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The Reader Leader



The Literacy Newsletter of Burke County

April 2010

Upcoming Events at BCLC

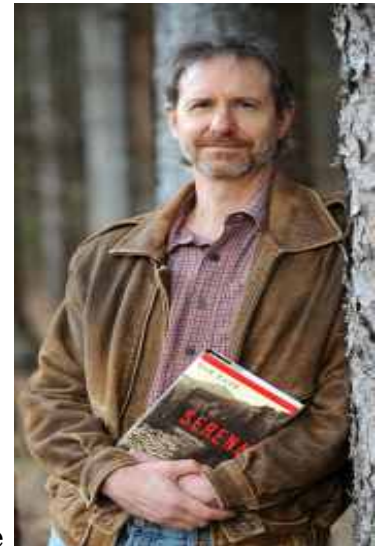


Join us for an evening of suspense, intrigue and excitement with award winning author, Ron Rash!

On **Wednesday, April 21st** at **7pm** in the **Patton High School auditorium**, the 2005 O' Henry prize recipient will captivate audience members with a reading from one of his books. Mr. Rash, professor of Appalachian Studies at Western Carolina University and native of Boiling Springs, NC has written three short story collections, three books of poetry and was a PEN/Faulkner finalist in 2008 and 2009 (*Serena*).

A book signing and light refreshments will follow the reading. Select books will be available for purchase during the event, including *Serena* and his newest short story collection, *Burning Bright*.

Tickets (\$10) can be purchased at the door or in advance at Muses, the Morganton Public Library or from members of the board. Call 437-7477 to reserve your tickets!



Calling all shoppers: **Belk department stores** are hosting their next Charity Day Sale on **Saturday, May 1st** from **6-10 am**. Support the Literacy Council while you shop by purchasing **\$5 tickets prior to the sale**. Look for our booth at the Morganton Belk store on Saturday April 24th from 10-12noon and Sunday April 25th from 2-4pm. Tickets are also available through our board members or at the literacy council office.

Each ticket gives you \$5 off your first purchase in any department. This year Belk is discounting merchandise 20-70% storewide and is offering free Belk gift cards to the first 100 customers.



What's the buzz? The **BCLC's 17th annual Spelling Bee** is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 11th** at **Patton High School**. Come out and cheer for our teams as they compete for top speller laurels. Bargain priced books will be on sale during the event. The doors open at **7pm**. Tickets are only \$2.

3 Ways to Help The Burke County Literacy Council this Month:

1. Donate gently used children's chapter books for our Project Flower advanced readers. We would like to recognize the efforts of our dedicated students at our end of year celebration.
2. Become a tutor for our *Luz y Verdad* ESL program. We need tutors for Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 7-9pm. Knowing how to speak another language is not required. No experience tutoring? No problem! We offer tutor trainings before you begin teaching.
3. Volunteer as a BusyBee: Assist with the planning, advertising and recruiting for this year's Spelling Bee. Wordsmiths are encouraged to sign up at the office to help create this years word list.

Literacy Council Wish List

- ◇ Cheerios, Teddy Grahams, or Goldfish for Project FLOWER children
- ◇ Clorox Wipes, and paper towels
- ◇ Copy paper
- ◇ Pens/Pencils
- ◇ Manila file folders
- ◇ Small pencil sharpeners
- ◇ Notebooks for students
- ◇ Scissors
- ◇ Pencil Pouches

During Project FLOWER our students with children who are 0-5 years old, are provided free childcare. The children who are 0-3 years old are in a daycare like environment and are given T.L.C. from staff and volunteers.



Project FLOWER News

Christmas Gift

Tatia Prieto from Prismatic Services joined our Christmas Party on December 17, 2009 with a surprise donation. Tatia, originally from the Morganton area, wanted to give back to the community in honor of her mother. What a marvelous present for the Christmas Season! We greatly thank Tatia and Prismatic Services for their generous donation.

Recipe Fun

Marcia Hill's group of students decided to apply what they learned from class by initiating a flan bake-off. Participants tested their recipe following skills and cooking talents to see which flan received the best comments. The dessert was shared with all of our PF students and tutors who found both recipes very delicious. A winner couldn't be decided and everyone was happy to enjoy such a wonderful treat.

The children of Project FLOWER students who are 3-5 years old are in a preschool like environment and are having fun while learning English like their parents!



Exploration in Reading

Elinora Miller's group of advanced students have started reading the Newberry Award winning book, *Sarah, Plain and Tall*. This is their first chapter book and the women just can't get enough of the story. The students enjoy the book because it describes living in America during the 1800s and how families work on farms and help their neighbors.

ABC Lunch for Literacy



James McCombs grilling the sandwiches at full steam for all of our hungry customers at our 2010 ABC Lunch for Literacy

Another success for February earning a grand total of \$3,012.70! The Burke County Literacy Council thanks everyone who came to our ABC Lunch for Literacy on February 18th, at St. Charles Catholic Church. We are grateful for your support of the Council. The funds raised are helping provide free tutoring, supplies, books, and materials for our students and their children. We want to thank the local businesses that stepped forward with their generous donations for the lunch and all the volunteers that served, sold tickets, delivered meals, and cleaned up. This made our benefit a total success!

Council Donors

The Literacy Council is sincerely grateful to the following for their donations given between December 16, 2009 and March 22, 2010

Individuals

Becker Law Firm
 Ms. Carolyn Bell
 Ms. Rhonda Bonfield
 Byrd, Byrd, Ervin, Whisnant & McMahon, PA
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronny Childres
 Mr. William Connelly
 Mrs. Mary Danielson
 Ms. Anne Ervin
 Mrs. Le Erwin
 Mr. and Mrs. Allen Fullwood
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve Gregory
 Mr. and Mrs. Bert Harrell
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Henderson
 Ms. Jacqueline Kanipe
 Mrs. Leslie Kern
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kilpatrick
 Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Martin
 More Lace
 Mrs. Betty Pennell
 Mr. and Mrs. Gary Prewitt
 Prismatic Services
 Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Redman
 Mrs. Billie Rose Robertson
 Mrs. Browning Rochefort
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Salisbury
 Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Saunders
 SPBC, Inc.
 Dr. and Mrs. James Thomas
 Mr. and Mrs. John Whitener
 Mrs. Emily Williamson

Community/Service Organizations

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Avery Fund
 Dr. and Mrs. James Collett Fund
 First Presbyterian Church
 Mull Foundation

Grants/Private Foundations

Burke County Smart Start
 Burke County United Way
 Burke Women's Fund
 North Carolina Community Colleges System

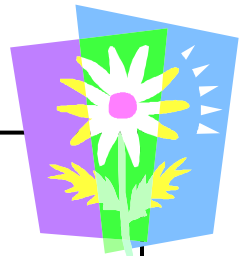
In-Kind

SunTrust Bank
 Mr. Scott Horner – Food Lion
 Mr. and Mrs. Chris Brittain
 Roads to Reading Initiative
 Mrs. Sharon Owensby
 Abele's Restaurant
 AJ's Prime Sirloin
 Bi-LO
 Bojangles
 Family Food Mart
 Fatz Café
 Food Lion #125
 Food Lion #865
 Food Lion #1665
 Friday Friends
 Ingles
 Sara Lee Bakery
 Silver Creek
 Submasters (Subway)
 Timberwood
 Wendy's



Browning Rochefort, Executive/
 Program Director of BCLC (left)
 receiving donation from Tatia Prieto
 (Right) of Prismatic Services

New Volunteers Welcomed



Project FLOWER

Patricia Looper
 Susan Whisnant

One-on-One Tutoring

Emily Ramsey
 Brooke Patterson

New Board Members

== == == == == == == == == == == == == == == ==
 We want to warmly welcome the follow-
 ing new board members and thank each of
 them for their willingness to serve:

- || Rhonda Bonfield ||
- || Kara Harrison ||
- || Bobbie McCombs ||
- || Adriana Morris ||
- || Scott Mulwee ||

Retiring Board Members

We would like to thank the following board mem-
 bers for serving BCLC and making it into the or-
 ganization it is today. The need for improving lit-
 eracy skills in our county is great and we appreci-
 ate their many years of dedication.

- Jasper Hemphill (1997-2010)
- Amanda Icard (2001-2010)
- Robert Lathan (1997-2010)
- Betty Pennell (2004-2010)
- Beth Walker (1998-2009)
- Adam Wingler (2009-2009)



BURKE COUNTY Literacy Council

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www.burkeliteracy.org

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Donations Now Online, BCLC Causes Facebook Page and Toolbar

The Literacy Council is now accepting online donations. We have a link on the bottom of our website (<http://www.burkeliteracy.org>) that will accept payments from your credit card, electronic check, or wire transfer from your checking or savings account via Paypal. Another way to donate and show your support publically is through our new Facebook page from Causes (<http://apps.facebook.com/causes/268030/27752064?m=71bb3202>) From this site you can publically show your support by adding the Literacy Council to your Facebook page, make online donations, request your friends donate to your cause, or spread the word about your cause. Causes on Facebook has a new toolbar you can add to your web browser that will donate one cent every time you use the search function. We have a really exciting opportunity to earn a lot of money for our cause just by doing what we're doing anyway this time of year - shopping for the holidays. Over 1,500 websites like Target, Best Buy, Ebay, and Expedia have agreed to donate a percentage of any purchase you make to our cause. All you have to do is download the Causes Toolbar and then it will track your online shopping and automatically donate a percentage to our cause. You don't have to do anything else — download the toolbar and you're done! Go to <http://shopping.causes.com?m=c28b51b1>

Go Green with BCLC

The Burke County Literacy Council would like to invite you to read our newsletter online or via email. Please email Ariel at literacysupport@bellsouth.net with the subject line "Newsletter" to join our electronic mailing list. All issues of our newsletter are available in PDF format on our website www.burkeliteracy.org

Community Recognition and Awards

On February 27th the Burke Women's Fund awarded first year grants to three different organizations, including the BCLC. We are honored to accept a \$1,000 grant that will fund transportation needs for our Project FLOWER program, which provides ESL instruction to individuals and families in Burke county. We greatly appreciate the generous award. For more information about the BWF and their programs, visit www.cfburkecounty.org and click on the Burke Women's Fund link or call 437-7105.

20th Anniversary Celebration

A Certificate of Acknowledgement and Congratulations was sent by the North Carolina House of Representatives in honor of our 20 years of operation. "Now, therefore, as a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives, Representative Hugh Blackwell, representing the County of Burke, acknowledges the record of success of and extends sincere congratulations to Burke County Literacy Council on the occasion of celebrating its 20th Anniversary."

We hope to dedicate at least 50 more years to serving the community by teaching adults and their families to read; improving literacy skills and instilling a commitment to life-long learning.



Leanne Brittain, Board
President of BCLC
displaying the
Certificate of
Acknowledgement and
Congratulations from the
North Carolina House of
Representatives,
Representative Hugh
Blackwell