



# SPRING GREEN LITERARY FESTIVAL

SPRING GREEN, WISCONSIN  
CELEBRATING A LOVE OF LITERATURE AND THE ART OF WRITING

June, 2010

Dear Friend of the Spring Green Literary Festival:

In past years we would be contacting you around this time inviting you to register for the annual fall literary festival in Spring Green. Instead, I am excited to update you on the new direction our Board has decided to take. At a planning meeting last January, the Board agreed it wanted to continue providing opportunities for great writers to come to our community and discuss their work. At the same time, we wanted to broaden and diversify our audience, beyond those able to attend the day-long festival. After careful consideration, we determined that by presenting single author events that are free and open to the public throughout the year, we could reach more readers with different interests, and vary the locations for author readings and discussion. The new format will be more sustainable for the long-term and can better serve the literary life of the entire community.

Our first single author event in March, on a Saturday night at APT's Touchstone Theatre, featured author David Rhodes reading and discussing his book, *Driftless*. I hope you were there. The theater was filled. The reading was marvelous. The discussion was enlightening. There was wine and cheese and thoughtful conversation afterward, plus chances for book signings and direct discussion with David for everyone there. It was an inspiring start toward achieving the festival's new goals.

Building on that success, the Board is pursuing other authors to fill out the year and on into 2011. Our goal is to stage at least three single author events every year. We will be announcing our next event soon. Our website will announce these events as we finalize them.

We also are planning other kinds of programs, some small, some large. As Spring Green prepares for the arrival of author Neil Gaiman in October to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his book *American Gods*, in which he uses the House on the Rock carousel as a portal to another dimension, we are considering ways to educate the community about Gaiman and his remarkably prolific body of work. Stay tuned.

We also are pleased to announce our plans for a Community Read project, beginning in October.

This year marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publishing of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. We could think of no better choice to inaugurate what we hope will be a regular event in the River Valley—the River Valley Read. Our goal is to provide books to the community, a screening of the Oscar-winning film, and a public discussion with an appropriate scholar or



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author who can engage the community and speak to the issues the book raises. By reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* together as a community, we hope the River Valley can address some of the questions the book raises about race, class, justice, and just growing up in a small town. I hope you'll join us in this new project.

We are excited about our plans for the future. We have received a grant from the Spring Green Area Arts Coalition to pursue our new directions. And we are very interested in hearing from you, with your suggestions on authors and subjects that are of interest to you, and your ideas for future events. Please email us at [info@springgreenlitfest.org](mailto:info@springgreenlitfest.org).

The founders of the Spring Green Literary Festival believed that the exploration of the literary arts is important to human understanding, and that the discussion of fine literature is a way to foster healthy communities. I hope you will continue to support our efforts by participating in our events, and by making a contribution, which you can make on our website via PayPal, or at the address below. Thank you for your past support, and we hope to see you at one of our next events.

Best regards,

John Christensen, President  
Spring Green Literary Festival  
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