

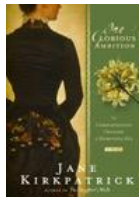


Sunriver Books & Music

June 2013

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Thank you Jane Kirkpatrick for leading another fun walk benefiting Newberry Habitat for Humanity! Jane strives to make a difference in her world. Her latest book, ***One Glorious Ambition: The Compassionate Crusade of Dorothea Dix*** is a perfect example of what one dedicated person can accomplish when passionate about making a difference. Dorothea Dix worked tirelessly to improve conditions for the mentally ill, making great changes. Jane Kirkpatrick also works to help those in need. Each year she leads a walk in Sunriver with ticket sales all going to Newberry Habitat for Humanity. We also want to thank all of you who purchased tickets and walked with Jane.



Marnie Brown caught a picture of the group admiring a hot car in the Village parking lot at the start of the walk.

Jane Kirkpatrick and Carolyn Barr say howdy to one of the horses along the walk. Jane's dog Cesar also admires the beautiful horse. Picture by Marnie Brown.

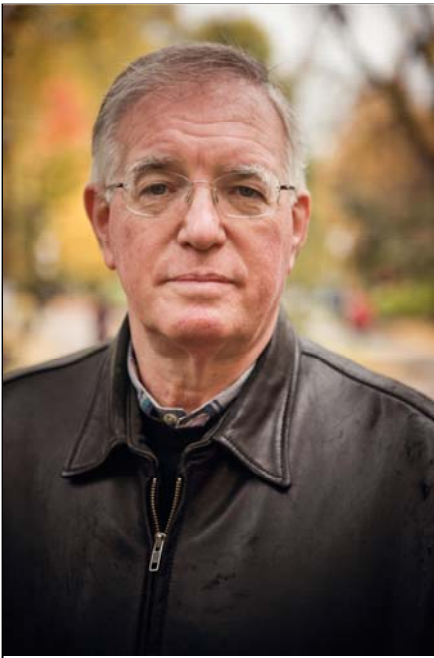


Saturday June 1st Barbara Corrado Pope will return for a presentation on ***The Missing Italian Girl, A Mystery In Paris***, the latest entry in her historical mystery series featuring Bernard and Clarie Martin.

An abusive man, a body carted by a Russian anarchist and two Italian sisters through the dark streets of the city to be flung into the canal are the elements of this excellent mystery. Clarie takes the center stage in this fascinating look at the role of French women in 1897. The Martins have moved from Nancy to the City of Light. Bernard gave up his prestigious position as a magistrate and has been pounding the pavement in search of a new job as an advocate. Lawyers are not in short supply and Bernard is determined to practice law in such a way as to make a difference in the lives of working men. Clarie keeps the family finances afloat with her teaching position. They are both pleased when Bernard finds work representing the unions. As the school year comes to an end, one of the charwomen, Francesca, beseeches Clarie for help finding her two missing daughters. Clarie is touched by the women's anguish and brings her story home to Bernard but he is distracted by his new job, not eager to be involved in the woman's problems, and of the opinion they will sort themselves out. Clarie is less able to put the woman's worries aside, when trouble escalates for Francesca and her daughters, Clarie feels herself drawn into a situation well beyond her ken. The gentle teacher finds herself in the dark underbelly of Paris; haunts for revolutionaries and radicals. She is shocked by the conditions she finds and the way society ignores the plight of women. Pope has been able to weave much of the social fabric of the time into her thoughtful story while telling a compelling mystery.

The first book in the series is ***Cezanne's Quarry*** set in Aix-en-Provence. A woman is discovered strangled at the bottom of a quarry. Was it her lover, Charles Westbury, a Darwinian Scholar and geologist? Or did the artist Cezanne strangle her in a fit of jealousy? ***Blood of Lorraine*** is the second in the series. Set in 1894, the year Captain Alfred Dreyfus was convicted of selling secrets to the Germans and sentenced to life in prison on Devil's Island. The backdrop of the story is the conflagration of racial hatred that erupted. Author Emile Zola's fiery outrage brought public scrutiny and turned the tide in Dreyfus's favor, but not before rabble rousers inflamed a furious public with hatred for their Jewish neighbors. Magistrate Bernard Martin is tasked with bringing justice in the death of a child. The infant's mother and nurse accuse a Jewish man of the savage killing. To complicate Martin's life further, his beloved wife Clarie is expecting their first child, an occasion that should be a time of joy. The massive national attention focused on the Dreyfus affair has turned the town into a powder keg of anti-Semitism, ready to burst into an inferno with the first match. The murder of an innocent child by a Jew could be the spark that ignites the flame.

Barbara Corrado Pope is supremely qualified to bring this era to life. She is an Historian and Professor from the University of Oregon. She has lived in France and her affection for the country evident in her writing.



New York Time's bestselling author Phillip Margolin will give a presentation at Sunriver Books & Music Saturday June 15th at 5:00 PM on ***Sleight of Hand***, his latest thriller.

PI Dana Cutler is involved in a rather mundane surveillance in Washington DC when she is offered a much more interesting case, tracking down a Turkish relic in the Pacific Northwest. While Dana is away, busy investigating in Seattle, the San Juan Islands, and Vancouver BC, things are becoming rather complicated back in Washington DC. Charles Benedict is the go to guy for Russian mobsters looking for a mouthpiece who can get them off the hook. The handsome urbane attorney with a predilection for magic tricks has been stacking up wins and cementing his reputation for delivering acquittals. Now he is going to conjure something entirely different, Benedict intends to frame a mega millionaire for the murder of his wife, a prosecuting attorney. Motive is easy, the marriage was known to be rocky, they had a pre-nuptial agreement that would expire in a week and could cost a cool twenty million. Benedict is a master at illusion; he has every chance of succeeding. Figuring out what the various players are up to and how they are connected will only be half of the problem for Dana; she has to prove it and bring them to justice.

Capitol Murder, Margolin's prior book, also features PI Dana Cutler along with attorney Brad Miller from ***Executive Privilege*** and ***Supreme Justice***. As the story begins, Brad and his new wife, Ginny, have moved to Washington DC where he works for charismatic Oregon Senator Jack Carson, a powerful member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. Brad is uneasy about notes he is receiving from a serial killer, but the man is locked up for life so he shouldn't be too much of a threat. Or should he? The killer's new attorney is totally bamboozled about the character of the man she is trying to free. Can she win and turn loose a stone cold killer? Even more action has terrorists intent on blowing up a packed football stadium at game time. Dana's job intersects with Brad and Ginny's in sorting out the bad guys. Margolin keeps the action coming and the tension high! If you enjoy the mystery or thriller genre, Phillip Margolin has a string of popular books; ***Fugitive***, ***Wild Justice***, ***Gone But Not Forgotten***, ***Lost Lake***, ***Proof Positive*** and many others.

Margolin, a successful Portland Oregon attorney, has argued before the Supreme Court. He was a Peace Corp Volunteer in Liberia, Africa, and taught Junior High in the Bronx. He also succeeded as a father, his delightful daughter Ami Margolin Rome is clear and convincing evidence. Father and daughter penned an engaging mystery for the younger set, ***Vanishing Acts***.

June 22nd at 5:00 PM Lian Dolan gives a presentation on her romantic comedy, ***Elizabeth the First Wife***. Summer is here, it is the perfect time for a book that will keep you entertained and amused. Elizabeth teaches Shakespeare at a Pasadena Community College keeping her students unenlightened about her first marriage to hunky mega star FX Fahey until the day he saunters into her classroom mid sonnet. After a decade apart it seems Francis needs Elizabeth again, or at least her help with Shakespeare. He has a new movie coming out, something more serious than playing the action cop, it has a shot at the Oscars but he needs to beef up his resume with more serious acting. Fahey has agreed to play a dual role in the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's production of a *Midsummer Night's Dream*, the king of Athens and the king of the fairies. His last experience on stage did not run smoothly, he needs Elizabeth to see that he gets it right this time. Elizabeth is surrounded by over achievers, her father is a Nobel Laureate, her ex-husband a Hollywood sensation, and her sisters are all go-getters too. She likes her life teaching community college in Pasadena, it is comfortable, but the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland is a whole new level for her, how could she pass it up? Over the course of the summer a lot happens in Elizabeth's life, she adopts a dog, works on a book, and discovers new truths. The settings in Pasadena California and Ashland Oregon are fun too. Lian Dolan is one of the popular Satellite Sisters from radio, writes the Chaos Chronicles blog, and is a contributor to Oprah's O magazine.



Author events are a perfect way to spend an evening. We will have refreshments and drawings for prizes. Please call 541-593-2525, e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stop by to sign up to attend. The events are free and lots of fun..

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday July 6th 2013 at 5:00 PM ***Little Century*** by Anna Keesey

Friday July 19th at 5:30 *A Serpents Tooth* by Craig Johnson at the SHARC, sign up early!

Sign up early to attend Craig Johnson's Event July 19th!

Saturday August 3rd 2013 at 5:30 ***A Harriet Truman/Loose Threads Mystery*** by Arlene Sachitano

Saturday August 31, 2013 at 5:00 PM ***Breaking Chains*** by Greg Nokes

Saturday September 14th 2013 at 5:00 PM ***The Ship In The Hill*** by William Sullivan

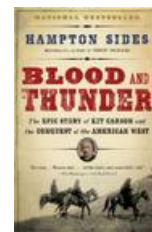
Check our website, sunriverbooks.com, for more information on upcoming authors as they are scheduled.

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

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 The Southwest**. We hope you join us in reading and discussing books set in the Southwest, there are many excellent opportunities.

Staff Recommendations.
Rich Recommends Non Fiction set in the Southwest USA.

Blood and Thunder: The Epic Story of Kit Carson and the Conquest of the American West by Hampton Sides is a sweeping, and epic portrait of the conquest of the American west led by the biblical theme of Manifest Destiny. Sides writes eloquently of the subjugation of the native American tribes and the heroic but doomed effort to keep and live on their ancestral lands. Sides describes many characters both white and Indian who personified each side of the struggle. Kit Carson is the centerpiece of Sides' story of the white man's relentless movement west and the destruction and devastation left in its wake. Written as a heroic and mythical figure in the pulp fiction novels known as "Blood and Thunders", Carson abhorred the falseness and cartoon caricatures that they represented. The truth of his and other western characters was fascinating enough without the hyperbole. President James Polk is shown as the relentless advocate of the westward movement and oblivious to anything that got in its way. The Navajos, led by Narbona and later Manuelito were forced to live on reservations after their ultimate defeat in various wars over the years that ended in failure and near starvation. Kit Carson later championed a plan to relocate the Navajo to ancestral lands set aside for them to live peacefully. This is a well researched and breathtaking narrative of the history of our great American Southwest.

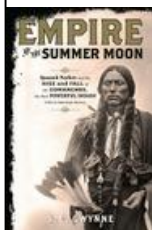


Deon Recommends Non Fiction set in the Southwest USA (found in Travel Essay and Non Fiction)



The Journey Home by Ed Abbey. His best known books are *Desert Solitaire* and *The Monkey Wrench Gang*. Ed Abbey lived life big. He had a passionate love of the wilderness and liked it unspoiled by either governmental interference or development. He saw the land as necessary to the human soul, a place so big and wild it could make us a bit more whole just by standing to pause and look around. Abbey was always best pleased when he could upset some group or political party and the series of essays in *The Journey Home* is a perfect example of this maverick, passionate, reckless, brilliant man's absolute refusal to be pigeon holed or defined. He once said *If my decomposing carcass helps nourish the roots of a Juniper tree or the wings of a vulture-that is immortality enough for me. And as much as anyone deserves.* And that pretty well sums up Ed Abbey's philosophy. He was an original.

Reading ***A Voyage Long and Strange*** by Pulitzer Prize winner Tony Horwitz is a bit like sitting down for a cozy chat with a good friend. His writing is wonderfully intimate and warm. Tony is the product of a "good education", private schools and ivy league college. On a trip along the east coast he stopped at Plymouth Rock, a disappointing cheap tourist trap today. It got him to thinking about American history and the woeful inadequacy of his education. His book sets the record straight on the early years of North America. I felt on pretty firm ground with Leif Ericson, but my confidence declined with his siblings. I had been blissfully ignorant of Leif's murderous sister Freydis. I started finding myself in comfortable territory again as the book visited with a fresh eye pieces of history that were not unknown to me. I was already aware of Columbus, Hernando de Soto, Coronado's trek north to the Grand Canyon, and the bad Pizarro brothers. But I was taken completely by surprise learning about Cabeza de Vaca's amazing journey across thousands of miles of unknown territory. He was one of 3 survivors from among 242 soldiers Panfilo Narvaes sailed off and abandoned in the swamps of Florida. To remain alive among the native population he learned to be a healer, eventually becoming revered by the tribes. It is an astonishing story, I plan to read more about Cabeza de Vaca in ***Land so Strange*** by Andre Resandez. I was back on firmer ground again as Tony talked about the first permanent settlement in North America. Having visited St. Augustine Florida I knew the Spanish, not the English, had been the first successful settlers. Tony moves on to Jamestown, providing fascinating detail on the settlement, its trials, John Smith and Pocahontas. Smith was an intrepid fellow, but did not have a soft touch with the upper classes. Pocahontas was a child when she saved Smith from her father's ire. She later married one of the settlers. Their son Thomas forsook his native heritage, inheriting a large plantation from his father and fighting against the Indians in the militia. As Tony pokes into the various nooks and crannies of our history, he gives us a look at what the land is like today. It is not unusual to find sites of historic importance buried beneath the asphalt of a Wal-Mart parking lot. Respect for the past is often sadly lacking in our young nation. While the book is not entirely set in the Southwest, the southwestern portions are a rich, important part of our history. Tony Horwitz's is not the only Pulitzer Prize winner in his household. His wife is the gifted Pulitzer Prize winning novelist Geraldine Brooks.

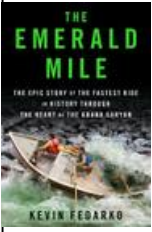


Empire of the Summer Moon; Quannah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History by S. C. Gwynne. Hitler was not the first leader to decide on a "Final Solution", in 1871 Civil War Hero General William Tecumseh Sherman sent McKenzie forth to kill Indians with the blessing of President Grant. The Indians were not innocent of mayhem either, fighting to clear their lands of settlers their raiding parties resorted to inhumane torture. The toughest fighters were a band of Comanche known as the Quahadis who avoided contact with whites. Their leader was Quannah, a brash young chief, half white, half Comanche. He was a brilliant tactician and a faithful leader of his people.

Lasso the Wind by Timothy Egan. It is an interesting journey; Egan is a fabulously talented writer. We go all over the west. Sometimes reveling in its beauty, sometimes stepping into its past, sometimes growing furious at its devastation. Egan visits the Havasipai at the bottom of the Grand Canyon where they live without cars and get along just fine. He ruminates on the early days of Las Vegas Nevada, and the bloated city it has become today. He gives details on the absolute rape of the land by the copper kings in Butte Montana. He takes us through Yellowstone with all its natural wonders. He continues on to Joseph Oregon, home of the Nez Perce. He keeps on going west, with many stories set in the Southwest.

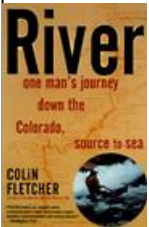
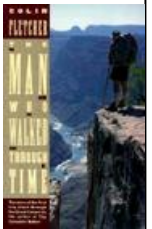


Deon Recommends Non Fiction set in the Southwest USA (Found in Travel Essay and Animal sections)



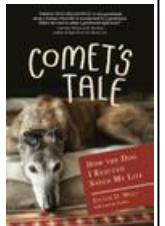
The Emerald Mile by Kevin Fedarko is an edge of your seat account of the fastest ride on a raging Colorado River through the Heart of the Grand Canyon. In 1983 Nature fought back with a vengeance. A perfect storm of wet weather and too much water captured behind Glen Canyon Dam demanded water be let out the spillways. This was the Canyon's chance, it clawed at the concrete, churning it up into rubble and spitting it out. And a portion of this book is the story of the saving of Glen Canyon dam and the construction of that blight on the earth. Fair warning, the author does not share my opinions or Edward Abbey's, he seems resigned to if not totally in favor of the Glen Canyon Dam. The other part of the story is the rip-snorting, devil mad wild ride down the Colorado River, as peak water screamed down the canyon, by Kenton Grua, Steve (Wren) Reynolds and Rudi Petschek. Their record of 36 hours, 38 minutes, and 29 seconds still stands. The river was so wild, so hungry, that the National Park service's helicopters were kept busy ferrying the injured from deep in the canyon as kayaks, rafts, motorized craft were all flung about, many landing in scattered pieces with the human cargo dumped into the frothy river. The three men made their wild run on a day the National Park had closed the river to commercial river traffic at the entrance to the canyon and stationed a ranger to stop river runners from entering Crystal Rapid, having the passengers disembark before the guide took the boat through the rapid alone. Crystal isn't usually the most dangerous rapid on the river and it had never claimed a human life until 1983 when for a while the river ran almost free and wild again. Engineers sorted out Glen Canyon Dam's spillways, the river did not succeed in turning the edifice to rubble. The author seems glad. Edward Abbey was still alive in 1983, he must have been cheering the river on, hoping it would win. Ed's (and my) feeling about Glen Canyon Dam can probably best be summed up by a character from Abbey's **The Monkey Wrench Gang**. Seldom Seen Smith falls to his knees on the cement walk way of the bridge and prayed for the bridge's destruction, a little precision earthquake strike that would take Smith with it but free the river. Well for a little while in 1983 the river shook loose and raged while three crazy wild boatmen screamed down the canyon in its clutches toward history. Silence below the canyon rim used to be remarkable. The most quiet place I have ever been is a couple miles down the North Kaibob Trail, it was so still, so unearthly silent. Not any more. Now there are flights over head, lots of people, and the silence is broken. President Teddy Roosevelt said "*Leave it as it is. You cannot improve on it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it.*" Boy was he ever right!

The Man Who Walked Through Time by Colin Fletcher. I have read this book several times and it is one of my favorites of the genre. Seeing the Grand Canyon is an awe inspiring experience, sort of like looking up at all the stars in the night sky, it makes you feel small and insignificant compared to its timeless grandeur. Centuries are before you in those tall walls of colorful rock. Colin Fletcher walked the length of the Grand Canyon below the rim. It is an amazing and timeless journey through spectacular terrain. His reverence for the natural world makes the story of his journey quite special.



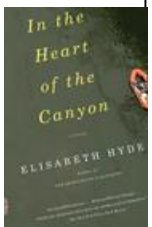
River: One Man's Journey Down The Colorado, Source to Sea by Colin Fletcher. At 67 Colin had just come through a heart problem and he wanted another grand journey. Colin is not much of a river rat, more a hiker than the navigator of fast water. But at 67 he recognized that he was not as fit as he had been when he walked the length of the Grand Canyon. Instead Colin started at the headwaters of the Colorado River in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming and piloted his raft all the way to the Gulf of Mexico. At times humorous, often reflective, this is the story of a magnificent journey. If you love the out of doors, this is a moving portrait of one man facing the passage of time while reveling in the beauty that surrounds him.

Comet's Tale by Steven D. Wolf. Sometimes if you are very lucky the right dog comes along and changes your life. Steven Wolf was suffering from severe degeneration of his back, in constant pain, unable to continue in his lucrative career as an attorney, and exiled from his family in Nebraska to the dryer climes of Arizona. He was lonely and morose. Comet's life had its challenges. She was a racing greyhound. Not being a winner, she was discarded, left in a crate to die. Greyhound Rescue saved her, but the traumatized dog wasn't ready to trust until she chose Steven. He adopts Comet to the consternation of his wife back in Nebraska who feels that Steven has trouble taking care of himself and does not need the complication of a dog. But Steven is lonely, he misses his family and their Golden Retrievers back in Nebraska, he has no one in Arizona and Comet needs a home. The two become the best of friends; Comet is there for Steven, even becoming a service dog, a very unusual career path for a Greyhound. Their friendship changes Steven's life.



Deon Recommends Fiction set in the Southwest USA.

In The Heart of the Canyon by Elisabeth Hyde allows the reader to join JT's 125th run down the Colorado. He is a proficient head guide, well able to show his customers a good time while bringing them through safe and sound. Except things start to go awry straight from the get go. On the first night of camping there is a lost dog. JT has never seen a lost dog on the river, they are not allowed. He calls into the ranger only to be told to deal with it. What is JT going to do with a dog running rapids? His fellow guides, Abo and Dixie, are divided in their opinions on the dog's fate. Then there are the customers, not the usual mix. Ruth and Lloyd have been running the river every year since the 1950's only this year is different, Lloyd has dementia. Susan brought her seriously overweight daughter Amy on the trip, JT doesn't think he has ever seen a girl as heavy as Amy on the river. Compton family, mother, father and two sons, are energetic. Harvard professor Evelyn Burns has looked forward to this trip all year. Kevin was sent by his sister, he is out of work, was recently dumped by his girlfriend, and can't swim. Lena and Mitchell are from Wyoming, he is a real pain in the patootie, an opinion on everything. One of them carries a secret that could derail the trip. All of them start out as strangers but the river works its magic and they end up so much more. Come along with JT, he is a good guide and will show you a fine time **In The Heart of the Canyon**. This is a great way to enjoy rafting the Colorado without ever getting wet.

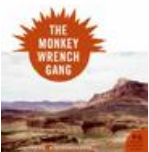


Queen of America by Luis Alberto Urrea is historical fiction at its best, based on the life of the author's great aunt Teresita. **Queen of America** starts where **The Hummingbird's Daughter** concluded with Teresita and her father fleeing their homeland in Mexico in the aftermath of the Tomochic rebellion. Peasants and believers still flock to Teresita hoping for cures to what ails them, whether she is in a hamlet in the Arizona desert, the frontier of El Paso, or in New York City. Men still ride from Mexico sent to kill Teresita, the Saint of Cabora. Her path is not easy; she makes mistakes along the way. Through it all Teresita lives her life with passion.

Deon Recommends Fiction set in the Southwest.

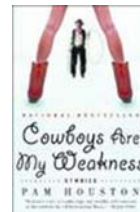
EDWARD ABBEY

The Monkey Wrench Gang by Edward Abbey. Led by the intrepid Hayduke, a motley gang wages war on the big yellow machines that have come to destroy the landscape they love. One of my favorite scenes in fiction is Seldom Seen Smith praying on the cement walkway of Glen Canyon Dam for its destruction. God does not comply so the gang sets off to take matters into their own hands. As Abbey said, *"One man alone can be pretty dumb sometimes, but for real bona fide stupidity there ain't nothin' can beat teamwork."* Of course things get completely out of hand. 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 adored with their debris. His fictional characters are as likely to toss beer cans out the window as they are to cut down billboards littering the side of the highway. 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. One of my favorite quote's from Ed may also please you. *"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the crowds."*

Cowboys are my Weakness by Pam Houston is a rollicking group of short stories. It won the 1993 Western States Book Award. Pam's passion for the out of doors suffuses her books with a strong western influence. She writes so vividly I swear you can see the colors of sunsets on the page, feel the wind, and hear the roar of white water. Clearly she has never seen a trail she did not yearn to walk, a river that did not need jumping into, or a mountain that could be passed by without climbing. She is an amazing woman and an exceptionally talented author.



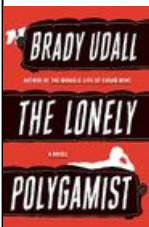
The Night Journal by Elizabeth Crook takes place in the past and present of New Mexico. At 37 Meg has lived her life in the shadow of her difficult, determined grandmother Bassie. Orphaned as a young child, Bassie's knowledge of her mother comes from her mother's journals. Bassie is a noted historian, made famous by publishing those journals. Meg is persuaded to journey with Bassie to New Mexico where they find the journals have secrets, all that Bassie relied on in life is threatened. The characters are strong, choosing their own path in life. New Mexico in the early 1900's is spell-binding. It is like taking a step back into history, into the making of the railroad, the settling of New Mexico.

The Gifted Gabaldon Sisters by Lorraine Lopez. Fermina, a Pueblo nanny, loves her young charges, four sisters and a brother, ferociously. Their mother gave them each a movie star's name then died when they were very young. Fermina filled the void, promising each sister that she would be given a "special" gift upon Fermina's death. When Fermina dies the girls try to figure out their special gift. The ramifications of the bequest shape their lives in unusual ways.



The Women by T.C. Boyle is just the ticket if you are interested in Frank Lloyd Wright. He was a genius. He changed the relationship of indoor and outdoor space, changed the way we relate to the land. Architects are still copying elements of designs he created 100 years ago. Frank Lloyd Wright was a giant in his field, a man who grabbed great big chunks of life and ate them up. He was a man full of passion, determination, and arrogance. Passion was not confined to the drawing board, Frank was not immune to the female form. His life was heavily influenced by the women he loved. Boyle explores Frank Lloyd Wright's life through his relationships with four remarkable and very different women. If you would like an eye opening look at Frank Lloyd Wright, this is your book!

What Joy! To read a book by a fabulously talented author that is not only beautifully written but a hoot to boot, it is pure pleasure. **So Brave, So Young, and Handsome** by Lief Enger is that rare book. Monte worked at the post office until he wrote his first book and was surprised by its success. Writing seemed more alluring than his post office job, he quit, planning to write a 1000 pages a day. Well those pages did not fly off his fingertips easily, after five years he is still searching for the words to put on the page. He suspects he may have only had the one book in him. As he sits on his dock by the river one day, hoping for inspiration, a man goes by standing up in a boat. Monte is charmed by the image and curious about the man. His son, Redstart, tracks down the boater (not much gets past Redstart) and drags him home to dinner. It turns out the mystery man, Glendon, really does have secrets. Twenty years ago he vamoosed just ahead of the law, leaving behind his young bride. He wants to find her and apologize. Monte goes along to help; finding a lot more adventure than he planned. Glendon turns out to



have been a real Hole In the Wall gang bandit, he was running from the law in earnest, not just escaping from a one time crime. Pretty soon we have a Pinkerton agent, sharp shooting rodeo queens, escapes from the law, conflagrations and floods! Monte begins to wonder if he will ever see his lovely wife Susannah or son Redstart again. All of this and beautiful writing too! What a lark!

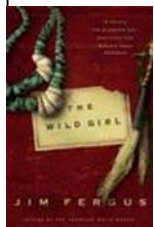
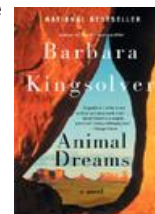
The Lonely Polygamist by Bradley Udall centers on Golden Richards, a man with 4 wives and 28 children who still manages to be lonely. Golden seems a bit overwhelmed by it all, work, church, kids, wives, who wouldn't be a bit frazzled? Times are tight so he is traveling farther for work, he is a building contractor involved in a little project that might raise a few eyebrows back home. Udall uses humor as Golden navigates the crossroads of his life, trying to balance the needs of his family. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, this is a family saga on a grand scale.

The Carrion Birds by Urban Waite, his new release, is a real page turner. Urban Waite has a talent for writing taut, violent novels with intelligent, nuanced plots and flawed but intriguing characters. What would you do for your brother? Tom took a tragic action that cost him his career and his peace of mind for his brother Ray. What would you do to avenge your dead wife? Ray gave up his way of life, his child, and his home to become a hired gun in the aftermath of his wife's death. It has been a long time; Ray is coming back to Coronado, New Mexico. He doesn't want to be a hired gun working for thugs anymore; he wants to find out if he can have a relationship with the son he abandoned. It will take one more big score to set him up with enough cash to live comfortably. His return sets in motion cataclysmic events that leave no one untouched. Gorgeous writing, the serene desert landscape, and characters that grab life by the neck keep the pages flying by to the very end.



Deon Recommends Fiction set in the Southwest USA.

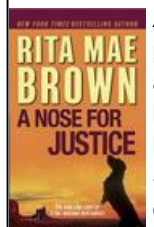
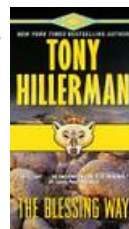
Animal Dreams by Barbara Kingsolver is set in the small town of Grace Arizona. Codi comes home to care for her father, the town doctor now suffering from Alzheimer's. There are unresolved issues lying in wait for Codi, an old love not forgotten, her sense of failure for not becoming a doctor, her remote relationship with her father. Kingsolver allows her characters the freedom of their faults, she does not try to smooth the rough edges. Codi is an interesting character, a woman who comes to terms with her choices and her relationships. As in all of Kingsolver's writing, her love of the southwestern landscape shines through on the page.



The Wild Girl by Jim Fergus. Ned Giles is orphaned at 17 by the death of both his parents. In a few short months he goes from a young man in college to a kid trying to avoid being placed in foster care. Ned has been working in an upscale men's club, he sees an advertisement for the 1932 Great Apache Expedition, Apaches have taken the son of a wealthy Mexican rancher; the expedition hopes to rescue the child. Ned sees this as the solution to his problem; he will quit school, head out of Chicago before the social workers return to take him into care, and drive west to join the expedition as a photographer. Ned has always had a passion for taking pictures, his Dad left him enough money for a good camera and a letter suggesting he buy one. Right from the start this new life is not quite what Ned expected. Things are complicated when the expedition finds an Apache girl in a Mexican jail and determines to use her as bait to recover the boy. Ned's allegiance is tested as he sympathizes with the girl. Needless to say Ned gets more of an adventure than he anticipated when he left the cold winter of Chicago for the deserts of the Southwest.

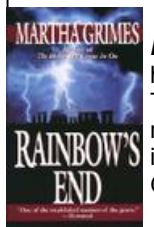
Deon Recommends Mysteries set in the Southwest USA.

Recommendations for good mysteries in the Southwest USA cannot be given without including Tony Hillerman's excellent series set on the Navajo reservation. They embody the spirit of the southwest while telling a good story. The mysteries are complex and interesting while always being respectful of the culture. **The Blessing Way** is Tony Hillerman's first book in the series featuring Navajo Tribal Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn. A young man is fleeing arrest, heading into the far corners of the reservation. By the time Leaphorn finds his suspect, the man is a corpse with no clues to solve the mystery of his death. No evidence litters the ground, no tracks lead the way to the killer, and nothing points a direction for the investigation. A professor is on the reservation researching native culture and tribal beliefs in witchcraft. Hillerman has written many books featuring Leaphorn, books that transport you into another culture. It is a journey worth taking, set in a remote, wide open land full of blazing sunsets, high mesa's, and canyons. Tony Hillerman captures perfectly the lonely beauty of the landscape along with the rich cultural heritage of the Navajo people. Along the way he tells rousing good stories with likeable characters and interesting plots.



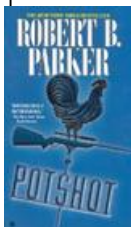
A Nose For Justice by Rita Mae Brown is set in Nevada on a large ranch. Jeeps is 85 years old, a self made woman, independent minded, and not about to order her life by the dictates of someone else's rules. She flew planes in WWII, came home and worked hard making smart moves every step of the way in a man's world until she was one very rich rancher. Now Enrique, her adopted son takes care of the day to day running of the ranch and Carlotta, his wife, runs the house. Jeeps still keeps her hand in the game, makes the major decisions, but it is nice to have help. Mags, her niece, is in her thirties and starting over. She was one of the hot babes of Wall Street, when the house of cards crashed, she tried to make good with her clients and lost everything. Jeeps has opened her home and her heart to Mags. Not so with Mags' sister Catherine who tried to cut Enrique out of Jeep's will so there would be more for the "blood relatives". Instead Jeeps disowned Catherine and will leave all her wealth to Mags and Enrique. That takes care of someday, but right now Mags needs to figure out how to make a living. It isn't just Mags who is starting over, her Dachshund Baxter is a city dog, country life is all new to him. Jeep's big Shepard mix is a little wary of a dog with such short legs, but they are soon great pals. As the story opens, someone blows up Silver State Resource Management's pump 19, it is just the beginning. Water rights and the access to water are hot topics in the high desert. Jeeps and Silver State are on opposite sides of the issue. Jeeps is dubious of continued growth in such a sparse environment, she is convinced more houses means less water for ranchers and wild-life. Silver State wants to buy up all the water rights possible and fuel more development. Pete and Lonnie, the investigating officers are worried. This is an issue sure to escalate, no surprise when violence follows. The other mystery is the skeleton of a Russian Cossack found in Jeep's barn. How on earth did the Russian end up buried for a hundred years under Jeep's horse stalls? Rita Mae Brown always writes with humor, the dogs are adorable.

Staying with the animal connection, we cannot forget the feline sleuths of the Southwest. Carole Nelson Douglas writes an entertaining series set in Las Vegas featuring Midnight Louie, one hep tomcat. Midnight Louie shares digs with petite PR dynamo Temple Barr, a woman with a weakness for shoes and a habit of carrying a good percentage of her belongings in her large tote. Temple knows to keep a window open for Louie, he may be willing to share the condo but he is not about to settle down. Midnight Louie knows every casino on the strip, the good and the bad. **Cat in a Vegas Gold Vendetta** has Temple looking into the suspicious death of a handyman. Actress Savannah Ashleigh's Aunt Violet is surrounded by people with less than stellar motives. As Temple becomes embroiled in the investigation it will fall to Midnight Louie to keep her safe. Temple has the hearts of two handsome men. Max, the tall, dark, handsome Magician who brought her to Las Vegas and her current fiancé, blond bombshell Matt Devine. The whole series is light hearted fun, romantic comedy with a handsome feline in the lead.



Rainbows End by Martha Grimes brings her Scotland Yard Superintendent Richard Jury to the Southwest USA. Three women have died of "natural causes" in London and the West County. But were the causes really "natural"? Or were they murdered? The only thing linking the three women, one American and two Brits, is New Mexico. Jury heads across the sea where he meets a strange young girl with a pet coyote while back in London his pal, wealthy Melrose Plant, continues making discreet inquiries. Grimes combines nimble writing with a sprinkling of humor and intriguing plots. Most of the series is set in London. Grime blends fine plotting, interesting characters, and a dash of humor.

Nancy Nelson recommends mysteries set in the Southwest USA.



Potshot, by Robert B. Parker. Unlike most of Parker's mysteries, this one takes place in the southwest. Mary Lou Buchman is a very pretty young woman whose husband was recently murdered. She asks Spenser if he would agree to go to a small town in Arizona to find the killer. The earlier residents were an assortment of panhandlers, drunks, and mountain men living off the land. People with plenty of money, mainly from Los Angeles, relocated to the desert town, and it became more of a rich man's retreat. Then a man, referred to as The Preacher moved in, organized the rag tag group of earlier residents. The Preacher's group began to demand "rent" from the wealthier residents and businessmen. The general consensus seems to be that these people are responsible for Mary Lou's husband's death. But there is a lot more going on behind the obvious conflict between these two groups. Spenser recruits some of his former cohorts from LA and Boston, including Hawk. With their help, hidden agendas are discovered and exposed, and Spenser has the wherewithal to stand up to the bad guys. True to Parker's style, Spenser presents his sense of morality and his rules to live by throughout. He is the modern version of the hero with the white hat. Laden with wit and the unmistakable Spenser humor, the book is truly an enjoyable read.

Hand of Evil, by J.A. Jance. A car door slams on a man's hand. Before he can open the door, it is locked. The man is dragged along the ground by the car, and then left for dead. Later that day the badly mangled body is discovered by an elderly woman out for a morning hike. Thus our story opens. The reader is introduced to Ali Reynolds, of Sedona, Arizona, former news anchorwoman. She is dealing with the loss of her job, and with the recent murder of her estranged husband. Then fate adds to the mix, as she is asked to care for the runaway 12 year old daughter of a friend. More characters appear who all are in some way connected to the murder. Secrets from long ago and from the present emerge. Meanwhile a serial killer is out in the world seeking to eliminate any potential witnesses, and to settle once and for all, his own issues. This was an imaginative story full of surprises, some heartbreak, and lots of excitement from beginning to end.

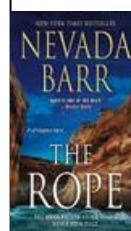


Deon recommends mysteries set in the Southwest USA



J. A. Jance lives part of the year in Seattle and part in Arizona. She has four mystery series. Nancy recommended a selection from her Ali Reynolds series. I am highlighting 3 J. A. Jance sleuths. **Partner in Crime** unites J.P. Beaumont from Jance's Seattle series with Arizona Sheriff Joanna Brady. A vibrant young artist is preparing for her first exhibition. She has a handsome, charming man in her life. She owns her home and small studio. These should be happy times, but the secrets she carries bring a sense of melancholy to her, she fears it is all too good to be true and will soon come to an end. She was right to worry. When her call to 911 leads to a dead body, Sheriff Brady is surprised to find the woman's next of kin does not exist. Instead she gets the Washington State Attorney General's office and a lot of stonewalling. Was the young woman's death foul play, is the killer a local, or do the threads lead to Washington State? Sheriff Brady is even less pleased when the Attorney General for Washington sends detective J.P. Beaumont to "observe" the case. She doesn't need a babysitter she needs answers! The first meeting between Beaumont and Brady is not warm and fuzzy. She resents his misogynistic bosses and he isn't too thrilled with her angry attitude. Beaumont has never visited Bisbee Arizona, but it holds ghosts for him. His second wife was raised in Bisbee. No matter their personal attitudes or memories, if this murder is going to be solved they will have to work together. One of the things I like about a J.A. Jance mystery is the way she makes you like the victim. She avoids making the victim just the start of the puzzle, but a real character worthy of the reader's regard. In this pairing of her two most popular sleuths she also gives us a credible and complicated mystery.

J.A. Jance's fourth sleuth is Sheriff Brandon Walker, now retired. Is featured in **Queen of the Night**. In the 1970's a young boy feigns sleep as his father shoots his mother dead, we will hear more from him as the story progresses. In the 1950's a young woman finally acknowledges her sexual orientation, she is feeling happy about no longer hiding her true self; she will not survive the night. In 2009 a man faces the reality that he has served a false ideal; work hard, rise in the banking world, and live a prosperous life. Now his job is gone, his house will soon be foreclosed, and he faces a wife ready to leave him. There are too many cracks in his foundation to put it back together. Brandon Walker has agreed to look into a cold case involving a coed who died on Spring Break half a century ago. His wife, Diana, a successful Pulitzer prize winning author is having trouble finding the words for her stories. Years earlier Diana barely survived an attack by a vicious serial killer, the man died in prison. Now the dead are visiting her, sharing their opinions with her, and in general making her worry she may be losing her mind. Brandon and Diana's daughter Lani is a physician on the rez, before the story is over her life will change. Corporal Dan Pardee is half Apache, he brought his partner Bozo back with him from Iraq, now man and dog are part of the Shadow Wolves Border Patrol on the rez,. Once a year the Queen of the Night (the night Cereus) blooms, this year it will be a night drenched in blood. Jance takes you into the characters lives, making you like them. As opposed to **Partners In Crime**, where the story follows one complex thread, in **Queen of the Night** several mysteries converge.



Nevada Barr has an excellent series set in the National Parks. Barr is a former National Park Service Ranger and knows her stuff. The series goes around the country to the various parks with ranger Anna Pigeon as the sleuth. **The Rope**, the latest in the series is different from the rest. It is more of a thriller and a bit darker than other entries The story goes back in time to the beginning when Anna Pigeon first worked for the National Parks. Anna hit rock bottom after the death of her husband Zach, they were a close couple even after 7 years. He was a stage actor, she was a stage manager. Lots of time together and very devoted, his death sucked the life right out of Anna. She found solace in hard drink, but it was doing her no good. The voice of reason in Anna's life, her sister Molly, tried to help. But how do you get over a devastating loss? Anna finally ran. She left all that was familiar behind, answered an ad for seasonal rangers at Glen Canyon National Recreation area, jumped on a bus, and did not look back. It is an alien world for city girl Anna; very hot, no tall buildings, in fact not many buildings at all, and devoid of people beyond the tourists down by the water. Anna is just as alien to the other rangers; inclined to stay by herself, dressed in tight black jeans and tee-shirts not the khaki shorts the rest wear, and rather clueless about the out of doors. Jenny, Anna's superior, suggests a hike for her day off. It is the last they see of Anna. Everyone assumes the new girl packed her bag and left, she didn't seem like the outdoorsy type. In reality Anna is trapped. Around Lake Powell there are hundreds of "Solution Holes", round, tunnel shaped sandstone. Anna wakes up at the bottom of a Solution Hole, naked, with no water, no food. Someone put her there and that someone is coming back. No one is looking for her. Anna is on her own and whoever put her naked at the bottom of the hole does not have good intentions. It is a good thriller. If you are new to the series and like to start at the beginning, well this is the beginning and also the latest. The original first story is **Track of the Cat** set in the Guadalupe Mountains National Park of West Texas. Staying with our Southwestern theme, **Blind Descent** has Anna going after an injured spelunker in New Mexico's Carlsbad Caverns.

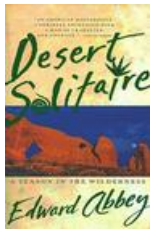
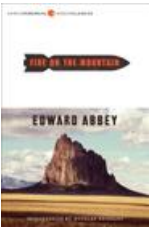


June 3rd the Mystery Book Club discusses the first of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories, ***A Study in Scarlet***. Sherlock Holmes's first appearance in print introduces the canny detective to Dr. Watson. Holmes wants to rent Baker Street but his purse will not stretch. Watson is home from Afghanistan nursing a war wound, he also needs affordable housing. The two men pool their resources and create one of the most famous duos in the history of literature. Watson is intrigued by his solitary roommate; he readily accepts the opportunity to tag along when the police turn to Holmes for help with a most unusual case. The parts of the story set in the southwest tell a sorry tale of love and betrayal, I don't want to say too much and ruin the mystery because I would rather let Holmes dazzle you.



June 10th the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Doc*** by Mary Doria Russell. She gives us a new slant on a rather famous historical figure. Doc Holliday is an icon of the old west, remembered for a nasty gunfight at the OK Corral. But the man was so much more than the legend. Russell brings back the southern gentlemen, banished from his Georgia family by the wasting disease that would one day take his life. She shows us a frightened, young man crossing the country alone, trying to elude death, moving from the lush southern countryside into dusty western cattle towns. She introduces us to a dentist who was a gifted scholar and cared about reducing suffering where he could do so. She shows us a Doc Holliday who was a gifted raconteur, enjoyed entertaining friends, and was fiercely loyal. Yes he was a gambler, a gunfighter, and the paramour of a fallen woman. But he was funny, witty, yearning for home, and a man buffeted by the hand fate dealt him.

June 17th the Classics Book Club discusses ***Fire on the Mountain*** by Edward Abbey. The characters in this story are western to the core and will stay with you long after the last page. The story is narrated by Billy, a twelve year old boy spending the summer on his grandfather's ranch in New Mexico. Billy is fond of his grandfather, John Vogelin, and his grandfather's best friend, Lee Mackie. He is looking forward to the summer but there is trouble on the horizon. The US Government wants to turn the ranch into part of the White Sands Missile Testing Range. John Vogelin is the last holdout, defying the government. John is not about to give up the ranch he loves and figures the government shouldn't be taking a man's land. As the summer progresses neither the federal government or John Vogelin are willing to back down. Lee tries to persuade his friend that he cannot beat the government, but John is not about to give up his ranch. This is a story that resonates with Abbey who once said "*A Patriot Must Always Be Ready To Defend His Country Against His Government*". The man was a handful!



June 24th we conclude our Month of the Southwest with the Travel Essay Book Club's discussion of my favorite of Edward Abbey's books, his memoir ***Desert Solitaire***. Edward Abbey lived life large, he didn't do things in half measure, he lived with passion. ***Desert Solitaire*** is a fascinating account of Abbey's time as a ranger at Arches National Park, a glimpse into this complicated man. One of my favorite Edward Abbey quotes is a perfect complement to the book: "*Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit.*"

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

July 8th 2013 ***The Yard*** by Alex Grecian [Mystery Book Club](#)

July 15th 2013 ***A Lady Cyclist's Guide To Kashgar*** by Suzanne Joinson [Fiction Book Club](#)

July 22nd 2013 ***Drift*** by Rachel Maddow [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

August 5th 2013 ***The Invisible Ones*** by Stef Penny [Mystery Book Club](#)

August 12th 2013 ***Beautiful Ruins*** by Jess Walter [Fiction Book Club](#)

August 19th 2013 ***What It Is Like To Go To War*** by Karl Marlantes [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

September 9th 2013 ***The Indian Bride*** by Karin Fossum [Mystery Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

Sept 16th 2013 ***The Ship In The Hill*** by William Sullivan, (author led), [Fiction Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

September 23, 2013 ***Kristin Lavransdatter*** by Sigrid Undset [Classics Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

Sept 30th, 2013 ***The Fellowship of Ghosts*** by Paul Watkins [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [A Month of Norway](#)

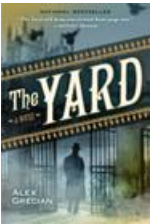
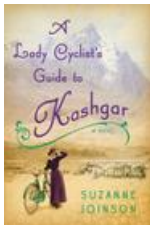
October 7th, 2013 ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*** by Sherman Alexie [Fiction Book Club](#)

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

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

Comment on book clubs, look up future book clubs, or find more information at [Sunriverbooks.com](#)

We do plan on having our Book Club for tweens again in July and August.



A Book Of The Month subscription is a great idea! Sign up for a subscription to receive a surprise book every month! The cost for the second quarter of 2013 is \$43.94 picked up in the store and \$49.94 mailed in the US. The last six months of 2013 costs \$90.84 picked up in the store or \$102.84 mailed in the US. The whole year of 2013 is \$182.62 picked up in the store or \$206.92 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book! I enjoy selecting the books for you and take seriously my obligation to discover books that will engage the reader. In the past we featured ***Burning Bright*** by Tracy Chevalier, ***That Old Ace In The Hole*** by Annie Proulx, and ***A Guide To The Birds of East Africa*** by Nicholas Drayson. Purchase a subscription and enjoy the next surprise book.

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