



# Sunriver Books & Music

## April 2020 Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](https://www.sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



Sunriver Books & Music is closed until April 25 when we hope to reopen depending on the status of the Coronavirus. Check our website, <https://www.sunriverbooks.com/> , for updates as the situation becomes more clear.

Some of our customers feel the risk of the Coronavirus is exaggerated, I truly wish that were the case. Other customers feel this pandemic will be devastating. We do not want to offend anyone over their opinions, but I hope they understand we strongly believe the risk is real. According to the Oregon Health Authority ( <https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19> ) on March 24 there are 209 cases in Oregon, 10 in Deschutes County. According to a March 24 article in Oregon Live by Shant Shahrigan and David Goldiner there are 25,000 cases in New York with the number doubling every 3 days. 14,904 of those cases are in New York City. In 2019 I attend an ABA (American Booksellers Association) conference at the Javits Convention Center, it is a huge building. Today it is being converted into a makeshift hospital because the city's hospitals are overflowing. In the same article, New York Governor Mayor Andrew Cuomo lashed out at the rationing of health care as the hospitals are swamped without adequate space or supplies. He said the elderly cannot be expendable. *"My mother is not expendable and your mother is not expendable and our brothers and sisters are not expendable. What is this, some modern Darwinian theory of natural selection?"* In January of this year I attended the ABA meeting in Baltimore Maryland, stayed in a nice hotel. The hotel and the adjacent convention center are now being converted to a field hospital because of the desperate need for more hospital space. ( <https://www.wbaltv.com/article/coronavirus-pandemic-baltimore-convention-center-hilton-hotel-field-hospitals/31903429> ) On March 24 NBC ( <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/coronavirus-deaths-u-s-map-shows-number-fatalities-compared-confirmed-n1166966> ) showed statistics on cases in the US, 52,671 with 682 deaths. California has 2,229 cases, Washington 2,221. Italy, like the US, has tested only patients showing severe symptoms, as of March 24 there are 69,176 cases according to AlJazeera ( <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/latest-italian-coronavirus-death-toll-dashes-hopes-worst-200324195653158.html> ). In Italy 743 people died so far on March 24, 6820 have perished in the last month.

Since 2005 we have been open, closing only Christmas Day, with the goal of having a bookstore that presented the community with a diverse variety of books, events with talented authors, and a welcoming place to browse. We have been rewarded with a community of passionate readers. Many of our readers are in an age group, or have medical issues that put them at risk. While we want to be there for the community, it is more important to keep our readers safe! Everyone of you is important to us, staying open is not worth risking your health. According to an article in NPR, the ethics boards of hospitals across the country are facing potential rationing of health care with age being a factor ( <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/21/819645036/u-s-hospitals-prepare-guidelines-for-who-gets-care-amid-coronavirus-surge> )

Many of our readers vacation in Sunriver, returning often. They are part of our regulars, part of our community of readers. I look forward to seeing them and having conversations about books. For years Rich and I vacationed at Salishan the week after New Year, it was a quiet time with great beach walks. One of the highpoints of the trip for me was visiting the Allegory Bookshop where Patti Siberz (the best of booksellers) would tell me about the books that excited her, the books she thought I would enjoy, and new releases by authors she knew I liked to read. I want to do this for our readers too! I feel bad about disappointing anyone who wants to visit Sunriver Books & Music and finds us closed!

During the time our store is closed, I am still here for you. Email [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) We are still mailing books from our store. Email what you would like sent and we will be in touch. Or you can shop on our website <https://www.sunriverbooks.com/> : If we are allowed, we will be available for purchasing books curbside behind our store. Email your selection, we will call for a credit card number, then hand over your book at your car. It is uncertain if this will be an option. With rules changing as state governors try curbing the rising number of cases, what is allowed can change. Check with us via email or on our website.

In making the decision to close temporarily, I sought the opinion of our Book Club members. They are a great group! They have been supportive and given good advice. The changes in our Book Club schedule can be viewed on our website. While we are going to miss getting together for Book Club meetings, if the situation requires a longer closing than April 25 we will get together via zoom or google hangout.

While economics do not even come close to the value of human life, it is also true this is going to be a hard time for local businesses. Not just the lost income for personal expenses, but for each of the shops closed the business expenses (rent, lights, insurance, affiliation fees, etc.) continue. Closing until April 25 was the right choice, and probably survivable for our store. If the situation lasts longer, and it might, then the survivability of our bookstore and other local shops becomes less certain. That said, our only priority is what is safe for the community.

Beyond the survival of Sunriver's shops, I worry for all of the employees of small businesses. They still have rent, food, expenses and no income. Grant, one of our employees, is responsible, intelligent, loves reading, and a valued member of our team. He is a young man trying to attend graduate school. This is a hardship on him and we are sorry.

A huge thank you to the customers who have reached out with messages of support. We appreciated the orders on our website or orders to be shipped from our store that have been placed. They are needed and we are thankful for them! A special thanks to a couple of our customers who on learning we were closed ordered books to cover their reading through this crisis. They are both avid readers and their generous purchases were appreciated!

I hope that the next newsletter is more fun to write and is back to being several pages full of books! Thank you all for your patience, your support, and your passion for reading! I hope to see you soon in Sunriver Books & Music, reopen and safe!!!