



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

CHICAGO

www.fawchicago.org

May

2009-2010 No. 9

Greetings FROM THE PRESIDENT

This has been a very hard year. Not only did our President, Marion Faldet, die last October but the Board has faced several serious illnesses among Board members. Everyone who was able-bodied on the Board took added responsibilities just to keep things going. I want to personally thank those who volunteered for additional duties.

It's also been a great year. The programs were wonderful and all the speakers were authors. The food, as always, was delicious and beautifully served. Membership is slowly going up. Evidently word is getting out about the beautiful Fortnightly building, the lovely lunches and good programs.

The annual Awards Luncheon was a big success. Although one author couldn't attend, the other four authors wowed the audience with their remarks. The food was excellent and the event ran very smoothly.

Vivian Mortensen,
Interim President

Note: This month the program will begin at 11 a.m. with lunch following Barbara Rinella's presentation. Be sure to come one hour early. We are sorry for any inconvenience this causes.

May Program

The Eleanor Lonek Appreciation Program

May 12

Special time: 11 a.m.

Barbara Rinella

Book Reviewer and
Dramatist



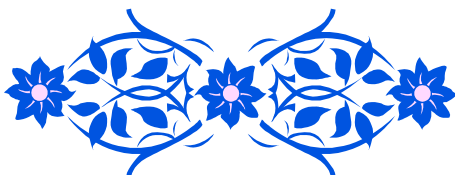
Join us for a program featuring book dramatist Barbara Rinella. In this program saluting valor and service, Rinella shares scenes and insights from favorite literary works that focus on heroes, heroines, and the human spirit. Join Ms. Rinella on a personal and literary journey as she highlights important life lessons from history and literature. The voices of such heroes as Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill, Amelia Earhart, Lance Armstrong, Margaret Thatcher, men and women from Tom Brokaw's *The Greatest generation*, Katherine Hepburn, Morrie Schwartz and even Erma Bombeck are part of this tribute to heroes.

Longtime member Betty Fredrickson dies

Betty Fredrickson's niece called to report that Betty died after a long illness in February. Betty had been a member of FAW since 1989. She served on the Board many times in various capacities including Sustaining Club Chair, Programs Co-Chair, Membership Chair and Publicity/Historian Chair. She also served a term on the Foundation Fund Committee. Just this year she was serving on the Juvenile Literary Committee until she became ill.

She joined FAW when she retired from Marshall Field's. Her sister-in-law, Ruth Weiner, was also very active in the organization. She had a delightful wry sense of humor and although she appeared very quiet, she was a very determined, insightful woman. She will be missed.

Vivian Mortensen
Bulletin Editor



Juvenile literary awards committee

The Juvenile Literary Awards Committee was listed incorrectly in the luncheon program. The correct list of those who served this year is:

Lorraine Campione, Chairman
Rosemary Crowley
Betty Fredrickson
Leah Magruder
Jody McDowell
Phyllis Nickels
Alice Sandberg

barbara rinella

Barbara Rinella, Over the past 20 years, Barbara Rinella has developed a unique business giving one woman shows dramatizing current literature. She calls her witty, first person renditions "academic entertainment." By becoming characters in important, recent books, Mrs. Rinella has created a lively "living literature" for enthusiastic audiences.

Barbara Rinella graduated from Duke University. She is currently the Chicago Area Chairman of the Duke Alumni Advisory Governing Board and a recent recipient of Duke University's Outstanding Volunteer Award. She has also taught high school English, worked as an editor for Putman Publishing Company and as a researcher for Mademoiselle Magazine.

BOOKPAGE BOOK OF THE DAY

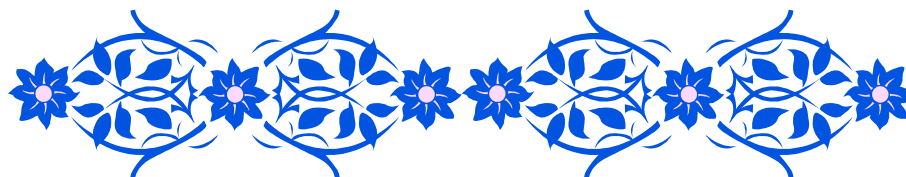
Receive a daily e-newsletter from BookPage. Sign up for this free service and every day you will be sent information on new books and authors. Register for this free program at www.bookpage.com

2010/2011 dues

Everyone should have received a dues form with last month's newsletter. The club year runs from May 2010 to April 2011. If you still have not paid, please fill out the form and return with a \$40 check payable to FAW to:

Eileen McNulty
4450 North Kostner
Chicago, IL 60630-4102

Questions? Call Eileen at 773-283-3369.



May LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, May 12, at 11 a.m.

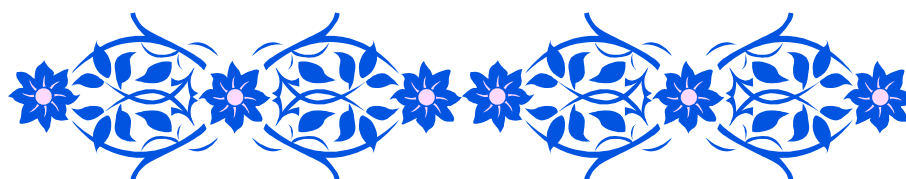
\$35 PER PERSON

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:

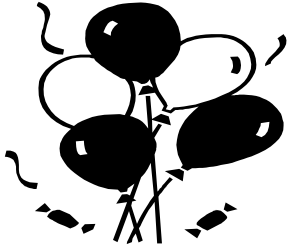
- **Reservations (and cancellations) are due before 6 p.m. on Sunday, March 7th.**
- Pay by check (\$35) payable to FAW at the door.
- \$14 parking is available two doors west of the Fortnightly.
- The seating arrangements in the room will be round tables seating eight people. If you wish to sit with 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.



The Eleanor Lonek Appreciation Program

September meetings have been traditionally dedicated to Eleanor Lonek: this year the Board has decided that the event honoring her will be changed to the December meeting of each year.

Eleanor was a member of the Friends of American Writers for 23 years, from 1973 to 1996, serving as Chairman of the Juvenile Awards Committee (1983- 1985) and as a Foundation Fund Trustee (1992-1995). In 1997 FAW was honored to receive a bequest of \$10,000 and the Lonek Appreciation Program was subsequently established in her honor.



Another Winning Awards Luncheon!

The April Awards Luncheon was wonderful. The food, the centerpieces, the authors, everything came together that day. Betty O'Toole, the Awards Luncheon Coordinator, may have been frazzled but the rest of us weren't aware of any problems. Even with one author missing, the event was delightful.

Betty arranged to have white pots filled with green herbs and pansies decorate the tables in honor of Earth Day. She ordered delicious green salads topped with candied walnuts and flank steak was the main entrée. Crowning the lunch was a fabulously rich mousse cake. It was yummy.

Following the lunch Roberta Gates, Literary Chair, and Lorraine Campione, Juvenile Literary Chair, introduced their committees and welcomed the winning authors. A record \$8000 was given out in prize money to the five authors. One award was given in Marian Adelberg's memory – her family and friends donated this added book prize. The Literary Awards were named in honor of Marion Faldet, the FAW President who died suddenly this past October who was so supportive of these awards.

JOAN DONALDSON is the author of *ON VINEY'S MOUNTAIN* (Holiday House) and the recipient of a \$1500 Juvenile Literary Prize. She was so overwhelmed by our award, she couldn't stop crying for days. She wanted her readers to understand the lifestyle of a young mountain girl so she set her story in Rugby, Tennessee, paying close attention to historical and geographical details. She and her husband traveled back and forth many times from her Michigan farm to Rugby researching the book.

BARBARA OLENYIK MORROW won a \$1000 Special Mention Juvenile Award for her picture book, *MR. MOSQUITO PUT ON HIS TUXEDO* (Holiday House). When Barbara found the combination of the words, mosquito and tuxedo, she started creating her book. Although the first draft took only a few days, her editor sent it back with lots of unanswered questions. She ended up reading it to many friends and colleagues before she got just the right mix between information and tone.

J. ADAMS OAKES, author of *WHY I FIGHT* (Atheneum Books for Young Readers) won a \$1500 Juvenile Literary Award for his young adult book. He said he worked on this first novel for ten years before it was published. At one point he left Chicago and moved in with friends in Denver so that he could spend all his time writing rather than working. He thanked his editor, a veteran in the field, who helped him polish his book for publication. He was very thankful to FAW and said he would use his award money to research his next novel in Spain.

BICH MINH NGUYEN is the author of *SHORT GIRLS: A NOVEL* (Viking Press). She won the \$2000 Literary Fiction Prize. Born in Vietnam her family moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan when she was an infant. The two sisters in her book reflect this dichotomy of growing up as Asian immigrants in the Midwest. The sisters are very different – one is a suburban, married lawyer – while the other lives as a single working girl in Chicago. Both, however, are

unhappy because they lack not only height but they don't fit the Midwestern mold.

luncheon but Roberta talked about the book and read a thoughtful note from the author.

NICK REDING won the \$2000 Nonfiction Prize for this book, METHLAND: THE DEATH AND LIFE OF AN AMERICAN SMALL TOWN (Bloomsbury USA). Nick couldn't attend the