



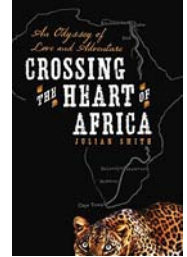
Sunriver Books & Music  
February 2011  
Newsletter  
[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com)  
541-593-2525



Saturday February 26th  
At 5:00 PM

Author Julian Smith

***Crossing the Heart of Africa***



February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM Julian Smith joins us for a presentation on ***Crossing the Heart of Africa***. He will show slides of his epic trip across Africa. This is the best sort of travel story, set in two time frames. Just before Julian's nuptials put an end to his bachelor days he retraced the 1898 journey Ewart Grogan made in a bid to win the hand of fair Gertrude. Love, adventure, and gorgeous scenery all come together in this rousing good story.

Is the name Ewart Grogan known to you? It was not a name familiar to me until reading Julian's book I am ashamed to say. We should know this name, right along with Burton, Stanley, and Livingston. Grogan was a man who lived life big. An adventurer, a soldier, a swashbuckler, a spy, a romantic, a mountain climber, and a man hugely important in the early days of Kenya, he has been neglected by history. In 1898 he set out to make a journey no one had heretofore attempted, to go overland in Africa crossing from Cape Town to Cairo. Grogan had fallen for Gertrude, an heiress of immense wealth. Her step-father, Coleman, saw fortune hunter writ large all over Grogan. He couldn't have been more wrong. Grogan proposed a quest to prove his worth and win his lady. Coleman was swayed, after all the chances of Grogan surviving such a trip were not high. Grogan and Henry Sharp set out on a grand adventure.

Over a hundred years later author Julian Smith was coming up sharp on the end of his bachelor days. Devoted to his betrothed, Laura, he was still nervous as a cat walking on hot coals. When he came across Grogan's story, of his adventurous trip across Africa to win his bride, it caught Julian's attention. It seemed just the sort of grand gesture to end his bachelor days, one last huge adventure. He would retrace Grogan's footsteps.

The book does an excellent job of moving between time periods. I can't say I prefer the more modern conveyances of Smith's journey to Grogan's time. There is something about the romance, danger, and adventure of Grogan's journey when everything was so blessedly untouched and rife with possibility. I rather prefer the idea of Africa wild and not yet fully humbled by the colonial yoke. But you have to give Smith credit, his journey is invigorating. The contrast between the two trips is tremendously interesting.

Grogan won his lady love, they settled in Nairobi Kenya where they rubbed shoulders with Elspeth Huxley, Beryl Markham, and Karen Blixen. Grogan lived into his 90's, a vigorous man always up to something. Gertrude was his companion until her death during WWII. Julian picked an admirable man to emulate. Grogan's won the lady and his marriage survived until death. He was also industrious and generous, working hard and becoming very wealthy in his own right he did his bit to help the oppressed. We wish Julian and Laura an equally rewarding union.

I am looking forward to the slide show and presentation. The book is fascinating, so the slides have got to be good too. There will be refreshments and drawings for door prizes. The event is free and all are welcome. Call 541-593-2525 or e-mail [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend. .

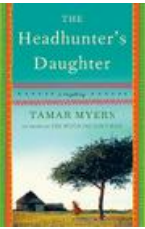
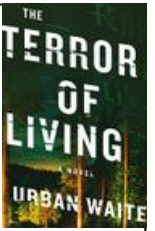
**Upcoming Author Appearances**

- Saturday March 19th at 5:00 PM ***River House*** by Sarahlee Lawrence
- Saturday March 26th at 5:00 PM ***West of Here*** by Jonathan Evison
- Saturday April 16th at 5:00 PM ***The Lotus Eaters*** by Tatjana Soli
- Saturday May 14th at 5:00 PM ***A Daughter's Walk*** by Jane Kirkpatrick
- Sunday May 15th Walk With Jane Kirkpatrick (more details to follow).
- Saturday May 21st 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](http://Sunriverbooks.com), for changes and additions.

### **Books, Books, & More Books!**

**The Terror of Living** by Urban Waite is taut, fast paced, and gripping, this one is a real page turner. Phil keeps his horse farm afloat by guiding the occasional shipment across the border in the rugged North Cascades. He knows the land like the back of his hand, a quick ride over the mountain pass and he is solvent again for a while. But this time they sent him a courier who is nothing but trouble. Bobby is a lawman with a family history, his Dad made a few extra dollars just like Phil. Bobby is trying to live it down, doing a good job of catching bad guys. Bobby and Phil's paths cross on a trip gone horribly wrong.



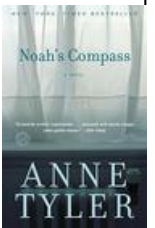
**The Head Hunter's Daughter** by Tamar Myers is lively, engaging, and full of surprises. This is a wonderful new series set in the Belgian Congo during the 1940s. Amanda Brown travels into the jungle to find a young white girl abandoned as a baby. The infant was discovered by a remote tribe and has been raised to the age of 13 away from the influence of whites. Amanda's quest is not without complication. Accompanied by the Witch Doctor's Wife and police chief Captain Peter Jardin, Amanda is sure to have adventure!

**The Story Teller of Marrakesh** by Joydeep Roy-Bhattacharya Come sit around the circle as master storyteller Hassan beguiles his audience with the tale of two beautiful strangers who enchanted Marrakesh for a day, a day that left his brother Mustafa jailed for their murder. As Hassan draws you into his story, he turns the telling over to audience members who each remember something different about the strangers and that fateful day. Lovely writing.



**The Weed That Strings The Hangman's Bag** by Alan Bradley is another juicy romp through the English Countryside. It releases in paperback this month. Flavia is up to her splendidly conniving eleven year old neck in trouble again. The star of a puppet show is stranded for a few days in Bishop's Lacy, long enough to put on a show with far too much sizzle. Flavia intends to crack the case of the unfortunate puppeteer and teach the local constabulary a thing or two about detecting. Her sleuthing will take her into a dark woods and an even darker secret. A visiting aunt threatens to crimp her style, but Flavia is a hard girl to corral. Marvelously fun reading.

**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 concussion, 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.



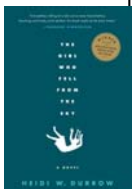
**One Good Dog** by Susan Wilson manages to blend the rampant greed of the financial sector with dog fighting. Both man and dog have a chance at redemption. Chance was raised to battle in the dog fight pits. Adam slugs it out in the land of hostile takeovers and big money mergers until he makes a terrible mistake. They recognize in each other a fighting spirit. Adam was used to expensive houses, fast cars, and being able to buy anything his family desired. Alone after his downfall, he is clueless about how to interact with a dog. Chance has no experience in going for walks or living in an apartment. Somehow they come to understand and heal one another. In the process they learn to care and to trust. Adam begins to question his values and Chance takes a fancy to soft couches. If you are in the mood for a feel good story with an irascible canine, this is your book.

**The Murderer's Daughters** by Randy Susan Meyers explores what happens to the children when their father kills their mother. Lulu and Merry's parents have a troubled union. Dad is jealous and fond of drink, a dandy of a man with too much temper and too little maturity. Mom is pinup pretty and not any more gifted with maturity. When they separate it fuels his jealousy and temper, he kills his wife and wounds Merry. Now the daughters have to deal with the aftermath. With no close relative able to give them a home they grow up in an orphanage. Merry stays in touch with her father, visiting him in prison. Lulu cannot forgive his violent act. Lulu and Merry's lives will forever have a shadow hanging over them. This is an excellent look at how two young girls react to the tragedy and how it affects their lives as adults.



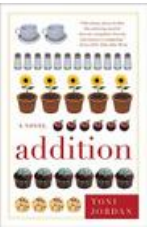
**Parrot & Oliver in America** by Peter Carey tells a rousing good story. Through a series of unfortunate events Oliver, the son of aristocrats who survived (barely) the French Revolution, ends up heading to America accompanied by a reluctant servant, Parrot. Poor Parrot survived fire, the Australian penal colony, and a variety of mishaps only to be saddled with keeping the snobbish Oliver out of harm's way. America is a bit of a shock to Oliver's upper class sensibilities. But it is just the type of environment for Parrot's talents to thrive. The story is great fun, told with humor and verve.

**The Girl Who Fell From the Sky** by Heidi Durrow just released in paperback. Rachel arrives at her Grandmother's home in the Albina district of Portland after a family tragedy in Chicago. Haunted by her staggering loss, she is thrown into a new school where she stands apart, different from her classmates. Her Danish Mom handed down sky blue eyes and her Black GI Dad gave her soft, caramel colored skin. Rachel is unsure what defines her, the white heritage of her dead mother, or the black of her father. Are we so easily defined? Does the color of our skin really dictate who we are? Rachel will have to invent herself or accept the definitions society provides. As Rachel grapples with fitting into her new home, slowly the tragic circumstances of her move to Portland are revealed. The characters are interesting, the setting used well, and the issues raised are significant.



**February is Valentine's Day  
Time for some great love stories?**

**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. Madness was not unknown to him either. 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.



**Nothing But a Smile** by Steve Amick. Sal isn't sure how she is going to keep their camera store going while her husband is away in WWII and she doesn't want to trouble him while he is in danger. Times are tough; customers are few and far between. What could he do from the other side of the world anyway? Better to just find a solution and let him think things at home are just hunky dory. Sal needs to think outside the box, color outside the lines. She decides to pose for pinups, be patriotic by cheering the troops and save the shop at the same time. Complications ensue.

**Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson is special. Every once in a while a novel comes along that is such a pure delight you do not want to reach the last page. This is such a novel. Major Pettigrew is a ramrod straight, stiff upper lip, proper British gentleman. His brother's death throws him for a loop and he finds himself being comforted by Jasmina Ali, the local shopkeeper. Her Pakistani heritage has kept her from being fully accepted by the local villagers. It is an unlikely alliance. There are all sorts of turmoil roiling through the story, from a village pageant to development of the local estate to bitterness over an inherited gun to the angst of family members. English village life at its best, complete with the local vicar, the lord of the manor and a full cast of marvelous characters. It is all great fun.

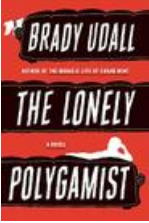
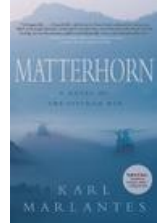


**Congratulations Winners of the 2011 PNBA Award!**



Central Oregon's own Sarahlee Lawrence wins for River House. Writing so alive you feel like you jumped right into the kayak with the author sets this memoir apart. Be scared witless as she runs some of the most violent and dangerous rivers the planet has on offer. Be charmed when she realizes her heart is right here in Central Oregon. Admire her spirit as she builds a log home with the aid of her father. Family is a big part of the story, the mid life crisis of a father, the strength of a mother, and the loving determination of a daughter. Sarahlee has a passion for life and she shares this gift with her readers. We will have more on this remarkable young woman in the March newsletter, she is appearing at Sunriver Books & Music March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Matterhorn** by Karl Marlantes is a work of staggering intensity. Every generation seems to have its war, for my generation it was Vietnam, a war that tore the country asunder and leaves gaping wounds that are painful to probe even today. **Matterhorn** brings to vivid, terrifying life the experiences of the troops. Soldiers will pick up this book and feel like they have been given a voice, it is devastating, visceral, and oh so real. Marlantes can write! In chapter two he describes dusk turning to dark in Vietnam. *The light died. Voices were silenced. Darkness and fear replaced light and reason. The whisper of a leaf scraping on bark would make heads turn involuntarily and hearts gallop. The surrounding blackness and unseen wall of dripping growth left no place to run. In that black wet nothingness the perimeter became just a memory. Only imagination gave it form.* The New York Times Book Review described this book as being more like a deployment than like reading a book, I agree. This is a story that needed to be told.



**The Lonely Polygamist** by Bradley Udall centers on Golden Richards, a man with 4 wives and 28 children who still manages to be lonely. Golden seems a bit overwhelmed by it all, work, church, kids, wives, who wouldn't be a bit frazzled? Times are tight so he is traveling farther for work, he is a building contractor involved in a little project that might raise a few eyebrows back home. Udall uses humor as Golden navigates the crossroads of his life, trying to balance the needs of his family. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, this is a family saga on a grand scale.

Luminous writing sets apart **The Memory Wall** by Anthony Doerr. Six linked stories in a variety of settings explore the role of memory in the human soul. From Lithuania to South Africa to the good ole USA we are all human, and our memories define who we are. Doerr navigates this territory with sensitivity and care. Each story is exquisite and deeply moving. Memory is one of the common threads of humanity. Who are we but the sum total created by our memories?

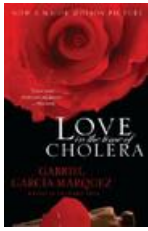
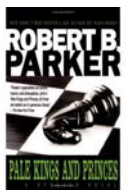


Nancy Pearl was awarded a well deserved lifetime achievement award for the contribution she has made to literature with her **Book Lust** series. The latest is **Book Lust To Go**. Pearl details books for just about any destination. Nancy Pearl has introduced readers to a rich variety of wonderful books. This year we celebrate her contribution to northwest literature.

Every year hundreds of books are nominated for the Pacific Northwest Bookseller's Award. This year the books listed above were chosen as the best representation of excellence in Northwest Authors.

## February 2011 Book Clubs

February 7<sup>th</sup> the Mystery Book Club discusses ***Pale Kings and Princes*** by Robert Parker. Reporter Eric Valdez is investigating the Colombian snow dusting Wheaton Massachusetts; it is not a good project for his longevity. Spencer is hired to find out who killed Valdez but the townsfolk are not talking. Susan and Hawk join him to battle through corruption to find the truth. Money, white powder, and violent men stand in their way.



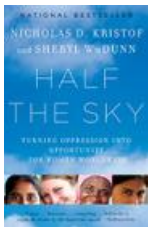
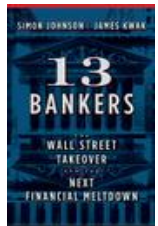
February 14<sup>th</sup> the Classics Book Club discusses ***Love in the Time of Cholera*** by Nobel Prize winner Gabriel Garcia Marquez. What a perfect book for Valentine's Day! A love story that spans more than half a century and is set in the heat of the lush tropics, it should be steamy enough for any romantic. Cupid doesn't just use a small arrow when he assaults Florintino Ariza, he lets loose a whole barrage of arrows. Florintino glimpses Fermina Daza and he is stricken, he will be lovesick all the rest of his days. Fermina's father has better in mind for his daughter; Ariza is in the way of his plans for a good match. He separates the young lovers until Fermina is more biddable. She marries respected Dr. Juvenal Urbino and for over 50 years Florintino bides his time. Of course he keeps himself, ahem, busy during the intervening years. A string of lovers pass the time as he waits for Fermina. But ever patient, still full of lovesickness, he awaits his day.



February 21<sup>st</sup> Diane Hammond will lead a discussion of her book ***Seeing Stars*** for the Fiction Book Club. 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. Ruth is Bethy's biggest fan, her confidence in her daughter so strong she leaves her husband Hugh behind in Seattle while she spends real bucks in Hollywood trying for Bethy's big break. Hugh is afraid his wife and daughter are searching for fool's gold, but he stays behind working hard to keep sending those checks south. Allison is picture perfect pretty with talent to burn, but is it enough to book the part that will make her a star? Quinn's star is rising, but he is so volatile he might burn too hot and fall like a shooting star. The characters feel real, full of angst, ambition and heart. Life made Allison a lovely feral creature. The story draws you into the drama in these young lives as they try booking Hollywood. Obstacles litter their way, from curt casting agents to demanding directors and insane traffic. Hollywood is a town that hums along on a different frequency from other places; it dances to the beat of a whole different band. Surviving requires talent, drive, and a keen desire to win. Diane Hammond brings this world to Technicolor life as she draws you into the whirlwind of booking Hollywood. It is a world Diane knows well, her daughter was a child actress. Diane is a talented author and a lot of fun, I hope you can join us for her Book Club Discussion of ***Seeing Stars***.



February 28<sup>th</sup> the Non Fiction Book Club discusses ***13 Bankers*** by Simon Johnson and James Kwak. In 2007 the USA suffered the biggest financial meltdown since the Great Depression. Johnson and Kwak argue that ***13 Bankers*** were at the center of this debacle. Following the Great Depression regulations had been put in place to protect an unsuspecting public from another financial disaster and to give the public well founded confidence in their financial institutions; their money should be safe in the bank. For many years commercial banks had to operate within the boundaries of the state where they were chartered, could not speculate, and had to maintain rigorous financial reserves. All this regulation was nibbled away as banks got bigger and more powerful, the lobbyists they sent to Washington eagerly spreading dollars on their behalf. As we entered the greed is good nineties it was anything goes and let's have more, more, more. Banks grew ever bigger with the larger institutions gulping up the smaller like big fish after guppies. Rather than the latest catastrophic meltdown returning us to a more sane and cautious financial landscape, it has allowed the megabanks to grow even bigger and more aggressive. Johnson and Kwak argue that ***Too Big Too Fail*** is too big to exist; that the consolidation of power in the hands of so few institutions is bad for the country and leaves us open for an even worse financial collapse in future. It is a fascinating book and a chilling look inside the banking industry.



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

- March 7th 2011 ***Scarecrow*** by Michael Connelly [Mystery Book Club](#)
- March 14th 2011 ***The Journey Home*** by Edward Abbey [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- March 21st 2011 ***Freedom*** by Jonathan Franzen [Fiction Book Club](#)
- March 28th 2011 ***Half The Sky*** by Nicholas Kristof [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- April 4th 2011 ***Mistress of the Art of Death*** by Ariana Franklin [Mystery Book Club](#)
- April 11th 2011 Deschutes County Novel Idea ***Kapitoil*** by Teddy Wayne [Fiction Book Club](#)
- April 18th 2011 ***Birds, Beasts & Relatives*** by Gerald Durrell [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- April 25th 2011 ***Les Miserables*** by Victor Hugo [Classics Book Club](#)
- May 2nd 2011 ***The Big Burn*** by Timothy Egan [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- May 9th ***Ordinary Thunderstorms*** by William Boyd [Mystery Book Club](#)
- May 16th 2011 an author led discussion of ***The Daughter's Walk*** by Jane Kirkpatrick [Fiction Book Club](#)
- May 23rd 2011 ***Stones Into Schools*** by Greg Mortenson [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- May 30th 2011 ***Passing by Nella Larson*** [Classics Book Club](#)

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

