



Sunriver Books & Music

September 2011 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Jane Kirkpatrick returns at 5:00 PM on Saturday September 24th for something entirely different. Jane is well known and beloved for her historical fiction, books that tell the story of real women who made contributions to history. Her books inform, entertain, and keep alive the stories of women. Sunriver had a fabulous quilt show in August, so let's mention a related book, **Aurora** is a non-fiction account of the quilts hanging on the museum wall and the women who created these works of art, because surely quilting is a work of art. The Emma Giesy trilogy, **A Clearing in the Wild**, **A Tendering in the Storm**, and **A Mending at the Edge** gives a good example of Jane's passion for telling the stories of strong women. Emma traveled west from Missouri, the only woman in a band of scouts, made tragic choices in Willapa Washington, and eventually took part in settling Aurora Oregon. Jane has written of women doing many extraordinary things from running a wagon train to becoming a photographer in the early days of photography. But this time Jane has written something entirely different.

Barcelona Calling had a working title of **Oprah Doesn't Know My Name**. Trademark issues required a different title, but the talk show maven is still a presence in the book. Annie Shaw is an author being published by a romance publisher. Understandably her publisher expects the books to follow the program, boy meets girl, boy gets girl (or vice versa). Annie's books don't adhere to the format; they tell stories of people facing conflict and the choices they make in overcoming the obstacles in their lives. They are warm stories full of humanity but lacking in the girl gets boy department. **As Barcelona Calling** opens, Annie is sort of celebrating the completion of her latest manuscript with her sister and closest friends. But Annie is worried. She is on book 4 of a 4 book contract and sales of the last two have not been brisk. To make matters worse, her advocate in the publishing firm, her editor, is gone and she is interacting with a new editor. Annie is afraid she will be dropped, a very unsettling fate for an author.

Her friends start brainstorming on ways to raise Annie's work to the top of the best seller's charts. It doesn't take them long to hit on a scheme, if they can only get Oprah to mention Annie, her worries (or at least her publishing worries) will be over. Thus begins a series of humorous escapades aimed at bringing Annie to Oprah's notice. They are entertaining. Let me just give you one of the earlier attempts as an example. Annie has long been a cat lover, but Oprah is known to favor the canine crowd. The girls decide Annie will adopt a dog then take it to the dog salon Oprah frequents. Oprah being an ardent animal lover will no doubt be charmed by Annie and her pooch. It is a doomed quest. First of all, Annie having no knowledge of dogs selects a Jack Russell Terrier. The cute animal is sleeping peacefully in his cage at the shelter. Annie is blissfully unaware that for the Jack Russell there are only 3 speeds, sleep, cuddle, and full tilt boogie, with the last being the prevailing speed. Let's just say that you could interpose terrorist for terrier and you would have an idea of the outcome of the dog salon scheme. No worries though, Jane Kirkpatrick, like Oprah, is an animal lover. So the terrier/terrorist is going to be okay.

Annie's latest book is inspired by events in her personal life. She accompanied her sister to Barcelona where her sister, a cop, was competing in the International Police and Fireman's Games. Riding a bus Annie is saved from a near robbery by a Spanish cop, sparks fly and a romance begins. But Annie leaves Jamie behind to return to her life in the states. He doesn't want to give her up. When her agent and publisher discover the book has a real life love story, they want to exploit it for publicity.

As the schemes for becoming famous multiply Annie starts to lose sight of what made her write and of how she wants to live her life. Like all Jane Kirkpatrick books, Annie's story has her facing challenges and learning. But this story is very funny too! Jane has written a modern story suffused with humor and warmth. Please come out and support this author as she stretches into new territory and does just fine.

Upcoming Author Appearances

- Saturday October 8th at 5:00 PM **Feathers** by Thor Hanson
- Saturday October 29th at 5:00 PM **Birds of Paradise** by Diana Abu-Jaber
- Saturday November 12th at 5:00 PM **The Lakotas and the Black Hills** by Jeffrey Ostler
- Saturday May 19th 2013 **7:00 PM Where Lilacs Still Bloom** by Jane Kirkpatrick

We hope you join us to enjoy these fabulous authors! Hearing an author speak clarifies and enriches the reading experience. Author readings are free unless otherwise noted 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.

Flashman urges you to inspire a child with the joy of reading!
August 28 to September 5
Donate a book to Three Rivers School!

It is hard for school districts to find the funds to keep their libraries and classrooms thriving with good literature. Help fuel the school children's passion for reading. Share your favorite children's books with Three Rivers School.

Buy any book in the children's section at 35% off, we keep the book and deliver it to Three Rivers School with your name & address. The first child to read the book will write you a thank you note, thereafter the book is available for the Three Rivers students. A \$19.99 book would cost you \$12.99, a \$16.99 book will be \$11.05, a \$12.99 book becomes \$8.44, \$9.99 reduces to \$6.49, and \$6.99 is just \$4.54.



Receive a surprise book every month!

Carole's Surprise is a subscription to a surprise book from Sunriver Books & Music every month. It is time to purchase the last quarter of 2011. Each month you will receive a surprise book that we hope you will bring will enjoy. We have featured **Houskeeping** by Marilynne Robinson, **Sweet Thursday** by John Steinbeck, and **Out Stealing Horses** by Per Petterson. Purchase a subscription and read the next surprise book.

Carole's Surprise for the 4th quarter of 2011 costs \$44.00 picked up in the store and \$50.00 mailed in the US. Every month brings a surprise book. Great as a gift or treat yourself! Sign up and receive surprise books starting October 1st.

Books, Books, & More Books!

The Eighty Dollar Champion by Elizabeth Letts is one of those amazing stories about winning against all odds. America loves underdogs, stories that go against the odds. And you couldn't get much longer odds than a plow-horse headed for the knackers yard and a cash strapped Dutchman winning the National Horse Show in Madison Square Garden. But win they did, inspiring the nation with the Cinderella story of a horse who escaped the butcher and learned how to fly. This is one for the heart!



Winter in Bloom by Lisa Tucker is a heartwarming story about family, fear, and secrets. Michael is not just the apple of his parents eye, he is the star in their galaxy, their greatest treasure. They are happier than they ever thought possible and that scares them. Something might go wrong. Kyra and David are obsessive about keeping Michael safe. If he sneezes he will be off to the doctors. School is just too dangerous, after trying several pre-schools they decide home schooling is the only safe option. This kid is protected, or should we say way over protected. Realizing they might be slightly out of control (more like obsessively in control) they are starting to let Michael have a few minutes outside in the yard. Their worst fears are realized when someone snatches the child. Kyra and David thought they could escape the past, now it is time to reveal their secrets and face their demons. Michael is certain his ex-wife has Michael. Kyra fears her family. They feared their happiness would shatter and their worst nightmare has come true. Michael is an adorable kid, and David and Kyra mean well. The characters are vulnerable, interesting, and flawed.

The Hundred Foot Journey by Richard Morais will be entertaining to the culinary connoisseur. Hassan certainly leads a wandering sort of life. Born into the turmoil of India, relocated to rainy London, moved on to the spectacular beauty of the French Alps, and settled in the sophistication of Paris. But the center of all his roaming, his roots and heart, are in the kitchen. Hassan is born with talent, the innate ability to taste and create sumptuous dishes. His untutored brilliance drives a renowned French chef to the edge of madness (well maybe she does tip over a bit). Her actions will change both their lives.



The Tower The Zoo and The Tortoise by Julia Stuart releases in paperback in this month. Throw in heaps of delicious details of history in the Tower of London, a zoo gone completely out of hand, and mix it all up with a cast of rather unique characters for a wonderful story. Balthazar Jones and Hebe are divided by grief over the death of their sweet son Milo. They live in the Tower of London, a setting about to get a lot more interesting when the Queen decides to open a little zoo and puts Balthazar in charge. If you like novels that are quirky and endearing, try this one.

The Lost Dogs by Jim Corant is the true story of how a famous football player treated animals. Dante should have designed a circle of Hell just for Michael Vicks and his cohorts. He should be hurled into its darkest reaches to suffer forever; it still would not make up for the harm he has caused. Instead he is out there playing ball and being paid big bucks. Something in this picture is very, very wrong. The people who rescued Vick's dogs and gave many of them happy endings are real heroes. **The Lost Dogs** tells of their dedication and perseverance. Most of all this is the true story of the dogs. What they endured, what they overcame, and how some of them found well deserved happy endings. It amazes me that dogs are so willing to look for the good in life.



Banned Book Week
September 24 to October 1

Banning books is a hateful action. Why should anyone tell you what you can or cannot read? Freedom of ideas, thoughts, and speech are hallmarks of our democracy. As close as Redmond Oregon a National Book Award winner, Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian* was banned. Each year we share with you some titles that have been banned. They are wonderful books.

Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes is my favorite book of all time. Dream the impossible dream. Follow Don Quixote along with his faithful sidekick Sancho as they tilt at windmills and search out heroic deeds to accomplish in the name of the fair Dulcinea. Should a bar maid's life be valued any less than a lady's? Miguel de Cervantes may have reached the unreachable star! His book lives on after over 400 years.



The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald is a masterpiece. Considered one of the greatest novels of the 20th Century, it is set in a time of unbridled opulence. Seething with illicit passion, fast money, and all the energy of the Roaring Twenties and, of course, it has Fitzgerald's beautiful writing. The story centers on Gatsby's doomed love for the shallow, beautiful Daisy.



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



Song of Solomon by Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison is a haunting, powerfully written book. Milkman was born in 1931 from the unhappy union of Macon Dead and his wife Ruth. It was not a particularly advantageous time in America to be born black and not an auspicious family to be born into. Milkman grows up not knowing much about his roots, he is a northerner, living by the great lakes. His Dad is consumed with making money, watching his investment properties. His Mom is eaten up with loneliness and longing. Milkman's search for his identity will take him south on a circuitous route back to his past. He will need to walk the paths of his ancestors to discover a man can fly.

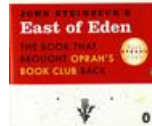
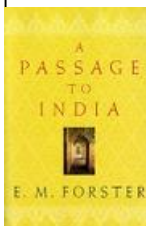
The House of Spirits by Isabel Allende is an epic. Allende began this lush novel as a letter to her dying grandfather. It stretches over time, following the fortune of one family through the eyes of the patriarch Estaban and his granddaughter Alba. They are strong, fiery characters who engross the reader in their struggles and triumphs. It is Allende's first book and was written while she was living in Venezuela; her life was not safe in Chile under General Pinochet's rule.



Catch 22 by Joseph Heller illustrates the insanity of war. Yossarian would like to live a while longer. Flying missions makes his survival dicey. There is a way out, maybe, if he is judged insane he will be relieved of duty. Of course if he tries to get out of his missions by proving himself insane then clearly he is sane and will have to keep flying. Huh? Brilliant dark humor. It is the fiftieth anniversary of *Catch 22* and war continues.



East of Eden by Nobel Prize winner John Steinbeck is set in the Salinas valley. Twin sons are raised by a loving father, but the product of a woman who could easily be described as bad news. Good or evil, are you destined to be one or the other based on your ancestors? Or do you get to choose? All of the characters are memorable. The land is so intricately described you will feel like you have stepped into a California of rich soil and quiet places, not the super highways of today. This is a powerful tale of the evil infecting a family. a classic story of good, evil, betrayal, and redemption



A Passage to India by E. M. Forster is set in the waning days of the British Raj, questions of power and justice are explored. Adela heads to India accompanied by her future mother in law. Her betrothed is Ronny Heaslop, the British Magistrate of Chandrapore. Mrs. Moore is more open to the natives than her son Ronny who believes strongly in the entitlement and superiority of the Brits. On a visit to a mosque she meets Dr. Aziz. Cyril Fielding is another Brit who tries to befriend the natives; Mrs. Moore induces him to invite Dr. Aziz to tea. Trying to make a good impression, Dr. Aziz offers to take the ladies sightseeing to some local caves. It will prove to be a tragic invitation. When one group holds all the power, is justice possible?

Portrait of a Lady by Henry James is a sublimely written novel. Isabel is invited to Europe by her aunt. A beautiful young woman of means, she runs wild, relishing her independence. She attracts the attention of two desirable suitors but spurns them vowing to remain free. Too bad she did not stick to her guns. Instead she falls for the charms of a bounder interested only in getting his hands on her fortune. They marry and move to glorious Rome but the relationship sours. He was not interested in the woman, only the money. Isabel forms an attachment for her husband's daughter, but even in this wholesome relationship treachery lurks. The writing is absolutely splendid.



Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh begins in the years after WWI with Charles Ryder studying at Oxford. His father provided a generous allowance; an older cousin provides good advice. Instead of putting his nose firmly to the grindstone, Charles develops an intense attachment to Sebastian Flyte, son of Lord Marchmain. Sebastian takes his friend to the family home, Brideshead Castle. Charles is agnostic; the Flyte family are devote Roman Catholics. The Flyte family embraces dysfunctional with religious fervor. Charles life twines in and out of their orbit. Waugh has a biting, sardonic wit; he writes with an undercurrent of sexual tension.

[More Banned Books.](#)

How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents by Julia Alvarez tells the story of a family's move to the US from the Dominican Republic. It is narrated through the eyes of four sisters. Each of the girls is affected differently by the family's flight from political repression in their homeland. They leave behind a large extended family, affluence and all that is familiar. Moving from a large home to an apartment, from the loving arms of aunts and cousins, to strangers who hurl unkind words the girls each adjust their new life. This is a unique coming of age story, a heartfelt story of political repression, and a view of the immigrant's experience in America



The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini is a moving story of betrayal and redemption set against the poignant backdrop of war torn Afghanistan. Amir and his father make it out of Afghanistan, but his childhood companion remained in Afghanistan where the Taliban's rule has not been benevolent. Amir is haunted by an act of cowardice and shame in his childhood. He owes Hassan a debt. Returning to his war torn homeland is the only path to redemption. This is an important book that provides an insight into another culture as well as a compelling story of two young boys and the secret they keep.

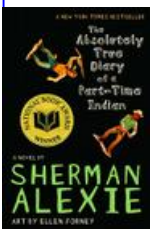


Les Miserables by Victor Hugo is one of my favorite novels. The characters of Jean Valjean are inspired by Eugene Francois Vidocq, a convict turned cop and the creator of the Surete de France. He was the main character in ***The Black Tower*** by Louis Bayard. Jean Valjean's life has been brutal; convicted of stealing a loaf of bread to feed his family he sent away to prison coming out many years later a hardened, bitter, dangerous man. Valjean is redeemed by the kindness of a good man. Javert is a police inspector of considerable cunning, his determination making him a feared hunter of men. Their paths will cross. Set during a turbulent period in French history, the story begins in 1815, the year Napoleon was defeated at Waterloo and goes on to the Paris Uprising of 1832. Blending historical fact with a masterful work of fiction, it is a story brimming with good and evil, destiny and despair, cruelty and mercy. There is passion, suspense, and grandeur in this timeless, compelling story.



[Kelsey's List of Banned Young Adult and Middle Grade Books](#)

All these books, being under the categories of Middle Grade and Young Adult, are ostensibly written for and well loved by young people. But, they also appeal to and are appreciated by adults. Give these Middle Grade and YA books a shot, you will be surprised.

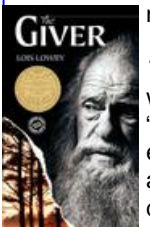


The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian by Sherman Alexie. Hands-down, one of the best books I've read. This largely auto-biographical tale set on the Spokane Indian Reservation combines humor and tragedy into a highly impactful story. Told through first-person narrative and cartoons, Junior describes his days on the rez but also how life changes when he decides to attend the local white high school. In one community he becomes an outcast while in the other a curiosity. Junior struggles to figure out where he belongs in this collision of worlds.

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson. I resisted reading *Speak* for years simply because it is often used as a poster book for banned books. Last year I gave into the hype and read this award-winning book for banned books week and I am so glad I did. It is the story of how Melinda copes with a traumatic event by going silent for a year. She brings us a starkly clear depiction of high school told through beautiful first-person prose. The fact the important message of this book is banned just makes me mad.



The Giver by Lois Lowry. A small, unassuming book, *The Giver* delivers a punch. Jonah believes he lives in a Utopia, a place where "There is no war or fear or pain. There are no choices." Emotion, difference, and conflict are erased in favor of "sameness." That is until he turns twelve and is assigned to be trained by "the Giver," the holder of all true memories of the society's history before the "sameness." Through the receiving of memories, Jonah discovers the power of knowledge and begins to question the perfect façade of his society. What freedoms will a society give up to gain stability? This dystopian novel is still relevant for everyone years after it was published.



The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare. *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* is a Newberry Award winning novel set in a Puritan Connecticut Colony in the late 1600s. Kit already feels like an outsider, after being orphaned and moving from the Caribbean to live with her Connecticut relatives. But when she befriends a fellow outsider, the "witch" at Blackbird Pond, suspicion in the community grows. It is sadly ironic that this book, about the harm caused by superstition and ignorance surrounding the witch trials of Connecticut, is banned for witchcraft.



The Harry Potter Series by J. K. Rowling. The book series that defined a generation, produced a movie franchise, and created one of the most robust and enthusiastic fan bases of all time, Harry Potter is a force to be reckoned with. Through its fans, Harry Potter has inspired wizard rock bands, fan fiction, fan websites, sports associations (International Quidditch Association), charity organizations (Harry Potter Alliance), conferences and conventions. Read the books and discover a story that takes the traditional tale of good versus evil and runs with it.



The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman. Lyra lives in an alternative world – a turn of the century Oxford where science, theology, and magic are intertwined and everyone's soul lives outside of their bodies in the form of an animal companion called a daemon. Lyra must travel to the far north to investigate a mystery involving her uncle. She knows it involves daemons, children, a substance called "dust," and her golden compass that only tells her the future. This becomes more than a fantasy adventure and evolves into an intriguing critique of our own world.



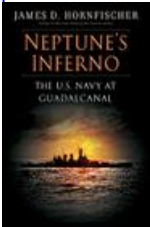
Harris and Me by Gary Paulsen. *Harris and Me* is a great summer romp. The narrator is sent to live at his cousin Harris' farm in the late 1940s. Immediately he is sucked into Harris' crazy antics, whether it is catching mice during the haying or waging war against the farm's resident evil rooster, Ernie. This story about the importance of family and friendship was read to my class in elementary school (multiple times because we begged for more) and has stuck with me ever since.

Rich Recommends.



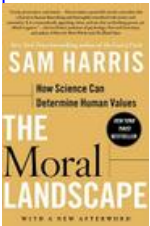
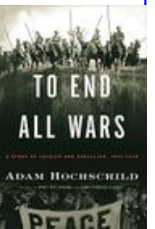
She Wolves by Helen Castor. An old saying goes: “*Behind every great man is a great woman.*” This unattributed quote is true among the royalty of Medieval England. Helen Castor has written a fascinating history of English monarchy beginning with the dilemma of royal succession. Castor focuses on four cases of female power, royal wives who used their husband’s power to forward their own scheme to have their offspring fall in line of succession. Castor makes an interesting case of the paradox of female power in a patriarchal society, using these examples to show the machinations and political intrigue needed to further their progeny’s acceptance to reign let alone survive to see the next day. These were strong women, well able to rule in their own right and not averse to taking power when opportunity offered. Castor gives a brief, insightful, and entertaining biography of each. Matilda was the wife of Henry I and mother of Henry II. Eleanor of Aquitaine brought vast lands to her marriage, a kingdom she was quite capable of ruling. A fiery woman with great strength of character, her mate needed strength too. Her first marriage was to Phillip, King of France. He was no match for Eleanor. She managed to shed her mate (not an easy task in her day) and married Henry II. In Henry she found a monarch her equal in temperament and brilliance. Eleanor is probably one of the most fascinating women in history. Isabella was married as a child bride to Edward II and dutifully brought forth a male heir by the age of 17. But like her ancestor, she was not a woman to be trifled with. Edward II had his failings as a monarch, one of them was to be oblivious to the character of his queen. It was a deadly error. Margaret of Anjou’s time frame was during the War of Roses. This is a fascinating look at royal history told from the perspective of four outrageously formidable women.

A Covert Affair by Jennet Conant. Before she was famous for cooking up great dishes, Julia Child and later her husband Paul were recruited into the newly formed spy service, the OSS. As a naïve California socialite, Julia McWilliams joined the legendary spy master Wild Bill Donovan and his new OSS, which was born out of the WWII spy agency tasked with world wide spying for the US military. In Asia, she met Paul Child, a sophisticated well traveled artist and fellow OSS member. During their travels and working for the spy agency, they befriended Jane Foster a lively personality known for her spying escapades and adventures working for the OSS. After returning to America she was caught up in the McCarthy era witch hunts for Communists, and the Childs were also under suspicion as friends of Foster. The experiences the Childs went through left them outraged and feeling betrayed by their government. After moving to Paris, the Childs finished their careers as officers for the US government. While in Paris Julia received a culinary revelation in the food they regularly ate in the best restaurants. She began taking cooking lessons and collaborated on translating French cookbooks into English. From there the rest is well known epicurean history.



Neptune’s Inferno by James Hornfisher. Following Hornfisher’s two other naval combat books, **Last Stand Of The Tin Can Sailors** and **Ship of Ghosts**, he has written a compelling and exceptional account of the naval side for the battle for Guadalcanal during WWII. Suffering casualties of 3 to 1 compared to the ground troops fighting on the island, it was the first Allied offensive of the war in the Pacific. Owing to the unique geography of the islands, both sides needed to resupply troops via the sea. This meant that the Japanese and American naval forces met often and under brutally lethal conditions. The campaign was ultimately an Allied victory, but the prosecution of the action was beset by blunders and mistakes by Allied commanders. Hornfisher gives an alternate reasoning for the initial decision for the withdrawal of supporting and covering forces protecting the ground action. The quick action by Japanese forces inflicted a devastating blow to Allied Forces that was compared to the defeat at Pearl Harbor. Hornfisher focuses on the personalities of the combatants and their tactics, amid the uncertainty of combat in those early days of WWII.

To End All Wars by Adam Hochschild. To most people, the reasoning behind the hostilities in WWI is hard to understand. The human carnage is well documented and the causes of the hostilities are still being debated today. What Hochschild brings to the narrative is the large, vociferous and passionate anti-war contingent in Britain who braved ridicule, condemnation, and in some instances death by firing squad. The author concentrates on the divergent loyalties that each exhibited. The dilemma faced by peace activists is one common to dissenters then and now; how do you oppose a war because of your unshakeable conviction that it is wrong, without seeming to undermine the husbands, fathers, and brothers of your fellow citizens whose lives are in danger? Hochschild paints a vivid picture of what lay ahead after the end of hostilities. Britain’s aristocratic class was confident that the war would be ended by cavalry—men on horseback wielding lances, but that belief was ended by an industrialized war, clip loaded rifles, machine guns, airplanes, tanks, and mustard gas. The war didn’t serve anything but set the stage for a great political unknown which lay ahead, but led inevitably to warfare that was more mechanized, ever more deadly and more impersonal. The antiwar sentiments and unchecked nationalizing during wars since then have ebbed and flowed but Britain in the first World War was the largest and most sustained example of each side’s passion in what it believed clashing against each other to such a large degree.



The Moral Landscape by Sam Harris releases in paperback on September 13. Sam Harris is no stranger to controversy, as his earlier book, **The End of Faith**, will attest. After the heated debate of the validity of religion that ensued, there was one point that both secularists and religious fundamentalists agreed upon: science has not had a large voice in the conversation about human values and morality. Harris has written a thought provoking book that argues that morality should be thought of in terms of human and animal well being with the various experiences of sentient beings both good and bad occurring in a “moral landscape”. Harris believes that science can tell the best way to live a moral and just life. Since science can quantify the moral goodness of human action with humans and animals, it can tell us what we “ought” to do to qualify as living a moral life. Moral relativism can be discarded and its costs and consequences can be fought, and religious intrusions into the rightness of morality will ultimately fail. This book will foster a meaningful conversation among both secularists and people of religious faith about science and its relationship to living a moral life.

The Good Book by A.C. Grayling. Grayling spent 30 years compiling this book that resembles the Bible but doesn’t contain any reference to God. Organized into books like Genesis, Lamentations, and Proverbs, the author has assembled an alternate view of nature, human origins, and ethics. Relying on quotations, some unaccredited, from such philosophers as Aristotle, Darwin, and Voltaire, Grayling has amassed a view of philosophies that are derived from a humanist perspective rather than a religious one. While imitating the form of the Bible, it is presented as a different way of talking about the same thing, about the nature of the goodness of man or living a good life by thinking for oneself without the need for answers coming from a deity. This is a wonderful resource for people to use for reflection and contemplation about how humans should live and treat one another. While we respect all non-harmful belief systems, it is always good to welcome new works that encourage contemplation on living kind lives.



September 2011 Book Clubs



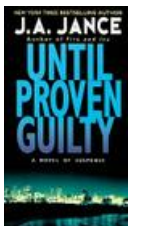
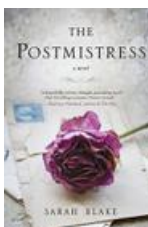
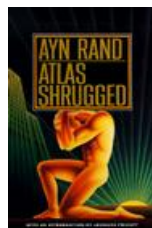
September 5th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***The Last Child*** by John Hart, an edge of your seat kind of mystery that keeps the suspense ratcheted up till the last page. Johnny's life hit a downhill slide the day his 12 year old twin was abducted. His father left shortly thereafter. Now half of a whole, he watches as his mother, once a warm nurturing woman, slips into alcoholism and drug abuse. She also develops a tendency to terrible choices in men. Johnny is not going to stand idly by while his world disintegrates; he starts an intensive search for his sister. Detective Hunt watches as this family is torn apart, he is worried about the kid. Johnny is a protagonist you will root for!

September 12th the Non-Fiction Book Club discusses ***Empire of the Summer Moon; Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*** by S. C. Gwynne. Hitler was not the first leader to decide on a "Final Solution", in 1871 Civil War Hero General William Tecumseh Sherman sent McKenzie forth to kill Indians with the blessing of President Grant. The Indians were not innocent of mayhem either, fighting to clear their lands of settlers their raiding parties resorted to inhumane torture. The toughest fighters were a band of Comanche known as the Quahadis who avoided contact with whites. Their leader was Quanah, a brash young chief, half white, half Comanche. He was a brilliant tactician and a faithful leader of his people.



September 19th the Fiction Book Club discusses ***Wolf Hall*** by Hilary Mantel, winner of the Man Booker Prize. Henry VIII caused no end of ruckus. Eager to be rid of wife number 1, Katharine of Aragon, and wed Anne Boleyn, he starts a new religion and turns the Catholic Church out of England. Starting a new religion is a formidable task, so in future he simply beheads his discarded brides. Thomas Cromwell is Henry VIII's fixer, the man who makes the King's life go smoother. Mantel gives a more sympathetic portrait of Cromwell, portraying him in a more kindly light than others have in past.

September 26th the Classics Book Club discusses ***Atlas Shrugged*** by Ayn Rand. What happens when the idea men and captains of industry go on strike? Fed up with governmental controls and taxes, what if they simply stop? In Ayn Rand's novel the result is confusion and chaos. Factories, farms, shops go bankrupt and close. Dagny, a railroad exec, is one of the main characters. She bristles at government's insistence that she should share the wealth of her hard labor. ***Atlas Shrugged*** is Ayn Rand's masterpiece and encompasses her philosophy. It is certainly a book with passionate supporters, whole political movements and ideologies have been inspired by ***Atlas Shrugged***. Some of our book club members refer to it as one of their all time favorite books, so we will read and discuss together.



Upcoming Book Club Dates for Monday Evenings at 6:30 PM

October 3rd 2011 ***Spies of the Balkans*** by Alan Furst [Mystery Book Club A Month of Eastern Europe](#)

October 10th 2011 ***Zoli*** by Colum Mccann [Fiction Book Club A Month of Eastern Europe](#)

Oct.17th 2011 ***Blue River Black Sea*** by Andrew Eames [Travel Essay Book Club A Month of Eastern Europe](#)

October 24th 2011 ***The Shooting Party*** by Anton Chekov [Classics Book Club A Month of Eastern Europe](#)

November 7th 2011 ***Secrets of Eden*** by Chris Bohjalian [Mystery Book Club](#)

November 14th 2011 ***The Postmistress*** by Sarah Blake [Fiction Book Club](#)

November 21st 2011 ***Washington Rules*** by Andrew Bacevich [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

November 28th 2011 ***The World*** by Jan Morris [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

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](#)

2012

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](#)

January 16th 2012 ***Time Was Soft There*** by Jeremy Mercer [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](#)

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

