



# FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

FEBRUARY  
2013–2014 NUMBER 6

CHICAGO

[www.fawchicago.org](http://www.fawchicago.org)



THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB  
OF CHICAGO  
120 E. BELLEVUE PLACE

## President's Message

CHRISTINE BERN, *President*

It's cold and snowy and time to work on that stack of books in your "to-read" pile. The Literary Committees are busy reading books in contention for our two literary awards. I would like to thank Tanya Klasser, Chair of the Juvenile Literary Awards Committee, and Tammie Bob and April Naumann, Co Chairs of the Literary Committee, for their work this winter. Tanya's committee is reading 25 books, while Tammie and April's committee is reading 35 books. If you have the time to look through our lists of previous winners in the FAW handbook, it is quite impressive with such notable authors as Toni Morrison, Sara Gruen, Gillian Flynn, Jane Smiley, and Carl Sandburg to name a few. And, of course, Tom Maltman who did a tremendous job at the January meeting as guest speaker.

The Board of Directors voted last month to make minor changes to our FAW by-laws, which are in the handbook. In accordance with the by-laws, these changes are posted in this newsletter and will go to vote at the February meeting.

I look forward to seeing you at the February meeting. It is a good opportunity to beat cabin fever with your FAW friends. ■■

## PROGRAM

## A Visit With Jane Austen, Courtesy of Leslie Goddard

ROBERTA GATES, *Program Chair*

*Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage . . .* So the song says, but Jane Austen, writing at beginning of the nineteenth century, knew it wasn't quite that simple, as Leslie



▲ Leslie Goddard

Goddard will tell us on February 12 when she presents a program featuring not only the author but many of her most memorable characters, including Elizabeth Bennet from *Pride and Prejudice*, Anne Elliott from *Persuasion*, and Emma Woodhouse from *Emma*, just to name a few.

Leslie Goddard holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University specializing in American studies and U.S. history, as well as master's degrees in theater and museum studies. She is also the author of two books on Chicago history. For the last ten years, Goddard has been interpreting historical figures for groups around the Chicago area, including Illinois Humanities Council sites, Chicago's Navy Pier, WBEZ-Chicago Amplified, Questers International, and the Victorian Society in America, as well as schools, universities, historical societies and libraries. It is therefore with real pleasure that we welcome her to FAW for a program we know you won't want to miss! ■■

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Luncheon Reservations

Please note, the luncheon reservation deadline is firm. Everyone who wishes to attend the monthly FAW luncheon **must** call in to reserve **no later than 6:00 p.m.** on the Sunday before the Wednesday meeting. If you call later than this, we are sorry, but we will be unable to accept your reservation. Reservations for the February luncheon on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, are due on Sunday, February 9, **by 6:00 p.m.** To reserve please call only Pat Adelberg (847-588-0911 or Lorraine Campione (773-275-5118). The cost is \$40 payable by check to FAW or cash, in the front lobby on the day of the luncheon. If you are reserving for a group, we ask that only one person make the group request to avoid confusion. If you make a reservation and find you cannot attend, you must cancel **no later than 6:00 p.m.** on the Sunday preceding the meeting. Reservations not cancelled must be paid for by the member. If you are a regular luncheon attendee, please think about making a standing reservation. It would be very helpful to Pat and Lorraine.

### Please Contribute to the Patron's Fund

The Patron's Fund needs your support. As many of you know, the Patron's Fund is used to support our annual literary juvenile and adult awards. Last year, we were able to make two awards to winners in the Juvenile category; and three awards to winners in the adult category. All are promising new authors with strong Midwest ties. Donors may designate which

category they wish to support. Donations are due by March.

### Proposed Changes to Friends of American Writers Bylaws Approved December 19, 2013

#### Standing Rules, Page 48

6. (a) Annual dues shall be \$45.
- (c) Eliminated
- (d) Annual dues of sustaining clubs shall be \$45.

#### Article III, Membership, Page 49

**SECTION 2.** Membership in the Association shall be of two classes: Active and Sustaining Clubs.

- (a) An Active member shall pay full annual dues and have all rights and privileges of membership, the applicant shall send her annual dues to the membership chairman, who shall notify the Association of the admission of the member.
- (b) Eliminated

#### Article IV, Officers and Directors, Page 50-53

##### **SECTION 4.** Duties:

- (b) Compliance with: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to serve as chairman of the Program Committee and to make arrangements related to the program.
- (e) Add Website Manager to "Elected in Even Years"

##### **SECTION 5.** Qualifications

- (c) No Member may serve longer than two consecutive **terms** as chairman of the same committee, **unless approved by the Board of Directors.**

#### Article VI, Dues and Finance, Page 54

**SECTION 2.** Six Dollars of the annual dues of members shall be allocated to the Literary Awards Fund and **Six Dollars** to the Juvenile Literary Awards Fund.

#### Article VII, Friends of American Writers Awards, Page 56


**PARAGRAPH 1** – eliminate "and with the approval of the Board of Directors,"

**PARAGRAPH 2** – eliminate "and with the approval of the Board of Directors"

#### Nominating Committee to Meet

The Nominating Committee, Chaired by Carol Eshagy, will meet to select FAW Board members for 2014-15. The slate will be presented to the Board at the February meeting and announced at the luncheon.

#### Welcome to New Members

This month, we are pleased to welcome two new members to the Friends of American Writers. They are Pam Ratchford and Rebecca Wimbush. We thank them for becoming part of our organization and hope that they will find their membership both enjoyable and rewarding. 

**FEATURE****A Woman's Placed Part 2:  
From Elizabeth Cady Stanton to Rosie the Riveter**

*Come gather 'round people wherever you roam, and admit that the waters around you have grown; and accept it that soon you'll be drenched to the bone. If your time to you is worth savin' then you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone, for the times they are a changin'.*

BOB DYLAN



▲ Elizabeth Cady Stanton (Center) and Early Feminists at the Women's Rights Convention, Seneca Falls 1848



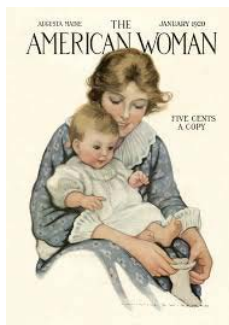
▲ 1920s Automobile

**The First Feminist Movement**

It would be nice to say that the first Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848 changed everything for the American woman. It didn't. It would be nice to say that *The Declaration of Sentiments and Resolutions*, issued at the convention, achieved for women what the Declaration of Independence did for the nation. It didn't. It would also be good to report that women came out of the convention with the right to vote. They didn't. They would have to wait another 72 years for that privilege.

The press, with the exception of Frederick Douglass' *North Star* panned the convention. Politicians and religious leaders ridiculed it. And most of the public ignored it. Even so, the leaders of the movement were not discouraged. Stanton was encouraged that women's suffrage had gained national attention and was determined to move ahead.

The American woman, 1920 ▶

**American Women Enter the Twentieth Century**

As the 20<sup>th</sup> century opened, women took baby steps toward progress. They opened nursery schools and lobbied for conservation. They helped secure passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act. During World War I, they worked for the Red Cross, sold bonds, and drove ambulances. Finally, in 1920, a grateful nation conceded that they had earned the right to vote and passed the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution guaranteeing that right.

The twenties brought many other changes to the American woman. She was freed from the worst drudgery of housework by the invention of the vacuum cleaner and the washing machine. Grocers began to stock canned foods and commercially baked bread. The automobile gave her a chance to move outside her home and see something of the world outside her neighborhood.



◀ Clara Bow, the It Girl

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▲ The New American Woman-1920s

She shortened her skirts, bobbed her hair, put on makeup and sang “Yes, we have no bananas”. She echoed Emile Coue’s mantra, *Every day in every way I’m getting better and better*. The radio entertained her at home, and the motion pictures like *It* and *The Sheik* gave her a glimpse of a more glamorous life. In the end, however, she followed

her mother’s path: she married, set up her own home, had children, and settled down to live more or less happily ever after.



The American Woman Goes to War ▶

### World War II Changes the American Woman Forever

When World War II erupted, our nation called for more workers to produce defense materials. With the armed forces given first priority on manpower, women

answered the call. They hung up their aprons and marched to local defense plants. Rose the housewife became Rosie the Riveter.

### Rosie the Riveter

The War literally transformed the American woman. She found she liked working outside the home. She considered the benefits: the little luxuries a second income afforded her; her increased status at home

(when one brings in a paycheck, one has something to say about how it will be spent); the new feeling of purposefulness a job provided (especially if the woman was over 40 and her children were grown), and the companionship of co-workers. She also had the satisfaction of knowing that her contribution to the war effort was significant.



▲ Rosie the Riveter

When the War ended, Rosie wanted to make her short-term role a long-run performance. But she was not completely free to make that choice. A majority of Americans felt that with the wartime emergency over, it was time for Rosie to go back home. To stay on the job would mean going against public opinion, and she had serious misgivings about that. She did not see herself as an agent for social change, or, heaven forbid, a liberated woman. She was faced with a real dilemma: where exactly was her place?

*I really wanna’ know  
Who are you, who who—who who?*  
PETE TOWNSHEND, THE WHO

Next: From Helen Gurly Brown to Buffy the Vampire Slayer

## The Reading Corner

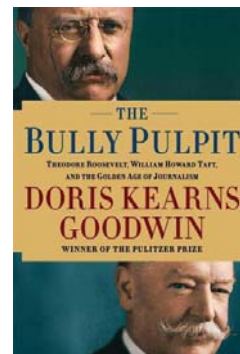
***The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism***  
Doris Kearns Goodwin

Reviewed by NORMAN BAUGHER

This book shows history repeating itself, but with a difference. Reading it sometimes felt like reading a current newspaper. It’s

a hefty 900 pages, so perhaps a year’s worth of newspapers. It tells of a divided Republican party with a minority group challenging the Old Guard, of a Congress that can’t act, of a huge economic gap between the haves and have-nots, and of the haves’ access to and manipulation of politicians via contributions. There was even a human J. P. Morgan. But there are also great differences. To start with, the GOP

held the Presidency, and both houses. Then the Republicans in the first decade of the 20th century were *progressives* fighting *conservatives*. That is strange in today’s Republican politics. There were many huge issues at stake then, some of which make today’s seem almost petty. Among the progressive’s efforts were moves for direct primaries instead of candidate selection via political bosses and a



constitutional amendment for direct election of senators instead of selection by state representatives.

Doris Kearns Goodwin is particularly adept at picturing personalities and defining relationships. Here she develops her narrative mainly through biographies of the title characters, their wives, and the group of journalists that became known as muckrakers. The supporting characters are vividly drawn. The story unfolds seamlessly with a torrent of direct quotations (the 113 pages of notes attest to this.) The exact words of the participants help establish a feeling of time and place, and the relationship between Roosevelt and Taft is reminiscent of that between Jefferson and Adams. Political differences interrupted their initial close relationship. With the passage of time, however, the rift healed, and the men reestablished their earlier respect and affection.

Some stories are livelier than others. The passages dealing with Theodore Roosevelt are full of life and exciting. Roosevelt was a natural politician and an action figure. For me, the sections on Taft were less exciting. Taft is admirable, loyal, and genuinely interested in others but his final destination, Supreme Court Justice, is the one that most suited him. As you might expect, Goodwin showed affection toward the journalists of the era, particularly Ida Tarbell. Why not? Ida surely belongs in a journalist's hall of fame and deserves recognition as an early feminist as well.

### *Life After Life*

**Kate Atkinson**

Reviewed by SHIRLEY BAUGHER

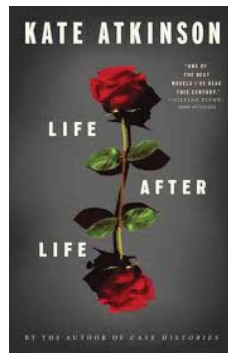
History is all about “what ifs”. In Kate Atkinson’s fascinating book, *Life After Life*, one of her

characters asks, “What if we had a chance to do it again and again, until we finally got it right? Wouldn’t that be wonderful?” To which her main character, Ursula, replies, “I think it would be exhausting.” But that is what Ursula Todd does, she keeps dying, and dying, and dying again. She first dies when she is born to a prosperous British banker and his wife on a snowy evening in 1910 only to be born again healthy and yowling to that same couple in the same time and place.

As Ursula grows older, she is raped by a young British aristocrat and becomes pregnant. In disgrace, she gives the baby up for adoption and eventually, dies. But she doesn’t, she reappears and the incident is not a rape, but a stolen kiss from an American. Subsequently, Ursula falls off a roof and dies; becomes an alcoholic and drowns; gets married and is asphyxiated; moves to Germany and dies, and lives some more. Romances begin and end, then begin again—taking different trajectories.

A number of memorable characters make their way through Ursula’s reincarnations. Her mother Sylvie is snobbish and caustic. Her free-spirited Aunt Izzie is rebellious and unorthodox. She makes her way to Hollywood during World War II where she becomes part of the glamorous movie world. Then there are Eva Braun and Adolph Hitler, whom Ursula kills—or does she?

Ursula’s parallel existences take her through two world wars and into the 1960s, with each part of her story subject to revision. In one fascinating adventure, she finds herself in Germany in the 1930s where she becomes the best



friend of Eva Braun and is caught up in the strange rise and fall of Adolph Hitler. Near the end of the book, Ursula reflects, “The past seems to leak into the present, as if there

were a fault somewhere. Or was it the future spilling into the past?” She concludes, “time isn’t circular. It’s like a palimpsest.” One thing superimposed on another.

This is a must-read novel—selected by Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York reviewers as one of the 10 best of 2013.

### *The Gods of Guilt*

**Michael Connelly**

Reviewed by SHIRLEY BAUGHER

When it comes to detective fiction, nobody does it better than Michael Connelly. His latest, *The Gods of Guilt*, brings back Mickey Haller, the Lincoln lawyer—so called because he conducts his business not from an office, but from the back of his 2011 Lincoln Town Car. He became so notorious in the Los Angeles area that a movie was made about him with the red hot Matthew McConaughey in the lead role. This was both a blessing and a curse. The notoriety was good for business, but it also created a lot of Lincoln lawyer wannabes. It became so bad that Mickey frequently found himself getting in the back of the wrong Lincoln when he left the courthouse.

Mickey is a defense attorney, and some of his clients are pretty unsavory. This is the case in *The Gods of Guilt*. Interestingly, the title refers to the 12 people on the jury who must decide whether or not the defendant is guilty. In *Gods*, Mickey’s client is a pimp, Andre Lacosse, accused of murdering one of his

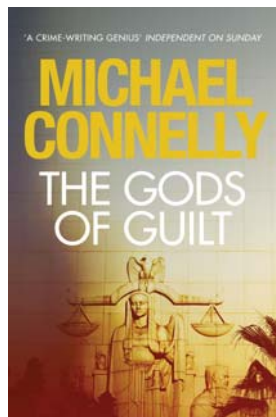
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THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB OF CHICAGO  
120 E. Bellevue Place  
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girls, Giselle Dayton, aka Glory Days. As it turns out, Mickey has a history with the girl. He defended her in a previous case, and he thought he had persuaded her to leave “the life”. Unfortunately, he hadn’t. The evidence against Andre, is overwhelming; even though he swears he didn’t do it. Mickey believes him—his motto is, “You lie, I fly”. He also insists on being paid in cash. Andre asks if gold bars will be as good as cash.

As usual, Connelly fills his story with a number of interesting characters. There is David “Legal” Siegal who lives in a nursing home fittingly called Menorah Manor. “Legal” is Mickey’s advisor and



confidant, and at 81 knows more about the law than most lawyers practicing in the current court system. Mickey’s nemesis is Lee Lankford, a homicide detective who hates Mickey and gets himself assigned to the case just to do him in. Kendall Roberts is a former friend of the dead prostitute, along with Trixie Trixxx (3 xes). The three would cover for each other when one was not available. Both Kendall and Trixie are in grave danger after Giselle’s death because of what they may or may not know. Rounding out the cast are Hector, a drug dealer, wrongly imprisoned for life after he was implicated in a homicide and had the misfor-

tune to be caught with an illegal weapon and a stash. Earl Briggs, driver of the Lincoln, brings both muscle and pathos to the story. Cisco, is Mickey’s chief investigator and the husband of his ex-wife. But he can track down information that seems impossibly buried in the system.

The real action, of course, takes place in the courtroom where Mickey uses various ploys like the “Marco Polo” and the “Trojan Horse” to reveal the real murderer and leave his target wholly unprotected when the denouement comes. As in his previous books, Connelly brings down the hammer of justice decisively and with unequivocal power.

The book has sequel written (pun intended) all over it. One can only hope Mr. McConaughy is once again in the back seat. 