

Lunch for Literacy’s “Literacy for Life” event features Silas House

(As published in The Oak Ridger’s Historically Speaking column the week of March 10, 2025)

Several annual events in Oak Ridge highlight community involvement and support for others. Among the most popular is the Lunch for Literacy with the continuing high-caliber authors invited as speakers at the luncheon. This year is no exception!

Altrusa International of Oak Ridge and Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club proudly again present the Annual Lunch for Literacy Luncheon at the Oak Ridge High School on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 11:30 am for networking and lunch. This year, the lunch is catered by Fire & Salt.

Silas House, a bestselling author of seven award-winning novels, will be the featured speaker. There will be books to purchase, and Mr. House will be available following the luncheon for a book signing.

It has taken us years to get Mr. House because of his national popularity. In addition to being a bestselling novelist, House serves as the National Endowment for the Humanities Chair of Appalachian Studies at Berea College, Kentucky’s poet laureate, and host of the popular podcast “On the Porch.”

House’s novels include “Clay’s Quilt” (2001), “Parchment of Leaves” (2002), “The Coal Tattoo” (2004) “Eli the Good” (2009), “Same Sun Here” (2012), “Southernmost” (2018), and “Lark Ascending” (2022). He is the recipient of the 2023 Southern Book Prize for Fiction.

The public is invited to the luncheon and House’s talk. Tickets are \$60 at www.purplepass.com/lunchforliteracy or at Calamity’s Coffee in Jackson Square.

Silas House is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers, the recipient of three honorary degrees, and has been given such honors as an E. B. White Award, the Lee Smith Award, the Caritas Medal, the Hobson Medal, and many others. In 2015, he was invited to read at the Library of Congress.

“Keeping students on track with reading is essential,” says TJ Cardwell, Chairwoman of the all-volunteer organizing team. “Awarded grants are designed to apply funding to address the most critical pain points in our region for literacy.”

Co-Chairwoman, Sue Byrne, says, “All funds raised will be awarded as grants to selected projects targeting literacy deficits across Anderson and Roane Counties. Because we believe reading is a foundational skill for life, our theme for this year’s event is **Literacy for Life.**”

Lunch for Literacy grants totaling \$32,411 were distributed in February 2025, to recipients for the past year:

Lunch for Literacy grants for 2024	
Friends of Literacy	\$3,000.00
ADFAC	\$2,000.00
Jefferson Middle School	\$500.00
Grand Oaks Elementary	\$3,500.00
Boys & Girls Clubs of TN Valley	\$2,000.00
Willow Brook Elementary	\$3,000.00
Boys and Girls Club of Oak Ridge	\$600.00
Clinton Middle School	\$1,214.73
Willow Brook Elementary	\$671.68
Willow Brook Elementary	\$1,310.00
Emory Valley Center	\$2,000.00
Girls Inc.	\$2,000.00
Glenwood Elementary	\$2,500.00

Lunch for Literacy’s “Literacy for Life” event features Silas House

(As published in The Oak Ridger’s Historically Speaking column the week of March 10, 2025)

Glenwood Elementary	\$1,000.00
Children's Museum	\$1,000.00
Ridge View Elementary	\$1,000.00
Roane Imagination Library	\$1,500.00
Robertsville Middle School	\$1,615.00
The Arc Anderson County	\$2,000.00
Total	\$32,411.41

Donations are welcome, and checks should be made payable to the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club Foundation with ‘Lunch for Literacy’ on the Memo line and mailed to P.O. Box 4164, Oak Ridge, TN 37831

Make plans now to attend and support this initiative to improve literacy in our communities. Come on March 18, 2025, at 11:30 AM, to enjoy networking, get started with the excellent lunch, and enjoy the outstanding speaker.



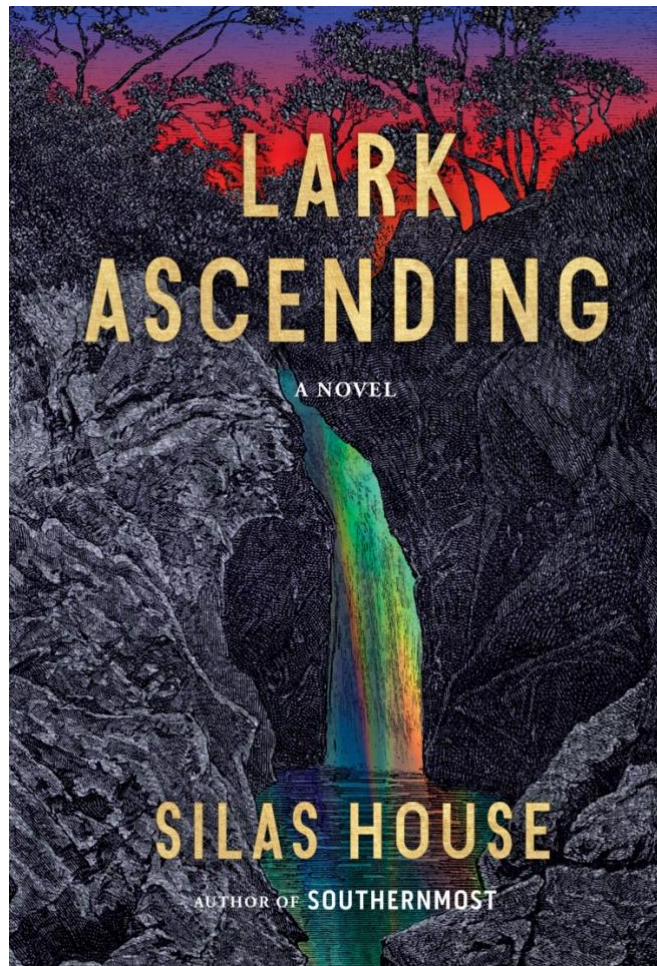
Silas House is the featured speaker for the 2025 Lunch for Literacy event (Courtesy of Silas House website photo by C. Williams, <https://www.silas-house.com/about.html>)

Lunch for Literacy’s “Literacy for Life” event features Silas House

(As published in The Oak Ridger’s Historically Speaking column the week of March 10, 2025)




Lunch for Literacy grant award recipients recognized at the Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club meeting (Courtesy of Tony Wright)



Lark Ascending by Silas House (Courtesy of Silas House website <https://www.silas-house.com/about.html>)

Lunch for Literacy's "Literacy for Life" event features Silas House

(As published in The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking column the week of March 10, 2025)




Join us for the
**33rd Annual
Lunch for Literacy**

Tuesday, March 18, 2025
Oak Ridge High School Food Court
11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Featuring
Silas House

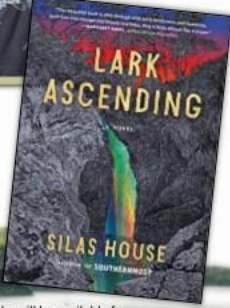
New York Times bestselling author of several novels including his most recent book, *Lark Ascending*, which was a winner of the 2023 Southern Book Prize and the 2023 Nautilus Book Award.

Tickets \$60



Scan QR code to purchase tickets

Tickets can also be purchased onsite at Calamity's Coffee
219 Jackson Square, Oak Ridge, TN
Checks Only!
Checks should be made payable to L4L-ORBRC Foundation





Books will be available for purchase at the luncheon.

Contact:
TJ Cardwell
tjcardwell01@yahoo.com

photo credit: C Williams

Event jointly hosted by
Altrusa International of Oak Ridge and
Oak Ridge Breakfast Rotary Club



Lunch for Literacy featuring Silas House March 18, 2025