

Authors luncheon Jan. 16

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The Gazette

Wild Dunes Resort will host its 4th annual Authors Luncheon from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Saturday, January 16, 2010, featuring a distinguished panel of authors at the Resort's event venue, The Sweetgrass Pavilion.

The annual event is open to the public and will feature four highly acclaimed authors with ties to South Carolina including Jack Bass, Katie Crouch, Ann Herlong-Bodman and Batt Humphreys.

The panel of authors will answer questions regarding their novels from guest moderator, New York Times Best Selling Author and Isle of Palms resident, Mary Alice Monroe.

The event will also include a silent auction of jewelry, books and original works of art. Barnes and Noble will be participating in the event, selling the featured authors' works with a portion of the proceeds going toward the charitable event.

Following the luncheon, the panel will sign copies of their recent works. Proceeds from admission and the auction will benefit the Trident Literacy Association (TLA) of Charleston and sponsor a scholarship for a minority student in the field of education at the College of Charleston.

Tickets are available by e-mailing clubline@wilddunes.com or by calling (843) 886-2020. Cost is \$60 per ticket or \$550 per table of ten people.

About Wild Dunes Resort

Wild Dunes Resort is one of more than 30 independent, upscale and luxury hotels, resorts and golf clubs in the United States managed by Destination Hotels & Resorts, the fourth largest independent hospitality management company in the country. The company, headquartered in suburban Denver, Colo., features a portfolio of more than 7,000 guest rooms, 10 golf courses and 14 full-service spas. Destination Hotels & Resorts properties are located in key metropolitan and resort markets including Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Houston, Denver, San Diego, Santa Fe, Aspen, Austin, Phoenix, Palm Springs, Maui and Lake Tahoe. The company is a subsidiary of Los Angeles-based investment, development and management firm Lowe Enterprises. For more information on the properties in the Destination Hotels & Resorts collection, please visit www.destinationhotels.com.

About the authors panel

Jack Bass, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, studied as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard and received a Ph.D. in American Studies from Emory University. After 13 years as a newspaper reporter and editor, twice named South Carolina "journalist of the year," he spent two years as a research scholar at Duke University and 18 months at the Institute of Legal History at University of South Carolina. He served five years as director of American South Special Projects at U. S. C., where he produced a 14-part television course, "The American South Comes of Age" and a PBS documentary, "A Different Dixie: Portraits of Change." He taught for 11 years as professor of journalism at the University of Mississippi, and since 1999 has been a Professor of Humanities and Social Science at the College of Charleston. He has written for The Los Angeles Times, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Washington Post, The News Republic, The Nation, and The New York Times. Bass' most recent works include STROM: The Complicated Personal and Political Life of Strom Thurmond (co-authored with Marilyn Thompson), Taming the Storm: The Life and Times of Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., Unlikely Heroes and The Orangeburg Massacre.

Katie Crouch who was raised in Charleston, is the author of New York Times Best

Seller, *Girls in Trucks* and the upcoming novel, *Men and Dogs*. Crouch's work has also appeared in *The New York Observer* and *Glamour*. She holds a Bachelor of Arts from Brown University and a Master of Fine Arts from Columbia University.

Ann Herlong-Bodman, a South Carolina resident, is the author of *In the Wake of Saints and Sinners*, a travel book for which she received a fellowship from the South Carolina Academy of Authors and *Voices Over Water*, a Civil War novel. Herlong-Bodman has worked as a reporter, taught college writing classes and directed writing labs in journalism, business writing, and public relations.

Batt Humphreys, author of new novel *Dead Weight*, began his career in television news in Charleston in the early 80s. His career took him to CBS News in New York where he spent 15 years, most as a senior producer, before leaving to return to his beloved South. He managed the coverage of many of the events that have shaped our lives over the past quarter century, including the first hours of the morning of September 11, 2001, several wars, elections and hurricanes. Humphreys and his wife Laura currently live on a farm outside Charleston.

Guest Moderator Mary Alice Monroe is a New York Times bestselling author known for richly textured books that explore the compelling parallels between nature and human nature. Monroe's novels have won critical acclaim and awards and include her Lowcountry novels: *Sweetgrass*, *The Beach House*, and *Skyward*. Her books are sold worldwide. Monroe recently released her newest novel, *Time is a River*. Monroe who is an active and dedicated conservationist, lives with her husband on Isle of Palms, S.C.