

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLOTTE MECKLENBURG LIBRARY WANTS EVERYONE TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF BROOKLYN VILLAGE DURING COMMUNITY READ 2022

Library to host dialogues on racism, gentrification and urban renewal

Charlotte, NC – November 8, 2021 – Charlotte Mecklenburg Library announces the return of Community Read in March 2022 with a focus on creating community dialogue around themes of gentrification and urban renewal. Community Read is the Library's monthlong effort to have the community collectively read (or listen) to books of current and relevant topics, and participate in discussions, book clubs and events held online, at Library locations, and hosted by community partners. The signature title, *Tomorrow's Bread* by Anna Jean Mayhew, includes a scheduled appearance by the author on March 23, 2022. Adults are encouraged to read and discuss the main title, and the Library selected companion titles for children and teens including: *Windows* by Julie Denos (children), *The Blue House* by Phoebe Wahl (children), *The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya (middle grade) and *Pride* by Ibi Aanu Zobo (teen). More information can be found at cmlibrary.org/community-read.

"Community Read has always been an important program supporting the Library's mission, but this year, more than ever, we want everyone to get on the same page so we can have important conversations around race, social (in)justice and community activism while working toward improving Charlotte-Mecklenburg," said Meryle Leonard, outreach leader and co-program lead for Community Read at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library.

"Our vision as an accessible, welcoming and inclusive Library is to be the essential connector of a thriving community of readers, leaders and learners," said Caitlin Moen, chief library services officer at Charlotte Mecklenburg Library. "To achieve that goal, we have to give members of the community a safe space to have their voices and diverse perspectives heard, to engage in challenging, sometimes-tough conversations and explore history, the present and the future together so that we can move forward with renewed optimism and hope for tomorrow. Community Read 2022 will allow us to do just that."

Community Read is designed to bring people together around a single book while encouraging important discourse. In 2022, the Library will again be joined by community partners to enhance the reach and impact of this significant reading program. Organizations, including Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, will support activities and participate in Library programs to promote the value of reading and literacy throughout the community. To sign up as a community partner, contact Meryle Leonard at maleonard@cmlibrary.org

Community Read is presented with support from the Charlotte Mecklenburg Library Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

All books for Community Read 2022 are available through the Library's catalog in print, digital and audio formats. The signature title will also be distributed through Community Read partner organizations leading up to the events. In March 2022, the Library will hold readings, book discussions and other programs for participants that bring the book's themes to life.

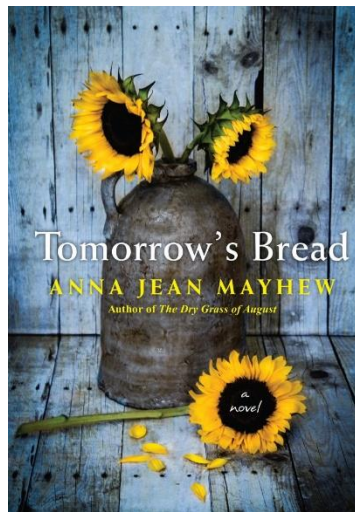
To learn more about Community Read, visit www.cmlibrary.org/communityread.

About Charlotte Mecklenburg Library:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library is one of America's leading urban public libraries, serving a community of more than one million citizens in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Through 20 locations, targeted outreach and online resources, the Library delivers exceptional services and programs, with a mission to improve lives and build a stronger community. For more, visit cmlibrary.org.

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Photo caption: Signature title author Anna Jean Mayhew. Join us in reading *Tomorrow's Bread* for Community Read in March 2022.



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Media resources:

Charlotte Mecklenburg Library newsroom: cmlibrary.org/library-news

Social sharing:

Hashtags: #cmlibrary #communityread2022

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