



## Shrine Mont Launches New Book Club

Shrine Mont, the Episcopal Conference Center in Orkney Springs, is pleased to announce a new book club and partnership. The University of Virginia Press and Shrine Mont will launch the “Virginia House Book Club” in February to discuss books that focus on place, people, and ideas that affect all of us.

Shrine Mont was established in 1925 and rooted in the Episcopal Church as the home of the Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, the arts as the custodian of the works of John Douglass Woodward and historic preservation with the acquisition and renovation of the Historic Orkney Springs Hotel (circa 1875). Its mission as a place apart for rest reflection devotion and fellowship makes it the perfect partner to work with UVA Press in this venture. In making the announcement, Mary Moomaw, program director of Shrine Mont said, “We are exploring a multitude of ways to stay connected with our Shrine Mont friends and patrons during this challenging period. This is the opportune time to find ways to “see” each other in the new year but also plan for our future days on the porch.”

Founded in 1963, UVA Press has published almost 2,000 books in history, the humanities, architecture and design, culture, and on ideas and places important to Virginians. UVA Press invites new voices, illuminates new perspectives, and fuels aspirations for our shared world through its mission as a scholarly press. “UVA Press is delighted to join with Shrine Mont to launch this book club. Both current and back list books help us contextualize issues that face us every day. Further, our strong regional titles introduce Virginians to new places and people” said Jason Coleman, Director of Sales and Marketing at the Press.

“The Virginia House Book Club will begin virtually and then move to a hybrid mode as we return to more in-person gatherings on the porch at Shrine Mont, “according to Moomaw, “Shrine Mont has always been that “place apart” that provides the space to think and reflect. Having the opportunity to do this through our new book club extends that long legacy.”

Book club sessions will be monthly and will focus on one UVA Press Book each month. Each session will be moderated and will allow for questions and discussion in breakout groups. There will be a limit of 100 people per session through an online, no-cost registration form. Books can be purchased through the University of Virginia Press web site at a 30% discount using code.

Book Club Selections for Spring 2021 are:

**February—***We Face the Dawn—Oliver Hill, Spottswood Robinson, and the Legal Team That Dismantled Jim Crow* by Margaret Edds

*This book tells the story of Virginians, Oliver Hill and Spottswood Robinson, who initiated and argued one of five cases that combined in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decision. When Virginia’s General Assembly retaliated and tried to disbar them, they took the fight to the Supreme Court of the United States and won. This is powerful story of courage and determination.*



**March— *Journey Down the James—Three Weeks through the Heart of Virginia* by Earl Swift**  
*Enjoy the travels of journalist Earl Swift as he maneuvers the contours of the James from its source in Highland County to Hampton Roads. Stops along the way include Scottsville, Lynchburg, Richmond, and, of course, Lake Moomaw. This book takes sightseeing and canoeing to a new level.*

**April—*The Dooleys of Richmond—An Irish Immigrant Family in the Old and New South* by Mary Lynn Bayliss.**  
*This biography introduces two-generations of an Irish immigrant family in Richmond, Virginia, and follows their economic and philanthropic contributions to the modern city. With their lasting legacy, Maymont, this discussion of the Dooleys allows us to understand the gilded age in Richmond through a new lens.*

**May—*An American Homeplace* by Donald McCaig**  
*A two-hour drive from Shrine Mont, Highland County, Virginia, became the adopted home of writer, Donald McCaig, and his wife, Anne (and the ancestral home of Mary Moomaw!), where they lived in an 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse and raised dogs and sheep in an idyllic environment. This book is the engaging story of two transplanted New Yorkers and their introduction to Western Virginia.*

**June— *Against the Hounds of Hell—A Life of Howard Thurman* by Peter Eisenstadt**  
*This biography chronicles the life of Howard Thurman, “the first significant Black pacifist and the first African American to meet Mahatma Gandhi. He was a mystic, a seeker of God who had considerable impact on the course of twentieth-century liberal religion.” Appointed Dean of Chapel at Boston University’s School of Theology in 1953, Thurman spoke truth to power through his commitment to non-violence.*