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Contact: Lucy Ridolphi
Marketing and PR Manager
801-223-4071

Sundance Resort Celebrates the Tenth Year of its Renowned Author Series with Bestselling Authors, Gretchen Morgenson, Ann Packer and Stephanie Nielson

(Sundance, UT) February, 2011---- Sundance Resort celebrates 10 years of presenting thought provoking authors with the Sundance Author Series. The Author Series kicks off the 2012 season with three compelling authors. On March 24th the Author Series features Gretchen Morgenson, coauthor of *Reckless Endangerment, How Outsized Ambition, Greed, and Corruption Led to Economic Armageddon*. Then on May 19th, Ann Packer, author of *Swim Back to Me* and the author of *The New York Times* bestsellers, *Songs without Words* and *The Dive from Clausen's Pier* is featured. On September 15th, Stephanie Nielson will appear to discuss her book, *Heaven is Here*.

“Sundance Resort is celebrating its tenth year of bringing diverse voices to Utah. Throughout the years the Author Series has explored political issues, environmental concerns and showcased creative voices whose stories illuminate the human spirit. We are very excited to introduce a new year of authors whose stories reflect the diversity our audience has come to expect,” commented Chad Linebaugh, Sundance General Manager.

Morgenson, the Pulitzer Prize winning *New York Times* business reporter, called “the most important financial journalist of her generation” by the *Nation*, continues to cover every angle of the economic crisis story with impeccable sources and deep knowledge of the issues. Morgenson and her coauthor Joshua Rosner, shine the light in the dark corners of greed and corruption that led to the U.S. economic downturn, revealing previously unreported details on key players. Together they expose everyone involved in the schemes and machinations that led to economic wrong doing, including the very watchdogs that were tasked with protecting the country from financial harm. They are exposed for the actions that made them complicit in events that melted down the American economy.

The book brings into account previously unreported details including former Fannie Mae CEO James Johnson, Congressman Barney Frank, former Federal Reserve Board Governor, Roger Ferguson, as well

as details about Goldman Sachs, Fremont Investment & Loan (a profligate lender), the FDIC, HUD, the Fed, and members of Congress.

Moving from real life external events to fictional interior events, Ann Packer explores the psyche, family issues and relationships in a series of short stories and novellas in *Swim Back to Me*. Her book *The Dive from Clausen's Pier* received a Great Lakes Book Award, an American Library Association Award, and the Kate Chopin Literary Award. Her short fiction and essays have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Washington Post*, *Vogue*, and *Real Simple*.

Swim Back to Me strings a series of short stories together like a beautiful strand of rare pearls. The stories center on a wife who struggles to make sense of her husband's sudden disappearance; a mother mourns her teenage son through the music collection he left behind; a woman shepherds her estranged parents through her brother's wedding and reflects on the year her family collapsed. Other stories in the book tell of a young man who comes to grips with the joy and vulnerability of fatherhood. And, in the skillfully written opening novella, two teenagers from disparate backgrounds forge a friendship only to confront the loss of innocence inherent in adolescence.

Packer skillfully weaves the lives of families fraught with emotional peril, the frailty of relationships and the grace of enduring loss and hardship inherent in every life. Packer's intelligence delivers a crystalline portrayal of characters tasked with finding meaning from the harshest of life's trials.

"The trick to what Ms. Packer does lies in the utterly lifelike quality of her book's everyday detail, and the secret, graceful ways in which that detail becomes revealing...Her ear for dialogue is unerring," commented Janet Maslin, *The New York Times*.

Stephanie Nielson and her husband, Christian, barely escaped death when their small plane crashed into the Arizona desert and burst into flames. Nielson was burned over 80 percent of her body and had to be induced into a coma for 10 weeks in order for her burns to be treated. Nielson details the journey of her recovery and subsequent life with her family in her book, *Heaven is Here*, which inspires anyone who reads or hears her tell her story. She has appeared on "Oprah", "The Today Show," and her blog, *Nieniedialogues*, has a national following.

Tickets are \$75 and include the lecture and discussion, a signed copy of the author's book and brunch in the award winning Tree Room and gratuity. Alcohol is not included. Advance reservations are required. Tickets are available online at www.sundanceresort.com or by calling the Sundance Resort at 866-734-4428. The events begin at noon in the Tree Room.

Make your experience even more memorable when you stay the night and relax in one of our Mountain Cottages. The Author Series Lodging Package includes one night lodging, a delicious fruit and cheese platter, and admission for two to the Author Series event of your choice which includes a noon brunch, a copy of the book, lecture, discussion and book signing. For more information and reservations call 800-892-1600.

ABOUT SUNDANCE RESORT:

Sundance is a 5,000-acre, destination location, nestled at the base of 12,000-foot Mt. Timpanogos, featuring world class dining, mountain recreation, and 100 newly renovated cottages and homes. Created by Robert Redford in 1969, Sundance encourages the cultivation of art and self-expression, as well as the preservation of the land. The new Redford Conference Center is the latest fulfillment of Robert Redford's vision for this special place: a place that integrates artistic expression, environmental responsibility and successful commerce, a place for personal and social transformation. For more information on Sundance, call 801-225-4107 or visit our website, www.sundanceresort.com.

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