



FRIENDS OF
AMERICAN WRITERS
CHICAGO
www.fawchicago.org

February

2012-2013 No. 6

Greetings FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of FAW,

Timely topics and tasty luncheons, FAW is the place to be. "Thank you" to all who expressed their thoughtful remarks and enjoyment at our last gathering. Your many positive comments reflect the support for our FAW goals.

Soon we'll be reminding you of contributing to the Patrons Fund before the Awards Luncheon on Friday, May 10th. Please be generous when donating to this worthy fund which pays for the cash prizes we pass out to the authors.

I look forward to our February program where the speaker will be the Artist Laureate of the state of Illinois, Kay Smith, sharing her historical Lincoln collection.

I look forward as well to another day with you.



Valentines to all,

Corene Anderson
Faw President

February Program

You Oughta' Be in Pictures

February 13, 2013

Kay Smith, Artist Laureate of Illinois, will discuss and show paintings from her American Legacy Collection. This body of work includes watercolor scenes from the life and times of Abraham Lincoln, events from the American Revolution, the explorations of Lewis and Clark, the life of Ernest Hemingway and more. Ms Smith will not only share her art work but tell us the history of the places she has painted and give insights into past and present America.

Kay Smith is a School of the Art Institute graduate and started her career as an illustrator. In 1971 working on a book about the Revolutionary War, she traveled to many historical locations which became the beginnings of her American Legacy Collection. In 1994, she was given a lifetime designation as Artist Laureate of Illinois in recognition of this contribution to American history.

- Shirley Baugher
Program Chair

Stop & start reads

Having trouble finding time to read? Here are a few books that you can read a few pages and easily put down until later.

AT HOME by Bill Bryson (Anchor, 2010)

Nonfiction American writer Bryson gives a tour of his 19th century English house stopping every two feet to give amusing, fascinating anecdotes about those who lived during those days, home inventions (chimneys, flushing toilets, etc.) as well as terms such as “drawing room” and “ground floor”.

THE BEST AMERICAN SHORT STORIES 2012 by Tom Perrotta, editor (Mariner, 2012)

This annual collection of published from magazine short stories is always intriguing with insightful paragraphs from the authors. Roxanne Gay’s story, “North Country,” “Diem Perdidi” by Julie Otsuka and “What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank” by Nathan Englander are standouts.

I REMEMBER NOTHING: AND OTHER REFLECTIONS by Nora Ephron (Vintage, 2011)

Essayist Ephron reflects on life and especially, her life. With wit and insight she covers a wide range of subjects, from divorce to Lillian Hellman to her feelings about inheriting money. One moment the book is a riot and the next, it’s quite poignant.

OLIVE KITTERIDGE by Elizabeth Stout (Random House, 2008)

A collection of short stories about diverse characters in a small Maine community linked together by Olive Kitteridge who emerges in each, either as the main character or a minor appearance. Though the stories’ themes include aging, suicide, and loneliness, they are also filled with love and optimism.

- Vivian Mortensen

WELCOME New members

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“The Devil in the White City: A Magical Mystery Tour” rescheduled for march 13th

The January program, THE DEVIL IN THE WHITE CITY, has been rescheduled for March 13th. The speaker had canceled the January performance for personal reasons but will now appear next month. See you there!

Frances Black Hedlund

FAW Member 2003 – 2013

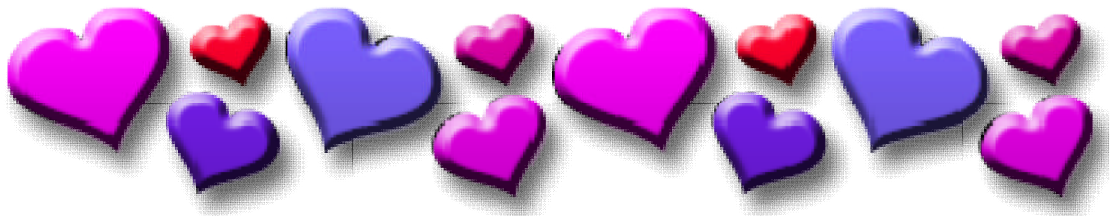
Frances Hedlund died in January. She had been a member of FAW for 10 years. She will be missed.

NOTE:
Luncheon seating changes

Beginning in February, lunch tables will be numbered. Table assignments will be given out when members check in at the Reservation Table at the Fortnightly. This procedure should relieve some of the problems we have been having finding room for larger groups of members and empty seats for late-comers.

When you phone your reservations to Pat Adelberg and Lorraine Campione, please be clear how many people are in your party and who you wish to sit with at your table. Every effort will be made to honor special requests at the time of your telephone reservation.

If you have questions or concerns about this change, please contact Peggy Iska, Luncheon Social Chair, at 773-729-3555.



February LUNCHEON
WEDNESDAY, February 13, 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 **Lorraine Campione at 773-275-5118**. Vegetarian meals may be requested at the time you make your reservation.

REMEMBER:

- **Reservations (and cancellations) are due before 6 p.m. on Sunday, February 10th.**
- Pay by check (\$35) payable to FAW at the door.
- \$15 parking is available two doors west of the Fortnightly at 100 Bellevue Place.
- The seating arrangements in the room will be round tables seating eight people. Table assignments will be made when you make reservations so be sure to tell the Reservation members how many people are in your party and who you wish to sit with. .
- 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.

Publisher's Weekly 2012 BEST GENRE BOOKS

Romances

THE BRIDEGROOM WORE PLAID by Grace Burrowes (Sourcebooks Casablanca)

Regency author Burrowes turns to Victorian-era Scotland with a tale populated by delightful and endearing characters who must contend with historically accurate economic tribulations.

A WEEK TO BE WICKED by Tessa Dare (Avon)

In Dare's delicious and adorable second Spindle Cove romance, a bluestocking scientist and a bachelor lord embark on a made-for-film journey of hilarious mishaps, tall tales, and self-discovery.

LOVE ON THE RUN by Zuri Day (Kensington/Dafina)

Domestic violence and competitive sports put the edge on this gripping contemporary romance between a professional runner and her trainer.

MRS. DREW PLAYS HER HAND by Carla Kelly (Cedar Fort/Sweetwater)

A vicar's widow, threatened by her leering brother-in-law, reluctantly turns to her aloof landlord for help in this touching and gently inspirational Regency about making the best of difficult circumstances.

DOG DAYS by Elsa Watson (Tor)

A canine-phobic woman in love with a veterinarian swaps bodies with a delightful dog in this goofy and poignant story of overcoming trauma and finding a forever home.

MYSTERY/THRILLERS

EXIT PLAN by Larry Bond (Forge)

In this ripped from the headlines tale of SEAL adventures and a plot to trick the Israelis and Americans into launching a first strike against Iran, Bond's refusal to demonize the Iranian characters gives them a solid real-life feel that cranks up both the tension and the believability.

CREOLE BELLE by James Lee Burke (Simon & Schuster)

In the 19th entry in what may be the most consistently satisfying series in contemporary American crime fiction, New Iberia, La., sheriff Dave Robicheaux and his pal Clete Purcel face off against a number of formidable foes, including a possible Nazi war criminal.

KILL YOU TWICE by Chelsea Cain (Minotaur)

Incarcerated serial killer Gretchen Lowell says she has some useful tips for Det. Archie Sheridan in the case of two Portland, Ore., murders that appear to be the work of another serial killer. But can Archie take Gretchen at her word? Four previous books featuring these two damaged souls suggest not.

BLACK BOX by Michael Connelley (Little, Brown)

The 18th Harry Bosch novel opens in 1992, as L.A. residents outraged by the acquittal of the cops who beat up Rodney King go on a rampage. Twenty years later, the LAPD detective gets a second chance to solve the case of a Danish photojournalist shot dead during the riots.

THE GODS OF GOTHAM by Lindsay Faye (Putnam/Amy Einhorn)

Set in 1845, this first in a new series introduces Timothy Wilde, a former bartender and member of New York City's newly formed police force, whose investigation into the murder of a 12-year-old Irish boy leads him deep into the heart of human darkness.

GONE GIRL by Gillian Flynn (Crown) – Author was the a 2007 FAW Winner

When Amy Elliot, on the surface a privileged Gotham golden girl, disappears on her fifth wedding anniversary, her husband, Nick Dunne, becomes the prime suspect in her presumed murder. Both Amy and Nick prove to be far from blameless in this compelling story of a marriage gone horribly wrong.