



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS



SEPTEMBER

CHICAGO

THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB
OF CHICAGO

2013-2014 Number 1

WWW.FAWCHICAGO.ORG

120 E. Bellevue Place

President's Message

WELCOME to the 2013 season of Friends of American Writers! For the next two years, I serve proudly and enthusiastically as president of one of the most prestigious literary groups in Chicago and the Midwest. This season we have assembled an impressive group of women who serve as our board of directors and as committee chairs. These women share a genuine love of literature and are dedicated to the longevity of Friends of American Writers.

As we celebrate our 91st anniversary this year, we look forward to meeting our scholarship recipients in the fall and our literary award winners in May, as well as the many outstanding presenters who will be appearing throughout the year. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy the special camaraderie we share as book lovers while dining together at the lovely Fortnightly Club.

Christine Bern, *President*
FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

Dame Agatha Christie Visits FAW on September 18

Roberta Gates, Program Chair

Professional actress Betsey Means will portray Dame Agatha Christie at the first meeting of the new year on Wednesday, September 18 in a program Means calls "The Mystery of Living: Packing for Syria with Agatha Christie."

Agatha Christie (1890-1976) was the prolific English author known as the "Queen of Crime." In a career spanning fifty years, Christie produced a staggering number of mysteries, most of which featured either Hercule Poirot, the eccentric Belgian detective, or Miss Jane Marple, a mild-mannered spinster with a penchant for meddling. Christie, whose books have sold in the billions, received the Order of the British Empire, Dame Commander, which is Britain's highest order, in 1971.

Betsey Means, who will introduce us to Dame Agatha Christie as she's packing to go to Syria with her archeologist husband, Max Mallowan, is a well-known Chicago actress who has performed at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare on the Green, Blue Rider Theatre, and Chicago Children's Theatre. Steve Scott of The Goodman Theatre calls Means "one of our city's most eloquent performers," while Barbara Gaines of the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre says, "Don't miss an opportunity to see her perform."



▲ Betsey Means as Dame Agatha Christie

Meeting Cost and Date Changes

We Have Changes

- September meeting date—3rd, not 2nd Wednesday (see p. 2)
- No standing reservations in September (see p. 2)

We have some changes to bring to your attention for the 2013-14 calendar year. One has to do with the cost of the luncheon. Beginning in September, the price of the luncheon will go from **\$35.00** to **\$40.00**. Increased food and labor costs have made this necessary. We hope that it will not be a problem for our members.

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There are three deviations from our regular second Wednesday monthly meeting dates. In September, we will be meeting on the third Wednesday, the 18th. In December, we will meet on Thursday, the 19th; and in May, we will meet on Friday, the 9th. Please mark your calendars.



2013-2014 FAW Board of Directors:

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Important Information About the September Luncheon

- **Date:** Wednesday, September 18, 12:00 noon
- **Place:** The Fortnightly of Chicago, 120 E. Bellevue
- **Reservations:** Please call Pat Adelberg, 847-588-0911 or Lorraine Campione, 773-275-5118. No emails, please.
- **Please note: there are no standing reservations in September.** Everyone must call to reserve—either for the September luncheon or for the entire year.
- **Reservations and cancellations** are due before 6 p.m. on Sunday, September 15. To cancel a reservation, you must call Pat or Lorraine; otherwise you will be charged.
- **How to Pay:** You may pay by check at the reception table on the day of the luncheon or by sending your check ahead of time to Eileen McNulty, 4450 N. Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630-4102. The cost is \$40, payable to FAW.
- **Special menu:** A vegetarian plate may be requested when you make your reservation
- **Parking:** \$15 parking available at 100 E. Bellevue
- **Seating arrangements:** Seating is at round tables of eight. To sit with friends and/or guests, please make arrangements when you call in your reservation.
- **Complimentary coffee and tea service** are available in the parlor prior to lunch.

Beginnings

September marks a new year for the Friends of American Writers. That means a new board of directors and, this year, a new bulletin/newsletter editor. Vivian Mortensen has pushed the “escape” key on her computer and turned the keyboard over to yours truly, Shirley Baugher. I can’t thank her enough for her help and good advice, and I will try to be a worthy successor. Like every “newbie,” I am making some changes that reflect my style. I hope it will be well received by our members. Do not hesitate to contact me at any time with your interests and concerns: shirleyba@rcn.com You can also find me on facebook. I have two pages: one under Shirley Baugher, and one called Shirley Baugher’s “Living in Interesting Times”. The organization contact is www.fawchicago.org

2013-14 Meeting Dates for Friends of American Writers

The Fortnightly Club of Chicago, 120 E. Bellevue Place

- Wednesday, September 18, 2013
- Wednesday, October 9, 2013
- Wednesday, November 13, 2013
- Thursday, December 19, 2013
- Wednesday, January 8, 2014
- Wednesday, February 12, 2014
- Wednesday, March 12, 2014
- Wednesday, April 9, 2014
- Friday, May 9, 2014

New Members

FAW is pleased to announce that the following have become members of our organization. Please check the yearbook for their addresses, phone numbers, and emails.

Yolanda Adler
Kristina Alexa
Martha Fahey
Adrienne Fishman
Evie Goltz
Sherry Harrison
Cynthia Kobel
Susan McVicker

Emee Myers
Rosemary Nutt
Luanne Nystrom
Patricia Schneider
Nancy Schultz
Lee Shinnors
Susan C. Tillman
(Suzi)

Sandie Weiss
Marjorie Zaugh

Welcome to all of you. Please introduce yourselves to fellow members so that we can get to know you.

In Memoriam

Sadly, we note the passing of former member, Virginia Dow. Virginia passed away on July 31, 2013. A member of FAW from 1995 to 2012, Virginia served on the board as publicity/historian chair. A former nun and a retired Chicago Public School teacher, she also volunteered at Frances Xavier Warde School.

FAW Upcoming Programs

Program chair Roberta Gates and her committee have put together an outstanding schedule for 2013-2014. It includes:

September 18: A Visit with Dame Agatha Christie, performed by actress Betsey Means (see article, page 1)



Membership Withdrawn

Dorothy White of Lansing, IL, wrote that, at age 94, she must withdraw her membership. One of the "old timers," Dorothy joined FAW in 1981 and was an enthusiastic supporter of the organization for 32 years. We will miss her.

Dues Reminder

We know it's an oversight, but many of you have not yet paid your dues for 2013-14. If you have not already done so, please send your payment to the FAW treasurer Eileen McNulty, 4450 N. Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630-4102

The annual dues are: \$40 for a regular membership, \$20 for non-resident membership, and \$20 for a sustaining club membership.

New Yearbooks Available in September

The 2013-14 FAW yearbooks will be given out at the September 18 meeting. Be sure to get yours. The yearbook is invaluable source of information on our membership including: names, addresses, phone numbers, and emails. Board members and past award winners are also listed, along with FAW bylaws.

When you receive your copy, check to make sure that your personal information is correct. If there are any errors, please notify Pat Adelberg, 847-588-0911. She will see to it that corrections appear in the newsletter.

Please Help by Donating to the FAW Patrons' Fund

The Patrons' Fund needs your support. This important fund is used for our annual literary awards and juvenile literary awards. Last year, thanks to our patrons, two awards of \$1,500 were presented to winners in the Juvenile category; and three awards to our literary winners. Donors may designate which category they wish to support.

The awards are given to promising new authors with strong Midwestern. Past recipients are listed in the yearbook. As patrons, you help further the mission of FAW: to study American literature, to encourage high standards, and to promote literary ideals among American writers. All patrons are listed in the awards luncheon program booklet.



October 9: The Making of Downton Abbey: Setting the Scene, presented by Barbara Geiger, an adjunct professor of architecture at IIT

November 13: A Presentation by Authors Tom Montgomery

Fate and Jim Kokoris. Tom, a professor of English at the College of DuPage, is the author of five books of creative nonfiction, the most recent of which is *Cabin Fever*. Jim was an FAW Literary Awards winner for *The Rich Part of Life* in 2002 and is the author of two other novels, the most recent of which is *The Pursuit of Other Interests*.



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December 19: A Holiday Concert by the Sounds of Sweetness (SOS), a male a cappella ensemble from Walter Payton College Prep High School. The group has performed throughout the city and worldwide.



January 8: Presentation by Authors Amina Gautier and Tom Maltman. Amina, an assistant professor at DePaul University, is the author of *At Risk*, an award-winning collection of short stories. Tom, who was an FAW and Indie Next winner in 2008 for his novel *The Night Birds*, teaches at Normandale Community College in Minnesota. His new novel is *Little Wolves*.



February 12: Meet Jane Austen and Her Women, presented by actress Leslie Goddard. Goddard brings history to life through her fascinating stories of memorable women.



March 12: A Clash of Titans: A Look at the 2014 Illinois Primary by Laura Washington, *Chicago Tribune* Journalist



April 9: A Presentation by Award-winning Poet, Playwright, and Editor Susan Hahn. A Chicago native, Susan is one of the top literary figures in the country. Her 2012 novel *The Six Granddaughters of Cecil Slaughter* is her most recent work.

Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss a single one of these outstanding presentations.

And the Winners Are

The FAW 2012-13 Literary Awards Luncheon, which took place on May 10, brought together an impressive group of authors who held listeners captive with stories about their lives and works. It's always nice when writers speak as well as they write.

Here are synopses of the winning selections. All are still available at The Book Cellar (4736 N. Lincoln Avenue in Chicago) and from other booksellers, as well as on Amazon.

Juvenile Awards

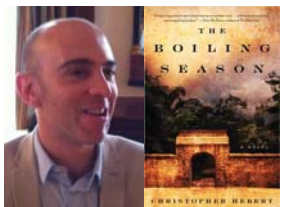


Lucretia Clifton's engaging *Freaky Fast Frankie Joe* concerns eleven-year old Frankie Joe Huckaby, forced to live with a father he never knew, a stepmother, and four stepbrothers in Illinois. He starts a delivery service to finance his escape back to his mother in Texas, not realizing the grass is greener right where he is.

W. H. Beck's *Malcom At Midnight* follows the adventures of Malcom, a school pet rat who joins the Midnight Academy, a secret pet society, and becomes a hero while enhancing the reputation of rats.



Adult Literary Awards



In *The Boiling Season*, Christopher Hebert tells of an ambitious young man struggling to define himself and his future while his Caribbean homeland plunges into a violent revolution. The novel has been compared to Ann Patchett's *Bel Canto*.

Y by Marjorie Celona follows the life of Shannon, who was left by her teen-aged mother on the steps of a YMCA wrapped only in a grey sweatshirt with a Swiss army knife between her toes. After experiencing both abuse and love in foster homes, Shannon begins a search for the biological mother who abandoned her.



Nicholas Healy's *It Takes You Over* is a brilliant collection of short stories that won the New Rivers Press' Many Voices Project award and was a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award.

I highly recommend all of these books for your reading pleasure. Look forward to more reviews of new books and authors next month.