



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

CHICAGO

www.fawchicago.com

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GReETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

By our next meeting on November 11 (Veterans Day) we will officially be in the fall season, and it feels like fall today as I write this piece. What a good time for lunch at The Fortnightly with friends from FAW! Many of us will be particularly excited about hearing from Stanley Paul, pianist, orchestra conductor, writer and raconteur. Remember those evenings at the Pump Room at the Ambassador Hotel with Stanley playing at the white piano with his small combo? This is a luncheon presentation NOT to miss! It will have memories for many of us.

This year's Adult Literary Awards Committee is finding a treasure trove of good books worth serious consideration. It is always a real thrill and a challenge when we have several books that are worthy of awards. It makes the committee members read very critically and to think seriously about what a book should be to receive one of the awards. We hope to be ready to announce them in March of next year. Meanwhile, many, many more to read!

We are happy to report new members of FAW who we hope will be with us at the November meeting. Membership appears to be on an upswing at the moment, so keep encouraging your friends to come and learn what we are all about.

Marion Faldet
President

November Program



Stanley Paul



November 11, 2009

“A party is not a party without Stanley Paul,” says the Chicago Tribune. For over thirty years Chicagoans have enjoyed the music of this legend and his orchestra.

Stanley Paul will entertain us with highlights from his memoir, **Thank My Lucky Stars** (Kendall/Hunt Publishing, 1999). Never before told tales and photographs from his years illuminate this star studded time from the vantage point of Stanley Paul, who saw it all from the bandstand overlooking the dazzling nightlife in around Booth One in Chicago's Ambassador East Hotel.

With encouragement he might play a song or two on the piano!

TWO FOUNDATION FUND SCHOLARS honored

Trustees of the Foundation Fund are awarding two students this year with \$1,000 scholarships. Faculty at both National Lewis University and Roosevelt University were asked to nominate a candidate to receive this award. The two students chosen will be honored at the November luncheon along with their faculty sponsors.

Nicole Lemmon is the 2009 recipient from National-Louis University. She is enrolled in the Master of Science in Written Communication Program. Concentrating on fiction, she has published in *Mosaic*, the University's literary annual, in *NACADA*, the National Academic Advising Association website, and in *NLU Today*, the alumni magazine.

Christina Kloess has been selected from Roosevelt University. Originally from Elkhart, Indiana, she moved to Chicago this fall to attend the Master of Fine Art in Creative Writing Program at Roosevelt. She has a specialty in fiction writing and *Thirty under Thirty*, an anthology forthcoming from Starcherone Books in 2011, will include one of her short stories.

Angeline Higginson
Alice Sandberg
Corrinne Silver



NEW ADDRESSES

Marion Gouvis
4 Oakbrook Club Drive
F 304
Oakbrook, IL 60523

Irene Hayes
1270 Village Drive
Apt. 347
Lemont, IL 60439

INVITATION TO THE RENAISSANCE ART CLUB

The Renaissance Art Club – one of the FAW Sustaining Clubs – invites all FAW members to two upcoming monthly luncheons. The programs are \$45 each which includes lunch at the Rhapsody Restaurant, 65 E. Adams, at 11:30 a.m. followed by a 1:15 p.m. lecture in the Morton Auditorium at the Art Institute.

Monday, November 9 - **Apostles of Beauty: Arts and Crafts from Britain to Chicago**, an overview of the latest exhibition.

Monday, December 14 - **On Wings of Grace: Angels in Art** given by Jeffery Nigra, Director of Adult Programs at the Art Institute.

We hope you can join us. For reservations, call Stella Brandt at 773-685-2958.

Corene Anderson
Sustaining Clubs Chair, FAW
Recording Secretary, Renaissance Club



New member

Carmen Velez
3600 N. Lake Shore Dr. # 205
Chicago, IL 60613-4602
773-549-0757



Yearbook Correction

Harriet E. Zelenka's condo number is:
1001

Beverly Lande's phone number is:
312-861-0310

HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE TO THE FORTNIGHTLY

Do you have trouble climbing the front stairs?
Have you stopped attending the meetings because
of the front staircase?

The Fortnightly has a handicapped entrance on
the east end of the building that leads you to an
elevator to access the first floor. If you wish to
use this special entry, call ahead to the
Fortnightly (312-944-1330) and staff will give
you instructions. They will be ready to answer
the doorbell when you come and show you to the
Lounge.

HER FEARFUL SYMMETRY BY Audrey Niffenegger

Her Fearful Symmetry is Chicago author
Audrey Niffenegger's latest novel. After they
inherit a London flat near Highgate Cemetery
from their aunt, two American twin teenagers
move in, but they soon discover that much is still
alive at Highgate, including, perhaps, their aunt,
who can't seem to leave her old life behind.
Sibling rivalry, family secrets, ghostly doings and
creepy cemeteries all contribute to this "good
read" that's perfect for Halloween.

Vivian Mortensen



November LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, November 11, 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, November 8th.**
- 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.

120 East Bellevue place

The elegant residence at 120 E. Bellevue Place that is now the home of the Fortnightly of Chicago was purchased in August of 1922. It was almost 50 years after the club was formed. Started in members' homes, as membership grew, the club moved to rental facilities at Orchestra Hall and the Art Institute. Although these venues were adequate, many felt that the Fortnightly should have a permanent meeting place fitting the "social standards" of the club. This feeling intensified in 1921 when Madame Curie visited Chicago to accept \$125,000 raised by American clubwomen for research. Without its own building, the Fortnightly couldn't hold its own reception.

Brian Lathrop built the house at 120 E. Bellevue in 1891 at a cost of \$40,000. Holabird and Roche were the supervising architects using plans prepared by McKim, Mead and White. Mr. Lathrop died in 1916 and by 1921 his widow, a Fortnightly member, considered the house too big for her needs and it was decided to purchase it furnished for \$121,250. A holding company was established and within six months members bought all the stocks to raise the \$150,000 needed to buy the residence.

There are few descriptions of the original house when the Lathrops lived there. A cousin visited when she was a girl and in 1969, she wrote:

There was a musical device on the front door that sounded when it opened. The woodwork in the entrance hall was always white, with red carpeting on the floor and all the way up on the stairs. Whistler etchings were hung in the panels above the stairs. There was a French clock on the mantelpiece in the hall: a clock wined came to the house every Saturday morning. The drawing room windows had yellow glass curtains to give the illusion of sunlight, despite the Borden house next door. The elevator worked by pulling ropes in the cab and when the lawn sprinkler was turned on there was no enough power to run the elevator. There was always the danger of being stuck between floors.

Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop gave a concert by the Chicago Symphony String Quartet every Thanksgiving day afternoon in the billiard room [this is the room where we have our luncheons.] The billiard room had a low stage at one end, with cushions covered with Oriental rugs to use as seats when the stage was not in use. Niches held revolving cupboards, with books on one side, billiard cues on the other. Small gilt chairs, a hundred or so, were brought out for guests at these concerts.

A staff of ten servants lived on the fourth floor of the house. Seven to nine courses were served at dinner parties, gathered at a double-width dining table. The dining room walls were hung with brocade in an unusual shade of red to match the carpeting. An oil of sheep hung on the west wall.

Upon the sale, members quickly started converting the home into a clubhouse. An architect was hired to extend the billiard room, widen some doorways and modify the kitchen. Care was taken to keep the house looking as same as possible. Furnishings that didn't fit were sold off and members were asked to contribute goods from their own homes to complete the transformation. Staff was hired and trained - a manager, a butler, a chef, an upstairs maid, two housemen and a cleaning woman.

The first official meeting the new surroundings was on January 11, 1923. Except for some upgrades, such as a modern elevator and new plumbing, the house remains the same 86 years later.

Excerpts from Beadle, Muriel, *THE FORTNIGHTLY OF CHICAGO: THE CITY AND ITS WOMEN: 1873-1973* (Chicago: Henry Regnery Company, 1973)