



Sunriver Books & Music

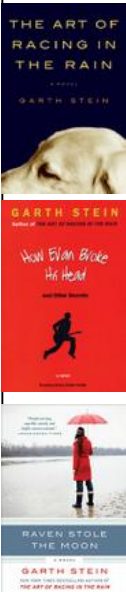
November 2010 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



Thank You Garth Stein!

Sunriver Goes Wild For Garth Stein!



The Art of Racing in the Rain is making the New York Times Best Sellers List its home. A movie will begin shooting early in 2011 with Patrick Dempsey playing Denny. Garth Stein does not need to tour little bookstores like Sunriver Books & Music, it is part of his charm that he does it anyway. Garth remembers the Independent Book Stores that recognized his talent and supported him from the beginning. He has not forgotten us, he promises never to come to Central Oregon without a stop at Sunriver Books & Music. It is no wonder that Independent Bookstores like ours are devoted to him! Garth starred in a fundraiser benefiting the Sunriver Nature Center & Observatory. He wowed a crowd of 160 on October 9th with readings from all 3 of his books raising \$1,822. We want to thank Mavericks for donating their gorgeous space. And thank you to Carolyn Barr, Sue Halvorsen, and Sandy Landis for setting up, selling tickets, and helping to make this a success.

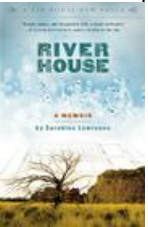


We have signed copies of ***The Art of Racing In The Rain, How Even Broke His Head & Other Secrets, & Raven Stole the Moon.***

Author Events!



Saturday November 6th at 5:00 PM we have the great pleasure of presenting one of Central Oregon's own. Sarahlee Lawrence will give a presentation on ***River House***, her luminous memoir. Sarahlee is a remarkable young woman, if this is what the future holds we can stop worrying, the next generation is going to do just fine. She has packed a lot of living in already and she is still going strong. There is something for everyone in ***River House***. It is the story of young woman raised on a ranch in Terrebonne. It is the story of a woman willing to match wits with some of the wildest rivers in the world. River rats should love this book! She had me on the edge of my seat reading the first chapter about running a river on the border of Bolivia and Peru where the rapids are called *los monstros*. It is the story of a woman who found home in the wide open spaces of Central Oregon, a place where her heart told her she belonged. It is the story of a family, a daughter who left to find her dream running wild, white water, a mother who worked hard to keep her family together, and a father who mourned the passing of his youth, who yearned for the big waves he surfed as a young man. It is the story of a father and daughter coming to terms with themselves and each other, finding middle ground. These are people who care fiercely, who are willing to take chances. If you enjoy reading about people who put themselves on the line, test their resolve, and build a good life, you will find this book inspiring. Like I said, Sarahlee Lawrence has packed in a lot of living.



Sarahlee Lawrence is a woman who likes to make a difference. She is involved with the Slow Food movement and will travel to Italy soon for a conference. On her farm she grows certified organic vegetables right here in Central Oregon. The CSA program allows people within a certain radius of her farm to

have fresh, healthy, organic vegetables delivered weekly. At a book event in Bend we were served some of her fresh veggies, I did not believe we grew anything tasting so good right here in the USA! And when she isn't farming she is still out on that wild water. She guides expeditions on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

I love it! Sarahlee Lawrence lives in Central Oregon, farms organically, travels internationally as a woman farmer participating in the Slow Food movement, guides trips down tumultuous rivers, and writes inspiring books. If this is the next generation, I am delighted.

We hope you can come hear Sarahlee speak, she is bringing slides too. It should be a very interesting evening. There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes. Stop by Sunriver Books & Music, call 541-593-2525, or e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com to sign up to attend.

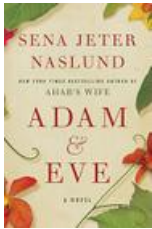
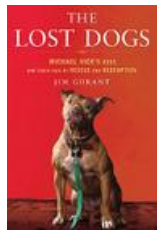
Upcoming Author Appearances

- Saturday December 18th at 5:00 PM ***The Blood of Lorraine*** by Barbara Corrado Pope
- Saturday January 15th at 5:00 PM ***To The Woods*** by Evelyn Hess
- Saturday April 16th at 5:00 PM ***The Lotus Eaters*** by Tatjana Soli
- Saturday May 14th at 5:00 PM ***A Daughter' Walk*** by Jane Kirkpatrick
- Sunday May 15th Walk With Jane Kirkpatrick (more details to follow).

We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak often clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some events. Check our newsletter or web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

[Books, Books & More Books!](#)

The Lost Dogs by Jim Gorant is ultimately an uplifting tribute to a dogs capacity for forgiveness. It also shows the capacity for cruelty that lurks in the human heart. Dante should have designed a circle of Hell just for Michael Vicks and his cohorts. He should be hurled into its darkest reaches to suffer forever; never again to emerge. This still would not make up for the harm he has caused. What he shouldn't be doing is being paid big bucks in professional sports, this pond scum is not a role model and shouldn't be rewarded for his deviant nature with a plush life. The people who rescued his dogs and gave many of them happy endings are heroes. Most of all this is the true story of the dogs. What they endured, what they overcame, and how some of them found well deserved happy endings. It amazes me that dogs are so willing to look for the good in life.



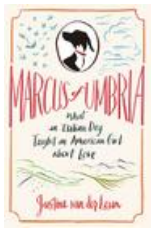
Adam & Eve by Sena Jeter Naslund is a thought provoking book. Set in the near future, the creation story is given a new twist, Lucy's husband, a brilliant scientist, is killed after proving the existence of extraterrestrial life. His discoveries could make some groups uncomfortable, could question some dearly held beliefs. Perhaps these groups are willing to murder rather than face those challenges? Lucy is grief stricken. She becomes embroiled in a plot to save ancient scrolls that give a new slant to the story of Adam & Eve. Flying the priceless artifacts to safety, her plane crashes into a modern oasis, a small Garden of Eden, complete with a handsome young Adam. He is ravaged by war, reluctant to give up the peace of their sanctuary. Lucy will help him to eat of the fruit of knowledge. But will they be in time to save the scrolls from the forces who crave their destruction?

Take Me Home by Brian Leung is rousing good historical fiction. Addie lit out of Wyoming running from secrets too painful to confront, not to mention dangerous. Forty years later she is returning to discover the truth from her past. Violence erupted when white miners attacked Chinese workers in an uncontrolled maelstrom of hatred. One woman tried to stand against them. It almost cost her life. Now she is coming back to lay the past to rest.



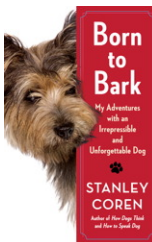
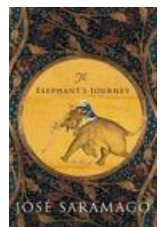
Solomon's Oak by Jo-Ann Mapson is a lovely story about the resilience of the human spirit. In the shadow of a magnificent 200 year old white oak three damaged people come together to form a family. Glory is in despair over the death of her husband. Dan was her perfect partner; he died way too young leaving her lonely and broke. She takes comfort in rescuing dogs and long rides, grief is her constant companion. Juniper talks tough, but the 14 year old is fragile inside. Thrown away and alone, one more child trying to survive the foster system, her life changes when Glory gives her a home. Joseph was a cop until things went very wrong. Recovering from his wounds, he is determined to photograph Glory's oak tree. Their stories twine as they learn to lean on each other. If you are in the mood for something heartwarming, this is your book.

The Good Psychologist by Noam Shpancer is a quiet, lovely, luminous book; a gentle treasure. The psychologist is treating a stripper afraid to strip, teaching a class where the brightest student is also the most disturbed, and trying to reconcile the needs in his private life. He has loved but perhaps not wisely. His paramour, a fellow psychologist, is married. They have a child together the psychologist has never met. As he engages his students and listens to the secrets of the anxiety ridden stripper, he begins to face the hollowness in his own life.



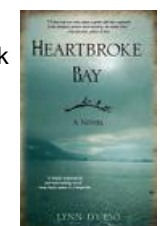
Marcus of Umbria by Justine Vander Leun is a memoir about moving to beautiful Italy. Justine abandons New York for a village in Umbria and an Italian with dark, soulful eyes. Prickly, independent, and used to her own company, Justine finds fitting into life in a small Umbrian village and a boisterous Italian family a challenge. She realizes she may have been too hasty; Emmanuele is not going to be her life's companion. As she is realizing her error, fate smiles on Justine. She meets the Italian with loving dark soulful eyes who will be the devoted companion of her days. In addition to the aforementioned gorgeous eyes, this Italian has four legs, is frightened of her shadow, runs off chasing horses all over creation and has homicidal tendencies toward the local chickens

The Elephant's Journey by Jose Saramago, winner of the Nobel Prize, is fiction inspired by a real event. King Joao III of Portugal sent the Archduke Maximilian an unorthodox gift in 1551. He sent the Elephant Solomon. Maximilian was heading from Spain to Vienna. The Elephant was in Lisbon, travel was involved. Solomon voyaged by sail and by foot, accompanied by his trusty mahout Subhro. This is a story that should not be lost to history. Along the way they encounter many adventures. Written with Saramago's wit, it is a quite a journey.

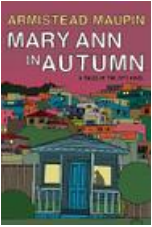
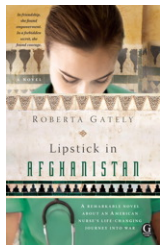


Born to Bark by Stanley Coren is a memoir about sharing his life with a mischievous terrier, a state akin to living inside a tornado. Stanley Coren has a string of well regarded books on the way dogs think. He is a respected member of academia. Yet he can be just as besotted with his canine pal as the rest of us. Flint was a Cairn Terrier, a breed full of zest. He was Stanley Coren's companion and friend for many years. The story of their life together is funny, challenging, inspiring, and a great read for those gifted with a love of dogs. I enjoyed it thoroughly.

Heartbroke Bay by Lynn D'Urso is historical fiction based on a real incident. Hannah takes a position as a lady's companion when her family falls on hard times. Lady Hamilton is a difficult, demanding woman but leaving England for a trip from New York to the Pacific was an adventure. Perhaps too much of an adventure, Hannah is charmed by Nelson. Her innocent flirtation will change her life, taking her to isolation in the cold north of Alaska. Hannah's story should not be lost, she was a strong woman. History is blended with fiction to give us a look at the gold rush days of Alaska and the greed of man.

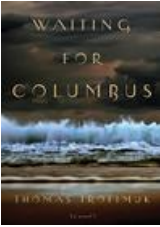
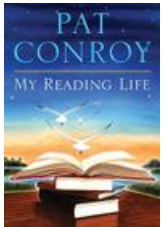


Lipstick in Afghanistan by Roberta Gately puts a human face on the suffering this poor region has endured. Elsa was inspired to try and make a difference while still a child. She grew up with the dream of working in far off lands, making a real contribution. Trained as a nurse, she volunteers to help with an aid group and is sent to Afghanistan. As she grows close to the people she becomes involved in their struggle against the tyranny of the Taliban. Her good friend, Parween, is determined to resist the oppressors. We need a lot more Elsa's and Parween's. Like her character, Roberta Gately served as a humanitarian nurse in Afghanistan, she knows this world quite well.



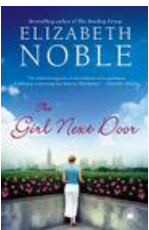
Mary Ann in Autumn by Armistead Maupin takes us back to his quirky, endearing neighborhood. Michael To-liver is all settled in with his husband Ben. They have a lovely home, a dog to walk, and good friends. Mary Ann's trajectory decades ago was out of San Francisco east to New York, a job in broadcasting and a rich Republican husband. Now she is coming back to San Francisco, to the friend she can trust. Michael will offer Mary Ann shelter in her time of need. The past has a way of intruding on the future, Mary Ann's past comes calling. Maupin's community is always fun to visit. He continues to show that your logical family is the one that matters.

My Reading Life by Pat Conroy is one of those books you do not want to miss. If you love reading, this is pure delight! Pat Conroy's sensuous, passionate prose describing the books that have touched and guided his life is a joy for anyone who finds pleasure in the written word. And what treasures wait on the page! Some of my favorite books were inspiring to Conroy. One of the greatest author's of our time talks about his reading life.



Waiting for Columbus by Thomas Trofmluk has just released in paperback. A man is found in the Strait of Gibraltar claiming to be Christopher Columbus. Taken to a mental institution, he demands a cell phone to call Queen Isabella. Clinging to his famous identity he begins to weave tails of adventure that capture the imagination of Nurse Consuela. What dark secret caused this passionate man to take on the persona of a long dead adventurer and sea Captain?

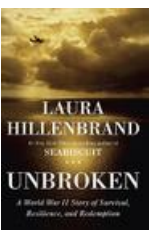
The Puzzle King by Betsy Carter has just released in paperback. Simon Phelps made sense of the world with his drawings. His mother has a tough time raising children in Eastern Europe. She scraps together enough to send 9 year old Simon to the USA.. His is to work hard, become successful, and then send for his family. The first part he achieves, but he never finds his family again. Imagine a 9 year old child in a foreign country, unable to speak the language, but determined to succeed. It was a rough start. Flora's family is middle class German. After her father's death she goes with her sister to live with an aunt and uncle in the US. Simon and Flora have a sweet romance, life is good to them. But a dark shadow is crossing Europe; Simon recognizes the face of evil. Carter based her story on relatives who rescued hundreds of Jews from Hitler's Germany.



The Girl Next Door by Elizabeth Noble has released in paperback. If you are searching for a nice feel good story, look no further. Lizzie is Brit to the core, devoted to her garden, happy with life on the home turf. David gets a promotion and a move to New York, the big time, an apartment in Manhattan. The move affects them differently, Lizzie feels shabby and out of place among the other denizens of New York. David revels in his new job. Lizzie bonds with Eve, another expat living in the building, and slowly the older woman reveals her secrets. The building is populated with an array of interesting personalities, all facing personal crisis. This is a perfect book for the holiday season!

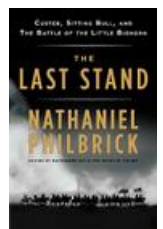
Rich's Non Fiction Recommendations.

Hellhound On His Trail by Hampton Sides. What strikes you most about James Earl Ray is how he is mostly witless with bursts of craftiness in between. Living his life as a drifting loser, he was always trying to latch onto something that would make him somebody other than a drifter leading a sleazy life. His life would intersect with the assassination of Martin Luther King in the most mundane of ways; in the right place at the right time. Sides dispels the conspiracy theorist's idea that Ray was a pawn in a game much larger than himself. He was intellectually incapable of planning such an elaborate plot to be in Memphis at that exact time to carry out the assassination. The manhunt that ensued is described in detail both for its look at J. Edgar Hoover and the mundane circumstances of James Earl Ray's capture.



Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand brings us the extraordinary story of Louis Zamperini whose life spanned everything from juvenile delinquent, world class athlete, WWII airman, plane crash survivor and POW and an inspirational survivor of some of the most brutal treatment that would defeat most people. What was it that allowed Louis Zamperini to survive 47 days at sea with virtually nothing to eat or drink, testing the limits of endurance only to be captured and thrust into an even worse situation as a POW? Not only did Zamperini survive his captivity, he faced extreme brutality with defiance and rebellion using his wily ways from his youth to outwit and survive everything the Japanese could inflict on him and his fellow POWs. Hillenbrand uses the same attention to detail in her vast research on the subject of maritime survival that she used in her brilliant book **Seabiscuit**.

The Last Stand by Nathaniel Philbrick. Americans were celebrating the nation's centennial on July 4th 1876 when word came of the crushing defeat of Custer and his command at the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Custer was made famous by his self promotion and acclaim as a fierce Indian fighter and Civil War Veteran. Manifest Destiny was to collide with the Lakota tribe's refusal to move out of the way of settlers, prospectors and the US Army stealing their lands. Philbrick shows that Custer, Chief Sitting Bull and others involved in the battles were more than one-dimensional mythical characters deposited in movies and novels. He shows them with all their foibles and contradictions. This is a well written tribute to what would prove to be the tragic end for both sides.

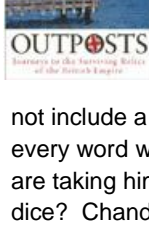


November 2010 Book Clubs

November 1st the Mystery Book Club discusses Steig Larsson's *The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest*, the 3rd in the Millennium Trilogy. These are the big books of the year! They are worldwide best sellers with movies going gang busters in Europe and the US is in production with films. Steig Larsson did not live to reap the rewards of his mega-selling hits, but his legacy lives on in the action packed tomes. Lisbeth Salander is one of literature's most dynamic characters. She rockets through the 3 books, and she does not deal gently with the bad guys. Mikael Blomkvist, the other main character, is a journalist bent on exposing the bullies who prey on the unprotected. He has a lot in common with his creator, Steig Larsson. We will discuss the 3rd book in the series, it is best to read all 3. The story opens with Lisbeth in trouble; she must accept help from Mikael and reveal the secrets of her past.



Monday November 8th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses *Outposts* by Simon Winchester. In the past it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire. Time has left it much diminished. Winchester was curious about what remains. He traveled 100,000 miles to find out, visiting the last remnants of the world's previous super power. This is an interesting, often amusing, tale that covers a lot of territory.

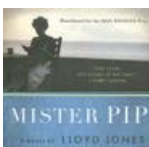


Monday November 15th the Fiction Book Club discusses *You Or Someone Like You* by Chandler Burr. Chandler ventures into forbidden ground with this provocative story. Ann and Howard have an excellent marriage, an oddity for their Hollywood group, until Howard begins to pull away, struggling to recapture his Jewish roots. These roots do not include a gentile wife. Ann's only way of reaching Howard as he leaves her is through weekly book club meetings. She knows every word will make its way to Howard's ear. She has a battle on her hands to save her marriage. Howard's religious advisers are taking him away from her. Is it wrong for a religion or ethnic group to avoid marrying outside their group? What is prejudice? Chandler will make you uncomfortable as these questions are raised, it made me uncomfortable. They feel like forbidden territory. Ann's book club discussions are delightful, full of references to some of my favorite books. The writing is excellent and the subject matter thought provoking.



November 22nd the Non Fiction Book Club discusses *Cheap* by Ellen Ruppel Shell. America is obsessed with buying cheap, the lower the price the better. Never mind if the jobs must go overseas and the workers endure low pay in grinding poverty, we got it cheap! But did we really? Or is there a hidden cost to buying cheap? Imagine a cute little town, housing within walking distance, parks in the city, neat old buildings, that sort of place. Now let's plunk down a Walmart. It isn't going to locate downtown, nope, nor is it going to be cute. The style will be tilt up panel concrete and the size big, located on whatever main thoroughfare leads into or out of town. It may manage to get tax incentives because of all the jobs it provides. Or does it really? So the Walmart locates out on the edge of town, the prices are heap cheap, and they hire a bunch of people at minimum wage. Now the residents of the cute little town start driving to Walmart where prices are low, but you can only use so much Kleenex. So the shops in the old town that used to provide this merchandise fail. They were all using local printers, accountants, attorneys, and so forth. Middle class jobs start to go as more shops in the old town close. Pretty soon that cute town has a bunch of empty store fronts, out of work middle class workers, and it is looking grim. As the town goes to seed, the value of the surrounding houses lower. In the end, was it really cheap? Or were there hidden costs? The Buy Local movement has goals I find laudable. I don't want every town to look the same, all the same franchise businesses and big box stores. I want diversity and local businesses. Charleston South Carolina should not resemble Seattle! This dedication to buying cheap is robbing us of our regional and cultural diversity. Buying local supports the community. And those are just a few of the ideas examined in this book.

November 29th the Classics Book Club discusses *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller. The insanity of war is on full display. Yossarian figures he is tempting fate, by flying way to many missions, if he keeps flying his number will be up. He wants to save his hide, but the Colonel keeps upping the missions pilots must fly. Bad news for Yossarian's survival plans. The only way out might be to be declared insane. You can't fly if you are insane. But if you want to stop flying you have to be sane, because it would be insane to want to fly. Is this starting to make sense? Well war and the adjective sensible are not good friends.



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

December 6th 2010 *Tin Roof Blowdown* by James Lee Burke [Mystery Book Club](#)

December 13th 2010 *Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

December 20th 2010 *Baking Cakes in Kigali* by Gaile Parkin [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 3rd 2011 *The Last Dickens* by Mathew Pearl [Dickens Month](#) [Mystery Book Club](#)

January 11th 2011 *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens [Dickens Month](#) [Classics](#)

January 17th 2011 *Mister Pip* by Lloyd Jones [Dickens Month](#) [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 24th 2011 *A People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

January 31st 2011 *Skeptical Romancer* by W. Somerset Maugham [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

February 7th 2011 *Pale Kings & Horsemen* by Robert Parker [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 14th 2011 *Love in the Time of Cholera* by Gabriel Garcia Marquez [Classics](#)

Monday Feb 21st at 6:30 PM an author led discussion of *Seeing Stars* by Diane Hammond [Fiction Book Club](#)

Monday February 28th 2011 *The Big Burn* by Timothy Egan [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

Monday 6:30 April 25th *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo [Classics](#)

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

