

Best-selling Author to Keynote Literacy Council Event August 26

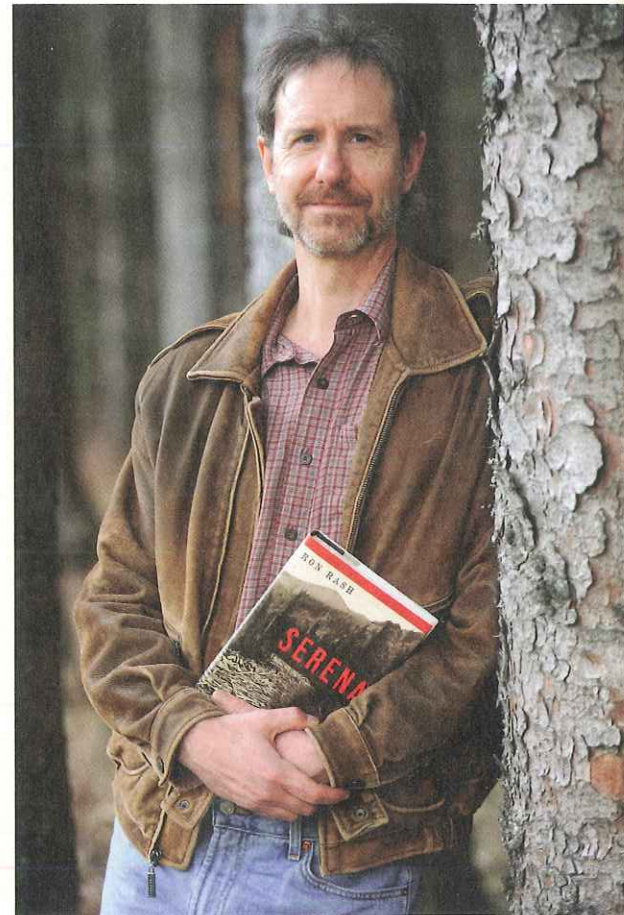
New York Times best-selling author Ron Rash will keynote the Authors for Literacy Dinner and Silent Auction, the Literacy Council of Buncombe County's annual fund-raiser 6-9:30 p.m. on August 26 at the Crowne Plaza Resort. In his talk, Ron will share how his passion for the written word was ignited by his grandfather, a hard-working Buncombe County resident who, like so many Literacy Council students, never learned to read or write.

Ron is now Western Carolina University's Parris Distinguished Professor of Appalachian Culture, his novel *Serena* was chosen as the 2011 "Community Read" in program designed to encourage all Western North Carolina residents to read.

The event's auction will include distinctive art and crafts, autographed and rare books, and priceless opportunities to enjoy dining and excursions in Asheville and beyond. There will also be a unique opportunity to watch Leicester artist Olga Dorenka paint an original piece of art during the silent auction. The painting will be named for Rash's novel *Serena* and will be auctioned live after the dinner.

All proceeds from this event will benefit the Literacy Council of Buncombe County. The organization was founded to help adults, like Rash's grandfather, learn to read, write, and spell. Literacy Council students comprise a diverse group in terms of educational background, socio-economic status, age, and learning styles. Some are challenged by learning disabilities, such as dyslexia, and others are learning the English language for the first time.

Tickets are \$75 and are available by calling 254.3442. For more information and to preview auction items, visit litcouncil.com.



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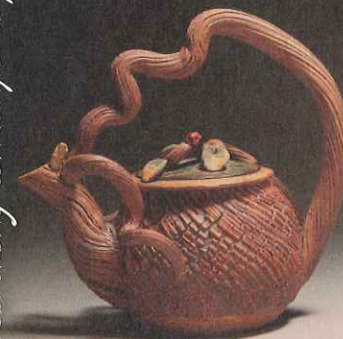
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They taste just like chicken.



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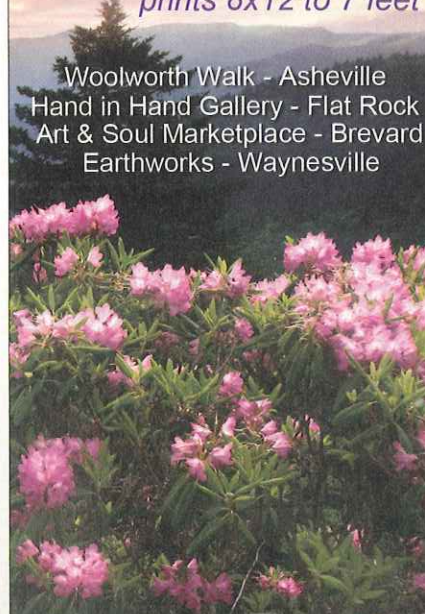
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