



Sunriver Books & Music
September 2019
Newsletter
Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



It's Almost Showtime!



Craig Johnson

Author of the New York Times Bestselling Sheriff Walt Longmire series.

Inspiration for the hit TV drama Longmire

Presents

Land of Wolves

5PM Saturday September 21 at Three Rivers School. Ticket required.



Stop by or call Sunriver Books & Music (541-593-2525) to pre-purchase **Land of Wolves** for a ticket to attend. Space is limited.

Craig Johnson always puts on a great show! He has been a loyal friend to Sunriver Books & Music since we opened. The Sheriff Walt Longmire series has a long list of prestigious awards including Le Prix du Polar Nouvel Observateur/Bibliobs, Wyoming Historical Association's Book of the Year, France's Le Prix 813, the Spur Award, the Mountains and Plains Book of the Year, the Watson Award, the Library Journal's Best Mystery of the Year, and the Rocky award. They are internationally best selling books. Requests come in far and wide for events with Craig, yet he makes time for coming to Sunriver Books & Music. We are grateful!

Refreshments will be served and there will be drawings for prizes.

Craig Johnson's Sheriff Walt Longmire series gave us characters that feel like good friends, every book is a chance to visit Walt, Vic, Henry and the gang to see what they have been up to. It is set in the land Craig Johnson calls home. He perfectly captures the wide open spaces and lonesome beauty of the Wyoming landscape. This is country that still feels as if you could look up on a hillside to see horsemen riding along the edge. **Land of Wolves** is one of the best of the series!

Photo of Craig Johnson and Audience by Sue Dougherty, photo of Craig Johnson with Sunriver Books & Music CEO Flashman by Dan Feer.

Judy Johnson will be bringing an assortment of hats, tee-shirts, vests, and a variety of items with great designs from the LONGMIRE series. Sunriver Books & Music's staff wear theirs with pride and I am quite fond of my Red Pony cap! Boy howdy!



Kat McClusky above will be assisting Judy at the event. Staff member Rachel Kelley at the signing table with Craig Johnson, the Longmire hat looks great on her! Staff member Deon Stonehouse wearing Red Pony hat & shirt hands out prizes with Craig Johnson. Staff members pictured below happily wearing Longmire fashions.

Sue Halvorsen

Nancy Nelson

Marie Stites

Lori Gascon

Richard Stonehouse



Land of Wolves opens with Sheriff Walt Longmire and Deputy Vic Moretti heading into the high country to meet up with Don Butler, the County Brand Inspector, and Chuck Coon with the National Forest Services to assess the death of a sheep. A lone wolf has moved into the area, he is deemed the probable culprit in the sheep's demise. Don and Chuck are of the opinion that shooting the wolf would solve the problem. Vic is against the solution, perhaps feeling an affinity with the wolf, and Walt is not enthusiastic about it either. Walt and Vic scout around for the shepherd who must be in the area. Walt is not moving too rapidly, still recovering from wounds suffered in a violent encounter with a drug lord in Mexico in **Depth of Winter**. Moving slowly isn't going to matter, this shepherd is not going anywhere. They find him dead in suspicious circumstances. This ups the ante considerably; Walt's focus is on catching a two-legged predator.

Many years ago, Beltran Extepare was sent to prison for shooting off former Sheriff Lucian Connolly's leg. His son, Abarrane Extepare, employed the dead shepherd. Memories are long in the Basque Community and the Extepare family has shown a fondness for using guns to solve their quarrels. Walt will have to be careful in questioning this family.

Soon the community is in an uproar. Tempers are flaring between a conservationist wanting the wolf left in peace and others wanting it shot. An irresponsible journalist is riling everyone up to a fever pitch with unsubstantiated reporting. Complicating factors make the shepherd's death a puzzle. And when things get deadly, Walt is right there, honoring his pledge to protect and defend, no matter the risk.

This is a great entry in the series!

All photos on this page are by Sue Dougherty.

If you have been watching the TV program and have not read the Sheriff Walt Longmire series, you are in for a treat! The books have many differences giving you're the opportunity to see your favorite characters in new ways.

Craig and Judy Johnson are a lot of fun! Craig's events are always entertaining, adding more pleasure to reading the Longmire series. There will be refreshments served and drawings for prizes.

Our staff is there to help. We want you to have a good time and are ready to answer questions about the books,



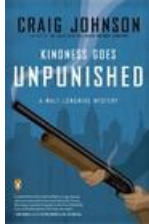


Cold Dish introduces the characters. Walt is a big guy who prefers talking his way out of a tough situation to fighting. Henry Standing Bear is tall, soft spoken, thoughtful, whip smart, a favorite of the ladies, and often quite funny. Vic, a transplant from a family of tough Philadelphia cops, is possessed of a razor sharp tongue, and is gleefully ready for action. The story revolves around four white boys who escaped serious consequences for raping a Native American high school girl. Years later, someone is shooting them.



Death Without Company opens with a death in an assisted living facility. Former Sheriff Lucien Connolly is positive the death was murder; The story goes to the past, a woman hard done by, and the Basque community.

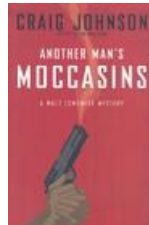
Kindness Goes Unpunished moves the action to Philadelphia where Cady, Walt's daughter, is a lawyer. Walt wants to meet her new beau. Henry Standing Bear is involved in a photo exhibition so the two men travel together, where they will meet trouble as they always do, side by side.



Another Man's Moccasins finds a dead Vietnamese girl along a road in Wyoming with a picture of Walt from years ago in Vietnam. The story moves back in time to Walt as a young Marine in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

Dark Horse has Walt holding a prisoner he fears is innocent. She was discovered with a gun in her hand, a shot dead husband in her burned house, and a confession. It doesn't add up for Walt, he goes undercover to find the truth. The horse is pretty cool too!

Junkyard Dogs is one of my favorite! The opening scene is priceless. An expensive new McMansion subdivision looks out to snowcapped mountains and down on a dump. The developer wants the dump closed. Add a Romeo and Juliet story for the older set and you have a heady brew of greed, passion, and intrigue.



Hell is Empty lets all the devils loose in a snow storm where Walt is following a band of stone cold killers after a hand off of prisoners to the Feds goes tragically awry. He climbs up the mountainside entering the circles of hell after armed and deadly men.

As the Crow Flies introduces Tribal Police Chief Lolo Long. She proved her bravery in Iraq, but her hair trigger temper and inexperience are not ideal in a Police Chief. Oddly enough, the prickly Lolo is immune to Henry Standing Bear's considerable charms.



A Serpent's Tooth begins with discovering Cord, a "lost boy" ejected from a rogue polygamous Mormon splinter group. Henry Standing Bear and Walt cross state lines to try and find answers at a heavily armed Mormon compound while Cord discovers movie DVDs and is inspired to try his hand at horse rustling. Cord is soon joined by his self-proclaimed protector, Orrin Porter Rockwell, Man of God, Sun of Thunder blessed by Joseph Smith himself, a man who died over a century ago.

Any Other Name. One of Former Sheriff Lucien Connolly's cronies, Detective Gerald Holman, either committed suicide (the official version) or was helped from this world. Holman was working cold cases, not anything that should have turned deadly. Lucian asks his former protégée Sheriff Walt Longmire to figure out what went wrong.



Dry Bones. The last place any cop wants to be is in the middle of a territorial dispute between the FBI, the Justice Department, the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, a local ranching family, and a museum of sorts. That's exactly where Sheriff Walt Longmire finds himself when the largest most complete T-Rex skeleton is discovered on a ranch owned by the Lone Elk family. If there is a lot of money in the equation, the sum total is bound to be trouble. Millions are up for grabs. the issues of ownership murky.

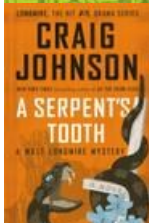
An Obvious Fact takes Sheriff Walt Longmire and Henry Standing Bear to Hulett, Wyoming near Devil's Tower National Monument and across the border from the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, Henry intends to race in a dirt bike competition. The two men travel in Henry's 68 Thunderbird, Lola, named for a mysterious woman from Henry's past. Lola the original, a stunningly dangerous beauty, shows up. Henry Standing Bear is reading Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories; a quote is apt, "There is nothing more deceptive than an obvious fact."



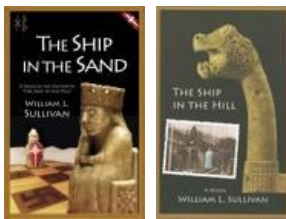
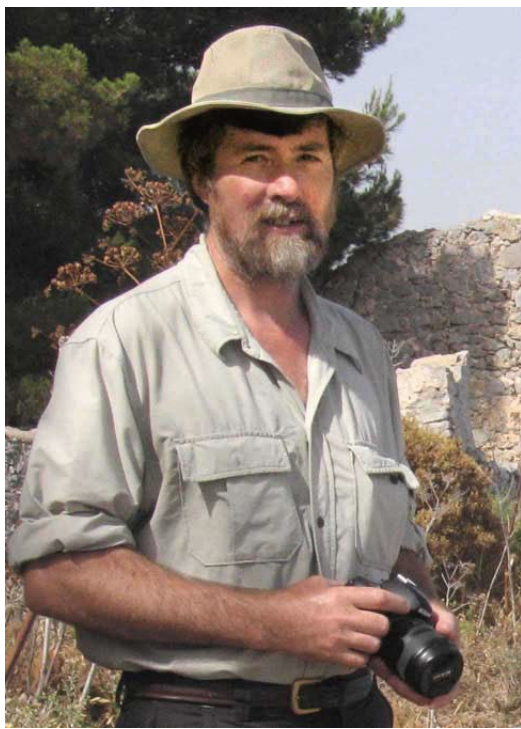
The Western Star moves seamlessly between two time frames, current day Sheriff Walt Longmire, Deputy Vic Moretti, and former Sheriff Lucien Connolly head to Cheyenne where they will unite with Henry Standing Bear, combining a visit to Walt's daughter Cady with an attempt to stop the compassionate release of a prisoner. Back in 1972 Walt was in his first days as a deputy, boarding the legendary train, **Western Star**, with his mentor, Sheriff Lucien Connolly. The Sheriffs were riding across the state to relax, party a bit with other officers, and have a good time. On this ride, not all of the Sheriffs who board will survive.

Depth of Winter is a gripping story of daring and sacrifice. There are some things worthy of risking your life. At the top of Longmire's list is his daughter Cady. Alone Walt Longmire travels to Mexico where Cady is held captive by a sadistic drug lord with grievances against Longmire and the knowledge of how to hurt him most. In a land where he has no jurisdiction, a country he was forbidden entry he goes into the heart of a bleak, desert landscape against an army of vicious drug runners.

There are also 3 novellas; **Spirit of Steamboat**, **Wait for Signs**, and **The Highwayman**.



The picture of Craig Johnson is by Judy Johnson.



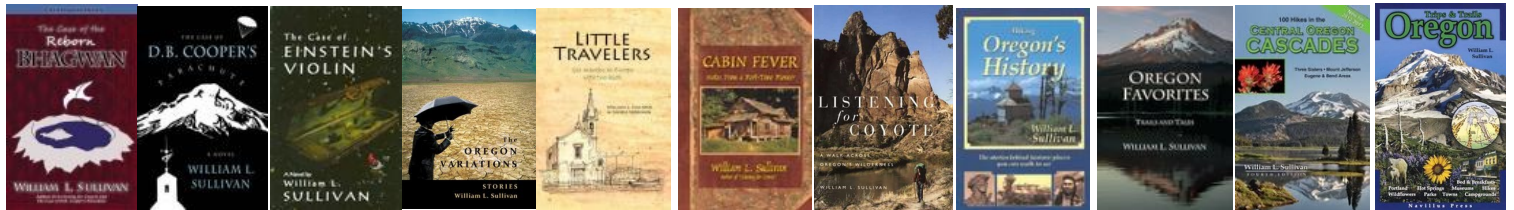
Saturday September 28 at 5 PM at Sunriver Books & Music William Sullivan presents ***The Ship in the Sand***, a fascinating historic fiction, and a slide show, ***Vikings in Denmark and England***. There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend this free event by calling 541-593-2525, emailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

In 958 Lifu lives in interesting times. Christianity is spreading, taking people away from the old ways. Lifu serves Queen Thyra, then her son, King Harald, a Viking who would unite Denmark and challenge England. Sullivan mixes Norse legend with the story of how a woman, Lifu, and a thoughtful King made history. The times were rife with conflict between beliefs and kingdoms. Sullivan brings them to life with characters, both real and fictional, that are instrumental in changing the times. In 1940 in Jelling, Denmark, Matte is a respected archeologist involved in important work. She is engaged to Julius, a handsome, kind young man. A bright future lay before her. Then Nazis roll into Denmark and Hitler has taken an interest in her work. Julius is Jewish, even in Denmark it is no longer safe for him or his family. Sullivan inserts all sorts of great characters from history and clever details. This is a book that will entertain you while imparting some interesting facts from the past. Matte's parents were main characters in Sullivan's earlier book, ***Ship in the Hill***. I enjoyed spending time with these well drawn characters, reading about their eras, and think you will too.

Ship in the Hill is a sprightly saga of Queen Asa and her burial ship. The ship is quite real and so was the queen. The Osberg ship, dating from 834, was discovered in 1904-1905 by Norwegian archeologist Haakon Shetelig and Swedish archeologist Gabriel Gustafson. In the 800's Queen Asa of Agthur is a beautiful woman, whose father had the choice of many suitors. King Harald of Granraude selected Erik of Horthaland for his daughter, rejecting Guthroth the Viking King. Rejecting Vikings is dangerous; they do not take it well. Guthroth kills Asa's family, sails her to his island home and forces her to be his bride. Queen Asa swears revenge. Her saga is full of drama: elaborate dragon boats, battles, love stories, betrayal, and the ambitious campaign to unite a country. In 1904 Dr. Kirstin Williams is involved in the discovery of the Burial mound of the Dragon Longboat holding the skeletons of two women; there is no precedent for a woman buried in such a massive longboat.

Sullivan's works of fiction include clever mysteries ***The Case of Einstein's Violin***, ***The Case of D.B. Cooper's Parachute***, ***The Case of the Reborn Bhagwan***, short stories set in every Oregon county ***Oregon Variations*** and western historical fiction ***A Deeper Wild***. A fifth generation Oregonian, he is best known for his very popular series of Oregon hiking guides ***Oregon Favorites: Trails and Tales*** highlighted his favorite trails across the state by month. It helps keep you hiking throughout the year. ***100 Hikes in Southern Oregon***, ***100 Hikes in Northwest Oregon and Southwest Washington***, ***100 Hikes Travel Guide: Oregon Coast and Coast Range***, ***Hiking Oregon's History*** and an ***Oregon Map and Travel Guide***. Whew! Sullivan definitely knows Oregon! In addition to his popular guides, he has works of nonfiction; ***Oregon's Greatest Natural Disasters*** a compilation of cataclysmic Oregon events, ***Listening for Coyote*** a personal memoir of a long walk across Oregon, ***Little Travelers*** an entertaining memoir of his family's year in Europe when their children were young, and ***Cabin Fever*** a memoir of building a remote cabin.

Sullivan puts on fascinating presentations; he is an interesting speaker with a great deal of knowledge and a friendly welcoming manner. His slide shows are always great!



Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday October 12, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***The Butterfly Girl*** by Rene Denefeld

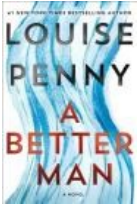
Saturday October 19, 2019 at 5:00 PM ***Death in Eden*** by Keith McCafferty

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Many Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. **The September 21, 2019 event for Craig Johnson's latest in the Longmire series requires the purchase of a book to receive a ticket to attend.** Sign up to attend events 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.

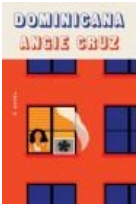
New Releases. Staff Recommendations.

Nancy Nelson Recommends.

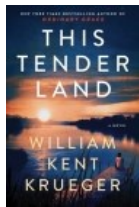


A Better Man by Louise Penny. Louise Penny just keeps getting better! Chief Inspector Gamache has accepted a lesser position as Chief of Homicide. The Bella Bella river which courses through Quebec is in danger of flooding, decimating small towns up and down the entire province. A young woman is missing, possibly murdered by her abusive husband. The social media is rife with comments and opinions about Gamache, calling for him to be fired. A doctored video goes viral showing him to be shooting black teenagers with abandon. Gamache's friend, artist Clara Morrow is being heavily maligned by art critics in an extremely malicious manner. And yet through all of this adversity the new Chief of Homicide keeps his cool, the absolute shining example of how to think through difficult situations, sometimes heroically. As friends and supporters of Gamache decry the injustice of his situation, and the cruelty displayed on the internet regarding Clara, he lets them ponder the difference between lies and truth, and between truth and truth with malice. This was cover to cover engaging. Viva Gamache and Three Pines, his home town!

Deon Recommends.

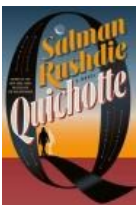


Dominicana by Angie Cruz. Ana Cancion was a good girl, obedient to the wishes of her parents and studious at school. Her older sister bridled at the rules that put her parents in charge of her future, slipped the yoke of obedience. Growing up in rural Dominican Republic, Ana's actions reflected what was expected of her. A daughter married to the right man could improve the lot of the family. When she is a mere slip of a girl at 15, her mother seizes the chance to marry her off to Juan Ruiz, a man in his thirties from a good family who lives in New York. There is the possibility of immigrating with this match. But obedience will only take Ana so far. There is no love between her and Juan, their home is a small, dirty apartment on the 6th floor of a building. Juan's younger brother lives there too for stretches of time. Juan is a controlling man, quick to anger, dismissive of her desires for an education. She tries to flee back to her island home, but fails. Then the government of the Dominican Republic erupts in chaos, Juan must return to see to his family's interests. Freedom at last! Ana delves into learning English, navigates her surroundings, makes friends. But will she be able to maintain her separate identity on Juan's return. This is a rich story of culture, family, and the desire for independence of a young woman realizing the possibilities in life.

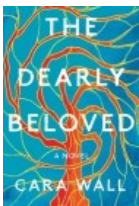


This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger. In the 1930's times were hard as the country struggled through the Great Depression and attitudes toward Native Americans were different. Odie and his brother Albert were placed in the Minnesota's Lincoln School after the death of their parents, a place where Native American children were taken away from their parents, forbidden to use their native language, and raised strictly to be educated in white ways. Oversight of the school was nonexistent and corruption flourished. Odie is a handful; bright, mischievous, and resentful of the treatment meted out under the rule of Mrs. Brickman (also known as the Black Witch). He spends a lot of time in the quiet room, a dark place where children are left alone to be punished. Worse are the beatings from the sadistic DiMarco, who also preyed on the children.

Odie and Albert are best pals with a mute Native American, Mose, and all three are fond of and protective over little Emmy, the daughter of a favorite teacher. When tragedy strikes, the three teens and little Emmy flee on the river in a tale of adventure that reads like an homage to Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*.



Quichotte by Salman Rushdie. Sam DuChamp (not his real name, but then this is fiction) made his money writing the Five Eye spy series, not an indication that he would attempt writing a literary novel inspired by Miguel de Cervantes' classic, *Don Quixote*. Nonetheless that is exactly what he is doing, retelling the story in a modern setting with a television obsessed traveling pharmaceutical salesman, Ismail Smile, smitten by the wildly successful talk show host and actress Selma. He embarks on a cross country trip, overcoming challenges, in a quest to be worthy of his lady love. The story alternates between chapters on Sam DuChamp's travails and Ismail Smile's quest. In this entertaining, playful retelling of a classic, Rushdie uses his mischievous wit and razor-sharp insight to take on such weighty subjects as the opioid crisis, treatment of immigrants, aging in a youth obsessed culture, and facing our demons. Rushdie is one of the greatest authors of our time, brilliant writing.



Dearly Beloved by Cara Wall. This is one of those unusual and welcome stories about good people doing their best to live up to individual ideals while striving for the common good and respecting a diversity of beliefs. While it is focused on Christian beliefs, it could just as easily be portraying difference in culture or political belief. It is more about how we treat each other and striving to make a positive difference.

Charles is the son of a respected Harvard professor of history who fully expects his son will make him proud following in his footsteps. He is baffled when Charles suddenly develops a strong Christian faith and switches to divinity with the intention of becoming a minister. Charles will fall in love with Lily, a fiercely intelligent atheist serious about her career. James had a rough childhood in Chicago, his father an alcoholic and his mother working nonstop to keep the family housed, fed, and together. Through the benevolence of an uncle, James is able to attend college. He enjoys school, but he is not sure of what career he wants to pursue, other than he is certain he wants to help people. His path to Christianity is different than Charles, James falls in love with Nan, the southern daughter of a minister, devoutly religious. He begins to attend church with her and sees the ministry as a way to help people.

The four meet when Charles and James are jointly appointed minister to the Third Presbyterian Church in New York City during the turbulent 60's. The story follows the four characters through decades as they face challenges and navigate their differences with respect.

New Releases. Deon Recommends.



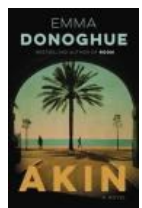
The Vanishing Bride by Bella Ellis. What if Charlotte Bronte (author of *Jane Eyre*), Emily Bronte (author *Wuthering Heights*), and Anne Bronte (author of *Tenants of Wildfell Hall*) led lives more mysterious than penning classic novels that have remained in print for over a century? Perhaps as sleuths? Ellis gives the three sisters new lives of adventure in ***The Vanishing Bride***. Charlotte, Emily, and Anne learn that an old school chum, Matilda, is governess in a home visited by a horrific tragedy. The mistress, Elizabeth Chester, is missing, her bedroom covered in so much blood, no one could survive its loss. Her baby and her step-son are left motherless. The Bronte sisters quickly decide to get to the bottom of the mystery. Spurred on by suspicion of the broodingly handsome Mr. Chester and the lack of official interest in finding the villain. If you enjoy historic fiction or have read any of the Bronte sisters' novels, it paints an interesting picture of the three young women.



The Secrets We Kept by Lara Prescott. WWII had women carrying messages, gathering information, seducing influential men to harvest secrets, killing if necessary, rescuing where possible, and James Bonding it all over the place. The war came to an end, they were patted on the head and told to go be nice little homemakers or secretaries. Then the Cold War had tensions rising.

In Russia, Boris Pasternak was penning one of the greatest love stories of all time, a tale full of the suffering of the Russian people. It would earn the author the Nobel Prize. To the CIA this seemed like just the sort of story they wanted people to read, something showing that the Russian revolution, communism, brought hardship not equality, suffering not everyone enjoying the best fruits of the country. There was just a slight difficulty, the Russians really did not want this book published, they certainly did not want Russians to be reading it. So the gals were pulled out of the typing pool and put back into the spy game.

If you love classic literature, this is your book as it dwells on the life of Pasternak, his lover Olga Vsevolodvna, and their struggles to have ***Dr. Zhivago*** published. If you enjoy spy stories with intricate plots, this Cold War effort to put ***Dr. Zhivago*** into the hands of Russian people has you covered. If you like stories about strong women in difficult roles, this story is for you.



Akin by Emma Donoghue. Noah Selvaggio led a quiet, comfortable life, a retired chemistry professor living in Manhattan. He is fast approaching 80, his wife, a noted scientist has died, his sister and brother-in-law are both dead. There are no strings attached anymore. As the story opens, he is about to embark on a trip to discover his roots in France. His grandfather was a famous photographer, his work hangs in museums, and his mother stayed in France to take care of her famous father while sending toddler Noah to his father and safety in America. Noah never returned, never learned much about what his mother did during those war years in France. Now he wants to know, his curiosity sparked by photos found in his sister's belongings.

All is set for the trip when out of the blue he gets a call from Children's Services. Noah's nephew had a drug problem, died of an overdose. His child was being cared for by the maternal grandmother while the mother served a jail sentence. The grandmother has died and there is no other relative to take the little boy. If Noah is not willing to step up, Michael will be swallowed by foster care. Noah doesn't see how he can be of help; he is a childless elderly man about to embark on international travel. Nonetheless he is persuaded to meet the child. And that is how Noah travels to France accompanied by a bereaved, angry, foulmouthed eleven-year-old Michael. The old man and the young boy argue and bond as they search for clues as to how Noah's mother spent the years of Nazi occupation. Noah begins to question his priorities in dealing with Michael's father, asking himself if he could have done more. The story works.



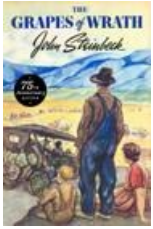
The Last Train to London by Meg Waite Clayton. Perhaps because we are once again in a period when the rhetoric of hate holds sway and refugees fleeing violence in their homelands are being turned away, we seek out books on an earlier time, WWII. Quite a few excellent novels about WWII have been written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

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

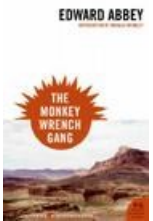


The Women of Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell. Corporations do not always act in the best interest of their workers. Nor are they always fair. Reform, changes in safety, working hours, and pay, have been brought about through hard fights and adversity. Labor organizers inspired strikes, the companies fought back with violence, sometimes abetted by local law enforcements. Joe Hill's name is well known and remembered. But there were others. In 1913 in Calumet Michigan, Annie Clements was married to a rough, often abusive man, a miner who toiled underground where every year men died in accidents. The companies pushed for more, always more, work harder, work longer, work in unsafe conditions, bring up more product. Inevitably tragedies ensued. Annie had enough, she organized a strike. Held parades through town walking at the head, refusing to back down. Her husband is against the strike, doesn't like his woman out there in public. Nonetheless, Annie perseveres. Joined by the women of the town, she organizes, confers with union leaders and does her best. Through tragedy, injustice, and sacrifice Russell relates the life of this remarkable woman. Annie didn't have much success with husbands, so Russell alters the record in a small way to give her a kinder, gentler second husband. It was a nice thing to do, the real Annie would have enjoyed being treated right. Russell's story based on Annie's life is gripping and inspiring. Women like Annie made a difference.

Join us in reading Banned Books. Many of the great works of literature have been banned, often because they espoused ideas that were not shared by those with the power to ban, such as John Steinbeck's ***Grapes of Wrath***. Reading books is a way to be exposed to other cultures, other landscapes, other ideas, to understand a little bit more about those we might otherwise never meet. Controlling what you read smacks of repression. We should all be free to read what we chose, to be enlightened by new ideas, and to decide what we believe for ourselves. Many of my favorite books have been banned. Here are just a few, I hope you join me in reading Banned Books.



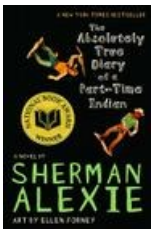
Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck takes its title from **The Battle Hymn of the Republic**. Forced by the Great Depression and the Dustbowl to leave their home, the Joad family travels to California in hopes of a new start. This is one of the most powerful works of American fiction ever written. Steinbeck 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. 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. In 1962 John Steinbeck won the Nobel Prize for literature.



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.

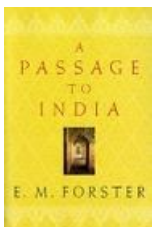


Les Misérables by Victor Hugo is one of my favorite novels. The characters of Jean Valjean and Javert are inspired by Eugene Francois Vidocq, a convict turned cop and the creator of the Surete de France. He was also the main character in ***The Black Tower*** by Louis Bayard. Valjean's life has been brutal; convicted of stealing a loaf of bread to feed his family he was sent to prison coming out many years later a hardened, bitter, dangerous man. Valjean is redeemed by the kindness of a good person. 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, is a story brimming with good and evil, destiny and despair, cruelty and mercy. There is passion, suspense, and grandeur in this timeless story.



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

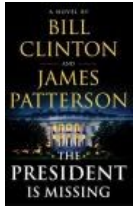
a robust kid; he was born with water on the brain and has been a target for bullies all his life. Just getting to school off the reservation is a challenge, there are no buses serving the rez kids. He has fears for the way he will be treated. Expecting to be at best isolated and at worst tormented, Junior 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."*



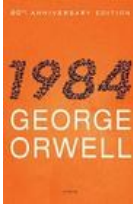
A Passage to India by E. M. Forster is set in the waning days of the British Raj. Questions of power and justice are explored. Adela travels to India accompanied by her future mother in law. Her betrothed is Ronny Heaslop, the British Magistrate of Chandrapore. Mrs. Moore is more open to the natives 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?

September 2019 Book Clubs

Banned Book Week is September 22 to 28. Freedom to read what you chose is precious, being exposed to other ideas is a good way to stay informed. Book Clubs meet Mondays at 6PM. Everyone is welcome.



September 16 the Mystery Book Club discusses ***The President is Missing*** by Bill Clinton and James Patterson, a story ripped right from today's headlines. Hackers are intent on harming the national interests of the US except this time their goal is not rigging an election, but bringing down the country. President Duncan receives a message outside normal channels, a message that leads him to believe the country is facing a cyberattack of immense power. Nor is this the only threat, the President is convinced someone on the inside has to be involved. Thus he is willing to abandon protocol, slip his handlers and meet alone in an attempt to gain information on the coming attack. Of course things will go awry, bullets will fly, and the President will flee. But in addition to the car chases and shooting, there is the plausible scenario of a hostile attack using not weapons that explode, but the computers that allow us to make purchases. What if... it is a chilling possibility. Adding to the tension is a beautiful assassin, who listens to classic music. Who is she trying to kill? And who hired her? Former President Bill Clinton knows about the running of the White House and the potential of a cyberattack; he puts this knowledge to good use in telling a rip snorting tale. James Patterson is well versed in writing mysteries, they combine talents to bring a story you will not want to put down.



September 30 the Fiction and Classics Book Clubs discuss a Banned Book selection, ***1984*** by George Orwell. The USSR banned ***1984*** for being anti-communist and the USA banned it for being pro-communist. Go figure. The story portrays a time when independence, privacy, and truth are gone. The party, ruled by Big Brother, controls everything. Even words are under assault, being removed so they do not promote free thinking and rebellion. George Winston is a low-level functionary, while he works for the party, he dislikes it intensely, and is writing down his thoughts, although worried he may be discovered. It is his task to work at rewriting history to meet with the way Big Brother wants it portrayed, not the way it was. His world, under the control of Big Brother, is cruel and limiting. Winston begins to dream of freedom and truth.



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

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

October

Month of Botswana

A Carrion Death by Michael Stanley [Mystery Book Club Month of Botswana](#)
White Dog Fell From the Sky by Elinor Morse [Fiction Book Club Month of Botswana](#)

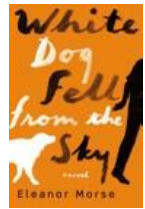
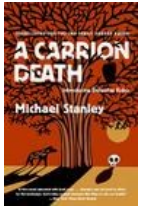
November

Born a Crime by Trevor Noah [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
A Rising Man by Abir Mukherjee [Mystery Book Club](#)
Warlight by Michael Ondaatje [Fiction Book Club](#)

December

A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court by Mark Twain [Fiction & Classics Book Club](#)
The Word is Murder by Anthony Horowitz [Mystery Book Club](#)

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



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Community Room.

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.