



# Sunriver Books & Music

## January 2011 Newsletter

[Sunriverbooks.com](http://Sunriverbooks.com) 541-593-2525



*Happy New Year!*



January 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM Evelyn Hess will give a presentation on her thoughtful book **To The Woods**. Evelyn and her husband David had what the outside world regards as good careers, Evelyn with the University of Oregon and David as an architect. The expected procedure for an educated couple in their position would be to work until retirement and collect as much "stuff" as possible along the way. Evelyn and David stepped off that path, turned their backs on the expectation of commercial comforts, and moved into a tiny trailer on twenty one acres in the Coast Range. Living off the grid, without running water, or electricity, they fashioned a life in harmony with nature. Their passion for landscape became their career as they found work gardening. In the summer plants grown on their little piece of paradise could be sold to bring in some needed income. They lived simply, respectful of nature. **To The Woods** is a celebration of that life.

Hess seeks and finds a deep connection with the natural world on her 21 acres. She revels in the change of seasons, the colorful leaves in the fall, the explosion of brilliantly colored flowers in the spring, the warmth of summer. The book is full of encounters with wildlife; a tawny mother deer and her little fawn, a dog food eating bear, and marauding rodents. Her dogs approve heartily of living in such a rural setting, where they can run and play. Hess has a full and rewarding life making kind choices in quiet seclusion on her land.

As I read about her efforts to save rain water in a pond and reuse her dishwater, I thought about how much we take things for granted. Living in the city I used to have rain water collection barrels under our house's downspouts. They pretty much took care of most of my watering needs during the summer. It was a painless way to use something that just goes to waste. Here in Sunriver I have a sprinkler system that comes on automatically via a timer and drenches the ground. Easier for sure, but not nearly as rewarding as those rain barrels.

Hess goes farther than most would find comfortable in living a very simple lifestyle. It can sound harsh and uncomfortable. Yet much of the world lives in such simple conditions and this book does an excellent job of making you think about lifestyle choices. Does not having a new car, or new clothes or top of the line appliances diminish Hess's pleasure in the light reflected on her pond, or the scent of rosemary in her garden? Taking a walk with her dogs or working in her garden are simpler things that keep her more connected with life than any electronic gadget or acquisition.

There are many challenges to be surmounted by Hess; both David and Evelyn faced life threatening health issues. David suffered an aneurysm and went from the high tech world of brain surgery and hospitals back to his little trailer without any modern technology at all. The tiny trailer was never meant to be their abode for so long, they always intended to build a home. But finance and setbacks kept them from realizing that dream. They are still working toward having a home built in harmony with the landscape.

But the heart and soul of the book is Evelyn Hess's love for nature and her decision to live gently on the land. Her presentation should be very interesting. Call 541-593-2525, e-mail [sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com](mailto:sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com) or stop by Sunriver Books & Music to sign up to attend. The event is free, refreshments will be served and there will be a drawing for door prizes.

### Upcoming Author Appearances

- Saturday February 26th at 5:00 PM **Crossing the Heart of Africa** by Julian Smith
- 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

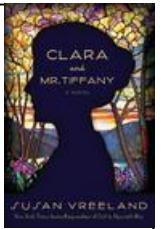
We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak often clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may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



Start 2011 off with a subscription to **Carole's Surprise**. Receive a surprise book every month! **Carole's Surprise** comes in 3, 6 or 12 month versions. **Carole's Surprise** for the first quarter of 2011 costs \$43.99 picked up in the store and \$49.99 mailed in the US. The first 6 months of 2011 cost \$87.94 picked up in the store or \$99.94 mailed in the US. The whole year of 2011 is \$176.93 picked up in the store or \$200.93 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book. In 2010 **Carole's Surprise** featured **That Old Ace in the Hole** by Annie Proulx, **A Guide To The Birds of East Africa** by Nicholas Drayson, and **Out Stealing Horses** by Per Petterson, What will 2011 bring? Sign up and discover month by month.

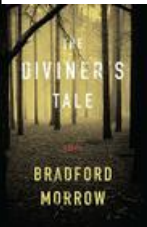
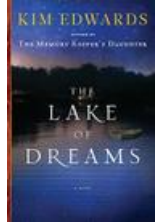
### [Books, Books, & More Books!](#)

**Clara and Mr. Tiffany** by Susan Vreeland is lively, well written, and full of fascinating history about Tiffany's scrumptious glass. Clara is such a likable character, intent on making her way, passionate about creating beauty, and able to err with grace. She becomes one of Tiffany's treasures, a woman inspired by beauty, willing to passionately enter into the creation of his gorgeous works of art. Clara lives in a boarding house filled with equally interesting characters. They all take part in the story. The story is inspired by real events, it makes you want to go see the remaining Tiffany glass designs. Most excellent.



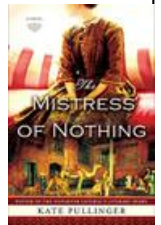
**The Red Garden** by Alice Hoffman is the history of a small town. Behind the founders house in Blackwell Massachusetts is a garden that will only grow red plants. Linked stories follow 300 years of the berg's history. Its feisty founder Hallie Brady battled snowstorms and starvation in 1786, forming a close attachment with the local bears. As the generations pass they face sorrow and joy. Johnny Appleseed drops in to do some planting. A mysterious woman catches the town's imagination during the Depression years. Each story introduces a character you will enjoy. Through time the garden continues its flamboyant blood red color.

**The Lake of Dreams** by Kim Edwards is a beautifully written, rewarding story. Lucy escaped her home in the little resort village, Lake of Dreams, to travel the world, haunted by the night her father died on the lake. Forward velocity kept the grief and guilt of that night at bay until she finds herself unemployed in Japan. Spurred by her Mom's traffic accident, she visits home and discovers a hidden packet in an old window seat. Her curiosity piqued, she is drawn into the discovery of a long hidden family secret. Meanwhile her family has not stood still, her brother may be involved in something unsavory with his uncle, her Mom has found a beau, and Lucy must come to terms with life moving on, with her family growing and changing.



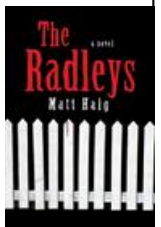
**The Diviner's Tale** by Bradford Morrow is a haunting story set in a rural area. Cassandra is a water witch, a gift handed down from generation to generation. Hired to find water, she instead finds the body of a girl hanging from a tree in a remote forested valley. But when she returns with the police, the body is long gone, no evidence left behind. The town folk always found her a mite strange; this did nothing to enhance her reputation. Cassandra knows she saw the girl, a series of premonitions lead her to unearth a horrible secret from the past.

**The Mistress of Nothing** by Kate Pullinger is an interesting historical fiction with strong female characters. Sally accompanies her employer, Lady Duff Gordon, to Egypt in a doomed battle to recover from TB. She has worked in Lady Duff Gordon's home for many years, but is not reluctant to leave England. Indeed she is excited about the prospect. A familiarity arises between the women, cut off from family and home. It is a closeness Sally should not trust. When Omar is hired, Sally is drawn to him; it will shatter her relationship with her employer. Based on real people, the historical detail is fascinating. It is particularly interesting to view the privileged upper class Brits from the eyes of a serving woman.



**You Know When The Men Are Gone** by Siobhan Fallon is a compassionate, fascinating look at the women who stay behind when the men go off to war. Fort Hood Texas is a jumping off base for the soldiers sent to the Middle East, it is also the home of the spouses waiting for their return. A series of stories bring this fraternity of women to life. Each story introduces characters who feel real, who are interesting, and who face their challenges with whatever courage they can muster. I was surprised by these beautifully written vignettes.

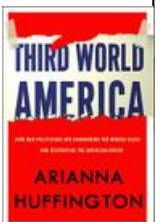
**The Radleys** by Matt Haig is the story of a family, but a with a slight difference. Meet **the Radleys**, just your average suburban family, Dad is a doctor and Mom is very involved in raising their two teenagers, except for one little difference. **The Radleys** are vampires, and the teenagers have been protected from this disquieting little fact. Like all secrets, the parents have been waiting for just the right time to gently spring it on the kids, wanting them to have a normal childhood and be ready to deal with their somewhat unusual natures in a mature manner. Clara is an ardent vegetarian, and very pale. Rowan suffers from violent nightmares. Dad thinks it is time to share the family secret, Mom is not sure, but the decision is about to be made for them. Clara is going to have a confrontation that will awaken her true nature, and Rowan is ready too. If you enjoy the vampire genre, this story is well written with a bit of a difference and some humor to boot.



**The Hand That First Held Mine** by Maggie O'Farrell is releasing in paperback. Lexie wants to live big, experience life to the fullest. And for a while she succeeds. Taken under the wing of her lover, flamboyant Innes Kent, she explores the ins and out of reporting on fine art. Decades later Elina nearly dies in childbirth, frightening her lover Ted. She hazily navigates the first days of motherhood as Ted starts to remember. Their lives will be connected by a long hidden secret.

### [Rich's Non Fiction Recommendation](#)

**Third World America** by Arianna Huffington. Is the United States in danger of becoming a third world nation; where there is a very small, elite, wealthy ruling class and a large impoverished poorer class? Huffington describes the loss of the middle class in America, taking with it the American dream of a secure and prosperous standard of living, one that was always better than your parents'. The industrialized base, which provided so many people with a living wage and upward mobility, is vanishing, replaced by a financialization sector that exists solely to enrich the few players who game the system at the expense of outsiders and common folks. Our education system is in shambles, our infrastructure is crumbling and our political system is beholden to partisan politics and special interests that buy influence and billion dollar favors with a checkbook. Huffington calls on the American can-do attitude to change the course of the nation and avoid our descent into third world status. This is a must-read antidote to the sickness that is gripping our nation, and a call to arms before it is too late.



### Fiction Book Club's Top 4 Selections of 2010.

1. **The Help** by Kathryn Stockett. Southern maids in white households cooked, served food, changed the linen, and raised the children. But they were not allowed to use the same bathroom as their employers. Eugenia Skeeter Phelan wants to be a writer, she persuades the maids to tell her their stories. A risky activity, they could be visited by nasty people dressed in white sheets.
2. **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson, Major Pettigrew is a ramrod straight, stiff upper lip, proper British gentleman living alone in a small village. Upset by his brother's sudden death, he is comforted by the local shop-keeper, Mrs. Ali. An unlikely friendship blossoms. Complications in village life ensue as they take comfort in each other's company.
3. **The Angel's Game** by Carlos Ruiz Zafon. David Martin, orphaned and alone, is befriended by a noted author. Soon his talents surpass those of his mentor. David lives in a dark, gothic old mansion where he writes shamefully popular pulp. Andreas Correlli is possessed of dark secrets, he makes David an offer he cannot refuse. David is commissioned to write something extraordinary, as good and evil battle for possession of his soul.
4. **The Piano Teacher** by Janice Y. K. Lee. Claire led a sheltered life. She traveled to Hong Kong as a young bride moving into a society for which she possesses no map. She is unmoored. Teaching piano lessons to the Chen's daughter she meets their Anglo chauffeur, Will. He reveals bits of his past in increments that shift her view of life. Will arrived in Hong Kong before WWII and fell in love with high spirited Trudy. The story alternates time periods, opening piece by piece like the petals of a rose, each layer slowly revealing the past.

### Mystery Book Club's Top 4 Selections of 2010.

1. **The Girl Who Kicked The Hornet's Nest** by Steig Larsson. Lisbeth Salander rockets through the Millennium Trilogy and she does not deal gently with the bad guys. Mikael Blomkvist is a journalist who exposes the bullies preying on the unprotected. Salander must accept help from Mikael by revealing the secrets of her past. And this girl has a closet stuffed with skeletons!
2. **The Black Tower** by Louis Bayard. Using one of history's more interesting characters as his sleuth, Bayard sets his mystery after the French revolution. Hector Carpentier is shocked to be of interest to the notorious Vidocq. It is not a pleasant sensation. Vidocq was the creator of France's Surete, he was a spy, a criminal, a ladies man. Victor Hugo used Vidocq as the model for both the hero and villain in his masterpiece, Les Miserables. Vidocq was more than capable of solving a little mystery with Hector.
3. **Still Life** by Louise Penney is set in the small village of Three Pines outside Montreal. Who killed retired school teacher Jean Neal? Felled by an arrow, at first the villagers want to believe her death was a horrible accident. Could a confused hunter have mistaken her for a deer? Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surete du Quebec will find the answers.
4. **The Coroner's Lunch** by Colin Cotterill. It is 1975, the Communist Pathet Lao has taken over Laos and 72 year old Dr. Siri Paim-born, a fighter for the cause, believed he would be allowed to retire. Instead he is drafted to be the sole coroner for the country. This causes him more problems than your average doc, he sees the ghosts of the dead. As a coroner he is will have many visits.

### Classics Book Club's Top 4 Selections of 2010.

1. **To Kill A Mockingbird** by Harper Lee, winner of the Pulitzer Prize. On its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this masterpiece is just as alive and relevant as the year it was written. A black man is falsely accused of rape. His defense falls heavily on his lawyer, Atticus. Set in 1930's Alabama, it was not a time a white man would be lauded for defending a black. I like these characters, I suspect you will too. They have stood the test of time.
2. **The Great Gatsby** by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Considered one of the greatest novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, it is set in a time of unbridled opulence. Seething with illicit passion, fast money, and all the energy of the Roaring Twenties, the story centers on Gatsby's doomed love for the shallow, beautiful Daisy.
3. **The Monkey Wrench Gang** by Edward Abbey. A motley gang wages war on the big yellow machines that destroy the landscape they love. Abbey pours all the rage and furor of his opposition to despoiling wild places into his fiction. Ed Abbey was one of those guys who eat up life in great big gulps. He lets us have a little taste of what it is like to live large.
4. **The Brothers Karamazov** by Fyodor Dostoevsky is considered one of the greatest achievements of literature. A father and son vie for the same woman, two brothers eloquently debate the existence of God, and a proud man stands accused of patricide. Betrayal, redemption, love, and hate all broil Dostoevsky's stew.

### Non Fiction Book Club's Top 4 Selections of 2010.

1. **The Most They Ever Had** by Pulitzer Prize winner Rick Bragg. He bears witness to the lives of good, hard working people employed in the cotton mill in Jacksonville Alabama. "You need not use foul language to damn a man here. Just say a day's work would kill him, and you tore him down to the bald nothing." We used to value hard work in this country. These people take pride in working hard to provide for their families. They do not anticipate easy lives or great wealth. Is it too much to expect a safe working environment and a living wage? Apparently it is. Rick Bragg wrote a eulogy to the time in America where we built things rather than chasing ever faster after the next deal and the easy dollar. Now a company's parts are worth more than its whole, the jobs go cheaper overseas, and the bad boys of Wall Street must be kept happy.
2. **Zeitoun** by Dave Eggers. **Zeitoun** stayed and rode out Hurricane Katrina, family fled to safety. When the levees broke, he paddled his canoe around helping people. He was hauled off and locked up without even being allowed to phone his wife or let anyone know his whereabouts. This miscarriage of justice caused harm not only to the man and his family, but also to the people he was aiding.
3. **Nine Lives** by Dan Baum. Katrina was one of the worst disasters any American city has suffered, but it is not the only story in the Big Easy. Real people live there, with homes, and jobs, and family. **Nine Lives** tells their story, well nine of them anyway, beginning in 1965 with Ronald Lewis and Hurricane Betsy.
4. **American Lightning** by Howard Blum. In 1911 the Iron Worker's Union planned a major assault and set off their spree by bombing the offices of the Los Angeles Times, killing 21. Before this book is finished it will involve Clarence Darrow, Hollywood powerhouse DW Griffith, and the Secret Service. Action rampages through the pages.

### Travel Essay Book Club's Top 4 Selections of 2010.

1. **The Lost City of Z** by David Grann. In 1925 Percy Fawcett, accompanied by his son and another young man, headed into the remote Amazon jungle. The renowned explorer was never seen again. Expeditions have perished trying to discover his fate. Grann tracks the adventurer into the heart of the Amazon searching for a lost civilization.
2. **Out of Africa** by Isak Dinesen. Karen Blixen lived in Kenya from 1914 to 1931. She writes of an Africa still under the yoke of European colonialism. It is a place of great beauty and great peril.
3. **Catfish & Mandala** by Andrew X. Pham is the chronicle of his bike journey along the west coast of the US and Mexico and onto Vietnam. His family fled Vietnam when he was a ten year old boy, he needed to go back to Vietnam to see the family left behind, to see the life he did not live.
4. **Outposts** by Simon Winchester. In the past it was said that the sun never set on the British Empire. Time has left it much diminished. Winchester was curious about what remains. He traveled 100,000 miles to find out, visiting the last remnants of the world's previous super power.



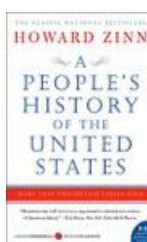
## January 2011 Book Clubs

January 3<sup>rd</sup> the Mystery Book Club kicks off the New Year with **The Last Dickens** by Matthew Pearl. Charles Dickens died while in the middle of writing **The Mystery of Edwin Drood**. James Osgood, of Fields & Osgood, sends his clerk Daniel to pick up a shipment from Dickens, hoping it is the rest of the manuscript. The young man dies in the street and the pages go missing. Publishing in the late 1800's was a wild and wooly proposition, whichever publisher managed to grab Dickens' manuscript would have riches, while Dickens' chosen publisher would be out in the cold. Mixing real figures from history within his story, Matthew Pearl takes us searching for Dickens' last manuscript from New York to London, from the boardrooms of publishing houses to the opium dens of the drug addicted. Osgood is determined to find any remaining pages and Rachel is set on discovering how her brother Daniel ended up perishing so young, under such ignoble circumstances. The writing is a treat. the story engaging.



January 10<sup>th</sup> the Classics Book Club has the great privilege of discussing **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens, my favorite book by the master. On Christmas Eve in 1812 young Pip stands by the grave of the father and mother he never knew. A wee lad of 7, Pip is easily cowed by an escaped convict who accosts the boy and threatens to rip out his heart and liver. And that is just the beginning of this marvelous tome. Pip's fortunes will rise and fall, from his humble beginnings living with his married sister to the elegance of London high society. Dickens books are stories of great breadth, suffused with humor, and fully invested in an investigation of the human heart. They are great fun to read, a real pleasure.

January 17<sup>th</sup> the Fiction Book Club discusses **Mister Pip** by Lloyd Jones. Revolution comes to a tropical island, all the whites and the teachers flee save Mr. Watts who remains behind with his wife Grace. He agrees to teach the native children and begins by reading to them from **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens. As Rebels roam the hills firing guns, the young island children sit transfixed listening to the story of an orphan in long ago London. Matilda is captivated by Pip's story leading to dramatic and unforeseen consequences. This is a powerful, heartbreaking, beautiful book.



January 24<sup>th</sup> the Non Fiction Book Club tackles **A People's History of the United States** by Howard Zinn. Anyone interested in history should read this book! It is stuffed full of the history of our country, from Columbus's cruel subjugation of the natives on Haiti and Cuba to the violence in Seattle and across the land as the IWW took on the bosses to fight for a living wage and decent working conditions, the Civil War, the struggle for equal rights, both world wars, Viet Nam, and on up to the Clinton years, 9/11, and the Iraq War. Zinn was a bombardier in WWII. One run had him dropping bombs on a small French Village. After the war, being interested in Political Science and History, he went back and interviewed the survivors in that village. He discovered it was a friendly village with some German soldiers who had run away and were waiting out the war. 1000 people died in his bombing run. This sounds like a page out of Joseph Heller's **Catch-22**. Zinn had a questioning nature, a desire to understand the real facts rather than the official line. While he applauds Columbus's audacity, bravery, and determination he does not forgive his brutality, lack of compassion, and genocide. We need to be more aware. Especially now that all those implements of war have escalated. It is no longer sufficient to avoid the sharp edge of Spanish steel, now we have missiles that come screaming out of the air with the power to blow great bits of the world to smithereens. Zinn was a respected professor with an ability to write in clear, concise prose. Facts are power, and this book is full of them.

1/31/11 the Travel Essay Book Club discusses **Skeptical Romancer** by W. Somerset Maugham. An author of enormous talent, Maugham has written some of the best books of his time. In addition to writing fiction with great emotional power, he was also an enthusiastic traveler who spoke several languages, spied for the Brits, and zipped around the globe. **Skeptical Romancer** is a series of vignettes from Maugham's travels to Spain, China, Russia, America, the South Sea Islands, and a few other places. The writing is lovely.



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

February 7th 2011 **Pale Kings & Princes** by Robert Parker [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 14th 2011 **Love in the Time of Cholera** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez [Classics Book Club](#)

Feb 21<sup>st</sup> 2011 at 6:30 PM an author led discussion of **Seeing Stars** by Diane Hammond [Fiction Book Club](#)

February 28th 2011 **13 Bankers** by Simon Johnson and James Kwak [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

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](#)

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