

2025 Read and Go

This unique book club celebrates North Carolina by reading books by NC authors or set in NC, followed by discussions and trips inspired by the stories. Sometimes, the authors join in the discussions, help plan the trips, or even participate! The program is so popular that authors now reach out to feature their books.

Location: Anne Gordon Center

Mondays, 1 - 3 p.m.

Cost: Free

March 24: Finding America in a Minor League Ballpark: A Season Hosting for the Durham Bulls by Harris Cooper – History and Sports

Social scientist Harris Cooper took a job as a Seating Bowl Host for the Durham Bulls, a famous minor league baseball team. His role included helping fans find seats, ensuring safety, taking pictures, and managing the aisles. Cooper interacted with a diverse group, from first-time attendees to regulars, including retired judges and middle school students. The book also explores the history of minor league baseball, the Bulls, and Durham, and profiles the players, focusing on their personal stories rather than statistics. Additionally, it highlights twelve baseball movies centered on minor league play.

July 28: Becoming Lunsford Lane by Craig Friend – True Story

Born near Raleigh, North Carolina on May 30, 1803, Lunsford Lane was an entrepreneurial slave who worked tirelessly to buy his freedom. As the son of house slaves Edward and Clarissa Lane, he had more opportunities than field slaves, interacting daily with whites and eventually starting a successful business. Lane sold peaches, chopped wood, and later became a tobacconist, creating a popular brand of tobacco that gained customers across North Carolina. His determination to buy his family's freedom drove his hard work, despite the challenges, including his wife's master's refusal to provide for her. Lane's resilience and business acumen allowed him to eventually secure his and his family's freedom.

August 25: Murder in the Market by Jeane Joyner – Mystery and Suspense

As over 75,000 people converged on High Point for the October market, rumors of a planned disruption began to surface. With vague threats ranging from demonstrations to mass violence, no one knew what to expect. Amid the chaos, Beth and Tomeka, co-owners of Concierge Business Services, find themselves unexpectedly at the center of the storm. As Bryce and Evan get drawn into Beth's world while preparing for the market, they soon realize that fate has a much bigger role to play than they anticipated.

September 22: Joey: How a Blind Rescue Horse Helped Others Learn to See by Jennifer Marshall Bleakley – True Story

Joey, a blind Appaloosa, was once a show horse, admired for his strength and beauty. But after an injury ended his career, he endured abuse and neglect until a rescue group found him near death. Brought to Hope Reins, a ranch dedicated to helping children heal through caring for rescued animals, Joey's journey of trust and healing began. Despite the ranch's financial struggles, they took him in, believing in the power of love and hope. Together, Joey and the children would learn that, no matter how broken we are, we are never forgotten.

Active Adult Program

Anne Gordon Center for Active Adults: 919-996-4720

Five Points Center for Active Adults: 919-996-4730

Walnut Terrace Center: 919-996-6160



Raleigh
Parks

raleighnc.gov/parks

2025 Read and Watch

This is a book club with a twist! Read the book, join the discussion, and then enjoy the movie adaptation together.

Location: Anne Gordon Center

Mondays, 1 - 3 p.m.

Cost: Free

February 24: Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly – True Story

Set during the Civil Rights Movement, Hidden Figures tells the untold true story of African-American female mathematicians who played a pivotal role in NASA's space program. Working as "Human Computers," these talented women calculated flight paths that made historic space achievements possible. Segregated from their white colleagues, they used pencil and paper to launch rockets and astronauts into space. Spanning World War II through NASA's golden age, the Civil Rights era, and the Space Race, this story celebrates the courage of five women whose contributions forever changed the world.

April 28: Bullet Train by Kotaro Isaka - Humor Thriller

Nanao, the self-proclaimed "unluckiest assassin in the world," boards a bullet train from Tokyo to Morioka with one simple task: grab a suitcase. But he's not the only one after it. Dangerous assassins, including the deadly duo Tangerine and Lemon, and the psychopathic Satoshi, are also on board. As the train hurtles toward its destination, the assassins realize their missions are intertwined, leading to a deadly showdown. Who will survive the ride, and what awaits at the final stop?

June 23: Boys In the Boat: Nine Americans & Their Epic Quest For Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by Daniel James Brown – True Story

During the Great Depression, nine working-class boys from the American West defied the odds at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, showing the world the meaning of true grit. The University of Washington's eight-oar crew team, made up of sons of loggers, farmers, and shipyard workers, shocked elite East Coast and British teams, and even defeated the German team rowing for Adolf Hitler. The story centers on Joe Rantz, a young man without family or prospects, who rows to reclaim his self-worth and find his place in the world. This inspiring tale celebrates a remarkable achievement and an extraordinary personal journey.

October 27: The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah - Historical Fiction

Two sisters are struggling to survive during World War II in France. One sister is rebellious and intent on fighting for France while the other simply wants to survive the war with her family intact. Both sisters learn who they are and what they are capable of as the war wages on.

Active Adult Program

Anne Gordon Center for Active Adults: 919-996-4720

Five Points Center for Active Adults: 919-996-4730

Walnut Terrace Center: 919-996-6160



Raleigh
Parks

raleighnc.gov/parks