

Sunkist Book Chat
Sunkist Branch Library
May 2015

On May 19, 2015, the Anaheim City Council approved an [ordinance](#) to restrict landscape watering to two days per week, in an effort to reduce daily water use during the ongoing drought. The following landscape watering schedule is in effect citywide to conserve water and eliminate waste:

Watering of landscape or turf is limited to 2 days per week

- Homes with street addresses ending in an odd number are allowed to water on Tuesday and Saturday
- Homes with street addresses ending in an even number are allowed to water on Sunday and Thursday
- Watering is limited to a maximum of 8 minutes for standard sprinklers and bubblers; and 15 minutes for high efficiency nozzles per irrigation station per assigned day; with an [exemption](#) for drip irrigation
- Landscape irrigation is limited to before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m. to reduce evaporative water waste, except spot watering with a hose and nozzle, or as necessary for irrigation system maintenance and repairs
- Adjust landscape or turf watering to eliminate runoff

Join us at our next meeting for cookies, coffee and conversation on
Thursday, June 25 at 1:00 pm.

Reviews

The numbers in parenthesis, following the title, indicates the reader's rating of the book.

The ratings are (1) poor, (2) so-so, (3) good, (4) very good, (5) great.

John Simon reported on 3 books.

The Devil's Breath (4) by Tessa Harris is the story of an Eighteenth-century anatomist, Dr. Thomas Silkstone, an American expatriate, who travels to the English countryside to visit the estate of the lovely widow Lady Lydia Farrell. When he arrives, he finds that a mystery surrounds Lydia's lost child, whom she thought had died 6 years before but may still be alive in a workhouse. Meanwhile, the county of Lincolnshire is overwhelmed by a huge noxious cloud, spread across the entire skyline. The choking fog is accompanied by acid rain, and is viewed by the superstitious as the devil's breath and a sign of divine punishment. Dr. Silkstone is not superstitious, and views the situation as a natural disaster filling the skies with smoke and ash, clogging the lungs of all who breathe it in. Details of unexplained crimes compel Dr. Silkstone to look for answers beyond his medical books.

Raging Heat (2) by Richard Castle begins when an illegal immigrant falls from the sky and NYPD Homicide Detective Nikki Heat's investigation into his death quickly captures the imagination of her boyfriend, the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Jameson Rook. When Rook decides to work the case with Heat thinking that this may be his next big story, Nikki is at first happy to have him ride-along. Even though she must endure his usual wild conspiracy speculations and adolescent wisecracks, she's glad for the entertainment, the chance to bounce ideas, and just to be close to him. The relationship goes from mere complexity into sharp conflict over the most high-risk case of her career. Set against the raging force of Hurricane Sandy as it pounds New York, Heat battles an ambitious powerbroker, fights a

platoon of urban mercenaries, and clashes with the man she loves when Rook attempts to tell Detective Heat that she has arrested the wrong man for the murder.

Destroyer Angel (2) by Nevada Barr takes place in Minnesota's North Woods where park ranger Anna Pigeon is on a vacation with her friend Heath, Heath's daughter, Elizabeth, Leah, a designer of outdoor equipment for the disabled, and Leah's daughter Katie. While relaxing alone in a canoe on the river, Anna's friends are kidnapped by four armed men and Anna finds herself in a battle as she races against time and the elements of nature to save her friends. Pushing through the woods without equipment or supplies, Anna draws upon all of her wilderness knowledge and training to follow the kidnappers and their hostages toward an isolated airstrip. The women face their weaknesses and gain new awareness of their own strengths as they fight their captors to stay alive. The big question throughout the story is why were the women kidnapped and who was responsible.

Ruth Hirsch reported on 4 books.

Sleight of Hand (3.5) by Kate Wilhelm is another pleasant, well-written story set in Eugene, Oregon. At the start of the author's eighth novel to feature DA Barbara Holloway, Wally Federer, a former pickpocket who once served jail time, has retired from a successful Las Vegas stage career and returned home to Eugene, with his devoted wife, Meg, only to be accused of the theft of a valuable antique by an old childhood friend, Jay Wilkins. When someone kills Jay with a blow to the head, the police charge Wally, who turns for help to Barbara and her team. Their investigation unearths secrets about Jay and his family that will force Barbara to make a challenging ethical decision. The fast-paced plot leads to an exciting trial with closing arguments sure to delight any legal-thriller fan.

Reckless (4) by Andrew Gross is a very interesting and unfortunately possible story about a plot to overthrow the U.S. by destroying our financial markets. Ty Hauck is shattered when he hears that a close friend from his past, along with her husband and daughter, have been brutally murdered in her home by vicious intruders. Private security investigator Hauck, with Naomi Blum, a tenacious agent from the U.S. Department of Treasury, unravels the evidence revealing a reckless scheme that stretches from New York to London to central Europe. What began with a tragedy that opened a door to Hauck's past ends with a frantic race to avert a disaster that could shake the very security of our country possibly the world.

G.I. Brides (3.5) by Duncan Barrett and Nuala Calvi is an interesting but somewhat depressing book about a little known development during and after WWII. Many of the American soldiers stationed in the UK won the hearts of young women across Britain. At the end of World War II, more than 70,000 GI brides followed the men they'd married, men they barely knew, to begin a new life in the United States. These are true stories that illuminate the experiences of four British war brides in America after World War II: Sylvia Bradley, a loyal, bright-eyed optimist, Rae Brewer, a resourceful, quick-witted tomboy, Margaret Boyle, an English beauty who faced down every challenge and Gwendolyn Rowe, a brave woman ahead of her time. Though all made the bold choice to leave family and the world they knew, the journey each experienced was unique—ranging from romantic to heartbreaking. Co-written by a granddaughter of one of the brides, this book pays homage to these brave women, propelled by love and hope, who embarked on an adventure that would change their lives.

The Tamarack Murders (3.5) by Patrick F. McManus was an interesting and very enjoyable read. Bo Tully, sheriff of Blight County, Idaho comes from a long line of sheriffs and has seen his share of small-town crime. When Bo and his deputy hike into the deep woods, tracking a suspected bank robber, little do they realize that they are about to witness a murder and that, in turn, will lead the sheriff on a trail with a series of twists and turns that demands his utmost attention and keenest crime-solving abilities.

Along the way, Tully has to deal with a host of characters including a sassy assistant named Daisy and an attractive, tough FBI agent named Angie, who suddenly finds herself involved in her first murder investigation.

Ruth Flanagan reported on 4 books.

False Pretenses (5) by Catherine Coulter is the story of Elizabeth Xavier Carleton, a beautiful, talented concert pianist who is married to a much older, extremely wealthy man. She comes home one night to find her husband lying on the floor of his study with an ice pick in his chest. She tries to pull it out before it dawns on her that Timothy is dead and with her prints on the murder weapon, the tabloids condemn her as a gold-digging murderess. A surprise witness at her trial provides her with an airtight alibi, and the jury acquits her. But Elizabeth has never seen this man before in her life. Elizabeth struggles to take over her husband's financial empire, learning firsthand about hostile takeovers. Although confronted by vicious in-laws Elizabeth thrives surrounded by attentive and attractive men.

Crossroads (5) by Belva Plain is about Cassie Wright, the owner of Wright Glassworks, the foremost company in a thriving New England town. Cassie led a quiet life, focused on her work and home until a tragic accident turned her world upside down. Suddenly, there is a surviving child to think about and Cassie takes in one-year-old Gwen, who has no one else to care for her. As the years pass, Cassie raises Gwen as her own. Troubles start when Gwen meets the beautiful and conniving Jewel Fairbanks. Jewel envies Gwen, who seems to have everything Jewel wants. Both marry but to totally different types of men. For Gwen, it is honest, hardworking Stan who steals her heart while Jewel sets her sights on Jeff, a shrewd businessman who owns the company where Stan works. When Stan makes a shocking discovery on the job, relationships begin to shift and change and soon a tangled drama of greed, jealousy, and betrayal will encircle both couples.

All Around the Town (4) by Mary Higgins Clark follows the life trials of Laurie Kenyon, a twenty-one-year-old student, who is accused of murdering her English professor, but has no memory of the crime. Her fingerprints, however, are everywhere. When she asks her sister, attorney Sarah, to mount her defense, Sarah in turn brings in psychiatrist Justin Donnelly. Kidnapped at the age of four and victimized for two years, Laurie has developed astounding coping skills. Only when the unbearable memories of those lost years are released can the truth of the crime come out, and only then can the final sadistic plan of her abductor, whose obsession is stronger than ever, be revealed.

Finding Mary Blaine (5) by Jodi Thomas begins when Blaine Anderson goes to a clinic for a checkup. While there, the clinic is bombed and she is believed dead. Before Blaine can reach her husband, the bomber strikes again. She realizes that he's bent on wiping out the witnesses to his crime and she's one of them. Without money and ID she becomes Mary Blaine, hiding in a homeless shelter, knowing it's too dangerous for her to go home. Meanwhile, her husband, Mark, realizes that his carefully managed life is beginning to crumble and he needs Blaine by his side. Desperately he searches for anyone who was with Blaine just prior to the blast. Blaine discovers that the bombing was an attempt by Mark's senior partner to kill her.

Recipe:

Years ago, my mother found this recipe on a bag of Nestles chocolate chips. This recipe is slightly different from the current recipe but it must be better because my mother always used it. For some reason, my cookies have never come out as good as my mother's, but isn't that always how it goes?

Chocolate Chip Cookies

2 ¼ cups sifted flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 cup butter or shortening

¾ cup granulated sugar

¾ cup brown sugar (firmly packed)

1 teaspoon vanilla

½ teaspoon water

2 eggs (or egg substitute)

1 12 oz. package semi-sweet chocolate chips (2 cups)

1 cup coarsely chopped walnuts (optional)

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Sift together the flour and baking soda.
- Beat the shortening, sugars, vanilla and water until creamy.
- Mix in the eggs.
- Slowly add the flour mixture
- Stir in the chocolate chips (and the walnuts).
- Drop onto greased cookie sheets and bake for 10 – 12 minutes.
- Makes approximately 100 cookies.