

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALAN CATLIN AND MATTHEW SPIRENG TO READ POETRY AT THE ATHENS CULTURAL CENTER

--Poetry at the Hudson Series Continues, Open Mike Follows--

Athens, New York—April 2, 2007--Two of the most widely published poets in the Hudson Valley, Alan Catlin and Matthew Spireng will be the featured readers when Poetry at the Hudson meets at the Athens Cultural Center, 24 Second Street, on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at 2 p.m. An open mike precedes and follows the featured readings. The readings will be hosted by area poet Bob Wright.

Matthew Spireng lives in Lomontville in Ulster County in the house in which he was raised on the wooded acreage left from the family farm. Spireng's individual poems have won two national awards and been recognized in numerous other national contests. He has also received two Pushchart Prize nominations. Since 1990 nearly 500 of his poems have appeared in publications across the United States, including *The American Scholar*, *Yankee Magazine*, *Southern Humanities Review*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *English Journal*, and *Louisiana Literature*. His chapbook, *Inspiration Point*, 2002, was the winner of the 2000 Bright Hill Press Poetry Chapbook Competition; The title poem of *Inspiration Point* refers to the lookout by the same name on the escarpment in Greene County.

Alan Catlin has been publishing in "little and not-so-little" magazines and journals since the mid 1970's, primarily as a poet. Until now, he has been published in hundreds of places, amassing enough file cards representing published work to fill two and half file card boxes.

His first chapbook appeared in 1980, and dozens have followed in the last twenty-five years. In addition to the many chapbooks, he has four full-length books to his credit, ranging from the long-out-of-print "Animal Acts," which was hailed as the "Most Neglected Book of 1984" by legendary *Wormwood Review* editor Marvin Malone. A collaboration with Paul Weinman called "Barred on Both Sides" received that same accolade several years later. More recent books include "Drunk and Disorderly," from *Pavement Saw Press*; "The Schenectady Chainsaw Massacre," from *Staplegun Press*; and "Playing Tennis with Antonioni," from *March Street Press*, which also published his

chapbook “Stop Making Sense. “

Over the years his work has received 17 Pushcart prize nominations—13 for poetry, and four for fiction. Although he does not write science-fiction poetry per se, he has received three Rhysling Award nominations for best science-fiction poems of the year. Book manuscripts of his have been finalists in several national competitions, including those for The Brittingham Award (University of Wisconsin Press), The Lena Miles Wever Award (Pleiades Press/LSU Press), and the Quercus Review Press. He has also published reviews, over a hundred short stories, and had a column named after his submission to William Safire's On Language column in the New York Times. Stories of his have been in Slipstream and The Literary Review and have made regular appearances in the irregular NYC magazine, Happy, once ranked 13 in the market for short stories by Writer's Digest.

Poets are welcome to read from their works. A \$3 donation is requested for participation in the program.

About the Athens Cultural Center

Located in the historic village of Athens, New York, the Athens Cultural Center promotes works of Hudson Valley artists, writers and performers. The Center is housed in an Egyptian revival storefront on the Village's main street, a few blocks from the Hudson River. The Cultural Center also hosts free art classes for children and seniors as well as a full schedule of activities. For more information, please visit us at www.athensculturalcenter.org.

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