



Sunriver Books & Music

September 2015

Newsletter

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September 19th Jane Kirkpatrick will give a presentation on ***The Memory Weaver***, a work of historic fiction based on solid research. November 29th 1847 Eliza Spalding, only ten years old at the time, survived the massacre that took the life of Marcus Whitman, his wife Narcissa, and twelve other men by Cayuse who were convinced the Whitman Mission at Waililatpu, Washington brought deadly disease to their tribe. Among the 45 survivors, Eliza was the only one fluent in a Native American tongue; she spoke the Nez Pearce language. Thus the small child not only witnessed horrific bloodshed and terror, thereafter she acted as translator while not knowing if the remaining survivors held captive would be killed or freed. What would be the effect of such an experience on a child? Today Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome is known to affect survivors of traumatic events, in 1847 not so much so. Jane Kirkpatrick introduces the reader to a teenaged Eliza, haunted by memories of that day, tormented

by conflicting emotions toward the Native Americans, unable to completely separate the Nez Pearce who were her childhood friends and rescuers from her attackers until she reached some form of peace with her experience. Eliza lived a full life, she married a man determined to chart his own course. He was also a man able to understand the strength of his wife, perhaps even a bit more than she understood herself. The child of missionaries, faith is important to Eliza. Kirkpatrick also weaves in diary entries from Eliza's mother. The Whitman Massacre is a well-known episode of northwestern history. Eliza Spalding Warren's history is not as commonly remembered; Kirkpatrick gives us the history of a remarkable woman, her survival of an experience of unimaginable terror, the haunting memories in the aftermath, her resilience and pluck in following her husband far from home to attempt realizing his dreams, and ultimately her courageous determination to live a good life. This is a novel that spans a long life, giving a vivid account of the northwest as it changed from territory to statehood, frontier to farms and towns.

Kirkpatrick has many books telling stories of strong women who contributed to history in meaningful ways, stories that would otherwise be lost. Spring means the scent of lilacs blooming to me. If you love that scent like I do, a visit to Hulda Klager's beautiful and intoxicatingly fragrant garden in Woodland Washington is a treat. ***Where Lilacs Still Bloom*** is the fascinating story of a passionate gardener who created a slew of gorgeous, fragrant new lilac cultivars at a time women were not expected to have interests outside homemaking. She also lived through major events including the VanPort flood that wiped out a city and covered Woodland in water. ***An Absence so Great*** and ***A Flickering Light*** tell the story of Kirkpatrick's grandmother Jessie. Jessie was captivated by photography. Fortune smiled when she landed a job in the photographic studio of F. J. Bauer. ***Aurora*** is a work of non-fiction full of historical detail and pictures about the founding of Aurora Oregon. It shows the beautiful quilts women created while they made homes for themselves in the Pacific Northwest. Emma Geisy overcame adversity and was an important part of Aurora's history. Emma's struggles and triumphs inspired a trilogy; ***A Clearing in the Wild***, ***A Tendering in the Storm*** and ***A Mending at the Edge***. Helga Estby's walk across the US in a desperate bid to save the family farm was documented in ***Bold Spirit*** by Linda Hunt, but what about the daughter, Clara, who accompanied her on the trek? Kirkpatrick tells her story in ***The Daughter's Walk***. In 1896 the two lone women walked from Spokane to New York, taking only the possessions they could carry to sustain them on their journey. They traveled in dresses and jackets, with simple shoes. No Gore-Tex rain gear, ultra-light tents, or soft cushy sleeping bags for them. ***One Glorious Ambition; The Compassionate Crusade of Dorothea Dix*** is the story of a determined woman. Thank heavens for zealots, the true believers who look on a wrong and believe they can make a difference. Edmond Burke said "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Let's amend that to include women. Dix 's life changed when she taught a Sunday school class to a group of women incarcerated in a Massachusetts prison. She toured the part of the prison housing debtors and the insane; the conditions were horrific. She determined to do something. One woman; prior to the Civil War, when women could not vote and the men owned the property, worked for change across the US and Europe; a glorious ambition. ***A Light In The Wilderness*** is a fascinating story, blending fiction and fact, about a free black woman from Missouri who traveled the Oregon Trail to the Oregon Territory. Settling in Oregon, her troubles were not over, she would have to fight in court against a powerful white man who was determined to strip her of all her worldly possessions by nefarious means. For a black woman to go to court pre-Civil War is truly a courageous act. These are just a few of Kirkpatrick's historical fiction featuring brave, gutsy women.





Marian Palaia's July presentation on *The Given World* was unavoidably rescheduled to September 26th at 5:00 PM. You may have read about *The Given World* in July's Newsletter, so I will give only a brief re-cap of the novel here.

The Given World is the story of Riley whose life is irretrievably altered when her beloved big brother Mick goes MIA in Vietnam. She is only 11 when she learns the Vietnam War has claimed Mick, the life she might have lived if he survived is gone, left is the life she will live. Riley has a strong self-destructive streak, but she is a likeable character, often funny, who makes bad decisions (don't we all?) but keeps you rooting for her to find her way. The story begins in Vietnam where an adult Riley has gone to try coming to grips with her brother's death, then moves to Montana, Riley's childhood home, and on to San Francisco where the AIDS crisis is claiming lives. Palaia populates the story with a strong cast of interesting characters: Darrell, a Native American who falls in love with a teenaged Riley before he is drafted to fight in Vietnam, an Elvis impersonator, and a plethora of others who give the story humor, tragedy, and a sense of hope.

The Given World is edgy, gripping, and fun to read, the kind of story that grabs hold until the last page. We are very pleased to present this talented author to the community.

Like her main character, Marian Palaia has traveled a lot, lived in many places, and seen a bit of the world. She currently resides in Missoula Montana and San Francisco California. However in earlier days she spent time in Ho Chi Min City and as a Peace Corp worker in Nepal. She has lived in both Washingtons and in Colorado. At 50 she earned her MFA in Madison Wisconsin. In 2012 and 2013 she was a John Steinbeck fellow at San Jose University. Her step father addressed his letters to her as "Dearest Wanderer". She uses these life experiences to craft a debut novel that is intricate, wide reaching and has a lot of heart.

Author events are free and include refreshments and drawing for door prizes. Stop by Sunriver Books & Music, e-mail sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com or phone 541-593-2525 to sign up to attend.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday April 30th 2016 *New Hikes On The Oregon Coast*, slide show presentation by Bill Sullivan.

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.

Staff Recommendations for New Releases. Nancy Nelson Recommends.



The Art of Crash Landing, by Melissa De Carlo.. Mattie Wallace, at 30 years old is dismissive, irreverent, and witty. She is also broke, pregnant, and lost. Raised by a mom who was emotionally damaged, Mattie is travelling through life with no sense of direction, making mistake after mistake. Then she hears from a lawyer that her maternal grandmother, whom she never knew about, has left her an inheritance. So she leaves her boyfriend, packing up all of her belongings into 6 garbage bags and heads for Gandy, Oklahoma, her mother's home town. In this small town, everyone knows everyone, and for the most part, their secrets. But no one knows why Genie, Mattie's mom, suddenly left town, never to be heard from again. The woman everyone describes is nothing like the mother that Mattie knew. The Genie of yore was an accomplished pianist who had a scholarship to an eastern college, and a boyfriend she intended to marry. What happened? The answer to that question is complicated. Within it lies a residue of regret of what might have been, and after the shock of the century, an understanding that secrets that are meant to protect can reach into the future, exposing the misunderstandings and the resultant mayhem. The book was funny, sad, and hopeful, giving the reader a glimpse of the power of forgiveness.



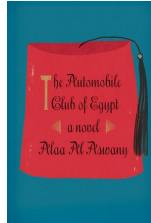
House of Thieves by Charles Belfoure. New York City of the late 19th century is noted for its extremes of great wealth and poverty. Among those who belong to the high society set, ostentation is the rule. The codes of conduct for these people are very strict, unforgiving if broken. In this setting John Cross lives with his extraordinarily beautiful wife and children, presenting the ideal model of acceptability for his class. He is a highly respected architect, very much a part of society. His son George, handsome and charming, a graduate of Harvard, fits the family image perfectly. But young George has a secret gambling addiction and is in debt for thousands of dollars to the most notoriously bad guy in the state. John may not ask friends or family for help. George's life, and indeed the life of the rest of the family are held in ransom to be paid by his father. Money is not enough. Mr. Cross is forced to give assistance in pillaging the lavish wealthy homes and institutions of the city. Thus the respectable John Cross begins his life of crime. The story takes unexpected turns, adding to the intrigue and leading to a very surprising finish. I was a captive reader from beginning to end.

Staff Recommendations for New Releases.
Lynn Hornbuckle Recommends.



A WINDOW OPENS BY ELISABETH EGAN. This is a wonderful story about family and the struggles women face trying to “do it all.” The book also delivers a fabulous one-two punch to the technological world of e-reading and video games. “Hooray” for the independent bookstore is voiced throughout the story. The author brings us into the life of a woman who is facing challenges on all levels, but she perseveres. She is neither heroic nor especially wise but she faces life head on. At times, you want to throttle her and then she is you, or your best friend. Heartfelt, intelligent and realistic I highly recommend this book, it is delightful.

Deon Recommends.



The Automobile Club of Egypt by Alaa Al Aswany. This story of a family’s tragedy is also a rollicking tale told with humor and verve. It opens with the creation of what would be the Mercedes Benz automobile, touches on the craze for motor cars that followed, then veers into family fortunes (or lack thereof) and the political upheaval that accompanied Egypt’s burgeoning desire to be free of the British. Abd el-Aziz Gaafar came from wealth, a landowner that his community looked up to and admired. They also came to him for help; he was not of a temperament to refuse them. His fortune drained, Abd el-Aziz moved his family to an apartment in Cairo and took employment at the Automobile Club of Egypt, a place set up to serve the Brits. James Wright, the Brit in charge, disdains the locals, leaving the running of the place to the King’s Nubian servant Alku. All Abd el-Aziz wants to do is provide for his family. A good man, he is seeing to the education not only of his three sons but also his daughter Saleha, school fees are not inexpensive. He needs his job but finds it difficult to put up with the degradation that comes with his employment. Alku, as the King’s favored servant and confidant, rules the palace, the casino, and the Automobile Club like a despot,

treating the employees as children, having them insulted and beaten whenever his temper feels the whim. No one stands up to him, they need the wages. When Abd el-Aziz retorts to one too many insults, the beating ordered by Alku is deadly. Facing penury, two of his sons agree to work at the Automobile Club to keep the family afloat. The reader is drawn into the lives of the widow and her four very different children, their travails both humorous and serious. This is one of those special books that will cause you to laugh and reflect as you follow the family’s fortunes; a joy to read.

The Last Bus to Wisdom by Ivan Doig. Donal Cameron lives with his grandmother on the Double W ranch in the Two Medicine Country of the Montana Rockies, a gorgeous landscape alive with Maxfield Parish sunsets, jagged peaked mountains, and rivers that



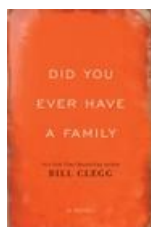
dance in the sunlight with the dazzle of a million diamonds. It is a land he is loath to leave. Donal was orphaned young and taken in by his grandmother who toils as the ranch cook. He is only 11 years old in 1951 when health issues force her to put him on a bus to Wisconsin to stay with her sister, Kate, for the summer. Donal has never met his great aunt, he is worried about his grandmother’s upcoming surgery, and he has never been out of Montana. Traveling alone on a Greyhound Bus turns into quite an adventure. Donal’s troubles are not over when he arrives, Kate is a despotic, ill tempered, self-serving woman completely lacking any consideration for the needs of a lonely young boy. Her husband Herman the German is Donal’s refuge. Herman’s obsession is anything to do with the West, Cowboys, and Indians. When Kate chucks Donal out, sending him back to Montana

on the Greyhound Bus, Herman sneaks aboard too. The traveling companions scuttle Kate’s plans and light out for adventure in the west. Boy Howdy, do they ever find it! A veritable traveling roadshow of characters keep things interesting for the pair, and their readers. Cowboys, Indians, bucking horses, all come together for a last tale from one of the Northwest’s best authors, Ivan Doig.



Idyll Threats by Stephanie Gayle. Thomas Lynch left the murder squad of NYC to be police chief in Idyll Connecticut, running from his demons to a place of relative quiet and low crime. A young woman is murdered in the night on the local golf course. By odd coincidence Chief Lynch met her very shortly before her death, within hours. This should make the case easier, but Lynch cannot share the information with his squad. It would give away the fact he is gay and was on a pickup gone wrong when he briefly saw the victim where she should not have been. In small town 1997 being a gay cop, much less the Chief is not a popular career move. While Lynch’s family knows, he is firmly in the closet for the professional part of his life. Add the fact he has not bonded with his fellow officers. The last chief was not overly burdened with a work ethic; Chief Lynch is the real deal, a cop who cares about being a good cop. Trying to steer the investigation onto the right path while protecting his secret is upsetting to Lynch and complicating to the case. He delves into the case facing pressure from all sides: the secrets he left behind in NYC,

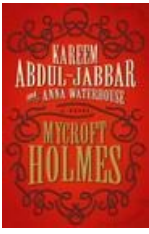
the Mayor wanting a quick resolution, his officers uncomfortable with such a hands on approach from the Chief of Police, and Lynch’s need to bring justice to the dead woman while maintaining his privacy. I liked this new entry in the mystery genre and hope there is more to come. Lynch is likeable, albeit flawed in believable ways. The challenges of being a gay Chief of Police are interesting and put a human face on the character and make his growth over the course of the story quite satisfying.



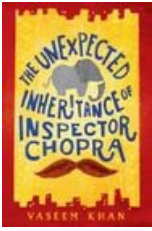
Did You Ever Have A Family by Bill Clegg. On a day that should have been happy, June’s life implodes. It was supposed to be her daughter’s wedding day, a day of joy. Instead a tragedy will take the life of everyone close to her; daughter, daughter’s fiancé, ex-husband, and lover. Poof. All gone. June the only survivor. Staying with a friend, having lost all her possessions, June takes care of the necessary issues after a death. It all becomes just too much, she grabs her car keys and flees, heading on a cross country jaunt from her Connecticut hometown to Moclips on the Pacific Coast. As the story unfolds, we get to know more about June, an interesting woman, and those dear to her who perished, as well as some of the townspeople. Lydia, the mother of June’s lover, Luke, is also affected deeply. Several characters are suspected of being somewhat culpable in the tragedy. June is a satisfying character; her flight and the haven she finds in that west coast town make for an interesting story.

Staff Recommendations for New Releases.

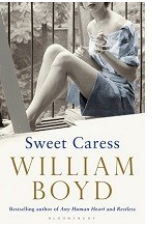
Deon Recommends.



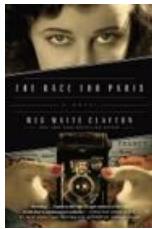
Mycroft Holmes by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. While this Mycroft is probably more emotional than envisioned by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, he is also very entertaining and gives the reader one possible version of Mycroft as a young man. I think Sir Arthur Conan Doyle would like him. The story moves swiftly, there is lots of daring, and it is fun to read. Mycroft is engaged to Georgianna, he is totally besotted. She shares a common background with Mycroft's best friend Cyrus Douglas, a tobacco vendor. They both hail from Trinidad, although there the similarity ends. Douglas is a black man from a small village; Georgianna is a blond beauty the daughter of a plantation owner. Mycroft and Douglas are enjoying a cigar together after winning a wager when Douglas confides his worries about his family back in Trinidad. Children have gone missing, from the areas along the waterfront. When Mycroft shares this news with his fiancée wondering if she might have heard something that would soothe Douglas' concerns, her reaction is dramatic. She declares her intention to leave for Trinidad immediately to see her family, and admonishes Mycroft not to try and follow. Of course he does follow, accompanied by Douglas. No sooner are the two men on the boat then they are set upon by thugs. Someone is willing to go through a great deal of trouble to keep them away from investigating the missing children. From there the story takes off at a galloping pace. Abdul-Jabbar's Mycroft is a likeable, interesting character, but for me Douglas steals the story, a fascinating and sympathetic man. Hopefully Abdul-Jabbar will continue the story with both Mycroft and Douglas; they are great fun to read!



The Unexpected Inheritance of Inspector Chopra by Vaseem Khan. Inspector Chopra is a good cop, he cares about justice. He has forgone promotion to keep doing the type of police work he does so well and that gives him satisfaction. It is hard to give up such a career but his doctor has advised retirement and Poppy, his adored wife, could not bear to see him risk his health. Inspector Chopra's last day on the job is worse than he anticipated and the next day is not showing any improvement. A young man has drowned; his mother is bereft, accusing the police of not caring because the boy came from a poor family. Although he orders an autopsy, Chopra can do little else; any investigation will be the province of the next guy to occupy his chair. Arriving home after clearing out the office he occupied for many years, Chopra discovers his adored wife Poppy arguing over a baby elephant. His uncle Bansi it seems has seen fit to bequeath Chopra the elephant, never mind that Chopra has no experience with elephants and lives on the fifteenth floor of an apartment building in Mumbai, hence the argument over its arrival. Bansi's letter assures Chopra this is no ordinary elephant, future events will prove the truth of this prediction. Chopra's first day as a civilian does not go well. The new Inspector has retracted the authorization of an autopsy and is calling the young man's death accidental. This cannot stand; Chopra will use his wiles to investigate with or without the authority! If you enjoy your mysteries quirky with a bit of mirth, this is a sure winner. You will like this inspector; Chopra is an honest man doing his best in an often corrupt world. He loves his wife, is kind to animals, and cares about his city, Mumbai. It doesn't hurt to have a cute baby elephant with a taste for junk food either, most entertaining. I am looking forward to the next installment.



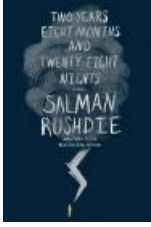
Sweet Caress by William Boyd releases September 15. Amory's uncle gives her a camera, igniting a passion for photography that will become her life's work. War and photographs will be the telling influences as she lives through tumultuous times. WWI gives her uncle a permanent limp and bestows demons on her father that will lead him to a desperate action. Taken under her uncle's wing as a young woman, she photographs the aristocratic and the trendy for slick magazines until events propel her to Berlin. In WWII and Vietnam she will be a photo journalist. Boyd salts photographs throughout the book, grounding the story with the beat of history. Amory is a wonderfully complicated character. We meet her as an older woman; living alone in a cottage with her Labrador retriever, Flam, then go back to her childhood and on through her development into a woman photo-journalist. Using a woman photo-journalist on the battlefields of WWII and Vietnam is fitting. Dickey Chappelle, Margaret Bourke-White, Martha Gelhorn, and Lee Miller all bucked the system, faced danger, and documented wars with their cameras. Dickey Chappelle paid for her bravery with her life in the jungles of Vietnam. I applaud William Boyd writing a good story featuring a woman behind the lens in wartime.



The Race for Paris by Meg Waite Clayton. Journalists, print and photo, show the public images of war, images that shock you into an awareness of the blood and guts cost of people doing their level best to kill each other. It is a dangerous business. In WWII the women were there, but they had a rougher time of it. While the guys were ferried around with the troops, the women were often denied access to the battlefields. These were women well able to ignore orders. Try to stop Martha Gelhorn! She masqueraded as a stretcher carrier to get on the beach at Normandy on D-Day! Gelhorn is considered one of the greatest war correspondents of the 20th century. She was also well known for her brief marriage to Ernest Hemingway. Dickie Chappelle traveled with the troops to get her stories, she was at Iwo Jima and Okinawa in WWII. Chappelle was the first female journalist killed in action in Vietnam. The women were there, they were definitely there. In ***The Race for Paris*** Jane, a print reporter for the Nashville Banner and Liv a photojournalist for the Associated Press ignore orders, heading for the action. They are helped along the way by a British military photographer, Fletcher. As they experience the fear and deprivations of wartime, the trio grows close. Danger is faced with courage. Liv is determined to reach Paris first, to take the first pictures as the city is liberated. There is a lot of country between them and the City of Light, country with Germans and Allies fighting. Clayton weaves in the actions of real women journalists, enriching the story.

Staff Recommendations for New Releases.

Deon Recommends.

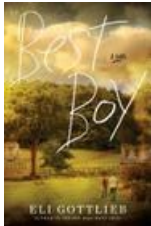


Two Years Eight Months and Twenty Eight Nights by Salman Rushdie is a brilliant fairy tale for adults, prepare to be entertained by a master story teller. Jinns, cataclysmic storms, and all sorts of most unusual occurrences. Jinns, being somewhat impulsive and fond of entertainment, used to enjoy fiddling around in human affairs just to see what kind of mischief they could create. The portal between the two worlds has been sealed for a long, long time, but now there are cracks and the jinns are filtering back through, both good and bad. The world is not close to prepared for the chaos that will ensue. But before all that, way back in history, Dunia, the jinn princess, fell in love with a mortal, Ibn Rushd. She bore him many children, concealing her true nature. Now, centuries later, the descendants of their union will be imperiled by the coming war between good and evil. Dunia must find them, reveal their true natures. There are all sorts of oddities; a baby who can sense corruption abandoned at the

Mayor's office, a graphic artist whose creations come to spooky life, and a gardener whose feet no longer touch the ground. And of course, this being an excellent story from a master storyteller, there will be a moral to the tale.

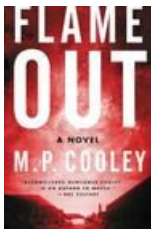


The Drowned Boy by Karin Fossum. Inspector Skarre senses something not quite right about the drowning of a toddler in a pond. Turning to his mentor, Inspector Sejer, he waits to see if the same shadow of doubt touches the senior man. It does. Tommy was a healthy child, so it is possible he could have made it out the open back door and down to the pond, but there is something about Carmen, the mother, that gives both men the willies. Her story is plausible; hot day, door left open, Dad working on a bike, Mom steps out of the room, toddler heads to the water. Yet it sounds somewhat off. As they start to investigate, the men are walking a tightrope. If Carmen's story, corroborated by Nicolai the father, is true, they do not want to add to the family's grief over the death of their child by being insensitive. At the same time, if their suspicions, and at the beginning they are only suspicions, are true, then Tommy deserves justice. Carmen was not happy about giving birth to a child with Down's syndrome, but that does not constitute proof of evil doing. The autopsy soon challenges the mother's story, but another story, also very possible is presented. For Skarre and Sejer the questions are what happened to little Tommy and can they prove it was a crime?



Best Boy by Eli Gottlieb. Payton Living Center has been home to Todd Aaron for about four decades. While he still yearns for the home he remembers from his first eleven years, he has, for the most part, been comfortable, if not happy. Todd lives in a little bungalow with a roommate, he is given jobs to keep his day going, and excursions for a bit of fun. He likes Raykene, his primary care giver, she is kind to him. As the story opens, Todd's life starts to go out of kilter. Autism and developmental disabilities make him uncomfortable when his routine or environment changes. A new roommate is living in his bungalow, Tommy Doon, who goes out of his way to upset Todd. Then the Center hires a new guy, Mike, who reminds Todd of his father, a harsh man whose memory can still cause pain. Todd has no experience with the ladies; he is unprepared for Martine. Because Todd has been at the Center so long, he is often given the job of showing the new people around. Martine sparks feelings in Todd that cause complications. As all of these new conditions upset Todd, his life becomes unstable. He is unhappy in his bungalow, no longer a

place of refuge, it is now a place he endures Tommy's taunts, the new man Mike makes him nervous, and Martine's lust for more freedom is contagious. Todd wants to go home, to his real home, with the mother he loves; knowing and not knowing that she died years ago. Todd's brother brushes off his pleas to visit until all the stress leads Todd to take drastic action. This is a daring story, told in Todd's voice, but it works. The author creates a likeable character, a voice that sounds true, and tells of the vulnerability of those marching to the beat of a different drummer.



Flame Out by M.P. Cooley. June Lyons walked away from a promising career with the FBI when her husband died, re-treating with her young daughter to the small town of Hopewell Falls where she is a police officer in the same department her father served years ago. June left the FBI seeking a safe haven, a quiet place to raise her daughter where she could be a good cop solving routine burglaries and the sorts of other minor crimes faced by small communities. To a degree she achieved some of her goals; her father helps take care of her daughter, she fits in well in her department, and her partner, Dave Balko, is a nice guy who has also become a good friend. However, quiet and small time crimes, was a pipe dream, far from avoiding danger, she seems destined to find herself in harm's way. As cheap labor in China and other parts of the world lured manufacturing jobs away from the USA, the factories along the Mohawk River shut; becoming derelict hulks and targets for arson. Driving past an abandoned

factory June notices a gas slick, not good news. She quickly called in the probable fire and went inside to investigate, sure enough flames were spreading, and there was a pile of rags in the path of the fire, a pile of rags covering a woman. The badly burned woman has no identification, June and her partner will need to find out where she came from and how she ended up in a torched building. That will only be part of the mystery. Thirty years ago June's father put away the factory owner for the murder of his wife and child. The bodies have never been found. In the aftermath of the fire, a sealed barrel containing the body of a woman is discovered. These cases will reach back into her father's past and into the community of Ukrainian refugees, home to her partner Dave Balko. As is to be expected in a small community, everyone knows some little piece of the puzzle, everyone is at risk. June's investigation will tread on those she holds dear in a search for answers that go back decades.

Staff Recommendations for New Releases.
Deon Recommends.



This is Your Life, Harriet Chance by Jonathan Evison,; he is such a gifted author and so generous with his characters. Harriet Chance is inspired by the strong women in Evison's family, his grandmother and mother. Always daring and original in his style, Evison writes this as retrospective on Harriet Chance's life, moving from the challenges she is facing current day back to the events that formed her. Make no mistake, Harriet is facing challenges. At 79 she is widowed, living alone in Sequim Washington, except she is not really alone, Bernard her deceased husband keeps visiting, moving things around, trying to work up the courage to have a conversation he should have embarked on years ago. She is startled to find that Bernard purchased tickets on an Alaskan cruise before departing this earth. Going on a voyage is a big undertaking for Harriet, even more so in the execution. As Harriet prepares to set sail, the reader is taken back to various watershed moments in her past. Her relationship with her children, her hopes as a young girl, and the secrets she has held close all come to light. Comedy and tragedy are closely linked, Evison understand this and uses both to good advantage. It is clear Evison likes women and has respect for his characters. He tells a good story, liberally infuses humor, and shows what a woman's life was like when motherhood was the expected career path.

Staff Recommendations. Now available in paperback.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.

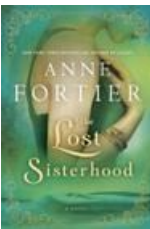


Never Coming Back by Tim Weaver. Journalist David Raker is an investigative reporter who writes about missing victims. After his wife is murdered, and he barely escapes death himself, David makes it his mission to discover what has happened to the missing, "to bring them back into the light", giving surviving family members some peace of mind. Out of the blue, an old girlfriend of his shows up and asks him to look into the disappearance of her sister, Carrie. One day the house was empty. The whole family was just gone, with no apparent explanation. The police seem to have stopped their investigation. When David takes on the case, more people die under very suspicious circumstances, anyone who might have any information. The story shifts from quaint English fishing towns, where the missing family lived, to Las Vegas. In the quest for the truth, some of the facts that surface are quite surprising. This was such a page turner that from start to finish, not easily put aside.

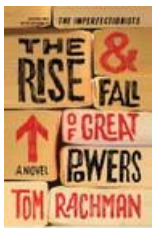


The Miniaturist, by Jessie Burton. It is mid October of 1686 when Nella Oortman, just barely 18 years old, knocks on the door of husband's family home. Though the house itself is splendid, it is without human warmth. Marin, Nella's new sister-in-law is chilly and over bearing. Johannes, Nella's new husband is not even at home to greet her. Eventually she comes to see him as a kind man, but remote to her. She is alone, friendless and feels almost a prisoner of her new home. When one night Johannes brings her a beautiful wedding gift, a cabinet sized replica of their home, Nella's life changes dramatically. She enlists the help of a miniaturist to furnish the new cabinet. The miniaturist sends pieces which eerily foretell the future of the Brandts family. They also help Nella to gather her confidence and to risk exploring her new world. In so doing, Nella discovers a carefully guarded secret which, if discovered could cause of the undoing of Johannes Brandt and his family. The talented and elusive miniaturist seems to know Nella's secret, and the prophetic pieces keep coming, even though Nella has stopped ordering them. Living within the constraints of this terribly pious and repressive society, differences and perceived sins often have extraordinary and terrible consequences. In the face of great danger Nella is able to rise to the occasion when necessary. More surprising and dangerous secrets emerge. As the characters develop, they are unmasked. What then we see is the courage, the loyalty, the strengths and weaknesses that they dare not openly display. In the end all is dependent on the love and kindness that remains. This was really gripping, roller coasting to a surprising finish.

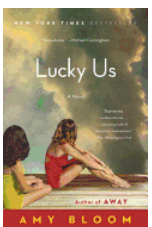
Deon Recommends.



The Lost Sisterhood by Anne Fortier. Why should the guys have all the fun? Diana Morgan and the Amazons prove women are great at action and adventure too. If you enjoy William Dietrich's entertaining Ethan Gage series or King Solomon's Mines by H. Rider Haggard give this a try. Morgan, an expert on mythology, is lecturing at Oxford when a mysterious man with a proposition approaches her. He is willing to pay well for her expertise on the myth of the Amazons. It is a tantalizing offer, one she cannot refuse. Morgan is obsessed with Amazons and has been since hearing the stories of her grandmother as a child. The possibility of proving the Amazons were real is more than she can resist. As Morgan, aided by a handsome Middle Eastern guide, closes in on the secrets of the Amazons, including a hidden treasure, men of evil purposes pursue her. Swashbuckling action abounds, the writing is lively, the heroine engaging and the story goes to interesting places, from England to North Africa, and Greece.



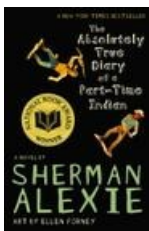
The Rise & Fall of Great Powers by Tom Rachman. Tooty owns a bookstore in a remote part of Wales where she leads a quiet life surrounded by the comfort of books. Preferring books to people, she has little contact with anyone other than a friendly, talkative employee. Her childhood and background leave a lot of questions unanswered. Tooty believes she will never really find the answers until one day the past reaches out to her, sending Tooty on a journey that takes her around the world unraveling the mysteries of her life. This is one of those books that is a sheer delight to read!



Lucky Us by Amy Bloom. Eva's father visited on the weekends, the rest of the time he was with his legitimate family. Eva didn't really understand the situation until her father's wife died and her mother abandoned her with the man. Iris, Eva's half-sister, had no clue she had a sibling until the day Eva's mother drove off leaving Eva behind. Scandalous doings for the 1940's. Despite this inauspicious beginning, the sisters developed a strong bond. Beautiful, talented Iris was aiming to make her mark in Hollywood. Leaving Ohio behind, the two sisters headed out for fame and fortune. For a while it seemed they might succeed. Instead good times and bad come their way, they endure betrayal and heartbreak, are buoyed up by friendship and hope. The story paints on a broad canvas, from small town Midwest, to Hollywood, Brooklyn, London and Germany. Events shape their futures; a World War, changing attitudes, and vagaries of fortune. Throughout Amy Bloom tells her story with comic flair, treating her characters with empathy and respect.

Banned Books Week
September 27th to October 3rd

Freedom of expression, the free flow of ideas, is a founding concept of our country. Yet we still struggle with the small mindedness of censorship. I fiercely resent anyone telling me what ideas are inappropriate for me to read. Freedom of expression is a right we should all champion and fight to preserve. With that in mind, here are a few banned books. Let's not bow to the restrictive sensibilities of a few to limit our reading.



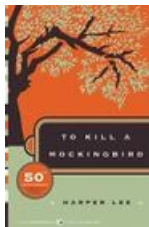
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian by Sherman Alexie is a brilliant story about a young boy who refuses to live down to the expectations of the people surrounding him. Junior makes the difficult choice to go to school off the reservation, to put himself in an unfamiliar and difficult situation in order to learn. Set on the Spokane Reservation, the book has a northwest feel. A work of fiction based somewhat on Sherman Alexie's life, the story is told in language teenagers will understand and affirms that with struggle it is possible to reach your potential. What parent wouldn't be uplifted by this message? It has won both the National Book Award and the PNBA award. Yet it was banned in the Redmond School district.



Les Misérables by Victor Hugo is one of my favorite novels. The characters of Jean Valjean and Javert are inspired by Eugene Francois Vidocq, a convict turned cop and the creator of the Surete de France. He was the main character in **The Black Tower** by Louis Bayard. Jean Valjean's life has been brutal; convicted of stealing a loaf of bread to feed his family he is sent away to prison coming out many years later hardened, bitter, and dangerous. Valjean is redeemed by the kindness of a good man. Javert is a police inspector of considerable cunning, his determination making him a feared hunter of men. Their paths will cross. Set during a turbulent period in French history, the story begins in 1815, the year Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo and goes on to the Paris Uprising of 1832. Blending historical fact with a masterful work of fiction, it is a story brimming with good and evil, destiny and despair, cruelty and mercy. There is passion, suspense, and grandeur in this timeless, compelling story.



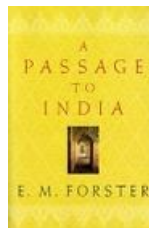
The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini is a moving story of betrayal and redemption set against the poignant backdrop of war torn Afghanistan. Amir and his father make it out, but his childhood companion remained in Afghanistan where the Taliban's rule has not been benevolent. Amir is haunted by an act of cowardice and shame in his childhood. He owes Hassan a debt. Returning to his war torn homeland is the only path to redemption. This important book provides an insight into another culture as well as a compelling story of two young boys and the secret they keep.



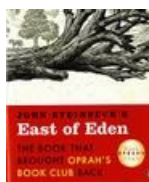
To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. On its 50th anniversary this masterpiece was just as alive and relevant as the year it was written. A black man is falsely accused of rape. His defense falls heavily on the shoulders of his lawyer, Atticus. Set in 1930's Alabama, it was not a time a white man would be lauded for defending a black. Nor is Atticus' daughter Scout or son Jem immune from public ire over their father's controversial case. Told through Scout's perspective, the story is compelling. I like these characters, I suspect you will too. They have stood the test of time.



The Monkey Wrench Gang by Ed Abbey inspires a love of wilderness. Led by the intrepid Hayduke, a motley gang wages war on the big yellow machines that have come to destroy the landscape they love. Hilarious, outrageous, passionate, and totally full of himself, Edward Abbey was an original. He was vehemently opposed to the construction of the Glen Canyon dam, a dam that obliterated Native petro glyphs and is now viewed by quite a few as a mistake. Too late for all that pretty landscape, it has been drowned for a long time now. Abbey pours all the rage and furor of his opposition to despoiling wild places into his fiction. Edward Abbey defies definition, he is not about to fit into any neat little box. An impassioned environmentalist, he was also known to shoot television sets and litter the desert he loved with their debris. Ed Abbey was one of those guys who eat up life in great big gulps. In his fiction he lets us have a little taste of what it is like to live large.



A Passage to India by E. M. Forster is set in the waning days of the British Raj. Questions of power and justice are explored. Adela heads to India accompanied by her future mother in law. Her betrothed is Ronny Heaslop, the British Magistrate of Chandrapore. Mrs. Moore is more open to the natives than her son Ronny who believes strongly in the entitlement and superiority of the Brits. On a visit to a mosque she meets Dr. Aziz. Cyril Fielding is another Brit who tries to befriend the natives; Mrs. Moore induces him to invite Dr. Aziz to tea. Trying to make a good impression, Dr. Aziz offers to take the ladies sightseeing to some local caves. It will be a tragic invitation. When one group holds the power, is justice possible?



East of Eden by Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck is set in the Salinas valley. Twin sons are raised by a loving father, but the product of a woman who could easily be described as bad news. Good or evil, are you destined to be one or the other based on your ancestors? Or do you get to choose? All of the characters are memorable. The land is so intricately described you will feel like you have stepped into a California of rich soil and quiet places, not the super highways of today. This is a powerful tale of the evil infecting a family. a classic story of good, evil, betrayal, and redemption



Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes is my favorite book of all time. Dream the impossible dream. Follow Don Quixote along with his faithful sidekick Sancho as they tilt at windmills and search out heroic deeds to accomplish in the name of the fair Dulcinea. Should a bar maid's life be valued any less than a lady's? Miguel de Cervantes may have reached the unreachable star! His book lives on after over 400 years.

September 2015 Book Clubs.

In October our Book Clubs will focus on another country and culture, this year's selection is China. Leading up to the October Month of China we have a selection from the perspective an American-Born Chinese and then a story of an immigrant family. The month of September concludes with our Banned Book Selection. Book Clubs meet Monday evenings at 6:30, light refreshments are served and everyone is welcome.



September 7th the Mystery Book Club discusses **Ghost Hero** by S.J. Rozan. Snappy repartee spices up this mystery set in the art scene of New York City. A rumor is circulating in the art community about new paintings by an artist who died in the Tiananmen Square massacre, the **Ghost Hero**. Lydia Chin is hired by Jeff Dunbar to ascertain the truth of the rumors and if they have merit to find the paintings. Lydia is uneasy about Jeff from the get go, he doesn't look or talk like the serious art collector he purports to be. Nor does he seem to really exist. Lydia is not an art expert, nor does her detective agency specialize in art, fortunately her partner, Bill Smith, is pals with another detective, Jack Lee, who is an art expert and specializes in such cases. Jack, however, is already involved posing a potential conflict of interest. Soon the three have combined forces to comb galleries and artist's studios trying to unravel the unlikely rumor of unknown paintings from a dead master. Lydia and Jack are both American-Born Chinese.

While Rozan gives an entertaining mystery set in the New York Art World that would be interesting to art lovers and New York city aficionados alike, it also gives a look into the Chinese-American community, from the prejudice encountered by two of the heroes to the tight knit relations of community members. It takes only one meal in Chinatown for Lydia's mother to find out she dined with handsome Jack Lee, a much better prospect in her mother's mind than the Kentucky born Bill Smith. Rozan isn't big on gore; **Ghost Hero** is more about the puzzle, the resilience of the characters, and the sprinkling of humor to give the story sparkle.



September 21st the Fiction Book Club discusses **A Free Life** by Ha Jin. Like his main characters, Ha Jin is from Harbin China, came to the USA to study, enrolled in Brandeis University, and decided to stay after the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre, from there the story of the characters and their creator diverge. Ha Jin was studying English Literature, not Political Science, he went on to be a professor and highly successful author with many awards including the National Book Award, Pen Faulkner Award, and Pen Hemingway Award. **Free Life** opens with Nan and Pingping, nervously awaiting the arrival of their six year old son, Taotao. The Tiananmen Square Massacre has solidified their decision to settle in the USA. It has also made other changes in the course of their lives. Nan was in the PHD program at Brandeis University, upset over what he was seeing happen in the lead up to the massacre, he made an off the cuff hotheaded statement, the kind of thing you might say to blow off steam, not realizing it would be taken seriously by the dozen other people in the room. He is sickened by the situation in China, upset with himself, and wants

nothing more to do with Political Science. Well educated and respected in China, in the US he is a dishwasher, night watchman, and doer of odd jobs. **Free Life** follows Nan and Pingping's fortunes as they work hard, try to understand their new country, deal with the attitudes of others, and build a life for themselves. Ha Jin gives an intimate portrait of the emigrant experience. In many of his novels a strong female character steals the story. This is true here too. Nan married Pingping on the rebound from a heartless female siren. The flame continues to burn for his old paramour after his marriage to Pingping. Realizing her husband does not love her, Pingping nevertheless works hard to be a good, supportive wife and doting mother. As the story moves forward, the reader hopes Nan will awaken to the character of this strong, feisty woman. In October, during our Month of China, the Fiction Book Club will discuss **Waiting** by Ha Jin. The writer's style is quite different in the two books, where **Free Life** rambles through the experiences of an emigrant family in the US, giving intimate detail to their struggles and successes, **Waiting**, set in Mainland China, is spare and powerful. Both are excellent novels by a master storyteller.



September 28th the Classics Book Club discusses our Banned Book selection, **Grapes of Wrath** by John Steinbeck. Forced by the Great Depression and the Dustbowl to leave their home, the Joad family travels to California in hopes of a new start. This is one of the most powerful works of American fiction ever written. Steinbeck reported on the diaspora of those displaced by those twin events, he brings a power and realism to his work of fiction that grips the reader. When the book came out in 1939 it was banned in Kern County, California officials actually participated in burning the book. Hmmm, seems to me there was also a furor over burning books in a certain European Country about to become notorious. Controlling peoples' minds and ideas is wrong. People should be free to read, study, and choose their beliefs and passions.



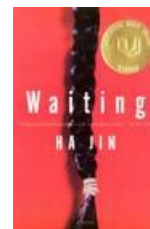
Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM

October 12th 2015 **Flower Net** by Lisa See [Mystery Book Club Month of China](#)
October 19th 2015 **Waiting** by Ha Jin [Fiction Book Club Month of China](#)

November 2nd 2015 **The Enchanted** by Rene Denfeld [Fiction Book Club](#)
November 16th 2015 **Natchez Burning** by Greg Iles [Mystery Book Club](#)
November 30 2015 **Astoria** by Peter Stark [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December 14th 2015 **The Ascendant** by Drew Chapman [Mystery Book Club](#)
December 21st 2015 **The Steady Running of the Hour** by Justin Go [Fiction Book Club](#)

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



If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy using space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation. Using the space is free. To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music.

Sunriver Village is an ideal place to meet. After concluding the day's agenda enjoy a meal at one of the Village restaurants and browse in the many shops.

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