



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

CHICAGO

www.fawchicago.org

OCTOBER

2009-2010 No. 2

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although it's just October, FAW is required to form a Nominating Committee to select the candidates for openings on the 2010-2011 Board starting in May. The committee members are: Corinne Morrissey, Alice Sandberg, Corene Anderson, Lorraine Campione and myself. We will be meeting throughout the fall and will bring a list of nominees to the members for election in March. I mention all of this because we really need to have a broader representation of the membership in Board and Committee positions. If you have an interest in serving on any of the committees you see listed in the Yearbook, or would like to consider a Board position, please get in touch with any Nominating Committee member and express your interest. Being a part of the FAW administration is interesting, fun, and necessary to keep the association moving ahead. So, please let us know of your interest.

FAW still needs one or two members for this year's Adult Literary Awards Committee. The committee members have fun reading the books by emerging authors, discussing their merits at meetings, rating them, and finally selecting the winners presented for the April Awards Luncheon. If you would want to be a part of this committee, please contact Roberta Gates, Adult Literary Awards Committee Chair (708-447-8471 or gates366@yahoo.com).

Marion Faldet
President

October Program

Poetry Today In and Around Chicago

October 14, 2009

Poet Susan T. Moss will talk about poetry in today's marketplace and various poetry venues. She will also mention the Illinois Poetry Society and how it encourages emerging poets. She'll discuss her writing and give us a short reading.

Ms Moss is the author of the book, *Keep Moving 'til The Music Stops* (Northfield: Lily Pool Press, 2006). Her poetry has appeared in many journals including *Vermont Literary Review*, *Caduceus*, *Seeding the Snow*, *Out of Line* and *The Northbrook Star*. Ms Moss is active in the Illinois State Poetry Society and currently presides as president and facilitator of the northern chapter.



LUNCHEON HONORS PAST PRESIDENTS

Every October FAW honors its past presidents. Since 1922 FAW has elected forty-five presidents. Today eight of these women remain members in the organization. Those present will be introduced at the luncheon and thanked for their service to FAW. We congratulate and salute:

ANGIE HIGGINSON
CORRINNE SILVER
KAY O'CONNOR
ELEANOR SIMMONS
VIVIAN MORTENSEN
PAT MOSE
MINNIE ORFANOS
CORINNE MORRISSEY

Thanks to you all!



New member

Iris Maiter
201 E. Chestnut # 6 B
Chicago, IL 60611
312-787-7363



Welcome Sustaining Club Members

We will also honor our sustaining clubs at the October luncheon meeting. These clubs form a network of members who join together in an appreciation of literature and a desire to support and encourage emerging writers. It will be our pleasure to introduce and visit with these members.

Flossmoor Book Club
Ogden Dunes Book Club
Renaissance Art Club
Women's Reading Club of Riverside
NOTICE OF PROPOSED

BYLAW CHANGES

The Board is recommending the following Bylaw changes. They will be discussed and voted upon by the membership at the October Luncheon. If you have questions, please call Angie Higginson at 773-477-4166.

In Article IV OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS:

- **In Section (e) Drop the position of Publicity/Historian from the list of Board positions and change the title of Revisions Chair to become Revisions/ Historian** (see page 51 in the yearbook)

In Article V MEETINGS:

- **Replace Section 2 to read: "The annual meeting, held on the second Wednesday in May, shall convene at 12:00 p.m. Reports of the officers and directors will be available for the membership's perusal."** (page 52)
- **In Section 5 Quorums, change the word Forty to Thirty** (page 52)

In Article IX NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS:

- **Replace Section 3 to read: "The president, treasurer, and five directors shall be elected in odd calendar years. The vice-president, secretary, and five directors shall be elected in even calendar years."** (pages 57-58)



2002/03 yearbooks

The 2009/10 yearbooks were distributed at the September luncheon. If you missed last month's meeting, pick one up at the October luncheon.. Those not attending either month will receive a copy in the mail.

Once you receive your copy, please flip to your name, address and telephone number and verify the information. If there is a mistake, please notify Pat Adelberg at 847-588-0911. We will list all corrections in the upcoming newsletters.

PERMANENT RESERVATIONS

If you plan to attend the luncheon meetings regularly, you might consider a Permanent Reservation. Anyone with a Permanent Reservation is automatically counted in the monthly tally of luncheon reservations – you do not have to phone the Luncheon/ Social Committee unless you cannot attend and wish to cancel your reservation.

However, on this plan if you do not notify the Committee when you don't attend a meeting, you are obligated to pay for the missed meal.

If you are interested in this plan, call Rosemary Crowley at 312-856-0009.

YEARBOOK changes

- Please correct Marion Weber's phone number. The yearbook should read:

773-281-0134

DID YOU LOSE A RING?

The staff found a ring on the floor after the last FAW luncheon. If the ring belongs to you, please contact Rosemary Crowley at 312-856-0009 and she will see that it is returned.



OCTOBER LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, at NOON

\$35 PER PERSON

**The fortnightly of Chicago
120 Bellevue Place, Chicago, IL**

To make reservations, call **Pat Adelberg at 847-588-0911** or **Rosemary Crowley at 312-856-0009**. Vegetarian meals may be requested at the time you make your reservation.

REMEMBER:

- **Reservations (and cancellations) are due before 6 p.m. on Sunday, October 11th.**
- Pay by check (\$35) payable to FAW at the door.
- \$14 parking is available two doors west of the Fortnightly.

- The seating arrangements in the room will be round tables seating eight people. If you wish to sit with your friends and/or guests, please arrive early.
- Complimentary coffee and tea service are available in the parlor prior to the lunch.
- If you make a reservation but cannot come, you must call to cancel. Otherwise you will be charged the \$35. If this happens, send your check to Eileen McNulty, 4450 North Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630-4102.

History of the Fortnightly of Chicago

Members of the Friends of American Writers have become “regulars” at the Fortnightly. The monthly luncheons are held there, the literary committees have their meetings there and the Board regularly convenes upstairs. Everyone seems to enjoy the surroundings, the food, the convenient parking and the north location of the club. We are indebted to Caroline Wheeler for sponsoring FAW at such an elegant spot.

Many of us wonder about the Fortnightly. What kind of organization is this? Who belongs? What is its mission? I used a book from the Wilmette Public Library, *The Fortnightly of Chicago; The City and Its Women: 1873 – 1973* by Muriel Beadle (Chicago: Regnery, 1973), to try to answer some of these questions. Next month I will report on the history of 120 Bellevue Place, the Fortnightly’s headquarters.

Kate Doggett, a Chicago matron, invited several friends to her home in April 1873 to consider forming a women’s society for the “purpose of organized study and discussion on cultural and intellectual issues.” 1873 was two years after the Chicago Fire. Chicago was in a financial depression, most residents were living in temporary housing, and the city’s population and growth were booming leading to tremendous changes which were unsettling to many. Chicago was a frontier town with rampant crime but there were also many cultured citizens who wanted to share views of literature, music and the arts.

Men’s social clubs were quite popular in the 1870’s although the Fortnightly became the first women’s organization in Chicago. The Fortnightly started with eleven members but quickly grew. The group met every other Friday, alternating afternoon meetings for members only with evening meetings where guests (and husbands) were invited. Topics for the first meetings included the study of *Middlemarch* by George Eliot, the origin and function of music, and the biography of Father Marquette. Social welfare projects were also tackled such as the Kitchen Garden Project during which members taught public school children the fundamentals of cooking, cleaning and housekeeping. The Fortnightly was also instrumental in establishing a nursing school. Although the Cook County Hospital administration was not in favor of this proposal, Fortnightly members were determined and raised the money to start the first school in 1883.

Prominent Chicago ladies flocked to the Fortnightly meetings. Among its roster were Bertha Palmer (Mrs. Potter), Harriet McCormick (Mrs. Cyrus), Margaret Pullman (Mrs. George), and Nannie Field (Mrs. Marshall). Through the years many famous people are associated with the Fortnightly. Oscar Wilde met with members while touring Chicago in 1882. William Rainey Harper spoke at a meeting

outlining his plans to establish the University of Chicago. Club members helped Jane Addams and Hull House get established even though their husbands weren't supportive.

Today the club still meets regularly. The President receives the membership in the drawing room shaking hands wearing traditional white gloves. Lunch, a program and finally lively discussion follow. The programs are varied but the family memoir is a favorite topic. Many members have long family ties to the Fortnightly and membership passes from grandmothers to mothers to daughters.

Vivian Mortensen, Bulletin Editor