



Sunriver Books & Music

September 2017

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



It's Show Time!

September 7 Craig Johnson

Walt Longmire Series

The Western Star

two shows, a 2:30 matinee and a 6:30 evening presentation
at SHARC.



A few seats have opened up for the 6:30 show, we still
have room for the 2:30 matinee.

Sign up to see this free event with New York Times Bestselling author Craig Johnson while there is still space. Call 541-593-2525 or email sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com to sign up.

Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire mysteries inspired the hit TV series Longmire, the new season starts on Netflix this September.

Craig Johnson and Viking, a division of Penguin-Random House, added the second show to give readers the opportunity to attend when the first show had filled the space available. It was not easy logistically, but they made it happen. Lets say thank you by filling both shows!

It started with the **Outlaw Tour**, the adventure continues. We are very grateful to Craig Johnson for his loyalty and continued support of Sunriver Books & Music and his many readers in Central Oregon.



The Western Star, latest in the Walt Longmire series releases September 5, we are happy to pre-order for you.

The Western Star takes you back to the beginning in 1972 when a young Marine, back from the jungles of Vietnam and newly wed, is taken under the wing of Sheriff Lucien Connolly. Walt Longmire isn't sure he wants to be a lawman, isn't sure quite what he wants to do. The legendary **Western Star** is about to take a group of Wyoming sheriffs and one new deputy, Walt Longmire, across the state, where they will catch up on the gossip, bond with each other, party and foster impressive hangovers. Not all of the Sheriffs will survive the ride. The story moves seamlessly between past and present. Current day Sheriff Walt Longmire, former Sheriff Lucien Connolly, Henry Standing Bear, and Deputy Vic Morretti travel to Cheyenne where Walt is opposing the release of a prisoner and visiting his daughter Cady and granddaughter Lola. The past has a way of catching up with the present, sometimes those intersections are deadly. Great writing and a firecracker of a plot!



Photos in SHARC by Dr. Sue Dougherty, photo at store by Dan Feer.

The Walt Longmire series have been Indie Next List picks many times, New York Times Best Sellers, and multiple award winners. They are popular in Europe as well as the USA. Johnson's novels combine great writing, engrossing plots, and likeable characters. If you have been watching the TV series starring Robert Taylor, Lou Diamond Phillips, and Katee Sackoff shown on Netflix, read the books and get to know the characters in a more intimate manner.

For a description of each of the books in the series, see our August newsletter. Here is a list of the titles in order.



Cold Dish
Death Without Company
Kindness Goes Unpunished
Another Man's Moccasins
Dark Horse
Junkyard Dogs
Hell is Empty
As the Crow Flies
A Serpent's Tooth
Any Other Name.
Dry Bones.
An Obvious Fact
The Western Star

There are also two novellas and a book of short stores.

Spirit of Steamboat
The Highwayman
Wait for Signs



Judy Johnson will bring an array of memorabilia. There are hats, tee-shirts, sweatshirts, bumper stickers and an array of merchandise to complement the Walt Longmire series, all attractively designed. I can attest to the durability and comfort of the products, I wear the Red Pony hat and other items often.

What will Judy bring this year? Attend and find out! In past years the bumper stickers have been very popular, as well as the clothing items.

Kat McClusky will be aiding Judy Johnson in helping you.

We greatly appreciate Craig and Judy Johnson's friendship and loyalty in returning to make this a great annual event for Sunriver!

Thank you Craig & Judy!



Craig Johnson is pictured on the left signing John Eckholt's book assisted by Sandy Landis.

The picture of Craig and Judy Johnson in Sunriver Books & Music was taken by Brooke Snaveley of the Sunriver Scene.

All other pictures on this page were by Dr. Sue Dougherty.



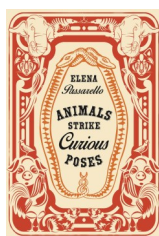


August 29-September 3.

Inspire a child to enjoy reading! Donate a book to Three Rivers School!

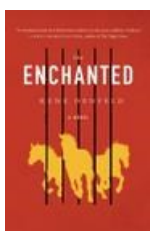
It is hard for school districts to find the funds to keep their libraries and classrooms thriving with good literature. Help fuel the school children's passion for reading. Buy any book in the children's section at 35% off, we keep the book and deliver it to Three Rivers School with your name & address. The first child to read the book will write you a thank you note, thereafter the book is available for the Three Rivers students. In donating books this way the children are exposed to a wider variety of literature as everyone picks books they feel will ignite a desire to read!

A \$19.99 book would cost you \$12.99, a \$16.99 book will be \$11.05, a \$12.99 book becomes \$8.44, \$9.99 reduces to \$6.49, and \$6.99 is just \$4.54.



Saturday September 9th at 5:00 PM Elena Passarello will give a presentation on her delightful book ***Animals Strike Curious Poses***. Flitting happily through history, the book is full of insightful essays on a diverse group of animals starting with a woolly mammoth. An essay imagines how did it go for Saint Francis and the Umbrian wolf? A playful essay follows the fate of Harriet, a tortoise from the Galapagos taken on the Beagles' voyage with Charles Darwin. Told from the tortoise's perspective, it tells of her jilted love for the young Darwin, and continues as her travels take her from England to Australia. Mozart's startling is a fascinating look at one of time's most brilliant composers and a reach across the divide between species to a sparrow full of birdsong. This is a collection anyone interested in animals will find enchanting.

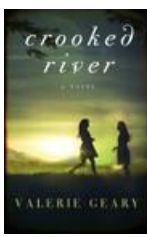
Elena Passarello will also be appearing in Bend at the Deschutes County Library, if you are unable to attend our event in Sunriver on Saturday, please take the opportunity to see her at the library for the Second Sunday event on Sunday September 10 at 2:00 PM.



Saturday September 16 at 5:00 PM Rene Denfeld will give a presentation on ***The Child Finder***, her latest novel. Denfeld writes with sere, vulnerable honesty, boldly going into dark places shining a light of possibility. Naomi is known as ***The Child Finder***, since the age of twenty she has spent her life and her passion hunting for missing children, sometimes with amazing success, occasionally with tragic results. It is the only way she knows to keep her own dark history at bay. Naomi's life began at 9, when a group of migrant workers rescued the young girl as she ran terrified through a field into their camp, attracted by the light of their fire. She has no earlier memories, only the nightmares that haunt her sleep. On a trip to the Skookum National Forest to cut the perfect Christmas tree, Madison Culver age 5 disappeared without a trace. Snow made the search difficult, perhaps impossible, a cadaver dog tried to find remains, now three years later, the Culvers are asking Naomi to find their child. Common sense says the child perished in the forbidding wilderness but the Culver's cling to the hope that someone took her, that Madison is still alive. Naomi knows she may shatter their hopes, the weather was harsh, there was no one around, and they were miles into the wilderness along a road with no traffic. Still, she will give it her all, examining every bit of evidence, learning every trail and patch of owned ground, searching with dedication. She takes a room in a seedy motel near the forest, staying near the places she must search. Alone in her room, the nightmares intensify, frightening her sleeping hours. This case may force Naomi to confront the monsters of her past. Written with compassion and understanding, the story introduces great characters.

The Enchanted, her debut work of fiction, is a powerful story, devastating and hauntingly beautiful. Golden horses run under the stone foundation of the old prison, their eyes wild, manes flowing, molten heat emanating from their bodies as they run. An inmate on death row leads the reader into the world of fantasy only he sees and the stark, violent reality of prison life. He watches as an unnamed lady researches the lives of killers sentenced to die, finding clues in their backgrounds that might grant them the leniency of life in prison over death. The secrets she holds close permit her an uncanny understanding of the natures of her clients. A fallen priest comforts the inmates and watches the lady, wondering if she might possess redemption for him.

We are honored to have Rene Denfeld returning to Sunriver Books & Music. Denfeld is an experienced journalist and death penalty investigator. She has written three works of non-fiction on important topics. Hemingway had something to say about writing fiction "*All good books are alike in that they are truer than if they had really happened and after you are finished reading one you will feel that all that happened to you and afterwards it all belongs to you.... If you can get so that you can give that to people, then you are a writer.*" Denfeld joins the ranks of those authors whose excellence allows them to show this truth.



Saturday September 23 at 5:00 PM Valerie Geary will give a presentation on **Everything We Lost**, a gripping novel about strange occurrences, the bond between a brother and sister, and the power of belief.

Lucy adored her older brother Nolan; they would walk their favorite trail from their home to a rock outcrop in the unpopulated area around Bishop California to stargaze. Nolan was a gifted storyteller and artist; he drew comics and created stories for his little sister. They were a pair until Lucy turned 14 and her hormones kicked in, then she was ashamed of Nolan's kooky beliefs. Coltish and pretty, she has a serious crush on Patrick, a handsome member of the in-crowd; her brother's behavior did not help her social standing.

As the story opens, Lucy, now 24, is living with her father in LA. She is unmoored, drifting through life with no clear goal or direction. All her bright hopes and teenage fantasies ended a decade ago, the night Nolan went into the desert and disappeared without a trace. Nolan was heavily involved in tracking UFO's, paranoid about government conspiracies, and increasingly isolated from former friends who found his ideas strange. Lucy's memories of the night Nolan vanished are hazy, affected by too much strong drink, trauma, and time. She is estranged from her mother, working part time for her father, and avoiding contact with others. Everywhere she goes, she looks for Nolan's face, hoping someday to see him alive and happy. The odds are long, but she keeps looking at the faces of young men trying to keep the dream alive.

Jolted from her reclusive life with her father, events send Lucy back to Bishop, the site of her brother's disappearance where she will have to confront her mother and do everything in her power to discover what happened the night Nolan disappeared.

This story keeps you guessing as the narrative shifts between Lucy and Nolan. The scenes with Lucy and Nolan as children gazing at an infinite sky and imagining are beautiful. Tension builds as the stresses on the siblings mount. At its core, this story questions our response to those with different ideas. It is considered perfectly normal to believe a man survived in the belly of a whale, yet someone who thinks differently, who gazes at the night sky and sees the possibility of beings from other worlds is not viewed with the same tolerance.

Valerie Geary's last book was set in Central Oregon. **Crooked River** is the engrossing story of two sisters who see the world very differently but overcome their youth and grief in a quest for justice. Sam McAlister was 15, her sister Ollie 10 the year their mother died suddenly shattering their sheltered lives in Eugene, Oregon. The sisters' father, Bear, has never been a stable presence. He lives without electricity in a Teepee erected in a meadow along the Crooked River near Terrebonne Oregon. Honey from beehives bring him a modest income, enough to pay a paltry rent to the farmer whose meadow he calls home. Sam spent several summers with her father in the meadow, for Ollie it is all new and alien. Bear is an outsider in the community, his bushy hair and beard, solitary existence, and lack of social graces keep him apart. The sisters have barely arrived at their father's Teepee when they find the body of a woman floating in the Crooked River. Numb from the death of their mother, the girls do not tell of their disturbing discovery. Of course, the police, aided by an abundance of incriminating evidence, focus in on Bear as prime suspect. Both girls know Bear is innocent, Sam from all the summers spent in his gentle care, Ollie because the shimmerings, spirits of the departed, have told her so. A killer is loose, their father on a fast track to jail, and two young girls are alone in their quest to make things right. The story grabs you from the first page and keeps you involved as secrets are revealed and it moves to the dramatic conclusion.

Author events are free with refreshments and drawings for prizes. Please call 541-593-2525, e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend. Events are held at Sunriver Books & Music except for Craig Johnson's event held at SHARC.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday October 14, 2017 **All She Left Behind** by Jane Kirkpatrick

Saturday November 11, 2017 **Life Without a Recipe** by Diana Abu-Jaber

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events.

Check sunriverbooks.com for changes or additions to the schedule.

Staff Recommendations, New Releases.



The Wilding Sisters by Eve Chase. In 1959 Margot is 15 when she goes with her three sisters, Dot, Pam, and Flora to visit their aunt and uncle at Applecote Manor in the countryside. Their mother abhors the country, but for the young girls this is an adventure. It has been five years since the disappearance of their cousin, Audrey, but the wound of her loss is still fresh, their aunt continuing to hope. Add a couple young men to the mix, causing trouble with the sisters, and instead of an idyllic time in the country it becomes a long summer with secrets that will haunt the young women the rest of their lives. Half a century later, Jesse believes she has found her dream house in Applecote Manor. She is married to a widower with an independent minded 15 year old step-daughter and is eager to be out of the home in London he shared with his prior wife. The dream is short lived as Jesse starts to hear rumors of what went on all those years ago at Applecote Manor.



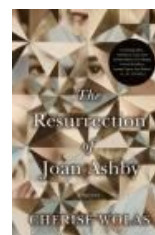
The Golden House by Salman Rushdie. On the day of Barak Obama's inauguration Rene Unterlinden wept for joy, he would weep again when the next president took office but for the opposite reason. Rene was in his 20's; he lived with his parents, both professors, in the Gardens, a New York neighborhood surrounding a private park. A young filmmaker hoping to make his mark, Rene is instantly drawn to the Goldenes when they move into the biggest house in the neighborhood. And why wouldn't he be drawn to them? Nero Golden, and his three sons, with their huge fortune and secretive shady past? So he watched them, began to write his screenplay about them. The oldest son, Petya, is a genius but afraid to go out of doors. Apu, the middle son, is a brilliant artist. The youngest son, D, was handsome but confused. Rene is accepted into their circle, giving him a ringside seat at their escapades, crimes, and perhaps eventually their deepest secrets. Nero, with the name of a Roman emperor, is a powerful man, a widow, the fate of his wife never spoken. Such a man needs a consort, a queen. Vasilisa, a Russian emigre who has invented herself as surely as Nero has created his own persona, is just the woman to exploit this one vulnerability in Nero. There to watch it all is Rene. As this turmoil is stirring up the residents of the Gardens, New York City comes into disarray. It seems the whole country has gone bonkers, electing the least presidential of Presidents, a clown with no experience, a joker whose exploits would have disqualified, possibly jailed, any other candidate for the top job. Now crowned President, he freely vents his message of hate and his narcissistic self-indulgence. Rushdie is one of the finest writers of our era, a grand master of the pen; able to tell a story with sentences so finely crafted they are sheer joy to read. In ***The Golden House*** he tells the perfect story for our age and an entertaining tale of a family unraveling.



The Lost Ones by Sheena Kamal. Nora Watts crafted a home of sorts in the basement of the office where she works for a journalist and private detective; doing a bit of research, manning the phones. Her sole companion is her dog, Whisper, on her off time they walk around Vancouver BC together. They rescued each other, Whisper was on the streets and Nora taking responsibility for the large dog gave her the strength to quit drinking. Calls coming in at 5:00 AM are never good news; the call that wakes Nora is no exception. A man she has never met is desperate for her help in finding a missing girl. Fifteen years ago Nora Watts gave up for adoption the daughter Everett and Lynn Walsh adopted. Bonnie has run away before, but always been easy to find. This time it is different and the Walsh's want Nora's help in finding her biological child. Nora came up rough; she knows intimately what happens to young, vulnerable girls out on the lonely city streets. She has done her best to put the nightmares of her youth behind her, she did not seek contact with the child she gave up years ago, yet she cannot turn away. The hunt for Bonnie will unleash the demons from Nora's past putting her life in jeopardy.



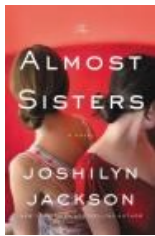
Fierce Kingdom by Gin Phillips. Joan and her four year old son, Lincoln, are just about to conclude a day at the zoo. It is a common outing for them, they come here often. The zoo is set to close shortly as they make their way toward the gates. They walk together chattering happily, thinking of the mundane things of everyday life. Just a mother and son enjoying time together when everything changes. Joan notices the unnatural stillness, the lack of other people as she approaches the front of the zoo with her son. She hears sounds and cannot quite determine what they might be, loud popping noises. Then she notices the bodies. How quickly life shifts from a dream to a nightmare. Swiftly she shushes Lincoln (four year olds not used to being so quiet) and hurries away; back into the zoo she knows so well intent on finding a hiding spot until help arrives. This is an absolutely gripping exploration of what it is like to be the hunted, trapped awaiting rescue, able to connect with cell phone glimpses of that other life that seems so tenuous in the throes of real danger.



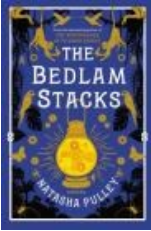
The Resurrection of Joan Ashby by Cherise Wolas. Joan Ashby understood from an early age what was important; her writing. She did not want home and children, she chose the written word. Her talent was recognized instantly in bestselling, award winning books. Life was turning out just the way she wanted when she started dating Martin Manning. She was living in New York, the darling of the literary crowd, writing serious work and being acclaimed as a major talent with a brilliant career ahead. Upfront and honest from the start, she let Martin know she had no interest in children. Martin, an eye surgeon driven by his career, promised that was just fine with him. They married and very shortly thereafter Joan was shocked to find herself pregnant. Swayed by Martin's evident joy, despite his earlier vow that not having a child was fine with him, Joan agrees to have the baby. Soon family life takes over her writing, she puts it away, another child follows, and Joan concentrates on being a good mother. Decades pass, Joan secretly begins writing again, before she can reclaim her identity as a serious author, she suffers a devastating betrayal that will send her on a journey of self-realization. Joan is a great character, she so clearly knows the life she wants to live, yet abandons that path through caring for another. This masterfully written novel explores what it means to be a woman in an intelligent manner, what it means to be serious about a career, and what it means to lose yourself through the best of intentions. There are so many important questions raised by this brilliant novel, it is a perfect book club selection



Fever by Deon Meyer. Willem Storm fled with his son Nico, leaving behind the town where the ***Fever***, claimed his wife, the mother of his son. Traveling in a truck and trailer, going through ***Fever*** ravaged towns left uninhabited, they searched for a place to settle. There are few survivors, 95% of the world's population died in the sudden ***Fever***, leaving South Africa ravaged, the few survivors prey to gangs too brutal to succumb. Willem Storm is an optimist, a clever inventor, and a planner. He can see the possibility for beginning anew, for building a utopian society. Too bad there are those uncooperative gangs. Fortunately when Willem settles on a place for his new society, one of the first to join is Domingo, a man you only have to look at to understand he is dangerous and deadly. Domingo will protect their new community, Amanzi, with all his heart. More join, Hennie a pilot, Beryl a golf pro with no more golf courses to play, orphans and ragtag refugees, all hoping for a home, a place of safety. They work together to make it happen, facing the challenges of a growing community and the obstacles from all the systems being wiped out along with the people by the ***Fever***. They create a place where people are valued, kindness is prized, and innovation encouraged. Those gangs grow too, becoming more violent and dangerous. As Nico grows to be a young man, falls in love with one of the new community members, Sofia, those pressures become greater. But what might ultimately undo them are the secrets of the past.



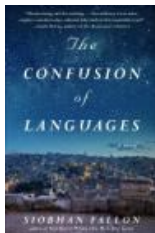
Almost Sisters by Joshilyn Jackson. Tragedy and humor blend as Jackson takes the reader on a journey that is fresh, original, and often hilarious. Jackson possesses a rare talent for writing in such a way that important social issues are explored while leaving the reader feeling happy. Leia Briggs has some serious problems on the horizon, she is pregnant by Batman and about to find out her beloved grandmother is succumbing, in a most public way, to dementia. The Batman escapade was a total accident, well sort of; he was dead sexy after all. Leia is a popular illustrator of graphic novels, not prone to anonymous hookups; at a convention she imbibed too many tequilas and had her way with the masked crusader. She is thirty eight and single, she finds she wants this baby. Before she can tell her family she is pregnant with a biracial baby by an anonymous superhero, a raft of distress messages arrive, her 90 year old grandmother Birchie has gone off the rails. Leia is gobsmacked, she had no clue, although she lives in Virginia she kept in touch long distance with Birchie through phone calls and visits, never suspecting anything was awry. The Briggs founded their small Alabama town, they were wealthy and influential, still are, although Birchie and Leia are the last of their line (well until the arrival of Leia's surprise). Birchie lives alone in a big old Victorian home with her lifelong friend, Wattie and it has been through the care of this friend that her deterioration was kept a secret for so long. The time has come that Birchie needs more help. Leia will find there are secrets in that big old Victorian that may bring dire consequences. The story careens on with an energy that will not let you put the book down until you reach the last page. Laugh out loud funny, tremendously ambitious in scope, and with a hopeful message for the future that I thoroughly enjoyed reading.



The Bedlam Stacks by Natasha Pulley. Merrick Tremayne returned from China and India with a much altered future. His leg was grievously wounded, rendering him unable to acquit his duties for the East India Company leaving him unemployed and with few prospects. His older brother Charles grudgingly gave him shelter in the crumbling family estate, but only until he is well enough to go make his way elsewhere. In 1859 the East India Company is besieged by malaria in India, the only known treatment comes from the bark of the cinchona trees found in Peru. Merrick is offered a chance to reclaim his life, to take part in an expedition to Peru to bring back cuttings from the trees in order to cultivate them elsewhere under the control of the East India Company. There are several obstacles to the success of such a venture: Merrick's physical condition, the dicey nature of success with the trees, and the violent cartel that defends the South American cinchona groves. The East India Company is willing to give Merrick the opportunity because of his skill with botany and his family connection to South America. Both Merrick's father and grandfather had traveled to Bedlam, the area in Peru where the trees can be found. Possibly some of the locals will remember the family name and be more favorably inclined to him than to other failed expeditions. Bedlam is a strange and wondrous place with many unusual occurrences. There he meets Raphael, a priest with a connection to his family's past. Blending mystical realism and historical fiction, it is a pure delight to read!



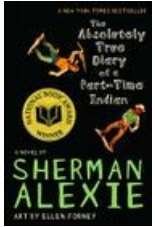
Young Jane Young by Gabrielle Zevin is the story of three generations of women anchored in the internet age, this new era when the mistakes of the past can follow a person around like an anchor. Rachel is in her golden years, or so they are called, staying fit with Pilates and trying her hand at the dating game. Once she was married to a heart surgeon with a bright young daughter, Aviva, but that is the past. Today she doesn't know where her daughter lives, nor is she aware that she has a granddaughter. Aviva was a political science and Spanish language major; she took a job as an intern for a Congressman. Ironically he used to be a neighbor of her parents; Rachel and her cohorts thought he was quite hot. He is still an attractive man; Aviva finds him so and acts on this attraction. As their affair progresses and she hopes for more, she pours her heart out in a blog (what thinking woman involved with a politician would put it out there on the internet? It is almost as bad as not taking proper care of dirty laundry). When the press gets wind of the liaison between the handsome congressman and his beautiful intern, the blog goes viral. Aviva retreats to her parent's home; at first she tries to find work, but who is going to hire a political science major with that kind of scandal in her background? It only takes a couple keystrokes to discover. Reinventing herself seems the only option; she leaves no forwarding address, moves to Maine, has a daughter and tries to live under the radar in the internet age. All goes swimmingly until her daughter, Ruby starts delving into Mom's background, realizing she didn't really know her mother at all. As Ruby careens around like a loose cannon, the secrets of the past collide with the present bringing all the players together again. This is definitely a story for our age. The internet has changed everything. Youthful mistakes are easily discovered decades later, following people around who have long since matured past their youthful indiscretions. A teenager bullied in high school no longer finds sanctuary away from the institution; the bullies can use social media to spew their venom everywhere. Businesses are not immune to the power of the internet. Even bookstores. People decide which places to patronize when visiting new shops by checking out the google score, a few bad reviews, no matter the merit, and the shop is impacted. There are so many ways the internet is influential today, this book offers the reader the opportunity to think about the good and the bad.



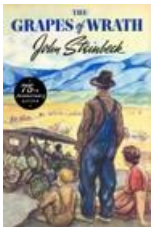
The Confusion of Languages by Sobhan Fallon. Cassie and Dan Hugo are to be mentors for Click and Margaret Brickshaw when they arrive in Jordan. While Click is an old hand at serving in the Middle East, his wife is young, impetuous, and has a tendency to be a bit reckless. Cassie is there to show her the ropes, to suggest that wearing capris in the Middle East is insensitive to the culture, to advise that she be circumspect around men, and to try to instill respect for all the rules, boy howdy is Cassie ever a respecter of rules! These two women experience a totally different Middle East. Cassie is living in a Middle East where people can be kidnapped and beheaded, where it is wise to keep a distance from the local population, where panic rooms are a routine necessity. Margaret is encountering a Middle East filled with wonders, with friendly people who glow when treated kindly, a land full of history with marvelous places to hike and experience millennia of time, a place of color and beauty. As the story opens the two women are in a slight accident, stopped in the road while buying flowers from a street vendor they are bumped from behind. Margaret is driving, so the procedure is for her to go to the police station and pay a guilty fee. A visibly upset Margaret leaves her infant son with Cassie, while she goes to the police station to pay the necessary fine. Hours pass, Margaret fails to return, nor does she answer her phone. Cassie grows worried as there is no word from Margaret, and then she begins to reflect on her role in the issues besieging Margaret. The story is an interesting take on the friendship between two very different women, the destructive power of jealousy, and the ways we encounter other cultures.

Banned Books Week September 24th to 30th

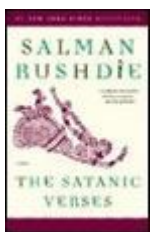
Freedom of expression, the free flow of ideas, is a founding concept of our country. Yet we struggle with the small mindedness of censorship. I fiercely resent anyone telling me what ideas are inappropriate to read. Freedom of expression is a right we should all champion and fight to preserve. Limiting ideas by banning books is limiting freedom and choice. Why should anyone be able to tell you what you should or should not read? Isn't being exposed to other ideas and thoughts part of being well rounded and educated? Yet books are banned even today. Here are a few banned books, I hope their banning makes you just as indignant as it makes me. I hope someday we do not bow to the restrictive sensibilities of a few to limit our reading. More banned books will be listed on our website at sunriverbooks.com.



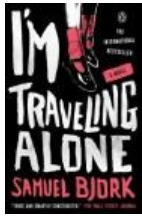
One of the most banned books in the US, the winner of the National Book Award, is ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*** by Sherman Alexie. Recently a parent was upset with me for recommending it to their teenage son. It was banned in the Redmond Oregon school district and has been banned in many other districts across the US. The story is inspiring and great fun to read. Arnold Spirit, known as Junior, decides not to live down to the expectations of those around him but reach for all he can be. Growing up on the Spokane Reservation he is surrounded by alcoholism and low expectations. Junior is a bright kid; he wants to do more, wants wider horizons. He decides to go to the white school, off the reservation. This is not an easy choice or logistically practical. He will be leaving all that he has known, his friends, his surroundings, and his tribe, to travel daily to an institution of learning where the only other Indian is the mascot for the school team. Junior is not a robust kid; he was born with water on the brain and has been a target for bullies all his life. Just getting to school off the reservation is a challenge, there are no buses serving the rez kids. He has fears for the way he will be treated. Expecting to be at best isolated and at worst tormented, Junior instead finds friends from the geeky nerds to the basketball team and the in crowd. As he takes part in sports, he finds himself competing against his tribe from the reservation. Junior faces the death of loved ones, the despair of alcoholism on the reservation, and grinding poverty. The story takes on themes such as being true to yourself, trying to live up to your potential, accepting others, tribalism, and a host of other relevant issues. Sherman Alexie is a successful, award winning author of national reputation, one of the strongest and most talented voices in Native American fiction today. He grew up on the Spokane Reservation, suffered the same physical condition as his fictional character, and went off the reservation to the same school, Reardon High School. In a 2011 Wall Street Journal essay he commented on the banning of ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***: *saying he didn't write to protect the readers. "It's far too late for that," Alexie explained. "I write to give them weapons -- in the form of words and ideas -- that will help them fight their monsters."* This September a 10th Anniversary edition will be released with new additional content. What parent or adult would not want to find in a book inspiration to accept others as they are and to strive to be your best self?



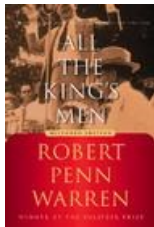
Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck takes its title from ***The Battle Hymn of the Republic***. Forced by the Great Depression and the Dustbowl to leave their home, the Joad family travels to California in hopes of a new start. This is one of the most powerful works of American fiction ever written. Steinbeck 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. In ***The Grapes of Wrath*** police are depicted as bullies and thugs. A PBS article describes them turning back migrants at the border of California: *The Los Angeles police chief went so far as to send 125 policemen to act as bouncers at the state border, turning away "undesirables". Called "the bum brigade" by the press and the object of a lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union, the LAPD posse was recalled only when the use of city funds for this work was questioned.* When the book came out in 1939 it was banned in Kern County, California officials actually participated in burning the book. Hmm, 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. In 1962 John Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for literature.



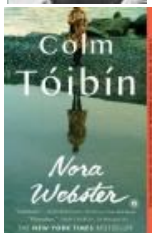
In 1989 Salman Rushdie wrote a novel that captured worldwide attention and sent the author into hiding, ***The Satanic Verses***. Rushdie's life was changed by the publication of ***The Satanic Verses***, no longer would he, or his family be safe. Ayatollah Khomeini issued a fatwa calling the faithful to the task of murdering Rushdie. It was not an idle threat. Book stores in London and New York were bombed for carrying the book. Rushdie's Japanese translator Hitoshi Igarashi was murdered, and his Italian translator, Ettore Capriolo was attacked. People died for this book, including a man bent on carrying out the Ayatollah's fatwa who instead of murdering Rushdie inadvertently blew himself to kingdom come. Rushdie's books are brilliantly written, often showing the author's mischievous wit, and are meant to challenge their reader, to both entertain and make us think. ***The Satanic Verses*** opens with the destruction of a jet, the passengers falling from the London sky in a rain of debris. Two men, both actors, will defy the normal order of things and survive. One will develop hooves and horns, the other a halo. The story is set in London and Bombay where the men wrestle with their faith and many strange things occur. Ironically, one of the story's main themes is the rigidity of thought control in religion and the benefits of freeing people to think, to question, to decide. Here is a quote from an interview with John Banville in the New York Review of Books: *An irony of the affair not much remarked on is that The Satanic Verses is very sympathetic and tender toward the unhoused, the dispossessed, the deracinated—the very people, in fact, who rioted in the streets and publicly burned what they had been told was a blasphemous book. He nods, smiling, in a kind of hopeless misery. It is deeply painful for him that the people whom he has made his subject, and for whom he has a deep fondness, are the ones who hate him most, or hate at least that image of him fostered by fanatics in the Muslim world.* Salmon Rushdie speaks about censorship in an interview with Margot Dijkgraaf of the Dutch newspaper NRC Handelsblad *"I believe that worldwide there are more and more efforts to impose silence upon writers - and that not only applies to me. It is easy to point to the Arab world, or to China, but even in the United States there are people who want to ban Harry Potter books from schools, because they contain something about witchcraft. Even something harmless like that provokes an attack. We live in a time with an increasing urge to censorship. Various interest groups—including antiracist or feminist movements—demand it. When Kurt Vonnegut is banned from public libraries and not everywhere it is allowed to teach about Huckleberry Finn, then you just cannot assume straight-away that there is something like freedom. Against silence it is that now we have to fight. And exile does not work. Therefore, cunning is the only thing that remains".*



September 11 the Mystery Book Club discusses *I'm Traveling Alone* by Samuel Bjork introducing another Norwegian to join the ranks of Jo Nesbo, Karin Fossum, and Camilla Lackberg. The body of a young girl found hanging in a tree by a reluctant dog walker sends Holger Munch across Norway to the remote island home of Mia Kruger. It has been a couple years since the fallout from their last investigation resulted in Holger's banishment to Honefoss and Mia's isolation. Holger used to head an elite homicide unit in Oslo, Mia was his best investigator. Now they are needed again. Holger and Mia are interesting and likeable. Their back stories give depth to the characters and contribute to the puzzle. Holger is brilliant; his hobby is figuring out rather tricky math equations. Dedicated to solving the crimes set before him, he has always let his job come first. It cost him a wife and put a sense of distance in the relationship with his daughter. Even now, a decade later, Holger is still not resolved to the divorce. He is not making the same mistake with his granddaughter, Marion. He adores the child and would do anything for her. Mia has her own baggage. She was also brilliant, in a different way than Holger. Highly intuitive, able to see the evil in people, she complimented her boss' style perfectly. Mia left the force, under a suspicious cloud, to live out her days in a drug and alcohol fueled haze until the tenth anniversary of her sister's death. On that day Mia will join her twin. It would take something big to derail Mia's suicide plans. Holger is crossing Norway with just that something; the murder of a child, indications that more will follow, and the need for the best and brightest to stop the killer. Holger is shocked by Mia's condition; the fit cop he knew wasn't involved with pills and booze. Still she has it, that ability to see the things others missed. Soon the team is reassembled. Will they be in time to save the next victim? The threads of this story go in a million directions, until the author brings them all back together as he reaches a climax sure to leave the reader breathless.



Books invite the reader to understand a different point of view, discover new ideas, and relate to others in a more empathetic way. Banning books is wrong. Limiting our choices, directing what we can and cannot read, is control that does not belong in a free society. Book Clubs are a great way to stretch our reading, perhaps read a bit of someone else's choice and discover a good book we might otherwise not have read. The broader our reading, the more we are exposed to other ideas, the better our understanding of the world. Every year we acknowledge Banned Book Week by discussing a Banned Book. **September 18** the Fiction and Classics Book Clubs combine to discuss *All the King's Men* by Robert Penn Warren. Set in the 1930's it tells the story of Willie Talos' (or Stark depending on the version you are reading) rise to power as Governor of Louisiana. Talos is most probably a thinly fictionalized version of Senator Huey Long, a charismatic politician who shook up the status quo. Long was a complex politician, a man of the people and a populist but not immune to corruption, he was assassinated in 1935. Willie does a lot of good for the people of his state but he is not opposed to using whatever method for achieving his goals is most efficient, not necessarily considered the most correct. The story's other main character is a newspaperman who goes to work for Willie; it is through him we see the historic context and local influences. Both men are fully rendered, complicated, rich characters. Willie is charismatic, able to give rousing speeches that bring his people to their feet. His energy is boundless, his ambition equally so. *All the King's Men* won the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, Robert Penn Warren was also a Pulitzer Prize winner for his poetry.



Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:00 PM

Please note, hours for Book Club have changed, book club begins at 6:00 PM.
Please note there have been changes in the summer schedule.

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

A Month of Ireland, October 2017.

October 2, 2017 *Secret Place* by Tana French [Mystery Book Club Themed Month Ireland](#)

October 16, 2017 *Troubles* by J.G. Farrell [Classics Book Club Themed Month Ireland](#)

October 23, 2017 *Nora Webster* by Colm Toibin [Fiction Book Club Themed Month Ireland](#)

November *Life Without a Recipe* by Diana Abu-Jaber [Non-Fiction Book Club \(Author led discussion\)](#)

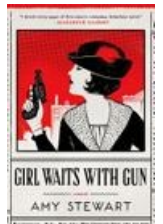
November *Girl Waits With Gun* by Amy Stewart [Mystery Book Club](#)

November *Everyone Brave is Forgiven* by Chris Cleave [Fiction Book Club](#)

December *The Lake House* by Kate Morton [Mystery Book Club](#)

December *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult [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.

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. We hope that you consider an Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating purchasing 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.