



Sunriver Books & Music

October 2013

Newsletter

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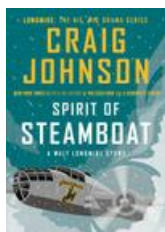
Diane Hammond returns October 5th at 5:00 for a debut presentation on **Friday's Harbor**. Killer Whales were once Diane Hammond's main interest, she was intimately involved in the Keiko Foundation. She brings the background of someone who has

had an unusual opportunity to be quite close to an individual whale to the story. Three years after the conclusion of **Hannah's Dream** there have been a few changes at the Max L. Biedelman Zoo. Truman is now zoo director, Sam has retired, and Neva is managing a doggie daycare. As they go about their various duties, a whale is nearing his end in the warm water of his tiny Columbian pool. Gabriel, a specialist on working with whales, gives him a year at best; he will perish if not moved to better surroundings. Truman's aunt has time on her hands and way too much money. She cajoles her favorite nephew into accepting the whale and bankrolls his move from Columbia to the Pacific Northwest. This whale has personality! Hammond's experience is put to good use in crafting a story with a killer whale who engages the reader and entertains. There are a variety of plot twists, an animal communicator ill used by a publicity seeking local journalist, animal rights advocates intent on "freeing" the killer whale at any cost, and the feeding frenzy of the press and public when the whale arrives. Through it all, the killer whale stars and will capture the reader's heart.



Hannah's Dream is a lovely story. Sam has been Hannah's keeper since he returned from the Korean War and found work on Max Biedelman's opulent estate. Max traveled the world, bringing back animals from Africa and Southeast Africa, creating a little piece of paradise here in the northwest. Max wanted her animals to go on living in the same style; she left her estate to the city as a zoo. Forty years later the opulence is long past, the zoo is a labyrinth of concrete, vendor's carts and enclosures. Hannah spends her days with Sam and her nights locked in the barn alone, standing on the cold concrete floor. Sam is getting on in years, diabetes takes a toll on his health, he worries about Hannah. When he has to retire who will care for Hannah? At nights his dreams of lush meadows with many elephants, in the morning the only comfort he can bring Hannah is a bag of Dunkin donuts. He knows the zoo director, Harriett, does not have a clue about Hannah's needs. Profit she understands; the needs of an elephant are a bit more hazy. A new assistant keeper makes Sam believe dreams can come true.

Seeing Stars was an "Indie Next" pick. Hollywood sparkles as child actors reach for that gold ring, desperate to make the next booking and land the part that will make them a star. The story draws you in as the young actors try booking Hollywood. **Going to Bend** and **Homesick Creek** are both strong novels set in Oregon. Hammond writes stories that feel real, with everyday people doing their best to get by.



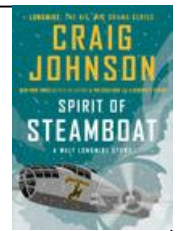
October brings a surprise to Sunriver! Craig Johnson will debut **The Spirit of Steamboat**, at the SHARC Center on **Wednesday** October 16th at 5:30. We are very honored to be debuting this International and New York Times Best Selling author's latest book and grateful the community has such a great venue at the SHARC Center. Johnson's Walt Longmire mysteries inspired A&E's hit TV series Longmire. Sign up early to attend this free event!

Craig Johnson's loyalty and support of our Independent bookstore has touched us greatly, we appreciate his generosity of spirit and awesome talent. He continues to visit us and give great presentations even though he is booked into much larger venues internationally. His books have been Indie Next List Picks and won awards in Europe and the USA. Craig puts on an excellent presentation; he is the star of our lineup. We hope he continues to return to us for many years to come.





Spirit of Steamboat covers new territory, it is a story readers of the Longmire series will appreciate and it is just as enjoyable for those who have never read Longmire. In fact, it would be a great introduction to Walt Longmire. The story takes place during Walt's first year as Sheriff.



WWII was an era, a time, that required men of great courage. Unfortunately there have been too many such eras requiring courage and blood sacrifice. WWII engulfed whole continents in a sinister conflagration that could have given birth to a very different world. Imagine a world where Hiel Hitler is the standard salutation, it is not a pleasant thought. Edmond Burke said "*The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men should do nothing.*" Sometimes the action required of good men is to march out on missions that are akin to suicide. The Doolittle Raiders were such

men. On April 18, 1942 aboard the USS Hornet in the Pacific 80 men led by Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle climbed into 16 B25B Medium Bombers heading to Japan for a bombing raid on Tokyo then on into China. Fuel was limited; they were flying a long way over hostile territory where other men in planes would try to kill them. In ***The Spirit of Steamboat*** a Doolittle Raider is desperately needed to once more take on a mission with the odds stacked against him, Lucian Connally, the former Sheriff does not even flinch.

Another inspiration Craig Johnson used is a big, black horse named Steamboat described by Jack Bowers as *the closest thing to perpetual motion that ever wore hair*. Craig Johnson will tell you more in the story.

The Spirit of Steamboat opens on a snowy Christmas Eve when a mysterious woman arrives at Walt's office seeking the former Sheriff, Lucian Connally. Christmas is a time of tradition and reflection, of feeling thankful for what life grants. Walt's holiday ritual is re-reading Charles Dickens' ***A Christmas Carol***. It looks to be a lonesome holiday for Walt and Dog this year, Cady is nesting in Philly, Henry Standing Bear has a new lady friend, and Vic is in Belize. The holiday is shaping up to be Walt, Dog, the former Sheriff Lucian Connolly and a chessboard when Ruby alerts Walt to the presence of a dark haired woman needing to see him. She has something to deliver to Lucian. 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, flying alongside Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle. 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.

Read this book any season and it will keep you on the edge of your seat. Craig Johnson manages to tell a story of great courage and compassion while seasoning it with humor; the man is a born raconteur. Make it a Holiday ritual to re-read this story. As we move toward the Holiday Season, I cannot think of a better, more enjoyable gift for those close to you. Followers of Craig Johnson's Walt Longmire series will enjoy meeting Walt in his first year as Sheriff and a younger Lucian Connolly. This book stands on its own, destined to be a holiday favorite.

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, blazingly smart, and a favorite of the ladies. Vic is a transplant from a family of Philadelphia cops. She is street tough, possessed of a razor sharp tongue, and ready to meet all situations head on. The story revolves around four white boys who got off without so much as slapped hands for raping a Native American girl in high school. Now, years later, someone is shooting them dead.

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.

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 he fears is innocent. She was 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 mountain-side 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 will have to give quick sheriff lessons if they are to catch a killer.

A Serpent's Tooth marries excellent writing with an inventive mystery and characters you cannot help but like. Sheriff Walt Longmire's latest involves Cord, 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

Wyoming has a wild, starkly beautiful landscape. You can drive for miles and see nothing but distant mountains and wide open spaces. Craig Johnson lives surrounded by this land, he writes so well that you will feel as if you stepped into his part of Wyoming. The landscape is vividly portrayed. Craig Johnson created characters you will want to visit again; they come to feel like old friends. A touch of humor spices each story, for how else would they face the day?

Dan and Kim Feer were the photographers for the pictures of Craig Johnson. We will have light refreshments and drawings for prizes. Sign up to attend this free event by e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or calling 541-593-2525 or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.



Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday November 2nd 2013 at 5:00 PM **The Devil's Interval** by Linda Lee Peterson

Saturday February 15th 2014 at 5:00 PM **Hall of Secrets** by Cate Campbell

Saturday March 29th 2013 **Worthy Brown's Daughter** by Phillip Margolin

Saturday April 12th 2014 at 5:00 PM **The Dismal Science** by Peter Mountford

Saturday May 17th 2014 **The Three Emperors** by William Dietrich

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



Exquisite nature photography is on display at Sunriver Books & Music. Dr. Sue Dougherty takes amazing pictures that capture intricate detail with sublime accuracy. She has been a passionate photographer for decades. Honing her craft to make her pictures bring their subjects alive with vivid clarity. Dougherty spends much of her free time in the out of doors, spending the time necessary to get the right shot. Her collection includes a brilliantly colored mountain bluebird emerging from his hole in the rough bark of a tree. The contrast of the brightly colored bird and the dark bark draws your eye in a very pleasing manner. She stakes out the tree where her subject nests every year, spending hours waiting for the right shot. Included in the display is a gorgeous picture of Great Horned Owl, it is one of my favorites. The owl looks so alive and intense, its gaze fixed on the viewer. Clearly this photographer has a connection and empathy with the natural world. She also has a great eye for perfectly composing the right shot. Her prices are very reasonable, framed photos range from \$100 to \$175 based on size.

Science and art seem to go hand and hand. This is definitely the case with Dr. Sue Dougherty. If you ever need the care of a specialist for your fur bearing companion, you could not do better than Dr. Dougherty. The CEO of Sunriver Books & Music, Flashman, is with us today because of her good care. Hopefully she will keep him with us for a long time to come. Dr. Sue Dougherty is a board certified internist. If you are ever in need of specialized care for your companion, have your vet refer you. Dr. Dougherty's husband Dr. Mark Parchman is a gifted surgeon. Flashman is walking around due to his good care. Both of these people are wonderfully kind. I can describe a perfect Dr. Dougherty moment. I was walking past the back of her clinic once, she was unaware anyone was around, she had a new patient, a black lab, Dr. Dougherty had gotten down on the floor and was kissing this worried dog she had just met. Now that is the kind of care I want for my best friend! She is the best. Mark Parchman too. Their clinic is Bend Veterinary Specialists 541-312-2114.

A Book Of The Month subscription is a great idea! Sign up for a subscription to receive a surprise book every month! The cost for the last quarter of 2013 is \$46.90 picked up in the store and \$52.90 mailed in the US. The last six months of 2013 costs \$90.84 picked up in the store or \$102.84 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book! I enjoy selecting the books for you and take seriously my obligation to discover books that will engage the reader. In the past we featured *Burning Bright* by Tracy Chevalier, *That Old Ace In The Hole* by Annie Proulx, and *A Guide To The Birds of East Africa* by Nicholas Drayson. Purchase a subscription and enjoy the next surprise book.

Rachel Kelley Recommends

Burial Rites by Hannah Kent. Agnes has been condemned, convicted of murder, a maid dehumanized into a monster. All she wants is for someone to listen, so that they might understand what happened that Spring night in 1828. She is taken to the Icelandic farm at Kornsó to stay with the family there while she awaits the day of her execution. Angry and disgusted that they must house a murderess, the family keeps Agnes at arm's length and under watchful eye. That is, until, the Assistant Reverend Toti arrives to prepare Agnes for her journey to God. As they sit in their badstofa by the fire, the family and the reverend finally begin to listen. They could never expect what Agnes would have to say, or that they would come to care for this woman whom they had once feared. *Burial Rites* follows the tale of Agnes Magnúsdóttir, the last woman ever to be executed in Iceland, and how she came to that chopping block all those years ago. Elegantly written, this heart-rending tale of a misunderstood woman unfolds, dragging you into Agnes' world one word at a time.



Nancy Nelson Recommends

Enon, by Paul Harding. Charlie Harding has just lost his thirteen year old daughter, Kate. She was bicycling home from the beach with a friend one sunny September afternoon when she was hit by a car. Charlie was leaving the bird sanctuary, where he had spent his afternoon when he got a phone call, and heard the devastating news. From that point on the story is interlaced with Charlie's experience of shock and sadness, and his life before and after the accident, his steady decline and withdrawal from life. Charlie seems to fall to being beyond fixing. I have never read or heard such detailed descriptions of sadness. At one point he says: "...and worse still, because broken hearts continue beating..." He goes on to say: "...But Kate gave my life joy. I loved her totally, and while I loved her, the world was love..." His world of love was shattered. Charlie breaks into the house of an old acquaintance who tells him the plain truth of what he has become. We see him then, slowly making peace with himself and the world, discovering the blessing of the time he did have with his child. I loved this book. I loved the writing. I loved participating in this broken man's life, looking inside of his most intimate feelings.



After Her, by Joyce Maynard. It is the summer of 1979, Marin County, California. Sisters Rachael and Patty are growing up exploring Mount Tamalpais just behind their house, sharing secrets, acting out plays, enjoying their childhoods with very little adult interference or direction. One day the body of a young woman is found on the mountain park trails. Their father, Detective Torricelli is in charge of the investigation. Soon after, another body is found, then another. The kids at Rachael's school hold the detective in very high esteem. Locals are generally afraid; the hiking trails are pretty much abandoned. Rachael, with Patty's cooperation collects data that might be pertinent to the case. Years pass, and the serial murders continue for a while, remaining unsolved. In the meantime, Rachael's efforts to discover the identity of the serial killer have brought on some serious and life altering consequences. The story takes the reader into a family situation, complicated by ordinary problems of life family, and divorce, exacerbated by the unsolved crimes. I found myself thinking "if only this person could have realized". The book is an engaging mixture of murder mystery, childhood memoir, coming of age story told by Rachael.



Swimming in the Moon, by Pamela Schoenewaldt. In 1904 Italy, Teresa Esposito and her 14 year old daughter, Lucia were servants. Teresa is a beautiful young woman blessed with a gift for singing. As a servant of an unappreciative and abusive Count, she has very little opportunity for improving her life. It becomes necessary for her to flee her abusive employer. With the help of friends, Teresa and Lucia leave the warm and gentle climate of Italy for the cold and very different Cleveland, Ohio. Life there is, at best, difficult. Women workers, especially, are underpaid, putting in long hours with very little time off. Teresa finds a way out of the factory by joining a vaudeville troupe. Lucia is able to attend high school. However, Teresa's dream of singing, and Lucia's dream of pursuing her education are thwarted. As Lucia tells their story, she gives the reader a view of the struggles of immigrants and women and how they worked to improve living and working conditions for everyone. She talks about mental illness, attitudes of many Americans toward immigrants, and women, some romance, the hardships of survival, and the beginnings of organizing labor. The story was captivating, completely enjoyable.



In Falling Snow by Mary Rose-MacColl. Iris is an elderly Australian woman who appears to have lived a peaceful and uncomplicated life. She and her husband Al have raised their daughter Rose. When Rose died, they raised their granddaughter, Claire. Claire grew up to be a doctor, as well as wife and mom. She is completely unaware of her grandmother's history, and therefore of her place in that past. Then the memories surface when Iris receives an invitation to attend a reunion at the field hospital, Royamount, in France, which she helped to establish. The story presents Claire's life, intermittently returning to Iris's memory of those times. Iris had traveled to France with the intention of bringing her little brother Tom home. Tom had run away at the age of 15 to enlist in fighting with the British, lying about his age. On route, she met Dr. Frances Ivens. This very charismatic person convinced Iris to help her convert a French abbey into a hospital to be run entirely by women. It was there that Iris found her strengths. She became the administrator of the hospital, indispensable to the medical director, Frances. In the meantime, Tom continued to function as a British soldier. Iris returned home with baby Rose near the end of the war. The book brings out circumstances of great courage and dedication. Iris's past reaches into the present to touch Claire's life in unexpected ways. Great Story!



Staff Recommendations
Lori Gascon recommends

Lies You Wanted to Hear By James Whitfield Thomson.

Lucy and Matt seemed to live the perfect life – a beautiful woman married to the perfect gentleman, a happy couple with two adorable children – but things are not always what they appear. Lies and deceptions float just under the surface of their life together, each guilty of things that they would like to forget, or not forget. After just a few years of marriage, Matt is compelled to file for divorce. Lucy is grateful that she does not need to live with her lies anymore. But Matt has one more big deception he has to complete, and it will affect all four of their lives forever. One day, the children are gone, and Matt is missing. Lucy grieves, days turning into months, and then years. If nothing else, Lucy loved her children more than herself, and wonders what would make Matt do what the police think he has done. What makes a man, a loving father, step outside of his life and change everything he has ever known? Sometimes love propels people to do things they would normally never give a second thought to. This compelling debut novel tells a story of just what it is lying below the surface in all of us who have loved and lost, and are simply human.

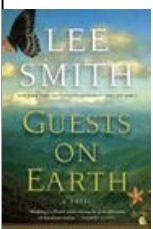


Deon Recommends



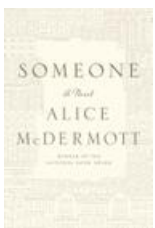
The Longest Road by Philip Caputo. Pulitzer Prize winner Caputo has always been one of my favorite wordsmiths, telling compelling stories about complicated people and far off lands. Two watershed events, the death of his father and the approach of his 70th birthday, sent him on an amazing journey. A decade earlier Caputo had marveled at the ties that bound Eskimo school children in an Inupiat village to pledge allegiance to the same flag as the offspring of Cuban refugees in Florida. Diverse and chaotic, somehow this vast nation worked, blended together into a whole greater than the parts. But things have changed; by 2011 the economic meltdown had stripped the middle and lower classes down to the bare bones while the top 1% gobbled the country's assets leaving little for the rest. The country seemed to be pulling apart rather than together. Caputo was facing his own mortality, the realization that his 70's might have greater restrictions than his earlier years. He needed a grand gesture, a quest. He would drive pulling an Airstream trailer from Key West Florida to Deadhorse Alaska, a journey of epic proportions, accompanied by his two dogs, Sage and Sky. Along the way he would take stock of the country, gauge its divisions and see if he could find that united spirit. Sage was older and deaf, enabling her to completely ignore his frantic pleas and jump into swift rivers. Sky was young and full of the young dog crazies. Caputo soon decided that perhaps leaving the wife at home was not such a grand idea, his journey need not be solitary, so wife Leslie came along. This enabled Caputo to build up husband points for such ideas as sending his wife off alone on a wild goose chase through grizzly country on foot. Clearly being married to the man is a bit of an adventure.

Traveling Light by Andrea Thalasinis. Paula spent a decade in a sham marriage, her husband an educated man who in private is a hoarder. Paula is barred from the bedroom, a room stacked with boxes; instead she sleeps on the couch while her husband sleeps in the cluttered locked bedroom. Paula is called to the bedside of a dying Greek man to interpret; he is distraught over the fate of his dog, Foris. Paula never thought of owning a dog, and is not thinking of it when she goes to the animal shelter and rescues the dog. She assumes she will give it to her friend, when that does not work she takes stock of her life and decides for a time out. Paula leaves home and takes a road trip with Foris, stopping along the way to volunteer working with raptors at a wildlife rehabilitation center. Foris breaks Paula open, cracks the shell she constructed to save her from emotional pain, and makes her feel again. Paula will have to decide what is important; her career, her marriage, or the joy she finds working with wild beings.



Guests on Earth by Lee Smith. Evalina Toussaint's mother lived by the kindness of men, an unstable sort of life that ended too soon. Mr. Graves tries to do right by the 13 year old child of his mistress, bringing her into his family; it is an attempt that fails. Evalina is sent to the Highland Hospital in Ashville, North Carolina where Dr. Robert Carroll is trying a new brand of therapy on the mentally ill; exercise, walks outdoors, gardening, music, art to keep them active and involved. Evalina's musical talents are encouraged, she flourishes. Notorious Zelda Fitzgerald, wife of the famous author, F. Scott Fitzgerald, is one of the fellow residents. The two form a friendship that is strengthened over the years as circumstances return them to the Highland Hospital until that fateful night in 1948 when a fire will claim the life of Zelda and 8 other patients.

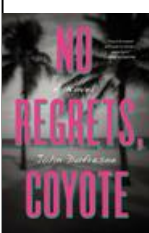
Someone by Alice McDermott. Mattie lives an everyday kind of life; daughter, sister, wife, and mother. The story hops around through the events that unfold in a normal lifetime. She faces challenges; poor eyesight, the death of loved ones, and worries. Mattie's first brush with death occurs in childhood when a neighbor woman dies in an accident. She worries over her brother when his chosen path in life crumbles and he leaves the Catholic priesthood. WWII casts its shadow over the land, marking both her brother and her husband. It is in the very ordinariness of Mattie's life that we come to appreciate the character of the woman, to cheer her triumphs and feel empathy for her sadness. Ultimately the story celebrates the fragility of life and the accomplishment of a life well lived



Spirit Keeper by K.B. Laugheed. Katie O'Toole's life is about to come to an abrupt end in 1747 when the family farm is raided by Indians. She is reprieved when two Indians, Syawa and Hector, take possession of her. It seems the pair has been searching for this Creature of Fire and Ice since the holy man, Syawa had a vision the 17 year old fiery redhead with ice blue eyes fits to a t. Katie is sure Syawa is in error, but being a Creature of Fire and Ice beats being dead. Syawa crossed a continent to find her, now Katie will make the same trek. Along the way she gains painful knowledge, embraces a new culture, finds love and steps into her new role as a Spirit Keeper.

Deon Recommends

All Good Things; From Paris to Tahiti; Life and Longing by Sarah Turnbull. Aussie Sarah Turnbull wrote of a French vacation that turned into a marriage to a Frenchman and a new home in **Almost French**. It has been a few years; they have remodeled their apartment, and were settled in quite nicely when adventure presents itself in an opportunity for Sarah's husband Frederic to accept a transfer to Tahiti. Imagine living in a tropical paradise where you walk out your back door to an ocean gleaming in obscenely opulent shades of turquoise and deep blue. Sarah shares with the reader their difficult decision to leave Paris, the challenges of moving to an island paradise, and her new life on a remote island full of interesting characters and gorgeous scenery. Another part of the story is the difficulty Sarah and Fredric have in conceiving a child, then the joy and fear of raising a new young life.



No Regrets, Coyote by John Dufresne. DuFresne's writing has long been a delight, **Louisiana Power and Light** is a great favorite. Now he has turned his talent to literary mystery with a novel that is hopefully the start of a long running series. DuFresne's charm is in his quirky characters, their inherent humanity despite flaws, and his storytelling. He is a great raconteur. Coyote is a therapist and forensic consultant who occasionally assists the Eden Florida cops with a bead on the type of person they should seek when a violent crime occurs. He is called to the scene of what appears to be a murder suicide, the destruction of a family. Something does not ring true to Coyote, he refuses to let go of the case when the police want to conveniently wrap it up. Coyote's father is suffering from dementia, his sister has a slew of issues, and there is the maybe girlfriend who has a thing for amputees. The action goes from Florida to Alaska with a truly violent denouement. While the action is there, read DuFresne for the character studies of people just a bit off kilter trying hard to make their way in a challenging world. And of course, read DuFresne for his humor, this man has a way with words.

The Purchase by Linda Spalding. The road to perdition is paved with good intentions, or so they say. Daniel was a good man, a Quaker, and a fine upstanding member of his community. When his wife dies he does not have the heart to turn out the serving girl he procured from an orphanage. He has five children to raise, one just a babe, as his community will not abide a single unmarried woman living in his home, he marries the girl only making matters worse in the process. Shunned by the Quakers over the unseemly haste of his marriage to Ruth, he decides to leave Pennsylvania for the frontier land of Virginia, a place where the community allows a bit more freedom. Except Daniel takes his beliefs with him, he is an ardent abolitionist. Now in this new land it is not so easy to stay true to his beliefs while his neighbors own people as property, keeping them in harsh conditions and using whips to impose their will. The story of Daniel's family, how they grow, how they fit in with their neighbors is both interesting and thought provoking. While Daniel always means well, his choices often lead him into uncomfortable, sometimes tragic, situations. I liked Ruth, she is given so little but gets out there and makes the best of her life.



A Beautiful Truth by Colin McAdam. Walter is besotted with his wife Judy, a woman with a deep sadness over her inability to have a child. They considered adoption but the wait was long and the odds of success longer still. In 1972 Walt viewed a magazine about a chimp being reared in a home. The baby looked so human and cute! Walt thought this might be just the way to lift Judy out of her depression. He had money, so buying the animal would not be a problem. And for a long while it worked, sort of. For although the chimp is closely related to humans, there are some crucial differences in the area of strength, communication, and cultural taboos. The story switches from Walter and Judy's time with baby Looee to the voices of chimps living in a Florida facility, where they have proven that chimps have language skills, memory, and the ability to solve problems. Indeed they share many of the emotions of their human cousins. Inevitably and tragically the stories will converge. This is a book that will not only entertain but will provoke thought. A great book club selection.

Alex by Pierre LeMaitre. Steig Larsson's Millenium Trilogy marries Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl. There is one type of case Commandant Camille Verhoeven does not take, kidnapping. His pregnant wife, Irene, was kidnapped, no one saw her alive again. Verhoeven had a breakdown, unable to live with the grief of losing her or the guilt of being unable to save her. Verhoeven does not investigate kidnappings, until the night a woman is snatched off the street, with no leads and no other detective available. Verhoeven knows time is critical as he steps back into a role he sought to avoid. Alex's kidnapper is a brutal man, quick to use violence. She is hoisted naked into a cage where he plans to watch her die. Alex is tough, but will she be tough enough to withstand the terror and depravation? Just when you think you have the plot figured out, this author will pivot down a different twisted alley. Hang on for a wild ride!



Songs of Willow Frost by Jamie Ford for all of you who have been waiting for the next book from the talented author of **Hotel On The Corner of Bitter and Sweet**. Jamie Ford brings Depression Era Seattle alive on the pages in this story focusing on a twelve year old Chinese boy, William Eng, living in Sacred Hearts Orphanage and his vulnerable, damaged mother. The voice shifts back and forth between mother and son. William's last sight of his mother was her limp body being carried down the stairs of their tenement building apartment. The child refuses to believe that his mother is dead, despite the assurance of the Nun's running the orphanage and the evidence of his memory. While William will capture your heart, his Mom's story will take you back to the Roaring Twenties, and the beginning of the Depression, letting you look into the culture of Seattle's Chinese district and the many dangers and pitfalls awaiting the women of the era. Add in sultry Willow's powerful voice for one of those special novels where you do not want the end to come because you do not want to leave these characters.

Staff Recommendations

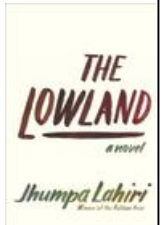
Deon Recommends

Night Film by Marisha Pessl. Inventive plots with twists that will keep you guessing and subjects that make you think are hallmarks of Pessl's writing. Stanislaus Cordova is an edgy, disturbing, cultish film director who uses his daughter Ashley in his creations. At 24 she commits suicide. But why? And was it really suicide? Reporter Scott McGrath will not let go, he is determined to bring out the truth on Ashley. Pessl shades the story with dark magic, a touch of magical realism, and enough danger to keep the reader on the edge of their seats. Webpages, publicity pics, newspaper articles and all sorts of artifacts spice up the story. This is a very visual book. Expect Pessl to keep you guessing to the last page!



Dissident Gardens by Jonathan Lethem. Rose Zimmer, aka the Red Queen, is a force to be reckoned with, a maelstrom of a woman, passionate in her beliefs, staunch in her commitment to communism, fearless in her appetites, and domineering to her loved ones. Rose's history with the opposite sex has not been smooth. Albert, her aristocratic, handsome German Jewish husband, runs afoul of the leaders in the American Communist Party, leaving his wife and child behind as he returns behind the Iron Curtain to Germany. The story opens in Queens in New York circa 1955 as Rose is called on the carpet by the American Communist Party for her choice in lovers, the party's rulers do not like the color of his skin. Each of the characters is in some way touched or influenced by Rose. Miriam has her Mom's passion for activism; her love interest is an Irish Folk singer. Each generation has activists challenging the existing order for the downtrodden, from the American Communist Party of the 30's 40's and 50's to the communes of the 70's and the Occupy movement of today. Through it all Rose's influence speaks across generations.

The Lowland by Jhumpa Lahiri. Subhash and Udiyan Mitra are as close as brothers can be, one completes the other. Subhash is dutiful and longs for understanding. Udiyan is his opposite, where Subhash grants his parents respect and obedience, Udiyan tests every boundary, getting them both in trouble more often than not, being forgiven frequently because who can resist his fearless zest for life. It is rebellious Udiyan not mild mannered Subhash who holds their parent's heart. Both brothers are wildly intelligent. When they reach college age their natures pull them apart. Udiyan is drawn into the Naxalite movement of the 1960's, a spectacular failure in an attempt to lift the multitudes out of poverty and abuse. Subhash travels to a remote corner of America to study. A tragedy will happen in the Lowland, the fate of each brother will affect the life of the other. I found the part of the story dealing with Subhash's relocation to Rhode Island fascinating, the melding of cultures, the idea of living within a culture but apart from it too. Lahiri's writing is, as usual, masterful. She makes you care for these two boys and their world.



Is This Tomorrow by Caroline Leavitt. Ava has a few strikes against her in the Boston suburb where she rents. The neighborhood is not overjoyed at the arrival of a divorced Jewess with a young son. No one welcomes her; even the rental agent would have preferred she rent elsewhere. Ava wants the best for her son Lewis, so she works hard at a job that brings her no joy, scrimps to rent where the schools are good, and endures the neighborhood's disdain. There is one other single mother just a few houses down, although being a widow is far more acceptable in 1956 than being a divorcee. Dot has two children; Jimmy and Rose, they become Lewis's constant companions until the day Jimmy goes missing. Ava is the last person to see Jimmy. Nothing is the same again. A decade later Lewis and Ava have lost the closeness they once enjoyed, he never got over the disappearance of his friend or the absence of his father. Rose is a school teacher, still haunted by the loss of her brother. Yet none of them are ready for the truth when the mystery of the past is revealed.

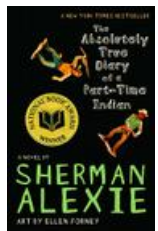
Courting Greta by Ramsey Hootman. Samuel just made a life altering move, quitting his software designing job in LA to take the position of computer science teacher in a small town in Northern California. His first day he wonders if he made a monumental mistake. The school principal is a lout, Samuel is not sure how to go about teaching the kids, and change is difficult for him. He has spina bifida, walking with a brace and crutches is possible but difficult. He is also a bit distant from other people. Possessing a razor sharp intellect he finds suffering fools intolerable. Samuel could not be more different from his father and brother, both big burly, handsome men adept at sports. By nature and condition Samuel has been a loner, a virgin at 34. So why does this intelligent, reclusive man set his sights on Greta? The attraction on Samuel's part is instant and irrational. Greta is an Amazon, a large, muscular, athletic woman; the coach of the woman's basketball team and physical education teacher at the school where Samuel finds himself teaching. Greta is well known for her volcanic temper. If Samuel is averse to suffering fools, Greta would just as soon remove them from the population. She is competent, dedicated, and smart. She expects the rest of the planet to live up to her standards or stay out of her way. Bringing these two strongly opinionated individuals together would be a lot like getting porcupines to cuddle, very prickly. Although it must happen, there are lots of little porcupines around offering proof. As the courtship progresses, fraught with all manner of misunderstanding and travail, the reader discovers what caused the characters to develop their distance from the world. The reader also discovers that both Samuel and Greta are kindhearted and loyal to a fault. I liked that the characters were not made sweet and maudlin; they are a lot more interesting with all of their foibles.



The Green Shore by Natalie Bakopoulos. On a moonlit night in April of 1967 Sophie was a young carefree woman just coming of age attending a party at her boyfriend's house. It was a night that would not only change Sophie's life irrevocably, it would also change Greece. Soldiers storm the party, there is shooting, and screaming amid the chaos of frightened running people. Nick's quick thinking saves them, but instead of hiding with Nick, Sophie is desperate to return to her family, to make sure they are alright. From this night forward Greece would be under the control of a brutal military dictatorship. How would a family cope and survive under the oppressive rule? This is a moving exploration of a family; their loyalty, love, and the risks they are willing to take to resist.

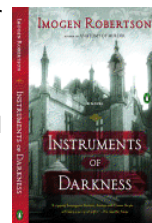
October 2013 Book Clubs.

Fall is a great season to join a book club and meet with others passionate about reading. There are many book clubs around Sunriver. We are a community of readers. Sunriver Books & Music has five active book clubs. In October both the Fiction Book Club and the Mystery Book Club will be meeting on Monday at 6:30.



This October 14th our Fiction Book Club is inaugurating a new tradition. Every year we have celebrated Banned Book Week with a store display. Banned Book Week is usually the last week in September or the first week in October, this year it is September 22nd to September 28th. Limiting ideas by banning books is limiting freedom and choice. Why should anyone be able to tell you what you should or should not read? Isn't being exposed to other ideas and thoughts part of being well rounded and educated? Yet books are banned even today. The Fiction Book Club's selection for the first of our new annual tradition of reading a Banned Book is one of the most banned books in the US, the winner of the National Book Award, ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*** by Sherman Alexie. It was banned in the Redmond Oregon school district and has been banned in many other districts across the US. The story is inspiring and great fun to read. Arnold Spirit, known as Junior, decides not to live down to the expectations of those around him but reach for all he can be. Growing up on the Spokane Reservation he is surrounded by alcoholism and low expectations. Junior is a bright kid; he wants to do more, wants wider horizons. He decides to go to the white school, off the reservation. This is not an easy choice or logistically practical. He will be leaving all that he has known, his friends, his surroundings, and his tribe, to travel daily to an institution of learning where the only other Indian is the mascot for the school team. Junior is not a robust kid; he was born with water on the brain and has been a target for bullies all his life. Just getting to school off the reservation is a challenge, there are no buses serving the rez kids. He has fears for the way he will be treated. Expecting to be at best isolated and at worst tormented, Junior instead finds friends from the geeky nerds to the basketball team and the in crowd. As he takes part in sports, he finds himself competing against his tribe from the reservation. Junior faces the death of loved ones, the despair of alcoholism on the reservation, and grinding poverty. The story takes on themes such as being true to yourself, trying to live up to your potential, accepting others, tribalism, and a host of other relevant issues. Sherman Alexie is a successful, award winning author of national reputation, one of the strongest and most talented voices in Native American fiction today. He grew up on the Spokane Reservation, suffered the same physical condition as his fictional character, and went off the reservation to the same school, Reardon High School. In a 2011 Wall Street Journal essay he commented on the banning of ***The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian***: saying he didn't write to protect the readers. "*It's far too late for that.*" Alexie explained. "*I write to give them weapons -- in the form of words and ideas -- that will help them fight their monsters.*" What parent or adult would not want to find in a book inspiration to accept others as they are and to strive to be your best self? 2014's **Banned Book** selection is ***Zorro*** by Isabel Allende.

October 28th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***Instruments of Darkness*** by Imogen Robertson. Harriet Westerman spent the early years of her marriage traveling with her husband, Commodore Westerman. Those years aboard his sailing vessel honed her independence, intelligence and sense of adventure. These days she is mistress of Cavely Park in West Sussex, mother to Stephen and Anne, and guardian of her younger sister Rachel while her husband is sailing half a world away. Probably not a bad place for him as he surely would not approve of the actions she is about to undertake. In the shrubbery of Cavely Park a body is found. Harriet heads to the abode of the newest member of their community, Gabriel Crowther. He is an anatomist, a man versed in the art of death. Harriet wants justice, she feels the dead man is connected to the powerful family at Thornleigh Hall, her nearest neighbor, and his murder will be swept under the rugs rather than challenge the wealthy landowners. Being aware of Gabriel's reputation as a man of science, she wants him to examine the body and determine if it was murder. There is something unsavory going on at Thornleigh Hall, the Earl's firstborn son left many years past and has not been heard from since. Captain Hugh Thornleigh, the second son, returned from fighting the upstart Americans in the Revolutionary War with grave injuries. Crowther stays away from society and out of public scrutiny. Still he is intrigued by his intelligent headstrong neighbor, finds her friendship intellectually stimulating, and is soon involved in solving the puzzle.



Everyone is welcome at book club, light refreshments will be served.

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

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

November 11th, 2013 ***Gone Girl*** by Gillian Flynn [Mystery Book Club](#)

November 18th 2013 ***Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher*** by Timothy Egan [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

December 2nd, 2013 ***The Orphanmaster*** by Jean Zimmerman [Mystery Book Club](#)

December 9th 2013 ***Straight Man*** by Richard Russo [Fiction Book Club](#)

December 16th 2013 ***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams [Classics Book Club](#)

January 6th 2014 ***The Syringa Tree*** by Pamela Gien [Fiction Book Club](#)

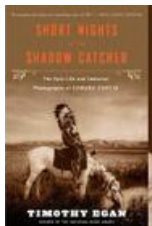
January 13th 2014 ***Cuckoo's Calling*** by J.K. Rowling [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 10th 2014 ***The Case of the Missing Servant*** by Tarquin Hall [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 17th 2014 ***Moloka'i*** by Alan Brennert [Fiction Book Club](#)

February 24th 2014 ***The Black Count*** by Tom Reiss [Non-Fiction Book Club](#)

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



E-readers are changing the landscape for books, not always in gentle ways. Many Independent Bookstores offer e-books for sale, including Sunriver Books & Music. On the right hand side of our website, sunriverbooks.com, you will find information on buying e-books as well a search feature for e-books and print books. In support of Independent Booksellers publishers sometimes offer specials that we pass onto you. Watch our website to see when they are available. We greatly appreciate your support and hope that you consider your Independent Bookstore when purchasing e-books. If you are contemplating the purchase of an e-reader, please know that Amazon's kindle dictates your e-books be purchased from Amazon while the I-pad, the Sony e-reader, and others allow you the freedom to chose.