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**RAGDALE ENJOYS ANOTHER BESTSELLER:**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Novel Affair – Evenings of Cocktails and Literary Dinner Dates in Lake Forest another Sold-out Success

**LAKE FOREST, IL – October 10, 2008** – The Ragdale Foundation celebrated another sold-out success with *A Novel Affair* on **October 3 & 4, 2008**. This year the weekend-long event which included a line-up of eight best-selling authors, a cocktail reception on Friday and small, personal dinners on Saturday in Lake Forest homes, raised more than \$60,000 to support Ragdale’s artist-in-residence program.

Attendees began the weekend enjoying a cocktail reception with eight highly-esteemed authors at Fairlawn in Lake Forest. Guests gathered for delicious hors d’oeuvres by Jewell Events Catering, wine generously donated by the Terlato Wine Group and for the unique opportunity to engage in conversation with the guests of honor – Elizabeth George, Ann Hood, Nancy Horan, Joyce Maynard, Tom Perrotta, Richard Russo, Scott Turow and Luis Alberto Urrea. Also in attendance were the additional bonus of three authors and Ragdale Board members, Jane Hamilton, Anne LeClaire and Gail Tsukiyama who were in attendance.

Fred Klein, a Ragdale Board Member and host of a Saturday dinner with Oscar nominee Tom Perrotta, author of *Little Children* said, “The dinner party at our house Saturday night, with Tom as the guest of honor, was intimate, warm, and actually produced lots of laughs. Everyone got to meet Tom and find out what a thoughtful and deep-hearted person he is. When I read more of his books in the future, I’ll feel like he’s sitting next to me.”

“In my many years as a writer, attending literary events around the country,” said Joyce Maynard, author of *At Home in the World* and *To Die For*, “I cannot remember a more enjoyable evening than the Novel Affair...Hard to know which was more fun--spending time with my fellow writers, or getting to know the generous Ragdale supporters who opened their homes to us.”

Ann Hood, author of *The Knitting Circle*, concurred. “The weekend, the dinner and cocktail party, the people and Ragdale itself were all so incredible...I was sad to leave, but came home inspired and rejuvenated. To see the arts supported so enthusiastically and to have the honor to be in that precious place...I am very, very lucky.”

Plans are already being set for another fabulous weekend with all new authors next year on October 2 & 3, 2009.

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