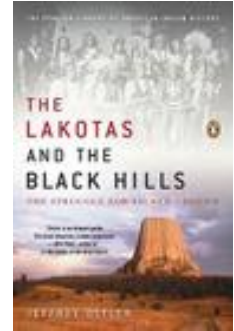
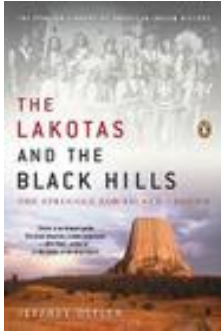




Sunriver Books & Music
November 2011 Newsletter
Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Saturday November 12th at 5:00 PM we have a speaker of tremendous interest. Jeff Ostler will give a presentation on his latest book, ***The Lakotas And The Black Hills: The Struggle For Sacred Ground***. The treatment of Native Americans by the US Government has been abysmal; honoring treaties has not been on the agenda. Jeff Ostler is a professor of history at the University of Oregon, his book is a scholarly, well researched narrative but not the least bit dry, it is a very readable, engrossing story.

The Black Hills are sacred to the Lakotas, a place they believe where life began. How they lost this land and their fight to regain their rightful property is told in a fair and balanced manner. Ostler opens with a description of the Black Hills that beautifully sets the scene, bringing you to feel as if you are standing in this stark, beautiful landscape and letting you know what that land means to the Lakota. He starts at the beginning, with the Lakotas first interactions with what was basically an invasion of their territory. First there were settlers passing through, heading west, then gold fever, and finally settlers who wanted the Lakota gone so they could have the land.

What is especially gripping about this book is the way Ostler takes you through the whole story, from the negotiation for passage through Lakota land, to the building of forts, and the signing of treaties that were not fully disclosed to the Lakota (they did not read English and were not versed in contract law). The Gold Rush of 1874 put more pressure on the tribe. Custer's disaster at Little Big Horn had an impact on the minds of leaders back in Washington DC and affected the Lakota. Expect to hear about the involvement of many a famous name, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse among others. The Lakota's situation became more and more untenable as the game they relied on was driven out by the settlers. Hungry and facing waves of settlers they could not turn away, the Lakota were put on reservations.

Conflicting claims on this sacred land continue. The Lakota have been involved in a lengthy, decades long, legal battle to regain the Black Hills. Ostler does an excellent job in informing the reader of the legal maneuvering, setbacks, victories and long term goals, truly involving the reader in this ongoing struggle. The Lakota do not want to settle for compensation they want their land. But the land has other claimants; it is home to Mount Rushmore and a destination for tourists. Resolution may be complicated.

This book is rich in history written in an accessible, very readable, and captivating style. I enjoyed reading it very much; it gives a deeper understanding of this chapter in history. And it is a very interesting story. Jeff Ostler has a mastery of his subject that brings this story to life.

Join us for a fascinating evening. We will have refreshments and drawings for door prizes. Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, emailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music. Author events are free and very entertaining.

Upcoming Author Appearances

Saturday December 10th 2011 5:00 PM **Dishing Up Oregon: 145 Recopies That Celebrate Farm to Table Flavors** by Ashley Garland

Saturday January 14th 2012 5:00 PM **Vanishing Acts** by Phillip Margolin and Ami Margolin Rome

Saturday February 11th 2012 5:00 PM **Contents May Have Shifted by Pam Houston!!!!**

Tuesday February 14th 2012 **6:00 PM The Mirage** by Matt Ruff

Saturday February 25th 2012 5:00 PM **Until the Next Time** by Kevin Fox

Saturday May 19th 2012 **7:00 PM Where Lilacs Still Bloom** by Jane Kirkpatrick

Join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak 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 web site, Sunriverbooks.com, for changes and additions.

Kelsey Yocum's Page!

Kelsey Yocum has graced Sunriver Books & Music as a member of the staff during summer and holidays. If this is the next generation, there is hope. She is bright, friendly, ambitious and a joy to be around. Kelsey volunteered to write a few reviews for the newsletter.



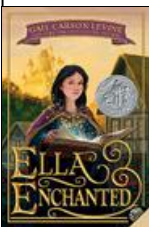
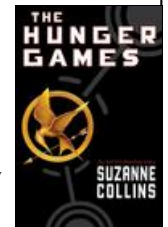
The Night Circus by Erin Morgenstern. Adult.. You read this book for the atmosphere. It is set in an alternate 19th century Europe. Two illusionists, trained by magicians from two different schools of thought, are pitted against each in a life-long competition where the venue is a travelling magical circus and the rules are unknown. The setting is gorgeous. You feel yourself walk through the circus, exploring the different tents, learning its secrets. You begin to understand the circus' evolution and history through the ongoing game between Celia and Marco. They compete by adding more fantastical elements to the circus' performance. If you want a story that is completely different told in a style as beautiful as it is unusual, this is your next read.

The Lightning Thief (*Percy Jackson and the Olympians #1*) by Rick Riordan. (Middle Grade to Adult) The Percy Jackson books: the Greek mythology adventure series sweeping the nation. Percy Jackson has always felt out of place—he has ADHD and dyslexia and is constantly getting expelled from school. After monsters straight out of Greek mythology start tracking him down he discovers he's a demigod (that is he has one godly parent) and finds refuge at Camp Half-Blood, a place for others like him. It turns out the ADHD is actually battle senses. The dyslexia? His brain is hard-wired to read ancient Greek. However, immediately after arriving in camp Percy is already in trouble. Zeus' lightning bolt has been stolen and Percy is the prime suspect. He has 10 days to find the real thief. The whole series is a wonderfully fun thrill ride where myths come alive in the modern world.



The Thief (*The Queen's Thief series #1*) by Megan Whalen Turner. Middle Grade / Young Adult. The key to this series is Gen. He's a trickster who holds the royal position of Queen's Thief in a world where the kingdoms are a melding of medieval fantasy and Ancient Greece. The story begins like an escape caper with Gen caught in prison after loudly boasting of his thieving skill. But Gen is always one step ahead of the reader and his fellow characters. It becomes clear a great deal of political intrigue is involved and nothing is quite as it seems. Though *The Thief* is the Newbery Honor winner, each book in the series is better than the last. In fact I started with *Queen of Attolia* and was completely thrilled with it. The characterization and beautiful world building of this series makes it one of my all-time favorites and a book all ages (11 and up) can enjoy.

The Hunger Games (*Book #1 of the Hunger Games series*) by Suzanne Collins. Young Adult/Adult. This book has become a phenomenon, warranting midnight release parties of its own and giving the dystopian genre an adrenalin boost. Don't be put off by the premise—it is one of the most engrossing reads of YA. It is a set in the indeterminate future in a post-apocalyptic world. Twelve districts ruled by the Capitol through fear have replaced America. Fear that is reinforced each year through The Hunger Games, a live TV event where a girl and a boy from each district between the ages of 12 and 18 is randomly chosen as a contestant in a free-for-all fight to the death. Katniss bravely takes the place of her younger sister as the girl representative from District 12. She is a survivor who will give it her all to win, but at what risk to her humanity? The series is a commentary on reality TV and mindless media consumption in the form of a thriller that keeps you reading all night. You'll immediately want the sequel, *Catching Fire*, after finishing the last page of *The Hunger Games*.



Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine. Middle Grade. An oldie but goody and, as usual, much better than the movie, *Ella Enchanted* has the Cinderella story as its foundation but goes far beyond the original. At her birth, Ella is not so much as blessed but cursed by her fairy godmother with obedience. She must obey every direct order given to her. In spite of, or because of this, Ella grows up full of spunk and pluck. There are evil stepsisters, a glass slipper, a pumpkin coach, and a prince, but the heart of the story is Ella's self-discovery as a result of her adventures while on her quest to lift the curse.

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak. Middle Grade / Young Adult/Adult. One of the most poetically written and stylistically interesting books I've read in a long while, *The Book Thief* is shelved in the younger section but is also a fantastic book club book for adults. It is set in Nazi Germany where we follow Liesel, a "perpetual survivor," and her foster family. The narrator is Death, which seems appropriate given that Death was everywhere in WWII. This unusual recounting is pulled off with grace. Death is by no means a grisly narrator and instead quite empathetic towards humans. Death thinks of Liesel as "the book thief," after seeing her pick up her first book, *The Grave Digger's Handbook*, out of the snow at her brother's funeral. We slowly see the escalation of the war, following Liesel and her experiences with her friends, including the Jewish man the family has hidden in their basement. I found it refreshing to see the war through the lives of normal German citizens. If you read one book this year, it should be this one. It is one of those books where you come out the other side with a different view of the world.



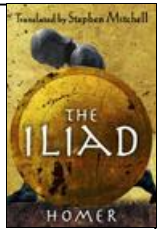
Leviathan (*and series*) by Scott Westerfeld. Young Adult/Adult. This book is something completely different from other stories, but also Westerfeld's other books. It is a steampunk story, where a time period, in this case WWI, is taken and turned upside down in an alternative and fantastical retelling. In Westerfeld's world the English, or Darwinists, have taken Darwinian ideas and run with them, creating new species as their form of technology. For example, the British Air Service uses airships that are actually giant whales that work as self-contained ecosystems. The Germans, or Clankers, instead have taken the mechanical technology of the time and gone to the extreme, creating gas-powered walkers and other war machines. We follow two protagonists: Deryn, who, in traditional YA fashion, dresses as a boy to join the British Air Service, and Prince Aleksandar who must flee Austria after the assassination of his parents. When the two cross paths, the "us versus them" dynamic begins to break down as they learn about each other's cultures.

Books, Books, & More Books!

In October we attended the Pacific Northwest Bookseller Association's meeting and tradeshow in Portland. My favorite book from the show this year is Steven Mitchell's brilliant translation of *The Iliad* by Homer. This lush, gorgeous book gives a very readable translation of Homer's 2,700 year old Epic. There is grand passion, war, love, drama and a spellbinding story in this sumptuous classic. Helen launches a thousand ships, Hector and Achilles battle in the Trojan War while Zeus, Aphrodite, and Apollo aid their favorites. I am so very pleased with this excellent translation.



Rin Tin Tin by Susan Orlean is the story of a super star, a dog touched with grace. Born on a WWI battlefield in France, Rin Tin Tin rose to superstardom conquering first silent movies then television. Corporal Lee Duncan rescued the puppy and took him home to the US, he built his life around the dog. Rin Tin Tin was a movie star handsome dog with dark intelligent eyes and a serious mien that brought to mind his war-torn start in life. There is a ton of detail on the movies in the early years, the use of German Shepherds in Police and military, and the beginnings of the sport of dog obedience with the AKC. *Rin Tin Tin* had that special something called star power, he dazzled.



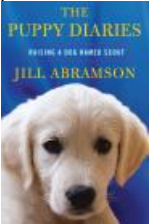
When She Woke by Hilary Jordan is set in a not too distant future, the religious right is in control and rules are a bit more draconian. Criminals are colored then pitched out to make their way in the world with their highly visible skin, much cheaper than prisons, a bit like *The Scarlet Letter* run amok. The colorful criminals are referred to as Chromes, their first thirty days in their new skin broadcast as reality TV. Hannah is from a good church going family but she falls for a very married, charismatic public figure. Abortion is murder; Hannah is Chromed blood red for her sin. Life expectancy statistics are not too bright for Red Chromes. Hannah is set on a voyage of self discovery as she begins to question her beliefs. Hilary Jordan's first book, *Mudbound*, was a book club favorite. Her new book will have people talking too.



The Dovekeepers by Alice Hoffman is focused on a historic event. Masada has a history drenched in blood. 900 Jews died there, refusing to bow down to the Roman Army. Many of the victims were killed willingly by their own people to avoid capture by the Romans. Only 7 survived; 2 women and 5 children, keepers of the story of the massacre. This powerful story is told through the perspectives of four strong women; a warrior, a conjuror of spells and herbs, the daughter of an assassin, and the wife of a baker.



The Lady of Rivers by Philippa Gregory is history transformed into a rousing good story. Right from the opening pages the intrigue begins. Joan of Arc is held hostage by John of Luxembourg. Allied with the British he is expected to hand the warrior over but the women of his family have a secret of their own. Lady Jehanne, the matriarch, is a descendent of Melusina, the River Goddess, she shares her secrets with her niece Jacquetta. The pretty young girl will become a Duchess, a beautiful widow, and an enchantress. Jacquetta will risk everything to marry a second time for love. Full of action and suspense while relaying the story of one of history's more interesting women.



The Puppy Diaries by Jill Abramson is adorable. Dog lovers will be charmed by the beautifully written and delightful story of Abramson's puppy Scout. This is the serendipitous love story of a brilliantly talented reporter, Abramson, and a heart stealing Golden Retriever puppy, Scout. The result is a book about the first year of Scout's life to delight those blessed with an appreciation for the canine contingent.



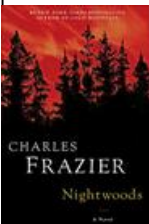
The Goat Woman of Largo Bay by Gillian Royes brings a new voice to the mystery genre. Shad is the fix it man of his little community on Largo Bay. Shad works as a bartender in Eric's bar, but he keeps close watch on the happenings around him. Eric, an American, left the bitter cold of winters in the north for the warm breezes and deep blue waters of Jamaica, living out his dream in the sunshine. Or at least until a Hurricane flattens his hotel and converts his peninsula into an island. The arrival of a strange woman on Eric's now uninhabited island turns everything upside down. Shad and Eric are likeable characters and will hopefully have a long run as sleuths, a welcome new entry to the mystery genre.



The Marriage Plot by Jeffrey Eugenides is unique. A lot is expected of a book by Eugenides, and he does not disappoint. Have all the great loves stories already been written? What relevance does Jane Austen or George Eliot have for today's woman? Set in the 1980's, Madeline is wrestling with these questions both for her college senior thesis and as a woman fielding the attentions of two young men. Leonard is charismatic, flawed, and tragic; of course he is of great interest to Madeline. Mitchell is a seeker, trying to figure out how he fits into the general scheme of the Universe. He is totally smitten by Madeline. It is a lovely story, with a cutting edge look at life a hundred years after Jane Austen.

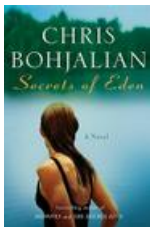


The Barbarian Nurseries by Hector Tobar is a thought provoking story. Araceli is the maid in the Torres-Thompson household. Built on dot-com money, sitting high above LA looking out over the blue Pacific, the financial foundations are crumbling in the wake of the recession. Scott is working a job he hates trying to keep their precarious finances afloat, but Maureen just doesn't seem to realize how close to the edge they are skating. First Scott lets the nanny go, and then the gardener, Araceli is the last Mexican left to keep the household running smooth. Fights over money are escalating, after a particularly vicious argument, Araceli wakes to find her employers gone and their two young sons very much at home. Not knowing what to do, she finally sets off across LA with the two youngsters in search of a grandfather they haven't seen in the past two years. It is an adventure with unforeseen consequences.

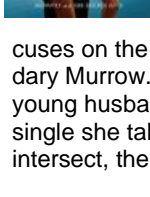


Nightwoods by Charles Frazier is a taut, suspenseful thriller set in the North Carolina mountains circa 1960. Luce has pretty much turned her back on too close an association with her fellow man, figuring solitude and natural beauty are better company. She lives in a rambling old lodge as caretaker. Abandoned by her mother, left with a father still struggling with his war experiences, Luce's most enriching relationship was with her sister. Life changes drastically for Luce when she takes on the care of her murdered sister's traumatized children. They change Luce's life in all kinds of ways and bring with them danger. Her sister's killer may not be finished, he might want the children dead too.

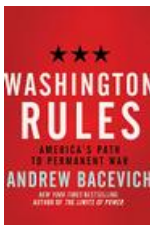
November 2011 Book Clubs



November 7th the Mystery Book Club discusses **Secrets of Eden** by Chris Bohjalian. As Reverend Stephen Drew lifts Alice Hayward out of the water at her baptism she looks up at him and says "there". She will not survive the night. Reverend Drew's faith will die with her. Heather believes her life is graced by angels; she is famous for writing about her experiences with them. Heather's mother was killed by her father; she believes she knows what the Reverend might be feeling. She tries to be Reverend Drew's angel, to bring him comfort and help him find a way back to his beliefs. Both want to help Katie, Alice's daughter, now 15 and an orphan. Secrets, yes there are secrets.

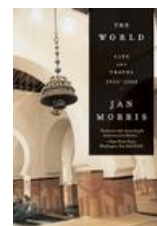


November 14th the Fiction Book Club discusses **The Postmistress** by Sarah Blake. Set during WWII, this story focuses on the war's effect on regular people rather than on battles. Frankie is a hotshot young reporter working under the legendary Murrow. Reporting from London she sends out over the radio the stories of Europe and WWII. Emma Trask sits with her young husband, Will, listening to Frankie's stories a world away in their little village on Cape Cod. Iris is the postmistress, 40 and single she takes her job seriously. But sometimes you have to decide between the regulations and what is moral. When their lives intersect, the Postmistress must keep a secret. This is a gripping and very different story set during the war, the characters are likeable and engaging.



November 21st the Non Fiction Book Club discusses **Washington Rules** by Andrew Bacevitch. His earlier book **The Limits of Power** was a book club favorite, and this one promises to provide a spirited discussion too. Bacevitch is a West Point graduate; he fought in Vietnam, and retired from the military as a colonel. He has a PHD in history from Princeton. Basically he is a conservative man who is not impressed with either political party. Neither George Bush nor Barak Obama have pleased him. Basically Bacevitch makes a compelling case that the US cannot be the world's policeman. We spend more on military than the rest of the world combined. This is not good for the financial well being of our country or relations with other countries. Bacevitch is most convincing in his plea that the USA stop being the world's warrior.

November 28th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses **The World: Travels 1950-2000** by Jan Morris. If you like to travel, or read about traveling, this is a wonderful book! Jan Morris has been everywhere, she has written beautifully about her travels in many, many books. This book condenses the stories into vignettes of those trips. From accompanying Edmund Hillary on the first successful summiting of Mount Everest to strolling in Venice, Morris explores a variety of experiences and settings. Kyoto, Cape Town, Jerusalem, Atlanta, Addis Ababa, and on into so many marvelous places to intrigue fellow travelers.



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

December 5th 2011 **The Wild Girl** by Jim Fergus [Fiction Book Club](#)

December 12th 2011 **Until Proven Guilty** by J.A. Jance [Mystery Book Club](#)

December 19th 2011 **Holy Cow** by Sarah MacDonald [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

January 2nd 2012 **At Home** by Bill Bryson [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

January 9th 2012 **Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter** by Tom Franklin [Mystery Book Club](#)

1/16/12 **Most Beautiful Walk in the World: A Pedestrian in Paris** by John Baxter [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

January 23rd 2012 **Remarkable Creatures** by Tracy Chevalier [Fiction Book Club](#)

January 30th 2012 **The Virgin & The Gypsy** by DH Lawrence [Classics Book Club](#)

2012 February 6th 2012 **City of Fallen Angels** by John Berendt [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

February 13th 2012 **Faithful Place** by Tana French [Mystery Book Club](#)

February 20th 2012 **Massacred for Gold** by Gregory Nokes [Non Fiction Book Club](#), [Author Leading](#)

February 27th 2012 **A Good Year** by Peter Mayle [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 5th 2012 **Heresy** by S. J. Parris [Mystery Book Club](#)

March 12th 2012 **Cleopatra** by Stacy Schiff [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

March 19th 2012 **Reservation Blues** by Sherman Alexie [Fiction Book Club](#)

March 26th 2012 **Modoc** by Ralph Helfer [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

April 2nd 2012 **The Tourist** by Olen Steinhauer [Mystery Book Club](#)

April 9th 2012 **Enchanted April** by Elizabeth Von Arnim [Classics Book Club](#)

April 16th 2012 **Room** by Emma Donoghue [Fiction Book Club](#)

April 23rd 2012 **Warmth of Other Suns** by Isabel Wilkerson [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

May 7th 2012 **Time Was Soft There** by Jeremy Mercer [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

May 14th 2012 **Arcadia Falls** by Carol Goodman [Mystery Book Club](#)

June 2nd 2012 **The Emperor of Ocean Park** by Stephan Carter [Mystery Book Club](#) [A Month of New England](#)

June 11th 2012 **Empire Falls** by Richard Russo [Fiction Book Club](#) [A Month of New England](#)

June 16th 2012 **Mayflower** by Nathaniel Philbrick [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [A Month of New England](#)

June 25th 2012 **The Human Stain** by Phillip Roth [Classics Book Club](#) [A Month of New England](#)

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

