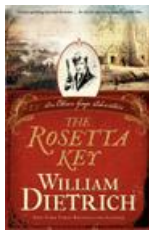
Book Clubs are a great way to connect with other passionate readers in the community. May is the perfect time to pick up a book, sit yourself down in a deck chair, and enjoy all this glorious sunshine! Book clubs meet at 6:30 on Mondays. Everyone is welcome and light refreshments are served.



May 5th the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses ***My Beloved World*** by Sonia Sotomayor. In the long history of the US Supreme Court she is only the third woman to have served and the first Latina. Her story is an inspiration, a truly amazing rise from poverty to a seat on the bench of the highest court in the land. Sotomayor grew up in a Bronx housing project, her father was an alcoholic who would die by her ninth year. Afflicted with juvenile diabetes, she learned to give herself insulin injections. This was a child surrounded by people playing out a low hand in the card game of life, no role models of successful people to copy. What she saw day in and day out was the struggle of those in poverty, without a safety net for the bad times their lot inevitably entailed. Despite her lack of resources, this little girl determined to be a lawyer. Through hard work and intelligence, she made it to Princeton, then Yale Law School. She spent time in the New York County District Attorney's office and was appointed to the Federal District Court before the age of forty. In 2009 Sotomayor was appointed to the US Supreme Court, an incredible and inspiring journey from her humble beginnings. Sotomayor shares this story with her reader, laying bare her life-story with openness heretofore unknown in Supreme Court Justices. As an odd aside we have a variety of people shop in the bookstore. A few have met or personally known Justice Sotomayor and are united in describing her as a truly nice, caring person. So not just driven, also very kind.



May 12th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Gods of Gotham*** by Lyndsay Faye, a rip roaring good story. It is 1845, New York is just starting its first police department, the Irish potato famine is dumping thousands of poor, starving refugees on the overwhelmed city, and a blazing inferno is about to change Timothy Wilde's life for the second time. Orphaned in a fire as a child, history has repeated and again fire leaves him homeless, without funds, and scarred. With few options Timothy accepts the job his brother engineers for him in the police force. Returning to his new apartment one night a little girl wearing a night gown covered in blood runs smack into him. He takes the terrified child in to be comforted by his landlady. Making the frightened little girl talk quickly gains importance when a little boy is found dead. She tells of a brothel where child prostitutes go missing when a hooded man comes in the night. She tells of a grave that holds dozens of throw away children. Timothy is new at policing and not at all sure it is a good fit, but he knows these children deserve justice and he is willing to put everything on the line for them. Brilliant writing and it is a real page turner to boot. If you like historical fiction, this one rocks.



May 26th the Fiction Book Club has the real pleasure of an author led discussion. William Dietrich is very kindly leading a discussion of ***The Rosetta Key***, the second in his entertaining historic fiction series featuring Ethan Gage. It is 1799, Napoleon Bonaparte is marching across the Middle East to confront history and gain power. Ethan has his own reasons for being in the region. When last he laid eyes on the beautiful Astiza she was falling from a balloon into the Nile. Uncertain if she survived, Ethan knows she was searching for an ancient scroll rumored to be in the Holy Land, Jerusalem seems an apt place to seek her. Napoleon is not a man you want to make an enemy. In the last book, Ethan managed to get on the wrong side of Bonaparte, a dangerous place to be. Of course Ethan will get into trouble!



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

June 2nd 2014 ***The Poet*** by Michael Connelly [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
 June 19th 2014 ***The Delectable Mountains*** by Michael Malone [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
 June 16th 2014 ***Nothing Daunted*** by Dorothy Wickenden [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)
 June 23rd 2014 ***Plainsong*** by Kent Haruf [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Colorado](#)

July 14th 2014 ***The Count of Monte Cristo*** by Alexandre Dumas [Fiction Book Club](#)
 July 21st 2014 ***The Black Count*** by Tom Reiss [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
 July 28th 2014 ***The Case of the Missing Servant*** by Tarquin Hall [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 11th 2014 ***The Execution of Noa P. Singleton*** by Elizabeth Silver [Mystery Book Club](#)
 August 18th 2014 ***Beloved*** by Toni Morrison [Fiction Book Club](#)

9-1-14 ***The Sunday Philosophy Club*** by Alexander McCall Smith [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
 September 8th 2014 ***Letters From Skye*** by Jessica Brockmole [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
 September 15th 2014 ***Kidnapped*** by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)
 September 22nd ***A Journey To The Western Islands of Scotland and the Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides*** by Samuel Johnson and James Boswell [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Scotland](#)

October 6th 2014 ***Zorro*** by Isabel Allende [Fiction Book Club](#) [Banned Book Selection](#)
 October 13th 2014 ***The Light In The Ruins*** by Chris Bohjalian [Mystery Book Club](#)
 October 20th 2014 ***Midnight's Children*** by Salman Rushdie [Classics Book Club](#)

November 3rd, 2014 ***Black Betty*** by Walter Mosley [Mystery Book Club](#)
 November 10th 2014 ***In The Time Of Butterflies*** by Julia Alvarez [Fiction Book Club](#)
 November 17th 2014 ***Behind The Beautiful Forevers*** by Katherine Boo [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December 8th 2014 ***Spirit of Steamboat*** by Craig Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#) and [Fiction Book Club](#)
 December 15th 2014 ***A Christmas Carol*** by Charles Dickens [Fiction Book Club](#) and [Classics Book Club](#)

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

