



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

CHICAGO

www.fawchicago.org

January

2010-2011 No. 4

Greetings FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

A new year, a new beginning --- that is how I always think of January. Because the weather is frequently cold and snowy, it's a wonderful time to finish some long neglected projects around the house or read some really good books!

At FAW the Board of Directors is beginning their work for the annual Awards Luncheon on April 13, 2011. The Nominating Committee is meeting to prepare the slate of new officers and directors. I hope many of you will consider serving on the Board and will say yes when you receive a call asking you to participate.

If you read our bylaws, you will see how the Board is always busy with some project. The wonderful part is we always seem to work as a team and help each other when needed. I hope you all think about become more involved in FAW.

I will look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on January 12th.

Betty O'Toole
President



January Program

The Dark Side of Fiction

January 12, 2011
The Fortnightly

Gillian Flynn, 2007 FAW Winner for SHARP OBJECTS (Shaye Areheart Books), will discuss writing her special (and extremely popular) brand of novel, the creepy, literary thriller.

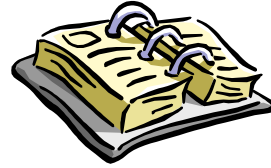
A Kansas City MO native, Ms Flynn attended University of Kansas earning a BA in English and Journalism. She later received her master's degree in journalism at Northwestern. She's worked in Human Resources and later as both a film and television critic for Entertainment Weekly. After the publication of her second book, DARK PLACES (Crown, 2009), she has become a fulltime writer living in Chicago with her husband and a large black cat.

Recognition for her work includes an Edgar nomination for SHARP OBJECTS, a Black Quill Award for DARK PLACES, and the selling of the movie rights for both her novels. Her next book, GONE GIRL, will be published in 2011.

BLUE BALLIETT Named Chicagoan of the Year for literature

Blue Balliett, 2009 FAW Juvenile Literary Award winner, was named the Chicagoan of the Year for Literature by Tribune Critic Julia Keller. Keller says Balliett is a “dangerous woman” because once you give her books to kids, they won’t quit “pelting you with questions about paintings and sculpture and the ideas of Charles Darwin and the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright – all subjects which come alive in Balliett’s novels.” (Chicago Tribune, December 26, 2010, section 4, page 4).

Ms Balliett has written four novels for youngsters including *THE CALDER GAME* (Scholastic Press) her third book which won the FAW prize. She uses real-life settings for her stories which allow children to “look around at their lives and see the imagination in what’s familiar.” Three of her books are set in Chicago and her latest is set in Michigan where she grew up. Ms Balliett taught third grade at the University of Chicago Laboratory School before becoming a fulltime writer in 2003. She lives with her husband in Hyde Park.



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

All About the Fortnightly

June 8, 2011

Noon

\$35 per person

FAW President Betty O’Toole has arranged an extra meeting this year to highlight the Fortnightly, its building and women’s club. Robin Goldsmith, longtime Fortnightly member, will provide history, anecdotes and a tour of the building.

This extra meeting will be the second Wednesday of June and will follow the same format as our regular meetings – a lunch followed by the program. Be sure to mark your calendar. More specific details will be available closer to the event.



25th anniversary

Friends of American Writers honored **Eleanor Simmons** at the December Luncheon in recognition of her 25th anniversary as a member of the organization. Although she couldn’t attend the program, members went to her home and presented her with a special gift in recognition for her service.

Eleanor has served FAW proudly. Through the years she has been President, a Foundation Trustee, Distinguished Guest Chairman, and Program Chairman.

Thank you Eleanor for all you do for FAW!



Welcome
New member

Nan Magill
55 E. Pearson St.
Unit # 4605
Chicago, IL 60611
312-929-3616

Awards Luncheon
April 13, 2011
The Casino Club of Chicago

www.fawchicago.org

It's time to mark your new 2011 calendar for the Annual Awards Luncheon. You will want to be in the Casino Club of Chicago when we applaud our award-winning authors on Wednesday, April 13th. Details will follow in next month's Bulletin. Bring friends and join us to celebrate spring and the winning authors.

Have you looked at our website? Karen Baker, the FAW website writer, has done wonders. The full color site has all kinds of information about current programs, award authors, scholarship winners, the Foundation Fund and much more. The website provides a presence and legitimacy for our club in the literary world. It allows publishers and writers to check the requirements for submitting books. And it is a resource for members and prospective members looking for FAW facts.



January LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, January 12, 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 **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, January 9th.**
- 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.

Be kind to yourself in 2011 – 20 resolutions that are worth keeping

You'll forgive us if we're not in the mood to lose anything in the New Year. Not 10 pounds. Not garage clutter. Not even that bad habit that's been hanging around since 1987. Nope, we lost plenty in 2010, thank you very much -- jobs, the World Cup, "Lost" itself, for crying out loud. Which is why we're resolving to make 2011 the year of gaining -- good stuff, mind you. Time...joy...sleep...that kind of thing. Here we've compiled our top 20 resolutions. We hope you'll join us in a few:

1. Bake and eat a new dessert each month.
2. One night a week, leave the dishes in the sink, the living room cluttered and the mail unsorted. Pick up a good book, and read for an hour. (Especially if you're one of the four people left on Earth who hasn't read "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" series.)
3. Start a piggy bank.
4. Take a massage therapy class, and share your new skills.
5. Learn what your kid/spouse/partner is listening to/reading/watching, and launch into a discussion about it.
6. Make bread from scratch. Mix and knead and work the muscles. Play with the dough. Inhale the baking aroma. Slather warm slices with real butter and jam. Indulge.
7. Wear more color.
8. Schedule a monthly bubble bath.
9. Turn off the TV, and pick up a martini once a week. Dim the lights if there are two of you.
10. Take in a theater performance at a local fine arts venue.
11. Find a recipe you have never tried but has always intrigued you -- duck l'orange, beef Wellington, Lithuanian bacon buns. Set aside a Sunday afternoon, and make it.
12. Apologize to someone you have hurt.
13. Make a list of your favorite funny movies. Keep it near the TV. Buy them all if possible. Use as needed when life seems dark.
14. Make a list of your favorite weepy movies. Keep it near the TV. Buy them all if possible. Use as needed to release a cleansing cry.
15. Go to bed early once a week, even if you're not sleepy.
16. Speak your mind, and confront a nagging grudge without regard for consequences and without bitterness -- the way kids do.
17. Paint the dining room deep red.
18. Choose a topic that interested you as a kid -- The Three Stooges, dinosaurs, Roberto Clemente -- and learn as much as you can about it.
19. Buy a pack of CDs or a zip drive, and back up everything on your computer that you'd cry if you lost.
20. Pray, meditate or just sit quietly with no distractions or noise for 10 minutes a day.

(Chicago Tribune - Sunday, December 26, 2010
Authors: Bill Daley, Wendy Donahue, Judy Hevrdejs,
William Hageman, Brenda Richardson, Heidi Stevens,
Shamontiel L. Vaughn)