



Sunriver Books & Music

March 2011

Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com

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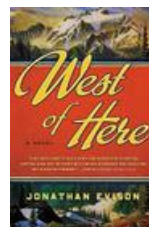
Congratulations to Central Oregon's own Sarahlee Lawrence on winning the PNBA Award for her debut memoir **River House**. She will be with us Saturday March 19th at 5:00 PM. This amazing young woman has run some of the most dangerous rivers on the planet, built her own log house, is as comfortable on a horse as she is running rivers, and is an organic farmer who has traveled to Italy to participate in a conference on the Slow Food Movement. Whew, that is a lot to pack into any life! Sarahlee lives life with passionate enthusiasm.

River House moves from her days as a globetrotting river rat to the realization that her heart was right here in Central Oregon on the Terrebonne ranch where she was raised. She had me on the edge of my seat reading the first chapter about running a river on the border of Bolivia and Peru where the rapids are called *los monstros*. As she confronts the wild rivers, she keeps seeing the wide open spaces of Central Oregon and feeling the pull of home. Arriving back in Central Oregon she finds her father suffering from a mid-life crisis. Father and Daughter share a love for wild, dangerous water. But where Sarahlee is drawn to the violent rapids of rivers, her Dad wants the big waves of an ocean. Sarahlee's mother is a stalwart presence in her life, trying to accommodate the needs of her family and stay afloat. **River House** moves beautifully through the dynamics of family, reconciling the passionate natures of people who live life with gusto. These are people who care fiercely and are willing to take chances.

SROA's projector and Sarahlee's computer did not play well together at her last appearance. She has a new gizmo that should help them get along and allow us to watch her slides

Making a difference is important to this young woman. She farms certified organic vegetables right here in Central Oregon. The CSA program allows people within a certain radius of her farm to have fresh, healthy, organic vegetables delivered weekly. At a book event in Bend we were served some of her fresh veggies, I did not believe we grew anything tasting so good right here in the USA! When she isn't farming Sarahlee is still out on that wild, turbulent, dangerous water. She guides expeditions on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon.

We are exceptionally pleased to present Jonathan Evison author of **West of Here** on March 26th at 5:00 PM. We predict this is going to be one of the year's big books, a prediction shared by Publisher's Weekly. The American Book Seller's Association picked **West of Here** as the number one book on the Indie List for February. And it is already on the Northwest Best Seller's List and the ABA Best Seller's List. We are very glad to be able to offer the community the opportunity to hear this very talented author.



Epic is far too tame a description for this ambitious novel set in a fictional Northwest town on the Olympic Peninsula. Evison gleefully chews up the landscape from 1890 to 2006. Dreamers and drifters, entrepreneurs, scoundrels, and hardworking everyday people all had a hand in settling the Northwest. Big trees, lots of rain, and an unparalleled lushness defined the land. In the 1890's the settlers had lots of beautiful blank canvas to sculpt their desires. Jagged peaked, majestic Olympic Mountains, windswept sea, deep lakes, and the roar of the rushing river, all stood splendidly untouched before them. By 2006 the consequences of their choices were home to roost. Evison treats his characters well, using humor and respect to drive his story forward. He captures the landscape as only someone who loves it can understand this gorgeous wild piece of the northwest.

Evison doesn't pretty up his characters, he lets them have plenty grit. These are men and women who struggle to find their way, make poor choices, recover as best they can and move on with their lives. He skillfully blends the story of the 1890's settlers and adventurers who saw no limit to the resources and dove in with unrestrained ambition to harness the wilderness for profit and posterity with their descendants in 2006 and the consequences of all that wild enthusiasm. When Evison describes a river or a mountain valley it feels like stepping straight into the Olympics, he puts you right there.

We had the pleasure of hearing Jonathan Evison speak; you are in for a real treat. This young man has talent to burn! There will be refreshments and drawings for prizes at both events. Stop by Sunriver Books & Music, call 541-593-2525, or e-mail sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com

Upcoming Author Appearances

- 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

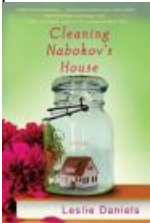
We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak often clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free with refreshments served and drawings for prizes. Call or e-mail Sunriver Books & Music to attend and be entered in the prize drawings. Space may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

Books, Books, & More Books!

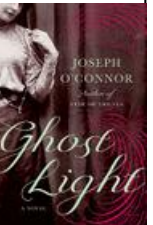


The Paris Wife by Paula McLain is fascinating. Hemmingway was a giant of American Literature, a guy who lived life large. Hadley Richardson is a naïve 28 year old when she meets young Hemmingway in 1920's Chicago. She is swept off her feet despite the warning voice of a good friend. Don't you know girl, you never can win? This man is going to marry words; his mistress will be stories and adventure. Hadley heads with Hemmingway to Paris where they meet all sorts of literary icons; F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ezra Pound, Gertrude Stein. Of course Hadley is the Paris wife, another woman will catch Hemmingway's fancy and the Paris interlude will end. In the meantime it is fun to read about Paris brimming with all those lions of the written word.

Started Early Took My Dog by Kate Atkinson is a rousing good story told with a quirky sense of itself. Jackson Brodie is trying to find the origins of Hope McMasters, an Australian woman whose adoptive parents haven't filled in many details on the biological set. His search has him in Yorkshire, the home of his childhood. And it seems things were not too straightforward in Hope's adoption. Tracey Waterhouse, a retired police detective, took a job as head of security for a shopping mall. She makes a snap decision that will change her life when she witnesses a child being abused. Atkinson blends the threads of the story masterfully, sprinkling the book full of difficult but likeable characters.



Cleaning Nabokov's House by Leslie Daniels is a lively story. Barb didn't plan out the logistics of leaving her husband too well; actually not planning was one of the issues in their marriage. The ex-person ends up with the kids and the house. Barb is devastated by the loss of her children. But the social worker (who happens to be dating the ex-person) and the judge (who went to school with the ex-person) feel that living out of a car with no job is not the proper environment for two young children. Barb needs to get her act together, provide a proper home and have an income before she has a shot at getting her kids again. Probably moving into Nabakov's house, discovering a hidden manuscript, and opening a brothel were not what the authorities had meant. No matter, it is great fun, and a little sexy.



Ghost Light by Joseph O'Connor is lyrically written, historical fiction. Molly was once the toast of the town, the love of troubled John Synge's life. As a celebrated actress she traveled far and wide, living the high life. Now she is elderly, eking out a living as best she can in a cold London walk up with a cat for company. Jobs are hard to come by for an aging actress with a fondness for strong drink. Walking across war ravaged London to an audition, and they are few and far between now, she remembers earlier days when she was the muse of a brilliant man. And what a life she has to remember!



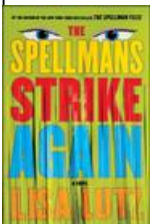
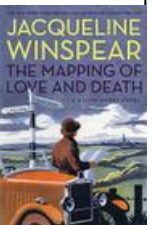
Whiter Than Snow by Sandra Dallas is releasing in paperback this March. Its 1920 in Swandyke Colorado near the Ten Mile Range, in a few minutes a shelf of snow is going to split off high on Jubilee Mountain then pick up speed as a wall of white hurtles like a freight train toward a group of school children heading home on the path far below. In seconds they will be covered deep in snow. Some will live and some will die. Their families wait together, hope alive until the last possible minute. As we wait with the families, we learn their backgrounds, their stories. Each family has a story that brought it to this moment on this mountain.

Arcadia Falls by Carol Goodman has released in paperback. Meg was living the good life with a snazzy big house in an upscale neighborhood, private school for her teenage daughter and an attractive husband. His sudden death leaves her alone, without funds, and wondering how she is going to cope. Meg accepts a teaching position in a small private school with an emphasis on art, hoping it will be a wholesome place to raise her daughter. But instead of a safe haven, she has found a web of dangerous secrets. Lily Eberhardt, one of the schools founders and an artist Meg very much admires, fell to her death along a slippery path near a raging river in 1947. Soon after Meg's arrival another body will be claimed on the path. Dark and moody, full of artful illusions, this one will keep you guessing.



The Surrendered by Chang Rae Lee is releasing in paperback this March. War slams into June, Hector and Sylvie with a tragic ferocity. Their lives will intersect in Korea changing them forever. Epic in its scope, beautifully written, and powerful the story begins in Korea then moves to Manchuria, New Jersey and Italy. Sylvie is a beautiful woman, her parents were missionaries and she married a missionary. She seems able to connect deeply with the orphaned children in Korea, but she has demons following from her past. June lived through horrific experiences as a small child during the Korean war. She immigrated to New York, but carries the scars of her youth. Hector was a GI, and war changes a man. What makes us who we are? Can cataclysmic events alter our sense of self beyond redemption?

The Mapping of Love and Death by Jacqueline Winspear is in paperback in March. Maisie is approached to find the wartime love of a young man whose body has been uncovered in a farmer's field, his sweetheart's letters at his side. Hope of finding their son had died long ago for his parents, but maybe they could find the woman he loved. Sixteen years in the ground took a toll on the body; Maisie is still certain he was killed by an enemy much closer than the shells fired in war. A killer cunning enough to hide his tracks well, can Maisie solve the case before another victim is claimed?



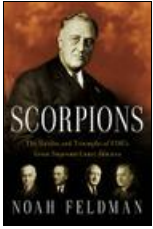
The Spellman's Strike Again by Lisa Lutz is releasing in paperback in March. Splendidly quirky, the Spellman clan is recklessly charging through life with the vigor and finesse of a bull in a porcelain shop. Breakage is always a possibility. Izzy wonders when her parent's San Francisco house is starting to shed its parts, door handles, light fixtures, all oddly disappearing. Teenage Rae is coloring way outside the lines, busily blackmailing her family and getting herself into heaps of trouble. All your favorite suspects are right in the thick of things.

Haunting Jasmine by Anjali Banerjee is set in Puget Sound. If you are in the mood for something light that will leave you feeling good, with a bit of a love story, and a ghost story too, then this is just the ticket. Jasmine is in the throes of a nasty divorce, living the fast life in LA, trying to stay afloat amid the hustle and bustle of her job in the economic sector. She hasn't been home to the NW to spend much time in quite a while when she is asked a favor by her Auntie. She needs Jasmine to watch her bookstore while Auntie makes a trip to India. Well all sorts of things can happen in a bookstore. And they do.



Rich's Recommendations

The Murder Room by Michael Capuzzo is the story of the Vidocq Society, a collection of detectives and forensic specialists dedicated to solving cold case murders who meet monthly in Philadelphia, putting their expertise to the task of bringing justice to families who have lost loved ones to murder. Vidocq was a famous 19th century French detective who inspired the character Sherlock Holmes. Vidocq was France's top cop, creator of the Surete. He would like lending his name. Capuzzo brings to life the stories of the cases solved by this fascinating collection of sleuths.



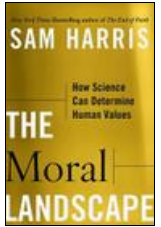
Scorpions by Noah Feldman brilliantly narrates the behind-the-scenes personality conflicts that shaped the justices of the Supreme Court during FDR's and Truman's presidencies. Feldman's story focuses on four of FDR's judicial appointments—Black, Douglas, Frankfurter and Jackson as they each exhibited unique constitutional approaches that had an impact on modern day jurisprudence. This is a first rate work of narrative history.



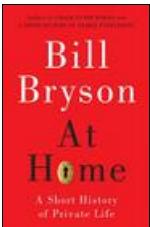
The Moral Landscape by Sam Harris argues that there is indeed a relationship between morality and scientific fact. Harris sees morality in terms of human and animal well-being, with peaks and valleys in the moral landscape. Harris believes that science can quantify the rightness and wrongness of morality and predict and “tell us” what we might be doing to maximize and live the best lives possible. Relying on his expertise in philosophy and neuroscience, Harris gives us a look at how science will give us another way to think about and act on the idea of living a moral life free of religion.



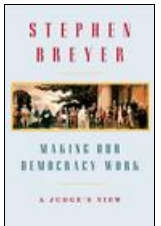
The Pacific by Hugh Ambrose follows the story of five men who fought in the Pacific during WWII. The story of each man shows the courage and heroism inherent in the soldiers that defended our country. While serving in different areas of the Pacific, each of the soldier's effort and sacrifice was an example of what all servicemen went through during the worst fighting in modern memory. The book is a companion to the HBO miniseries.



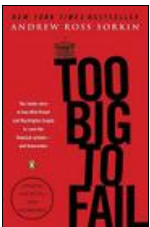
Making Our Democracy Work by Justice Stephen Breyer reviews the Supreme court as its role is defined by the willingness of the public to embrace and accept its decisions. Breyer cites several historic incidents where the government completely ignored the Supreme Court decisions. Breyer looks at recent challenges to the court and the failure of the government to adhere to its legal decisions. Breyer also describes the minor workings of the Supreme Court and the personalities behind his fellow justices.



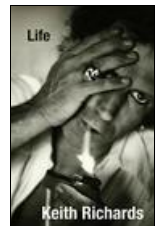
At Home by Bill Bryson takes us on a domestic tour throughout his 19th Century former rectory and with his usual quirky wit, finds fascinating arcania in each room that he visits. He illuminates the progress that Anglo-Saxon domesticity enjoyed and how everyday common items we enjoy today were transformative of early Victorian life. With his usual droll wit, Bryson makes connections between everyday items and how they shaped how society lived at the time, giving us an unusual look at history.



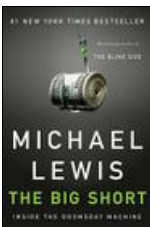
Life by Keith Richards. In this amazing autobiography, Keith Richards remembers everything from his childhood growing up in a suburb of London to the present, describing the creative hurricane that was life as a Rolling Stone. Despite the legendary drug use (virtually all true) to all of the women on tour and the complicated relationship with Mick Jagger he spins a tale of his life that most of us can only imagine and he lived to tell about it. The passages that describe his song writing and guitar playing are some of the best descriptions of musical virtuosity and genius written. His writing style is engaging, lucid and seems like having an extended conversation with a decades old mate.



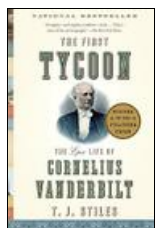
Too Big To Fail by Andrew Sorkin. New York Times reporter Sorkin has written a page-turning insider's account of the battle between the big investment firms on Wall Street and the US Government trying to avert the largest financial meltdown since the Great Depression. Did you ever wonder that as the crisis unfolded no one seemed to know what was going on and the ideas that were put forward were quickly abandoned for equally dubious ones? Read this book for a minute by minute account of the disaster as it happened, as the confused and uncertain bankers and regulators tried everything in the book to avert catastrophe.



The First Tycoon by T.J. Stiles. Cornelius Vanderbilt rose from a young farm boy to become America's richest person overseeing a business empire built on steamboat ferries and railroads. His grip on and influence over the American economy at the time can be barely comprehended. At the time of his death in 1877, he controlled one out of every 20 dollars in the American economy. Vanderbilt was a combination of democratic pragmatist and a corporate despot. Through the brute force of his personality, he consolidated the railroad industry and became a symbol of how the market's power could be exploited to its ultimate monopolistic advantage. Stiles writes of interesting facts about his unusual family relationships and his titanic battles with his business opponents. His lasting legacy is best known for making peace with his business rivals and championing the reconciliation between the North and South after the Civil War. His bequest in establishing Vanderbilt University is the embodiment of this sentiment.



The Big Short by Michael Lewis recounts the stories of several people who understood the dangerous and unsustainable housing bubble of 2007-2008 and realized that by betting against the banks and organizations that were promoting the bubble, they could make vast sums of money. Lewis uses the narrative of these people to show the greed of investors preying on the misery of lower and middle class Americans who couldn't pay their mortgages and the colossal fraud the banks and investment firms engaged in that put the world's economy in such danger.



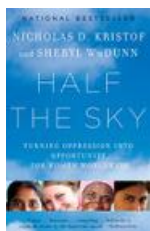
March 2011 Book Clubs

March 7th the Mystery Book Club discusses **Scarecrow** by Michael Connelly. Newspapers in the US have been going out of business or being gobbled up by big conglomerates. It is really quite frightening when you consider that newspapers are society's watchdogs. A free press that is able to report openly and reliably, without bias or influence, is a cornerstone of democracy. And we are losing ours bit by bit. Connelly knows this world and brings it to life in a gripping mystery. Reporter Jack McEvoy has been given 12 days notice by the LA Times. His last story told of the discovery of a murdered young woman in the trunk of a car and the 16 year old street tough arrested for the crime. He decides to go out with a bang, to dig deeper into this story and write something memorable, a swan song. But the story takes a twist and the hunters become the hunted.

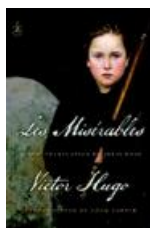
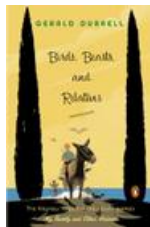
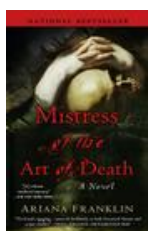


March 14th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses **The Journey Home** by Ed Abbey. His best known books are **Desert Solitaire** and **The Monkey Wrench Gang**. Ed Abbey lived life big. He had a passionate love of the wilderness and liked it unspoiled by either governmental interference or development. He saw the land as necessary to the human soul, a place so big and wild it could make us a bit more whole just by standing to pause and look around. Abbey was always best pleased when he could upset some group or political party and the series of essays in **The Journey Home** is a perfect example of this maverick, passionate, reckless, brilliant man's absolute refusal to be pigeon holed or defined. He once said *If my decomposing carcass helps nourish the roots of a Juniper tree or the wings of a vulture-that is immortality enough for me. And as much as anyone deserves.* And that pretty well sums up Ed Abbey's philosophy. He was an original.

March 21st the Fiction Book Club discusses **Freedom** by Jonathan Franzen, a complex, rich, beautifully written book. Walter and Patty meet in college, he is a serious young man with ambitions to make a difference in the world, and she is a jock from a wealthy family. They marry and settle into life in St. Paul's inner city before it is trendy. Patty is determined to do a better job of child rearing than her Mom. Walter is so environmentally conscious he bikes to work even during snow. But as the book moves on Patty's adored son has relocated next door with their redneck neighbor and relations with her daughter are not too sunny either. Walter, so passionately green, runs headlong into a midlife crisis ending up in bed with big coal. Walter's roommate from college, musician Richard Katz, has a hit (much to his surprise and chagrin) thus spurring Walter to try "keeping up". He feels life is leaving him behind. Meanwhile Richard is not at all comfortable with his new found fame and works hard at self sabotage. This is a juicy, book full of the contradictions, compromises, bad choices, and self righteousness we carry. Each of the characters grow, and come to realize we all do the best we can in life.



March 28th the Non Fiction Book Club discusses **Half the Sky** by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Women have it rough; it is a man's world. Every day somewhere in the world something bad is happening to some poor woman. Honor killings when the male members of the family feel their honor has been besmirched. Women are burned alive when the dowry is not considered sufficient, after all the man can just go find another bride and receive another dowry. Genital mutilation, having acid thrown on them, beatings, being captured as sexual slaves to spend their lives forced to work in brothels, and it is happening every day somewhere in the world. Kristof and WuDunn make a case for economically empowering women to change this world order and help move the third world out of poverty. Empowering women through education, giving them the opportunity to be economically viable, and providing safe, responsible medical care can make huge differences in the economic and political reality of their regions. Women can help move third world countries to a better future given the chance. Kristof and WuDunn give information on what is happening in the world today then suggestions on ways you can be part of making positive changes.



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

- 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 Misérables** 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](#)
- June 6th 2011 **Bootlegger's Daughter** by Margaret Maron [Mystery Book Club](#) [Month of Americana, the South](#)
- 6/13/11 **Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** by Mark Twain [Classics Book Club](#) [Month of Americana, the South](#)
- June 20th 2011 **Prince of Tides** by Pat Conroy [Fiction Book Club](#) [Month of Americana, the South](#)
- June 27th 2011 **Old Glory** by Jonathan Raban [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [Month of Americana, the South](#)
- July 11th 2011 **Six Suspects** by Vikas Swarup [Mystery Book Club](#)
- July 18th 2011 **The Night Birds** by Thomas Maltman [Fiction Book Club](#)
- July 25th 2011 **The Way We Live Now** by Anthony Trollope [Classics Book Club](#)
- August 1st 2011 **The Man Who Walked Through Time** by Colin Fletcher [Travel Essay Book Club](#)
- August 8th 2011 **Stone's Fall** by Ian Pears [Mystery Book Club](#)
- August 15th **Devil in the White City** by Erik Larson [Non Fiction Book Club](#)
- August 22nd 2011 **Cutting for Stone** by Abraham Verghese [Fiction Book Club](#)

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

