



# FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

CHICAGO

[www.fawchicago.org](http://www.fawchicago.org)

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APRIL

2009-2010 No. 8

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## Greetings FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you made a reservation for the Awards Luncheon? Betty O'Toole, Awards Luncheon Chairman, reports that many members have still not signed up. This is disappointing. Each year this luncheon is the signature event of our organization. The winning authors are invited to come and tell us about their writing. We would like them to speak before a sizeable crowd and meet as many members as possible.

Many members have participated in the planning of this event. The two literary committees have spent hours and hours reading the nominated books, going to meetings to review these books and choosing the winners. The Awards Luncheon Committee has also spent time and energy planning the luncheon. Programs have been printed, Barnes & Noble has been asked to sell books and members have contributed to the Patron Fund.

Please make the effort to come. The Union League Club is a lovely venue. The price is only \$40 per person which is very reasonable in today's economy. It's fun to dress up once in a while and it's a great way to treat a friend or family member.

See you there!

Vivian Mortensen,  
Interim President

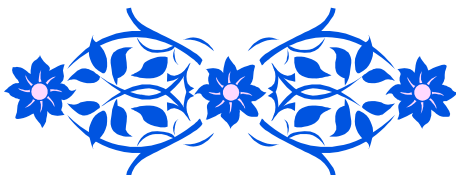
## THERE'S STILL TIME TO BUY awards LUNCHEON TICKETS

**Annual Awards Luncheon**  
**Wednesday, April 21 at 11 a.m.**  
**Union League Club**  
**\$40 per person**

It's not too late to purchase luncheon tickets for the Annual Awards Luncheon on April 21<sup>st</sup> at the Union League Club. However, **all reservations must be received by Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.**

### TO MAKE RESERVATIONS:

1. Write a check payable to FAW AWARDS LUNCHEON for \$40 per person.
2. Include with your check a list of those people covered by the check. Write the names of each person - both members and guests.
3. If you wish to sit with other attendees (who are not included in your check), add a list of those people.
4. Mail your check and additional information to:  
Betty O'Toole  
1440 N. Lake Shore Drive  
Apt. 10 - D  
Chicago, IL 60610
5. Call Betty O'Toole at **312-337-5344** or email her at **bettyo@oldstpats.org** to guarantee the reservation.



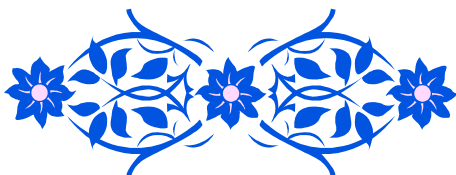
## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome the following new members:

Deborah Borucki  
2 Commons Drive.  
Palos Park, IL 60464  
708-361-6250

Martha J. Martin  
13733 S. King Road  
Homer Glen, IL 60491  
708-301-1689

Roberta Schaffner  
1360 N. Sandburg Terrace  
# 302  
Chicago, L 60610  
312-943-5692



## 2010/2011 dues

It's time to pay your dues! Enclosed is the dues form. Please fill out the form and bring it along with your \$40 check (made payable to FAW) to the May meeting. If you cannot attend or prefer to mail your dues, drop the check in an envelope and send it to:

Eileen McNulty  
4450 N. Kostner Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60630 – 4102

Questions? Call Eileen at 773-283-3369.

## CONSIDER JOINING A COMMITTEE

One of the best ways to meet other FAW members is to become more involved in the organization and join a committee. Committee chairmen are now actively recruiting for several committees, especially the award committees. If you are interested, let the appropriate Board members know you are ready to help.

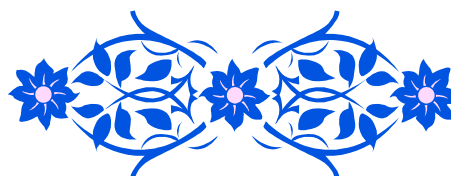
### LITERARY AWARDS COMMITTEE

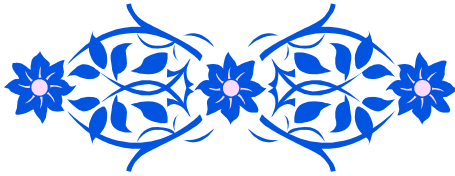
This committee meets monthly on the fourth Wednesday of each month at the Fortnightly building. Books being considered for the literary prizes are passed among the members at the meetings and once everyone has read them, they are rated for their literary quality. Those interested in serving on this committee should call Roberta Gates at 708-447-8471.

### JUVENILE LITERARY AWARDS COMMITTEE

This committee also meets monthly. They read and review the eligible children's books. If you are interested in children's literature and would be willing to serve on this committee, call Lorraine Campione at 773-275-5118.

There are also several other committees that meet less regularly during the FAW year. These include Awards Luncheon (contact Mario Gouvis at 630-270-0573), Luncheon-Social (Ruth Ann Brinkman at 773-271-9604), Programs (Rosemary Crowley at 312-856-0009), and Yearbook & Awards Program (Pat Adelberg at 847-588-0911).





## Indie next list: A GREAT RESOURCE FOR BOOKS

The American Booksellers Association is a great supporter of independent book stores. They produce a monthly booklet that is available at many local book stores called THE INDIE NEXT LIST. This a great place to find good reads.

There are several parts to this listing:

- The Indie Next List: Inspired Recommendations from Indie Booksellers
- Now In Paperback: Indie Next Selections Come to Paperback
- Indie Next Lists Notables: Indie Booksellers Also Recommend...

These titles are all recommended by book sellers who work with customers and read themselves. They always seem to have the inside track on good reads.

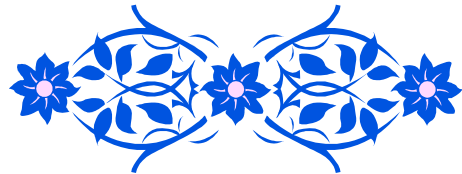
The lists show the books attractively displayed with their covers and there are inspiring annotations about each of the titles. The books are arranged by category so if you are looking just for one genre, such as mysteries, they are easy to spot. Nonfiction titles are also included.

This organization also has some specialty lists such as Children's titles. This is a wonderful resource for birthdays or other gifts to kids.

The current lists are available at the book stores but back issues are on the website to look at or print. Go to [www.indiebound.org](http://www.indiebound.org). or find the site on Twitter or Facebook.

## Awards Luncheon book sale

Copies of the award-winning books will be available for purchase (and signing) at the Awards Luncheon on April 21<sup>st</sup> both before the luncheon and following the authors' presentations. Books will be available for cash, check or credit card and bags will be provided.



## 2009/2010 SLATE OF faw OFFICERS

The FAW slate of officers, directors and trustees was voted and approved by the membership at the March luncheon. Congratulations to the following:

President – Betty O'Toole  
Vice President – Vivian Mortensen  
Secretary – Alice Sandberg  
Treasurer – Eileen McNulty  
Awards Luncheon – Marion Gouvis  
Bulletin Editor – Vivian Mortensen  
Foundation Fund Trustee – Eleanor Simmons  
Juvenile Awards – Lorraine Campione  
Literary Awards – Roberta Gates  
Luncheon/Social – Ruth Ann Brinkman  
Membership – Corene Anderson  
Programs – Rosemary Crowley  
Revisions – Angeline Higginson  
Sustaining Clubs – Jane Derbyshire  
Yearbook – Pat Adelberg

New Board members will be installed at the May meeting.

We also wish to thank those who are going off the FAW Board. Everyone who serves contributes lots of hard work to make this organization run smoothly.

## CURRENT Books from past FAW Winners

Now is a good time to look over some recent offerings from past winners. These books should be available through your local library or bookstore.

### **Gillian Flynn (2007)**

**DARK PLACES (Shaye Arehart Books, 2009, 368 pages).**

Twenty-four years after testifying in court that she witnessed her brother killing her mother and sister, Libby now realizes that she may be wrong and that a killer is still on the loose.

Cast adrift after being abruptly fired, workaholic CEO Charlie Baker is astonished to find his finances in shambles and his son rapidly growing up, a situation he initially denies while spending his days in an outplacement firm.

### **Erin Hart (2004)**

**FALSE MERMAID (Scribner, 2010, 336 pages).**

Convinced that her brother-in-law was responsible for her sister's murder, Nora returns to Minnesota when her brother-in-law prepares to marry again; while her sometime partner, Cormac, confronts the return of his estranged father. This is the third mystery in the series which includes HAUNTED GROUND (the book which won Hart the prize).

### **Kent Meyers (1999)**

**TWISTED TREE (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt 2009. 304 pages).**

In his beautiful and unsettling new novel, the author examines the effects of a murder on the residents of a small South Dakota town.

### **Ted Kooser (2003)**

**LIGHTS ON A GROUND OF DARKNESS: AN EVOCATION OF A PLACE AND TIME (University of Nebraska Press 2009, 72 pages)**

A tribute to the Pulitzer Prize-winning former poet laureate's Iowa family is an evocative collection of nonfiction tales that center around his beloved uncle Elvy, a victim of cerebral palsy who the author remembers for his love of fishing, pinochle, and drinking soda from an ice chest at the family gas station.

### **Sara Paretsky (1985)**

**HARDBALL (G. P. Putnam's Sons 2009. 464 pages).**

Chicago sleuth V.I. Warshawski returns to handle a case steeped in local politics and civil unrest. V.I. accepts a cold missing-persons case and immediately begins to unearth memories that might better stay buried deep in the past including evidence linking her father to a cover-up of police torture.

### **Jim Kokoris (2002)**

**THE PURSUIT OF OTHER INTERESTS (St. Martin's Press 2009. 352 pages).**

### **Mona Simpson (1988)**

**MY HOLLYWOOD (Knopf, August 2010, 320 pages).**

Claire, a composer and a new mother, comes to L.A. so her husband can follow his dream of writing TV comedy but things change - Paul works all hours and Claire is left with a baby whom she adores but has no idea how to care for. Enter Lola—a fifty-two-year-old Filipino who stabilizes the rocky household...but at a price. Published this August.



Friends of American Writers

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Eileen McNulty  
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If you have questions, call Eileen at 773-283-3369.

Check the appropriate category:

- \$40 regular member  
 \$20 nonresident member (must live more than 50 miles from Chicago)  
 \$20 sustaining club (group member rather than individual)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Are your name, address and phone listed correctly in the yearbook?

yes  no

Would you like to receive your monthly newsletters by email?

yes  no

If you prefer to receive your newsletters by mail, how do you wish to have your name appear on the address label?

\_\_\_\_\_