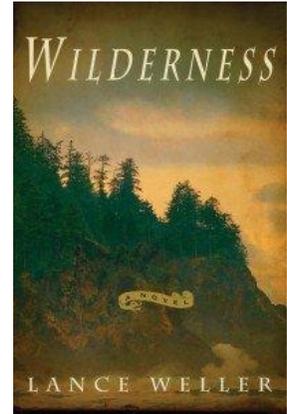
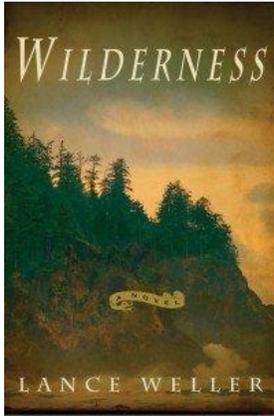




Sunriver Books & Music November 2012 Newsletter Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



November 10th at 5:00 PM Lance Weller will give a presentation on his haunting and powerful debut, **Wilderness**. Three decades ago Abel Truman was a young man with the promise of happiness in his future. It is promise that fate will not realize. Tragedy, personal demons, and the memories of his part in the Civil War chase him across the continent to the very edges of the land. Grizzled and old, his home is a rough shack on the remote coast of Washington's Olympic Peninsula. He lives a hermit's existence with only his dog for companionship.

As Abel reflects on his life he feels the pull of the land of his youth. With winter approaching Abel heads east into the foothills of the Olympic Mountains, climbing higher heading toward a final showdown beyond his control. Abel is a flawed man, shaped by the attitudes of his era and the sum of his experiences, but his heart is good and he grows in understanding as the story progresses. Ultimately he is a guy the reader roots for while recognizing the pain that drove him.

There are many memorable characters, among them Abel's dog. Abel is accompanied on his journey by the remarkable animal, they face their challenges together. A pair of reprehensible thugs are keen to get their evil hands on the dog. Abel will fight to protect his only friend.

The Civil War was a horrifically bloody conflict. The story shifts to Abel's role in the ferocious fighting. Scenes that are heartbreaking and powerful. Weller's treatment of this painful chapter in US history gives the war a very human perspective.

Awesome and spectacular, the Olympic Mountains are wild and fiercely rugged. Weller captures their majesty, his use of the setting is masterful. I enjoyed reading a well written story set in this remote and beautiful place.

Please join us for an interesting event with Lance Weller, a talented Northwestern author. We will have refreshments and drawings for prizes. Call 541-593-2525 or e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend this free event.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday January 12 at 5:00 PM **Life Among Giants** by Bill Roorbach
Saturday May 4th 2013 at 5:00 PM Jane Kirkpatrick

Sunday May 5th 2013 at 11:30 Jane Kirkpatrick's Newberry Habitat for Humanity Walk

Watch our website, sunriverbooks.com, for more information on upcoming authors as they are scheduled.

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

Sunriver Stars Community Theater will be performing a Readers Theater of "An Evening With Ebenezer" at SHARC on Saturday, Nov. 24 at 7 PM and Sunday, November 25 at 2 PM. Come get in the Christmas spirit with this classic story. Tickets will be available from any actor and at the door. Please join us! (From Nancy Foote).

[Staff Recommendations](#)

[Lori Gascon Recommends](#)

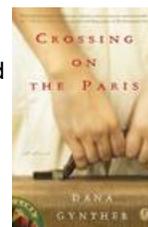


My Berlin Kitchen: a Love Story (with Recipes) By Luisa Weiss. A memoir of love – love for the people in her life, and love of good food; the foods that have memories attached, that bring happiness to our lives. Luisa Weiss is a cookbook editor, and blogging chef – thewednesdaychef.com – and in this biographical love story, she shares her life and love of food. She grew up in West Berlin, at a time when the Wall was up, separating family members and neighbors for years – a glimpse of a way of life totally different from our “free” life here in the U.S. The foods cooked in the kitchens of friends and family during this time had a great influence on Luisa’s love with cooking.

Her parents’ divorce when she is young, and this leaves her in the position of traveling back and forth from parent to parent as she grows up. Her American father moves back to Boston, and the Italian mother stays in Berlin. Eventually Luisa is traveling between Italy, Boston, Berlin, and New York, to see her family and for her cookbook-editor career. Cooking keeps her loneliness at bay when missing her family, and the old family recipes keep her company. Soon there is a man in Luisa’s life to share her good cooking with, and as sometimes happens, there is heartbreak and tough decisions to be made.

Each chapter follows up with a delicious recipe, and be forewarned Reader: You may not want to read this book when you are hungry! The food descriptions and recipes are mouth-watering. This book will not sit on my bookshelf, but on my *cookbook* shelf!

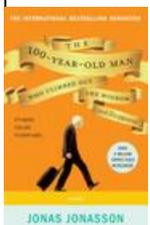
Crossing on the Paris by Dana Gynther. This is a story that chronicles five days on a steamer ship, the Paris, crossing the Atlantic from Le Havre, France, to New York in 1921. Three women, each traveling alone, from different stations in life meet, and their actions will weave through out each other’s during the journey: young Julie Vernet, leaving her grieving parents behind to take a job in the service sector of the ship; Constance Stone, a woman in her 30’s on her way home from an unsuccessful trip to Paris to persuade her gypsy sister to come home; and Vera Sinclair, a rich, ailing sophisticate who is traveling back to her hometown after many years abroad.



Julie is excited to be getting out on her own, but WWI has left a huge hole in her French family’s existence. Serving meals to the passengers in 3rd class is exhausting. She meets a handsome Russian man who also has a job on the ship, but he is not what she thinks. Constance adores her three little girls, yet her stale marriage has her tempted to enjoy a bit of anonymity on the ship, realizing that just maybe her sister’s carefree lifestyle is happier than her own. Vera, knowing that she is gravely ill, and making her last trip, is reviewing her life through her journals, and wondering if she should have made different choices many years ago. Does she have time for one last chance to make a difference in someone’s life?

Through out the five days aboard the Paris, each woman will make a lasting impression on the others. These ladies will cross paths as they go about their experiences on board the huge ship – the elegance of first class, the pampering salons, lounging on the decks, and down below, the tight quarters, seasickness, smells, and loud engine hums. This historical fiction novel takes the traditional role of women in the early century, lives that were more defined by men, and shows us the independence that was beginning to come into place during this time in history. I enjoyed the strong characters, the dilemmas faced by each, and the positive outcome that change brings.

[Nancy Nelson Recommends.](#)



“The 100 – Year Old Man...” by Jonas Jonasson is one of the most delightful books I have been privileged to read. As our story begins, Allan Karlsson has just turned 100 years old. At the nursing home where he resides, a birthday party is being staged in his honor. Allan wants no part of this. He wants his own life back, with the ability to make his own decisions, and to drink his Vodka if he so chooses. So, still donning his bedroom slippers, he climbs out of the window of his room, finds his way to the bus station, buys a ticket to wherever the soonest bus will take him, and disappears. He, however, also takes with him the very large suitcase that he was entrusted to watch while awaiting his bus, this after he has decided to say “yes” to life. The reader might correctly suppose that this suitcase has a huge effect on our hero’s experiences. The story winds around taking the reader into the very interesting past and the suspenseful present of Allan’s adventure. Allan, as a young man was interested in explosives, and in due course, became an expert in the field. With this knowledge and his very affable demeanor, he

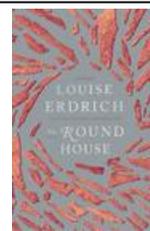
inserted himself in some key aspects of history, becoming acquainted with such diverse people as President Truman, Chairman Mao, Franco, and De Gaulle. As the older man, he turns otherwise dangerous situations into something much more manageable with less dire and often humorous consequences. This book was so very engaging and entertaining that I highly recommend it to one and all.

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



Rachel Kelley Recommends.

The **Round House** by Louise Erdrich begins with a startlingly violent crime on a reservation in North Dakota. Joe's mother is so stricken by her injuries (both physical and mental) that she begins to slip away from the world and, more importantly, her family. Joe watches as his mother's soul deteriorates and sets himself on a dangerous path to bring her back to the world. We follow Joe in the aftermath of this event, his mother's path to recovery, and his father's desperate attempts to seek justice in the legal system he knows so well. But it falls to Joe to seek true justice, and the need for revenge burns in him, transforming him into an adult at just thirteen years old. Beautifully written and tragically moving, *The Round House* gives us a glimpse of life on the reservation, the struggle with tribal laws, and the coming of age of a young boy hellbent on justice.

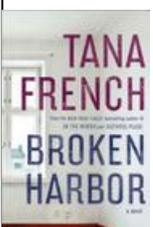


Carol Foisset Recommends.

Sutton by J.R. Moehringer. Willie Sutton recounts his 30-year criminal history to a reporter and photographer on the day of his release from Attica through stops at meaningful locations he marked on a map. Moehringer's unique approach to revealing information about Sutton's life is engaging and seamless. This literature-loving robber who never fired a shot during a hold-up does not fit the gangster prototype of his time period. You find yourself pulling for the bad guy, wishing life would cut him a break and wondering what his life story would have been if it did.

Deon Stonehouse Recommends.

Live by Night by Dennis Lehane. History doesn't just come alive on the page; it gets up and dances the tango. Dangerous dames, hot Latin rhythm, and cold hard lead keep the pages flying by in Lehane's historical fiction set in the day of prohibition when gangsters ruled the night, rum runners flew down the road, and dangerous dames could be the ruin of a man. The son and brother of cops, Joe thrives on the adrenaline rush he finds on the other side of the law. Graduating from knocking over newsstands, to running white lightening, holding up speakeasies, and then everything goes horribly awry in a bank job. Joe doesn't go for the easy dames either, he wants a tigress. Emma Gould moves in ways that make a man's blood rise, she is the main squeeze of Albert White, one of Boston's more notable gangsters. Emma has a body to die for and Joe just might. Any fool could see she is bad news and trouble, but then maybe that is part of the excitement. Joe sees himself as an outlaw, a man living without rules. He has to reevaluate when he does a stint in the big house and comes under the influence of a mob boss, the line between outlaw and stone cold gangster is remarkably thin and way too easily crossed. **Live By Night** is drenched in history; from Boston to Tampa to Cuba, rum runners, revolutionaries, and gangsters keep the pace fast and the action hot. Reading a page of Lehane's latest is like stepping into a time machine and being transported to the prohibition era, it feels that real. High voltage action, clever repartee, and enough plot twists to keep you guessing, make this a sure winner.

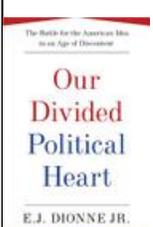


Broken Harbor by Tana French. Darkly disturbing with plot twists that will take your breath away, Tana French has written another compulsively readable Irish mystery. Scorcher Kennedy returns from **Faithful Place** and makes you yearn for life to treat him kindly. But of course it doesn't. Broken Harbor has been turned into a remote upscale yuppie development that went bust with the rest of the country in the financial crisis. The few occupied houses stand surrounded by the skeletons of homes that will never reach completion. It is an eerie, unsettling place full of disappointed dreams. In one of those houses the dream has turned into a nightmare; the father and two children are dead, the kitchen looks like an abattoir, and the mother is clinging to life by a thread. Scorcher's job is to reclaim the top spot in the Murder Squad and find a killer. Murder and mayhem are not all Scorcher has to control; Broken Harbor holds sorrowful memories from his childhood. Tana French is a master; her very literary mysteries are among my favorites.

Telegraph Avenue by Michael Chabon. Chabon is able to keep a dozen intricate plot elements in the air as gracefully as a gifted juggler, bringing them all home safely in the end. Archy and Nat run a record shop on **Telegraph Avenue**, a place where the community stops to swap tales. They have fallen on hard times as the economy in general and music in particular have taken a nose dive with big chain stores ruling the day. Their wives, Gwen and Aviva, are partners too, midwives in great demand for their superior care and skill. Archy and Nat's record shop is in imminent peril from the new Dogpile megastore being opened down the street by former NFL superstar Gibson Goode. Just when things are looking dark for the guys, a delivery goes terribly awry for their wives. Archy has a few added complications; his father is the unreliable, recovering addict, and former kung fu movie star, Luther Stallings. Oh, and Archy and Gwen are expecting their first child. All this comes together in the most entertaining and satisfying bouillabaisse of stories, many ingredients and a fine flavor. Just reading a sentence from Chabon is a real treat.



Rich Stonehouse Recommends.

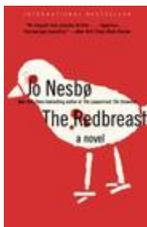


Our Divided Political Heart by E.J. Dionne Jr. is an honest effort at bridging the vast political divide that plagues the American political scene. Dionne takes us on a richly researched tour of history of who we Americans really are and how we got here. He sees that the political divide is hampered by the mistaken belief that our nation is comprised of a single trait or idea. Dionne believes that each political side is blind to the other point of view and denigrating them serves no good purpose. He believes that our nation was founded upon both the need for individual freedom as well as the importance that we all embrace the need for a self-governing community. He also provides a critique on why constitutional "originalism" is misplaced, arguing that the original framers envisioned the constitution as a document that was meant to grow in response to new ideas and challenges that would arise in the future. This book was written as a challenge to those on the other side of the divide to offer a counter-argument as vigorously researched and presented as this one.

Private Empire by Steven Coll. The 1989 Exxon Valdez catastrophe was a momentous turning point for the giant oil company. Faced with financial and public relations devastation the company brass decided that it was important to expand its field into the rest of the world as new market places and energy exploration opportunities were presenting themselves. The results were record making revenue and profits. Along with the profits came political and environmental clout. Changing US laws and regulations to benefit them was the new mantra. Along with the financial excesses were the company's relentless and aggressive efforts to fund and champion initiatives that would inhibit efforts at environmental regulations and to fund climate change skepticism and deny global warming. Coll also details many of Exxon's dealings with dictators, guerillas, oil sheiks, and assorted strongmen; providing a fascinating story of corporate strong arm methods and rapacious energy production no matter the cost.

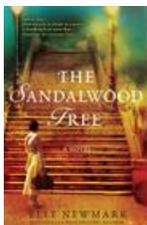
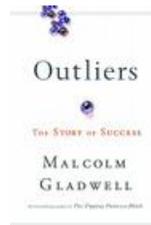


November 2012 Book Clubs



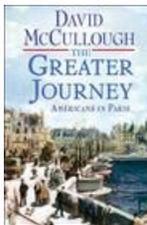
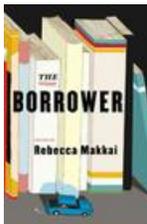
November 5th the Mystery Book Club discusses **The Redbreast** by Jo Nesbo. Great writing and riveting plots are hallmarks of Nesbo's Harry Hole series. Harry is charged with taking part in the security detail when the American President visits Norway, something goes horribly awry. The powers that be do not want the press to get wind of their errors, so the easiest thing to do is remove the weak link. Harry is reassigned to keep watch on the Neo-Nazis and their nasty little plans. But Harry is distracted by information that someone has recently bought a very specialized sniper rifle, an expensive and hard to come by gun, a gun that would be not only out of the price range of most of the Neo-Nazis but way out of their league too. So who purchased the smuggled gun and who are they planning to kill? The trail will lead back more than sixty years to a cold winter on the Russian front. **The Redbreast** was awarded the Norwegian Bookseller's Prize 2000 for Best Novel of the Year. Nesbo's stories are dark, disturbing, and fantastically good reading.

November 12th the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses **Outliers: The Story of Success** by Malcolm Gladwell. Is Bill Gates such an outrageously talented genius that he would have succeeded in any environment? Or was Bill helped along a bit by coming of age just at the dawn of the computer age? Did the circumstances of his birth in an area that afforded him opportunity prepare the way for his success? Gladwell delves into what makes some people successful while others miss the boat. He looks at the role of intelligence and chance. From Mozart to Robert Oppenheimer, what role did hidden advantages play in their success? The subject matter and Gladwell's compelling narrative keep the book interesting and enlightening.



November 19th the Fiction Book Club discusses **The Sandalwood Tree** by Elle Newmark. Evie married a piano playing man quick to laugh, a family man who enjoyed the company of his wife and son. Martin returns from WWII a different person, that quick laughter and joy in his family is gone. Now he is solemn and disengaged, grim to be around. He is offered a Fulbright Fellowship to observe the partition of India. Evie jumps at the chance, convincing Martin to accept. She thinks that in new surroundings maybe they can make a fresh start, maybe Martin will revert to the man she married. It soon becomes apparent that India is not going to repair Martin. Evie finds letters hidden behind a brick in the house they are renting, the letters are from two English women who travel to India in 1857; Evie becomes obsessed with discovering their fate. India had two major cataclysmic events involving the west; Partition in 1947 and the Uprising of 1857. Both were bloody and very, very dangerous.

November 26th the Classics Book Club discusses **Breakfast At Tiffany's** by Truman Capote. This novel contains not only the novella made famous by the Cary Grant-Audrey Hepburn film but also 3 other short stories. **Breakfast at Tiffany's** is the story of a free spirit, Holiday Golightly, a woman of many secrets and much panache. Set in New York in 1943, the story revolves around Holly and her relationship to a variety of people, including the narrator, a young man residing in the same brownstone apartment building. Capote mined his own life deeply in his fiction. There has been much speculation as to the identity of the model for Holiday Golightly, front runners are the author's mother Nina Capote and his good friend, Marilyn Monroe. The last story in the book, **A Christmas Memory**, should put you in the mood for the upcoming holiday and the deeper meaning of its celebration. Again Capote is inspired by his past in writing this lovely short story. The main characters are Buddy, a seven year old little boy, and his cousin Sook, a woman in her sixties. They are dirt poor, but they do their best for the holiday, saving their pennies to buy the fixings for fruitcake and taking their dog with them off into the forest for the perfect Christmas tree.



[Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM](#)

December 3rd 2012 **Broken** by Karin Fossum [Mystery Book Club](#)

December 10th 2012 **Joy for Beginners** by Erica Bauermeister [Fiction Book Club](#)

December 17th 2012 **Paris Was Ours** by Penelope Rowlands [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

[2013! Happy New Year!](#)

January 7th 2013 **In The Shadow of Gotham** by Stephanie Pintoff [Mystery Book Club](#)

January 14th 2013 **The Borrower** by Rebecca Makki [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 21st 2013 **Greater Journey** by David McCullough [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

February 4th 2013 **Pride & Prejudice** by Jane Austin [Classics Book Club](#)

February 11th 2013 **Death Comes to Pemberly** by P.D. James [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 18th 2013 **Jane Austen Book Club** by Karen Joy Fowler [Fiction Book Club](#)

February 25th 2013 **Swerve** by Stephen Greenblatt [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

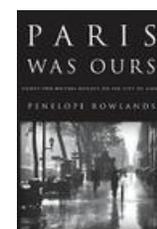
March 4th 2013 **Adios Hemingway** by Leonardo Fuentes Padura [Mystery Book Club](#)

March 11th 2013 **Paris Wife** by Paula McClain [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 18th 2013 **Farewell To Arms** by Ernest Hemingway [Classics Book Club](#)

March 25th 2013 **Moveable Feast** by Ernest Hemingway [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

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



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