

MEET THE AUTHORS



BARBARA BENSON

Barbara Benson is a retired educator, consultant, and author. She taught high school English as well as education at Appalachian State University. She is the author of two books for educators. Her creative debut is *While Notre Dame Burned: A Memoir of Love, Loss and Learning to Live Alone*. Barbara recently relocated from

Todd to Winston-Salem, NC.



WAYNE CALDWELL

Wayne Caldwell, born in Asheville, NC, is a celebrated author. His novels, *Cataloochee* and *Requiem by Fire*, showcase his storytelling prowess. Wayne's literary achievements have garnered accolades like the Thomas Wolfe Memorial Literary Award and the James Still Award. He continues to craft compelling narratives,

including a recent volume of poems, *Woodsmoke*, leaving a lasting impact on the Appalachian South's literary landscape. WayneCaldwell.com



MARK DE CASTRIQUE

Mystery author Mark de Castrique has written 23 books, earning starred reviews from Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, and Booklist. His vivid storytelling captures the essence of the American South. With an Emmy-winning background in broadcast and film, Mark's DC thrillers, like *The 13th Target* and *The Singularity Race*, reflect

his years in Washington. He resides in Charlotte but often ventures to the NC mountains and the nation's capital. MarkDeCastrique.com



GEORGANN EUBANKS

Georgann Eubanks is a Festival-favorite writer, documentary maker, and consultant. Her books include the three-volume North Carolina Literary Trails series commissioned by the NC Arts Council and *The Month of Their Ripening: North Carolina Heritage Foods Through the Year*. In 2021, *Saving the Wild South: The Fight for*

Native Plants on the Brink of Extinction was published. She serves as Literary Executor and Director of the Paul Green Foundation. GeorgannEubanks.net



ELIZABETH HUDSON

North Carolina native Elizabeth Hudson, a graduate of UNC Greensboro, began her career at Our State magazine in 1997. She ascended to Editor in Chief, leading the magazine to a 30% circulation growth and earning accolades like the Gold Eddies. Her awards include the Ethel N. Fortner Writer and Community

Award and the 2021 Book Award of Excellence for *Silver Linings*.



MARJORIE HUDSON:

Award-winning author and educator Marjorie Hudson explores the complexities of Southern history through her writing. She is the author of a novel, *Indigo Field*, a story collection, *Accidental Birds of the Carolinas*, and a historical travelogue, *Searching for Virginia Dare*.

Marjorie resides on a farm in Chatham County, where she mentors writers and embraces nature.

MarjorieHudson.com



DAVID JOY

David Joy, who will serve as the Festival's 2023 Appalachian Writer in Residence, is the author of *When These Mountains Burn* (2020 Dashiell Hammett Award winner), *The Line That Held Us* (Southern Book Prize winner), *The Weight of This World*, and *Where All Light Tends to Go* (Edgar finalist for Best First Novel). His

stories and creative nonfiction have appeared in a number of publications, and he is the author of the memoir *Growing Gills: A Fly Fisherman's Journey*. David lives in Tuckasee, NC.



PATTI FRYE MEREDITH

Patti Meredith grew up in Galax, VA. Most of her stories are set in the Blue Ridge Mountains, but her debut novel, *South of Heaven*, takes place in the NC Sandhills where her roots run deep. After graduating from Virginia Tech with a degree in horticulture, she worked in television production and marketing for many years at PBS North

Carolina. Patti holds an MFA in Creative Writing from the University of Memphis. She lives in Chapel Hill, NC. PattiMeredith.com



BRENDAN SLOCUMB

Originally from Fayetteville, NC, Brendan began playing the violin at the age of nine and majored in music at the University of North Carolina. In addition to performing in orchestras, he also works as a teacher in kindergarten, elementary, junior high, and high school music education. *The Violin Conspiracy* is his debut work as a

novelist, followed by *Symphony of Secrets*. Brendan's third novel is set for an early 2025 release. BrendanSlocumb.com



ANNE CHESKY SMITH

Anne Chesky Smith serves as Executive Director of the Asheville Museum of History. She holds MA degrees from Appalachian State University and the University of Georgia. Her most recent book, *Murder at Asheville's Battery Park Hotel: The Search for Helen Clevenger's Killer*, received a finalist nod for the Thomas Wolfe Memorial

Literary Award. A consummate historian, Anne also writes for the Asheville Citizen-Times and serves on the boards of several historical organizations in NC.



DE'SHAWN CHARLES WINSLOW

De'Shawn Charles Winslow's first novel, *In West Mills*, was the winner of the Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, as well as a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize, Lambda Literary Award, and Willie Morris Award for Southern Writing. His new novel, *Decent People*, has garnered accolades from critics and readers

alike. Born and raised in Elizabeth City, NC, De'Shawn now lives in Atlanta, GA.

DeShawnCharlesWinslow.com



SUSAN ZURENDA

Susan Zurenda, an English educator for 33 years, debuted with the award-winning novel *Bells for Eli*. Her literary achievements include the IPPY Gold Medal, Foreword Indie finalist, and a Pushcart Prize nomination. A two-time winner of the South Carolina Fiction Prize, Susan's second novel, *The Girl from the Red Rose Motel*, released

in 2023. She resides in Spartanburg, SC. SusanZurenda.com



Ashe County's Literary Festival

SEPTEMBER 12-16, 2023

A CELEBRATION OF READING

Ashe County's 14th annual On the Same Page Literary Festival will highlight twelve authors with a week featuring readings, workshops, and special events.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All Festival events are open to the public. Most are free; some require reservations and/or tickets due to limited seating. There is a \$12 charge for the Literary Trails Luncheon. Please call the Ashe County Arts Council at 336-846-2787 for tickets, reservations, and details. Check OnTheSamePageFestival.org for last-minute schedule changes and updates. Plan to arrive a few minutes early to events to be seated prior to program start.

All events take place downstairs in the Community Room of the Ashe County Public Library, 148 Library Road in West Jefferson, unless otherwise noted in the description.

FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

Please note all workshops are free and open to the public but registration is required in advance due to space. Register online at OnTheSamePageFestival.org

Crossing the Line: The Role of Thresholds in Successful Stories with Susan Zurenda

Wednesday, September 13
8:30 am – 10:30 am

This workshop will examine how elements such as atmosphere, pacing, detail, rhythm, imagery, and actions help to create meaningful crossings in stories.

Fiction: The Extraordinary Power of Reversal with Marjorie Hudson

Friday, September 15
9:00 am - 11:00 am

What's on the first page of your story? What's on the last? Through the technique of reversal, you can craft your story to move in the direction of "inevitable surprise" as well as powerful emotion.

Workshops with David Joy

Wednesday, September 13, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Setting The Hook: Why Fiction Must Grab Readers Early

Friday, September 15, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Capturing Place: The Intersectionality of a Landscape and People

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM: Reading with Brendan Slocumb featuring a musical performance by local youth musician Cooper Parsons. **Location: Ashe Arts Center**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

8:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Workshop with Susan Zurenda, Registration required

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM: Tribute to Philip Gerard with Elizabeth Hudson, sponsored by Friends of the Ashe County Public Library

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM: Reading with Patti Frye Meredith

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM: Reading with Barbara Benson

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Workshop with David Joy, Registration required

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

9:30 AM - 10:15 AM: Reading with De'Shawn Charles Winslow

11:00 AM - 11:45 AM: Reading with Wayne Caldwell

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM: Reading with Anne Chesky Smith

4:30 PM - 5:15 PM: Reading with David Joy. **Location: Old Orchard Creek General Store, Lansing, NC**

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Panel with De'Shawn Charles Winslow, Marjorie Hudson, and Wayne Caldwell. Moderated by Georgann Eubanks. **Location: Ashe Arts Center**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Workshop with Marjorie Hudson, Registration required

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM: Literary Trails Luncheon with Georgann Eubanks, Registration required, \$12 Fee for lunch

2:00 PM - 2:45 PM: Reading with Marjorie Hudson

3:30 PM - 4:15 PM: Reading with David Joy

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM: Workshop with David Joy, Registration required

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

10:00 AM - 10:45 AM: Reading with Mark de Castrique



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ASHE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

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