



Date: March 10, 2011  
 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 Contact: Weston Blelock  
 Phone: 845-679-8111  
 Email: wblelock@woodstockarts.com

## Return of Woodstock Writers Fest in April

### *Chamber Welcomes Festival Goers with the Experience Woodstock Card*

Woodstock, NY—March 10, 2011—The Woodstock Chamber is proud to support the second annual three-day Woodstock Writers Fest, which kicks off on Friday, April 8, and features a series of intimate readings, panel discussions and “meet your muse” dinners at Woodstock-area restaurants. New this year are the Woodstock Writers Workshops, from April 3 to 8. These are being led by *New York Times* bestselling author Susan Richards, by Edgar Award winner Larry Beinhart, and by acclaimed memoirist Abigail Thomas. Each workshop is limited to 15 participants and in most cases will be held in the author’s own home. Attendees will have an opportunity to share their work in a group setting with guidance from festival faculty.

On April 8 festival goers may pick up their “goodie bags” and festival passes from The Golden Notebook booksellers, beginning at 3 P.M. The first event in the fest line-up is Gretchen Primack’s poetry reading tribute to Lucile Clifton, from 4 to 5:30. After a dinner at Oriole9 Restaurant, animal chronicler Jon Katz will give a talk and answer questions. Saturday’s program offers a mix of panels, talks and readings. Highlights include a discussion on social networking with the festival’s executive director, Martha Frankel (author of *Hats and Eyeglasses*), and Kitty Sheehan, a social media strategist; a “fireside chat” with Gail Godwin, award-winning novelist; and a panel moderated by Holly George-Warren, author of a dozen books. George-Warren’s panelists will include Michael Lang, author of *The Road to Woodstock* and co-creator of the Woodstock Festival of 1969; Parke Puterbaugh, the North Carolina-based author of *Phish: The Biography*; and Sean Yseult, author of *I’m in The Band*, former bassist of White Zombie, and one of the first female bass players in metal. The festival will conclude on Sunday, April 10, with a talk/reading hosted by bestselling Irish writer Colm Toibin. Events are ticketed and attendees may purchase individual tickets or a festival pass. For more information see [www.woodstockwriters.com](http://www.woodstockwriters.com).

According to Nick Altomare, Woodstock Chamber president, “The Writers Fest is a stellar event, and the Woodstock Chamber is pleased to be a sponsor. Once again the town’s preeminent writers, artists and restaurateurs are joining together to produce a quality event.” The Chamber will help welcome workshop and festival attendees to Woodstock with the **Experience Woodstock Card** (EWC). The card is a passport to special offers at more than 80 of Woodstock’s best restaurants, galleries, shops, museums, spas, performance venues and lodging establishments. The EWC is available online and at eight locations in Woodstock. For further details see [www.woodstockchamber.com](http://www.woodstockchamber.com).



Workshops, 3/3/11 to 3/8/11



Fest, 3/8/11 to 3/10/11



The 2011 Experience Woodstock Card



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### About the Woodstock Chamber of Commerce & Arts and the Town of Woodstock

The Woodstock Chamber ([www.woodstockchamber.com](http://www.woodstockchamber.com)) is committed to a leadership role in collaborating with area businesses, arts organizations and local/county/state government to promote Woodstock and the surrounding region as a premier four-season destination for cultural tourism. The spirit of Woodstock is a beautiful state of mind—visitors return again and again, and often make their homes here. Known as the “Colony of the Arts” since 1902, Woodstock is located in the Hudson Valley at the foothills of the Catskills. It’s less than two hours from metro New York and a little over four hours from the Boston area. Because of its prominence in the worlds of art and music, Woodstock is often called “the most famous small town in the world.”

### About the Chamber’s 2011 Experience Woodstock Card Sponsors

**TD Bank** is “America’s Most Convenient Bank®,” providing customers with a full range of financial products and services at more than 1,250 locations throughout the Northeast, and south to Florida. For more, link to [www.tdbank.com](http://www.tdbank.com).

**98.1 KZE** is eclectic, innovative and independent, celebrating musical diversity in the Hudson Valley, Catskills, southern Berkshire County in Massachusetts, and the northwest corner of Connecticut. Link to [www.wkze.com](http://www.wkze.com).

**Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union** is a community credit union serving Ulster, Dutchess and Orange Counties. The new Woodstock branch is located at 40 Mill Hill Road. For more, please see [www.mhvfcu.com](http://www.mhvfcu.com).

The **Woodstock Arts Consortium** is comprised of Woodstock’s not-for-profit organizations and is devoted to enhancing and promoting Woodstock’s historic identity as the Colony of the Arts. *The arts are always happening in Woodstock!* For more, link to [www.artsinwoodstock.org](http://www.artsinwoodstock.org).

**Aspects Inn & Day Spa** is a sensual retreat in the heart of Woodstock, owned and managed by artists Lio Magat and Sharon McGehee. For more, please see [www.aspectsgallery.com](http://www.aspectsgallery.com).

**Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation** strives to create value for its customers, fulfillment for its employees, and profitable growth for its investors. For more, see [www.cenhud.com](http://www.cenhud.com) as well as Facebook and Twitter (“centralhudson” for both).

**H. Houst & Son** is a locally owned True Value hardware store with a Just Ask rental department. It’s been a source for quality products and great service for over 75 years. Link to [www.hhoust.com](http://www.hhoust.com).

**KOSCO** is a recognized heating and home comfort leader in the Hudson Valley. “Your Comfort is Our Concern®.” For more, see [www.koscocomfort.com](http://www.koscocomfort.com).

**Paul Alexander Construction Co.** is a locally owned company that has been tastefully restoring Woodstock’s older homes since 1984. For more, link to [www.paulalexanderconstruction.com](http://www.paulalexanderconstruction.com).

**River Rock Health Spa** is an elegant, Zen-like sanctuary committed to natural wellness, custom service and natural products. For more, please see [www.riverrock.biz](http://www.riverrock.biz).

**Ulster Savings** is a locally owned and operated bank with branches throughout the Hudson Valley. Every year Ulster Savings Bank supports hundreds of local organizations throughout the community, close to home. For more, link to [www.ulstersavings.com](http://www.ulstersavings.com).

**Woodstock Chimes®** was founded by musician and instrument-maker Garry Kvistad in 1979 with the single, great idea of making the world’s best-sounding windchimes. The company also offers a line of creative instruments for kids called the Woodstock Music Collection™. Go to [www.chimes.com](http://www.chimes.com) to find a store near you.