

WAYNE COUNTY READS

is a one book, one-community project started in Wayne County, N.C. in 2004. In addition to discussing each book's literary merits, WCR provides free public programs such as lectures, exhibits, performances, films, discussions, demonstrations, contests and festivals that explore the themes and issues in the books.



Wayne County Reads selections have included *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, *Big Fish* by Daniel Wallace, *Night* by Elie Wiesel, *Walking Across Egypt* by Clyde Edgerton, *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Tim Tyson, *Blackbeard: America's Most Notorious Pirate* by Angus Konstam, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, and *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace ... One School at a Time* and *Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan* by Greg Mortenson. The 2012 book is *The Pleasure Was Mine* by Tommy Hays.

The 2012 Wayne County Reads Partners are the City of Goldsboro, County of Wayne, Mount Olive College, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Library, Wayne Community College, Wayne Country Day School, Wayne County Public Library System, Wayne County Public Schools, and many interested individuals.

ABOUT THE 2012 BOOK SELECTION

With *The Pleasure Was Mine*, North Carolina author Tommy Hays offers a touching, hopeful, and even comic testimonial about the power of love, commitment and family. The novel is the story of three men - Prate, his grown son Newell, and his nine-year-old grandson Jackson - coming to terms with Irene, heart and center of the family, whom they are losing to Alzheimer's. Forced to admit Irene to a nursing home, Prate faithfully visits her every day. The real disturbance comes when Newell leaves Jackson, a moody, bookish, too quiet boy, with Prate for the summer. Prate finds himself in the irritatingly uncomfortable position of having to get to know his grandson and reconnecting with his son.

The Pleasure Was Mine demonstrates Prate's resurrection as both a man and a father. The depth of Prate's love for his wife is revealed in a series of flashbacks to their early romance and long life together. Hays pulls off an extraordinary literary feat, extracting an uplifting story of love and resilience, touched with wit and humor from the saddest of circumstances.

Published in 2005, *The Pleasure Was Mine* is Mr. Hays' third novel. He is executive director of the Great Smokies Writing Program and lecturer in the Master of Liberal Arts Program at the University of North Carolina at Asheville.

The Pleasure Was Mine also was chosen for community reading programs in Greensboro, Rockingham County, Alamance County, and Greenville, S.C.

Extra copies have been borrowed so plenty will be available at local library branches and it can be purchased from the Wayne Community College Bookstore and Books-A-Million in Goldsboro.

WAYNE COUNTY READS 2012 SCHEDULE*

Tues., Feb. 7 7 p.m.	Kickoff – Talk by Author Tommy Hays Followed by Book Signing and Reception Moffatt Auditorium, Wayne Community College
Tues. Feb. 7 Wed. Feb. 8 Noon	Writing Contest Entries Due Book Discussion with the Author Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Library
Wed., Feb. 8 7 p.m.	Creative Writing Workshop with the Author Moye Library, Mount Olive College
Thurs., Feb. 9 6:30 p.m.	Film: “I Never Sang for My Father” Wayne County Public Library
Sat., Feb. 11 8 p.m.	“The Best Is Yet To Be” play by Dr. Elliot Engel, featuring Quinn Hawksworth w/ talk by Dr. LeRoy King Moffatt Auditorium, Wayne Community College
Tues., Feb. 14 Tues., Feb. 14 10:30 a.m.	Delivery of Children’s Handmade Cards to Seniors Children’s Story Time and Craft Session to Make Cards for Veterans - Seymour Johnson AFB Library
Wed., Feb. 15 6:30 p.m.	Film: “Away From Her” Wayne County Public Library
Thurs., Feb. 16 Noon and 6 p.m.	Book Discussions Led by Kay Cooke Wayne County Public Library
Thurs., Feb. 16 7 p.m.	Book Discussion Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Library
Sat., Feb. 18 10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Scanning Party to Preserve Old Photos Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Library
Tues., Feb. 21 7 p.m.	Panel - “Alzheimer’s/Dementia: Joy and Challenges of Care Giving” - Wayne County Public Library
Thurs., Feb. 23 7 p.m.	Nana Belle @ Night – story on grandparents/aging Seymour Johnson Air Force Base Library
Sat., Feb. 25 2-5 p.m.	Festival for the Ages (presentation of writing awards; performances by Samantha Casey, square dancers and senior dance groups; pottery and other hands-on handcraft demonstrations; activities for all ages) - Wayne Center
TBA	Displays of Art and Artifacts

* Subject to change – look for final details at www.waynereads.com

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