



For immediate release

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**Ragdale and 826 CHI present**

**AN EVENING WITH DAVE EGGERS & LUIS ALBERTO URREA**

**TUESDAY MAY 4th, PM**  
**VIP Reception: 6-7pm**  
**General Program: 7-8:30, book signing to follow**

**THE GORTON COMMUNITY CENTER**  
**400 East Illinois Road**  
**Lake Forest, IL 60045**  
**847.234.6060**

**Lake Forest, IL** – Acclaimed authors Dave Eggers (*The Wild Things*, *Zeitoun*) and Luis Alberto Urrea (*Into the Beautiful North*, *The Devil's Highway*) come together for a reading and discussion of their work. The evening will also include a book signing and cocktail reception with Eggers and Urrea.

All proceeds from the evening benefit Ragdale's retreat for writers and artists and 826CHI's free writing programs for students. For more information or to purchase tickets [including premium seating and access to a pre-show cocktail hour with Eggers and Urrea], please visit [www.826chi.org](http://www.826chi.org) or call Ragdale at 847.234.1063.

Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for students); \$100 Cocktail Reception: includes priority seating for the event, wine, and hors d'oeuvres. Tickets are available at [www.826chi.org](http://www.826chi.org) or by calling Ragdale at 847.234.1063 x. 205

**About Dave Eggers** – Dave Eggers is a writer, publisher and editor, as well as the cofounder of the tutoring center/writing lab 826 Valencia. His 2000 best-selling novel *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* was ranked the 12th best novel of the decade by the daily national British newspaper *The Times*. In 2009, Eggers published *Zeitoun*, a story of New Orleans resident Abdulrahman Zeitoun attempting to ride out Hurricane Katrina. *The Wild Things*, Eggers' reimagination of Maurice Sendak's *Where The Wild Things Are*, was also published in 2009. Eggers also co-wrote two screenplays in 2009: *Away We Go*, with his wife Vendela Vida, and *Where The Wild Things Are*, with director Spike Jonze.

**About Luis Alberto Urrea-** Luis Alberto Urrea has been publishing poems, essays, nonfiction and novels since 1993. His first book, *Across the Wire*, a non-fiction work about the lives of those on the United States' border with Mexico, won the Christopher award. Urrea also won an American Book Award in 1999, for his memoir *Nobody's Son: Notes from an American Life*. In 2000, Urrea was elected into the Latino Literature Hall of Fame and in 2005 was a Pulitzer Prize finalist for nonfiction.

**About Ragdale-** Ragdale is an artists' retreat located on the grounds of Arts and Crafts architect Howard Van Doren Shaw's 1897 summer home in Lake Forest, IL. The artists' community, situated just 30 miles north of Chicago and overlooks 50 acres of prairie, hosts over 200 emerging and established artists of all disciplines each year. These writers, artists, and composers come from around the country and the world to work and experience Ragdale's remarkable gifts of community, tranquility, and creativity.

**About 826CHI-** 826CHI is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. Our services are structured around our belief that great leaps in learning can happen with one-on-one attention, and that strong writing skills are fundamental to future success. With this in mind, we provide drop-in tutoring, afterschool workshops, in-schools tutoring, help for English language learners, and assistance with student publications.

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