



# Sunriver Books & Music

## October 2017

### Newsletter

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

541-593-2525



Craig Johnson gave two entertaining presentations at the SHARC on September 7 for the latest in the Walt Longmire series, *The Western Star*. A grand number of people turned out, braving our smoke filled air, to attend. This is our biggest event of the year. Here are a few pictures of the event.



*The Western Star* moves between current day and 1972 during Walt Longmire's first couple weeks in law enforcement under the wings of Sheriff Lucien Connolly. Walt is taken along on what should be a fun jaunt, a group of Wyoming sheriffs traveling on the historic *Western Star* across the state to get together, tell stories, drink a bit more than the morning's hangover would warrant, and have a good time. Things do not go as planned, not all of the sheriffs survive to disembark. This is a page turner that will keep you riveted!



Black Butte Police Chief Denny Kelley presented Craig Johnson with special challenge coins. The coins are given for special reasons in law enforcement.

Photography by Dr. Sue Dougherty.





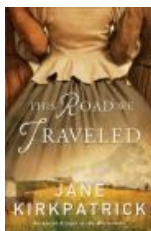


Saturday October 14 at 5:00 PM Jane Kirkpatrick will give a presentation on her latest historical novel, ***All She Left Behind***. Jane Kirkpatrick has many books telling of strong women who contributed to history in meaningful ways, stories that would otherwise be lost. She carefully researches and blends historical events using real people in a fictional account that leads to an interesting story while also saving remarkable women from obscurity.

***All She Left Behind*** begins with Jennie Pickett as a young wife and mother in the 1870's who harbors an intense interest in the natural world. She collects herbs, putting them to good use in treating the ailments of family, friends, and neighbors. There is a lovely passage about Jennie and her toddler son observing a fox along a tributary of the Willamette River. Her dream is to become a doctor, but she realizes other responsibilities have claimed her and the dream is put aside. Like many, Jennie's family travelled the Oregon Trail from Illinois seeking new lives and prosperity in the west. She was only ten but remembers the journey. Not all is happy in this young mother's life. Her family lives in the home of her sister; her brother in law is her husband's supervisor at the Oregon State Prison. That is a lot of closeness for two families in a small house with young children. Add her brother in law's penchant for booze and unsavory pursuits and the pressure mounts. Her husband, Charles Pickett, also has desires and the weakness

to be easily seduced by his boss's habits. Charles wants to be a big man; he will never achieve that status. Instead he loses his job and goes in debt to a wealthy local man heavily involved in community affairs. When Charles abandons his obligations, Jennie cannot turn her back on the debt owed. She works tending the man's ailing wife to pay what was borrowed. The couple are older than Jennie, their caring and affection touch her deeply. When the woman dies, the friendship that developed turns to something deeper with the widower, despite the difference in age. Through the caring and support of this man, Jennie will struggle to achieve her dreams. Oregon history is woven through the story, as well as the struggle for women to become physicians in that era.

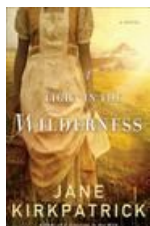
Jane Kirkpatrick has written many novels that tell good stories while also giving an intimate look at history. They feature women with strong resolve, who overcome the odds set against them to contribute in meaningful ways.



***This Road We Traveled*** is the story of Tabitha Moffat Brown and how she came to be named by the Oregon legislature "the Mother of Oregon". It is also the story of three generations of women who crossed from Missouri to Oregon on the Oregon Trail, along with a passel of other family: sons, husbands, brothers, daughters, and so forth. Tabby kept an unusual pet, I admit it had me intrigued and kept me turning pages to learn how it was faring. Tabby was in her sixties and lame in the 1840's when her eldest son, Orus Brown, persuaded the family to head west to the rich farmland of the Willamette Valley. Not to be left out, Tabby joined forces with her brother-in-law, John Brown, a sea captain eighteen years her senior, to outfit their own wagon and head west too. The crossing would be grueling, they were in the mountains at the same time as the Donner party, and hardship would test their mettle. A full account of life on the trail is given. Arriving in Oregon Tabby faced many challenges, including what she would do next. Quite a lot as it turns out. The whole family is involved in the story, including a link to a famous painting made even more so by a recent Pulitzer Prize winning work of fiction.



***The Memory Weaver*** is the story of Eliza Spalding. November 29th 1847 Eliza Spalding, only ten years old, survived the massacre that took the life of Marcus Whitman, his wife Narcissa, and twelve other men by Cayuse who were convinced the Whitman Mission at Waiilatpu, Washington brought deadly disease to their tribe. Among the 45 survivors, Eliza was the only one fluent in a Native American tongue; she spoke the Nez Pearce language. Thus the small child not only witnessed horrific bloodshed and terror, thereafter she acted as translator while not knowing if the remaining survivors held captive would be killed or freed. What would be the effect of such an experience on a child? Today Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome is known to affect survivors of traumatic events, in 1847 not so much so. Teenaged Eliza is haunted by memories of that day, tormented by conflicting emotions toward Native Americans, unable to completely separate the Nez Pearce who were her childhood friends and rescuers from her attackers until she reached some form of peace with her experience. Eliza lived a full life, she married a man determined to chart his own course. He was also a man able to understand the strength of his wife, perhaps even a bit more than she understood herself. This is a novel that spans a long life, giving a vivid account of the northwest as it changed from territory to statehood, frontier to farms and towns.



***A Light In The Wilderness*** is a fascinating story, blending fiction and fact, about a free black woman from Missouri who traveled the Oregon Trail to the Oregon Territory. The scenes on the trail involve many real characters from history and give a feeling for the hardships of traveling west.. It is also an interesting exploration of how a black woman traveling with a white man may have found the trip. Settling in Oregon, her troubles were not over, she would have to fight in court against a powerful white man who was determined to strip her of all her worldly possessions by nefarious means. For a black woman to go to court pre-Civil War is truly a courageous act.



Spring means the scent of lilacs blooming to me. If you love that scent like I do, a visit to Hulda Klager's beautiful and intoxicatingly fragrant garden in Woodland Washington is a treat. ***Where Lilacs Still Bloom*** is the story of a passionate gardener who created a slew of gorgeous, fragrant new lilac cultivars at a time women were not expected to have interests outside homemaking. Hulda Klager also lived through major events including the VanPort flood that wiped out a city and covered Woodland in water.

***An Absence so Great*** and ***A Flickering Light*** tell the story of Kirkpatrick's grandmother Jessie. Jessie was captivated by photography. Fortune smiled when she landed a job in the photographic studio of F. J. Bauer.

Emma Geisy overcame adversity and was an important part of Aurora Oregon's history. Emma's struggles and triumphs inspired a trilogy; ***A Clearing in the Wild***, ***A Tendering in the Storm*** and ***A Mending at the Edge***.

Helga Estby's walk across the US in a desperate bid to save the family farm was documented in ***Bold Spirit*** by Linda Hunt, but what about the daughter, Clara, who accompanied her on the trek? Kirkpatrick tells her story in ***The Daughter's Walk***. In 1896 the two lone women walked from Spokane to New York, taking only the possessions they could carry to sustain them on their journey. They traveled in dresses and jackets, with simple shoes. No Gore-Tex rain gear, ultra-light tents, hiking shoes or soft cushy sleeping bags for them.

***One Glorious Ambition; The Compassionate Crusade of Dorothea Dix*** is the story of a determined woman. Thank heavens for zealots, the true believers who look on a wrong and believe they can make a difference. Edmond Burke said "All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Let's amend that to include women. Dix taught a Sunday school class to a group of women incarcerated in a Massachusetts prison. She toured the part of the prison housing debtors and the insane; the conditions were horrific. One woman; prior to the Civil War, when women could not vote and the men owned the property, worked for change across the US and Europe; a glorious ambition. These are just a few of Kirkpatrick's historical fiction featuring brave, gutsy women.

Author events are free and we will have refreshments and drawings for prizes. Please call 541-593-2525, e-mail [sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriver-books@sunriverbooks.com) or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend.

### Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday November 4, 2017 ***Death on Tap*** by Ellie Alexander

Saturday November 11, 2017 ***Life Without a Recipe*** by Diana Abu-Jaber

Saturday December 16, 2017 ***Mountain Bike Bend*** by Katy Bryce

Join us to enjoy fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Space may be limited for some events. Check [sunriverbooks.com](http://sunriverbooks.com) for changes or additions to the schedule.



### Sunriver STARS Community Theater announces tickets now on sale for: THE SECRET GARDEN™

You will love the upcoming production of "The Secret Garden" to be presented by the Sunriver Stars Community Theater at The Door in the Sunriver Business Park.

Directed by Victoria Kristy, with Gail Gibson as Assistant Director, the musical is a charming, upbeat adaptation of the literary classic by Frances Hodgson Burnett. Mary Lennox is sent to live in Victorian England after her parents die in India of the dreaded cholera. Misselthwaite Manor turns out to be a gloomy fortress. Her uncle is rarely home and his young son, Colin, never leaves his room, convinced he's an incurable invalid. Mary discovers a strange walled garden that has been locked up for years. With the gardener's apprentice, Dickon, a lad who can talk to the animals, Mary coaxes the garden back to life. The garden seems to have a wonderful, magical effect on all who come into it, allowing Mary to help restore Colin to health and a reunion with his father.

This is a real 'feel good' show. It is filled with characters, young, older, grumpy, snooty, forlorn, curious, loving, wise and.... all delightful. The score is bright and whimsical, and will have the actors, under the musical direction of Sharon Sackett and the choreography of Rich Mundy, singing and dancing their way into your hearts!

The show dates are: Thursday Oct. 26 at 7:00 PM, Friday Oct. 29 at 7:00pm, Saturday Oct. 30 at 7:00pm (with a dinner option for up to 50 people at 6:00pm), and Sunday Oct. 31 at 3:00pm (matinee). Ticket prices are: Adults \$15, Students 18 and under \$10, Dinner show \$40 (includes dinner and show). Tickets for this highly entertaining production are on sale now. Visit the SSCT website, [www.sunriverstars.org](http://www.sunriverstars.org), for information and to print your tickets.



## Month of Ireland

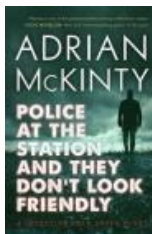
Books are magic! Travel to distant lands on their pages, discover other cultures, understand the world a little better. Travel has changed over the last century, planes fly through the air, allowing the traveler to visit places far away. Reading helps us to know something of their ways before arrival and to remember afterwards. Maybe we will never go to the places we read about but through the pages of books, for a brief while we visit. Each October we focus on another country or region, in 2017 it is a **Month of Ireland**.



***The Heart's Invisible Furies*** by John Boyne. Catherine's teenage pregnancy led to public shaming by the priest during Sunday services followed by expulsion from her family and village. Never having traveled far, she boarded a bus headed for the big city where she would find both tragedy and joy. Catherine is a character you are going to like! Cyril Avery was adopted as an infant, his adoptive parents an author and a financier. He grew up financially privileged, but his parents were not the warm and fuzzy sort. When he is seven years old, Cyril meets Julian, though it will be several years before they reconnect, they form a friendship that is important to both. As teenagers, Julian is crazy for the ladies, but Cyril realizes he is different. Cyril is gay in a country where that designation can cost hard time in prison; the laws criminalizing homosexuality were not decriminalized until 1993! Cyril's story spans from the 1940's to 2015. In the early years, as a teen then a young man, Cyril is desperate to keep secret his sexuality. The secrets he keeps lead to tremendous pain for innocent bystanders, friends who discover he kept them in the dark on a major part of his character. Cyril's self-involvement is a product of the repressive laws that made him determined to keep secrets and stay out of jail. As time goes on and Cyril gains maturity, he comes to know himself, and to regret the damage he caused others. The story moves from Ireland to Amsterdam and New York. This epic novel includes a lot of Irish history and culture. Boyne writes with humor and affection for his characters. It is a lovely story about a flawed but worthy man, populated with many grand characters, and told with compassion.



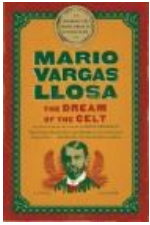
***The Good People*** by Hannah Kent. They like the moniker ***Good People***, and it is best to call them what they prefer. Known more widely as leprechaun, the ***Good People***, can hex someone's prospects, bestow good fortune, aid those knowledgeable of their ways in healing, and take a woman or child they desire leaving a "*changeling*" in their place. Historic fiction based on a real incident from 1826, the latter is exactly what happened. Martin, a strapping healthy looking bloke, was digging ditches when he fell down dead. Nora was shocked by her husband's sudden demise, overwhelmed by the responsibilities that fell on her shoulders. A few months earlier they had taken on the care of their grandson, Micheal. His mother, their daughter, died after an illness and his father was unprepared to care for his son. Ireland was in the throes of poor crops and hunger; it was hard to earn a living. And Micheal was a child who required a lot of care. He was unable to speak, could scream like a banshee for hours, could not control bodily functions, could not walk, and seemed to often be in pain. Martin loved their grandson, no matter what condition he presented, Nora wanted to know what happened to the happy two year old they met just a couple years ago? How had he turned into this screaming being? In order to make the rent due on their cottage, Nora now had to work the fields, with the help of her nephews, milk the cow, collect the eggs, and care for a child that needed round the clock attention. It was too much. She hired Mary, a young lass from a home with too many mouths to feed. As the fortunes of the village continued to suffer, the rumors grew bolder that the ***Good People*** had left a changeling among them causing hardship, that the child in Nora's home was not really her grandchild. Nance had lived at the edge of the forest, near the home of the ***Good People***, for decades. She made a meager living healing with herbs, as midwife, and was wise in the ways of the ***Good People***. Until recently she held a position of some respect, until his death the local Priest used her services when he felt the need. The new Priest is a different sort, he views her methods as heresy, and preaches against her with vigor. It is to Nance that Nora turns for help with Micheal. The doctor offered no solutions, the new Priest would not even look at the child, Nance is her only option. This is the story of three women, about old beliefs and new, tolerance, and sometimes the great harm that can come from good intentions. Hannah Kent crafts beautiful sentences that make the story of these women compelling. Her last novel, ***Burial Rites***, received much critical praise.



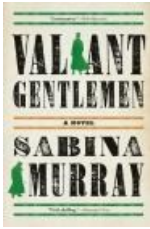
***Police At the Station and They Don't Look Friendly*** by Adrian McKinty. Detective Sean Duffy's evening is not going well at all as the story opens; he is being marched up a hill, by armed gunmen, toward a bog where he is expected to dig his own grave. How did he come to be in this situation? Therein lays a story. It is 1988 and tensions in Belfast between Catholics and Protestants run high, the IRA a dangerous presence in the background. When a man is killed at his front door by a crossbow, Duffy and his partner, McCrabben, find the method unusual but the outcome not so out of the ordinary. The victim moved to the area recently, was suspected of being in the drug trade, and probably failed to pay off the locals who took a dim view of such disrespect. However when Duffy starts asking questions, people get far more riled up than a hit on a recently arrived pusher would warrant. Clearly something is going on and finding the answers may be a matter of life and death. Duffy's personal life is a bit topsy turvy too. He is involved with Beth, an attractive young woman, he would like to make his wife but she resists the idea. Duffy is getting used to the role of father to their baby daughter. Beth's father is of different ideology than Duffy and very wealthy. Duffy has Daddy issues. This very readable gritty Irish mystery has interesting characters and a nicely complex plot.



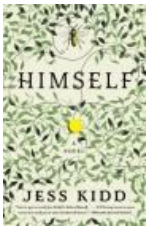
***Transatlantic*** by Colum McCann travels from America to Ireland and back again, the lives of the characters link with each other and the land. McCann twines the lives of his fictional characters with the stories of real figures from history. In 1845 escaped slave Fredrick Douglass comes to Ireland to further the cause of abolition, he speaks eloquently of the moral bankruptcy of owning humans, being treated as a possession, abused with no voice or justice. Conditions in Ireland shock Douglas, famine is raging, and potato blight has left the population starving. He sees the English overlord's indifference to the suffering of the poor and recognizes another form of moral bankruptcy. In 1919 Brown and Alcock will pilot their thin, delicate craft across the Atlantic from Newfoundland to land in an Irish bog. And in 1998 former US Senator George Mitchell crosses the Atlantic in a bid to bring peace to the troubled land.



A figure treated poorly by history is Roger Casement, an Irishman knighted by the Queen, then hanged for treason. Casement is one of those wonderful characters from history who can make you believe in truly good people and that one man is capable of making a difference. There are two books I recommend about this remarkable man. ***Dream of the Celt*** by Mario Vargas Llosa, winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature, is a fascinating, in depth telling of the life of Roger Casement. Beginning during his incarceration as he faces execution, the story delves into the people who his life has touched. Then it goes back in time to his childhood in Ireland when he was attracted to adventure by stories his father told of India. As a young man he worked with Stanley in Africa, becoming disenchanted with the treatment of Africans. Casement started out as a believer, full of optimism for exploring the African continent and improving the lives of the natives through modernization and the civilizing influences of religion. In reality he saw that the lot of the natives was actually harmed, not helped, as their land was taken and they were forced to work for white overseers. In particular he was appalled by Belgium's cruelty to and use of natives. He worked tirelessly to expose injustice and remedy the treatment of Africans. This did not necessarily always endear him to his superiors. His next posting was South America where once again he was involved in the struggle of indigenous people. As an Irishman, passionate about injustice, he became embroiled in the struggle for independence. During WWI, he thought it possible the Germans could be helpful. We know how that turned out. Casement was gay, this was used against him at a time when attitudes were harsh. ***Dream of the Celt*** is a magnificent book about one of history's forgotten heroes. ***Valiant Gentleman*** by Sabina Murray



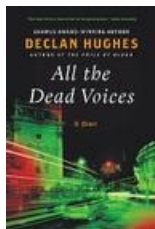
tells the story of Roger Casement and his close friendship with Herbert Ward and Sarita Sanford. Casement met Ward in Africa where they were both employed for a time by Stanley. A fast friendship developed that would last almost to the end of Casement's eventful life. Ward was an adventurer, author, and artist. His wife, Sarita Sanford, was an heiress and a very intelligent woman. Sarita is fascinating, way ahead of her time. The story of the three friends, the history they lived through and influenced, and their bonds to one another make great reading. Murray's writing is lively, her snapshots of history interesting, and her characters likeable.



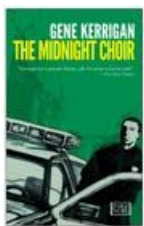
***Himself*** by Jess Kidd is quirky and endearing. Mahoney grew up rough and tumble in an orphanage. His prospects as an adult are not brilliant but he is not without charm and his looks seem to please the ladies. Abandoned as an orphan, Mahoney knows next to nothing of his roots, has assumed that is the way it would always be until Father McNamara tracks him down in a pub not far from the orphanage. He presents Mahoney with an envelope from Sister Victoria indicating his roots lie in the village of Mulderigg, perhaps his mother had not willingly abandoned him. Having nothing better to do and possessing a fair amount of curiosity about the woman who gave him birth, he departs for the Mulderigg setting in motion a chain of events. Arriving in the village, he tries to keep his purpose secret, you know how well that works in a small village. Especially as his looks are oddly familiar to folks who have lived there for quite a while. Mahoney secures a room in a large old boarding house where one of the other tenants is an aging actress who takes his cause to heart. This book is full of unusual, amusing and entertaining twists. For instance, Mahoney attracts the dead, he can see and converse with them, but the conversations are much on the dead's terms and not always as easy to get answers as Mahoney would prefer. A young girl seeks out his attention, she has things to say, but is more interested in having a friend, people able to see and hear the dead not always around, she is lonely. Mahoney is a likeable character and his story is fun to read.



***Last Night at Tremore Beach*** by Mikel Santiago is set on an remote Irish coast. Peter Harper, a recently divorced composer, has taken an isolated home in this spectacular setting to get away from it all and get his life back on track. Instead he is struck by lightening, resulting in fierce headaches and strange, disturbing dreams. Peter is a likeable chap, he befriends the neighbors (an American couple living two miles away) and takes an interest in a woman running a crafts shop in the village. Family is important to him; he stays active in the lives of his children and keeps in touch with his widowed father living in Dublin. The dreams become more threatening, more like premonitions of tragedy to come. Peter is briefly committed to an asylum, but instead of abating the dreams continue. With his children coming to visit, the dreams take on an eerie importance. The story builds to a cataclysmic and satisfying conclusion.

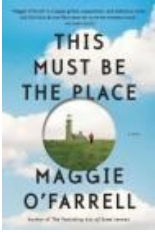


***All The Dead Voices*** by Declan Hughes is set in Dublin and uses the city so well that it becomes part of the story. Ed Loy is a dresser, tall and good looking he strikes quite a figure. However the fine clothes and appealing looks, are somewhat ruined when he is attacked by two thugs after leaving a local night spot owned by a local gangster. Ed had gone to Jack Cullen's place at the behest of Dessie Delaney. Paul, Dessie's brother, was a rising star, a talented soccer player. Good things could come the young man's way, but rumors had reached Dessie that Paul might have gotten involved with Jack, possibly selling drugs and that would derail his rosy future. Ed had gone around to have a word and determine if the rumors were true. Soon thereafter he is approached by Anne Fogarty. Her father was brutally murdered in the family home fifteen years earlier. A man had been convicted, a local teacher, but his conviction was recently overturned. Anne wanted to know who killed her father. He was a treasury collector, convinced that three men were hiding income and involved in crime. Jack Cullen is one of those men.



***The Midnight Choir*** by Gene Kerrigan is a gritty mystery set in Dublin amid an economy that sent prices skyrocketing while leaving many behind. Detective Inspector Harry Synnott is a determined officer of the law with a cases to solve, including a robbery where he is pretty sure he knows the culprits but may need a sacrificial goat in order to catch them. Said goat arrives in the form of a widow trying to make a few dollars by threatening tourists with a needle purported to contain HIV (a false threat, she was using ketchup). Upsetting tourists isn't doing much to make her popular with Harry's bosses and she just might be the wedge he needs to crack the case. Bodies pile up, Harry has to take care of business any way he can, and Harry is good at taking care of business.

## Month of Ireland



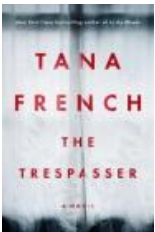
***This Must Be the Place*** by Maggie O'Farrell, an author I believe deserving of way more attention than she has received in the US. Daniel Sullivan is a loving father; his children mean the world to him. Divorce is such an intimate battle ground, sometimes filled with hatred and betrayal. So it was for Daniel and his ex-wife, their battles fought in the courts over their children. Vanquished in the judicial system where the mother's rights prevailed in the custody battle, and crushed by repeatedly being robbed of his visitation rights, Daniel is at low ebb when he takes a vacation from his duties as a professor to travel to Ireland. There along the side of the road he meets a little boy, a flat tire is involved, and Daniel's offers of help are met with suspicion by the child's mother, Claudette. Her suspicion turns out to be proper caution when Daniel makes the connection that Claudette was a Hollywood icon, an Oscar winning actress who disappeared at the height of her fame while filming a movie. An unlikely relationship between them blooms. Together they make a life, living in seclusion in a remote home in rural Ireland. It is a happy life for many years; Claudette and Daniel are both endearing characters. They have two more children and revel in their good fortune until a secret from Daniel's past begins a chain of events that may tear everything apart. O'Farrell writes with humor and zest, this is one of those lovely stories where you truly come to root for the characters, worry about their hardships, rejoice at their victories, and feel invested in their lives. A great read!



***Faithful Place*** by Tana French features some of the characters from ***The Secret Place*** being discussed this month in Book Club. Dysfunctional is a good description of Frank's family. Motivated to get out early in life, Frank and his teenage sweetheart arrange to rendezvous and run away together. He waits at their meeting place until it is clear she is not going to show up. Frank hoofs off alone and twenty years later is a detective. Always assuming that Rosie had abandoned him, he is shocked when her suitcase is found in an old vacant house. Soon buried bones give proof that Rosie never made it away from ***Faithful Place***. The writing is excellent, the story gripping.



***Broken Harbor*** by Tana French. Darkly disturbing with plot twists that will take your breath away, Tana French has written another compulsively readable Irish mystery. Scorcher Kennedy returns from ***Faithful Place*** and makes you yearn for life to treat him kindly. But of course it doesn't. ***Broken Harbor*** has been turned into a remote upscale yuppie development that went bust with the rest of the country in the financial crisis. The few occupied houses stand surrounded by the skeletons of homes that will never reach completion. It is an eerie, unsettling place full of disappointed dreams. In one of those houses the dream turned into a nightmare; the father and two children are dead, the kitchen looks like an abattoir, and the mother is clinging to life by a thread. Scorcher's job is to reclaim the top spot in the Murder Squad and find a killer. Murder and mayhem are not all Scorcher has to control; ***Broken Harbor*** holds sorrowful memories from his childhood.

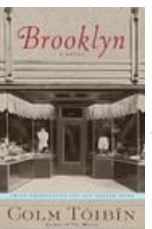


***The Trespasser*** by Tana French features some of the characters from ***The Secret Place*** being discussed this month in Book Club. Detective Antoinette Conway is intelligent and driven, not the sort to suffer fools gladly. Reaching her goal of a spot on Dublin's Murder Squad is nothing like she imagined. None of the other officers like her, in fact they play cruel tricks, and the only officer she feels comfortable with is Detective Steve Moran, another newbie and her partner. Thus far they have been sent out only on drug related killings and domestic disputes gone deadly, where the perpetrator is practically asking to be arrested and is certainly not up to keeping the cops at bay. She yearns for something more interesting, something to prove her mettle. Stewing over her position in the squad one morning, she is momentarily pleased to receive an assignment directly from Superintendent O'Kelly. Only momentarily, as the new case turns out to be the murder of a beautiful blond with a boyfriend as the probable

cause of her demise. Not only is the case most likely another domestic, but Conway and Moran are instructed to work with a more experienced detective, charismatic Breslin will be along to show them the ropes on interviewing witnesses and effectively working a murder case. Conway bristles at being saddled with Breslin. Quickly they develop differences of opinion. The evidence against the boyfriend, the owner of a local bookshop, is formidable; Breslin says go for an arrest, but something about the mild mannered bookseller sways Moran and Conway setting them on a career jeopardizing tightrope. Meanwhile, a mysterious man is shadowing Conway and the victim's best friend seems to be hiding something.



***Until the Next Time*** by Kevin Fox. Sean's father has a doozy of a 21<sup>st</sup> birthday surprise for him, the journal of a long dead uncle. Sean was unaware of any uncles, let alone a former cop who goes on the lam for shooting a civil rights activist and then dies while palling around with the IRA in Ireland. His Dad passes him the journal and a plane ticket along with the advice to go find the truth. But truth can travel down some strange paths. Why would his uncle, a cop, shoot the civil rights worker? It doesn't feel right to Sean. He starts walking in his dead uncle's footsteps. Sean learns of his uncle's love for a woman, a love that will last through time, a love that may live on in Sean. He also learns there are people who want the past to stay hidden, dangerous people. His Uncle's story is complicated by love, betrayal, and loyalty. The journal is telling not only of his Uncle's past but also giving clues to Sean's future. From the day Sean opens the first page of the journal his life will never be the same. This story has it all: suspense, a love story, vivid history, and an intriguing mystery. It's a page turner.



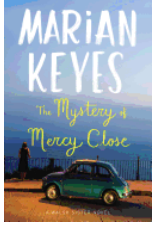
***Brooklyn*** by Colm Toibin is set in the years following WWII when work is hard to find in Ireland. Ellis can only find a part time job in a shop and the prospects for improvement are not good. A priest from America offers to sponsor Ellis to come to Brooklyn where he promises to find her employment. Ellis doesn't really want to leave her mother or her sister Rose. She keeps inside the turmoil and puts on a brave face, because she knows it is an opportunity for her to make a living. She hopes something will keep her in Ireland, but she is on the boat when it pulls away headed for a new world. Ellis's homesickness is bone crushing. She misses her mother and sister fiercely. Thankfully the Priest recognizes Ellis's pain and forms a plan to get her back into the stream of life. He signs Ellis up for night classes. Between work and school, she is a busy girl. The experience of an Irish immigrant in Brooklyn is described so well you feel like you are right there with the characters. The story is set in Ireland and the US.



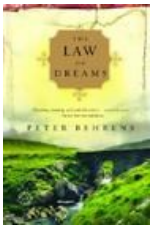
## Month of Ireland



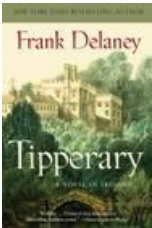
Writing a book with such weighty topics as alcohol addiction and abuse that is insightful, well written, and funny should be nigh on impossible. Not for Marian Keyes. ***This Charming Man*** tells the story from the perspective of 4 very different women, Lola, Grace, Marnie, and Alicia. What the women have in common is Paddy de Courcy, a handsome Irish politician exuding charisma and sex appeal by the bucketful. Paddy is every woman's dream, but a hard man to hold onto. Loosing Paddy affects them in different ways and colors their relationship with men in future. The story opens with Paddy's engagement to Alicia and its effect on Lola, Marnie and Grace. Marian Keyes has written a fast paced, page turner about flawed people (aren't we all). There will be plenty of moments where you will say "WHAT were you thinking???" and then realize thinking didn't enter into the equation, sometimes our decisions are made by our heart and our vulnerabilities. Along the way, there are plenty laughs and a good story.



***The Mystery of Mercy Close*** by Marian Keyes showcases the author's talent for writing light amusing novels that contain within weightier subjects deftly handled. On the one hand this is an amusing tale about a dysfunctional PI hired by a former boyfriend to find the missing fourth member of a famous nineties boys band set to do a big comeback concert. On the other hand this is the story of a young woman battling depression, trying to survive an unforgiving economic collapse while working in the financially precarious field of private detection, and suffering the ignominy of resorting to moving back in with her parents after losing her dream apartment. There are all the requisite high jinx attendant on association with popular musicians and ex-boyfriends. Mercy's sisters are quick to help out when called; the bond of the women is strong. Funny it is, but it will make you think too. A splendid combination.



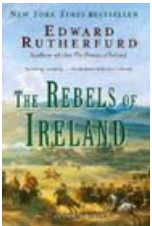
***The Law of Dreams*** by Peter Behrens is historical fiction about the bleak days of the Irish potato famine. Peter's forbearers emigrated from Ireland to Canada during the famine. This is a book he needed to write, a searing look at the type of hardships faced by his family. In the mid 1800's Ireland was hit by a double whammy, potato blight and the black fever. Land owners were Englishmen interested in the bottom line. If potatoes were not going to be profitable, livestock would be raised instead. All those tenant farmers could be dispensed with; livestock would not require their labor. Englishmen instructed their overseers to evict the tenants. Troops were called in, cabins burned and a country endured the shame of poor, homeless, starving people trying to live under the hedgerows. Fergus had lived his short life always on the same farm, the son of tenant farmers. In return for working the landlord's crops the tenants were allowed their tiny cottage and tiny plot of land to grow potatoes. Fergus is in shock from the death of his family, reeling from the loss of his home. Weakened by fever and starvation he joins the throngs of other poor people on the road. It is a violent, hard time in Ireland. Many leave, going elsewhere looking for a job, food, and shelter. Fergus joins the tide of human cargo heading first to England to work on the railway then on to Canada.



***Tipperary*** by Frank Delaney combines history of Ireland during a turbulent period, a love story, and the unraveling of long held secrets. It is an entertaining story that travels from Ireland to Paris and back again. The story opens with a father and son watching as a poor family are evicted from their home, the domicile torn apart before them, left with nothing. Charles O'Brien led an eventful life, falling in love with a woman of the landed gentry, trying to aid Oscar Wilde in the last years of his life, and keeping a journal of his wanderings. Many famous figures from history are included in the story, from the poet Yeats to the founders of the IRA. The story shifts time periods as Charles' journal is discovered decades later and divulged by a narrator who has a stake in the outcome.



Edward Rutherfurd writes sprawling, epic historical fiction. ***Princes of Ireland*** begins in 430 A.D. when Ireland was a wild and pagan land, covers the Viking invasion, the Norman conquest by Henry II in 1167, and on to Henry VIII's creation of the Church of England. ***Rebels of Ireland*** takes up the story in 1597, covers the oppression of the Irish by their English overlords, the potato famine, strife between Protestant and Catholic, and on to Daniel O'Connell and the Irish struggle for independence. Rutherfurd tells scrupulously researched history by populating the time periods with fictional characters and giving history a narrative through the experiences of these characters, making history and its impact on those living through the time feel real. The lines of families are followed down through generations, their triumphs and failures featured as they are impacted by history. This creating a time line with hundreds of years of history then weaving in the stories of regular people to illustrate the effects of the major events taking place grants history a humanity that makes it easier to grasp. The struggles of the Irish are fully explored along with their pride, creativity, and determination. Fans of Michener will find much to like in Rutherfurd's historical fiction, as will anyone enjoying a good story with historical detail.



Anthony Trollope wrote an impressive number of insightful entertaining novels in the 1800's. He created a sympathetic politician (not always an easy task), featured in ***Phineas Finn*** and ***Phineas Redux*** as well as having roles in several other books by Trollope. Phineas has quite a few adventures, falls for difficult women, and tries to get ahead in the political scene at a time being Irish was not considered beneficial. The books have a wealth of information about what life was like in that era because that is when they were written. The reform act of 1867 is part of the stories as conservatives and liberals clashed. In ***Phineas Redux*** a murder and the return of an old flame whose husband is bent on Phineas' destruction make for a lively story. The role of women is explored, as Phineas gets entangled in various contretemps. Trollope's novels are also very funny and those featuring Phineas can be quite humorous.

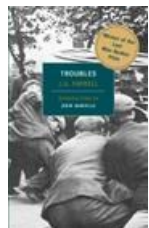


## October 2017 Book Clubs.

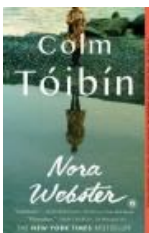
Books can take you to new lands, let you experience different cultures, and expand horizons. Each October we focus on a different region or country. This October we focus on **A Month of Ireland**. Join us in reading interesting books set in Ireland. Book Club discussions are held on Mondays at 6:00 PM, everyone is welcome.



Mystery Book Club kicks off the month October 2 with a discussion of ***The Secret Place*** by Tana French. Holly, the daughter of Detective Frank Mackey, was just a little mite in ***Faithful Place*** by Tana French. Now she has grown into a fine lass, a teenage boarder at toney St. Kilda school. Detective Stephen Moran hasn't seen her in years when she shows up unexpectedly. Says she has something to give him, something she found on ***The Secret Place***, a bulletin board at the school where the teens post their secrets. A year back Christopher Harper, handsome, popular, a boarder at the adjacent boy's school, Colms, was found dead in a flower bed at St. Kildas. The case has gone unsolved. Holly discovered a card with a picture of Chris on the board, hinting that someone knows what happened. Detective Moran works Cold Cases, but he would love a shot at getting on the murder squad. Holly came to him with her information, so maybe knowing her from before will be just the wedge the detectives would need to get the teens to open up about what they know. Detective Antoinette Conway, tall, acerbic, brilliant, not beloved by her colleagues, is in charge of the case. Conway not only doesn't suffer fools gladly, she doesn't suffer them at all. But this woman cares deeply about her job. Taking Moran along to investigate this new lead makes sense, maybe he can relate to the kids in the posh schools in a new way, open up a path to the truth. The story shifts between the two detectives and Holly's friends. French's writing is absolutely vivid.



October 16 the Classics Book Club discusses ***Troubles*** by J.G. Farrell. Home on leave for a few days from WWI Major Brendan Archer might have, maybe, sort of become betrothed to Angela Spencer, an Irish lass vacationing in London whose family own a hotel on the coast. With the war over, Brendan heads to Ireland to sort the matter out, discover if he is to be wed, or clear up the misunderstanding. His arrival disabuses him of any notion this might be a normal hotel, oh no, nothing normal about this place. At one time it must have been quite grand, but the eccentric Spencers have let it go to wrack and ruin. There are huge plants growing right up through the floor, taking over what used to be large, gracious common rooms, a colony of cats has colonized the bar and the upper floor. The hotel is mostly empty, except an occasional guest and the cadre of elderly widows of slender means who make the place home, they remember the hotel's glory days and have nowhere else to go. Brendan finds himself oddly ignored by Angela, the woman who is possibly his fiancée and wrote him voluminous letters. The rest of her family, as well as the guests, have no confusion on the issue, Brendan is Angela's fiancée, end of story. He soon is swept up in the affairs of the Spencers; Anglo-Irish, protestant, upper crust (albeit quirky). As Ireland bristles at British rule, violence erupts between Irish Catholics wanting freedom from Britain and Irish Protestants loyal to the crown. The brilliantly written story veers from comedy to tragedy and back again. Like Jane Austen, Farrell's writing career was cut short by an early death. He perished at 44, swept out to sea by a rogue wave while fishing on the Irish Coast. Farrell won the Man Booker prize for ***The Siege of Krishnapur*** set in India.



**A Month of Ireland** concludes with the Fiction Book Club's discussion of ***Nora Webster*** by Colm Tóibín on October 23. ***Nora Webster*** married the love of her life, Maurice, a respected school teacher, beloved by many. Nora took care of their four children. Summers were spent at a little vacation cottage by the sea, life was sweet. Life can have many paths, sometimes they change unexpectedly. Maurice suffered a debilitating illness and died, Nora's grief left no room for anyone else. She expected to grow old beside this man she adored, to hold hands walking along the sea, to go to the pub for company and a laugh, to sit quietly together as the gloaming turns to night. Instead she is alone, with meager funds, daughters in college, two young sons, and not a clue how to go on. Friends and relatives try to help; sometimes that help veers from suggesting to deciding. Underneath that raw pain and sorrow, Nora realizes she will have to choose this next path, to learn how to live without Maurice and somehow come to both enjoy life today and look forward to what tomorrow will bring. It is not easy, not easy at all. But what I liked about this book is the way Nora takes her life back, goes to work at the same place she was employed right out of school and refuses to be browbeaten, starts to realize that maybe it is okay if she uses some of her meager resources for a new frock to please herself, discovers that yes, indeed, she still loves music in deep and meaningful ways. Nora's grief is intense, but she discovers the will to go on, to choose her next path in life, and to relish the possibilities.

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

**Please note, hours for Book Club have changed, book club begins at 6:00 PM.**

Everyone is welcome, light refreshments are served.

November 6, 2017 ***Girl Waits With Gun*** by Amy Stewart [Mystery Book Club](#)

November TBD ***Life Without a Recipe*** by Diana Abu-Jaber [Non-Fiction Book Club \(Author led discussion\)](#)

November 20, 2017 ***Everyone Brave is Forgiven*** by Chris Cleave [Fiction Book Club](#)

December 4, 2017 ***The Lake House*** by Kate Morton [Mystery Book Club](#)

December 18, 2017 ***Small Great Things*** by Jodi Picoult [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 using space in Sunriver Village, please remember the Village owners have kindly provided space in the loft area above Sunriver Books & Music. The space is available for uses compatible with the bookstore during Sunriver Books & Music's hours of operation. Using the space is free. To reserve the space for your group contact Deon at Sunriver Books & Music. Sunriver Village is an ideal place to meet. After concluding the day's agenda enjoy a meal at one of the Village restaurants and browse in the many shops.**

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