

For immediate release:

RAGDALE PREPARES FOR ANOTHER BESTSELLER:

The 3rd Annual Novel Affair – Evenings of Cocktails and Literary Dinner Dates with Local Residents
- scheduled for October 2-3, 2009

LAKE FOREST, IL – May 4, 2009 – After highly successful, sold-out events in 2007 & 2008, The Ragdale Foundation prepares for another **Novel Affair** – a weekend-long event which will return with a new line-up of eight best-selling authors on **October 2 & 3, 2009**.

The event is the brainchild of Ragdale’s current board member Gail Tsukiyama, author of *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms*, along with fellow Board member Anne LeClaire, author of *Listening Below the Noise*, and Jane Hamilton, author of *A Map of the World*. The event brings together bestselling and renowned authors for a weekend of cocktails, gourmet dinners and lively discussion around the dining room tables of Lake Forest homes.

A select group of attendees will gather for the first night of the weekend at an historic estate in Lake Forest. While enjoying cocktails and hors d’oeuvres, guests will have the opportunity to meet the authors as well as celebrate and raise funds for the Ragdale Foundation, the largest artist community in the Midwest. On the following evening, attendees will span out to various homes in Lake Forest for a rare opportunity to gather around a table with a distinguished author.

Lake Forest resident Brook Carl, a past attendee of Novel Affair said, “The combination of a spectacular opening evening...with such gracious hosts, the gathering of interesting people and the talented ensemble of artists, made for a lovely evening.”

Because demand is high for this event and space is limited, the event’s organizers decided to, again, invite eight authors this year. Hamilton, Tsukiyama and LeClaire sent invitations to colleagues which were immediately accepted. This year’s bestselling and esteemed authors are:

- **Annie Barrows**
Her latest novel ***The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*** is still on the New York Times bestseller list.
- **Elizabeth Berg**
A perennial bestselling author, Berg’s latest book ***Home Safe*** was released April, 2009.
- **Chris Bohjalian**
His latest novel ***Skeletons at the Feast*** was a New York Times bestseller.
- **Andre Dubus III**
His book ***The House of Sand and Fog*** was made into a film starring **Ben Kingsley**. His latest book is ***The Garden of Last Days***.

- **Wally Lamb**
Lamb's novel *She's Come Undone* was an Oprah Book Club choice. His latest book *The Hour I First Believed* was a New York Times Bestseller.
- **John Shors**
Shors' book *Beneath a Marble Sky* was a national bestseller.
- **Joan Silber**
Silber is the author of *The Size of the World* and won the PEN/Hemingway Award for her first novel, *Household Words*.
- **Elizabeth Strout**
Strout is 2009's **Pulitzer Prize** recipient for fiction for her novel *Olive Kitteridge*.

Ragdale will begin taking reservations on Wednesday, July 15 at 10am. Individuals interested in reserving can contact Ragdale at 847-234-1063 x. 205.

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