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RAGDALE PREPARES FOR ANOTHER BESTSELLING EVENT:

The 3rd Annual *Novel Affair* – Evenings of Cocktails and Literary Dinner Dates - October 2-3, 2009

WHAT: Best-selling and award-winning authors:

- **Annie Barrows** (*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*)
- **Elizabeth Berg** (*Home Safe*)
- **Chris Bohjalian** (*Midwives*)
- **Andre Dubus III** (*House of Sand and Fog*)
- **Wally Lamb** (*She's Come Undone*)
- **John Shors** (*Beneath the Marble Sky*)
- **Joan Silber** (*The Size of the World*)
- **Elizabeth Strout** (Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Olive Kitteridge*)

have a “date” with a select number of Chicago-area residents for *A Novel Affair*, a weekend-long gathering that provides guests a unique opportunity to take part in personal discussions over cocktails and dinner.

The weekend opens with a Friday night cocktail reception at a Lake Forest estate with all of the authors in attendance. On Saturday evening, attendees span out to gather around the dining room tables of Lake Forest homes for a gourmet meal and lively discussion with an individual author.

WHY: To support The Ragdale Foundation, a non-profit organization that has provided artists with time and space to pursue their creative work in an uninterrupted environment for over 30 years.

WHEN: October 2 & 3, 2009

WHERE: At various homes and estates around Lake Forest, IL

HOW: Ragdale alumni, Board members and bestselling authors **Jane Hamilton** (*A Map of the World*), **Anne LeClaire** (*Listening Below the Noise*), and **Gail Tsukiyama** (*The Street of a Thousand Blossoms*) have, for the past three years, been instrumental in developing the line-up of authors in attendance at *A Novel Affair*. They will all be in attendance at the event in addition to the eight featured authors. Contact the Ragdale Foundation at 847-234-1063 x. 205 for more information.

Ragdale is located in Arts and Crafts architect Howard Van Doren Shaw's Lake Forest country estate, just 30 miles north of Chicago. Built in 1897, the Ragdale House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1976, Shaw's granddaughter Alice Judson Hayes transformed the family's summer home into an artists-in-residence program. Today Ragdale hosts up to 200 artists, writers, and composers each year, making it the largest interdisciplinary artists' community in the Midwest and the fourth largest in the country. Noted past residents include Audrey Niffenegger, Alex Kotlowitz, and Nancy Horan.