



FRIENDS OF
AMERICAN WRITERS
CHICAGO
BULLETIN

FEBRUARY

2009 NO. 6

GREETINGS FROM OUR
PRESIDENT

Fiction reading is increasing for adults according to an annual survey by the National Endowment for the Arts. After 25 years of steady decline, the tide is turning. 50.2% of adults admit to reading fiction, poetry, drama or other forms of literary fiction. Participants were allowed to count audio visual book forms, such as a Kindle, books on CD, and books on the internet but the survey questions stay the same.

“There has been a measurable cultural change in society’s commitment to literary reading,” said Dana Gioia, chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. “In a cultural moment when we are hearing nothing but bad news, we have reassuring evidence that the dumbing down of our culture is not inevitable.”

The New York Times which reported this study attributed the upswing to Oprah Winfrey’s influence, the proliferation of book clubs, the popularity of books in series such as the Harry Potter books and the push from teachers, librarians, parents and civic leaders.

This is wonderful news for FAW, an organization that promotes literature and writing. It validates our club and its goals. It shows that we are needed to support struggling writers with cash and encouragement.

Vivian Mortensen, President

FEBRUARY 11
PROGRAM

“Keeping The House”
Ellen Baker
Author

A Heartland Indie Bestseller

Winner of the 2008 Great Lakes
Book Award

One of the Chicago Tribune's "Best
Books of the Year" 2007

Featured selection of the Random
House Reader's Circle

“Sweeping in scope but intimate in detail, Ellen Baker's fiction portrays the lives of ordinary people with humor, passion and poignancy, exploring the complexities of family relationships and the ways in which everyday people are affected by world events, revealing that all human experience is interconnected and that even the most ordinary lives possess truly extraordinary qualities.”

FEBRUARY 11 RESERVATIONS

Please join us for the February 11 luncheon and program at the Fortnightly of Chicago, 120 East Bellevue, at 12:00 noon. Complimentary coffee and tea service is available in the front parlor for early arrivals.

To reserve your seating at the February luncheon call: Pat Adelberg at 847-588-0911 or Rosemary Crowley at 312-856-0009. Pat and / or Rosemary can answer any questions as well as take your reservations. **Please note: reservations as well as cancellations are due before 6:00 pm on the Sunday prior to the luncheon, February 8. Email reservations are not accepted.** Luncheons ordered but not served must be paid in full. Checks may be sent to Eileen McNulty, 4450 North Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630, phone 773-283-3369.

Seating arrangements in the dining room will be round tables seating eight people. The all-inclusive luncheon price is \$35.00. A vegetarian or fruit plate may be substituted if requested at the time the reservation is made.



SAVE
THE
DATE

March 11, 2009
"Meet Eleanor Roosevelt"
Roberta Randall

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ellen Baker was born in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, and grew up in Wisconsin, Illinois, and South Dakota. She has worked as a costumed living history interpreter, a museum curator, and a bookseller and event coordinator at an independent bookstore. Her first novel, **Keeping the House**, won the 2008 Great Lakes Book Award and was one of the Chicago Tribune's 2007 "Best Books of the Year." She lives with her husband in northern Wisconsin, where she is working on her second novel. Visit her website at www.ellenbakernovels.com

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Colleen Brown
1024 Hornbeam Court
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Elizabeth M. Grady
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If you are receiving your Bulletin by USMail and would like to receive it by email, please notify Vivian Mortensen at vmortens@comcast.net.

BOOKS ABOUT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

February Marks the bicentennial anniversary of Lincoln's birth. The following books are some of those chosen by Booklist Editor Brad Hooper as being especially well written, both from a historical and a literary standpoint. They are available at bookstores and libraries.

His Rise

Lincoln President-Elect: Abraham Lincoln and the Great Secession Winter, 1860-1861. By Harold Holzer. 2008. Simon & Schuster, \$30

Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln. By Doris Kearns Goodwin. 2005. Simon & Schuster, paper, \$21

His Presidency

Lincoln. By David Herber Donald. 1995. Touchstone, paper, \$20

Lincoln's Melancholy: How Depression Challenged a President and Fueled His Greatness. By Joshua Wolf Shenk. 2002. Mariner, paper, \$14.95

Lincoln's Virtues: An Ethical Biography. By William Lee Miller. 2002. Vintage, paper, \$15.95

War Leader

Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War. By Craig L. Symods. 2008. Oxford, \$27.95

Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief. By James M. McPherson. 2008. Penguin, \$35

Family

The Last Lincolns: The Rise and Fall of a Great American Family. By Charles Lachman. 2008, Unions Square, \$24.95

Mrs. Lincoln. By Catherine Clinton. January 2009. HaperCollins, \$26.95

Classics

Abraham Lincoln: The Prairie Years and the War Years. By Carl Sandburg. 1954. Harvest, paper, \$26

Herndon's Lincoln. By William H. Herndon. 1889. University of Illinois, \$35

Lincoln and His Generals. By T. Harry Williams. 1952. Diane Publishing, \$25

With Malice Toward None: A Life of Abraham Lincoln. By Stephen B. Oates. 1977. Harper Perennial, paper, \$17

In accordance with FAW Standing Rules
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“Reservations not cancelled must be paid for by the member.” If you have reservations for a luncheon and do not come to the meeting and luncheon, you are still responsible for the cost of the luncheon - \$35.

