



FRIENDS OF  
AMERICAN WRITERS  
CHICAGO  
BULLETIN

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DECEMBER

2009 - 2010 No. 4

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GREETINGS FROM  
The PRESIDENT

It is very sad to announce the death of Marion Faldet, President of FAW. She died very suddenly from an infection on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Many of us fondly remember Marion. She was lots of fun and was very active in our club. She will be greatly missed. Read Angie's kind words about Marion inside this bulletin.

The Board has appointed me as Interim President for the rest of this FAW year. The Nominating Committee will find a new President for the 2010-2011 year.

Several members have asked how to contribute to FAW in Marion's memory. Members who wish to donate have a couple options:

- **Patron Fund** - Marion was very involved on the Literary Committee so it would be fitting to contribute to the Patron's Fund which provides the prize money for the awards. Donors' names will appear on the Awards Luncheon program.
- **Foundation Fund** - This fund supplies the money for the annual scholarships. Marion highly supported education and "emerging writers" so this is also a good choice. If your donation is under \$100, your name will appear in the newsletter. If the gift is \$100 or more, your name will be annually printed in the FAW yearbook.

Have a peaceful, healthy holiday,  
Vivian Mortensen  
Interim FAW President

December program

Victory  
Gardens:  
A Chicago  
Success Story

December 9, 2009

**Jan Kallish**, Executive Director of the Victory Gardens Theater, will discuss her appointment in February to manage the Victory Gardens and what she considers their place in Chicago theater.

Celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> season this year as one of the country's most respected mid-sized professional theater companies, Victory Gardens Theater is the recipient of the prestigious 2001 Tony Award for Best Regional Theater. *The New York Times* cited the Victory Gardens in 2003 for its role in helping to position Chicago as a city "with a theater scene as vibrant as New York's."

With all of this history behind them, what is the future of this theater? Can they stay at the forefront of the Chicago theater scene? Listen to Jan Kallish outline her vision for the future for this vibrant and committed theater.

Sean Eshaghy  
Program Chair

## Victory gardens theater events

### **THE SNOW QUEEN**

Originally adapted by Michael Smith, Frank Galati, and Blair Thomas

Directed by Jim Corti

November 27 - December 27, 2009

Based on Hans Christian Anderson's beloved winter tale about a boy lost in the cold, and the girl who won't give up until she finds him, The Snow Queen is the rare family musical that sings to children, and speaks to adults.

### **IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: LIVE AT THE BIOGRAPH**

American Blues Theater

Adapted by Marty Higginbotham

November 27 - December 27, 2009

Come join the American Blues family as we take you back to a 1940s radio broadcast of "It's a Wonderful Life", with live Foley sound effects, an original score, and a stellar cast that bring the entire town of Bedford Falls to life

### **BLUE DOOR**

A Chicago Premiere

By Tanya Barfield

Directed by Andrea J. Dymond

January 22 - February 28, 2010

Imagine being haunted by four generations of ancestors, all during one sleepless night. Meet Lewis, a middle-aged, divorced, black math professor forced to confront the insistent ghosts of his great-grandfather, his younger brother and others entwined in his life.



## YEAR END BOOK SALE

Bargains galore are waiting for your purchase! The Adult Literary Awards Committee is setting out a selection of books at the December luncheon. What a good way to jump-start the holiday shopping and support the literary awards.

MARION GOODWIN FALDET  
1924 – 2009

Marion was born on Prince Edward Island, Canada. While she was a baby, her parents and brother moved to Boston, Mass.

Marion attended Boston University and worked on the administrative staff of the Harvard University Graduate School of Education. She then moved to New York and became the executive assistant to the Superintendent of New York Public Schools.

In 1966 Marion moved to Chicago and continued her education. Graduated from the University of Chicago with both her B.A. and a master's degree, she then worked for Science Research Associates, one of the largest U. S. funders of educational research.

Marion married twice, first to Lester Goodwin. Later widowed, Marion was married to Burton Faldet for almost 40 years. A great volunteer, Marion was on the Board of Episcopal Charities and Community Services and was a regular volunteer at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Marion joined FAW in 2002 and immediately became involved sitting on the Literary Awards Committee. In 2004 she served as Publicity Chair, 2006 as Awards Luncheon Chair, 2008 as Secretary and 2009 as President.

Marion was a very bright lady with wonderful wit and humor and a great deal of charm. To meet her was to like her, to know her was to love her.

Angeline Higginson



**NEW MEMBERS**

**Jane Derbyshire**  
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## December LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, December 9 at NOON

\$35 PER PERSON

The fortnightly club 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, December 6<sup>th</sup>.**
- 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.



10 TERRIFIC READS....



According to Oprah

### Fiction

**BLAME.** By Michelle Huneven, 2009, 304 pages, Sarah Crichton/FSG, \$25.00.

Patsy MacLemoore, a slightly wild, 20-something history professor is involved in an alcohol-related crime and ends up questioning her hard-won moral certainties.

**THE INVISIBLE MOUNTAIN.** By Carolina De Robertis, 2009, 384 pages; Knopf, \$24.95.

Three generations of strong women whose passions play out against the politics of 20th-century South America. The novel tells a compelling human story about identity while also quietly evoking a place and time.

**LITTLE BEE.** By Chris Cleave, 2009, 288 pages, Simon & Schuster, \$24.00.

A terrifying memory unites two very different women—a wry and ingenious young Nigerian refugee newly sprung from a British detention center, and an editor of a fashionable English women's magazine.

**SAY YOU'RE ONE OF THEM.** By Uwem Akpan, 2009, 368 pages; Back Bay, \$14.99.

Uwem Akpan, a Nigerian-born writer and Jesuit priest, guides us through such desperate terrain, from street slums in Nairobi to war-torn Rwanda, telling stories of rape, slaughter and child slavery.

**SOME THINGS THAT MEANT THE WORLD TO ME.** By Joshua Mohr, 2009, 208 pages, Two Dollar Radio, \$15.50.

Meet Rhonda, a man who spends his haunted, liquor-fueled days Dumpster diving for redemption in this seedy novel, a poetic rendering of postmodern San Francisco culminating in, of all places, Home Depot.

## Nonfiction

**THE BOLTER** By Frances Osborne, 2009, 320 page, Knopf, \$30.00.

A chronicle of the life of Idina Sackville, a wellborn British woman who defied convention by having "lovers without number" and choosing a decadent expat life in Kenya in 1918.

**DREAMING IN HINDI** By Katherine Russell Rich, 2009, 384 pages; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, \$26.00.

What do you do when rotten luck leaves you speechless? After two bouts with cancer and the shock of getting fired, Katherine Russell Rich "no longer had the language to describe my own life. So I decided I'd borrow someone else's."

**LOSING MOM AND PUP.** By Christopher Buckley, 2009, 251 page, Twelve, \$24.95.

Christopher Buckley's life wasn't exactly like most people's—his parents were William F. and Patricia Buckley, East Coast social and intellectual fixtures. But *Losing Mum and Pup*, is universal in its evocation of loss.

**STRENGTH IN WHAT REMAINS: A JOURNEY OF REMEMBRANCE AND FORGIVENESS.** By Tracy Kidder, 2009, 304 pages; Random House, \$26.99.

The astonishing real-life story of a man called Deo, who, after witnessing the destruction of his native Burundi, faced poverty and deep humiliation in America—and rose above it.

**ZWITOURN.** By Dave Eggers, 2009, 342 pages, McSweeney's, \$24.99.

A Syrian-born contractor who should have been lionized for his selfless work in New Orleans during and after Katrina was instead caged like an animal in a makeshift jail.