



# Sunriver Books & Music

## November 2014

### Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)

541-593-2525



Please do not forget Urban Waite will be at Sunriver Books & Music at 5:00 PM on Saturday November 1<sup>st</sup> for a presentation on his latest, ***Sometimes the Wolf***. Set in the North of Seattle in the foothills of the Cascades, the story focuses on a father and son, both law officers at one time. The father's fall from grace put him in prison for twelve years for running drugs. The son, a deputy in the same town where his father was sheriff, has been

living down that legacy for a long time. Now the father is paroled, the son must sort out his feelings, and some bad men with a tendency toward violence have a score to settle. The North Cascades is beautifully rendered, the tall trees, mist shrouded, a perfect backdrop for the story. Urban Waite combines razor sharp writing with a plot that keeps you turning pages. His earlier

books are ***The Terror of Living*** and ***Carrion Birds***, all show Urban Waite's ability to keep the reader on the edge of their seat!

Craig Johnson returns Tuesday November 11 at 5:30 PM at the SHARC Center, we are always so grateful to Craig for his continued support of Sunriver Books & Music. We are honored that he gives great presentations in Sunriver; he is the star of our lineup! We are also very grateful for the opportunity to present this talented author to the community in the SHARC Center's fabulous facility.



***Wait For Signs*** brings together 12 short stories featuring Sheriff Walt Longmire. All are entertaining; they show different aspects of Walt's character and background. Those of us already acquainted with the Walt Longmire series will delight in seeing our favorite sheriff in different situations, learning a bit more about favored characters. Those new to the series will find this a perfect introduction, a way to taste Craig Johnson's excellent writing in a lighter tone. Several take place around the holidays; this collection would be a perfect gift for the season but will be a joy to read anytime!



***Old Indian Trick*** takes place in autumn; Walt is driving Lonnie Little Bird to a doctor's appointment. Along the way they stop at a roadside diner for a bite to eat, arriving just after a robbery. Never discount the intuition of an Old Indian. We had the pleasure of hearing Craig tell this story at an earlier author event, I am glad to have it in printed form to read again. ***Ministerial Aid*** is set on New Year's Day 2000. Walt is delivering a paycheck to his deputy out at the Powder Junction. Reeling from the death of his wife, Walt drowned too many of his sorrows in the bottle. This day will offer him the opportunity to play a unique role in helping a woman and give him a shot of introspection as well. Funny, sad, and heartwarming, it will entertain anytime but is especially suited to the holiday season. ***Slick Tongued Devil*** is set two days before Christmas when Walt foils a man with predatory inclinations toward the bereaved. ***Fire Bird*** has Walt spending a holiday evening with Lucian. This is both a very clever mystery and a hoot! The past meets the present in mysterious ways. Walt's gift for noticing, really paying attention and noticing, come in handy. ***Unbalanced*** brings Cady home for the holidays. On the way to pick her up at the airport, Walt comes across a young woman in need. A very heartwarming story. ***Several Stations*** is a perfect holiday story! Walt helps out when a truck transporting toys slides off the icy, slick highway. ***High Holidays*** is set during tourist season and showcases Walt's uncanny knack for noticing. It is also very funny, great ending. ***Toys for Tots*** has Walt Christmas shopping with his daughter Cady. Walt is not fond of shopping. ***Divorce Horse*** puts Henry Standing Bear, Walt, and Vic on the trail of an ill-tempered horse much prized by a divorcing couple. ***Thankstaking*** is Thanksgiving Henry Standing Bear style. ***Messenger*** involves Walt, Henry, Vic along with a family of bear, and an owl. It should not be missed! Henry and Vic together are always entertaining, throw in bears and an owl and things quickly get out of hand. The last story is ***Petunia, Bandit Queen of the Bighorns***; I will let the title speak for itself. The story is everything I hoped it would be! Keep this collection handy to read whenever you feel the need, the stories will bring cheer.

The Longmire series starts with ***Cold Dish***, it introduces the characters. Walt is a big guy who prefers talking his way out of a tough situation to fighting, but if violence is the only reply Walt is well able to answer. Henry Standing Bear is tall, soft spoken, thoughtful, whip smart, and a favorite of the ladies. Vic, a transplant from a family of tough Philadelphia cops, is possessed of a razor sharp tongue, and is gleefully ready for action. The girl is downright dangerous. ***Cold Dish*** revolves around four white boys who got off without so much as slapped hands for raping a Native American girl in high school. Years later, someone wants retribution.

***Death Without Company***, second in the series, opens with a death in an assisted living facility. The story has ties to the past, a woman hard done by, and the Basque community. Lucian is heavily involved.

Photo of Craig Johnson by Dan Feer.



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

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

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

**Junkyard Dogs** is one of my favorite, and that is saying something because I enjoy them all tremendously. The opening scene is priceless. An expensive new McMansion subdivision looks out to snowcapped mountains and down on a dump. Ozzie wants the dump closed down so he can move some real estate. Add a Romeo and Juliet story for the older set and you have a heady brew of greed, passion, and intrigue.

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

**As the Crow Flies** introduces Tribal Police Chief Lolo Long. She proved her bravery in Iraq, but her hair trigger temper and inexperience are not ideal in a Police Chief. Walt needs to help gentle her a little if they are going to catch a killer together.

**A Serpent's Tooth** marries excellent writing with an inventive mystery and characters you cannot help but like. Cord is a "lost boy" ejected from a rogue polygamous Mormon splinter group. Henry Standing Bear and Walt cross state lines to try and find some answers at a heavily armed Mormon compound while Cord discovers movie DVDs and is inspired to try his hand at horse rustling. Cord is soon joined by his self-proclaimed protector, Orrin Porter Rockwell, Man of God, Sun of Thunder blessed by Joseph Smith himself. Walt is having a little trouble with Orrin's identity, Joseph Smith having gone to his greater reward well over a century ago

**Any Other Name** is a real page turner. Lucian Connally and Walt Longmire have ties that go way back, deep and strong. One of Lucian's cronies, Detective Gerald Holman, either committed suicide (the official version) or was helped from this world. Either way the widow wants to know why. Holman was steady as a rock, a by the book kind of guy. He was working cold cases, not doing anything that should have turned deadly. One of the last cold cases Holman looked at was a missing woman. This story has a gritty, intense feel as Walt uncovers the dark side of the human soul. There is lots of action and Lucian shows that he still has the moves and then some. The story tackles issues of violence against women, the difference between our perception of those around us and their real character, and the dangers inherent in discovering the truth

**Spirit of Steamboat**, is set during Walt's first year as Sheriff. Longtime readers and those new to the series will find it equally enjoyable. The story opens with a mysterious woman seeking former Sheriff, Lucian Connally. Her visit transports Walt and Lucian back to 1988 when a horrific accident left a little girl hanging onto life by a thread. Wyoming was under siege by one of those maelstroms of snow and wind that come along about once a century just to reassure you how feisty Mother Nature can be. The medevac helicopter cannot make it to Denver. None of the light planes at the small airport have a chance against the ferocity of the wind. There is only one plane, a dinosaur from WWII, with the speed, power, and heft to fight out in the storm. But no pilot is able to fly the old bomber, except former Sheriff Lucian Connolly. The Doolittle Raider is intimately acquainted with the craft though it has been a while since he bailed out over the China Sea back in the big war. Walt, Lucian and Doc prepare to fly a relic into the storm of the century in an attempt to save the life of the young burn victim. Long odds on success and a pretty good chance of being scattered all over the Wyoming landscape. Walt, Lucian, and Doc are men made to eat up such odds. Walt's reply "...it's a question of what you have to do, what you have to live with if you don't." Lucian faced those odds before when he and 79 other men led by Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle climbed into B25B Medium Bombers on the flight deck of the USS Hornet. Walt's courage was tested in the jungles of Vietnam. Neither man was found wanting. Doc experienced Hitler's Germany. When the question on the table is who will risk their life to save another, the men's response is I will. Craig Johnson also pays homage to a big black horse named Steamboat, a bucking horse famous in Wyoming. Steamboat was described by Jack Bowers as the closest thing to perpetual motion that ever wore hair. Spirit of Steamboat is perfect for the Holiday Season and is our December Book Club selection.

Picture of Craig and Judy Johnson above by Brooke Snavelly.

Picture of Craig and Judy Johnson with Carolyn Barr by Janet Gordon.







Wyoming is one of those places that have corners time forgot. Places you can still imagine being wild and free, drive for miles all you will see are distant mountains and lots of sky. It is a beautiful landscape with wide open spaces. Craig Johnson lives in this part of Wyoming, when he writes of the setting in his Walt Longmire series, it feels like home, feels real. If you enjoy stories with a sense of place, stories that have such a strong connection to the land the setting becomes like another character, you will enjoy Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire series.

Craig Johnson created characters you will want to visit again; they feel like old friends. A touch of humor spices each story, for how else would they face the day?

Craig Johnson's hugely popular Walt Longmire mysteries inspired the Longmire series on A&E, the most watched scripted series in A&E history. So what does a television station do with a wildly successful series, the best they ever had? Cancel it. The audience is a little long in the tooth; a younger crowd for their advertisers is what they want. Reality TV is more their style. No script, no talented thespians, often just a bunch of people behaving badly. No worries, for those of us sporting a few years and loyal to the Longmire series on TV, Craig Johnson's books give a richer experience with the characters, he can use a lot more plot in a novel than a TV station can fill in 45 minutes. I understand the producers are looking for a new station. Craig will probably fill us in more on November 11.

Picture of Craig Johnson and Sunriver Books & Music CEO Flashman by Dan Feer.



Sign up to attend author events by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. The events are free, everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served and we will have drawings for prizes.

### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday December 6th at 5:00 PM ***Falling From Horses*** by Molly Gloss

Saturday December 13th at 5:00 PM ***Woman With A Gun*** by Phil Margolin

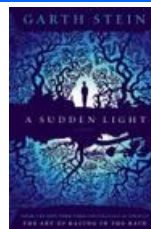
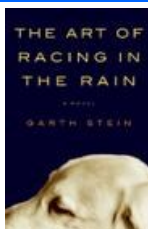
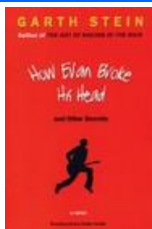
Saturday February 14th 2015 at 5:30 PM at the SHARC Center, ***A Sudden Light*** by Garth Stein

Saturday March 28, 2015 Jane Kirkpatrick, Phil Margolin, and Greg Nokes.

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](http://Sunriverbooks.com), for changes and additions.

### Coming Soon!

Saturday February 14, 2015 at 5:00 at the SHARC Center



### Garth Stein—*A Sudden Light*.

It has been six years since ***The Art of Racing In The Rain*** blazed onto the New York Time's Best Seller's List for an astounding run of three years. The wait is over, Garth's new release, ***A Sudden Light*** is brilliant!

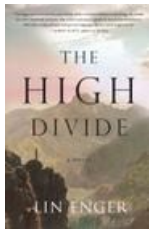
[sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or 541-593-2525

Sign up early to hear great presentations from popular authors!

***A Sudden Light*** is also this November's Fiction Book Club selection. For more information see the last page of this newsletter.



Staff Recommendations  
Nancy Nelson Recommends

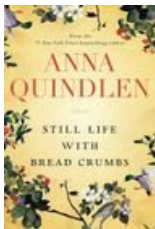


**The High Divide**, by Lin Enger. Ulysses Pope lives with his wife, Greta and two sons, Eli and Danny, in a small prairie town of Minnesota. The year is 1886. Most of the Indians have been herded to reservations or killed. Ulysses participated in the Indian wars and the memory of it haunts him. The issues from that time are not easily resolved, affecting all aspects of his life. One day he just leaves. His wife and sons assume he is looking for desperately need work. When after a while no money is sent home, and the family concerns are at a desperate level, the eldest son, Eli, sets out to find him. As Eli slowly uncovers some of the ghosts of his dad's past, he also finds the man his father once was, a complete stranger. In the meantime Greta tries desperately to hold on to the family home, facing some very complicated issues of her own. This is an interesting story that also presents some historically relevant events that are well worth considering, even now.



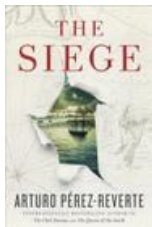
**Citizens Creek**, by Lalita Tademy. This story, focused on the life of one man and his family, brings to light major events in our country's history. Cow Tom is a black man born in 1810, sold at a young age to a Creek Indian chief. He learns several languages and thus is used as a translator. As a slave to an Indian chief, even though he is not free to live his life, Cow Tom identifies himself as part of the tribe and is loyal to it, feeling lucky to have been bought by the Creek chief as opposed to a white family. He is also given a price for his freedom and an opportunity to earn it. Therefore when asked by his chief to translate for the army, even with all of the inherent danger, he is glad for the chance. After the removal of the Indians from their tribal land in Kansas, the life of black former slaves is extremely hard. Although Tom's family owns a large piece of land, and is prosperous, the family narrowly escapes being murdered by Confederate sympathizers. He loses everything and starts over again and again, determined,

strong willed, and strongly ethical, providing an exceptional role model for his family, particularly his granddaughter, Rose. The family survives slavery, Indian wars, the Civil War, near starvation, disease and the often violent hostility toward blacks after the war. I found myself intrigued and very impressed by these people. By comparison, my own problems are child's play. They are truly amazing. This is a generational story that also highlights personal lives and struggles, complete with success and tragedy, mistakes and forgiveness, lessons learned in the process of living. I loved it!



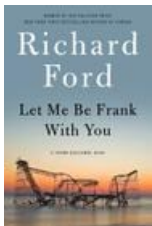
**Still Life With Bread Crumbs** by Anna Quindlen. A woman wakes up in strange new surroundings to the apparent sound of a gunshot. A local roofer informs her that it is not a gunshot she hears, but a raccoon crashing around in her attic. So begins the new life of Rebecca Winter, successful, famous photographer and personal hero to many women. Rebecca is now financially strapped. Her life is in transition. She can no longer afford her New York apartment, and so has fled to a more affordable house in a small town a couple of hours away from New York City. Adapting to life there is proving to be a challenge. She becomes fast friends with the roofer, who has his own issues. As Rebecca struggles to survive, she discovers that she is much more than she had imagined. Her journey brings her back to hope and fulfillment allowing the reader share in her discovery of self. The story is both funny and moving with characters that are quite human and likeable.

Staff Recommendations.  
Deon Recommends.



**The Siege** by Arturo Perez-Reverte. Napoleonic France intended to conquer Europe, Cadiz Spain was a small recalcitrant place of resistance; impregnable by land, impossible by sea. Captain Desfosseux is tasked with bombing the city but it remains, for the most part, tantalizingly out of range. Into this maelstrom a killer stalks young women, flaying them alive, whipping until their souls give out and they die. It is Police Comisario Rogelio Tizon's job to find the killer and stop him. Tizon is a rough man, his conscience elastic enough to encompass the compromises and brutality of his era and position. Cadiz is his city, he is good at his job; he will not rest until he defeats this killer of women. Lolita Palma heads a shipping company, a wealthy woman forced to take great risks to keep her company afloat during the conflict. Captain Pepe Lobo went to sea at 11, he is courageous, experienced and competent; his story will cross with Lolita's in a sea of danger. The creepy taxidermist, Fumagal, spends his time taking animals from the street for his experiments and spying for the French. There is a link between these stories, the bombs that fall from

the howitzers of Captain Desfosseux bringing them together. Reverte-Perez gives rich historic detail of the siege of Cadiz while creating memorable characters. Tizon is a fascinating character, perhaps Reverte-Perez will write of him again, he is worthy of interest and I suspect has more tales to tell

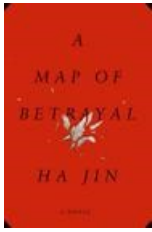


**Let Me Be Frank With You** by Richard Ford. Frank Bascombe was introduced in Ford's **The Sportswriter** as a young man making his way in the world. Two more novels followed charting Bascombe's progress. Frank is 68 now, retired, living a quiet life in New Jersey with his wife Sally. In four distinct segments, Frank shows himself to have mellowed some but still have strong, sometimes inappropriate, opinions. He is all for cutting a few offending words from the English language. Awesome, sibs, and hydrate are all on the discard pile in Frank's reduced dictionary. The story is set after Hurricane Sandy left the Eastern seaboard in a state of destruction. In the first segment Frank drives to the shore, witnessing the devastation along the way, to commiserate with the man who bought their ocean view house when they moved inland. That house is now a hulk lying off its foundation as if picked up and tossed by a giant like a toy. Sally is occupied with the aftermath of the storm too; she spends much of her time as a grief counselor meeting with victims of the hurricane. The second segment has a black woman visiting Frank, bringing disturbing news of the past. Frank yearns for some kind of real interaction, of a reach across different perspectives. When it comes, it leaves him unsettled. The third segment takes Frank on a visit to his ex-wife. I can't say I liked the woman, but Frank seems to have come to some kind of understanding. The final segment Frank visits a dying friend. Throughout the novel, Frank is funny, irascible, and possessed of a sensitivity for what we owe each other and ourselves.

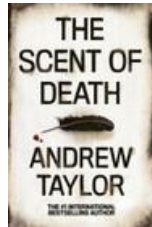


## Staff Recommendations

### Deon Recommends



**Map of Betrayal** by Ha Jin. E.M. Forster said “*If I have to choose between betraying my country and betraying my friend, I hope I should have the guts to betray my country.*” It is a belief that might have helped the characters in Ha Jin’s latest superb novel. The story shifts between Lilian in current day and her father’s life between 1949 and 1989. Lilian’s mother was Irish American, her father, Gary, a Chinese spy. His American family never suspected the quiet, responsible family man working diligently as a translator at the CIA could be a spy. Gary’s story tells how that came to be, the struggles of conscience and the loneliness he endured as he lived in an alien land, both longing for his homeland and being seduced by life in America. As the story opens Lilian is spending time in China teaching a course in Beijing, while there she intends to track down any surviving members of Gary’s Chinese family. Finding relatives whose life is vastly different from her own, opens Lilian to new challenges. Ha Jin packs in a lot of history, both US and Chinese, along with an intimate portrait of the two cultures, and the complexity of the shadow life.



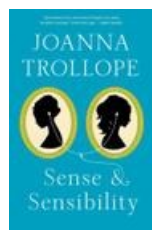
Set in 1778, during the Revolutionary War, **Scent of Death** by Andrew Taylor delivers a lot of history along with an intriguing mystery. New York is like a character in the story. The town partly burned during the conflict, is often short of provisions, and full of refugee Loyalists fleeing the rebels. Many stories set during the War of Independence take their perspective from the winning side, but what of the Loyalists? How would life have been for those loyal to the British crown? At first they would have been confident, after all Britain was a major world power subduing an upstart bunch of rebels in the colonies. Then the French entered the conflict and the tide began to turn. Edward Savill is sent from London to New York, a clerk in the American Department, to assess the claims of refugee Loyalists fleeing to New York after losing their homes in the conflict. He lodges with the Wintour family. Soon after his arrival a man is murdered in the burnt part of town, known as Canvas Town, where the poor and the rougher elements have fashioned themselves shelter in blackened structures with canvas. Officials round up a suspect and, although Edward has misgivings, the matter is concluded. Or so it is believed. What I liked about this story is Edwards’s ordinary nature. He wants to do well, works effectively at his job, is pleasant to those around him, and is not enthusiastically investigating matters outside his expertise. In short, he is not an amateur sleuth; instead he is drawn in by circumstance and order until compelling evidence and reason leads him into an investigation that will threaten his very life. If you like historic fiction, there is much interesting detail and a likeable main character to boot.



**By the Book** by Pamela Paul brings together memorable interviews about interesting books. One of the joys of Sunday morning is the New York Times’ Book Review. And my favorite part of the review is the weekly interview with an array of subjects on their reading habits. It is great fun to learn what your favorite authors enjoy reading. Hilary Mantel, Michael Chabon, Khaled Hosseini, John Irving, and so many others of my favorite authors are profiled. Other notables make it onto the pages too. Arnold Schwarzenegger is a fan of Doris Kearns Goodwin’s **Team of Rivals**. Colin Powell likes James Michener’s **Tales of the South Pacific**, Emma Thompson enjoyed **Wolf Hall** by Hilary Mantel (so did I). If you enjoy reading, **By the Book** is great fun!



**The Girl With A Clock For a Heart** by Peter Swanson. George Foss knew Liana Dector was bad news and trouble, he learned that lesson well when he fell hard for her in college. Liana plays rough, people wind up dead. So George should have known better when Liana showed up in his neighborhood bar decades later, but his middle aged heart had no more resistance than it did back in his school days. Liana is sporting a new identity, staying under the radar of the cops still looking for her. Leopards may change their names, the spots remain the same. She is in trouble, needs George’s help. She stole quite a lot of cash, from a wealthy guy. He sent someone after her, someone willing to kill. She is frightened and wants George to help her return the money so the guy will call off his thug. Fans of *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn will find much to appreciate in this fast paced tale virtually careening through complicated plot twists that will keep the reader guessing to the last page. Now in paperback.



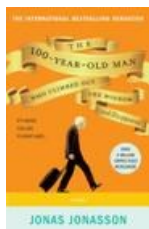
**Sense & Sensibility** by Joanna Trollope. Jane Austen fans prepare to be delighted! Sink into a cozy chair and enjoy this homage to Austen. Joanna Trollope sets one of Austen’s best stories to contemporary life. If you have read Austen, you know the tale; widowed mother turned out in the cold by heartless relatives inheriting her home, three lovely daughters, and unsuitable suitors. It is all there, told with wit and verve. What would Jane Austen make of today’s world? She just might make Joanna Trollope’s entertaining novel. The story opens with Belle and her three gorgeous daughters wondering what they are going to do now. Harry, the love of Belle’s life and father of the aforementioned beauties, died suddenly of an asthma attack. Before succumbing he was promised by John Dashwood, his heir and son from a prior union, that Belle and his daughters would be cared for and treated gently. It takes no time at all for Fanny, John’s wife, to persuade him to chuck the lot of them out of their home; John’s newly inherited Norland Park estate. Elinor, the sensible sister, tries to come to terms with their reduced circumstances, Marianne, the ethereal beauty, wanders around her beloved Norland Park in denial, and Margaret, the youngest, acts out her frustrations. Austen fans will find this a rare treat. Now in paperback.



**The Divorce Papers** by Susan Rieger. Sophie prefers her clients behind bars, where they will not be allowed to make bothersome phone calls and she always knows where to find them. Makes it so much easier. Divorce is definitely not her gig. She is not pleased when one of the senior partners insists she handle Mia Micklejohn’s divorce. Fate conspired against Sophie, she was the only available option when Mia scheduled her first appointment. The brash young attorney made a favorable impression on Mia. It has been a rough time for Mia; after 18 years her physician husband is throwing her over for another woman, Mia was served with divorce papers over lunch at a posh restaurant. She is seriously depressed and finding the whole episode overwhelming, Sophie seems real, like someone Mia can safely rely on being straight with her. Extraordinarily well connected, what Mia wants, Mia will get. Sophie is thrust against her will into the divorce wars, making murder and mayhem look tame. Humor abounds, the author uses e-mails, memos, letters, and documents to tell her story. Coming in paperback this month..

Days are shorter, it gets cold and dark in the evening hours. Holiday Season is upon us with both joy and all the attendant stress. For some it can feel gloomy. We thought we would share some recommendations of books that are old friends and we think leave the reader feeling good.

#### Nancy Nelson Recommends.

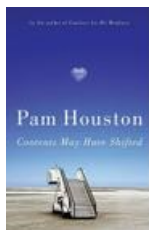


**"The 100 – Year Old Man..."** by Jonas Jonasson is one of the most delightful books I have been privileged to read. As our story begins, Allan Karlsson has just turned 100 years old. At the nursing home where he resides, a birthday party is being staged in his honor. Allan wants no part of this. He wants his own life back, with the ability to make his own decisions, and to drink his Vodka if he so chooses. So, still donning his bedroom slippers, he climbs out of the window of his room, finds his way to the bus station, buys a ticket to wherever the soonest bus will take him, and disappears. He, however, also takes with him the very large suitcase that he was entrusted to watch while awaiting his bus, this after he has decided to say "yes" to life. The reader might correctly suppose that this suitcase has a huge effect on our hero's experiences. The story winds around taking the reader into the very interesting past and the suspenseful present of Allan's adventure. Allan, as a young man was interested in explosives, and in due course, became an expert in the field. With this knowledge and his very affable demeanor, he inserted himself in some key aspects of history, becoming acquainted with such diverse people as President Truman, Chairman Mao, Franco, and De Gaulle. As the older man, he turns otherwise dangerous situations into something much more manageable with less dire and often humorous consequences. This book was so very engaging and entertaining that I highly recommend it to one and all.

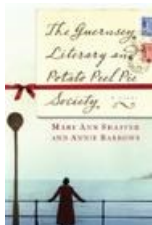
#### Deon Recommends.



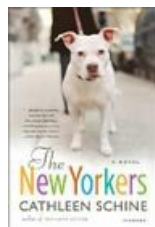
**The Enchanted April** by Elizabeth Von Arnim is one of my favorite books. Lottie Wilkens is a young wife married to a lawyer. He is all stiff upper lip British; wanting things done just so and hoping his wife will be an asset to his business. But Lottie doesn't fit well into such a strict and narrow life; she cannot seem to do things right. It is 1920's Britain, rainy and grey. Lottie stopped at her women's club to read the paper on her shopping rounds. She sees an ad on a house in Italy for the month of April. It starts her dreaming, she thinks if only she could have this little time away, one month, to be on her own and free then she could endure trying to be a better wife, to do things just right. A month in Italy seems so impossible. As she prepares to leave, Lottie sees Rose Arbutnot reading the same ad. Although they do not know one another well, Lottie approaches Rose and the two dream of Italy. Eventually four unhappy women go to the house in bella Italy. Who can stay unhappy with all the glorious sunshine, blue sea, and fragrant gardens? Italy's enchantment works its magic. Everything in their lives changes and nothing changes.



**Contents May Have Shifted** by Pam Houston is told in a series of vignettes that take the reader careening around the globe; hiking in the high country, rafting rivers, dealing with faithless love, finding strength in the loyal bonds of friends, and discovering happiness too. The shifting stories range in setting from Bhutan to Bend Oregon. The vignettes are the linked stories of a woman's life. They give brief glimpses into the cares and pleasures of a woman facing the sorts of challenges that pepper her lifetime. She struggles with a love that cannot be true, discovers a love that might be true but has complications, hops planes to fantastic destinations, walks on the wild side, and shares with the reader her adventurous nature and wry sense of humor. She has a cadre of friends, funny and wise, who give an outstanding example of the value of friendship. All the short episodes add up to an interesting life, one the reader is happy to have experienced vicariously. Although Pam has traveled widely and written about her wanderings, she has a pitch perfect western voice inspired and sent soaring by the vast untamable landscapes that feeds her soul. Tall white mountains, fast rushing rivers, and meadows erupting in wildflowers come to life so strongly in her books that you feel like you are walking those trails too. It is a rare gift to write so vividly that the reader is transported into another place, Pam has the gift.



**The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society** by Mary Ann Shaffer Every once in a while a special book comes along that you just do not want to end. Julia spent the war years watching for fires from the rooftops of London apartments. Now it is time to get her life back on track. A letter reaches her while she is on a book tour for her latest book. Dawsey found her address on the bookplate of a book he purchased at a jumble sale. He does not wish to inconvenience her, but no bookstores have survived Nazi occupation near his home on Guernsey. Does Julia know the address of any London bookstores who might be willing to sell him more of the author's work? Letters zip back and forth. All sorts of quirky characters enter the story. Pretty soon they all feel like old friends and you do not want to bid them goodbye.



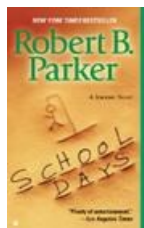
**The New Yorkers** by Cathleen Schine is set in a New York neighborhood. All of the characters are endearing, likeable people with interesting views on life, except for Doris who makes an excellent villainess. Jody has been living in her apartment for a long time waiting for Prince Charming; he seems to be running a bit late. Jody realizes she likes her life but would enjoy a companion; she adopts Beatrice a sweet dog. Dogs are much easier to find than charming princes, quite loyal too. Taking Beatrice for walks opens up the neighborhood to Jody in new ways. Polly has worried about her brother George her whole life, taking care of him and keeping him out of trouble. George is certain he has hidden talent, too bad it is so deeply hidden. The neighborhood restaurant is a zany, welcoming place where people and dogs dine together. You will come to know this neighborhood well; it feels like a good place to live.



**Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson. Lively, endearing, full of characters you will enjoy, this is one of those special books that are such a pleasure to read you do not want the book to end. Major Pettigrew is a ramrod straight, stiff upper lip, proper British gentleman. He lives alone in a small village. His brother's sudden death throws him for a loop. The morning he hears the news of his brother's demise, Mrs. Ali, the local shopkeeper, knocks on his door. She quickly understands the major's distress and comforts him, an unlikely friendship blossoms. Jasmina Ali's Pakistani heritage has kept her outside the social scene in the Village. All sorts of complications ensue as these two people from very different backgrounds find comfort in each other's company. Turmoil roils through the story, from a village pageant to development of the local estate to bitterness over an inherited gun to the angst of family members. English village life at its best, complete with the local vicar, the lord of the manor and a full cast of marvelous characters. It is all great fun.

If you enjoy the mystery genre, they can be a great escape during the early, cold evenings, especially in the Holiday Season. If you have not tried the genre, they can be fun to read. Here are some of our favorites, all are part of a series so if you like, there are more.

### Nancy Nelson Recommends.



In the book “**School Days**” by Robert Parker, two boys are arrested for the shooting of students and teachers at Dowling School in Dowling, Massachusetts. The grandmother of one of the boys is asking Spenser: “demonstrate that my grandson is innocent of all charges against him.” As Spenser takes the case he learns that everyone involved wants it to be over and done with. No one, aside from Spenser is particularly interested in why the kids did this. As he probes, asking questions, and the case begins to unravel, the story becomes more complex. In this book, as with the other Spenser books that Robert Parker has written, he deals with subjects which are serious in a rather light handed manner. His wit is flippant, but not without purpose. For example, Spenser said: “...you probably can’t figure out the truth, if you think you know ahead of time what the truth is supposed to be.” Spenser does not take himself seriously, but he takes his job very seriously. I like the story. I like the easy way it was written. The tiny little philosophies presented through conversations of the characters appeal to me. Some are obvious, but discussing them inspires thought. As the story comes to an end, Susan and Spenser are talking about the grandson whom he was hired to absolve of charges, Jared. Because of some mitigating circumstances the boy has more hope than if Spenser had not intervened. “Some hope is better than no hope” says Susan. This is typical simple but nice Spenser philosophy.

### Deon Recommends.

Each of the mysteries below are the first in series that I have enjoyed.



**The Beekeeper's Apprentice** by Laurie King. Sir Arthur Conan Doyle created a memorable character; there are few people who do not recognize the name Sherlock Holmes. Laurie King has given Holmes formidable intellect to a young woman, Mary Russell, and made them compatriots. Russell stumbles across Holmes when she is a lass of 15 and Holmes is 54. Russell is out wandering the Sussex meadows, avoiding her shrewish aunt. Holmes is occupying himself scrutinizing the behavior of bees in the meadow. The two recognize in each other a keen intellect and inquiring nature. Holmes takes Russell under his wing, slowly training the young girl's mind. She will grow to be his friend and associate, together they will solve puzzles baffling the authorities. Holmes has enemies; by caring for Mary Russell he puts her at risk. What will be the cost? King begins a remarkable series with Mary Russell while treating Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's creation, Sherlock Holmes, with due respect.



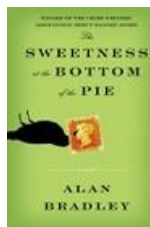
**Killed at the Whim of a Hat** by Colin Cotterill. Witty, endearing, and way too quirky for words, a delightful series. Jimm Juree left behind a promising career as a journalist in the big city to follow her rather odd but loveable family into the hinterland of Southern Thailand. She is morosely bemoaning the loss of her career when two skeletons are found inside a Volkswagen buried in a farmer's field, cheering her immeasurably. Jimm is back in the game with a juicy scoop on a murder investigation. The ink is barely dry on her story when an Abbott is murdered in a remote temple. Pretty soon the whole family is helping her solve crimes.



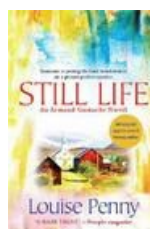
**Maisie Dobbs** by Jacqueline Winspear. Lady Rowan discovers her 14 year old maid hidden in the library voraciously reading books in the middle of the night. Fortunately Lady Rowan is impressed by Maisie's intelligence and eagerness to learn. She decides to educate the girl. WWI swallows Europe, filling the land with horror. Maisie serves as a nurse, helping suffering men as a generation is destroyed. After the war Maisie becomes a detective. Her first case is a husband fearful his wife may be cheating. Maisie follows her to a cemetery, not the usual spot for a tryst. This is one of our most popular mystery series, Maisie is a very sympathetic sleuth with admirable qualities.



**Dog On It** by Spencer Quinn is a lively fun story. A new detective stepped into the mystery genre, one equipped with a plummy tail and a nose perfect for sniffing out the bad guys. Meet Chet, a canine crime fighter. Bernie is the human half of the team, a divorced father suffering from “cash flow” problems. In their quest to find a missing teenage girl Chet has a passel of adventures, Bernie has his share too.



**The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** by Alan Bradley. Set in the 1950's in a sweet little English Village, the story has an unusual protagonist. Flavia is only 11 years old, but she is precocious to the hilt. Obsessed with chemistry, she spends her days concocting poisons to dose her older sisters. Flavia's father is a widower, a lonely lord of the manor sort who has withdrawn into the solitary pursuit of collecting stamps. Flavia is startled to hear raised voices coming from her Dad's study one evening. Next morning Flavia finds her father's visitor dying in the garden. Well this doesn't look good. Flavia is sure the police might come to some nasty conclusions and sets off to find a killer.

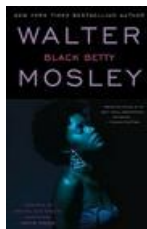


**Still Life** by Louise Penney, the first in a delightful mystery series set in the small village of Three Pines outside Montreal. Who would kill retired school teacher Jean Neal? Felled by an arrow, at first the villagers want to believe her death was a horrible accident. Could a confused hunter have mistaken her for a deer? Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surete du Quebec must find the answers. Three Pines has a vibrant community of artists, Jean Neal submitted a painting for the local competition. Could her painting have provoked murder? Or did her money grubbing niece's family kill for inheritance? Gamache is a thoughtful investigator, he will find the truth.

Please let me know if you like the idea of an introduction to several mystery series, if you find it interesting I may repeat the idea with a list of other series in future.



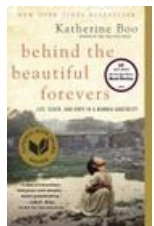
## November 2014 Book Clubs.



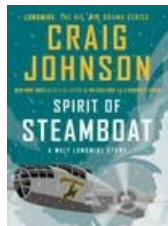
November 3<sup>rd</sup> the Mystery Book Club discusses **Black Betty** by Walter Mosley. Its 1961 and Easy Rawlins has moved with his two adopted kids from Watts to West LA. It is an era of great change in the Black community. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. will fill the Washington Monument to deliver his inspirational speech "I Have A Dream" in 1963 (I dare you to read the text and keep your eyes dry), a few short years later he will be shot dead. Robert Kennedy will give a moving tribute to Dr. King and be shot down two months later. Civil Rights are the topic of the day, yet back in West LA Rawlins still has to make a living, he has two children to raise and times are tough financially. He is not keen to accept a case for sleazy white PI Saul Lynx, but he needs the money and boy does the name of the woman Saul wants him to find bring back memories. In his Texas boyhood Black Betty was legendary, men were willing to bleed to win her favors. When a teenage Easy Rawlins complimented Black Betty, she planted a hot kiss on his young mug that rocked his world then sauntered away. Easy and Black Betty both traveled to California, different routes, different times. Of course the case will be far murkier than presented and Easy will have other complications. His homicidal sidekick Mouse is out of prison and thirsting for revenge. Walter Mosley can write! He will walk you right into Easy's world, set you down, and spin you a good yarn not soon forgotten.



November 10<sup>th</sup> the Fiction Book Club has something special to discuss! Since 2008's mega hit, **The Art of Racing In The Rain**, we have all been eagerly awaiting the next novel from Garth Stein. **A Sudden Light** more than rewards us. Wielding magical realism like an enchanted sword, Garth tells the story of a vulnerable 14 year old meeting the ghost of his ancestor when he visits the family estate north of Seattle for the first time. Distressed over the estrangement between his parents, Trevor is taken by his father from Connecticut to the Pacific Northwest where his family had been timber barons in their glory days. All that remains of their vast wealth is the forested estate where his grandfather is sliding into dementia. Trevor's Dad and his enigmatic Aunt intend to sell the property curing their financial ills thus paving the way to a rosier future. Sounds simple but the execution proves a lot more complicated. When the obligations of the past meet the desires of the future in the hands of a confused teenage boy this novel shines. We have something grand to anticipate, Garth Stein will be here Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> for a presentation on his latest, he always puts on a good show!



November 17<sup>th</sup> the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses **Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity** by Katherine Boo, it reads like fiction but it is all too true. Annawadi is a slum nestled against the opulence of luxury hotels lining the Mumbai airport, dire poverty living side by side with travelers with wealth and ease. The truly amazing aspect of this book is the common ground built by Boo, a Pulitzer winning journalist, and the people of Annawadi. They allow her to know their deepest thoughts and fears. Families strive to get ahead, neighbor fights neighbor, murder and mayhem happen, and Boo is there to bear witness. It is paced like a thriller, very readable. Boo's intimate portrayal makes you care about the characters. There are some beautiful scenes in this well-crafted report on life in an Indian slum; it is well worth reading and ultimately uplifting!



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

#### Please note a couple schedule changes in the list below!

December 8th 2014 **Spirit of Steamboat** by Craig Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#) and [Fiction Book Club](#)  
December 15th 2014 **A Christmas Carol** by Charles Dickens [Fiction Book Club](#) and [Classics Book Club](#)

#### 2015!

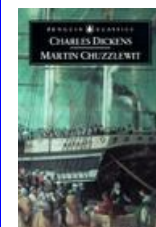
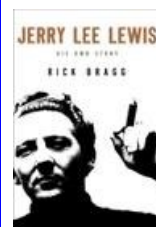
January 12th 2015 **Silkworm** by J.K. Rowling (alias Robert Galbraith) [Mystery Book Club](#)  
January 19th 2015 **The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry** by Rachel Joyce [Fiction Book Club](#)  
January 26th 2015 **Jerry Lee Lewis: His Own Story** by Rick Bragg [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

February 9th 2015 **Bad Monkey** by Carl Hiaasen [Mystery Book Club](#)  
February 23rd 2015 **Goldfinch** by Donna Tartt [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 9th 2015 **The Bookman's Tale** by Charlie Lovett [Mystery Book Club](#)  
March 16th 2015 **In The Time Of Butterflies** by Julia Alvarez [Fiction Book Club](#)  
March 23 2015 **Where Angels Fear to Tread** by E.M. Forster [Classics Book Club](#)

April 6th 2015 **An Officer And A Spy** by Robert Harris [Mystery Book Club](#)  
April 13th 2015 **Boys In The Boat** by Daniel James Brown [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)  
April 20th 2015 the Deschutes County Library's Novel Idea selection [Fiction Book Club](#)

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



If you are involved in a club or gathering that would enjoy space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation . To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music.

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