

Snowbirds Take Flight

“To read is to fly: it is to soar to a point of vantage which gives a view over wide terrains of history, human variety, ideas, shared experience and the fruits of many inquiries.” A.C. Grayling

Many of the myriad Walton County Snowbirds attending the January 3 registration at Faith Assembly Church in Miramar Beach signed up for the book discussion group. Unlike the majority of activities which meet weekly, conversations are scheduled for three dates this season: January 20, February 3, and February 17.

Meetings begin with members exchanging books they have read and now recommend to others in the group.

In past seasons, the books to be read in upcoming sessions are decided at the last meeting of the previous year. Because the 2020-2021 gatherings were suspended, the first book for this year couldn't be chosen in the usual way. Pat Weigle, who is the book discussion group leader along with Nancy Johns, reports that the last two books to be read this year will be decided at the first meeting as the results of a vote on books suggested by members.

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek will be discussed on January 20 at the First Presbyterian Church, 154 Calhoun Avenue, Destin. Meeting time is between 9:45 AM and noon.

Published in 2019, this work of historical fiction by Kim Michele Richardson is set in 1936 Kentucky. The main character, Cussy Marie (also called Bluet), is employed by the WPA library outreach program which was in reality established by Franklin Roosevelt and supported by his wife, Eleanor, for eight years in the late 1930's and early 1940's. The Pack Horse Library Project brought reading materials to isolated homes in Appalachia, some of them inhabited by “blue people” who are ostracized for the color of their skin. Cussy Marie experiences this prejudice as well as other hardships faced by women in Depression-era mountain areas.

Perhaps readers of *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* will choose to read its sequel, *The Book Woman's Daughter*, scheduled to be released in May of this year.

There is plenty of time to read *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*, available in hardcover, large print, paperback, and on Kindle, or to listen to the audiobook before the discussion date.

Opportunities to register for this season of Walton County Snowbirds before the first book discussion are scheduled for January 13 at Destin United Methodist Church between 9:00 AM and 10:00 AM, one hour before the general meeting, and for January 17 at Faith Assembly in Miramar Beach between 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM.

For further details and updates, please visit www.waltoncountysnowbirds.com