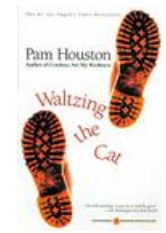
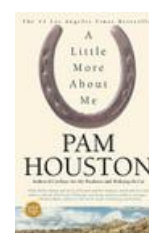
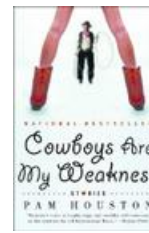




Sunriver Books & Music

February 2012 Newsletter

Sunriverbooks.com
541-593-2525



Save Saturday February 11th at 5:00 PM to hear Pam Houston at Sunriver Books & Music. Pam Houston doesn't tour often so this is a rare treat. She is one of my favorite authors; her writing has such clarity and passion. Although she has traveled widely and written about her wanderings, she has a pitch perfect western voice inspired and sent soaring by the vast untamable landscapes that feeds her soul. Tall white mountains, fast rushing rivers, and meadows erupting in wildflowers come to life so strongly in her books that you feel like you are walking those trails too, stepping right into the story. It is a rare gift to write so vividly that the reader is transported into another place, Pam has the gift.

Her latest book **Contents May Have Shifted** is told in a series of vignettes that take the reader careening around the globe; hiking in the high country, rafting rivers, dealing with faithless love, finding strength in the loyal bonds of friends, and discovering happiness too. The shifting stories range in setting from Bhutan to Bend Oregon. The vignettes are the linked stories of a woman's life.. They give brief glimpses into the cares and pleasures of a woman facing the sorts of challenges that pepper her lifetime. She struggles with a love that cannot be true, discovers a love that might be true but has complications, hops planes to fantastic destinations, walks on the wild side, and shares with the reader her adventurous

nature and wry sense of humor. She has a cadre of friends, funny and wise, who give an outstanding example of the value of friendship. The format is daring, vignettes of a life, but ultimately a lot of fun to read. It works; the reader is carried through the story gleefully by the narrator. All the short episodes add up to an interesting life, one the reader is happy to have experienced vicariously.

Pam Houston's earlier works include **Cowboys are My Weakness**, **Waltzing The Cat**, **A Little Bit More About Me**, and **Sight Hound**. I recommend them all, but if you have a reverence for the human animal bond read **Sight Hound**, inspired by Pam's Irish Wolfhound, Dante. Narrated by several characters, including Dante, it is the poignant but uplifting story of a dog who lived big. Dante believes his task in life is to teach his human to love. He says "There are Three Principals to remember if you are to teach a human being anything and they are consistency, consistency, and consistency. They are such fragile creatures to begin with, with poor eyes, poorer hearing, and no sense of smell left to speak of, its no wonder they are made of fear." Dr. Evens, the vet who battles Dante's osteosarcoma, is modeled on Dr. Walsh of UC Davis. While the character is fictional, the instances of him sleeping in the kennels with his dog patients are true. **Sight Hound** is a celebration of the bond between a dog and a woman; a moving and often funny celebration of a life well lived.

Pam Houston is special, do not miss the opportunity to hear her!

On Valentine's Day we are doing something different. A Tuesday author event at 6:00 PM. And this author is going to give you plenty to talk about later in the evening. Matt Ruff will give a presentation on his latest book, **The Mirage**. What if the Twin Towers were not in New York but in Baghdad? 11/9/2001 Christian fundamentalists hijack four jetliners and slam two of them into the Tigris and Euphrates World Trade Centers in Baghdad. The third Jetliner crashes into the Arab Defense Ministry in Riyadh. Courageous passengers bring down the fourth jet before it can reach its intended target, thought to be the Holy city Mecca. In 2009 Homeland Security is dealing with suicide bombers while the Marines are trying to subdue the insurgents wrecking havoc in Virginia. Yet there are nebulous hints that this world is all a mirage. Mustafa al Baghdadi, a Homeland Security Agent, keeps hearing odd stories when he interrogates suicide bombers. All the usual suspects show up: Sadaam Hussein, Bushes 1 and 2, Osama, and there is a marvelous cameo with Lyndon Baines Johnson. Bold, brash and brilliant, **Mirage** turns the world upside down and gives it a good shake. I liked the characters a lot! Mustafa is a sympathetic, intelligent man. Amal is a woman working in a very male dominated society, she is whip smart, an integral part of Mustafa's team but has her own battles to fight. This is the best sort of book, a great story that keeps you turning pages, makes you laugh at times, and definitely makes you think. Matt Ruff's other books include **Bad Monkeys**, **Set This House In Order**, **Fool on the Hill**, and **Sewer Gas & Electric**. Matt is an inventive, talented author, and I think this is his best book!





Saturday February 25th at 5:00 PM Kevin Fox will give a presentation on **Until The Next Time**. Sean's father has a doozy of a 21st birthday surprise for him, the journal of a long dead uncle. Sean was unaware of any uncles, let alone a former cop who goes on the lam for shooting a civil rights activist and then dies while palling around with the IRA in Ireland. His Dad passes him the journal and a plane ticket along with the advice to go find the truth. But truth can travel down some strange paths. Why would his uncle, a cop, shoot the civil rights worker? It doesn't feel right to Sean. He starts walking in his dead uncle's footsteps. Sean learns of his uncle's love for a woman, a love that will last through time, a love that may live on in Sean. He also learns there are people who want the past to stay hidden, dangerous people. His Uncle's story is complicated by love, betrayal, and loyalty. The journal is telling not only of his Uncle's past but also giving a clues to Sean's future. From the day Sean opens the first page of the journal his life will never be the same. This story has it all: suspense, a love story, vivid history, reincarnation, and an intriguing mystery. It's a page turner.

Author events are free and great fun. Refreshments will be served and there will be drawings for door prizes. Sign up to attend by calling 541-593-2525, e-mailing sunriverbooks@sunriverbooks.com, or stopping by Sunriver Books & Music.

Upcoming Author Appearances

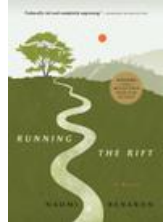
- Saturday March 24th 2012 at 5:00 PM **Breaking Point** by Dana Haynes
- Saturday March 31st 2012 5:00 PM **Vanishing Acts** by Phillip Margolin and Ami Margolin Rome
- Saturday May 19th 2012 **7:00 PM Where Lilacs Still Bloom** by Jane Kirkpatrick
- Saturday June 2nd 2012 at 5:00 PM **Capitol Murder** by Phillip Margolin
- Saturday 5:00 PM **West of Here** by Jonathan Evison (date being determined)

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.

If your book club would like to purchase book club books as a group, see Deon about the book club 10% discount and minimum order requirements.

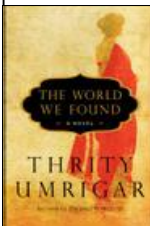
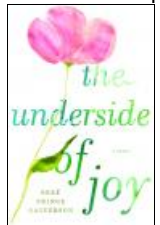
New Releases!

Running the Rift by Naomi Benaron is fabulous storytelling! Jean Patrick Nkuba's wants to believe his father's words, that Hutu and Tutsi can live in peace. His father is a teacher, a man who hopes for a bright future for his children. Death comes for his father unexpectedly, leaving the family bereft in a climate of escalating tribal tensions with the dream of peace fading fast. Jean Patrick wants to run; he has legs that fly and hopes for Olympic Gold. Benaron has managed the formidable accomplishment of writing a beautiful, haunting story of family, of a young boy's coming of age, of the power of striving to be the best, and of redemption. It is a hopeful story despite the rampaging grim reaper that defiled Rwanda. **Running the Rift** should be one of the big books of the year!



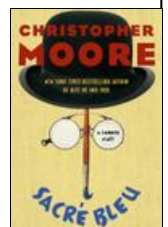
Queen of America by Luis Alberto Urrea is historical fiction at its best, based on the life of the author's great aunt Teresita. **Queen of America** starts where **The Hummingbird's Daughter** concluded with Teresita and her father fleeing their homeland in Mexico in the aftermath of the Tomochic rebellion. Peasants and believers still flock to Teresita hoping for cures to what ails them, whether she is in a hamlet in the Arizona desert, the frontier of El Paso, or in New York City. Men still ride from Mexico sent to kill Teresita, the Saint of Cabora. Her path is not easy; she makes mistakes along the way. Through it all Teresita lives her life with passion.

The Underside of Joy by Sere Prince Halvorsen. Ella finds her piece of paradise in the Redwood forest when she stops on a drive north in a small town and meets Joe. They set off fireworks right from the start. Joe's wife has left him alone with their two adorable toddlers. Ella fits right into the family, she has always wanted children and she loves the little boy and girl fiercely. Joe calls her Ella Bella and makes her believe in forever. His sudden death shatters her joyful home. She realizes they never talked about the hard stuff; his failing business, the children's biological mother, the sorry state of their finances. Their little Eden had secrets, now the subjects they avoided are coming home to roost.



The World We Found by Thrity Umrigar. Armaiti, Kavita, Laleh, and Nishta were idealistic young best friends in college together. The years and commitments separated them. Armaiti left for the US to attend graduate school, she married Richard and stayed. Kavita became a successful architect, but she carries a secret. Laleh married a good man, had a family, and happy life but she feels guilt for a sin of omission. Nishta married a fundamentalist Muslim, severing ties with her high caste Hindu family. Now over twenty years later, Armaiti is divorced from Richard and dying. She wants to see her friends one last time. Their reunion has obstacles.

Sacre Bleu by Christopher Moore is more fun than a barrel of monkeys. In 1890 Vincent Van Gogh shot himself. Or did he? His friends decide to investigate and discover the truth. Why did Van Gogh become afraid of the color blue? Who is the woman in blue that haunted Cezanne, Monet, Renoir, and Passaro? Their sleuthing will take them all over the place, from art galleries to brothels. And, of course, it will all be great fun.



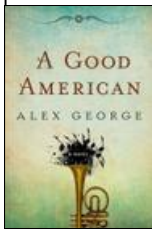
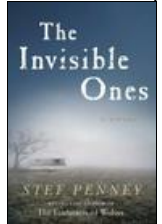
New Release!

The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey is haunting and beautiful. It updates the Russian fairytale to 1920's Alaska. Mabel and Jack have tried to come to terms with being childless. They left their boisterous family behind on the east coast for the quiet loneliness of remote Alaska. Creating a farm out of this unforgiving land is a tough job for the young; it is hard, weary going for middle aged Mabel and Jack. Grasping for a moment of joy out of the first snowfall of the year, they build a snow girl in the yard. The next morning the snow is gone, but a blond girl, like a snow sprite, is glimpsed near the trees. They come to love the young girl as their own child, but you know fairy tales are not without danger.



A Grown Up Kind of Pretty by Joshilyn Jackson. Trouble seems to hunt down the Slocumb women on about 15 year intervals. And this year is a bad one. Ginny became a Momma at 15. Her daughter Lisa followed the family pattern. Now Lisa's daughter Mosey is turning 15 and folks are waiting for her switch from a sweet, studious child to a low rider wearing, drug enhanced, floozy. When Lisa suffers a stroke Ginny thinks God's appetite might be appeased, surely that was a big enough strike of 15 year trouble. But trouble is still coming, when Ginny has the willow tree out back cut down they find a makeshift grave and Mosey's future takes a turn toward gloomy.

The Invisible Ones by Stef Penney is a mystery set in the gypsy community, a very mysterious tale indeed. Ray knew this case would be trouble, but where else was the father to seek help? If he wants to find his daughter, Ray is pretty much the only Half Romany PI available. It takes Leon six long years to ask someone to look for his daughter Rose. But they are travelers and she went off with her husband's clan after she married, so it doesn't seem quite so odd. As Ray digs into the community of travelers he uncovers strange goings on in the Janko family. The story alternates between Ray's voice and the teenage JJ Janko, giving a fresh lively perspective.



A Good American by Alex George. A great swath of American history is let loose in this beguiling tome. It all starts in a garden in Germany where Fredrick lurks behind a hedge preparing to serenade his ladylove Jette. It is not a union smiled upon by Jette's social climbing mother. She forbids them contact so, of course, they go underground and soon are fleeing the mother's wrath heading for the New World. Narrated by James, their grandson, the story is an endearing and insightful family drama with a full cast of entertaining extras including jazz musicians, nefarious bartenders and a malevolent dwarf.

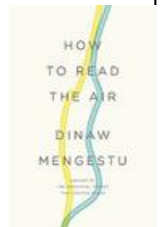
Recently Released in Trade Paperback.

You Know When The Men Are Gone by Siobhan Fallon. Fort Hood Texas is a jumping off base for the men sent to the Middle East, it is also home base for the women waiting 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 stories.



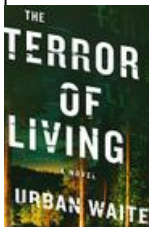
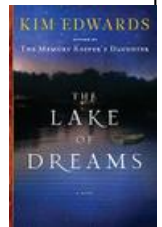
Ghost Light by Joseph O'Connor is an intriguing historical fiction. Molly was once the toast of the town, the love of troubled John Synge's life. As a celebrated actress she traveled far and wide, living the high life. Now she is elderly, eking out a living as best she can in a cold London walk up. She travels across town on her way to an audition at the BBC. Walking past familiar landmarks she recalls the past, and what a life she has to remember!

How To Read The Air by Dinaw Mengestu has achingly beautiful prose and conflicted, complex characters that give this story life. Jonas's father escaped from Africa, landing in the USA as a refugee never able to shake his past. Quick to use fists to salve his hurts, Jonas's mother's body bears the marks of his father's pain. Jonas grows up trying not to take up space, to avoid notice. With his marriage on the skids, Jonas retraces a road trip his parents took before his birth. Stepping into their past just might let him find his future. Dinaw is an author that deserves attention.



Take Me Home by Brian Leung is historic fiction set in the west during an era when Chinese suffered painful racial prejudice. Addie lit out of Wyoming running from secrets too painful to confront, not to mention dangerous. Now forty years later she is returning to discover the truth from her past. Violence erupted when white miners attacked Chinese workers in an uncontrolled tornado of hatred. One woman tried to stand against them. Now she is coming back to lay the past to rest.

The Lake of Dreams by Kim Edwards. 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 has 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.

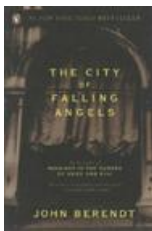


The Terror of Living by Urban Waite is taut, fast paced, and gripping, this one is a real page turner. It was on my Top Ten list of mysteries for 2011. Phil keeps his horse farm afloat by guiding the occasional shipment across the border in the rugged North Cascades. He knows the land like the back of his hand, a quick ride over the mountain pass and he is solvent again for a while. But this time they sent him a courier who is nothing but trouble. Bobby Drake is a lawman with a family history, his Dad made a few extra dollars just like Phil. Bobby is trying to live it down, doing a good job of catching the bad guys. Bobby and Phil's paths will cross on a trip gone horribly wrong.

How To Be An American Housewife by Margaret Dilloway. Shoko escaped Japan's deprivation after WWII by marrying an American serviceman. She thought she was making the right choice, trying for a better life on those fabled American streets paved with gold. She found a land unwilling to welcome her, neighbors who stayed at arm's length, and streets without even the hint of gold dust. Still she raised two children and was a good wife to her husband. When mortality reaches out to give her a tap, she is determined to reconcile her past. Shoko sends her daughter to confront the brother who disowned her over forty years ago. This is a splendid story of family and hope.



February 2012 Book Clubs



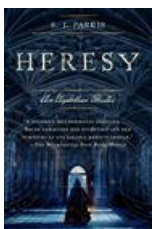
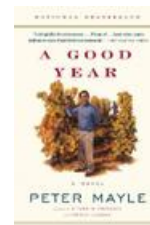
February 6th the Travel Essay Book Club discusses ***City of Falling Angels*** by John Berendt. Venice is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, all blowsy, shimmering color, twisting alleys, grand piazzas, and turquoise blue canal surrounded by decadently gorgeous mansions. John Berendt arrived in 1996 a short while after a conflagration with flames reaching to the heavens ruined the famed opera house, La Fenice. Known for his dark, moody book, ***Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil***, he thought there might be a book in this story too. Have you ever visited a gorgeous place and thought why not stay a while? John acted on that impulse thus giving us a fascinating book. It is the story of the fire, the story of some of Venice's residents, and an intimate portrait of a truly beautiful city. He tells how the widow and estate of Ezra Pound was probably bilked by the wife of an employee of the Guggenheim museum. The Save Venice foundation is rife with internal strife. A maestro of glassblowing creates wildly imaginative art commemorating the destruction of La Fenice. We should have plenty to discuss!

February 13th the Mystery Book Club discusses ***Faithful Place*** by Tana French. Dysfunctional is a good description of Frank's family. Motivated to get out early in life, Frank and his teenage sweetheart arrange to rendezvous and run away together. He waits at their meeting place until it is clear she is not going to show up. Frank hoofs off alone and twenty years later is a homicide detective. Always assuming that Rosie had abandoned him, he is shocked when her suitcase is found in an old vacant house. Soon buried bones give proof that Rosie never made it away from ***Faithful Place***. The writing is excellent, the story compelling.



February 20th author Greg Nokes leads a discussion of ***Massacred for Gold***. The Pacific Northwest is the site of the worst massacre of Chinese in US history. Right here in Hell's Canyon by a bend in the Snake River up to 34 Chinese miners were murdered. Worse yet, some of the killers were mere school boys, teenagers lured toward easy money and a quick kill by a nefarious horse thieving rancher. Prejudice and hate are sorrowful emotions. ***Massacred for Gold*** brings to light the contribution of Chinese workers. They were integral to the building of our railroads, working harder and for less money than US citizens. These men were willing to hang off cliffs to set dynamite charges, work every day, and endure horrid conditions. Instead of being thanked for their hard work, appreciated for their sacrifices, they were hated. Racial hatred fueled an environment of despair for the Chinese. They were ridiculed, beaten, robbed without any hope of justice or protection. Gold mining was beyond the means of the Chinese when the claims were paying but as the claims played out the Chinese came in to work extracting the last reluctant grains of gold. The claim the massacred men had been working was thought to be one of the better claims mined by Chinese. They worked about a year, so they accumulated gold. The Chinese were sitting ducks for their killers. Sheer cliff walls and fast flowing water gave them nowhere to run. Hells Canyon, the Snake River, and the Imnaha River Gorge is a forbidding remote landscape. It was a lonely place to die so far from their homeland at the hand of outlaws who would never pay for their crime.

February 27th the Fiction Book Club will have fun discussing ***A Good Year*** by Peter Mayle. Max was a wizard in the labyrinth games of the financial world, but work has not been going too great lately. Uncle Henry's estate in Provence was a haven for Max as a little boy. Uncle Henry leaves Max the estate but there are complications. When Max arrives to take over he discovers the wine produced on the estate is awful. And there is another claimant, an unknown relative, who may have a stake in the property too. This is a frolicsome story that should keep the book club entertained.



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

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](#)

April 30th 2012 ***Rules of Civility*** by Amor Towles, [The Deschutes County Library Novel Idea Selection](#)

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](#)

May 21st 2012 ***The Wedding Officer*** by Anthony Cappella [Fiction Book Club](#)

May 28th ***Infidel*** by Ayaan Hirsi Ali [Non Fiction Book Club](#)

June 4th 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 ***The Human Stain*** by Phillip Roth [Classics Book Club](#) [A Month of New England](#)

June 25th 2012 ***Mayflower*** by Nathaniel Philbrick [Travel Essay Book Club](#) [A Month of New England](#)

July 2nd 2012 ***Junkyard Dog*** by Craig Johnson [Mystery Book Club](#)

July 9th 2012 ***Menagerie Manor*** by Gerald Durrell [Travel Essay Book Club](#)

July 16th 2012 ***The Poisonwood Bible*** by Barbara Kingsolver [Fiction Book Club](#)

July 23rd 2012 ***Last Go Round*** by Ken Kesey [Classics Book Club](#)

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

