



Sunriver Books & Music August 2011 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com

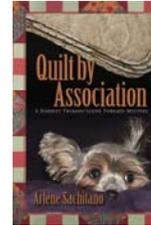
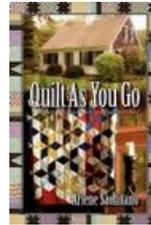
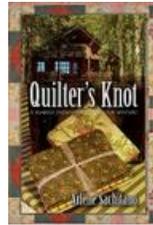
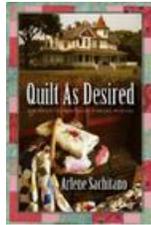
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Author Events

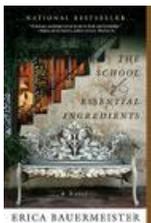
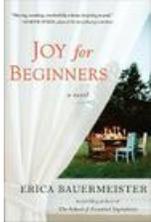


August 6th Sunriver Village will be alive with vibrant color as gorgeous quilts from local quilt artists hang throughout the village. After Sunriver's annual Quilt Show join us to hear Arlene Satchitano at 5:00 PM. Arlene's mystery series is set in the fictional town of Foggy Point near Port Angeles, Washington, a spectacularly beautiful setting. **Quilt as Desired** introduces Harriet as she takes over her Aunt Beth's quilt shop just in time for the murder of a quilter. **Quilter's Knot** has Harriet solving the murder of an instructor at a quilting retreat. **Quilt as you Go** finds Harriet involved in a Civil War Re-enactment. When the dust settles one of the corpses is seriously dead. Most perplexing, he seems to have died twice. **Quilt by Association** is the latest in the series. An African woman with a blue eyed baby comes to town looking for Aiden, Harriet's main squeeze. Within days the woman is dead. Harriet and her gang from



the Loose Threads have another mystery to solve. The books are full of quilting detail and warm, likeable characters. If you enjoy mysteries and quilting, this is a fun series.

August 13th is Sunriver's Art Faire, it was a huge success last year and should be even more fun now with a talent show added. Walk around to admire the creations of local artists and purchase something unique. Erica Bauermeister will give a presentation on her latest book at 5:30 right after the Art Faire. **Joy for Beginners** is a beautifully written story. Kate's victory over the Emperor of Maladies is being celebrated with an intimate dinner party for six of her closest friends. Her daughter put a brochure for rafting the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon on the refrigerator. Kate's friends encourage her to take her daughter up on the trip, as a grand celebration of her renewed health. She agrees provided each of her guests allows her to choose a challenge for them too. Each woman faces a challenge that ultimately enriches their lives. Erica Bauermeister writes with sensual, lush prose; her books are a joy to read and this is a heartwarming, life affirming story. Her prior book, **The School of Essential Ingredients**, is also a lovely story, set in a cooking class. Lillian's mother retreats into books when her husband leaves, fiction being far more comforting than reality. Lillian feels abandoned, she watches other mothers cooking dinner and baking cookies. Food touches something deep in Lillian; she tries to use it as a means of recapturing her mother. Lillian grows up to be a chef with a successful restaurant and teaches a cooking class. As each class becomes absorbed in creating nurturing food, we learn about the student's lives and how they are changed by the confidence they gain.

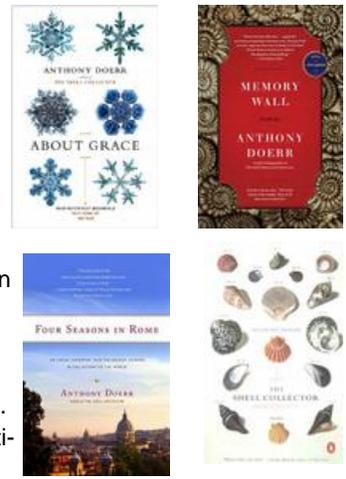


The 2nd annual Sunriver Art Faire, sponsored by the SUNRIVER WOMEN'S CLUB, will once again be held in the newly refurbished Village at Sunriver, Oregon on August 12th & 13th, 2011. The Village will have 60 booths with Juried Artists displaying and selling their work in an outdoor setting, and will include a variety of professional entertainment, food court, artist demonstration area, as well as an art workshop center for children. For more information, go to the Art Faire website at www.sunriverartfaire.pbworks.com.

We are very pleased to have Anthony Doerr, winner of the PNBA Award, appearing at Sunriver Books & Music this summer.



August 20th at 5:00 PM Anthony Doerr will give a presentation on **Memory Wall**, his PNBA Award winning book of short stories. Luminous writing and masterful use of place sets it apart. Six linked stories in a variety of settings explore the role of memory in the human soul. From Lithuania to South Africa to Wyoming in the good ole USA we are all human, and our memories define who we are. Doerr navigates this territory with sensitivity and care. Each story is exquisite and deeply moving. Memory is one of the common threads of humanity. Who are we but the sum total created by our memories? The book opens with a story set in the future of a woman suffering from dementia who revisits her past through her recorded memories. In Village 113 a whole village will be lost to memory as the Chinese flood the village under the waters created by a dam. In the final story a woman's epileptic seizures trigger memories of her youth in Nazi Germany. The stories all touch a common chord of humanity, use their settings beautifully, and take us into the world of their characters in an intimate way. Anthony Doerr's earlier work is also intriguing. **The Shell Collector** is a series of short stories set in nature.



The stories range from serious reflections to a comedy about American fishermen in a fishing contest across Europe. **About Grace** tells the story of a man from Alaska, David, who dreams of his future wife. When she appears he feels his life is set. They move to Ohio and have a daughter named Grace. But David's dreams are not over, he dreams of Grace's death when he is unable to save her. David abandons his family and moves to the Caribbean hoping to avert fate. Doerr's use of place is quite wonderful. **Four Season's In Rome** is Doerr's memoir of living in Rome with his family. The Italians were charmed by his twin sons.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday September 24th at 5:00 PM **Barcelona Calling** by Jane Kirkpatrick

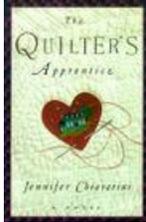
Saturday October 8th at 5:00 PM **Feathers** by Thor Hanson

Saturday October 29th at 5:00 PM **Birds of Paradise** by Diana Abu-Jaber

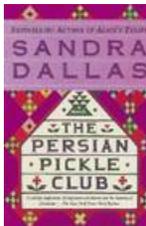
Saturday November 12th at 5:00 PM **The Lakotas and the Black Hills** by Jeffrey Ostler

We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free unless otherwise noted 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.

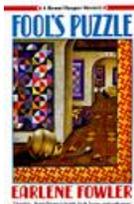
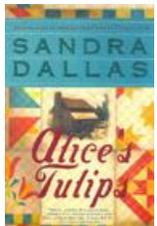
Prepare to enjoy Sunriver's vibrant Quilt Show by reading a few quilting themed books.



Jennifer Chiaverini writes a series beginning with **The Quilter's Apprentice**. Sarah McClure feels stuck in accounting; she took her counselor's advice on a college major but finds no joy in number crunching. Her husband Matt has a degree in landscape architecture but cannot find work in State College, the town where they attended school, met, married and hoped to raise a family. After years of looking for a good position, filling in with part time jobs, he is ready to move to find work. Sarah is ready for a new start too, she wants to leave accounting, try something different. But their roles reverse when they move to the small town of Waterford Pennsylvania. Now Matt has work and Sarah cannot find a position. Matt's firm is hired by a crusty elderly woman, Sylvia Compson, to spruce up her ancestral home, Elm Manor. Sarah gets off onto the wrong foot with Sylvia at their first meeting. She is surprised when Sylvia offers her a job going through the big house and helping prepare it for sale. Sarah's first reaction is to decline, but Matt persuades her to give Sylvia a chance. The cincher is Sylvia agreeing to teach Sarah to quilt. Sylvia is a master quilter. As the quilting lessons begin, the prickly Sylvia starts to share the history of Elm Manor. It is a tale of betrayal, misunderstanding and tragedy.

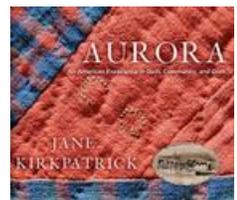


Sandra Dallas has several books with a quilting aspect. **Alice's Tulips** is written as a series of letters between a young bride and her sister. Alice's husband is off fighting in the Civil War. She is a young woman full of spunk; through the letters you see her gaining perspective and maturity. **The Persian Pickle Club** has an endearing down home simplicity. Queenie yearns for a friend her age, most of the young people have fled in search of work as the harsh sky refuses to give rain and farms turn to swirling dust, too parched to grow crops. Drifters haunt the roads looking for a break. Every day Grover, Queenie's husband, looks up hoping for a cloud but the sky is unrelentingly blue. Queenie is delighted when Rita and Tom move back to their family farm and Rita joins the quilting circle. Queenie is certain they will be the best of pals. Not everyone shares the same goals. Queenie likes being a farm wife, Rita wants a career, she wants the big city not a life in a small farming community. Rita finds work as a reporter hoping to make her name and escape. The discovery of a grave in a lonely field might be her big break. This is a charming book about a group of women bonded through their quilting circle.



Earlene Fowler writes a quilting themed mystery series set in California featuring Benni Harper. She works at the local folk-art museum. In **Fool's Puzzle**, the first in the series, one of the potters ends up dead. Benni is afraid her cousin might be implicated, she sets to investigating. Gabe, the handsome detective, does not appreciate her help, he finds it downright annoying. Benni will have lots of chances in the rest of the series to get Gabe all tied up in knots.

Jane Kirkpatrick wrote a wonderful trilogy on the life of Emma Giesy, **A Clearing in the Wild**, **A Tendering in the Storm**, and **A Mending At The Edge**. She spent time at the Aurora Colony, going through the historic houses, examining exhibits in the museum, and walking the very land Emma walked, seeing the vistas that delighted Emma's eye. Now Jane has written a history of the gorgeous crafts found in the Aurora Museum, telling the story of the quilts that hang on the walls and the women who created the quilts. The book includes over 100 pictures, many never before published. **Aurora** by Jane Kirkpatrick celebrates the artistry of quilting.



August 13th Sunriver will enjoy the Sunriver Art Faire. To celebrate Sunriver's Art Faire we offer a few reading suggestions.

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!



Nothing But a Smile by Steve Amick is set in WWII. Sal isn't sure how she is going to keep the family photography store going while her husband is away in the war and she doesn't want to trouble him while he is in danger. Times are tough; customers are few and far between. Sal needs to think outside the box, color outside the lines. She decides to pose for pinups, be patriotic by cheering the troops and save the shop at the same time. Complications ensue. This is a lively, interesting book written with a wry sense of humor. I think you might like Sal, she has the best intentions.

Street of a Thousand Blossoms by Gail Tsukiyama is full of vivid characters. Hiroshi and Kenji were mere babies when they were orphaned; they are being raised by their loving grandparents. Tsukiyama allows the reader to get to like this family before moving into WWII and the devastation wrought by war. It grants the book power by bringing the reader to care about the characters before the war begins. We see the effects of war through their experiences. Food is scarce, people are starving, and bombs are falling from the sky bringing fire and death. Huge fire storms erupt, roaring into conflagrations that tear across Tokyo. The nationalist pride that brought Japan to war leaves it in ruins. Japan must find a new way. Hiroshi is dedicated to Sumo wrestling while Kenji creates elaborate masks for the Noh theater, becoming an artisan of great skill.



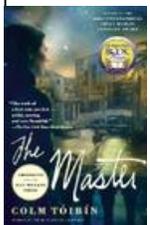
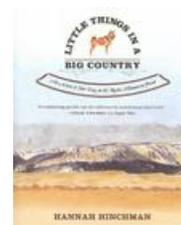
My Name is Red by Nobel Laureate Orhan Pamuk is gleefully stuffed to the brim with story lines. It overflows with details of life in Turkey during the 16th century. Enishte Effendi has been commissioned by the sultan to produce a book celebrating the sultan's life. Danger lurks in Enishte Effendi's infatuation with Venetian art. He is determined to illustrate the book with art in the European style. The story begins with one of his artists murdered. Part of the story is a murder mystery. Then there is Enishte Effendi's beautiful daughter. Of course she inspires a love interest. Enishte Effendi uses Black's attraction to his daughter to obtain his help in solving the murder. If that is not enough of a story, the paintings in the book get into the act and each have a story to tell. The writing is inspired, truly beautiful. I found some of the details on punishments in 16th century Turkey upsetting, but I enjoy a good story and they do not hand out Nobel prizes for a lack of imagination. Orhan Pamuk has imagination to spare. I loved the ending.

Burning Bright by Tracy Chevalier takes us back to the time of William Blake, one of my favorite poets. Mourning the death of their son Tommy, the Kellaway family think a change of venue might be helpful. Thomas accepts an offer from Phillip Astley to craft chairs for his famous circus. Their eldest son Sam stays behind to take care of the family business but the move has a profound impact on the younger children. Jem makes friends with Maggie, a worldly young girl. Maisie is smitten with John, Phillip Astley's handsome, dangerous son. William Blake sees both the innocence and the worldly experience in the children. It is a time of much upheaval with London in turmoil over the revolution in France.



Luncheon of the Boating Party by Susan Vreeland brings Renoir alive on the page! His intense joy in color and light will cause you to look at the world in new ways. His sensuous pleasure in painting, as if he is touching the subject, his joy in light dappling water are inspiring and joyful. The story tells of Renoir's poverty, he is barely able to afford paints and of his enthusiasm for impressionist art. Each person in the painting is intimately portrayed along with the artist. I found this book about the painting of a great work of art and the people who posed fascinating. .

Little Things In A Big Country by Hannah Hinchman is a lovely memoir about her home in Montana. Chock full of beautiful watercolors, Hannah's book is a celebration of a beautiful country. It is also a celebration of diversity. Hannah and her dog Sisu moved to Montana where they share their small hometown with ranchers who hold totally opposite views on most issues. Hannah and her neighbors respect each other forming a congenial community. This is a lively book full of delight in the natural world. It reminds us to appreciate the splendor of our world and to be tolerant of our differences.



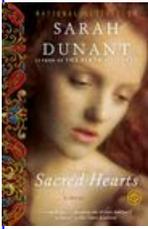
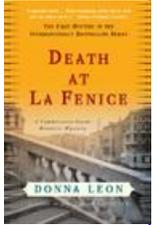
The Master by Colm Toibin brings Henry James to life again on the pages of this biographical fiction of one of the greatest authors of his time, perhaps of all time. Henry was born in New York but moved to England as an adult, settling in East Sussex. He was a young man during the Civil War but thankfully did not serve in that bloody conflict, or literature may have lost one of its giants. His brother was not so fortunate. Henry's family was intelligent and complicated, as families seem to sometimes be. He traveled widely and used his travels in setting the scenes in his writing. **The Master** was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.

A Flickering Light by Jane Kirkpatrick is the fictional account of her grandmother's early life. Jessie is a spunky, determined 15 year old in 1907. Her father's illness has forced the family to move from their dairy into town where he makes a meager living as a driver. Everyone must contribute. Even young Jessie must work to keep the family afloat. Money is tight. Fortune smiles on her when F.J. Bauer hires the spirited young girl to work in his photographic studio. Jessie's uncle ignited her passion for photography by giving her a camera, opening her eyes to really look at the physical world. Working in a photographic studio is her perfect job. Jane uses some of her ancestor's photography in the book; it is fascinating and compliments the story beautifully.



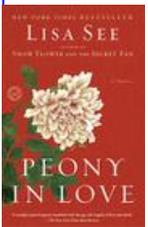
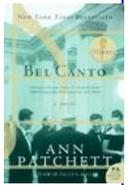
August brings Sunriver's wonderful Sunriver Music Festival. We suggest a few books to get you in the mood for beautiful music.

Death at La Fenice by Donna Leon is set in one of the most beautiful cities in the world, Venice is a dramatic setting for a mystery. All that moonlight on water, foggy alleys, and quiet canals, the place is positively dripping with mood! Maestro Helmut Wellauer is a musical genius. Everyone is shocked when he is found dead at La Fenice during intermission. His death is a huge loss to the world of music. It seems incredible such a gifted man would be killed! Gifted he may have been, but quite a few people would find life much brighter and sunnier without Wellauer. Vice Commissario Guido Bruenetti must sort through the suspects to find out who stopped the music.



Sacred Hearts is Sarah Dunant's latest historical fiction. Set in Italy during the 16th Century when it was much less expensive to put a daughter behind the walls of a convent than to pay the dowry for a suitable marriage. Suora Zuana found herself reluctantly placed in the convent of Santa Caterina after the death of her father, a professor of medicine. Suora Zuana's father was fond of his daughter, giving her more freedom and a broader education than a woman of her time could expect. She becomes the convent's apothecary and eventually settles into the routine of life behind the high walls of the convent. Serafina is intended to marry, her father engages a music instructor to train her glorious voice. Young Serafina's heart is captured by her teacher. Her father is not about to have his daughter given in such an unsuitable match, he bundles her off to the convent assuring the abbess Serafina possess the voice of a nightingale. On her first night she wails with the distressing power of a banshee, her screams reverberating off the walls. Suora Zuana administers a sleeping potion, hoping to quiet and calm the mercurial young girl. The two unlikely women become friends. Suora Zuana will soon have to decide what she is willing to risk.

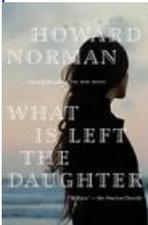
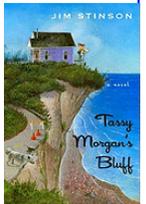
Bel Canto by Ann Patchett won the 2002 Pen Faulkner Award. The story begins with an Opera Diva, a song, a powerful captain of industry from Japan, and a birthday party. The night goes horribly wrong when terrorists burst into the room. Roxanne Coss, the famous Opera Diva, enchants both captive and captor. Relationships are formed along tenuous lines, time stands still for a brief magical little while. Patchett has written a brilliant story that delves into the changing relationship of captors and captives with compassion and insight. Her writing is absolutely luminous.



Peony in Love by Lisa See is set in 17th Century China. It draws on the very real reaction of young women to the Peony Pavilion Opera written by Tang Xanizu in 1598. Young women had few options, they were routinely promised in marriage by their families from a very young age, the opera suggested an alternative. Part love story, part ghost story the book follows the life of Peony, a young girl obsessed with the opera. Lisa See explores Chinese reverence for ancestors and the role of women in early literature.

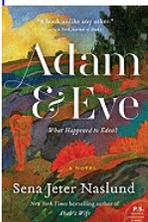
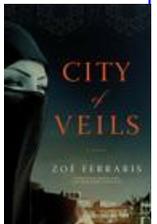
Books, Books, & More Books! Here are a few recently released in paperback.

Tassy Morgan's Bluff by Jim Stinson is set in San Andreas California, an endearingly eccentric little town perched on a hillside above the Pacific. It is populated by the newcomers who want to gentrify and make big bucks on their real estate, Native Americans, artists, and old timers trying to make a living in an uncertain economic climate. Tassy runs afoul of the local real estate maven and city council member when she paints her house bright purple, clearly not the right palate for the upwardly mobile. Lincoln is mourning the death of his wife, life is on hold and he is in a fog of grief until Tassy catches his eye. A lively, entertaining book with characters you can cheer.



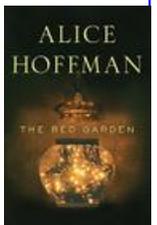
What is Left the Daughter by Howard Norman is an intriguing story. On the same day, from two separate bridges, Wyatt's parents jumped into the cold, turbulent water leaving him orphaned. Only 17, Wyatt needs the comfort of family; his uncle offers him an apprenticeship in his toboggan shop. Tilda, his bodacious cousin, claims his heart. The course of young love rarely runs smooth; Wyatt's cousin gives her heart to a young German. Fear and rumor make being a German difficult during WWII in the small burg of Middle Economy. Howard Norman masterfully blends fact and fiction in this stunning novel.

Zoe Ferraris' mystery series takes you behind the chador, but does not ridicule the way of life. Ferraris married a Saudi Arabian man and lived for a while in Jeddah, the setting for her series. She uses her intimate knowledge of the setting and culture. **Finding Nouf**, first in the series, blew me away! Topping this powerhouse is a tall order. But Ferraris succeeds with **City of Veils**. A young woman is found dead on a beach, the victim of a horrible murder. Nayir and Katya must collaborate to discover the truth. At first the victim is thought to be a serving girl, a throwaway person. Katya's sleuthing proves she is a young woman from a good family. As more of the victim's life is uncovered the suspects multiply. The tension between Nayir and Katya as they search for the truth is part of the story. Nayir, a devout Muslim man, is uncomfortable interacting with Katya. There are taboos on what is permissible between a woman and man. This story blazes, picking up speed and not letting go!

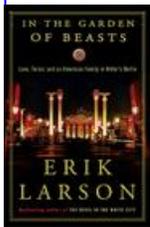


Adam & Eve by Sena Jeter Naslund is set in the near future, the creation story is given a new twist, Lucy's husband, a brilliant scientist, is murdered just after proving extraterrestrial life. Lucy is embroiled in a plot to save ancient scrolls that give a new slant to the story of Adam & Eve. Flying the priceless artifacts to safety, her plane crashes into a modern oasis, a small Garden of Eden, complete with a handsome young Adam. He is ravaged by war, reluctant to give up the peace of their sanctuary. Lucy will help him to eat of the fruit of knowledge. But will they be in time to save the scrolls from the forces who want their destruction?

The Red Garden by Alice Hoffman is a series of linked stories that follow 300 year's history in this small northeastern town. Behind the founders house in Blackwell Massachusetts is a garden that will only grow red plants. Its feisty founder Hallie Brady battled snowstorms and starvation in 1786, forming a close attachment with the local bears. As the generations pass they face sorrow and joy. Johnny Appleseed drops in to do some planting. A mysterious woman catches the town's imagination during the Depression years. Each story introduces a character you will enjoy. Through time the garden continues its flamboyant blood red color.

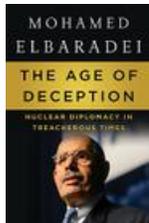
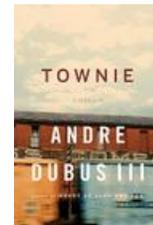


Rich Recommends.



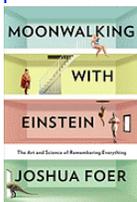
In The Garden of Beasts by Erik Larson is another fascinating account of the rise of Hitler and the German threat to Europe, and specifically to the Jews as the world increasingly turned a blind eye to the looming oppression and terror to come. William Dodd was a University of Chicago professor who wanted an easy, quiet government job to write his grand history of the ante-bellum south. With his family he took the US Ambassadorship to Germany in 1933. The two major characters Larson spotlights are the father and his precocious and promiscuous daughter Martha who thought having an affair with the head of the Nazi Gestapo was “a lark”. Eventually Dodd became more and more aware of the violence and brutality that were hallmarks of the newly formed Third Reich. The climax of the book comes when Hitler purges his enemies during the “Night of the Long Knives” and the full horror of what was to come was laid bare. This is a powerful, intimate look at the beginning of Hitler as seen by an average American family who were witnesses to the gathering danger to the world.

Townie by Andre Dubus III. After their father, the author Andre Dubus, left his family for a younger woman, Andre Dubus III, his siblings, and mother were left to fend for themselves and were forced into a harsh, poor life, struggling to make ends meet. While their father lived it up on a college campus, Andre Dubus III grew up in the rough poor neighborhoods where drugs and fighting were the staples of his life. Andre became proficient at the seedier side of life, but ultimately gave up violence after meeting the love of his life and developing a closer relationship with his father. Seeing the damage done to both his physical as well as spiritual sides, he embraced writing as a way to channel his feelings toward a more peaceful and creative life.



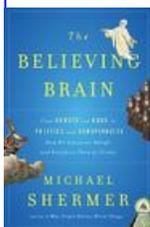
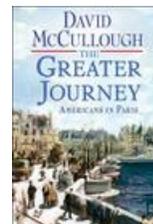
The Age of Deception by Mohamed ElBaradei. Nobel Peace Prize winner ElBaradei has played a major role in the dangerous game of nuclear non proliferation among some of the worlds most unsavory regimes. From the United States came the hypocrisy of demanding other nations disarm their nuclear arsenals while secretly and overtly encouraging others to develop their weapons, ElBaradei tries to mediate between rogue regimes and entrenched nuclear powers to prevent nuclear holocaust. This insider story of the cat and mouse game between rogue regimes and the IAEA is riveting and frightening as ElBaradei's teams struggle to avert nuclear weapons, and the means to make them, falling into the wrong hands. He outlines some of the steps to take for all countries to embrace the complete eradication of nuclear weapons, a laudable goal in these uncertain and tumultuous times.

The Crimean War by Orlando Figes presents a comprehensive history of the Crimean War, a war nearly forgotten even by the countries who suffered the most from the hostilities. Most people remember The Charge Of The Light Brigade and Florence Nightingale, but the origins of the war had immense consequences in the political, religious, and cultural events of the time that reverberated even in today's geopolitical and religious conflicts. Figes gives a masterful account of the historical rivalries of the empires involved during the mid 1800's. With various countries forming alliances, other countries feared losing influence and the threats among these rivalries led to war. Using new technology (electronic communication, steam-transportation, more accurate and faster firing weapons) the carnage among both uniformed and civilian populations was immense. The Crimean War was the first full modern war that pre-dated the Great War and was fought with uncommon ferocity and incompetence following geopolitical forces at work today



Moonwalking With Einstein by Jonathan Foer. Foer goes on a journey from finding the “smartest man” to the 2006 US Memory Championships. A freelance journalist, he starts his trek by positing that a fantastic memory is one characteristic of a smart person. As he describes the physiology of the brain and its uses of imagery in remembering memories, Foer shows how a person can improve their memories using these imagery and practical techniques. Foer writes that memories are more than remembering phone numbers and birthdays. He believes that what makes us human and gives the ability to form societies is that what we are as persons are the memories of the past that allow us to operate in the world we live in. A good memory is a function of technique and training, something that nearly anyone can achieve. Now, where did I park the car?

The Greater Journey by David McCullough is another masterpiece of history written in the knowledgeable and readable style that is his trademark. McCullough uses Paris as a focal point for what was at the time the center of arts, architecture, science and political thought. From 1830 to 1900 many of America's future artists, writers, politicians and doctors made the pilgrimage to Paris to soak in the atmosphere of modern learning and craft that would later shape their greatness in their respective fields. Paris also benefitted from the visits by these American elites. Both societies became mutual friends that have remained to the present day. McCullough also gives a fascinating but brief view of the history of the French Republic interwoven in the stories of the visiting Americans. McCullough's writing is so readable, yet powerful and compelling. I highly recommend it.



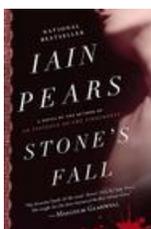
The Believing Brain by Michael Shermer is a very interesting book about his theories on how human beliefs are born, formed, reinforced and ultimately incorporated into what makes each of us an individual. Shermer has synthesized thirty years of his research into a comprehensive and provocative theory on our belief system. Fundamentally his theory is that we first form a belief and then reinforce that belief with explanations that prove it right or reject anything that contradicts it. He explains how easy it is to believe in supernatural and paranormal activities, conspiracy theories without having any rational explanations other than a reinforcement of that belief through patterns that the brain then infuses with meaning. This book will allow one to challenge their belief systems by scientifically examining the formation of beliefs and understanding the ways we reinforce or reject the evidence to support it.

Wild Bill Donovan by Douglas Waller. William J. Donovan was a WWI hero, Medal of Honor recipient and a wealthy, well connected corporate attorney before President Franklin Roosevelt chose him to gauge the abilities of the British to prevail against Nazi Germany at the start of WWII. Donovan was nearly the complete opposite of Roosevelt in economic, political, and cultural ways, but they created an alliance that was formed by the growing military crisis in Europe. Through these and other secret missions Donovan was tasked with creating a new civilian intelligence agency, the Office of Strategic Services, which carried out secret missions abroad, and analyzing information gathered from members of the OSS. Donovan's major rival in Washington was J. Edgar Hoover, and there was no end to the bitter rivalries and feuding between the two super egos. Throughout the war, Donovan was busy riding roughshod over the military and Washington Administration alike. At the end of the war he had bruised too many powerful men and was soon dismissed from service. He was disappointed in not being selected to run the successor to OSS, Donovan's dream the CIA. Waller's history of this period is more concerned with the politics and personalities rather than the intelligence operations. This is a fascinating history of the outsized personalities that dominated the intelligence agencies during the war-time crisis and the ensuing Cold War thereafter.



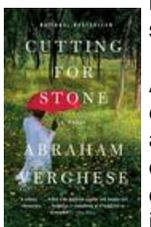
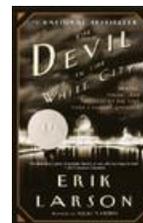
August 2011 Book Clubs

August 1st the Travel Essay Book Club discusses ***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.



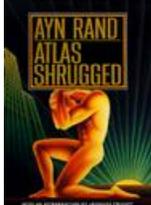
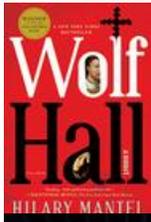
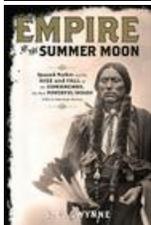
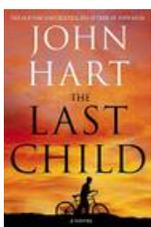
August 8th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***Stone's Fall*** by Ian Pears. Lord Ravenscliff, John Stone, was a circum-spect private man and the lynch pin of a financial empire. He fell to his death out a second story window; his fear of heights was well known and raises red flags for reporter Mathew Braddock. Lord and Lady Ravenscliff have no children, until a short time before his death his will left everything to his wife. The will was altered leaving a bequest to his child, a child no one knew he had fathered. Lady Ravenscliff is shocked but determined to honor her husband's intentions. She hires Braddock to find her husband's child. As he searches Braddock uncovers the false foundation of Stone's empire, a misstep could leave the world financial markets teetering on the brink of disaster. Sound familiar? Arms dealers, financial skulduggery, stocks reflecting nothing more than smoke and mirrors? In the afterward Ian Pears says: *"What surprised me most (although perhaps it should not have done) was that however much the world changes, human nature stays the same. The great constant in finance is the tendency of men to become befuddled by their own success, making them willing to take greater risks and eventually be brought down by their own vanity, which can easily overcome the most sophisticated expertise."* This is a ripping good mystery, elegant writing, and an intricate plot.

August 15th the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses Erik Larson's ***Devil in the White City***. Chicago shined in the 1893 World's Fair. It was an extravaganza that brought world attention to the city. Thomas Edison, Buffalo Bill Cody, and Susan B. Anthony came to Chicago for the fair. Much of its success depended on the talent and industriousness of architect Daniel Burnham. 1893 had a darker side in Chicago, serial killer H.H. Holmes killed somewhere between 27 and 200 people, mostly women but he was not averse to dispatching men too. Holmes masqueraded as a doctor to accomplish his nefarious plans. Larson blends the two story lines masterfully. The 1893 Chicago World's Fair was a magical show. In the 1890's cities were covered in black soot. London for instance was called the great smoke; people had trouble breathing in its thick miasma of coal dust. Daniel Burnham showed the future, a White City powered by clean electricity. In its time it was an amazing sight.



August the 22nd the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Cutting for Stone*** by Abraham Verghese. There are many fine novels published every year, but occasionally one stands out as exemplary. ***Cutting for Stone*** is a masterful epic. Twin boys are born to a nun and a doctor, coming into the world from a womb that should never have given them shelter. Their birth takes the life of the nun; the doctor flees, leaving the babies orphaned in an Ethiopian hospital. Growing up to walk in their father's shoes, the boys become doctors. The story moves back and forth in time and across continents, from India to Ethiopia to New York. The writing is sublime, the story mesmerizing.

August 29th the ***Razor's Edge*** by W. Somerset Maugham will be the Classics Book Club selection. Larry was set to marry Isabelle, go into business, and live an affluent easy life when WWI interrupted his plans. War changed Larry, as war is wont to do with the easy clay of young men's lives. He wanted something deeper; he wanted his life to have a reason beyond buying the toys of the affluent. Larry dropped out; he would spend his life seeking a different way. Isabelle was not willing to give up the trappings of the good life to live in squalor with Larry. This is an amazing novel about choice, purpose, meaning, and betrayal. W. Somerset Maugham wrote with incredible power and subtlety. This is my favorite of his books.



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

- September 5th 2011 ***The Last Child*** by John Hart [Mystery Book Club](#)
- September 12th 2011 ***Empire of the Summer Moon*** by S.C. Gwynne [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- September 19th 2011 ***Wolf Hall*** by Hilary Mantel [Fiction Book Club](#)
- September 26th 2011 ***Atlas Shrugged*** by Ayn Rand [Classics Book Club](#)
- October 3rd 2011 ***Spies of the Balkans*** by Alan Furst [Mystery Book Club](#) [A Month of Eastern Europe](#)
- October 10th 2011 ***Zoli*** by Colum Mccann [Fiction Book Club](#) [A Month of Eastern Europe](#)
- Oct.17th 2011 ***Blue River Black Sea*** by Andrew Eames [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [A Month of Eastern Europe](#)
- October 24th 2011 ***The Shooting Party*** by Anton Chekov [Classics Book Club](#) [A Month of Eastern Europe](#)
- November 7th 2011 ***Secrets of Eden*** by Chris Bohjalian [Mystery Book Club](#)
- November 14th 2011 ***The Postmistress*** by Sarah Blake [Fiction Book Club](#)
- November 21st 2011 ***Washington Rules*** by Andrew Bacevich [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- November 28th 2011 ***The World*** by Jan Morris [Fiction Book Club](#)
- December 5th 2011 ***The Wild Girl*** by Jim Fergus [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- December 12th 2011 ***Until Proven Guilty*** by J.A. Jance [Mystery Book Club](#)
- December 19th 2011 ***Holy Cow*** by Sarah MacDonald [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- January 2nd 2012 ***Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter*** by Tom Franklin [Mystery Book Club](#)
- January 9th 2012 ***Remarkable Creatures*** by Tracy Chevalier [Fiction Book Club](#)
- January 16th 2012 ***At Home*** by Bill Bryson [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

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

