



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Literacy Council of Buncombe County Hosts Authors for Literacy Dinner and Silent Auction

*Meet Sara Gruen, New York Times bestselling author, as she shares
“The Writer’s Experience” and reads excerpts from her books*

Asheville, North Carolina – July 9, 2009 – The Literacy Council of Buncombe County will hold its annual fundraiser, Authors for Literacy Dinner and Silent Auction, on August 28, 2009, 6:00 p.m., at DoubleTree Biltmore Hotel in Asheville, NC.

Hear Sara Gruen, New York Times bestselling author of Water for Elephants, Riding Lessons, and Flying Changes speak about “The Writer’s Experience” and read excerpts from her books. Bid on fabulous and unique auction items, such as dinner catered by Laurey Masterton, a BBQ catered by 12 Bones, an original artwork by Wendy Whitson, and even a hands-on experience with Penland potter Cynthia Bringle and Penland glass blowers Pablo Soto and Char Walker.

The fundraising goal for the 2009 Authors for Literacy Dinner and Silent Auction is \$22,000, surpassing last year’s sell-out event. All proceeds will help the non-profit Literacy Council teach adults basic reading, writing, math, and English language skills through individual and small group instruction by trained volunteers.

Literacy is a tale of human transformation. “Our students must overcome incredible odds – learning disabilities, low self-confidence, and the stigma of being marginalized by our society,” says Amanda Edwards, Executive Director of the Literacy Council. “The individualized instruction and undivided attention they receive from their tutors give them the courage they need to stop running away and address the problem of illiteracy head-on.”

Sara Gruen’s books are likewise filled with stories of people who overcome incredible odds to live their dreams. In her book Water for Elephants, Sara writes about Rosie, an untrainable circus elephant, and the bonds of love, trust, and hope that grow between her and her trainer as

he coaxes her to perform. In her soon-to-be-released novel, [Ape House](#), Sara characterizes the vulnerable bonobo apes, whom she describes as “hugely proficient in human language as well as remarkable individuals who show great understanding and empathy of others.”

“It’s time we put a very human face on the need to improve the reading, writing, and language skills of thousands of adults in Buncombe County,” Sara proclaims. “Reading is a joy we are all entitled to share.”

The Authors for Literacy Dinner and Silent Auction fundraiser is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors: Platinum Sponsor Blue Ridge Energy Systems, Gold Sponsor DoubleTree Biltmore Hotel, and Silver Sponsor Representative Bruce Goforth. Auction items ranging in value from \$40.00 to \$2000.00 are donated by numerous talented artists, individuals, and local businesses. The event Co-Chairs, Calvin Kelly and Greg Dillingham, are aided by Honorary Co-Chairs Joel and Marla Adams, Joe and Janice Brumit, Adelaide Key, and Maggie Smith.

“I am proud to support the work of the Literacy Council of Buncombe County,” says Robin Woodward, President of Blue Ridge Energy Systems and event Platinum Sponsor, “Education and communication are fundamental and sustainable building blocks for success. To give the gift of reading empowers people to change their lives forever.”

Tickets for the fundraiser event are available for \$75.00 per person by calling Mignon Durham at the Literacy Council, 828-254-3442 extension 205.

About Platinum Sponsor Blue Ridge Energy Systems

Blue Ridge Energy Systems designs and builds custom homes to be super-energy efficient, incredibly comfortable and easy to live in, and to last with minimal maintenance beyond the foreseeable future. With sustainable construction practices and a unique approach to the building envelope – a super-insulation package that includes large, south-facing windows – Blue Ridge Energy Systems keeps energy consumption to a minimum and builds homes of long-term durability. Contact them to learn more about building your green home in their newest ten-home development, Greenwood on Pinners Cove Road. Visit blueridgeenergysystems.com or call 828-778-8665.

About the Literacy Council of Buncombe County

The Literacy Council of Buncombe County teaches adults basic reading, writing, math, and language skills through individual and small group instruction by trained volunteers. Students gain self-confidence and develop self-sufficiency to transform their lives as individuals, parents, workers, and citizens. Success comes from the trusted bond that develops between instructors and students. The Literacy Council, accredited by ProLiteracy America and serving the community since 1987, provides highly individualized tutoring to fit the needs of over 360 students in two core programs – Adult Education and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). For more information, visit litcouncil.com or call 828-254-3442.

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