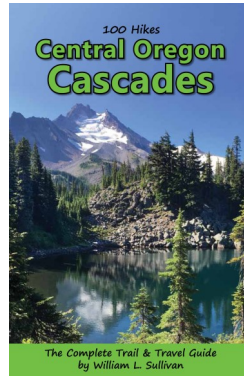




Sunriver Books & Music

May Newsletter

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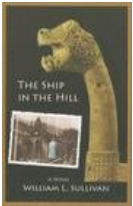
William Sullivan's slide show presentations are always well attended, they show the gob-smacking, glorious beauty of Oregon's wild places. May 13 at 5 PM Sullivan presents **New Hikes In the Central Oregon Cascades**. Space is limited, register to attend by emailing sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com, please include the names of attendees and contact information. There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes.

Central Oregon is filled with natural beauty. Sullivan not only writes excellent guide books, he is also a talented photographer, his slide shows are exquisite. **100 Hikes In The Central Oregon Cascades** is being updated, including information on fire damaged hikes and alternatives to hikes requiring permits. There are new or altered hikes between Bend and Eugene, also in the Sisters area.

Oregon is a state with a vast array of environments, from desert to forest, ocean to snow topped mountain. It is filled with hikes, from difficult multi day back packs to the easy stroll on a sunny day. Sullivan has hiked every trail in the state. He knows the landscape intimately, his roots in Oregon are deep. He is a fifth generation Oregonian with an interest in the state's history, a passion for wilderness, and a keen desire to preserve its natural beauty. He knows all about the flora and fauna, the places to be for the best spring blooms.

Attend one of William Sullivan's slide shows and you will want to lace up your hiking books to boogie on down the trail! Happy hiking!

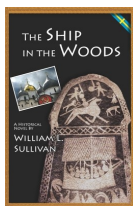
William Sullivan is also an author of memoir, history, and fiction. I want to share with you a bit of his fiction. He has a series about Norway that blends history and fantasy with a strong female lead.



Ship in the Hill is a sprightly 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. In the 800's Queen Asa of Agthur is a beautiful woman, whose father had the choice of many suitors. King Harald of Granraude selected Erik of Horthaland for his daughter, rejecting Guthroth the Viking King. Rejecting Vikings is dangerous; they do not take it well. Guthroth kills Asa's family, sails her to his island home and forces her to be his bride. Queen Asa swears revenge. Her saga is full of drama: elaborate dragon boats, battles, love stories, betrayal, and the ambitious campaign to unite a country. In 1904 Dr. Kirstin Williams is involved in the discovery of the Burial mound of the Dragon Longboat holding the skeletons of two women; there is no precedent for a woman buried in such a massive longboat.



The Ship in the Sand is a fascinating historic fiction. In 958 Lifu lives in interesting times. Christianity is spreading, taking people away from the old ways. Lifu serves Queen Thyra, then her son, King Harald, a Viking who would unite Denmark and challenge England. Sullivan mixes Norse legend with the story of how a woman, Lifu, and a thoughtful King made history. The times were rife with conflict between beliefs and kingdoms. Sullivan brings them to life with characters, both real and fictional, that are instrumental in changing the times. In 1940 in Jelling, Denmark, Matte is a respected archeologist involved in important work. She is engaged to Julius, a handsome, kind young man. A bright future lay before her. Then Nazis roll into Denmark and Hitler has taken an interest in her work. Julius is Jewish, even in Denmark it is no longer safe for him or his family. Sullivan inserts all sorts of great characters from history and clever details. This is a book that will entertain you while imparting some interesting facts from the past. Matte's parents were main characters in Sullivan's earlier book, **Ship in the Hill**. I enjoyed spending time with these well drawn characters, reading about their eras, and think you will too.



Ship in the Woods is my favorite of this excellent trilogy. The characters felt so real, I enjoyed their company and was drawn into the perilous times they faced. The spread of history, as in the earlier two books, is vast. Groa seeks truth and justice, but is often involved through the machinations of history in violent conflict and subterfuge. Throughout she is a woman who is aware of her power and responsibility. Though of humble status, she becomes important in the Swedish Viking's siege of Constantinople. Not an easy target. Groa is worried that an ancient evil may be beyond her ability to control. In the 1960's Matte is doing important work as an archaeologist involved in discovering the secrets of an ancient ship, while raising a beautiful daughter, Helen, who may be getting involved in issues beyond her understanding. When Helen is invited to a dig in Russia, Matte reluctantly allows the teenager to go, unleashing a series of events neither woman anticipated. There is lots of history, the tension of world events and the effect of those events on people.

Sullivan's works of fiction include clever mysteries *The Case of Einstein's Violin*, *The Case of D.B. Cooper's Parachute*, *The Case of the Reborn Bhagwan*, short stories set in every Oregon county, *Oregon Variations*, and western historical fiction, *A Deeper Wild*. He is best known for his popular series of Oregon hiking guides *Oregon Favorites: Trails and Tales* highlighted his favorite trails across the state by month. It helps keep you hiking throughout the year. *100 Hikes in Southern Oregon and Northern California*, *100 Hikes Eastern Oregon*, *100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington*, *100 Hikes Travel Guide: Oregon Coast and Coast Range*, *Hiking Oregon's History* and *Oregon Trips and Trails*, an excellent travel guide blending places to stay, campgrounds, hikes, and attractions. Sullivan definitely knows Oregon! He also writes nonfiction; *Oregon's Greatest Natural Disasters* a compilation of cataclysmic Oregon events, *Listening for Coyote* a personal memoir of a long walk across Oregon, *Little Travelers* an entertaining memoir of his family's year in Europe when their children were young, and *Cabin Fever* a memoir of building a remote cabin.



Sunriver Nature Center Event!

On May 24th, the Sunriver Nature Center celebrates one of our coolest and most handsome waterway birds: The American Birding Association's Bird of the Year: the Belted Kingfisher!

A bird with a rattling call that plunges headfirst to catch fish, which nests deep within an earthen bank, and where the female is more colorful than the male....and so much more.

Join us for a kingfisher-themed afternoon of outdoor and indoor kids' activities followed by an all-ages late afternoon walk and talk led by Marina Richie, Bend author of the award-winning book, *Halcyon Journey, In Search of the Belted Kingfisher*.

Marina Richie's book will be on sale at the Nature Center gift store and our local Sunriver Books and Music <https://www.sunriverbooks.com/>.

Really excited about this fun-filled Kingfisher day! Here is the schedule of events:

2:00-3:30: a kid-friendly walk (guided by two local kids and their Mom) in kingfisher habitat around the Nature Center.

4:30- 5:30: an all-ages walk led by Marina Richie in search of the local Belted Kingfishers.

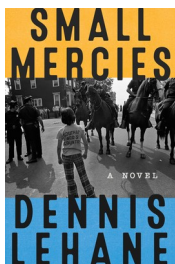
6-7pm: At the Nature Center's Education Building, Marina Richie's presentation followed by a book signing.

For more details: <https://snco.org/events/2023-05-24/>

If this link does not work, try <https://snco.org/events/month/2023-05/> and click on the 24th. Scroll to see all events.



Staff Recommendations, New Releases



Small Mercies by Dennis Lehane packs a powerful punch. Set in 1974 during the desegregation of Boston's schools, it is, sadly, every bit as relevant today.

Southie is an Irish American district, the low rent part of town where people live in housing projects, often on the same street they grew up, a tight knit community where the Irish Mob Boss, Marty Butler rules the roost. They don't take kindly to the edict on desegregation, passions run high and dangerous. The story illustrates how racism proliferates, how it is passed down from one generation to the next, how it thrives in communities that are isolated from other ways of thinking. It also shows the cost and the despair it engenders.

Mary Pat Fennessy grew up in the projects, lives just around the corner from her big sister and down the way from her childhood home. Her roots are deep in the community, when Marty wants marchers for a demonstration, she is all in. Mary Pat has lived all her life by the attitudes of her parents, her peers, and her community. She hasn't put much thought into why desegregation is bad, just that the Blacks have their neighborhood and the Irish Americans have theirs and never the twain shall meet sort of attitude. That is all about to have a wrenching change. Mary Pat is a tough woman, she had to be where she grew up. Her one vulnerability is her 17-year-old daughter Jules. As the book opens, Jules goes out on a date and does not return home. In searching for the daughter she loves more than life, she upsets powerful people, people who don't like their actions questioned, and she learns hard truths.

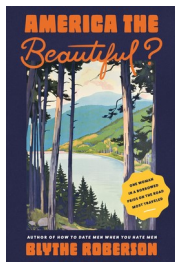
The same night Jules goes missing, a young Black man, Augustus Williamson, dies on the subway tracks. Was he murdered or was it a tragic accident? Could there be any connection between the two events?

Homicide Detective Bobby Coyne is a good cop, a good man. It is his sorry lot to discover what happened that night to Augustus Williamson, and if it is not an accident to then bring to justice those who took the life of the young man. In Southie, in 1974, that is not going to be an easy task. A dead young Black man in a white working-class neighborhood. Yet Bobby Coyne is not going to give up.

I don't understand how anyone could think the hue of their skin color could make them supreme or more worthy. It makes no sense whatsoever. The Irish Americans in South Boston so violently opposed to desegregation have more in common with the working-class Black neighborhoods than the wealthy white neighborhoods where the children go to private schools that in 1974 excluded both Black children and the poor white children. But this book goes quite a way into starting a conversation about how people felt, how they accepted norms of their tight knit community that kept them angry at the wrong people, and the cost we are all still paying as a society.

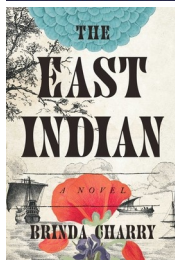
It is also an interesting story with plenty twists and turns, and for history buffs it is a step back in time that shines a light on today.

Staff Recommendations, New Releases.



America the Beautiful by Blythe Roberson is the story of Blythe's excellent adventure. The US has an array of jaw droppingly beautiful National Parks! People often go on a quest to visit them all, occasionally writing about the experience. Usually, those narratives are from couples or white males.

Blythe quit her job, thus no income, and with limited funds set out in a Prius she borrowed from her Step-Dad intending to camp and see as many of the National Parks as she could pack in without running out of funds. The result is a memoir from a feisty young single woman, with a salty vocabulary, and a talent for succinctly capturing the moment. It is a funny, inspiring quick look at some of the treasures in our National Parks.



The East Indian by Brinda Charry. Tony was born in East India to a mother he adored, when she perished, he was left with an uncertain future. Not that it was all that certain beforehand either, as her income was derived from her gentlemen callers. What Tony was bequeathed from his youth, was an ability to speak English. His mother's last patron was an Englishman involved with the East India Company.

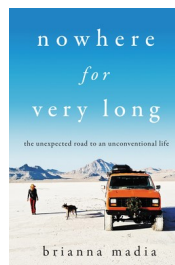
Tony made his way to London where he was shanghaied on to America landing in Jamestown, Virginia in 1635. An ability to speak English was a boon. From labor on a tobacco plantation he dreams of a brighter future, of using a knowledge of herbs and healing to help people. Tony is inspired by a real historic figure, and is a sympathetic and entertaining character. Tony is possessed of an inquiring mind, he has many adventures leading a full and fascinating life. Humor and history blend for an excellent story and enjoyable reading.



The Half Moon by Mary Beth Keane, a master at crafting complex characters that make the reader care about what happens in their lives. Malcolm is a happy go lucky kind of guy, good looking and friendly, his ambition is to own a bar where the community can congregate to enjoy a little companionship and conversation. His wife, Jess, is a lawyer. They live in their home town, and seemed to have a pretty good life.

Except they have not been successful at conceiving a child, and as the story opens Jess has left that good life, gone off to stay with an old friend. A blizzard has engulfed the area, making it difficult to get around, as a solitary Malcolm makes his way to his bar where he tries to act as if nothing is awry. Then one of the bar's customers goes missing, and life is about to change. The story follows Malcolm and Jess as they learn more about who they really are and face the challenge of how they will navigate the future.

Now Available in Paperback.



Nowhere for Very Long by Brianna Madia is a memoir with a bit of something for everyone; choosing a lifestyle based on personal passions rather than societal norms, reverence for the out of doors, openness about a childhood marred by her parents' divorce, the failure of her own marriage, adventure travel and the bond she shares with her dogs.

She tells of her devastation as a child over her parent's divorce, going quickly from a middle-class childhood in an upscale neighborhood with two loving parents, to the child being raised by a single mother while her father had drug and reliability issues. She marries a man she has known most of her life. They both had a fierce love of the outdoors and a passion for adventure. Moving from the East Coast, they settled in Utah with all of its high desert and canyon lands it was an ideal environment.

At first, they purchased the van as a weekend getaway vehicle, but the siren call of the out of doors was strong, Brianna leaves her job and they move into the van full time with their two dogs, Dagwood and Bucket. The marriage dissolves after a tragedy makes it too difficult to continue

Brianna became a social media personality, documenting her single travels and adventures on Instagram. She is extremely open about not only the beauty and freedom of her lifestyle, but also the risks and deprivations. It gets cold in the van during winter, bitter cold. She travels to places where no help would be forthcoming in case of emergency.

There is a Bend Oregon connection. When Brianna desperately needs help, she finds it here with the excellent people at Bend Animal Emergency and Bend Veterinary Specialists. Two of my heroes, Dr. Sue Dougherty and Dr. Mark Parchman were involved as the emergency team worked hard to do the almost impossible.

This is an account of a woman choosing to live on her own terms, living a life of adventure with her dogs by her side. It is also an account of a love of the canyon lands and high desert, a joy in the awesome beauty of the land.



Razzmatazz by Christopher Moore. Sometimes you just want a book that is funny, and maybe a bit outrageous. Christopher Moore is all over that genre. ***Razzmatazz*** brings back Sammy Two Toes, his gal Stilton, best buddy Eddie "Moo Shoes" Shu, and the gang. 1947 San Francisco is the perfect place to set a noir story run amok.

Captain James Dunne has taken over San Francisco's Vice Squad and is intent on shutting down Jimmy's Joynt, owned by Sammy's pal Jimmy Vasco. Dunne is waging war against women loving women, Jimmy's Joynt is all about the gals. Jimmy would like Sammy to make Dunne go away. Permanently. Something Sammy is ill equipped to accomplish. When some of Jimmy's people are murdered, the pressure is on for Sammy to do something.

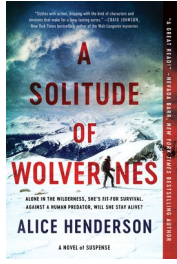
Eddie's uncle Ho is in a spot of bother about a missing relic, a dragon statue prized by the tongs. He is willing to pay Eddie and Sammy a sizeable chunk of change to retrieve the statue.

Meanwhile Stilton is up to something on the qt. Sammy doesn't know what, but it is making him uneasy.

And then, of course, things seriously get out of control!

May 2023 Book Clubs

Book Clubs are a great way to meet other passionate readers! May brings milder weather for trail walks during the day then relaxing in the evening with a good book. Everyone is welcome at our Book Clubs, at Sunriver Books & Music we believe in inclusion not exclusion! Book Clubs meet on Mondays via Zoom at 6 PM and in person at 4:30, To attend a Book Club discussion, email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com Discussion notes are sent the weekend before the discussion. More information is at sunriverbooks.com.

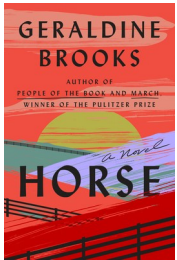


May 1 at 6PM via Zoom & May 8 at 4:30 in person, Mystery Book Club discusses ***A Solitude of Wolverines*** by Alice Henderson. It starts off with a bang! Alex Carter is attending a ceremony dedicating a bit of wetlands to be a wildlife sanctuary, she donated her abilities as a wildlife biologist to Save Our Wetlands Now and completed an environmental impact statement scuttling plans for a condo development. Not everyone is pleased by the outcome, the ceremony erupts in violence.

Alex followed her college sweetheart to Boston where he joined a law firm and thrived, not so much their relationship or Alex's career. Boston is a cool city, but Alex yearns for wild places. Shocked by the events of the day, her relationship in tatters, she quickly accepts an offer to study wolverines in Montana on the site of an old skiing resort. She leaves immediately for a remote lodge where she will spend the winter theoretically alone.

It is indeed a lonely remote location, the old ski resort huge and in disrepair. Alex will have encounters with a variety of Montana's wildlife. It is not the animals, but the human predators that are dangerous, and their prey is Alex. You really get a feel for the grandeur and loneliness of Montana, one of the world's most beautiful places.

This is the first book in a fun series. If you enjoy mysteries and the wilderness, this puts them together and has plenty of both! A thoroughly enjoyable read.



May 15 at 6 PM via Zoom and May 22 at 4:30 PM in person, Fiction Book Club discusses ***Horse*** by Geraldine Brooks. If you love history or horses, this is just the ticket! Set in three eras, it tells the story of a black groom, a remarkable stallion, Lexington, and a gifted artist.

Tom Scott paints beautiful portraits of race horses. Jarret's father, Harry, was renowned for his prowess in training horses to run. So successful, he was able to save the money and purchase his freedom. He taught his son the ways best to treat a horse. Jarret forges a bond with a young foal, a bond that takes the horse to glory on the race track. But the times are a changing, a Civil War will tear the nation asunder with shocking brutality putting Jarret and Lexington in grave danger.

In 1954 Martha Jackson runs a New York gallery known for promoting modern inventive artists. Nonetheless she is captivated by an old painting of a horse.

Jess has been obsessed about skeletons since she was a little girl in Australia. She came to America for college, and stayed for a job at the Smithsonian. By 2019 she is managing a department, doing the work she loves. Theo is a graduate student at Georgetown University studying American Art History. He makes ends meet by sitting in his apartment writing magazine articles, kept company by his dog, Clancy, (an adorable Kelpie). The skeleton of a stallion will bring them together and lead them to the history of Black horsemen in America.

I loved reading about young Jarret staying the night in the stable to watch over the newborn foal. And Lexington, well Lexington was truly a special stallion. At its heart this is a story about the way people are treated based not on the content of their character but the color of their skin. In this book you will meet people whose character absolutely shines. Nonetheless, it is dangerous to be breathing while black in America. Geraldine Brooks succeeds beautifully with a story that embraces art, history, grand horses, and the quiet dignity of people of color whose merits far outshine their persecutors. Lexington, Tom Scott, and Martha Jackson are all real historic characters.

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

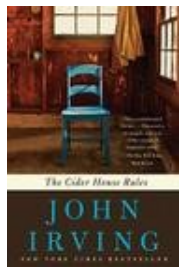
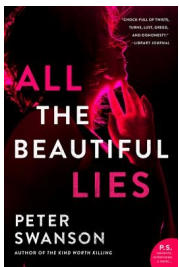
Everyone is welcome, Meetings are held in person at 4:30 & via Zoom at 6 PM on Mondays.

June

June 5 via Zoom and June 12 in person, ***All the Beautiful Lies*** by Peter Swanson Mystery Book Club **A**
Month of Maine

June 19 via Zoom and June 26 in person, ***The Cider House Rules*** by John Irving Fiction Book Club **A**
Month of Maine

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



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