



FRIENDS OF
AMERICAN WRITERS
CHICAGO
BULLETIN

MARCH

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GREETINGS FROM OUR
PRESIDENT

I want members to know how important our Annual Awards Luncheon is and encourage everyone to come. It's the culmination of months of reading by the Juvenile and Adult committees. There's a tremendous amount of time invested by the two committees – together they have examined over 50 books during the six month period. Come support their efforts. Winning authors are invited to participate in the Awards Luncheon and it's always exciting to hear how they got started and why they wrote their books. Copies of the award-winning books will be available for purchase and can be autographed.

The Patron's Fund covers much of the cost of these Annual Awards and this year more than ever this fund depends on your generosity. The Matching Gifts Program that many companies have is a way to double the impact of your gift to FAW. Because we are a not-for-profit organization, when you make a charitable contribution we are eligible for the Matching Gifts Program, which will match dollar for dollar your Patron's Fund amount. Check with your place of employment or that of your spouse and if you have any questions contact Eileen McNulty at 773-283-3369.

Vivian Mortensen, President

MARCH 11 PROGRAM

*“Meet
Eleanor Roosevelt”*

*Roberta Randall
Dramatist*

Historical dramatist Roberta Randall presents a portrayal of Eleanor Roosevelt's life from her shy, lonely childhood to becoming first lady, UN delegate, Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights, newspaper columnist, mother, wife and world traveler

Save The Date

April 15, 2009

Annual Awards Luncheon
Union League Club of Chicago

REMEMBERING JOHN UPDIKE

Everyone has favorite authors and John Updike was one of mine. His writing had wit and style and well defined characters. His most well known creation was Rabbit Angstrom. His character won Updike numerous awards. Rabbit was not necessarily a morally strong person – he made many wrong decisions in his personal life and career, but Updike was so precise in describing him that the reader would know Rabbit and forgive him his weaknesses.

Updike wrote luminous short stories about suburban living. Critics complained that Updike's plots were too mundane but I found it fascinating to see him focus in on the minutia of an everyday life and make it vivid. Whether it was coming home on the train or raking the leaves, Updike created special moments.

Updike wrote many book reviews for the New Yorker. He introduced me to my favorite author, Anne Tyler, plus others including FAW winner Mary Morris. He liked to spotlight unknown authors who needed more popularity. His critical eye was super. Interviewed, Updike was soft-spoken but firm in his beliefs and comfortable with his philosophy. He had a honking laugh that was irresistible.

Try one of his short stories, such as "The A&P", about three girls spending time at the grocery store. The story is a jewel of fine writing alongside a silly plot. John Updike will be missed.

Vivian Mortensen



BOOKS ABOUT ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT by Eleanor Roosevelt. Da Capo Press, 1992, 454 pages. Eleanor's story in her own words. Originally published in 1958.

COURAGE IN A DANGEROUS WORLD: THE POLITICAL WRITINGS OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT by Eleanor Roosevelt and Allida Mae Black. Columbia University Press, 2000, 362 pages. The selected essays, columns, letters, and book excerpts span the New Deal years, World War II, the establishment of the United Nations, the cold war, and the Un-American Activities Committee.

GRANDMERE: A PERSONAL HISTORY OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT by David B. Roosevelt (grandson) and Manuela Dunn-Mascetti. Warner Books, 2002, 244 pages. Grandson, David Roosevelt, shares personal family stories and photographs that show Eleanor as she really was.

NO ORDINARY TIME: FRANKLIN AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT: THE HOME FRONT IN WORLD WAR II by Doris Kearns Goodwin. Simon & Schuster, 1994, 759 pages. Goodwin's account of the Roosevelt presidency during WWII highlights America's changing domestic front.

MARCH 11 RESERVATIONS

Please join us for the March 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 March 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.

*Thank you
Nominating Committee*

Pat Adelberg
Virginia Dow
Donna Eaton
Carol Eshagy
Vivian Mortensen

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHOOSES 2009 / 2010 SLATE

The Nominating Committee has prepared the FAW slate of officers for terms starting September 2009. It will be voted upon at the March 11th Luncheon.

President – Marion Faldet
Treasurer – Eileen McNulty
Bulletin Editor – Vivian Mortensen
Foundation Fund – Alice Sandberg
Literary Awards – Roberta Gates
Juvenile Awards – Lorraine
Campione
Membership – Virginia Dow
Publicity / Historian – Betty O'Toole
Revisions – Angie Higginson
Yearbook / Printing – Pat Adelberg

PATRON FUND

FAW is counting on members to donate to the Patron Fund. These contributions fund the cash prizes for winners of the Adult and Juvenile Literary Awards. All those who contribute \$25 or more by March 12th will be recognized in the Awards Luncheon program. You may wish to designate how the funds are to be used – either to the Juvenile Awards or the Adult Awards or both. If you do not make an indication, the Bylaws dictate that 60% will go to the Adult Awards and 40% will go to the Juvenile Awards. You may bring your check to the March 11 meeting or send your check to: Eileen McNulty, 4450 North Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630-4102.

