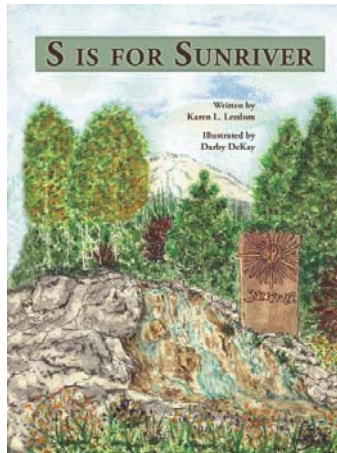




Sunriver Books & Music

June 2014 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday June 21st at 5:00 PM Karen Leedom will give a presentation on ***S Is For Sunriver***. Visitors and residents frequently ask if there is a book on Sunriver, things to do, things about, and things to see. Karen Leedom's book is told in lively verse and goes all over Sunriver highlighting the many attractions of our High Desert Community. This book will delight both children and adult. She uses the alphabet as a theme, A is for Camp Abbot. On one side the book shows a very nice rendering of Camp Abbot, on the other it gives historical detail. Of course at B, Sunriver's very popular bike trails are highlighted with a clever rendering. M is for Mount Bachelor and N is for the Sunriver Nature Center. Sharc is the subject at S and V takes in the Village. Throughout the book Leedom has included a plethora of things to see (Deer, Eagle, and Aspen), things to do (biking, rafting, golfing, playing tennis, listening to Jazz, etc.), and the surrounding areas (lakes, caves, forests). At each letter she presents a rhyme as well as interesting facts. For instance, did you know the largest ponderosa pine in the USA is found in La Pine State Park and probably over 500 years old? The book works as a guide to things to do around Sunriver, information on the area, or a short coffee table book with attractive illustrations sure to be of interest to visitors. Join us to hear about beautiful Sunriver!

Karen Leedom divides her time between Central Oregon and the Oregon Coast. Darby Dekay, the books imaginative illustrator, is a lifelong Oregonian. She spent 23 years in Central Oregon and now resides in Roseburg.

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

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday August 2nd at 5:00 PM ***A Quilt in Time*** by Arlene Sachitano

Saturday August 16th at 5:00 PM ***Fourth of July Creek*** by Smith Henderson

Saturday September 6th at 5:00 PM ***A Light In The Wilderness*** by Jane Kirkpatrick.

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.

We would like to share an announcement from Sunriver's own thespians, The Sunriver Stars!



MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

A MUSICAL ADAPTATION

Want to see the stars shine in person? Please plan to join them for their next production, "Midsummer Night's Dream, A Musical Adaptation," June 6-8th at SHARC. The Saturday performance will be enjoyed as a dinner theater with a Greek themed menu, in keeping with the Athenian setting, catered by Marcello's. The Friday night show starts at 7:00, and the Sunday matinee at 2:00. For information about tickets please contact Susan Inman at 541.598.7419.



Sunriver Books & Music Book of the Month Club

Purchase a [Book of the Month Club](#) subscription and receive a surprise book every month! This is a fun way to find a new books! We care that the [Book of the Month Club](#) selections are wonderful novels. I take choosing the month's books very seriously and enjoy spending time deliberating over the choices, trying to pick the best books for you. Past selections have included *The Kitchen Daughter* by Jael McHenry, *The Black Hills* by Dan Simmons, *Atlas of Unknowns* by Tania James, *Day After Night* by Anita Diamant, *Crossers* by Phillip Caputo, and *The Cailiffs of Baghdad, Georgia* by Mary Helen Stefaniak. What will the second half of 2014 bring? Purchase a [Book of the Month Club](#) subscription and discover the surprise every month. [Book of the Month Club](#) subscriptions for the last six months of 2014 with the books picked up in the store cost \$90.94 or \$102.94 mailed in the USA..

Each year we focus for the month of June on a region, state, or city in the USA. Reading about various areas gives us an opportunity to savor the diversity and beauty of our country. The USA encompasses a spectacular landscape with a wide variety of rich regional identities. This year we focus for a [Month of Colorado](#). We hope you join us to read and discuss books set in Colorado, there are many excellent choices.

Staff Recommendations

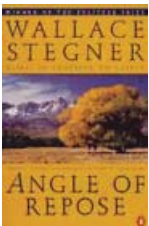
Deon Recommends



Sight Hound by Pam Houston is the story of Dante, a remarkable dog with a very old soul. This is one of my favorite books, it has a lot of heart married to vivid, brilliant writing. Pam based Dante on her own dog Dante who succumbed to osteo-sarcoma. Within this work of fiction is the very real story of the awe inspiring bond between a dog and a woman. Dante believes his task in life is to teach Rae to love. It is not easy to teach a human. *'There are three principles to remember if you are to teach a human being anything, and they are consistency, consistency, consistency. They are such fragile creatures to begin with, with poor eyes, poorer hearing, and no sense of smell to speak of, its' no wonder they are made of fear.'* In addition to the real Dante, the character of Dr. Evans is based on the real Dr. Peter Walsh of UC Davis. The stories about his family are fiction but when Dr. Evans crawls into a crate to spend the night with a patient, it is truth. **Sight Hound** comes straight from the heart, the passion, joy, humor and love are right there on the page. It will make you laugh, cry, and feel awestruck by the power of the connection between a woman and a remarkable dog.



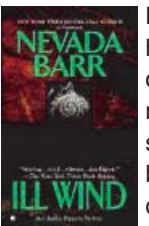
Whiter Than Snow by Sandra Dallas is a compelling story set in a Colorado mining town. It is 1920 in Swandyke near the Ten Mile Range, in a few minutes a shelf of snow is going to split off high on Jubilee Mountain then pick up speed as a wall of white hurtles like a freight train toward a group of school children heading home on the path far below. School has just let out, they are walking toward home just like any other day. In seconds they will be covered deep in snow. Some will live and some will die. Their families wait together, hope is alive until the last possible minute. As we wait with the families, we learn their back-grounds, their stories. Each family has a story that brought it to this moment on this mountain.



Angle of Repose by Wallace Stegner. Lyman Ward, a wheelchair bound historian, undertakes a personal history, the life of his grandmother Susan. As he looks at her world he reexamines his own. Fiercely independent, Lyman is insistent on living alone in his grandmother's house where he reads her letters and ponders her life with his grandfather Oliver. It is not an easy match; Why is it so hard to forgive? Lyman's story is set in Grass Valley California, the story of his grandparents travels from New York to the west where his Grandfather was a mining engineer. Parts of the book are set in Colorado. This is an intensely western novel with a feel for the grandeur of the landscape, a rich palette of historic detail, and the moving story of a man and a woman.



The Bride's House by Sandra Dallas is the story of three generations of women in a Colorado mining town who try to discover love and are marked forever. In 1880 Nealie Bent turns heads as she walks by, a bright, fiery headed gamine with a lively interest in life. She works at Lidie Travers' boarding house where the men take a keen interest in her. Nealie is enchanted by a beautiful house, the Bride's House. Decades later her daughter will lose her love as her father keeps her bound to his side. The final story has Nealie's granddaughter confronting some of the same complications she encountered so many years ago in the same house. If you are in the mood for interesting historical fiction that looks at the way women's lives have changed while telling a good love story, this is your book.



Nevada Barr writes a series of mysteries set in National Parks about ranger Anna Pigeon. For our Month of Colorado we want to highlight two of them. **Ill Wind** is set in Mesa Verde National Park. Still grieving the death of her husband, Anna finds solace too often in a bottle. She is a feisty widow, tearing her life in New York apart and starting anew as a Park Ranger takes grit and determination. A contractor working on water lines has annoyed the park archeologist over his lack of care around Anasazi artifacts, a secretary is being harassed by her ex-husband, and lines of tourists keep coming to view the Cliff Dwellings. Anna has formed a bond with new ranger Stacey Myers. He badly bungles the evacuation of a child having an asthma crisis, later Myers is found dead, a possible suicide. Anna suspects Myers did not die voluntarily. The FBI gets involved as Anna strives to catch a killer.

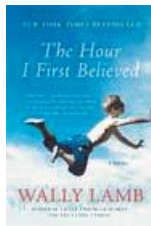


Hard Truth is set in Rocky Mountain National Park. Anna's life is changing with a new post as District Ranger and a new marriage to Sheriff Paul Davidson. Three little girls go missing from a religious retreat. Two turn up in the camp of Heath Jarrod, a woman paralyzed in a climbing accident and struggling with her situation. Heath is accompanied by her aunt (a physician) and her dog. The little girls are so traumatized they are unable to give a coherent account of their travails or an indication of the fate of the third missing child. **Hard Truth** is a more serious mystery, delving into the darkness of the human soul and the bleakness of religious cults. All of Nevada Barr's Anna Pigeon series use their National Park settings to take the reader to places of wonder and beauty. Anna is a strong female lead, flawed but striving to do right even when it is both difficult and dangerous.

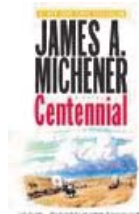
Month of Colorado

Staff recommendations.

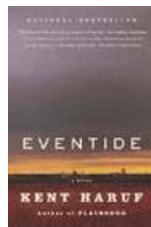
Deon recommends.



The Hour I First Believed by Wally Lamb is set partly in Colorado and partly in Connecticut. Caelum Quirk lived his whole life in the small Connecticut enclave of Three Rivers, a place rich in family history and in secrets he does not suspect. It is an area he knows well and where he is well known. When his rage over his wife Maureen's infidelity brings him to a rash act, his hometown is no longer a welcoming comfort but a community where he lacks even a shred of anonymity. Bent on saving their marriage, the high school teacher and his wife bid his aunt a fond farewell and move to Littleton Colorado with their two dogs for a fresh start. They find employment at Columbine High School, Maureen as a nurse and Caelum teaching literature. In April of 1999 Caelum is called back to Connecticut where his aunt has suffered a stroke. While he is at the other end of the country, two angry young men walk in their high school bent on killing. Maureen, hidden in a cabinet, hears the pleading of students, the explosion of gunfire, every minute expecting to be found and executed. Crouching in that cabinet waiting for death, surrounded by the sounds of carnage, does something profound and damaging to Maureen. She emerges a different woman; frightened, suffering from PTSD, struggling to regain her sense of self. Once again they make a cross country trek, back to Three Rivers Connecticut, to the farm that has been in Caelum's family for generations and is his heritage, seeking a safe shelter for Maureen to heal. Instead of finding a haven, tragedy stalks them, shattering their lives again. Age old secrets will come to light, showing that rage and injustice have long been a part of the landscape. Caelum's family was instrumental in establishing a prison for women in Three Rivers by their farm, it will play into the story too. Wally Lamb spent time teaching writing at York Correctional Institution and Connecticut's State Farm For Women. He uses this experience to inform his writing about the fictional Quirk Correctional Institution. ***The Hour I First Believed*** is an ambitious book, taking on such themes as rage, violence, injustice, and ultimately a belief in a higher power or greater good. Columbine is only one part of the story. Lamb chooses to tell that part through the experiences of the survivors, only briefly touching on the rage of the killers. Most of the story deals with the aftermath. If you would like to read a book that deals more with the stresses that might cause a high school to erupt in violence, read ***Nineteen Minutes*** by Jodi Picoult and ***One Mississippi*** by Mark Childress. I highly recommend both titles for anyone with children or involved in education. While ***The Hour I First Believed*** does tell the story of the Columbine massacre, it is more the story of a man and woman trying to find meaning in their lives and peace with their actions.



Centennial by James Michener is an epic story of the west. Michener is known for telling the whole story, he is not generally in a hurry and is very generous with the use of words, this book is no exception. If you want a story rich in history, Michener is an excellent choice. In portraying the West and the settling of Colorado he uses a vast canvas with an interesting and varied cast of characters. Levi Zandt travels with his bride Ellie (they married them young back in the day!) from Pennsylvania to Colorado. Lame Beaver, an Arapaho Chief, struggles against the overwhelming tide of settlers. The Garrets try to hang onto a farm in harsh circumstance. Of course we could not have a true western story without a cattle drive from Texas to Colorado with a colorful trail boss. A cowboy falls in love with an Englishwoman, lending romance to this novel of Colorado. If you enjoy stories of western history, Michener does not disappoint.

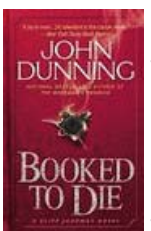


Eventide by Kent Haruf continues in the farming community of Holt, Colorado, the setting for his earlier book ***Plainsong***. Haruf writes with elegant simplicity and grace. His story feels so real, it is like stepping into the neighborhood. The McPheron brothers find returning to their solitary life lonely and incomplete after Victoria, the pregnant teen they sheltered, moves on to college. ***Eventide*** is more ominous than ***Plainsong***, the introduction of Hoyt into the story presents a character who is truly evil. Both stories bring memorable characters who engage the reader, like young DJ Kephart coming of age and trying to make sense of the world. You will enjoy spending these pages in Holt Colorado.



Kings of Colorado by David Hilton is set at the Swope Ranch Boy's Reformatory in Gunnison Colorado where in 1963 William Sheppard is sent for stabbing his father. Sometimes lives are changed or defined by the actions of a moment. For 13 year old William, the first of these moments is stabbing his alcoholic father to prevent the man from beating William's mother to death. The kid has never been west, spent his life thus far in Chicago. Swope uses the reformatory boys to gentle herds of mustangs, intended to be sold to farmers and ranchers. Swope is an amalgam of young kids who got dealt a bad hand in life like William, and some that are truly rotten. William makes three good friends, they call themselves the ***Kings of Colorado***. The interaction between the boys and the horses make this novel special. The setting is spectacular. It is a story though that contains tragedy and darkness too.

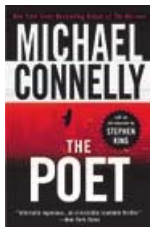
Nancy Nelson recommends.



Booked to Die by John Dunning. Detective Cliff Janeway loves books, occasionally adding rare and coveted ones to his collection. When called in on a murder case, he discovers that it is Bobby the Bookscout, lying in an alley, murdered. Janeway knew him as a harmless guy who bought collectible books at bargain prices, reselling them for large profits to some of Denver's local book sellers. Bobby looked like a bum, living very cheaply, hoping to someday make a great score on his finds. Cliff eagerly pursues his nemesis, Jackie Newton as a possible suspect, hoping that this lowlife thug is the guilty party, thus giving the legal system an opportunity to put Jackie away forever. Though the detectives find him innocent of this particular crime, the investigation leads to the discovery of other crimes. Janeway's obsession with Jackie costs him his job. He then follows his dream of opening a small bookstore. Meanwhile other bodies turn up. Other lives are turned around as Cliff continues to try to find the killer. This was an intense page turner, with subplots and a lot of information about the rare book business, what I think of as a very good read.

June 2014 Book Clubs.

Book clubs meet at 6:30 on Mondays. Everyone is welcome. Each year we focus for the month of June on a region, state, or city in the USA. Reading about various areas gives us an opportunity to savor the diversity and beauty of our country. In 2014 it is a **Month of Colorado**.



June 2nd Mystery Book Club discusses **The Poet** by Michael Connelly. Jack McEvoy is a Denver Colorado reporter, his beat is Death, when violence visits, Jack is the man to put it to words. His twin, Sean, is a hot cop in the homicide division. The brutal murder of a young woman shocks the Rocky Mountain town; mimicking the grisly details of LA's famous Black Dahlia killing. Jack wants to write the story, figures he has an in with a homicide cop, but when Sean refuses to talk it causes a rift between the brothers. So Jack didn't realize how depressed his brother was when months later they had no viable lead. He is taken by surprise when cops show up at his door, to have him come along and break the news to Sean's wife that her husband won't be coming home anymore. Sean drove to Estes Park by the lake, the same lake that claimed his sister long ago, took his service revolver and ended his life. The rift between the brothers was not deep; it would have mended given a little time. For Jack, the best way to honor his brother is to write. As he delves deeply into the circumstances he makes a discovery. A number of homicide cops died in eerily similar circumstances. Jack's digging takes him from Denver to Chicago and on to Washington DC where he meets Rachel Walling, a formidable, determined FBI agent. The story heads other places as they continue with their grisly discoveries. It is an edge of your seat thriller with surprising twists.



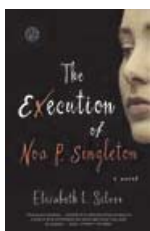
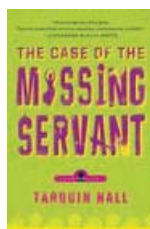
June 9th the Fiction Book Club discusses **The Delectable Mountains: or Entertaining Strangers** by Michael Malone set in Floren Park Colorado. A lot is happening in 1968: a presidential candidate will be cut down in his prime, riots will explode in Chicago, and a world away in the jungles of Vietnam soldiers will die. All of that takes a back seat in Devin Donohue's mind to the upcoming wedding of his brother, to Devin's girlfriend Jardin. Recently graduated from Harvard, moping around home over the loss of his girlfriend, he is at loose ends. Verl, his best friend, lives out in Colorado. Devin's first love Leila lives out there too, running a summer theater with her husband Mattie. Verl suggests Devin come out west, enjoy the mountain air, help with Leila's theater and cheer himself up. His family eagerly concurs, thinking it would be a good idea to get Devin out of the way prior to the big wedding. Summer in Colorado offers Devin the opportunity to grow up, to look around and take stock (of himself and his place in the greater world). Malone writes with a true comic flair. The story is often laugh out loud funny. When Devin arrives in Colorado he finds Leila listening to an obscenity spewing fanatic calling down destruction on corporate America while a Shriners convention runs amok in the streets all around them. Nothing is as Devin expected, he finds himself caught up in the crisis of others, charmed by Leila's two children (the daughter is spooky smart), and finding out quite a bit about himself in the process.



June 16th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses **Nothing Daunted** by Dorothy Wickenden. Dorothy Woodruff and Rosamond Underwood were from the East Coast, they came from good families, well-off, living in Auburn New York, a wealthy enclave in the Finger Lakes District. The young women were bored, and wanted an adventure before settling down. Ferry Carpenter from Colorado offered an opportunity: in 1916 they would go west to teach school for a while before returning to their cushy lives. They never went back. Arriving in the west, they rather expected to find hicks. Instead they found people they respected, a rugged but rich life, and a place to call home. They rode to school on horseback, looked in amazement at the Colorado landscape, and became part of the community. The book is rich in detail on settlers in Colorado. If you like history and intrepid women, it is a feast.



June 23rd the Classics Book Club discusses **Plainsong** by Kent Haruf, one of my favorite books. Haruf captures the spirit and life of a farming community in Colorado perfectly. In winning the National Book Award, **Plainsong** was described as "a novel of wisdom and grace". Tom Guthrie's wife is living a life of blue Mondays. Unable to defeat the miasma of despair defining her life, she moves out leaving Tom alone to raise their two boys.. A bully at the school where Tom teaches menaces his sons, and causes heartbreak. The bachelor brothers, Raymond and Harold, know cows. They are comfortable with all things bovine; know them, like them, and understand them. Young women are an alien species to the old bachelors. But this is a farming community, a place where people know each other's business and pull together; the brothers have a huge reservoir of kindness. When a pregnant 17 year old girl needs a home, they take her in and do their best to make her welcome. As the lives of the characters intersect, Haruf writes with such perfect harmony you will feel transported to this Colorado farming community.



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

- July 14th 2014 **The Count of Monte Cristo** by Alexandre Dumas [Fiction Book Club](#)
July 21st 2014 **The Black Count** by Tom Reiss [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
July 28th 2014 **The Case of the Missing Servant** by Tarquin Hall [Mystery Book Club](#)
August 11th 2014 **The Execution of Noa P. Singleton** by Elizabeth Silver [Mystery Book Club](#)
August 18th 2014 **Beloved** by Toni Morrison [Fiction Book Club](#)
9-1-14 **The Sunday Philosophy Club** by Alexander McCall Smith [Mystery Book Club Month of Scotland](#)
September 8th 2014 **Letters From Sky** by Jessica Brockmole [Fiction Book Club Month of Scotland](#)
September 15th 2014 **Kidnapped** by Robert Louis Stevenson [Classics Book Club Month of Scotland](#)
September 22nd **A Journey To The Western Islands of Scotland and the Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides** by Samuel Johnson and James Boswell [Travel Essay Book Club Month of Scotland](#)
October 6th 2014 **Zorro** by Isabel Allende [Fiction Book Club Banned Book Selection](#)
October 13th 2014 **The Light In The Ruins** by Chris Bohjalian [Mystery Book Club](#)
October 20th 2014 **Midnight's Children** by Salman Rushdie [Classics Book Club](#)
November 3rd, 2014 **Black Betty** by Walter Mosley [Mystery Book Club](#)
November 10th 2014 **In The Time Of Butterflies** by Julia Alvarez [Fiction Book Club](#)
November 17th 2014 **Behind The Beautiful Forevers** by Katherine Boo [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)
December 8th 2014 **Spirit of Steamboat** by Craig Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#) and [Fiction Book Club](#)
December 15th 2014 **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens [Fiction Book Club](#) and [Classics Book Club](#)
Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at Sunriverbooks.com

