



North Carolina  
**humanities** | 50 *Years*

# NORTH CAROLINA READS

Program  
Guide

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# WELCOME

# I

Thank you for participating in North Carolina Reads, North Carolina Humanities' statewide book club for 2022!

The five selected books feature stories of American perseverance and diversity. These books were chosen by North Carolina Humanities because they explore issues of racial, social, and gender equality and the history and culture of North Carolina. The people, places, and events in the books also pose critical questions about how North Carolinians view their role in helping to form a more just and inclusive society. North Carolina Humanities hopes these stories encourage engaging, productive conversation among participants.

At the heart of North Carolina Reads is North Carolina Humanities' desire to connect communities through shared reading experiences. Reading is important because it helps us develop our critical-thinking skills; strengthens our minds, vocabulary, and mental health; and creates opportunities for us to empathize with others' stories and experiences.

As part of North Carolina Reads, North Carolina Humanities has distributed free books and resources across North Carolina, including to your group.

Beyond reading the books individually or communally, North Carolina Humanities strongly encourages groups to create a plan and host a reading program, book discussion, or other North Carolina Reads-related event in their community to further the impact of the book titles and create opportunities to come together to talk and listen.

In the pages ahead, you'll find a variety of ideas and suggestions to help guide you as you plan for a North Carolina Reads book discussion for your community!

Happy reading!

# 2022 PROGRAM

Throughout 2022, NC Humanities is supporting groups across the state to read and create programs inspired by the North Carolina Reads book series.

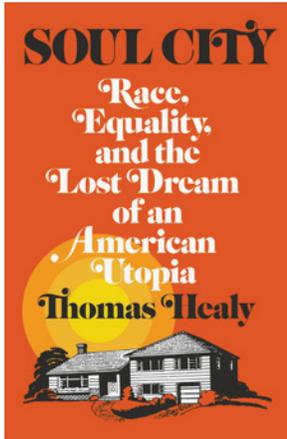
Using the books and other resources provided by North Carolina Humanities, your group will:

- Distribute the books received from North Carolina Humanities to participants in your community.
- Implement a reading of one or more of the selected titles in their entirety. Participants may read the book individually or communally as is determined appropriate for your group.
- Implement one book discussion or one community book event. Please note, reading events can be held in virtual or in-person formats as best suits the needs of your community.

The read in each community may look a little different depending on the book(s) selected and what format your book event takes.



## 2022 Books

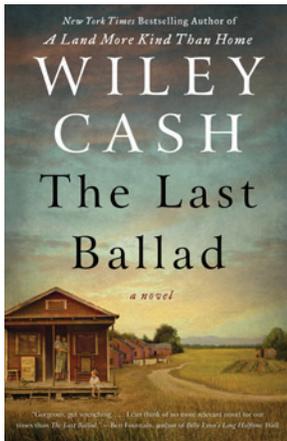


FEBRUARY 2022

### ***SOUL CITY: RACE, EQUALITY, AND THE LOST DREAM OF AN AMERICAN UTOPIA***

**BY THOMAS HEALY**

**Nonfiction.** In a gripping, poignant narrative, acclaimed author Thomas Healy resurrects this forgotten saga of race, capitalism, and the struggle for equality. Was it an impossible dream from the beginning? Or a brilliant idea thwarted by prejudice and ignorance? And how might America be different today if Soul City had been allowed to succeed?

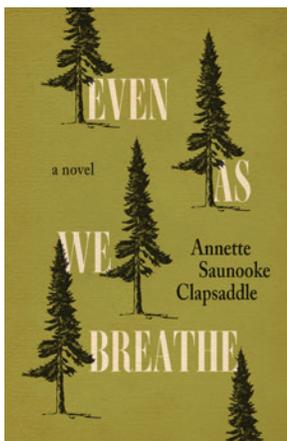


MARCH 2022

### ***THE LAST BALLAD***

**BY WILEY CASH**

**Historical Fiction.** Intertwining myriad voices, Wiley Cash brings to life the heartbreak and bravery of the now-forgotten struggle of the labor movement in early twentieth-century America—and pays tribute to the thousands of heroic women and men who risked their lives to win basic rights for all workers.



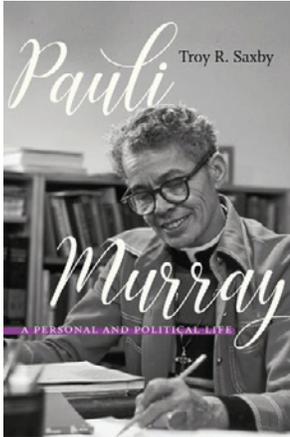
APRIL 2022

### ***EVEN AS WE BREATHE***

**BY ANNETTE SAUNOOKE CLAPSADDLE**

**Historical Fiction.** Nineteen-year-old Cowney Sequoyah yearns to escape his hometown of Cherokee, North Carolina, in the heart of the Smoky Mountains. When a summer job at Asheville's luxurious Grove Park Inn and Resort brings him one step closer to escaping the hills that both cradle and suffocate him, he sees it as an opportunity.

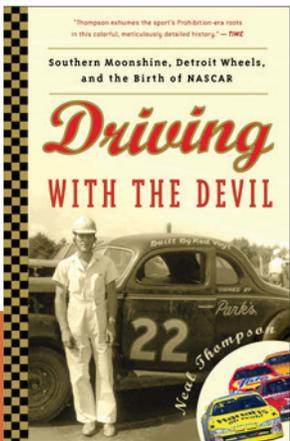
**MAY 2022**



***PAULI MURRAY: A PERSONAL AND POLITICAL LIFE***  
**BY TROY R. SAXBY**

**Nonfiction Biography.** Raised in Durham, the Rev. Dr. Anna Pauline “Pauli” Murray (1910–1985) was a trailblazing social activist, writer, lawyer, civil rights organizer, and campaigner for gender rights. In this intimate biography, Troy Saxby provides the most comprehensive account of Murray’s inner life to date, revealing her struggles in poignant detail and deepening our understanding and admiration of her numerous achievements in the face of pronounced racism, homophobia, transphobia, and political persecution.

**JUNE 2022**



***DRIVING WITH THE DEVIL: SOUTHERN MOONSHINE,  
DETROIT WHEELS, AND THE BIRTH OF NASCAR***  
**BY NEAL THOMPSON**

**Nonfiction.** The true story behind NASCAR’s moonshine-fueled origins. Long before the sport of stock-car racing existed, young men in the rural, Depression-wracked South learned that cars and speed were tickets to a better life. With few options beyond farm or factory, the best chance of escape was running moonshine.

# PLANNING AN EVENT

## III

Consider planning book discussions with others to explore themes and share perspectives.

### Timing

Plan between 60-90 minutes for the discussion. This will be just long enough to get into the book, but short enough to keep everyone's attention. Discussions on virtual platforms can be shorter in length than in-person discussions.

### Sample Outline

#### **Introductions:** 5-10 minutes

Have all participants and the facilitator introduce themselves by saying their name. Keep introductions short so that you have ample time for discussion.

#### **Discussion:** 40-60 minutes

Plan to have 10-15 questions ready for discussion. Carefully consider your first question as it will set the tone for the discussion. Sample questions can be found on the pages following.

#### **Break:** 10 minutes

Typically used during an in-person discussion, allow participants 5-10 minutes to stretch, access bathrooms, or recharge with some refreshments.

#### **Conclusion:** 5-10 minutes

Thank the participants for exchanging in discourse with each other and for sharing their perspectives and considering new perspectives.

# FACILITATING

## Tips to help prepare for leading a discussion

### Set Guidelines

It is important to set guidelines at the start of the discussion. Some important ones:

1. All perspectives are valued, and it's important to hear from everyone in the room.
2. Share personal experiences rather than general statements about groups of people.
3. It's okay to disagree respectfully.

### Navigating Challenges

Consider the following:

- Help control interruptions by asking the participant to “hold that thought so we can hear it again once X is finished speaking.”
- Help ensure that each participant who wishes to speak is heard by saying, “That’s an interesting point. Did anyone else feel the same or differently?” or “Let’s hear from another reader.”
- Help defuse conversations by reminding participants to focus on content and ideas, not people. Defuse with a calm remark, and get back on track by saying, “Let’s get back to the end of chapter X. What did you think at this point?” or “I have a question about p. #. What is really going on here?”
- Help reluctant participants by asking what they may have liked or disliked about the book. If they were unable to finish the book, they could still participate in answering this question.
- Scan the room for verbal and nonverbal cues: Are people feeling comfortable? Are there shy people who look like they want to talk but just need to be asked?
- Avoid sharing what you think, even when people ask. Your role is to lead the conversation. Always turn the discussion back to the participants.



## Asking Questions

Always ask open-ended questions that can be answered in a variety of ways. Use specific moments or quotes from the book to ground the discussion, but avoid questions that require a lot of background information.

Tie your first question to a major theme or idea you'll explore in the rest of the discussion, or start with a question based in the text. Pick an interesting quote or scene, read it together, then ask your question.

Ask a mix of interpretative and evaluative questions.

**Interpretative:** questions about the meaning of the text

- Why did this character do X?
- What did this character mean when they said Y?

**Evaluative:** questions that explore values and implications

- Is this character responsible for their actions?

*Sample questions can be found on the following page.*

## Finding a Facilitator

Great discussions start with their facilitators. If feasible, consider having a professional facilitator for your book discussion.

Your facilitator should be a great listener who makes others feel comfortable talking about big ideas. Facilitators should understand your goals for the discussion and commit to using the guidelines in this discussion guide.

If you are not using an in-house facilitator, it is recommended to find a local humanities scholar to facilitate your discussion. You could also try contacting English department faculty at a nearby college or university or reaching out to your local librarians.

Since it's a good amount of work to read, plan, and lead the discussion, it is recommended to pay your facilitator. How much you want to pay your facilitator is up to you. Typically, a standard range for facilitation is \$100 to \$150 per book discussion session. If your facilitator forgoes payment, count what you would have paid them as an in-kind match using the form on page 13.

## Sample Questions

These questions are the focal point of North Carolina Reads. You can start to shape your book discussion/book event around a few of these questions. The questions below do not have a “correct” answer but instead are large, overarching questions at the heart of the important issues raised by these books. For host groups planning a book discussion, please find text-dependent questions for each book in our Reading Schedule and Discussion Questions Guide.

- What are the roles and responsibilities of citizens and government in a democratic society?
- How do personal and civic responsibilities differ?
- How does civic engagement shape American democracy?
- What is the relationship between justice and citizenship?
- How are military service and citizenship linked?
- How do people make decisions about their economic livelihood?
- Why do people work? Should everyone be expected to work?
- What does it mean to “make a living?”
- What cultural elements are often associated with Western North Carolina and with the larger region of Appalachia?
- What cultural traits do “outsiders” use to form a perception about a person? A community? A region? How do we navigate cultural differences?
- How has the constitution grown and changed since its creation?
- How does society express gender expectations, and how are they met or challenged?
- How have gender and women’s roles changed over time and in relation to political and social events?
- What are the benefits and consequences of questioning or challenging social order?





# PROGRAM CREDITS

Find a full list of general communication guidelines, tips, and more at [NCHumanities.org](https://www.nchumanities.org).

## Description

**When describing North Carolina Reads, please use the standard description:**

North Carolina Humanities' North Carolina Reads is a statewide book club exploring issues of racial, social, and gender equality and the history and culture of North Carolina. North Carolina Humanities is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, conclusions, opinions, or recommendations expressed do not necessarily represent those of NC Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Crediting

North Carolina Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities must be acknowledged as sponsors.

Please use the following credit lines, the North Carolina Humanities logo and the National Endowment for the Humanities logo on anything produced. Logos may be no smaller than 5 points and can be downloaded [here](#) or from the press kit on our website.

### PRINT / SIGNAGE / WEBSITES

*"This [program/book event/discussion] is supported by North Carolina Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, [nchumanities.org](https://www.nchumanities.org)."*

### PROGRAMS / PUBLIC GATHERINGS

*"This [program/book event/discussion] is part of North Carolina Humanities' statewide book club, North Carolina Reads. North Carolina Reads was created by North Carolina Humanities and is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Learn more at [nchumanities.org](https://www.nchumanities.org)."*

### BOOK TITLES

Book titles should always be italicized when talking about the actual book (unless in a press release, which follows AP style). Book descriptions can be found on page 3.

# RESOURCES

One-click access to additional information

## Authors (In alphabetical order)

- Wiley Cash: [wileycash.com](http://wileycash.com)
- Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle: [asaunookeclapsaddle.com](http://asaunookeclapsaddle.com)
- Thomas Healy: [us.macmillan.com/author/thomashealy](http://us.macmillan.com/author/thomashealy)
- Troy R. Saxby: [uncpress.org/author/125687-troy-r-saxby](http://uncpress.org/author/125687-troy-r-saxby)
- Neal Thompson: [nealthompson.com](http://nealthompson.com)

## About North Carolina Humanities

North Carolina Humanities is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through public humanities programs and grantmaking, NC Humanities connects North Carolinians with cultural experiences that spur dialogue, deepen human connections, and inspire community. Learn more at [nchumanities.org](http://nchumanities.org).

## About National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities is one of the largest funders of humanities programs in the United States. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at [neh.gov](http://neh.gov).

## About the NC Center for the Book

The North Carolina Center for the Book is a collection of North Carolina Humanities' literature and reading programs. Using a variety of formats and initiatives, North Carolina Center for the Book literary programs celebrate and promote the vital importance of books, reading, libraries, and North Carolina's literary heritage. The North Carolina Center for the Book, [nchumanities.org](http://nchumanities.org), is the state affiliate of the National Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and is supported in part by the State Library of North Carolina, [statelibrary.ncdcr.gov](http://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov).



# IN-KIND DONATIONS

Thank you for the time and effort you took to help host a North Carolina Reads book program!

North Carolina Humanities ensures free access to public humanities programs. We would not be able to do this without the generous contributions and documentation of cost share from our local program partners like you. Below, please see how to track these cost-share contributions.

In your final North Carolina Reads survey, you will be asked to show the expenses for this project as contributed by your group. Expenses can be contributed in two ways: cash and in kind. Please capture the total for each expense type.

Expense Type	Cash	In-Kind
Value of Volunteer or Administrative Time	\$	\$
Value of Venue Space	\$	\$
Printing, Publicity, and Advertising	\$	\$
Refreshments	\$	\$
Facilitator Honorarium (Book discussion event)	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$
Cash and In-Kind Totals	\$	\$
<b>Total Amount Contributed</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

\_\_\_\_\_  
Host Coordinator or Authorized Personnel Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**“Cash”** means a contribution by your group (“cost share”) by paying for publicity, printing, refreshments, facilitator honorarium, paid staff time etc. Cash contributions are the “out-of-pocket” expenses. **“In Kind”** means a contribution by your group (“cost share”) in a form other than money or for a service that is donated. This can include, but is not limited to, the value of the space or venue provided; materials and equipment provided; and volunteer time spent distributing books, planning an event, and implementing an event.

If you have questions please call our office at (704) 687-1520.

North Carolina Reads is made possible in part by a special initiative grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, “A More Perfect Union”.

North Carolina Humanities is a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Any views, findings, conclusions, opinions, or recommendations expressed by our partners and participants do not necessarily represent those of NC Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities. This Program Guide may be used with permission from North Carolina Humanities.

Please note that selected books are intended for readers 18 and over and may not be suitable for some audiences. North Carolina Humanities © 2022 | (704) 687-1520 | [nchumanities.org](http://nchumanities.org)



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