



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

CHICAGO

www.fawchicago.org

OCTOBER

2010-2010 No. 2

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I was so happy to meet and greet you for our opening FAW gathering and thank you for your continued support. Laura Washington was certainly inspiring and thought-provoking. I appreciate her expansion on all the words in our vocabulary now in use since 9/11.

Good food, invigorating conversation and friendly sharing of ideas compliments our FAW goals.

Thank you as well for bringing a friend. Several people informed me that they were going to become a member and we wish all a warm welcome.

May I please remind everyone that to be assured a reservation each month, to call and ask for a permanent reservation. It has to be renewed each Fall (it's also necessary to call to cancel your reservation if not attending).

The October meeting will honor our Sustaining Clubs. Their support is very important to FAW. I look forward to another fruitful day with you.

Till then,

Corene Anderson
President

October Program

THE LITERARY SCENE TODAY:

A Panel Discussion

October 12, 2011

As you know, Friends of American Writers is dedicated to helping new and promising writers get the attention they deserve. Our yearly awards give one or two of these writers a boost, but there are always a number of others who come really close to winning but don't quite make it.

At the October meeting, we'd like to introduce you to three of these writers, all of them Midwesterners:

Tom Montgomery Fate, author of *Cabin Fever: A Suburban Father's Search for the Wild* (Beacon Press, 2010).

Adam Schuitema, author of *Freshwater Boys: Stories* (Delphinium Books, 2010).

Zoe Zolbrod, author of *Currency* (OV Books, 2010).

April Nauman and **Roberta Gates** of the Literary Awards Committee will be the moderators, taking turns asking our panelists about authors who have inspired them, the trials and tribulations they've faced on their way to being published, as well as recent trends they've observed, both in publishing (an ever-evolving field) and in emerging genres such as "hybrid" and "cross-genre fiction."

There will be time after the presentation for questions from the audience. In addition, members and their guests will have an opportunity to purchase books and have them signed both before the luncheon and after the program.

Meeting writers is always a lot of fun, as we know from the awards luncheons, so this is one more opportunity to get an up-close look at the creative geniuses who are able to bring words to life on the page.

Roberta Gates
Literary Awards Chair



Welcome NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Dreyfuss
2637 1st Private Rd
Flossmoor, IL 60422-1840
708-799-4223
diflos1@comcast.net

Mary Lou Malee
13100 Timber Trail
Palos Heights, IL 60463-3074
708-396-0212

Christine J. Marks
801 Bruce Ave
Flossmoor, IL 60422-1251
708-957-8769



The panelists & their latest books

Tom Montgomery Fate is a graduate of the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa and a professor of English at the College of DuPage. In addition to *Cabin Fever*, he is the author of four other nonfiction books and a frequent contributor to National Public Radio and Chicago Public Radio. He lives in Glen Ellyn with his wife and three children.

Cabin Fever: A Suburban Father's Search for the Wild (Beacon Press, 2010) depicts a suburban father's march to the beat of Henry David Thoreau. The author emulates his literary hero by building a cabin in the wilds of southwest Michigan. He then begins the search for balance and a closer connection to nature, which he recounts in these delightful personal essays.

Adam Schuitema earned his MFA and Ph.D. from Western Michigan University. He is an assistant professor of English at the Kendall College of Art and Design. He lives in Grand Rapids with his wife and daughter.

Freshwater Boys: Stories (Delphinium Books, 2010) by Schuitema is a collection of eleven short stories set in and around the Great Lakes of Michigan featuring adolescent or pre-adolescent boys struggling with their conceptions of manhood while summering on the shores of Lake Michigan.

Zoe Zolbrod has an M.A. in English with a concentration in creative writing from The Program for Writers at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She has worked in the publishing industry since 1994 and is currently a senior editor at Holt McDougal. She lives in Evanston with her husband and two children.

Zolbrod's *Currency* (OV Books, 2010) is an international crime novel introducing Piv, a small-time hustler in Thailand, and Robin, a young backpacker from the U. S. What begins as a overseas fling quickly intensifies as their plans are thwarted in Bangkok, when Robin runs out of

money and may have to go home leaving Piv behind. Desperate, the characters turn to exotic animal smuggling leading to disaster.

2011/12 yearbooks

The 2011/12 yearbooks were distributed at the September luncheon. If you missed last month's meeting, pick one up at the October luncheon. Those not attending either month will receive a copy in the mail.

Once you receive your copy, please flip to your name, address, telephone number and email to verify the information. If there is a mistake, please notify Pat Adelberg at 847-588-0911. We will list all corrections in upcoming newsletters.

PERMANENT RESERVATIONS

If you plan to attend the luncheon meetings regularly, you might consider a Permanent Reservation. Anyone with a Permanent Reservation is automatically counted in the monthly tally of luncheon reservations – you do not have to phone the Luncheon/ Social Committee unless you cannot attend and wish to cancel your reservation.

However, on this plan if you do not notify the Committee when you don't attend a meeting, you are obligated to pay for the missed meal.

If you are interested in this plan, call Ruth Ann Brinkman at 773-273-9604.



OCTOBER LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, at NOON

\$35 PER PERSON

The fortnightly of Chicago
120 Bellevue Place, Chicago, IL

RESERVATIONS:

- Call **Ruth Ann Brinkman at 773-271-9604 or Pat Adelberg at 847-588-0911.**
- Vegetarian meals may be requested at the time you make your reservation.

REMEMBER:

- **Reservations (and cancellations) are due before 6 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 9th.**
- Pay by check (\$35) payable to FAW at the door.
- 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.
- 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.



Welcome Sustaining Club Members

Every October we honor our Sustaining Clubs at the monthly meeting. This year is no exception. During the meeting we give special recognition to the four clubs for their continued support and contributions to Friends of American Writers. The membership of those clubs is cordially invited to join us at this time.

The Sustaining Clubs to be honored this year are:
The Flossmoor Book Club
The Ogden Dunes Book Club
The Renaissance Art Club
The Women's Reading Club of Riverside

Roberta Schaffner
Sustaining Clubs Chair



LITERARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Readers for the Adult Literary Awards Committee are needed. FAW members who are willing to read and evaluate literature are asked to sign up. Why join?

- Help the career (and finances) of emerging authors
- Meet new friends
- Spend time talking about books
- Read many interesting and unusual new titles

The Adult Literary Awards Committee usually meets at 10 a.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month from September through February at the Fortnightly Club of Chicago.

Interested? Please contact Roberta Gates at 708-447-8471 or email gates366@yahoo.com.



HANDICAPPED ENTRANCE TO THE FORTNIGHTLY

Do you have trouble climbing the front stairs? Have you stopped attending the meetings because of the front staircase?

The Fortnightly has a handicapped entrance on the east side of the building that leads you to an elevator to access the first floor. If you wish to use this special entry, call ahead to the Fortnightly (312-944-1330) and staff will gladly give you instructions. They will be ready to answer the doorbell when you come and show you to the Lounge.



Yearbook change

Florence Pontarelli has moved. Please change her yearbook information to read:

Florence Pontarelli
55 E. Pearson
Apt. 1300
Chicago, IL 60611



Upcoming nonfiction

Didion, Joan. *Blue Nights* (Knopf, \$25). Following *The Year of Magical Thinking*, Joan Didion gives her intensely personal and moving memories of her daughter, Quintana, and her thoughts on children, illness, and getting older. November publication.

Orlean, Susan. *Rin Tin Tin* (Simon & Schuster, \$26.99).

From the battlefields of WWI France to glamorous Hollywood, this is not only the biography of a legendary dog, but also an exploration of the bond between dogs and humans. September 27th publication.