

For immediate release:
May 13, 2025

South Carolina Public Radio and the ETV Endowment present “A Way with Words – An Evening with Martha & Grant” on May 15

COLUMBIA, S.C. – South Carolina ETV and Public Radio (SCETV), in partnership with the ETV Endowment of South Carolina, is pleased to announce a special live event featuring *A Way with Words* hosts Martha Barnette and Grant Barrett. [“A Way with Words – An Evening with Martha & Grant”](#) will take place on May 15 at 7 p.m. in Columbia.

The evening will offer fans of the show an opportunity to go beyond the airwaves with an engaging, interactive conversation about language, culture and communication. Barnette and Barrett will share behind-the-scenes insights, respond to audience questions, and explore how language shapes our understanding of the world and each other.

Prior to the main event, VIP ticket holders will enjoy an exclusive meet and greet with the hosts. This intimate gathering will provide guests the opportunity to meet the hosts, take photos and enjoy premium seating for the evening’s presentation.

Martha Barnette is a journalist, author and language enthusiast. A former reporter for *The Washington Post* and editorial writer for *The Louisville Courier-Journal*, Martha has authored several books on word origins, including *Ladyfingers & Nun’s Tummies* and *A Garden of Words*. She holds a degree in English from Vassar College and did graduate work in ancient Greek at the University of Kentucky. She lives with her family and assorted dogs and cats in San Diego. Her forthcoming memoir, *Friends with Words: Adventures in Languageland*, will be released later this year.

Grant Barrett is a U.S. lexicographer and linguist specializing in slang and new words. He has helped produce dozens of dictionaries for Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press and most recently as the head of lexicography for Dictionary.com; he has authored three books of his own. He’s a voracious reader, knows a fair amount of French and Spanish and spent years working in the jargon-rich jungles of information technology and journalism. Though born and raised in Missouri, and having been a long-time resident of New York City, Grant now lives in San Diego, California, with his wife, also an editor, linguist and lexicographer, and their son.

A Way with Words is a nationally recognized public radio show and podcast that dives into the endless curiosity of language. From slang and regional dialects to grammar quirks, word origins and family sayings, the show celebrates how language evolves and connects us through history, culture and everyday life. Since its launch in 1998, the show has gained a devoted nationwide audience and is broadcast in 43 states across the U.S. and beyond. *A Way with Words* is broadcast on SC Public Radio every Saturday from 12-1 p.m.

[More information and tickets for the event are available online.](#)

QUOTES

“At SCETV, we believe in the power of language to bring communities together, educating our future through words. Hosting an evening with Martha and Grant live in Columbia is an exciting opportunity to bring our listeners closer to the voices they love while celebrating the richness and creativity of language in all its forms.” **–South Carolina Public Radio Director Sean Birch**

FAST FACTS

- “A Way with Words – An Evening with Martha & Grant” takes place on May 15 at 7 p.m. in Columbia.
- A special meet and greet for VIP ticket holders will be held from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., including photo opportunities and premium seating.
- *A Way with Words* is a nationally acclaimed public radio show and podcast that explores language through culture, history, family and everyday communication.

About South Carolina ETV and Public Radio

South Carolina ETV and Public Radio (SCETV) is the state's public educational broadcasting network. SCETV amplifies South Carolina voices, provides educational experiences and strengthens communities, while working toward creating a stronger, more connected and informed South Carolina. In addition to airing local programs, such as *The Know Show*, *Making It Grow*, and *This Week in South Carolina*, SCETV also presents multiple programs to regional and national audiences, including *Books By The River*, *After Action*, *Reconnecting Roots*, *Reel South* and *Southern Songwriters with Patrick Davis*.

Media Contact:

Landon Masters
media@scetv.org
(803) 737-3337