

# 2023 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

## **May 22 The Best of Enemies: Race & Redemption in the New South by Osha Gray Davidson**

C. P. Ellis grew up in the poor white section of Durham, North Carolina, and as a young man joined the Ku Klux Klan. Ann Atwater, a single mother from the poor black part of town, quit her job as a household domestic to join the civil rights fight. During the 1960s, as the country struggled with the explosive issue of race, Atwater and Ellis met on opposite sides of the public-school integration issue. Their encounters were charged with hatred and suspicion. In an amazing set of transformations, however, each of them came to see how the other had been exploited by the South's rigid power structure, and they forged a friendship that flourished against a backdrop of unrelenting bigotry.

## **Jun. 26 My Write to Right by Purnima Gupta**

A heartfelt memoir of the complicated dynamics of an Indian-American family. It is a vivid and poignant autobiographical reflection on the author's life, strength and sorrows as she navigates her complicated family life and yearns for a relationship with her grandchildren, after losing her relationship with her daughters to her divorce. First generation immigrants have struggled to establish themselves in the midst of interracial conflicts and little family support. Their children started out with an incomplete family picture, were raised in dual cultures and ended up split between wrongs and rights.

## **Jul. 24 The Summer Guests by Mary Alice Monroe**

Late August is a beautiful time on the Southern coast-the peach trees are ripe, the ocean is warm, and the sweet tea is icy, a perfect time to enjoy the rocking chairs on the porch. But beneath the calm surface bubbles a threat: it's also peak hurricane season. When a hurricane threatens the coast of Florida and South Carolina, a group of evacuees flees for the farm of their friends Grace and Charles Phillips in North Carolina: the Phillipps's daughter Moira and her rescue dogs, famed equestrian Javier Angel de le Cruz, makeup artist Hannah McLain, horse breeder Gerda Klug and her daughter Elise, and island resident Cara Rutledge. They bring with them only the few treasured possessions they can fit in their vehicles. Strangers to all but the Phillips, they must ride out the storm together. During one of the most challenging weeks of their lives, relationships are put to the test as the evacuees are forced to confront the unresolved issues they have with themselves and with each other. But as the storm passes, they realize that what really matters isn't what they brought with them to the mountains; it's what they'll take with them once they leave.

Active Adult Program

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

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**Aug. 28 Murder in Rat Alley by Mark de Castrique**

Iraq War veteran Sam Blackman with his prosthetic leg and his no-nonsense private eye partner Nakayla Robertson love their investigations which always carry a thread from the past, and they love each other. An interracial couple in the new South, the Asheville, NC pair has surrounded themselves with a terrific support team including an unorthodox lawyer and a veteran cop. They deploy humor both to bind them together and to deflect insults. Plus, it helps deal with the tragedies their work uncovers. Such a tragedy interrupts a meeting between the private eyes and the neighboring law office when a body is unearthed from the grounds of the nearby Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, which during the Cold War, monitored developing space programs. Today it plays a vital role gathering weather and climate data. The body has been in the ground a long time. Why would its discovery spark off a new murder in Asheville's mountain music scene?

**Sept. 11 Booked for Death by Victoria Gilbert**

A book lover's B&B in an idyllic waterfront village becomes the scene of a grisly murder, and a ruthless battle between treachery and the truth. Nestled in the historic waterfront town of Beaufort, North Carolina, Chapters Bed-and-Breakfast is a reader's paradise. Built in 1770, the newly renovated inn hosts a roster of special events celebrating books, genres, and authors. It's the perfect literary retreat—until a rare book dealer turns up dead in the carriage house during a celebration of Golden Age mystery author Josephine Tey. The victim's daughter points the finger at forty-two-year-old widow and former schoolteacher Charlotte Reed, who inherited the B&B from her great-aunt Isabella. Charlotte is shocked to discover that the book dealer suspected Isabella of being a thief who founded Chapters on her ill-gotten gains. Charlotte has successfully learned the B&B business in a year, but nothing has prepared her to handle a death on the premises. Armed with intelligence and courage and assisted by her vibrant older neighbor, a visiting author, and members of a local book club, Charlotte is determined to prove her innocence and to clear her great-aunt's name. But the murderer is still at large, and equally determined to silence anyone who might discover the truth behind the book dealer's death. Now, Charlotte must outwit an unknown killer, or end up writing her own final chapter.

**Oct. 9 Murder on Birchleaf Drive: The True Story of the Michelle Young Murder Case by Steven B. Epstein**

Was Jason the monster who bludgeoned his beautiful wife to death, leaving his toddler alone for hours to walk through her blood? If so, would he get away with it? To the outside world, Jason and Michelle Young lived a storybook life, an attractive couple with great jobs, a beautiful home, a precocious two-year-old daughter, and a baby boy on the way. Soon after the 29-year-old pregnant mother's brutally beaten body was discovered on their bedroom floor, a very different picture emerged. Of a marriage crumbling at its foundation. Of a meddlesome New York mother-in-law whose running critique left Jason frustrated and angry. Of a 32-year-old man who behaved like a frat boy rebelling against adult responsibilities.

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