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Words Alive Author's Luncheon & Fundraiser to Feature Internationally Acclaimed Author Salman Rushdie

San Diego, California (June 26, 2017) — Words Alive, San Diego's leading nonprofit literacy organization, is proud to announce that Salman Rushdie will be the featured guest at the 14th annual Author's Luncheon and Fundraiser on September 15, 2017 at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa.

Salman Rushdie will discuss his new novel *The Golden House* in conversation with Seth Lerer, Distinguished Professor of Literature at UCSD. *The Golden House* is a modern American epic set against the panorama of contemporary politics and culture – a hurtling, page-turning mystery that is equal parts *The Great Gatsby* and *The Bonfire of the Vanities*.

The Author's Luncheon and Fundraiser is presented by Gurtin Municipal Bond Management. "Teach a child to read and educate them for a lifetime," says Kay Gurtin, Partner, Head of Recruitment and Words Alive Board Member. "Gurtin Municipal Bond Management recognizes Words Alive for their ability to promote literacy and a joy of reading to at-risk youth in San Diego and beyond. Gurtin is excited to partner with Words Alive to provide over 5,500 students and families with this essential skill set for their future." Event proceeds from the Author's Luncheon and Fundraiser support the organization's mission to open opportunities for life success by inspiring a commitment to reading.

"Our mission is to help underserved children, teens and families use reading to change their lives," explains Patrick Stewart, Executive Director of Words Alive. "Proceeds from the Author's Luncheon support our innovative Read Aloud, Teen Services and Family Literacy programs, and will help us enhance our reach and impact."

Salman Rushdie is the author of twelve novels—*Grimus*, *Midnight's Children* (for which he won the Booker Prize and the Best of the Booker), *Shame*, *The Satanic Verses*, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*, *The Moor's Last Sigh*, *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*, *Fury*, *Shalimar the Clown*, *The Enchantress of Florence*, *Luka and the Fire of Life*, and *Two Years Eight Months and Twenty-Eight Nights*—and one collection of short

stories: *East, West*. He has also published four works of nonfiction—*Joseph Anton*, *The Jaguar Smile*, *Imaginary Homelands*, and *Step Across This Line*—and co-edited two anthologies, *Mirrorwork* and *Best American Short Stories 2008*. He is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University. A former president of PEN American Center, Rushdie was knighted in 2007 for services to literature.

The Author's Luncheon and Fundraiser opens at 10:00 A.M. with a marketplace of local vendors, a silent auction and raffle prizes. The luncheon and program will run from Noon to 2:00 P.M.

Words Alive is currently selling tables for 10 guests at \$2,000 and \$2,500. A limited number of individual tickets will go on sale July 10th for \$200. The event is expected to sell out. For more information about tickets, tables and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.wordsalive.org/authorsluncheon.

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About Words Alive

Founded in 1999, Words Alive is a nonprofit organization that helps underserved, low-income, at-risk children, teens and families discover how books and reading can add meaning to their lives. Words Alive engages its program participants in developing a connection to reading with innovative programs and initiatives with the goal of creating lifelong readers and learners. For more information about Words Alive, its programs, volunteer opportunities and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.wordsalive.org.