

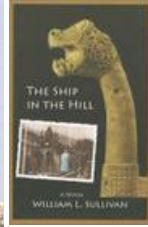
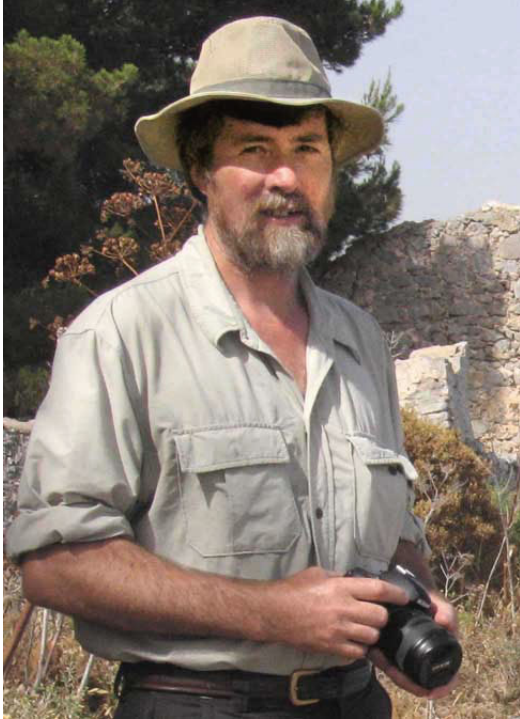


Sunriver Books & Music

September 2013

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



History is the subject of both author events at Sunriver Books & Music this September. We hope they are both of interest to the community, we think you will enjoy them!

Each year we focus for one month on another region of the world. Literature invites the reader into other worlds, other lives. This September will be a Month of Norway. It is interesting to read books set in far off lands, to explore different landscapes and ways. Saturday September 14th at 5:00 PM William Sullivan will enhance our Month of Norway with a presentation and slide show on his historical fiction **The Ship In The Hill**. On Monday September 16th at 6:30 Sullivan will lead the Fiction Book Club discussion. We cannot focus on Norway without Vikings! Sullivan's story 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. Sullivan crafts his story in two time frames, both with strong female characters. In the 800's he tells the saga of Queen Asa of Agthur, a beautiful woman, whose father had the choice of many suitors. King Harald of Graude 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. Queen Asa is a fiery, strong character. When she finally meets Erik, he asks a sacrifice she is unwilling to make. This period is rich in Norwegian history; conflicts, new rules of law, and the bringing together of a nation. Sullivan includes historical detail while keeping the saga entertaining. In 1904 Sullivan gives us a fictional American archeologist, Dr.

Kirstin Williams, involved in the discovery of the Burial mound of the Dragon Longboat. Her colleagues are thrown for a loop. They wanted her father and are not at all comfortable when a woman arrives! The longboat is causing a great deal of speculation and consternation too, it holds the skeletons of two women; there is no precedent for a woman buried in such a massive longboat. Kristin faces many challenges beyond the discomfort of her fellow archeologists. Sullivan's writing is lively, he makes the stories of both women, in 825 and 1904, compelling.

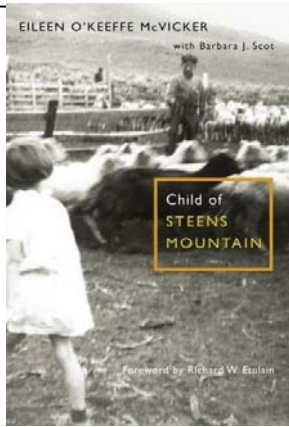
Sullivan is best known for his very popular series of Oregon hiking guides. His works of fiction include **The Case of D.B. Cooper's Parachute**, an intriguing take on the fate of the Pacific Northwest's most notorious hijacker, **The Case of Einstein's Violin**, a hilarious mystery featuring a scramble to possess the famous scientist's violin case, and **A Deeper Wild** a work of historic fiction. Sullivan puts on fascinating presentations; he is an interesting speaker with a great deal of knowledge and a friendly welcoming manner. You will like him and enjoy his event!



Saturday September 28th at 5:00 PM Eileen O'Keeffe McViker will give a presentation on her memoir, **Child of the Steens Mountain**. Her father was an Irish immigrant. Her mother's family were second generation Americans who traveled from Missouri to Oregon during the Gold Rush. Eileen's family moved to a homestead on Steens Mountain when she was 2 1/2, in about 1930. They were shepherds and lived in conditions that would be considered primitive today; carrying spring water a quarter mile to



their home, using an outhouse, sharing cold storage in the root cellar with rattlesnakes. Yet for homesteaders these were normal conditions and Eileen thrived, reveling in the freedom, solitude, and natural grandeur that surrounded her. If you are interested in the High Desert and in history, you will find her memoir interesting. (Continued on next page)



She talks about the spread of cheatgrass and the deleterious effect it had on the stock. Cheatgrass is nasty stuff, it is an invasive weed/grass that displaces native grassland and increases the risk of fire. It changed the way Eileen's family grazed their sheep, forcing them to give up areas of forage that were inundated with the weed. An NPR special pointed out that cheatgrass doubles the risk of fire, and it is increasing. Jennifer Balch of Penn State University states that 39 of the 50 worst fires in the Great Basin were cheatgrass fires. In the August Sunriver Scene Dr. Wendy Meredith's excellent article shared some of the awful ways cheatgrass affects local pets. We have cheatgrass all over Sunriver, odd that it is not on our noxious weed list.

Eileen remembers the incident, during the range wars between cattlemen and shepherds, of an Irish shepherd being tied up and his sheep killed. The same incident is portrayed in the historic fiction *Little Century* by Anna Keeseey who spoke at Sunriver Books & Music in July. Living so close to nature, Eileen's family had many adventures. Honey Bunch, their merino ram, took a dim view of visitors and sent them on their way. He also terrorized the local teacher. Eileen remembers a handsome black mule who had a strict rule of stopping work at 5:00 PM.

Times changed, the family moved near Bend, trading their mountain solitude for the convenience of living in flat land closer to a high school. WWII brought more change, the way of life Eileen enjoyed as a child was vanishing. Her memoir is both a history through one family's experience of the changes of the first half of the last century, from small homesteads to more modern times, and a memoir of living life fully engaged, with an appreciation for the animals and natural beauty surrounding her. It should be a very interesting event for Oregonians.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend the free events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Check October closely, we may have a surprise!

Saturday November 2nd 2014 at 5:00 PM *The Devil's Interval* by Linda Lee Peterson

Saturday February 15th 2014 at 5:00 PM *Hall of Secrets* by Cate Campbell

Saturday April 12th 2014 at 5:00 PM *The Dismal Science* by Peter Mountford

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

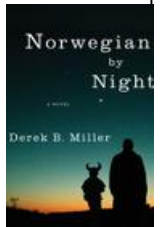
Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may be limited for some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

A Book Of The Month subscription is a great idea! Sign up for a subscription to receive a surprise book every month! The cost for the last quarter of 2013 is \$46.90 picked up in the store and \$52.90 mailed in the US. The last six months of 2013 costs \$90.84 picked up in the store or \$102.84 mailed in the US. The whole year of 2013 is \$182.62 picked up in the store or \$206.92 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book! I enjoy selecting the books for you and take seriously my obligation to discover books that will engage the reader. In the past we featured *Burning Bright* by Tracy Chevalier, *That Old Ace In The Hole* by Annie Proulx, and *A Guide To The Birds of East Africa* by Nicholas Drayson. Purchase a subscription and enjoy the next surprise book.

A Month Of Norway

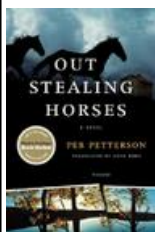
Join us for a month reading books set in Norway. Literature takes us to different worlds, can let us experience through the pages of the book what it might be like to live a different existence. Books bring understanding of distant places and divergent cultures.

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



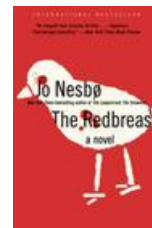
Eva's Eye by Karin Fossum is an intriguing mystery. Who can resist a detective who takes his dog along for the ride when he goes to questions suspects? Karin Fossum imbues Inspector Seger with personality. I liked this character; his forthrightness, kindness, and perseverance in pursuit of the truth. Don't offer him easy answers; he will do what it takes to put together the pieces of the most complex puzzle. In this case, he will need all his determination for it is a tangled web indeed. A man goes missing, presumed dead. He was last seen leaving to show his car to a prospective buyer. Months later his body washes up on the shore of the river by a popular walk, Eva and her daughter Emma discover the corpse. Eva goes to the closest phone kiosk ostensibly to phone the police then dials another number and leaves. Months earlier a prostitute was murdered in her bed. Leads have been scarce. What is Eva afraid of? Fossum is a clever, inventive author.

A Month of Norway Recommendations



Out Stealing Horses by Per Petterson is my favorite of the novels set in Norway. Trond Sander is 67, his life has not turned out the way he would have planned but he is making the best of the remains of his days. In a remote setting near a quiet lake, Trond has a rough cabin that needs much work. He figures it will be a good project for him. I like that he has contemplated how to spend this part of his life, it will be a solitary life, he will work on his home, spend time with his dog, go for walks along the lake, and reflect on his past. Out walking one day he meets his only neighbor, Lars, the man seems very familiar. He is the bother of Trond's childhood friend, the meeting sends Trond's reminiscences back to the summer of 1948 just after the war. It was to be Trond's last summer with his father, something he did not suspect at the time. The story line alternates from Trond's time in his cabin near the lake to that summer in his teens. Trond spends time with his best friend, Lar's brother, and the boys are up the sort of hijinks teenage boys are drawn to. There are defining moments to life, that summer was such a moment for Trond. This is one of those quiet novels that mean something. It is a reflection on the sum of a life, how that life is scared or formed by loss and joy.

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. He used some of his father's experiences fighting on the Russian Front during WWII in crafting his story.



Broken by Karin Fossum is a highly inventive mystery. If you enjoy reading something a bit different, it should intrigue you. A lone woman looks out her window in the night, she sees people standing outside her house, an old man, a woman clutching a baby, and many others, all standing and waiting. *"They are patient, their heads are bowed, they are waiting for their stories to be told, and it is I who will tell them – I am the author."* This time things are different, when the woman goes to bed, she hears the sound of someone breaking into her house. She lies paralyzed by fear in the quiet of her bedroom. Up the stairs comes one of the men she watched standing outside, he has jumped the queue, desperately eager for his story to be told. As the author creates a world for her character, he becomes more and more real to the reader. Chapters are interspersed where the character, Alvar Eade, and author converse. Alvar, is a good man, pleased with his career in an art gallery and his apartment within easy walking distance of the town. Perhaps he has not fully understood the import of the type of fiction our author writes, for she is an author of crime novels and something upsetting is sure to come his way. Karin Fossum is an award winning Norwegian author; this is a lively, interesting step outside her popular Inspector Konrad Sejer series.

1222 by Anne Holt is set over a few days in a very remote skiing village after a train crash. Norway is known for its mountains and skiing, so this setting seemed a good fit for a Month of Norway. The train, carrying a mysterious single compartment at the rear, is hurtling toward a tunnel during one of the worst storms in Norwegian history. Just outside the village of Finse, right before the tunnel, it derails. People go flying, the driver of the train is killed, it is a significant accident. The only access to the village by train, is no longer possible, helicopters cannot come to the rescue either because of the high winds and the flying snow of the blizzard. On board former police officer Henne Welhelmsen was traveling to Bergen to consult an American specialist about the paralysis she suffered when her spinal cord was severed by a bullet in the line of duty four years ago. Finse is a small village, just a few vacation cabins, a red cross station, and a ski lodge. Conditions outside are hazardous, the storm is growing fiercer with temperatures way below zero, high winds, and blowing snow. The lake in the valley below cannot even be seen because of the storm. Rescuers arrive on snow mobiles to take the injured, all 269 passengers, back to the lodge. In addition to Hanne, the train was carrying eight doctors on their way to a convention, a group of priests also traveling to a meeting, a runaway, a Muslim couple, several families, four dogs, a teenage athletic team, an odd assortment of people, and the occupants of the mysterious rear compartment rumored to be part of the royal family. There are many injuries, keeping the doctors busy. On the first night, one of the survivors is murdered. The manager of the lodge and one of the local rescuers have deduced Hanne's credentials as a former police officer. So begins the mystery. For days the group will be stranded with a murderer in their midst by the storm, in 100 years the mountains have experienced nothing as violent. Snow covers the first floor windows of the lodge, the wind howls at such speeds windows are destroyed, and the cold will kill you if you venture out.



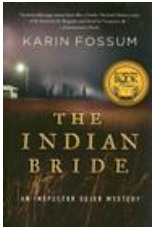
Slay Ride by Dick Francis is set in Norway. This is an interesting selection for our Month of Norway as a Brit takes a look at the country. David Cleveland is an investigator for the Jockey Club, when a British rider disappears along with the proceeds from the race, he is called in to investigate. Right from the beginning it is a rum case, David has no more than arrived in the country when an attempt is made on his life. Bob Sherman was a talented rider, the take from the race was not huge. Why would Sherman throw over a promising career, leaving behind a pregnant wife for so little gain? David's counterpart in Norway, Arne Kristiansen, is an old acquaintance. David trained him years back and is a bit disappointed that he let the race track lose the money through lax security. Still they are old chums and get along as they start questioning the various people who knew the missing rider. Emma Sherman is also questioning everyone, desperate to find her missing husband. The story will take David from Oslo to the remote village of Finse. Francis mysteries are fun to read.



September 2013 Book Clubs.

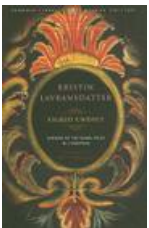
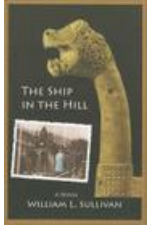
Each year at Sunriver Books & Music we concentrate for one month on books from another region or country. Norway is our focus for this September. Literature can take us on journeys to distant lands and bridge the gap of cultural differences. Books allow us to live in other cultures, walk through vastly different landscapes, and experience other lands through their pages. Literature can help us understand our world. Sink into a comfy chair with a good book and visit Norway.

Book Clubs are on Monday at 6:30 PM, everyone is welcome, it is a great way to meet other passionate readers.



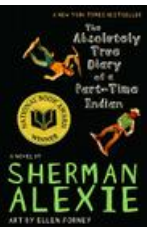
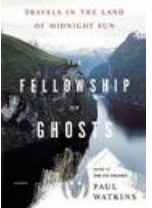
September 9th the Mystery Book Club discusses *The Indian Bride* by Karin Fossum. Gunder Jomann is a big man, solid. He works selling agricultural equipment and makes a good living, enough to afford a comfortable home. But he lacks the attributes to attract a Norwegian woman; he is not considered handsome and is a bit slow. Gunder has reached middle age with his only close relationship being his sister Marie. She gives him a coffee table book with vibrant pictures of India. Gunder starts to dream. Maybe the Norwegian women find him slow, but perhaps an Indian woman would not be opposed to sharing her life with him. The prospect of having a wife, a companion, spurs him to take an action that is out of character and a bit daring. He will go to India and find a bride. Easier said than done, India is vast and teeming, very overwhelming but exciting for Gunder. He retreats every day to the same café where he finally gets up the nerve to have a conversation with his waitress, Poonna. She sees the kindness in this big Norwegian man. A relationship blossoms and she travels to Norway to be Gunder's bride. And here Inspector Sejer becomes involved as he tries to discover who killed the *Indian Bride*.

September 16th the Fiction Book Club will have the great treat of a discussion led by the author. William Sullivan's *The Ship In The Hill* is perfect for our Month of Norway! You cannot have a month focusing on Norway without Vikings. Sullivan delivers Vikings and great drama. His story is set in two time frames. 825 when the Viking Guthroth kills Asa's family and takes her to his Island home to be his Queen. She vows revenge. Asa is an amazing character, even more so as she was quite real. In 1904 Dr. Kristin Williams is involved in the archeological dig of a burial site with a dragon longboat. Inside are the skeletons of two women, causing an uproar in the archeological community as women were not normally given such an auspicious dragon boat for burial. There is lots of action; wars in the 800's and theft of relics in the 1900's. The writing is lively; it is an engaging story with a lot of history.



September 23rd the Classics Book Club discusses *The Wreath*, the first of the *Kristin Lavransdatter* trilogy by Sigrid Undset, winner of the Nobel Prize. This epic historical fiction focuses on Kristin and begins in 1306 when her family moves to their estate in Jorundgaard. Kristin is a Daddy's girl, her early childhood memories full of the kindness and attention her father showered upon her. In contrast, her mother was a dour woman, not inclined to show Kristin affection. The family has its share of tragedy, and it etches itself deeply on Kristin's mother. They also have their share of good fortune; Kristin's father is a careful man who takes his responsibilities seriously, increasing the family's wealth and prestige. Kristin has always been a dutiful child, her attitude toward her father one of obedience and fealty. At first she trusts her father's care in selecting a good man for her to wed. As time passes, she bristles at the idea of her intended's caresses or his rule. She requests time in a convent where she meets a man who stirs her blood, igniting a passion that causes her to forsake her family's wishes and risk her good name. The story seethes with intrigue, betrayal, danger, and desire.

September 30th the Travel Essay Book Club concludes our Month of Norway with a discussion of *The Fellowship of Ghosts* by Paul Watkins. Hikers will love this book! Watkins spends much of his time in Norway walking in the mountains. It is gorgeous countryside well able to seduce those who enjoy wandering in the majesty of tall white mountains. Watkins' desire to see Norway is fired by a shipmate while he is working his way through college (Yale tends to be expensive). His first trip is short, just a couple weeks, but it fuels a hunger for more time in Norway and soon he is voraciously reading travel memoirs. His next trip is not so rushed, allowing him to follow in the footsteps of the authors who kept his interest in Norway alive. We hope you can join us for some interesting discussions focusing on Norway.



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

October 14th, 2013 *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie [Fiction Book Club](#)

October 28th, 2013 *Instrument of Darkness* by Imogen Robertson [Mystery Book Club](#)

November 4th, 2013 *Running The Rift* by Naomi Benaron [Fiction Book Club](#)

November 11th, 2013 *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn [Mystery Book Club](#)

November 18th, 2013 *Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher* by Timothy Egan [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December 2nd, 2013 *The Orphanmaster* by Jean Zimmerman [Mystery Book Club](#)

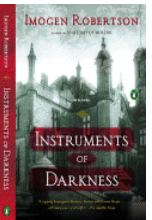
December 9th, 2013 *Straight Man* by Richard Russo [Fiction Book Club](#)

December 16th, 2013 *Watership Down* by Richard Adams [Classics Book Club](#)

January 6th, 2014 *The Syringa Tree* by Pamela Gien [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 13th, 2014 *Cuckoo's Calling* by J.K. Rowling [Mystery Book Club](#)

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



E-readers are changing the landscape for books, not always in gentle ways. Many Independent Bookstores offer e-books for sale, including Sunriver Books & Music. On the right hand side of our website, sunriverbooks.com, you will find information on buying e-books as well as a search feature for e-books and print books. In support of Independent Booksellers publishers sometimes offer specials that we pass onto you. Watch our website to see when they are available. We greatly appreciate your support and hope that you consider your Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating the purchase of an e-reader, please know that Amazon's kindle dictates your e-books be purchased from Amazon while the I-pad, the Sony e-reader, and others allow you the freedom to choose.