



COUNTY of CUMBERLAND

Public Library & Information Center

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – Sept. 16, 2011
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Humanities Scholars Lead Civil War Book Discussions

Library program runs through November 3

Scholars from the North Carolina Humanities Council bring their thought provoking perspectives to book discussions that are taking place as part of the “Let’s Talk About It: American’s Greatest Conflict, Novels of the Civil War” at the Cumberland County Public Library & Information Center. All programs begin at 6:30 p.m. and take place at Headquarters Library, 300 Maiden Lane. Copies of each book are available to check out and participants must register either online at www.cumberland.lib.nc.us, in person at any location, or by calling 483-7727. You may also register by texting “ccplinfo” to 66746.

The following is a list of program dates, book titles, authors, and discussion facilitators:

- Sept. 22 – “On The Occasion of My Last Afternoon” by Kaye Gibbons, facilitated by James Burkhead
- Oct. 6 – “Killer Angels” by Michael Shaara, facilitated by David Carr
- Oct. 20 – “Enemy Women” by Paulette Jiles, facilitated by Billy Yeargin Jr
- Nov. 3 – “Lincoln’s Dreams” by Connie Willis, facilitated by Bill DiNome|

Program Facilitators

James Burkhead

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Burkhead attended the University of Wisconsin in Madison and received his Bachelor of Arts with a double major in English and Biological Sciences. He earned a Master’s degree in Humanities from the University of Iowa at Iowa City where he also extensively studied creative writing. His doctorate studies in English with a Minor in Philosophy were accomplished at the University of New Mexico at Albuquerque where he

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specialized in 19th century American Literature.

Burkhead taught English, philosophy, humanities, and speech at several colleges and universities in the Southwest, at North Carolina Wesleyan in Rocky Mount, and retired from Pitt Community College in 2008. His professional background includes 16 years as a U.S. Army airborne ranger and Special Forces, city planner for Albuquerque, economic development planner for Native American tribes, and serving on the staff of two governors of New Mexico.

David Carr

Carr studies and writes about the commonalities of museums and libraries, and is an advocate for cultural institutions as places for addressing the unfinished issues of adult life. For many years he taught librarianship in New Jersey and North Carolina, specializing in collections, adult reading, and reference work in humanities and social sciences. His essays have been gathered in three collections, “The Promise of Cultural Institutions” and “A Place Not a Place,” both published by AltaMira Press, and “Open Conversations: Public Learning in Libraries and Museums,” published by Libraries Unlimited in September 2011.

Billy Yeargin Jr., M.L.S

Yeargin teaches courses relating to Southern Culture under Duke University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. He also lectures on American tobacco culture, the U.S. Civil War and Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Yeargin has served as professor of U.S. history, Ancient history, and Western Civilization for several North Carolina Community Colleges. He holds a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies from Duke University and has studied European History, Politics and Society at the University of Oxford, Oxfordshire in the United Kingdom.

Yeargin grew up in a mid-century "Old Belt" tobacco environment along the North Carolina and Virginia border. In the 1970s, he served as spokesman and media coordinator for the tobacco industry as Executive Director of the Tobacco Growers Information Committee. He created and directed the World Tobacco Auctioneers Championship for RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company and has published two books on North Carolina tobacco culture: “North Carolina Tobacco, a History” and “Remembering North Carolina Tobacco.” Yeargin served as Legislative Aide for Agriculture in the U.S. Senate under Senator Robert Morgan and as Agriculture Liaison to North Carolina Governor James Hunt, Jr.

Bill DiNome

DiNome holds a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from the University of North Carolina Wilmington and currently works there as full-time adviser to the student-media program and adjunct lecturer for

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the English Department and Graduate Liberal Studies.

He worked as a copy writer for major book publishers as well as in public radio and as a freelance writer and magazine editor and has published in a variety of genres including the novel, short story, poetry, scholarship, and journalism.

DiNome grew up in a large Italian family in the Bronx and graduated from the City College of New York, majoring in music. His interests range widely, including medieval literature, Native American fiction, high modernism, First Amendment issues, and film. He was a contributing writer for the *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, published in 2006. He and his wife are hobbyist beekeepers living in Wilmington.

This project is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in partnership with the North Carolina Center for the Book, a program of the State Library of North Carolina.

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