



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS BULLETIN

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DECEMBER

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GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

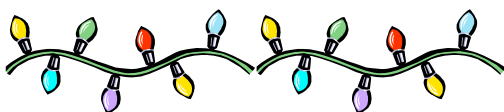
I would like to bring to your attention our Foundation Fund. Most members are not knowledgeable about the purpose or function of this aspect of our club. This fund supports the scholarships that we give each year to two worthy new writers at Roosevelt and National Lewis Universities. We do this every November and at our last meeting you heard from this year's recipients.

The scholarship money comes from members' donations to this fund on a one time donation. The money is invested and it is the dividends of this investment that provides for the prizes each year. But lately we have not received enough donations to keep this fund as solvent as we would like due to the market and our lack of new donations.

Won't you please consider giving to the Foundation Fund this holiday season in your own name or perhaps in memory of a past member. 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.

If we get ten new members to this fund each year, we will be in good standing and be able to continue this much needed aspect of our Club.

Betty O'Toole
FAW President



DECEMBER PROGRAM

Chicago and the Big Screen

December 8, 2010
Fortnightly Club

This month's program will explore movies either shot or set in Chicago or made by Chicagoans from the early 1900's to the present. One of the films featured will be Jimmy Stewart's *CALL NORTHSIDE 777* (1948), based on a true story about a Chicago Sun Times reporter who helped free a man wrongly convicted of murder.

Carson Cunningham will be the presenter. He currently teaches at DePaul University. Among the courses he's taught over the last few years are: American History on Film and Ethics in Games. Carson is the author of two books, *AMERICAN HOOPS: U.S. MEN'S OLYMPIC BASKETBALL FROM BERLIN TO BEIJING* (University of Nebraska Press, 2009) and *THE CHICAGO CUBS READER* (which is currently under contract).

With all the camera crews for the *TRANSFORMER* movie this spring/summer, this might give some insight into Chicago's reputation for being a desirable, accessible city for film-making.

See you at the movies!

Your Program Committee

TRACKING DOWN HARD-TO-FIND BOOKS

A couple weeks ago an FAW friend called me asking to help her track down a children's book, TIKI, TIKI TEMBO, that she remembered reading to her family many years ago. She assumed it was out-of-print and wanted a secondhand copy. What should she do?

Being a children's librarian for years, I too remembered the book. I realized she couldn't find it because she had the wrong spelling. As a terrible speller myself, I first went to Amazon.com. This site will give you alternative spellings if you enter the wrong information. They also have a tremendously large database so practically any book written in the last 50 years is listed – both print and out-of-print. The book (correctly spelled TIKKI TIKKI TEMBO) was there, still in print and available in both paperback and hardcover. Case solved.

Last year I wanted to own a hardcover edition of a favorite book, EXCELLENT WOMEN by Barbara Pym. This novel written in the 1970's has been out-of-print in hardcover for years. Where could I go?

There are several excellent online clearinghouses of secondhand material. Dealers from around the world list their books with condition information, date, edition, pricing and more. Sites I recommend (in the order I would try them) are:

www.alibris.com

www.abebooks

www.bibliofind (part of Amazon.com)

Going to alibris.com, I was able to find 291 copies of EXCELLENT WOMEN in 13 different editions – hardcover, paperback, cassette and large print. There were 3 different hardcovers including two from England. The books were priced from \$.99 for a cheap, worn copy to \$555.30 for a rare first edition. I chose a \$22 book that was sent to me from Michigan.

It's fun to browse these sites, even if you are only window shopping. It's hard to believe all that is available.

Vivian Mortensen

NOMINATING COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES

The Nominating Committee will be looking for members to fill the following vacancies on the 2011/12 Board:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Bulletin Editor
- Foundation Trustee
- Literary Awards Chair
- Juvenile Awards Chair
- Revisions Chair
- Yearbook and Awards Program

Think about volunteering for one of these positions. It's not difficult to serve ... in fact it's fun and a way to get to know others in the club. And there are always Board members to help you learn the job. The Board meets at 10:00 a.m. at the Fortnightly the same day of our luncheon.

Give it some serious thought. We need you! For more details call Betty O'Toole at 312-798-2300 (daytime) or 312-337-5344 (evenings).



YEAR END BOOK SALE

Bargains galore are waiting for your purchase! The two literary award committees are setting out a selection of adult and juvenile books at the December luncheon. It's helpful if you bring some change and a bag for your purchases.

What a good way to jump-start the holiday shopping and support the literary awards!

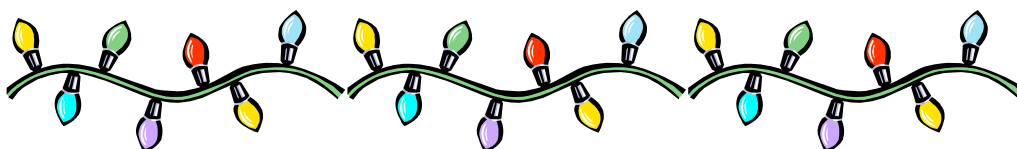
ENJOY THE DECORATIONS

Be sure to come early to this month's luncheon. The Fortnightly will be beautifully decorated for the holidays and it's fun to walk around the building to admire all the staffs' work to make everything so festive.

It's always a great month to bring guests. The Fortnightly is at its best!

LUNCHEON ALTERNATIVES

The Fortnightly is always open to fixing a vegetarian plate for someone. However, the club is not a restaurant and doesn't stock extra food in its pantry. If you are concerned about the menu, please ask when you call for a reservation. The people taking the reservations know the menu and can answer any questions you have. Last month one of the guests ordered a regular meal assuming there would be turkey. When lamb was presented at the table, she asked the waiter to bring a substitute. When this wasn't possible, she was irritated. Don't assume...please ask!



DECEMBER LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8 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 **Ruth Ann Brinkman at 773-271-9604**. 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 5th.**
- 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.

BEST BOOKS OF 2010
(ACCORDING TO PUBLISHERS WEEKLY MAGAZINE)

A VISIT FROM THE GOON SQUAD

by Jennifer Egan (Knopf).

Working side-by-side for a record label, former punk rocker Bennie Salazar and the passionate Sasha hide illicit secrets from one another while interacting with a motley assortment of equally troubled people from 1970s San Francisco to the post-war future.

FREEDOM by Jonathan Franzen (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux).

The idyllic lives of civic-minded environmentalists Patty and Walter Berglund come into question when their son moves in with aggressive Republican neighbors, green lawyer Walter takes a job in the coal industry, and go-getter Patty becomes increasingly unstable and enraged.

UNBROKEN by Laura Hillenbrand (Random).

Relates the story of a U.S. airman who survived when his bomber crashed into the sea during World War II, spent forty-seven days adrift in the ocean before being rescued by the Japanese Navy, and was held as a prisoner until the end of the war.

THE SURRENDERED by Chang-rae Lee (Riverhead).

Thirty years after vying for the attentions of a beautiful but damaged missionary wife at an orphanage, Korean orphan June Han and former GI Hector Brennan are reunited by a plot that forces them to come to terms with mysterious secrets from their past.

THE BIG SHORT by Michael Lewis (Norton).

Shares insights into the recent economic crisis, citing such factors as expanded home ownership and risky derivative elections in the face of increasing shareholder demands, and profiles responsible parties in government, financial, and private sectors.

THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS by Rebecca Skloot (Crown).

Medical history is grippingly told through the life of one African-American woman and her family, whose cells were taken without her knowledge for ground-breaking research at Johns Hopkins Hospital in the 1950's.

JUST KIDS by Patti Smith (Ecco).

Smith's beautifully crafted love letter to her friend Robert Mapplethorpe functions as a memento mori of a relationship fueled by a passion for art and writing. Her elegant eulogy lays bare the chaos and the creativity so embedded in that earlier time and in Mapplethorpe's life and work.

MAN IN THE WOODS by Scott Spencer (Ecco).

Paul Phillips, a carpenter living in upstate New York with Kate Ellis and her daughter, Ruby, commits a crime whose only witness was a mixed-breed dog, and fears getting away with the crime as much as he fears the discovery of his terrible secret.

THE LONELY POLYGAMIST by Brady Udall (Norton).

Golden Richards, a polygamist with four wives and twenty-eight children, has a midlife crisis affair that threatens to destroy his family's future.

THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS by Isabel Wilkerson (Random).

A chronicle of one of the great untold stories of American history: the decades-long migration of black citizens who fled the South for northern and western cities, in search of a better life. From 1915 to 1970, this exodus of almost six million people changed the face of America.