



Sunriver Books & Music
 November 2020
 Newsletter
Sunriverbooks.com
 541-593-2525



Happy Thanksgiving!

2020 has been a year tailor made for the curse “may you live in interesting times”. We hope 2021 will be less challenging!

This has been a crazy year, but there is still much to be thankful for.

During the pandemic we are worried about the health of our family, staff, and community. Thus far we are fine.

My mother continues to be healthy, interested in world events, reading books, and being feisty.

We are grateful to the authors who have continued to be part of Sunriver Books & Music with interesting author events.

New York Times Bestselling author Phil Margolin and Melanie Nelson, New York Times Bestselling Author James Patterson and the BINC foundation made generous donations that helped keep our doors open.

Several of our customers made donations that helped a lot, their kindness and generosity touched us deeply.

The continued support of the people who shop at Sunriver Books is appreciated.

Sunriver was spared the apocalyptic forest fires that scorched millions of acres in the West.

Animals share our lives and make us smile.

Central Oregon is beautiful, with the miles of paths to walk that we enjoy.

There are many good books to read!

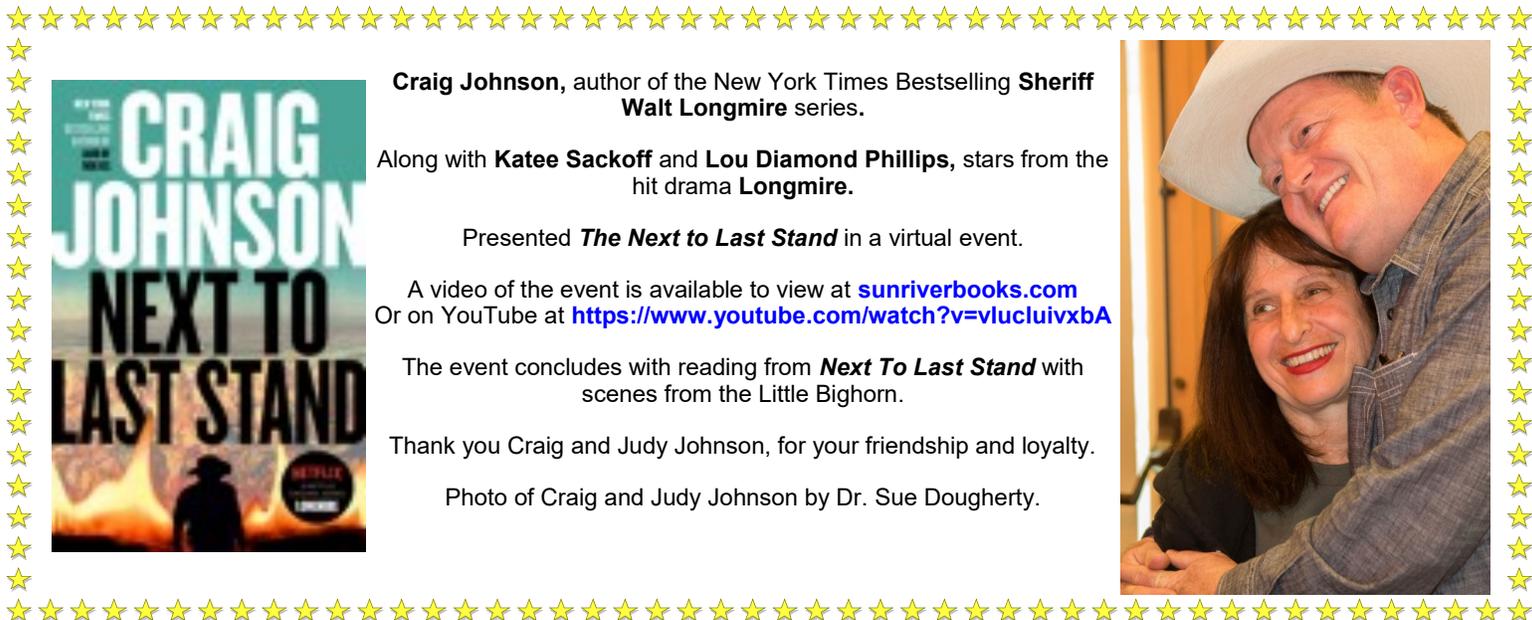
We are lucky, and grateful for the luck.

Many are not so fortunate.

Over 225,000 people in the US have died from Covid 19, about 60,000 daily are coming down with it.

Lives and homes were lost in the immense fires sweeping the West.

The thought of so many in distress is sobering. We feel for those who have suffered this year.



Craig Johnson, author of the New York Times Bestselling **Sheriff Walt Longmire** series.

Along with **Katee Sackoff** and **Lou Diamond Phillips**, stars from the hit drama **Longmire**.

Presented ***The Next to Last Stand*** in a virtual event.

A video of the event is available to view at sunriverbooks.com
 Or on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vlucluivxbA>

The event concludes with reading from ***Next To Last Stand*** with scenes from the Little Bighorn.

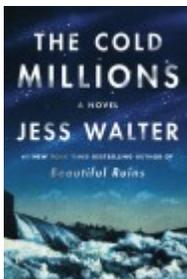
Thank you Craig and Judy Johnson, for your friendship and loyalty.

Photo of Craig and Judy Johnson by Dr. Sue Dougherty.



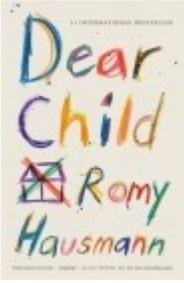
Now on to Books!

New Releases.



The Cold Millions by Jess Walter. Rye’s sole surviving family is his handsome big brother Gig, a charismatic young man who was caught up in the labor movement. Rye doesn’t possess his elder brother’s fever for politics. His dreams are smaller than changing the world, he just wants a home and people around him he cares about. They are renting a room from an elderly woman who has offered to sell them the extra lot she owns in back filled with fruit trees. Rye can see himself living there, but making a living is hard, he is just a teenager doing a man’s work trying to get by. How would he ever afford such an elusive dream? Gig’s passions are not solely occupied by the rights of workers, he is also passionate about Ursula, a stunning beauty accompanied by a cougar (yes, the large kitty type complete with fangs). The brothers will run afoul of powerful interests, as they become involved in events beyond their control that will change their world. Walter paints a vivid picture of Spokane in the early 1900’s and gives us unforgettable characters.

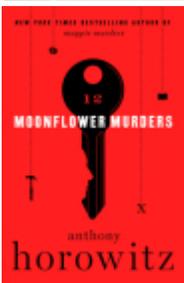
New Releases.



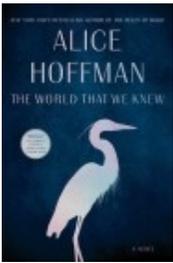
Dear Child by Romy Houseman. A college girl, Lena, disappears without a trace. Her devoted family spend fourteen years hoping to find out what happened to their bright beautiful daughter. Hannah and her brother Jonathan have spent their childhood in a house in the woods with their mother, Lena, and their father. On the night of the accident, Hannah and Lena are taken to the hospital in an ambulance, their world explodes. Matthias, desperate to find his missing daughter, rushes to the hospital, but the woman known as Lena is not his child while Hannah clearly is his grandchild. And who is the father? Told through the perspective of these three bold characters: Hannah a bright child of 13 who is wiser and perhaps more clever than her experiences indicate, Matthias a man driven to discover the fate of his child, and Lena a woman held against her will now struggling in the aftermath. This is a story rife with twists and turns galore. It will keep you guessing!



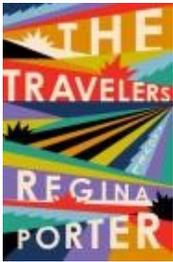
Make Them Cry by Smith Henderson and Jon Marc Smith. Diane is on vacation, an idyllic interlude in a cabin in Michigan's Upper Peninsula with Bronwyn, a handsome fellow who can list cooking among his many appealing characteristics. But Diane is DEA out of LA, she is not called Hardball for nothing, and her life is about to intrude on their sojourn drawing a sharp line under the differences between her life and death occupation and that of a sweet guy who just wants to relax and enjoy nature. Nope, the easy life is not Diane's default setting. She gets a tip that will take her across the border, outside the boundaries of officially sanctioned behavior, teamed up with a CIA guy who is not in the good graces of his superiors either. Together they go after tough and dangerous men involved in the cartels, not a safe undertaking. This is a hard as nails thriller with a strong female lead.



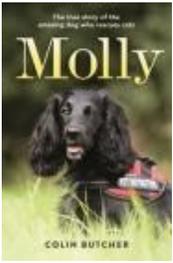
Moonflower Murders by Anthony Horowitz releases November 10. **Magpie Murders** was absolutely brilliant! **Moonflower Murders**, the second in this clever series, does not disappoint. Susan Ryeland is living the good life, albeit without much free time and little recompense. But what is there to complain about? She lives on Crete! With all that luminous green-blue water and handsome Greek Andreas. Of course working round the clock at their small hotel is not so much fun. She misses her London life in publishing. A well to do couple approach her about their missing daughter, explaining that there might be clues in one of Alan Conway's Atticus Pund mysteries, a series she edited. They are willing to pay major dollars for Susan to return to England, re-read the book, and help in the search for the missing woman. Susan thought she was finished with Alan Conway, after all the man is dead, but she is easily persuaded to dig into the mystery. Perhaps she should have reflected on how much trouble and chaos anything related to Conway could involve. But never mind, it is to our benefit that she took the case, thus giving the reader another great book to enjoy!



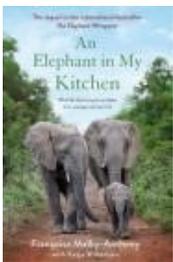
The World that We Knew by Alice Hoffman. War torments with horrible choices. WWII let loose a madman, a ruler who spewed hate, culminating in horrific genocide. For those trapped in its grip, sometimes fleeing was not an option, but then neither was staying. Such was the choice Hanni faced, she loved her invalid mother, a woman who was not able to run, and adored her 12-year-old daughter, Lea, a girl growing more beautiful and potentially interesting to the Nazis by the day. There is no way this would end well if Lea stays. Hanni convinces Ettie, the daughter of a Rabbi, to do the forbidden, to create a golem to protect Lea as she sends her daughter away, hoping to safety. Ava is a wonderful golem, shepherding Lea to Paris, to the home of distant relatives. The women will find kindness, cruelty, love, and perhaps hope. Hoffman confronts evil and responds with wonder.



The Travelers by Regina Porter. This ambitious novel aims to show with empathy and grace the intersections between two families, one white the other black, and succeeds beautifully. From 1946 to 2010 great swatches of history are presented; WWII, Vietnam, the Civil Rights Movement, assassination of Martin Luther King, etc. Snapshots of the characters' lives move the novel forward through generations. James Vincent Jr and Agnes Miller anchor the stories, followed by a vibrant array of amazingly well drawn characters in portraits both intimate and powerful. James grow up to be a successful attorney, Agnes marries a Vietnam vet. Their families will be scholars, nurses, moving men, bankers, all sorts of people trying to live their best lives, buffeted by events, and challenged by their times. Great writing, great story, a book I will treasure.



Molly by Colin Butcher. Cats and Dogs come together in this heartwarming memoir about a Cocker Spaniel with a lot of attitude who specializes in finding cats. Colin was a respected police detective and then opened a private detection agency, but his love of animals compelled him to try something new, to help people find their lost pets with the aid of a dog trained to sniff out their whereabouts. Molly loves her job, she is enthusiastic, friendly and has reunited many a person with their beloved animal. Pets are members of the family, many people share their homes with an animal that is dear to them, giving companionship and love. There are studies showing the health benefits of having a cat or dog. It is devastating when a pet goes missing. Molly and Colin come to the rescue!



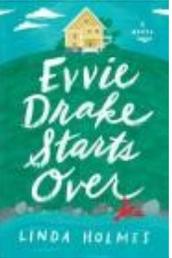
An Elephant in My Kitchen by Francoise Malby-Anthony. If you love animals, this is a must read. The memoir opens its first chapter with a beginning and an ending. Lawrence Anthony brought his French wife to South Africa beginning their dream of opening a game reserve, Thula Thula. Before they even got their bearings, they were asked to take in a herd of Elephants that had been causing havoc with farmers. If the Elephants were not given shelter they would be destroyed. How could they refuse to rescue them? The Elephants had other ideas, immediately escaping and causing much anxiety before they bonded with Lawrence and settled in to their new home. The chapter continues to Lawrence's untimely death and the Elephants traveling through the night to reach his home, standing at the fence in a display of profound mourning. Thus starts the reminiscences of a woman facing the challenge of persuading the security staff to respect her orders, dissuading authorities from culling her herd, poachers, baby animals arriving, and winning the affection of the Elephant matriarch. This is the story of a life lived big

Now Available in Paperback.



The Last Train to London by Meg Waite Clayton. Perhaps because we are once again in a period when the rhetoric of hate holds sway and refugees fleeing violence in their homelands are being turned away, we seek out books on an earlier time, WWII. Quite a few excellent novels about WWII have been written in recent years. This is one of the best, a historic fiction based on truth that should not be forgotten. Geertruida Wijsmuller, a Dutch woman, bravely went into Germany to rescue Jewish children. She met with Adolph Eichmann persuading him to allow children to be taken out of Nazi control to live in countries outside the influence of the Third Reich. She was audacious, she was bold, she was courageous. This woman deserves to be remembered.

Through the Kindertransport, Geertruida Wijsmuller (known as Tante Truus) and others saved the lives of thousands of children. Leave time to read this in one sitting because once you pick it up, it is hard to put down. The novel blends Geertruida's tale with the stories of two families. Stephan, a 17-year-old with a passion for writing, is the son of privilege, living the good life in Austria. His father runs a chocolate factory that has been in their family for generations. His uncle is a banker, and his aunt an intellectual beauty painted by a famous artist. Until the Nazi's come and then all that matters is being Jewish. Zofie is a mathematic prodigy, a teenager tutored by a famous mathematician. Her widowed mother runs a paper critical of Hitler. The characters are irresistible, good people caught in a struggle against evil, trying to survive. This novel is rich in history and filled with compelling characters.



Evvie Drake Starts Over by Linda Holmes. Evvie Drake was busting loose, taking off from her home town in Maine and heading for parts unknown, on the day Dr. Tim Drake died. Evvie never made it out of town, no one knows the secret of handsome Dr. Drake's widow. Even her best friend Andy is clueless that Evvie's deep sadness is not due to her husband's untimely demise, it is a far more complicated.

Andy is a good guy, his wife left him with his two small daughters. He is a devoted father, teaches at the local school, and meets Evvie for breakfast every Saturday morning at the Compass Café. He likes to help his friends, knows money is tight for Evvie, and thinks it might do her good to have someone else around. That fits just fine with the needs of another of Andy's pals, he has been buddies with Dean Tenney since school days, long before Dean became a star big league baseball pitcher.



Dean's had some recent troubles, a brilliant athlete, he got the yips and cannot not pitch anymore. Humiliated by the press, far too big a celebrity to suffer in obscurity, and depressed about his career; he needs to get away to somewhere he won't be constantly noticed.

Andy figures Evvie renting Dean the small apartment at the back of her house would solve a lot of both their problems. Thus, begins a friendship that will challenge them both as they do their best to find equilibrium in a changed world. This is a fun novel about friendship, secrets, and not letting life get away from you.

Rules for Visiting by Jessica Francis Kane. Friendship is at the heart of this lovely story about a university gardener, the fortyish May Attaway, who uses the 30 day leave she has been granted to go on an Odyssey to visit four friends and rekindle their earlier closeness. May has led a solitary life, living in her childhood home where she helped care for her mother until her death. However, it is also a satisfying life, she is more in tune with the landscape and plants than people. As she travels to visit each of her four friends, May will realize you have to work at friendship, nurture it, but it is truly worth the effort.



Time After Time by Lisa Grunwald. Joe Reynolds works for the railroad, on a December morning in 1937 in Grand Central Station he meets Nora, a beautiful young woman with a difference, she died in 1925. Through some strange atmospheric condition Nora can exist within a very small radius of Manhattan. If she tries to leave the enchanted area, she disappears. Joe and Nora try to make a life within the limits granted to them, at the Biltmore Hotel, the Oyster Bar, the Whispering Gallery. Nora is a talented artist; she is dedicated to expressing herself creatively. But there are complications. While Joe gets older, Nora stays a beautiful, young woman. When a new building threatens the status quo, something must happen. Pick it up and relish the scenes of Manhattan.

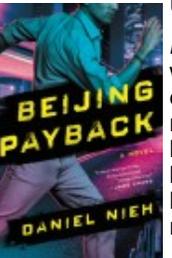


The Spies of Shilling Lane by Jennifer Ryan. Mrs. Braithwaite, a formidable harridan is the granddaughter of an Earl, a lineage her equally formidable aunt assured her made them better than the common folk. The family fortune long gone, she nonetheless has ruled the ladies of Ashcombe with an iron hand, ready to point out their shortcomings. Until the day she was overthrown. A meeting has been held. Mrs. Metcalf is taking over as head of the Women's Voluntary Service. On top of this blow, it is also hinted by the aforementioned Mrs. Metcalf that her darkest secret might be revealed to her daughter Betty.

Feeling she should tell Betty herself, Mrs. Braithwaite heads to London to see her only child. On arrival at the Shilling Lane house where her daughter boards, she finds no one has seen Betty in several days. Worse still, Betty doesn't seem to be employed at the job Mrs. Braithwaite and everyone else thought she held. Mrs. Braithwaite insists Mr. Norris, the landlord, help look for Betty.

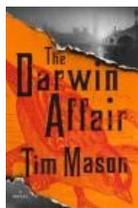
Mr. Norris has spent a lifetime avoiding trouble, he cannot help but feel this is just the sort of result that would come from joining Mrs. Braithwaite in her search. Nonetheless Mrs. Braithwaite is a not an easy woman to resist, she is a whole different sort of trouble. So off they go, despite the blackout curtains falling bombs, and vestiges of war, the unlikely duo embark on an investigation of Betty's whereabouts.

Along the way quite a lot will happen. There will be more danger and intrigue than Mr. Norris anticipated. Mrs. Braithwaite will discover there are many things more important than titled ancestors, she will learn that what matters is the way you treat people and treasuring those close to you. By the end you will quite like the plucky Mrs. Braithwaite. This is WWII light, a grand caper full of heart.

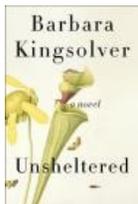


Beijing Payback by Daniel Nieh. Victor Li is a basketball obsessed college student, fond of his sister Jules, the son of a wealthy man. Then life takes one of those high-speed turns that leave you breathless. Victor was not prepared for the death of his father, killed by a knife wielding assailant. His father had a string of successful Chinese restaurants, a wealthy man. The next surprise is waiting for Victor and Jules in the attorney's office at the reading of the will. Those restaurants his Dad built from scratch and tended so responsibly did not belong to him, but to a group in China. The next surprise? His law abiding, gentle father was involved with a nefarious criminal group in China, a group prepared to unleash some new horrible enterprise. Victor heads to China to unravel his father's secrets and stop the gang from whatever they are planning, no matter how deadly.

Can't believe November is here, and then again, sometimes it feels like this year has gone on forever. This November 3 we (actually not we, but the electoral college) choose the president in what may be the most important election of our lives. Staying in touch is important, while gathering in groups is not advisable due to Covid 19, we can still get together on Zoom to discuss good books. Here is our November lineup of Book Club selections. To attend, send and email to sunriverbooks@surniverbook.com and I will send you the link the weekend before the Book Club meeting. Book Clubs meet at 6 PM on Mondays.



November 2 the Mystery Book Club discusses **The Darwin Affair** by Tim Mason. Charles Darwin's *Origin of the Species* caused quite a stir. While scientists were dazzled by its theories, the church was not best pleased. A psychotic serial killer was willing to take down an empire to put a stop to Darwin's conclusions being universally accepted. Chief Detective Inspector Charles Field is not happy about his notoriety since Charles Dickens used him as the inspiration for Detective Buckle in *Bleak House*. He just wants to do his job and not be confused with a fictional character. The day the story opens, his job is saving Queen Victoria from an assassination attempt. A few blocks away from the incident with the Queen, a thief is found brutally murdered with his ear cut off. What links these events? Who is after the queen? Is she really the target? Elegant writing, a story salted with many real characters from history, and a clever plot make it a mystery you won't want to put down.



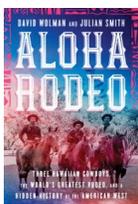
November 16 the Fiction Book Club discusses **Unsheltered** by Barbara Kingsolver. A brilliant novel set in two different centuries, both eras where lies trumped truth, and superstition overruled science. Kingsolver illustrates the human toll with insight, humor, and compassion in this deeply satisfying novel. While showing the cost of leadership built on false promises and lies, it also illustrates the strength of the human spirit with characters who will not be broken by their times, no matter the price. Kingsolver's characters shine as they make their way through the maze of survival set before them. She uses real historic characters in Vineland, such as Mary Treat and Charles Landis, in her fascinating novel. Great reading.

Vineland was established as a utopian society by Charles Landis in 1862; it was a society that may have professed to be forward thinking but embraced many lies and miscarriages of humanitarian principles in the treatment of its poorer residents and immigrants. Kingsolver cleverly drops her fictional characters into a falling down house in this community during two time frames.

Willa Knox worked with her husband, Iano, toward financial security all their lives, intending to inhabit the American dream. Willa worked as a journalist, Iano attained coveted tenure at a Virginia college and they purchased a home in a good neighborhood where other professors also resided. This was their dream. Then it became a nightmare; the college closed, with no jobs for professors, the property values in their neighborhood crashed obliterating their equity. Meanwhile Willa's job as a reporter also evaporated.

Every lie of a better life during the Trump administration was visited on Willa and Iano. Willa had no job and Iano was competing with people half his age for teaching positions with no hope of tenure. He accepted a job in New Jersey where Willa had inherited a home in Vineland, a home literally falling apart. Their high achieving adult son lost his job in finance, and their wandering 26 year old daughter returned home. Iano's father is old and ill, needing care from his family. Soon there were four generations living in their crumbling Vineland edifice. Their only hope for salvaging the structure is historic designation and a grant for major repairs if they can discover that someone of note resided in the ancient dwelling.

In the late 1800's in the same abode, Thatcher Greenwood lived with his mother-in-law, wife, and sister. It was falling down then too. He had accepted a position as science teacher at the local high school, thinking that he would be teaching young minds about science and the need to question, to think critically. Instead he found that the Vineland school expected all natural phenomena to be explained either in the Bible or by the intervention of angels. It is an angst ridden, but eminently likeable, Thatcher who strikes up a friendship with their neighbor, Mary Treat. He is shocked and delighted to find that Mary is a self-educated scientist, with important publications to her credit and a lively correspondence with Charles Darwin. In the dark days that will follow, as Thatcher battles for some truth in his teaching, his visits with Mary are a ray of sunshine.



November 23 the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses **Aloha Rodeo** by Julian Smith and David Wolman. 1793 the HMS Discovery sailed into Hawaii under the command of Captain George Vancouver. Great Britain was determined to extend its influence to the Hawaiian Islands. They decided the way to do this was to give the islander's cattle. These were not happy cattle; they had spent a long time in cramped quarters enduring a sea going voyage they must have found horrific. Captain Vancouver's first attempt at landing 10 Longhorn's did not succeed, the poor cattle were practically starved, they died. His second try succeeded and the cattle took to heart encouragement to multiply. Admonished by the Brits not to harm the cattle, they got on with the business of procreation and by 1830 the island of Hawaii had approximately 20,000 cattle laying waste to the environment and threatening the populace (remember these were Longhorns, not the most docile of cattle). Something had to be done, the answer was cowboys.

The Parker Ranch in Hawaii is famous, in **Aloha Cowboy** you learn its roots. Cowboy culture had a few challenges the mainland cowboys might avoid, like lava flows. It was a dangerous life, for the men and the cattle.

Meanwhile back on the mainland by 1898 Cheyenne Wyoming had fallen on hard times. The population had dropped from 10,000 to about 1,500 hardy souls. Something had to be done to rejuvenate the town and bring in some tourists to keep the merchants and hotels in business. Thus was born Cheyenne Frontier Days and the beginnings of rodeo. Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show provided the opening act. It was a grand success.

By 1908 Cheyenne's Frontier Days rodeo was internationally famous, the premier rodeo of its age. Three Hawaiian cowboys were entered; Ikua Purdy, Jack Low, and Archie Ka'au. At first the Wyoming crowd assumed their boys would have an easy win, but the Hawaiians were game, it was soon clear this was going to be a real competition. Want to know who won? Read this fascinating, colorful, book full of history and grand characters from the past!

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