

On the Same Page

Ashe County's Literary Festival

A Mountain Medley

2019 AUTHORS

Diane Chamberlain
PT Deutermann
Georgann Eubanks
Robert Gipe
Jaki Shelton Green
Ronni Lundy
Beth Macy
AJ Mayhew
Alan Michael Parker
Stephanie Powell Watts



ON THE SAME PAGE: A CELEBRATION OF READING

Ashe County's 12th annual *On the Same Page Literary Festival* promises attendees a medley of characters and places, both real and fictional, by a group of outstanding authors. Some of our authors are participating in the Festival and visiting Ashe County for the first time and others are familiar faces.

2019 FESTIVAL READ

This year's Festival Read is ***Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company That Addicted America*** by Beth Macy.

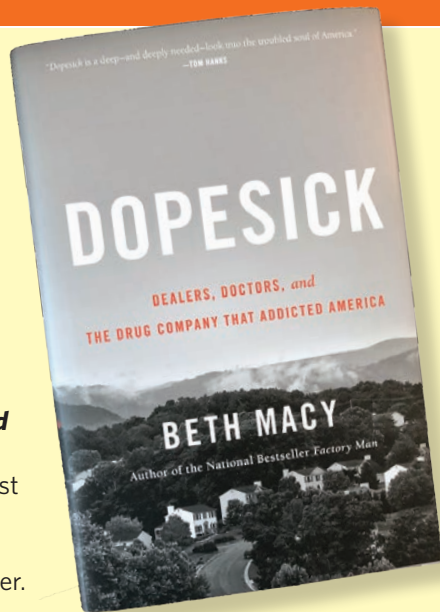
Upon its release in August 2018, *Dopesick* was an instant *New York Times* (NYT) and indie bestseller. According to the NYT, "*Dopesick* is a harrowing, deeply compassionate dispatch from the heart of a national emergency" from a bestselling author and journalist who has lived through it.

According to Macy's publisher, Little, Brown and Company: . . . *From the introduction of OxyContin in 1996, Macy parses how America embraced a medical culture where overtreatment with painkillers became the norm. . . . In these politically fragmented times, Beth Macy shows, astonishingly, that the only thing that unites Americans across geographic and class lines is opioid drug abuse.*

Events begin with the **Festival Read Kick-Off on Thursday, August 8 at 1:00 p.m.** at the **Ashe County Public Library**. Join us as we begin "*Exploring the Heart of Dopesick.*"

On **Thursday, August 29 at 1:00 p.m.**, we will hear the perspectives of local professionals on "*Opioids and Ashe County*" as part of a Panel Discussion. **Ashe County Public Library.**

The **Festival Read Wrap-Up Discussion** will be held on **Tuesday, September 17 at 1:00 p.m.**, at the **Ashe County Public Library**. At this event, "*Banishing the Stigma,*" we will discuss the book and suggest practical ways for individuals to approach opioid misuse on a local level.



WRITER IN RESIDENCE—NEW!

New for 2019 is the Appalachian Writer in Residence (AWiR) position, filled this year by Robert Gipe. The AWiR post is sponsored by the Ashe County Public Library in partnership with *On the Same Page*. Authors chosen for this residency strive to portray contemporary Appalachia with nuance and authenticity in their work. The AWiR is an integral part of the Festival, participating in a number of events spanning the week of the Festival.

FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

On the Same Page provides several opportunities for local writers to work with our featured authors. This year's schedule offers three workshop opportunities.

- **"A Character-Building Experience" with Robert Gipe.** Focus on character development and how character development drives plot, plus discussions of voice and the use of illustration. A **two-part workshop** that begins on Tuesday, September 17 and concludes on Wednesday, September 18, 6:30–8:30 p.m., **Ashe County Public Library.**
- **"That's Not What Happened" with Alan Michael Parker.** Focus on investigating the relationship between experience and the imagination. Wednesday, September 18, 8:30–10:30 a.m., **Ashe County Public Library.**
- **"The Poet Witnesses: Writing Documentary Poetry" with North Carolina's Poet Laureate Jaki Shelton Green.** Focus on the idea of the poet as documentarian, historian and agitator. Friday, September 20, 2:30–4:30 p.m., **Ashe County Public Library.**

For more detailed information, see the Festival Schedule page. All workshops are free of charge; however, registration is limited and reservations are required. Sign up early! Call the Ashe Arts Center to reserve your place (336-846-2787).



Adding to the Medley

There's always something good going on in Ashe County, not just the Festival. This year, our Mountain Medley includes several events before and after the Festival, presented by the Ashe County Arts Council, local businesses, and local writers, artists, and craftspeople.

- **Wordkeepers**, an informal event for local writers, takes place on **Saturday, August 10 and Saturday, October 19 at 4:00 p.m.** Refreshments and five-minute readings of our latest and best! Email RenfroDiana@msn.com to reserve a space at the podium. **Ashe Arts Center.**
- **Gallery Crawls** happen every second Friday through October from **5:00-8:00 p.m.** Stroll around West Jefferson, visiting shops and galleries and enjoying music and refreshments along the way. **September 13 and October 11. Downtown West Jefferson.**
- **Elliot Engel**, one of our favorite historians, returns on **Monday, September 16 at 7:30 p.m.** with **"Master of Mayberry: The Miraculous Life of Andy Griffith."** Tickets are available from the Ashe Arts Center, 336-846-2787. **Ashe Arts Center.**
- **Art on the Mountain!** Fine art and cool crafts outdoors on **Saturday, September 28, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.** Featuring books and writers, pottery, fibers, paintings, photographs, woodworking, jewelry, and more. **Ashe Arts Center.**



The *On the Same Page Literary Festival* is made possible through the generosity of organizations, businesses, and individuals who believe in the power and beauty of the written word. One special group of

individual donors is our PAGE TURNERS. Each year, they provide a large share of support for our Festival! If you enjoy the Festival, consider becoming a PAGE TURNER. During the events, any Festival volunteer with an OTSP name tag can give you more information. Check OnTheSamePageFestival.org or call the Ashe Arts Center at 336-846-2787.



SAVE THE DATE!

Sept. 15-19, 2020

ASHE COUNTY: THE COOLEST CORNER OF NORTH CAROLINA

In Ashe County, we take our celebration of the outdoors and the arts seriously! We are in the High Country of northwestern North Carolina, and West Jefferson is our largest small town. Ashe County is home to the New River, Mount Jefferson State Natural Area, Pond Mountain, and the Bluff Mountain Preserve. Whether you enjoy hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, tubing—or just taking in our spectacular views—you will not be disappointed.

You won't have to be here long to know the arts are a big part of what makes this community so delightful. From our Barn Quilt Trails to a thriving community theater group, from mountain music to an arts district filled with unique galleries and public art, Ashe County offers an unexpected and delightful arts experience.

For information on lodging, restaurants, shopping and more:

arlibrary.org/ashe
ashechamber.com/ashevisitor
ashecountyarts.org
ashefarmersmarket.com
visitwestjefferson.org

Our 2019 Sponsors

Thank you!



Friends of the
Ashe County Public Library





on the samePage

A Celebration of Reading
Ashe County's Literary Festival
September 17-21, 2019

Ashe County Arts Council
303 School Avenue
West Jefferson, NC 28694

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FEATURED AUTHORS

- Diane Chamberlain
- PT Deutermann
- Georgann Eubanks
- Robert Gipe
- Jaki Shelton Green
- Ronni Lundy
- Beth Macy
- AJ Mayhew
- Alan Michael Parker
- Stephanie Powell Watts

For more information:
336-846-2787
OnTheSamePageFestival.org

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2019
FESTIVAL

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FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All Festival events are open to the public. Most are free, but some require reservations and/or tickets due to limited seating. There is a nominal charge for the Literary Trails Luncheon. Please call 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 all events in order to be seated prior to the beginning of the programs.



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 below.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

1:00 p.m. Festival Read Wrap-Up Session. *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors and the Drug Company that Addicted America*, by Beth Macy. In addition to a general discussion of the book, we'll focus on "Banishing the Stigma."

3:00 p.m. Robert Gipe. Reading. Author of the 2015 Weatherford Award-winning novel, *Trampoline*, his first. Gipe's second novel, *Weedeater*, was released in 2018.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Robert Gipe. Writer's Workshop—Part I: "A Character-Building Experience." This two-part workshop will focus on character development and how character development drives plot. There also will be discussion of voice and using illustrations. Beginning and experienced writers are welcome. Registration is limited and a reservation is required.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

8:30-10:30 a.m. Alan Michael Parker. Writer's Workshop. Someone smarter than I am once said, "Reality is a poor excuse for fiction." This hands-on workshop—for writers of all genres—will test this theory by investigating the relationship between experience and the imagination. Memory, truth, storytelling . . . everything will relate (somehow). All levels. Bring paper, pen and a willingness to play.

11:00 a.m. PT Deutermann. Reading. Author of 21 novels, and soon *The Nugget*, to be released in October 2019, Deutermann began writing fiction in 1990. His talk is a special feature presented by the Friends of the Ashe County Public Library.

2:00 p.m. AJ Mayhew. Reading. Riveted by her debut novel, *The Dry Grass of August*, the *On the Same Page Festival* committee invited Mayhew back to share her second novel, *Tomorrow's Bread*, released in March 2019.

6:30-8:30 p.m. Robert Gipe. Writer's Workshop—Part II: "A Character-Building Experience."

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:30 a.m. Stephanie Powell Watts. Reading. Watts, a Lenoir, North Carolina native, will discuss and read from her novel, *No One is Coming to Save Us*, winner of the 2018 NAACP Image Award.

12:00/NOON Literary Trails Luncheon. Georgann Eubanks takes us down more of North Carolina's fascinating and delicious "Literary Trails" based on her experiences in writing the 3-part *Literary Trails of North Carolina* series, as well as *The Month of Their Ripening: North Carolina Heritage Foods*. Box lunches are provided for a nominal charge. **Reservations are required: call 336-846-2787.**

2:00 p.m. Ronni Lundy. Reading. A post-prandial treat, Lundy will celebrate good ol' Southern food as she discusses and reads from *Victuals*, winner of the 2017 James Beard Foundation Book of the Year Award.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

9:30 a.m. Jaki Shelton Green. Reading. Poet, teacher and community arts advocate, Green currently serves as North Carolina's Poet Laureate. Author of eight poetry collections, she will read and discuss selections from her poetry.

12:00/NOON Lunch with an Author. Join some of our 2019 Authors for lunch and a time of more intimate discussion and sharing. More information will be shared as the Festival is closer and authors/restaurants are confirmed. **Various Restaurants in Downtown West Jefferson.**

2:30-4:30 p.m. Jaki Shelton Green. Writer's Workshop: "The Poet Witnesses: Writing Documentary Poetry." Green will examine the documentary poetry samplers of Forché, Tretheway, and Smith, as well as her own. Why does history matter to the poem? What does it mean when a poet weaves personal narratives with more traditional documentary modes such as exposition, interview, witness and persona? All levels and all genres are welcome. Participants will engage in writing and discussing documentary poems. Bring writing instruments of your choice—pen, paper, pencil, tablet, computer, etc.

7:30 p.m. Beth Macy. Reading and talk. Macy is the author of three *New York Times*-bestselling non-fiction works, including this year's Festival Read, *Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and The Drug Company That Addicted America*. She will read and discuss this instant bestseller and add to our understanding of a critical issue facing our county, our state and our nation. **Ashe Arts Center.**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

8:30 a.m. Page Turners Breakfast. For *On the Same Page Festival* donors. Join us by becoming a donor today! Ask how. Reservations required. **Sweet and Savory Bakery and Cafe.**

11:00 a.m. Diane Chamberlain. Reading and talk. Chamberlain will read from and discuss her latest novel, *The Dream Daughter*, and perhaps share a little about the novel she is currently working on, *Big Lies in a Small Town*, set in Edenton, North Carolina.

Our authors' books will be on sale at all events and at the Ashe Arts Center beginning August 1st and continuing throughout the Festival. Whether you purchase a book from us or on your own, authors are generous in signing their books during the Festival. Books also may be checked out of the Ashe County Public Library.

2019 AUTHORS



DIANE CHAMBERLAIN

Diane is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author of 26 novels. Her books are complex stories about love, compassion and forgiveness, with a strong element of mystery and suspense. In her latest novel, *The Dream Daughter*, Diane adds a touch of magical realism. She splits her time between Raleigh and Topsail Island, the setting for two of her books. Diane's background in psychology and her work in hospitals have given her the experience necessary to create real characters. She's at work on her 27th novel—*Big Lies in a Small Town*, set in Edenton.

DianeChamberlain.com



PT DEUTERMANN

PT graduated from the Naval Academy in 1963 and served on cruisers and destroyers for 26 years, retiring from active duty in 1989 as a captain. He holds a BS in naval engineering, an MA in public administration from the University of Washington, and is a graduate of the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. He began writing fiction in 1990

and has since published 21 novels. His next book, *The Nugget*, Book 6 in a WWII Naval series, is due for release in October. He lives in North Carolina's Piedmont with his wife of 50 years. PTDeutermann.com



GEORGANN EUBANKS

Georgann is the author of the *Literary Trails* series commissioned by the NC Arts Council and published by UNC Press. Her latest book is *The Month of Their Ripening: North Carolina Heritage Foods Through the Year*. She has published poetry, fiction, profiles, reviews and essays in many magazines and journals, including *Southern Cultures*, *South Writ Large*, *Our State* and *Oxford American*. Since 2000, she has been a principal with Donna Campbell in Minnow Media, LLC, an Emmy-winning multimedia company. She is director of the Table Rock Writers Workshop and a founder and member of the board of trustees of the NC Writers' Network.

GeorgannEubanks.net



ROBERT GIPE

Robert won the 2015 Weatherford Award for outstanding Appalachian novel for his first novel *Trampoline*. His second novel is *Weedeater* (2018). From 1997 to 2018, he directed the Southeast Kentucky Community & Technical College Appalachian Program in Harlan. He is a producer of the Higher Ground community performance series;

has directed the Southeast Kentucky Revitalization Project; coordinated the Great Mountain Mural Mega Fest; co-produces the Hurricane Gap Community Theater Institute; and advises on It's Good To Be Young in the Mountains. He formerly worked at Appalshop, an arts center in Whitesburg, Kentucky. He lives in Harlan County, Kentucky. RobertGipe.com



JAKI SHELTON GREEN

Jaki is the author of eight poetry collections. Her poetry has been published in more than eighty national and international anthologies and featured in magazines such as *Essence* and *Ms. Magazine*. She is the first African American and only the third woman to be appointed as the North Carolina Poet Laureate. Her collegiate and professional experiences

include teaching Documentary Poetry at the Duke University Center for Documentary Studies, Visiting Professor for the Carlow University MFA Program, Lenoir-Rhyne University Writer-in-Residence, Duke University Teaching for Equity Fellow and many more. She is owner of *SistaWRITE* and co-partner with *Dream Yourself Awake* and *Vertikal Creative Ventures*, providing writing retreats and travel excursions for women. SistaWrite.com



RONNI LUNDY

Ronni is an author and editor whose work focuses on traditional American foods and music. Her book, *Victuals* (2016), won the 2017 James Beard Foundation Book of the Year Award. Her hometown is Corbin, Kentucky, and she now lives in the mountains of North Carolina. Her first book, *Shuck Beans, Stack Cakes, and Honest Fried Chicken*, combined her interests in music and food. Her work has appeared in *Esquire*, *Gourmet*, *Bon Appetit*, *Cooking Light*, *Eating Well*, *Sunset*, and *Copia*. In 2009, she was the recipient of the Southern Foodways Alliance's Craig Claiborne Lifetime Achievement Award. RonniLundy.com



BETH MACY

Beth is the author of three *New York Times*-bestselling nonfiction books. Her 2014 J. Anthony Lukas Prize-winning *Factory Man: How One Furniture Maker Battled Offshoring, Stayed Local—and Helped Save an American Town*, traced the aftereffects of globalization in America. *Truevine: Two Brothers, A Kidnapping, and a Mother's Quest* (2016) was a Kirkus Prize finalist and longlisted for the Carnegie Medal. Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal in nonfiction, among other honors, her latest work, *Dopesick*, was an instant bestseller and was named to more than a dozen best book of the year lists. Based out of Roanoke, Virginia, she was a Nieman Fellow in Journalism at Harvard in 2010. IntrepidPaperGirl.com



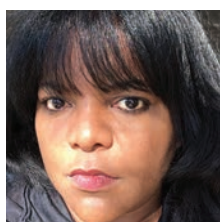
AJ (Anna Jean) MAYHEW

Novelist AJ, a Charlotte native, still calls North Carolina's Piedmont "home." Her first novel, *The Dry Grass of August*, won the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction, was a finalist for the Book Award from the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance, and has been translated seven times. Her much-anticipated second novel, *Tomorrow's Bread*, debuted in March 2019. She is working on short stories and perhaps her third novel. For twenty-five years she taught fiction writing at Duke University Continuing Education, at the ArtsCenter in Carrboro, and in her home. In 1987 she joined a group of writers in Chapel Hill and is still in that group 32 years later. AnnaJeanMayhew.com



ALAN MICHAEL PARKER

Alan has written four novels: *Cry Uncle*, *Whale Man*, *The Committee on Town Happiness*, and *Christmas in July*, and is the author of eight poetry collections. He has received 10 awards for his writing, both prose and poetry. He received his M.F.A. in Writing in 1987 from the School of the Arts at Columbia University. He teaches at Davidson College and in the University of Tampa's low-residency M.F.A. program. AlanMichaelParker.com



STEPHANIE POWELL WATTS

Stephanie is the author of *No One is Coming to Save Us*, which was a 2018 NAACP Image Award Winner, the inaugural American Library Association selection by Sarah Jessica Parker, and a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection. Her writing has appeared in many journals and media including *The New York Times*, *Oxford American*, and *Time* magazine. Born in Lenoir, North Carolina, she lives in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, with her son and her husband, the poet Bob Watts. StephaniePowellWatts.com