

# 2024 Read and Go

This is a book club with a twist. We read books written by NC authors or books based in NC, have a book discussion, and then go on a trip based on the book. The author may be involved in the book discussion, trip planning and may participate in the trip. This program has become so popular that the authors are now contacting us to use their books.

Location: Anne Gordon Center

Mondays, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: Free

**Feb. 26 Port City Conundrum by Jean Joyner**

Melanie Cochran left a career as a ship's officer to work at the Port of Wilmington. When Jack McEntire docks the Islander at port, her life becomes far more interesting. There's an immediate chemistry at work despite the unusual circumstances at every encounter. A burglary at a local shipping company, an approaching hurricane, and threats from internet hackers complicate life for Melanie and her three best friends.

**Mar. 11 Indigo Field by Marjorie Hudson**

In the rural South, a retired colonel in an upscale retirement community grieves the sudden death of his wife on the tennis court. On the other side of the highway, an elderly Black woman grieves the murder of her niece by a white man. Between them lies an abandoned field where three centuries of crimes are hidden, and only she knows the explosive secrets buried there. When the colonel runs into her car, causing a surprising amount of damage, it sparks a feud that sets loose the spirits in the Field, both benevolent and vengeful.

**Jun. 10 The Stolen Lady by Laura Morelli**

Historical novel about two women, separated by five hundred years, who each hide Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa—with unintended consequences.

France, 1939 - At the dawn of World War II, Anne Guichard, a young archivist employed at the Louvre, arrives home to find her brother missing. While she works to discover his whereabouts, refugees begin flooding into Paris, and German artillery fire rattles the city. Once they reach the city, the Nazis will stop at nothing to get their hands on the Louvre's art collection.

Florence, 1479 - Bellina finds herself bewitched by a charismatic monk who has urged Florentines to rise up against the Medici, and to empty their homes of the riches and jewels her new employer prizes. When Master Leonardo da Vinci is commissioned to paint a portrait of Lisa, Bellina finds herself tasked with hiding an impossible secret. When art and war collide, Leonardo da Vinci, his beautiful subject Lisa, and the portrait find themselves in the crosshairs of history.

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

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**Aug. 12 What Lies Beneath by J G Hetherton**

In the hills of North Carolina, "Shotgun Slayer Barrow" has been on death row for 20 years for the killing of Robert & Linda Merrit. Is he the killer? When a mangled woman beyond recognition is found on the highway, the connection is made with her last phone call to Laura. Without knowledge of who she is, and Laura never taking the call, the tension between the sheriff and Laura rises. This would not be the first rodeo she has had with the police. All of these are connected and the hunt for the truth begins with what happened years ago and to present. Laura's presence is a reminder of a dark past in this little town. Her dad's PTSD contributed by Vietnam and his connection with the family killed is a dispatch of clues but connecting the dots becomes tedious and his disappearance creates an edge of the seat thriller. The Merrit's little girl, Emily, was one of Laura's closet friends, but after their murder, they were never to mention Emily's existence in their house again.

**Sep. 9 Hearts Torn Asunder by Ernest Dollar**

The story explores the psychological experience of the soldiers and civilians during the chaotic closing weeks of the war. Their letters, diaries, and accounts reveal just how deeply the killing, suffering, and loss had hurt and impacted these people by the spring of 1865. Dollar deftly recounts the experiences of men, women, and children who endured intense emotional, physical, and moral stress during the war's dramatic climax. Their emotional, irrational, and often uncontrollable reactions mirror symptoms associated with trauma victims today, all of which combined to shape memory of the war's end. Once the armies left North Carolina after the surrender, their stories faded with each passing year. Neither side looked back and believed there was much that was honorable to celebrate. Hearts Torn Asunder recounts at a very personal level what happened during those closing days that made a memory so painful that few wanted to celebrate, but none could forget.

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