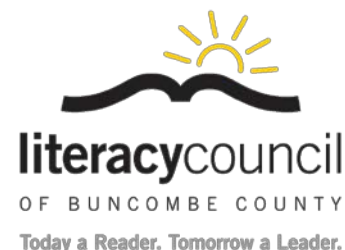


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Ann Patchett to keynote 2017 Authors for Literacy Dinner & Silent Auction

Asheville, North Carolina –New York Times bestselling author Ann Patchett will keynote the Literacy Council of Buncombe County’s 10th Annual Authors for Literacy Dinner & Silent Auction on October 13, 2017.

Ann Patchett is the author of seven bestselling novels, *The Patron Saint of Liars*, *Taft*, *The Magician’s Assistant*, *Bel Canto*, *Run*, *State of Wonder*, and *Commonwealth*. She was the editor of Best American Short Stories, 2006, and has written three books of nonfiction—*Truth & Beauty*, about her friendship with the writer Lucy Grealy; *What Now?* an expansion of her graduation address at Sarah Lawrence College; and *This is the Story of a Happy Marriage*, a collection of essays examining the theme of commitment.

Bel Canto is based on the Japanese embassy hostage crisis (also called the Lima Crisis) of 1996–1997 in Lima, Peru. The novel has been adapted under the same title into an opera by composer Jimmy López to a libretto Nilo Cruz. It premiered at the Lyric Opera of Chicago on December 7, 2015. A film adaptation from director Paul Weitz was announced in September 2016. Julianne Moore, Ken Watanabe, and Christopher Lambert are slated to star, and release is tentatively set for 2018.

The Authors for Literacy Dinner & Silent Auction featuring Ann Patchett will begin with a cocktail hour and silent auction to include distinctive art and crafts, autographed and rare books, and priceless opportunities to enjoy excursions in Asheville and beyond. Following the cocktail hour, event guests will enjoy a three-course dinner and presentation by a current Literacy Council student. Ann Patchett will then give the keynote presentation and autograph guests’ books. Book sales will be managed by Malaprop’s Bookstore & Café.

Event guests may upgrade tickets in order to attend a VIP reception with Ann Patchett. This reception will include the opportunity to spend one-on-one time taking pictures and talking with the author, as well as enjoy hors d’oeuvres overlooking downtown Asheville.

Proceeds from the Authors for Literacy Dinner & Silent Auction will benefit the Literacy Council’s programs, which provide comprehensive literacy and English language skills to 350 students and 500 book recipients in Buncombe County annually. The Literacy Council gives opportunities to people who don’t believe they have a second chance to learn. Literacy and English language skills are tools that help people rise out of poverty and get better-paying jobs to support their families. Literacy allows parents to read to their children. Improved literacy skills benefit not only the struggling reader, but everyone in our community regardless of age, race, gender, or background.

Authors for Literacy Dinner & Silent Auction Event Details:

- Friday October 13, 2017 from 6-9:00 at the Renaissance Asheville Hotel
- General admission tickets: \$75.00
- VIP passes: \$500 for two (limited number available), includes two general admission tickets as well as a meet and greet with the author
- To purchase tickets online visit www.litcouncil.com or call LuAnn Arena at (828) 254-3442 x206 for more information or to purchase tickets by phone