



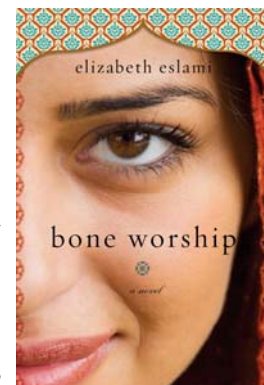
Sunriver Books & Music
February 2010 Newsletter
Sunriverbooks.com 541-593-2525



Author Event
Saturday February 27th at 5:00
Elizabeth Eslami



Elizabeth Eslami is a fresh new voice in literature. We are most pleased to have her appearing at Sunriver Books & Music. ***Bone Worship*** is an insightful, entertaining, poignant, funny and altogether interesting book about a family divided between two cultures. Jasmine's Mum is a Southern belle and her Dad is an Iranian doctor. They raised Jasmine and her brother in Arrowhead, a small Southern town. Jasmine went off to the University of Chicago, her father hoping she would follow in his footsteps by becoming a doctor. As the book opens Jasmine is returning home not in the bright splendor of graduation parties and congratulations about her promising future in medicine, but instead as a young woman who failed to graduate. It turns out she wasn't even studying medicine with Dad's money. Jasmine was tackling a double major in zoology and biology, doing quite well too until that last disastrous quarter. While Jasmine is uncertain what the future might hold, her father has no similar doubts. She is to be married; he will ar-



range it quite soon. This book is a lovely cornucopia of complicated family life. Jasmine has to discover that her father really does care deeply for her and like the rest of us is just doing his best. There are wonderful contradictions, after all her father did not follow tradition, he married a southern girl. How this all works out in Jasmine's life is a tour through the fault lines that occur as this family grapples with tradition, the future, and each other. Jasmine's search for a cultural identity is heartwarming, funny, and fabulously interesting. It is territory Elizabeth Eslami knows well, she was raised in a small southern town with an Iranian-American household. It is our good fortune that this talented author now calls the Northwest home.

Stop by, call or e-mail to sign up to attend the free events and be entered in the drawings for prizes. Refreshments will be served.

March 6th will bring a full program to Sunriver Books & Music, two authors in one night! Oh boy! Jennie Shortridge will do a program on her latest book ***When She Flew***. It was inspired by events in Portland Oregon. Erica Brauermeister will give a presentation on her book, ***The School of Essential Ingredients***.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday March 6th at 5:00 PM ***When She Flew*** by Jennie Shortridge and ***The School of Essential Ingredients*** by Erica Brauermeister

Saturday March 13th at 5:00 PM ***Pedaling Revolution*** by Jeff Mapes

Saturday April 3rd at 5:00 PM ***Seeing Stars*** by Diane Hammond

Saturday April 17th at 5:00 PM ***An Absence So Great*** by Jane Kirkpatrick

Saturday May 8th at 5:00 PM ***100 Hikes in Southern Oregon*** by William Sullivan

Saturday May 15th at 5:00 PM ***A Night of Mystery*** with Lisa Jackson and Nancy Bush, authors of ***Wicked Games***

Saturday May 22nd at 5:00 PM ***The Girl Who Fell From The Sky*** Heidi Darrow

Saturday June 5th at 5:00 PM ***Massacred for Gold*** by Greg Nokes

Saturday June 19th at 5:00 PM ***The Spellmans Strike Back*** by Lisa Lutz

Saturday July 12th at 5:00 PM ***Bend Overall*** by Scott Cook

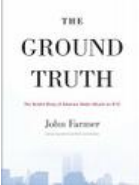
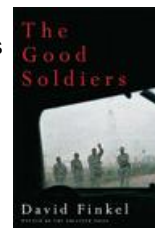
We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak often clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may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

Best Sellers lists can be an interesting way to keep up with the books people are reading. We thought you might like to take a look at the books Central Oregon is reading. Here are the Top Ten Best Sellers in Fiction, Mystery, and Non Fiction for 2009 at Sunriver Books & Music. You can find more of the Best Sellers for 2009 on our website at sunriverbooks.com

Fiction	Mystery	Non Fiction
<i>The Guernsey Literary & Potato Peel Pie Society</i> by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows	<i>Cold Dish</i> by Craig Johnson	<i>Three Cups of Tea</i> by Greg Mortenson
<i>The Art of Racing in the Rain</i> by Garth Stein	<i>Maisie Dobbs</i> by Jacqueline Winspear	<i>Aurora</i> by Jane Kirkpatrick
<i>Uncivil Seasons</i> by Michael Malone	<i>Death Without Company</i> by Craig Johnson	<i>Massacred for Gold</i> by Gregory Nokes
<i>A Flickering Light</i> by Jane Kirkpatrick	<i>Finding Nouf</i> by Zoe Ferraris	<i>The Impenetrable Forest</i> by Thor Hanson
<i>The Hearts of Horses</i> by Molly Gloss	<i>The Last Kashmiri Rose</i> by Barbara Cleverly	<i>Havana Nocturne</i> by T.J. English
<i>The Four Corners of the Sky</i> by Michael Malone	<i>Another Man's Moccasins</i> by Craig Johnson	<i>Stubborn Twig</i> by Lauren Kessler
<i>Hannah's Dream</i> by Diane Hammond	<i>The Dark Horse</i> by Craig Johnson	<i>The Gospel According to Coco Chanel</i> by Karen Karbo
<i>Hotel on the Corner of Bitter & Sweet</i> by Jamie Ford	<i>The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo</i> by Stieg Larsson	<i>The Eaves of Heaven</i> by Andrew X. Pham
<i>Love & Biology at the Center of the Universe</i> by Jennifer Shortridge	<i>Quilt as Desired</i> by Arlene Sachitano	<i>No Shortcuts to the Top</i> by Ed Viesturs
<i>Dreamers of the Day</i> by Mary Doria Russell	<i>Quilter's Knot</i> by Arlene Sachitano	<i>A Voyage Long & Strange</i> by Tony Horwitz

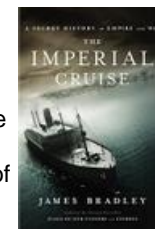
Rich has some recommendations from the Non Fiction section.

The Good Soldiers by David Finkel. Finkel was embedded in a combat battalion in Iraq during the “surge” in 2008. During his eight month deployment with the troops and subsequent visits to the soldiers in the US, he was able to get close to the officers and enlisted personnel and share the terror and threat of death that accompanied their service. With very intricate portraits of the soldiers and officers, he describes an honest, painful and terrifying look at modern warfare and the toll it takes both on the soldiers and their families. The official government reports say that the “surge” was a success. Judging by the cost in people’s lives and the ultimate progress in safety and security, it is debatable the long term success in Iraq will be enduring or worthwhile. This is one of the best accounts of the horror and futility of modern warfare.

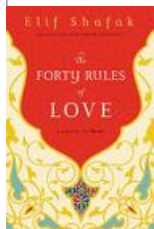


The Ground Truth by John Farmer debunks the prevailing stories that have been put forth by the US Government explaining the events of 9/11 by painting the response to the tragedy as one of competence and timely events. Farmer was legal counsel to the 9/11 commission, and was in charge of drafting the official report. This book is based on newly declassified documents that he believes show a picture of official deceit and coordinated revision of actual events to deflect criticism and blame. Written in a time-line style, the book begins with historical background that leads up to the final hours, minutes and seconds of the tragedy.

The Imperial Cruise by James Bradley is a controversial historic account of the 1905 voyage of the liner Manchurian, which carried Teddy Roosevelt's daughter Alice and the future President William Howard Taft. The trip was publicly described as a diplomatic “show the flag” but also contained behind the scenes diplomatic efforts by Taft that, in Bradley’s words, would set the stage for the second World War and Japan’s regional imperialism. The book also sheds light on Roosevelt’s xenophobia and racism, traits that most Roosevelt biographers gloss over. Even allowing that his views were typical of the prevailing attitudes of the time, it is still surprising and unsettling to re-visit these traits in such a revered and effective political figure.



Books, Books, & More Books



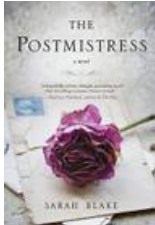
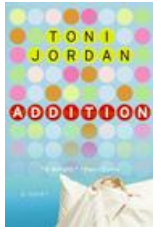
February is Valentine’s Day, a time to think of Love. ***The Forty Rules of Love*** by Elif Shafak does not release quite in time for the holiday, it comes out February 18th, but it is an excellent book no matter the month. What does a forty year old suburban housewife have in common with a thirteenth century Sufi mystic? Maybe everything important. The writing is sublime, the story a magic carpet ride through the ages.

Secrets of Eden by Chris Bohjalian is complicated, interesting and will keep you thinking. Alice Hayward looks up at Reverend Stephen Drew and says “there” after her baptism. She will not survive the night. Reverend Drew’s faith will die with her. Heather’s mother was killed by her father; she knows what the Reverend might be feeling. Heather believes her life is graced by angels; she is famous for writing about her experiences with them. She tries to be Reverend Drew’s angel, to bring him comfort and a way back to his beliefs. Secrets lurk in the darkness.



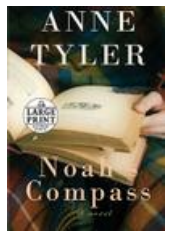
Books, Books, & More Books

Addition by Toni Jordan may sound an unlikely topic, but give it a try, it is delightful. Every once in a while an author writes a story that is so totally fresh and different. **The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein, **The Spellman Files** by Lisa Lutz, and **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night** by Mark Haddon all come to mind as other books that told their stories in a different and refreshing way. It is a joy to read such books. **Addition** by Toni Jordan joins their ranks. Gloria's life is ruled by numbers. She must rise at precisely the right number on the clock. Everything must be counted, the steps to the corner, the number of seeds on her cake, everything. Normal life is no longer an option, she cannot work as a teacher anymore. Her fantasies revolve around Nikola Tesla, an inventor from the pages of history who knew a thing or two about numbers. Gloria is drawn to the number ten but cannot countenance the number twelve. This makes grocery shopping a major excursion. Imagine, what you would do with those extra eggs? Gloria manages to get by, living according to the numbers until she steals Seamus Joseph O'Reilly's banana. Complications ensue. Toni Jordan's writing is a breath of fresh air. Just like numbers, words can be combined like magic to create a memorable story. **Addition** has magic to burn! It also has a love story, zestful and full of challenges, that should fit the month perfectly. It releases in paperback this February.



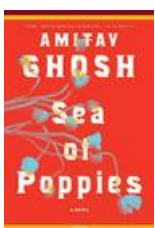
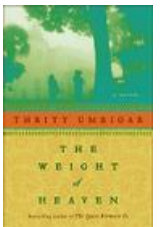
The Postmistress by Sarah Blake turns WWII on its ears. Instead of focusing on battles, it focuses on vignettes of war's effect on every day people. Frankie is a hotshot reporter, working with the legendary Murrow; she sends out on the radio the stories of Europe and WWII. Emma Trask sits with her young husband listening to Frankie's stories, a world away. When their lives intersect the Postmistress must keep a secret. This is a gripping and very different story of WWII and the price of war. The characters are likable; they take you right into the story. There are some great moments in this book

Noah's Compass by Anne Tyler is a quiet, lovely book. It asks a similar question to one of my all time favorite books, **Remains of the Day** by Kazuo Ishiguro. Can you make a difference in your life if you have taken a wrong turn along the way. Liam is forced into early retirement from his job teaching fifth graders. He thinks it will be okay, he can get by on his small pension and savings if he just economizes and downsizes. Liam throws himself into downsizing with fervor. He gets rid of a good portion of his belongings and moves from his spacious apartment to a tiny space across from a shopping mall in a poorer neighborhood. The move doesn't take long because Liam has divested himself of so many belongings. By nighttime he is snuggled into bed in his new apartment thinking things are working quite manageably. He wakes up in the hospital with a concussed head, stitches, and a lost day. Liam goes a little batty trying to recapture his memory of that lost day and along the way he discovers a few truths about himself.



Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford has released in paperback. Henry Lee met Keiko, his first love, during school days. He has to sneak around to see her because his Chinese father does not approve of the Japanese. Henry's young ardor is strong enough to risk his father's wrath but world events are going to be a formidable obstacle. WWII arrived and a dark chapter in American history followed, the internment of Japanese Americans. Henry is separated from Keiko when she is taken away with her parents to a camp. Keiko feels anguished at the way her country has turned on her, Keiko is an American. How can this be happening? Why must she be torn away from her home and put in a camp while Americans of Italian and German ancestry remain free? Why must any innocent American be imprisoned? Many years later Henry finds the path back to the past in the remnants stored in a hotel basement. This is a poignant look at the hardships suffered by American citizens due only to their ancestry. Ford has given us an endearing character in Henry Lee. Set in Seattle, the book takes some inspiration from a real hotel in the International District.

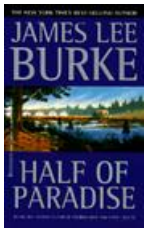
The Weight of Heaven by Thrity Umrigar was my pick for the best work of fiction in 2009. It has just released in paperback. This is an intense and powerful story.. Frank and Ellie have charmed lives, with good jobs, a beautiful home and a lively son they adore. Until Benny's death takes away the good life. Now the beautiful home is just a cathedral full of memories, halls that will never be filled with the sound of running feet, rooms that will not hear the music of laughter. Sadness has taken up residence in their home. Frank is offered a position in India, he is hesitant but Ellie urges him to accept. She hopes that living someplace so totally different may help them rebuild their lives. Maybe Frank will stop blaming her for the death of their son. Ellie thrives in India, she is enchanted by the country and the people. Frank finds it alien and confusing. Frank's company provides a house, complete with servants. Ramesh, the servant's young son, brings back Frank's smile. He begins to look forward to playing ball with the boy or helping with his homework. Ramesh is a bright lively child, but Frank sees in him extraordinary intelligence and potential. He sees promise that will never be realized with his uneducated parents. It is almost always a mistake to believe we know what is best for another person. In this case tragically so.



Sea of Poppies by Amitav Ghosh is an epic. Deeti works in her husband's poppy fields with her young daughter. She would much rather be tending crops the family could eat, rather than the poppy that has enslaved her husband in a fierce addiction, but the English have an insatiable appetite for this cash crop and a way of making life untenable if you refuse to grow the bright red poppy. Zachary worked in the Baltimore shipyards, a free black. Whites do not like having the shipyard jobs go to blacks, so Zachary joins the crew of the Ibis. Life at sea can be unpredictable. Through a series of unfortunate events Zachary rises in the crew all the way to Second Mate. It just might be possible for him to become Captain of this former slave vessel on its way to take part in the poppy trade. Zachary's skin is very light, he is passing for a white man and trying to live by their rules. A Raja will have an incredible reversal of fortune. An Englishwoman will take a terrible risk. The Ibis crosses the sea to the Bay of Bengal where their lives intersect as the story builds to a climax.

February 2010 Book Clubs

Monday 6:30 February 15th 2010 Mystery Book Club. **Half of Paradise** by James Lee Burke is the first novel of an author so beloved that tours are given of the places in Louisiana serving as settings for his books. In this early effort the promise of Burke's lyrical prose is evident. **Half of Paradise** is the story of three men. Troussaint Boudreaux, a black prize fighter whose career is ended too soon. JP Winfield, a country singer who throws his career away for the lure of drugs. Avery Broussard, a roustabout on oil rigs whose fondness for strong drink does not serve him well. Their lives will link; an innocent man will go to prison. Burke paints a Louisiana that is moody, dark, forbidding and oh, so alluring. He is an icon of the mystery genre now with three successful series, including the Dave Robicheaux series set in Louisiana. Travel back to the beginning for the first book by James Lee Burke.



Monday 6:30 PM February 22nd 2010 Fiction Book Club. **The Piano Teacher** by Janice Y. K. Lee is stunning! It should fuel a lively discussion. Claire led a sheltered life in England, living with her Mum and Dad. Traveling to Hong Kong as a young bride she is taken into a society for which she possesses no map. She is unmoored. Claire married because that was what young women did with their lives. Her husband is a pleasant chap, but not terribly exciting. Claire takes a job teaching the Chen's daughter to play the piano. Will, the Chen's Anglo chauffeur, intrigues the young woman. They begin a torrid affair. Will reveals bits of his past in increments that shift her view of life. Will first arrived in Hong Kong before WWI. He fell in love with Trudy, a high spirited woman who will always own his heart. The world was their oyster until the Japanese invaded Hong Kong. Will was imprisoned with the rest of the Brits while Trudy did her best to live under Japanese rule. The story alternates time periods, opening piece by piece like the petals of a rose, each layer slowly revealing the past.



Monday March 1st at 6:30 the Classics Book Club discusses one of my personal favorites, **The Monkey Wrench Gang** by Edward Abbey. Led by the intrepid Hayduke, a motley gang wages war on the big yellow machines that have come to destroy the landscape they love. Hilarious, outrageous, passionate, and totally full of himself, Edward Abbey was an original. He was vehemently opposed to the construction of the Glen Canyon dam, a dam that obliterated Native petro glyphs and is now viewed by quite a few as a mistake. Too late for all that pretty landscape, it has been drowned for a long time now. Abbey pours all the rage and furor of his opposition to despoiling wild places into his fiction. Edward Abbey defies definition, he is not about to fit into any neat little box of definition. An impassioned environmentalist, he was also known to shoot television sets and litter the desert he loved with their debris. His fictional characters are likely to toss beer cans out the window. Ed Abbey was one of those guys who eat up life in great big gulps. In his fiction he lets us have a little taste of what it is like to live large.



THE LIMITS OF POWER



Non Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 March 29th 2010 **The Limits of Power** by Andrew Bacevich

Monday 6:30 April 26th 2010 **Nine Lives** by Dan Baum

Monday 6:30 May 24th 2010 **Mornings on Horseback** by David McCullough

Monday 6:30 June 14th 2010 **Cochrane: The Real Master & Commander** by David Cordingly

Fiction Book Club

Monday 6:30 March 22nd 2010 **Mudbound** by Hilary Jordan

Monday 6:30 April 12th 2010 **Tree of Smoke** by Denis Johnson

Monday 6:30 May 17th 2010 **Honolulu** by Alan Brennert

Monday 6:30 May 31st 2010 **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson

Monday 6:30 June 28th 2010 **The Help** by Kathryn Stockett

Monday 6:30 July 19th **The Gifted Gabaldon Sisters** by Lorraine Lopez

Classics

Monday 6:30 PM April 19th 2010 **Song of Solomon** by Toni Morrison

Monday 6:30 PM June 21st 2010 **To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee

Monday 6:30 PM August 23rd 2010 **The Brothers Karamozov** by Fyodor Dostoevsky

Mystery Book Club

Monday 6:30 March 8th 2010 **Still Life** by Louise Penny

Monday 6:30 April 5th 2010 **Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** by Alan Bradley

Monday 6:30 May 3rd 2010 **A Beautiful Blue Death** by Charles Finch

Monday 6:30 PM June 7th 2010 **The Black Tower** by Louis Bayard

Monday 6:30 PM July 5th 2010 **The Coroner's Lunch** by Colin Cottrill

Travel Essay Book Club

Monday 6:30 PM March 15th 2010 **Catfish & Mandela** by Andrew X. Pham

Monday 6:30 PM May 10th 2010 **Following the Equator** by Mark Twain

Monday 6:30 PM July 26th 2010 **Following Isabella** by Robert Root

Monday 6:30 PM August 30th 2010 **The Lost City of Z** by David Grann

