



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS



MAY
2013–2014 NUMBER 9

CHICAGO
www.fawchicago.org

THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB
OF CHICAGO
120 E. BELLEVUE PLACE

President's Message

CHRISTINE BERN, *President*

May is Awards Month so I begin by thanking our Literary Committees, Adult and Juvenile, which were chaired by Tammie Bob, April Neuman and Tanya Klasser. Our Chairwomen gathered a large committee of women, solicited books from authors and publishers, read each book and unanimously chose our winners. This is a monumental task. Our new winners: Pat Zietlow Miller, Clare Vanderpool, Ethan Rutherford and Abby Gini join an impressive list of winners.

Thank you also to Linda Gustafson for putting together a lovely May Awards Luncheon for FAW. Linda has enthusiastically and thoughtfully planned a day that will be enjoyable. Please mail in your reservations to Linda for the May luncheon. There is a deadline for reservations this month.

Please look for your 2014-2015 dues letter in the mail this summer and mail it in as soon as possible so you won't miss out on the exciting programs our Program Chair and Vice President, Roberta Gates, is working on this summer for next season.

All the best this summer



A W A R D S Juvenile Literary Awards Winners

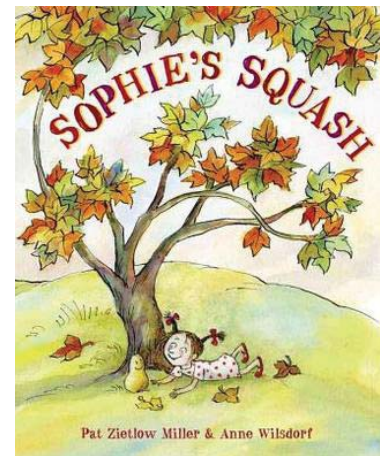
TANYA KLASSER
Juvenile Literary Awards Chair

Sophie's Squash
Pat Zietlow Miller

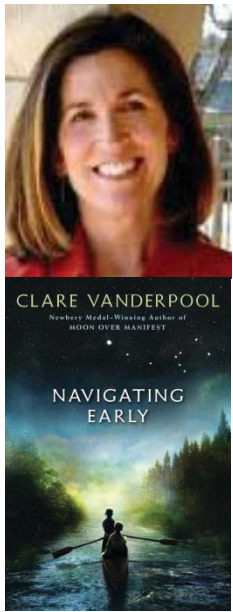
This year we are proud to announce two recipients of the Juvenile Literary Awards. The first is Pat Zietlow Miller for her charming book, *Sophie's Squash*.

On a trip to the farmers' market with her parents, Sophie chooses a squash, but instead of letting her mom cook it, she adopts it and names it Bernice. From then on, Sophie brings Bernice everywhere, despite her parents' gentle warnings that Bernice will begin to rot. As winter nears, Sophie does start to notice changes. What's a girl to do when the squash she loves is in trouble? Read this charming book and find out.

Pat Zietlow Miller, the author of *Sophie's Squash*, is a children's book lover and the creative force behind the blog *Read, Write, Repeat*; where she reviews books for young readers. *Sophie's Squash*, her first picture book, is based on a true story—her own daughter, Sonia, once loved a squash. She pulled it from the grocery cart and cradled it. By the time they got home Sonia had named it and painted a face on it. They never did get to eat it. But the incident inspired Pat to write a story about it. She sent it to more than a dozen publishers, all of whom rejected it until an editorial assistant at Schwartz & Wade, an imprint of Random House, rescued it from the bottom of a slush pile. The editor fell in love with the story and sent it on to the assistant-vice president of the imprint. The vp loved it, called Miller, and signed her on the spot.



Continued on next page ►



Navigating Early Clare Vanderpool

At the end of World War II, Jack Baker, a boy from landlocked Kansas, is suddenly uprooted after his mother's death and placed in a boy's boarding school in Maine. There, Jack encounters Early Auden, a strange boy, who sees the number pi as a continuing story and collects clippings about the sightings of a great black bear in the nearby mountains. One day, Jack and Early set out on a quest to find the great black bear. Along the way, they meet some weird and dangerous characters—each a part of Early's pi story. *Navigating Early* will challenge and astound readers as they go along with Jack and Early on their mysterious journey.

Clare Vanderpool, recipient of the 2011 Newbery Award, is a resident of Wichita, Kansas. She has a degree in English and Elementary Education and enjoys reading, going to the pool with her children, the television show *Monk*, and visiting the bookstores in her town.

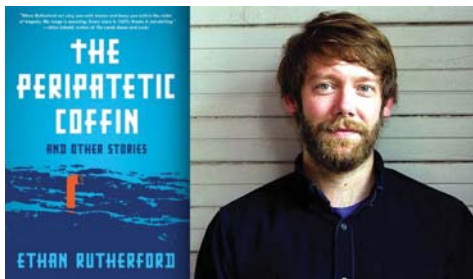
Adult Literary Award Winners

TAMMIE BOB *Adult Literary Awards Chair*

This year, two short story collections share the adult Literary Awards prize: Ethan Rutherford's *The Peripatetic Coffin and other Stories* and Abby Genie's *The Last Animal*. Both writers and their work will be honored at the FAW awards luncheon on May 9th.

The Peripatetic Coffin Ethan Rutherford

Ethan Rutherford is a young writer whose stories have received special mention in several "Pushcart Prize" collections. He's been published in "Ploughshares", "American Short Fiction", and "The Best American Short Stories". The literary awards committee was struck by the talent, imagination, and craft displayed in



Rutherford's stories. They take you to places as varied as a Confederate submarine, the summer camp of your worst nightmares, a whaling expedition set in the future, and a suburban basement.


Rutherford is a master of creating a special reality. His greatest strength is in his depiction of characters who are always trying to get things right, even in the face of hopelessness and who face up to loss, misfortune, and heartbreak with courage and humor. "The Peripatetic Coffin," set at the end of the Civil War, tells of the crew of the Confederate submarine H. L. Hunley who torpedo the USS Housatonic, in an attempt to break the blockade of Charleston harbor. "Summer Boys," set in the mid-1980s, describes the up and down friendship of two boys: their unexpressed emotions and fierce devotion. "Dirwhals," uses journal entries to describe the actions of a crew on the hunt for endangered animals in a post-apocalyptic world.

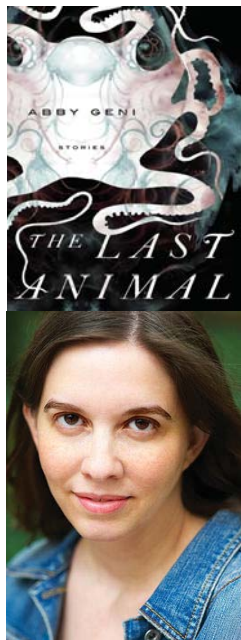
Ethan Rutherford lives in Minnesota, and while he'd love to join us for lunch on May 9th, his baby is due to be born exactly then—one of the only excuses we'd accept! The literary awards committee is working on how to best present his work at the awards luncheon.

The Last Animal Abby Genie

Abby Genie's *The Last Animal* is a unique group of stories unified around one theme: people who use the connection between the human and natural worlds to deal with the challenges they face in love, loss, and family life. *The Last Animal* is Genie's first collection and was an immediate awards committee favorite for its quirky, entertaining stories told in a variety of original voices. For a sampling, the story "Zookeeper" can be read on line at this link: <http://www.flaunt.com/art/zookeeper/>.

Abby Genie is a graduate of the renowned Iowa Writer's workshop. She teaches writing at the Chicago Art Institute and has won several awards for individual stories.

Copies of both books will be available for purchase at the luncheon. Please plan to attend this culmination of our literary year. 



ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a change in the officers for the FAW Board of Directors. **Carol Eshaghy** will be the new Chair of the Luncheon/Social Committee.

By-Laws Change

Please note the following change to the FAW By-Laws which would become effective in the new calendar year upon approval by the membership:

Revision Consideration

Article VII, Section 3. The item now reads “Undesignated contributions [to the Patron’s Fund] shall be allocated as follows: sixty percent to the Literary Awards Fund and forty percent to the Juvenile Literary Awards Fund.” The new language will read: “Undesignated contributions shall be allocated as follows: fifty percent to the Literary Awards Fund and

fifty percent to the Juvenile Literary Awards Fund.”

Contributions to the Patron’s Fund

The Patron’s Fund, the education fund from which the FAW draws monies for Literary Awards and Juvenile Literary Awards winners, needs your help. The fund is composed of “...such monies as the Board of Directors makes available from dues as stated in Article VI, proceeds from the sale of books, and other monies received or earned on behalf of each fund.” Your contributions are essential to the maintenance of this fund and determine the amount and number of awards to be given annually. Please use the form in the box below this message to make your contribution. We urge you to fill out the form and return it to Ms. Eileen McNulty, 4450 N. Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630.

Please help maintain this important FAW tradition.

Friends of American Writers Awards Luncheon

The annual FAW Writers Awards Luncheon will be held at the Fort-nightly on May 9, 2014, at 11:00 a.m. The cost is \$45 per person. Everyone who plans to attend must pay in advance. A reservation form is included on page 4. Please fill out the form and send it, with your payment, to Linda Gustafson, 605 Hidden Lake Drive, Princeton, IL 61356. If you have questions, please contact Linda at 815-872-9191 or rigus@comcast.net. The deadline for reservations is May 2.

Dues Notices to Go Out in June

Dues notices for membership renewal will be sent out in June. Please note that the annual dues will be \$45 for all members.



Luncheon form on page 4

Patron's Fund Form



The Patron’s Fund is an educational fund used to support the annual awardees selected by The Friends of American Writers. The fund is divided into two categories: The Literary Awards Fund and the Juvenile Literary Awards Fund. Monies are allocated to these funds from members’ dues, sale of books, and patrons’ donations.

Donor's Name _____

Donor's Address and/or
Contact Information _____

How Donor's Name Should
Appear in the Program Book _____

Amount of Donation _____

How Money is to be Divided:
Literary Awards _____

Juvenile Awards _____

(Undesignated contributions shall be allocated as follows: for sixty percent to the Literary Awards Fund and forty percent to the Juvenile Literary Awards Fund.)

Please mail your contributions to Ms. Eileen McNulty, 4450 N. Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630.



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS AWARDS LUNCHEON

May 9, 2014

- **The Fortnightly of Chicago**
- **120 Bellevue Place**

- **11:00 a.m**
- **\$45 per person**

FAW is proud to celebrate the 84th Annual Awards Luncheon. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and hear the remarks of our award-winning authors in the ambiance of the Fortnightly. Bring your friends to support and applaud these new authors and share in the fun.

- To reserve early, clip the following reservation form and send with your payment to:
Linda Gustafson
 605 Hidden Lake Drive
 Princeton, IL 61356
- Or, turn in the reservation form and payment at the March or April luncheon meeting.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Gustafson, 815-872-9181 or rigus@comcast.net
Deadline for reservations (and cancellations) is Friday, May 2, 2014

FAW AWARDS LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____ phone _____

Please reserve _____ places at the Awards Luncheon @\$45 per person

Enclosed is my reservation and check payable to FAW Awards Luncheon for \$_____ to cover lunch for the following people:

I would like to sit with _____

I would like a vegetarian lunch Yes No

Please call Linda Gustafson if other food arrangements are needed

FEATURE **A WOMAN'S PLACE PART 5**
The New American Woman
Moving on Up



The New American Woman: Chairman of the Board

*The line it is drawn, the curse it is cast
 The slow one now will later be fast
 As the present now will later be past.
 The order is rapidly fadin'
 And the first one now will later be last
 For the times they are a-changin'*

Bob Dylan



◀ Ruth Bader Ginsburg

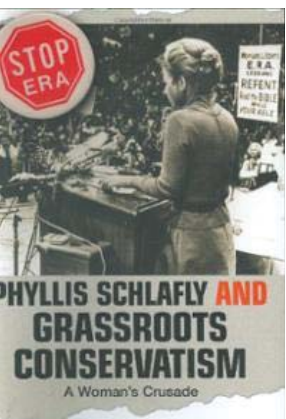
Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Phyllis Schlafly and the Equal Rights Amendment

The feminist movement, as a movement, died in the eighties when Phyllis Schlafly and her conservative

adherents effectively killed the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). With the Amendment well on its way to passage, Schlafly appealed to conservative groups to stop ERA, arguing that ERA would harm women by (1) taking away gender specific privileges currently enjoyed by women, including dependent wife benefits under Social Security; (2) leading women to being drafted by the military and (3) bringing about public unisex bathrooms. These negative outcomes were seen as “horribles” by the anti-ERA groups.

Many years before she became a Supreme Court Justice, I had an opportunity to interview Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the need for an Equal Rights Amendment. In that interview, she carefully refuted each of Schlafly’s “Horribles”. *1st Horrible*: wives would **only** lose their right to support if legislatures or courts were to act capriciously, spitefully, without regard for public welfare, and in flagrant disregard of the intent of the amendment’s proponents. *2nd Horrible*: Women would be forced to serve in the military **only** if men are, and assignments would be made on the basis of individual capacity rather than sex. *3rd Horrible*: public unisex bathrooms would not become the norm. Proponents of the amendment in Congress were amused at the focus on “potty problems”, and referred to the constitutional regard for personal privacy. They suggested the solution to that fear would be the one successfully adopted by the airlines.

“In sum,” Bader Ginsburg said, “the Equal Rights Amendment would dedicate the nation to a new view of the rights and responsibilities of men and women. It firmly rejects sharp legislative lines between the sexes as constitutionally tolerable. Instead, it looks toward a legal system in which each person will be judged on the basis of individu-



al merit and not on the basis of an unalterable trait of birth that bears no necessary relationship to need or ability”.

Although Schlafly and her supporters were opposed by feminist groups such as NOW and the ERA coalition, the amendment was narrowly defeated, having ratification in 35 of the 38 states needed. Critics called Schlafly a hypocrite for fighting against ERA. While she argued that women should be full-time wives and mothers, she herself was a lawyer, an author, newsletter editor, and a political activist. She was able to have it all, yet she fought those who helped her get it all. Recently, she made headlines again by saying the gap between men’s and women’s salaries should be greater, not equalized.

Moving On

The struggle for improving the position of women in a male-dominated world did not end with the decline of group involvement. As coalitions dissolved, individual women grabbed the baton and were able to make significant cracks in the so-called “glass ceiling”. They established themselves as leaders in almost every aspect of American life: law, politics, medicine, education, broadcasting, entertainment, and even the military. They didn’t just overcome—they prevailed.

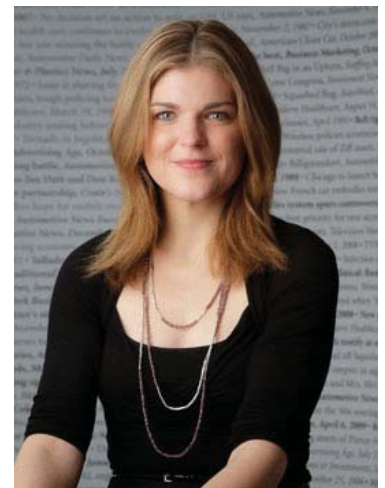
Tracy Samantha Schmidt: Social Media Pioneer and Guru

Tracy Samantha Schmidt broke the glass ceiling in the world of social media where she is the reigning queen. She tweets, she blogs, she face-books, she texts, she e-mails, she does Instagram and Tumblr—she does them all. Plus she teaches others how to perform all these tasks easily and competently. This remarkable young woman is changing our world in very significant ways.

▼ Tracy Samantha Schmidt, Queen of Social Media

The Story of Tracy

Tracy was born in Park Ridge, Illinois, not too many years ago. Her mother wanted to call her Hannah Rachel—nice, but it somehow lacks Tracy’s panache



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(no offence all you Hannah Rachels). Her three-year old brother opted for Courtesy—after his favorite hardware store—also rejected. Her father won out with Tracy Samantha. He had seen Katherine Hepburn as Tracy Samantha Lord in *The Philadelphia Story* shortly before his daughter made her entrance, and he was taken with the name. This was okay with Tracy until she saw the film years later. She thought the movie character was spoiled and self-absorbed. But by then, she had grown accustomed to her name.

Tracy decided early on to pursue a career in journalism. At Maine South High School, she wrote a newspaper column under the byline of Tracy Schmidt. When her dad asked her to include Samantha, she declined. “Too much,” she said. It remained too much until she went to work as a reporter for *Time Magazine’s* Washington Bureau in 2006. She was doing a story and had to call the Republican National Committee (RNC) for a quote. Their spokeswoman’s name was Tracy Schmidt. Tracy Samantha asked to speak to Tracy Schmidt. The receptionist asked, “who’s calling?” “Tracy Schmidt”. The two went into an Abbott-Costello routine. “Yes, but who is calling?” “Tracy Schmidt”. This went on until they finally got it straightened out.

When the magazine was going to press, Tracy asked the editor to put her middle name on the byline. He agreed, until he saw the page proof. “Tracy, your middle name takes up an extra line of copy.”

“Is that a problem?” asked Tracy.

The editor rolled his eyes, but left the byline. He thought Tracy was being a prima donna; she saw it as the only way to distinguish herself from the spokesperson for the RNC who later went on to become Sarah Palin’s press secretary.

After that, Tracy started using Tracy Samantha Schmidt everywhere: to establish a web presence, in her stories for *Time*, on her social profiles, and in her email addresses. When she joined Twitter, she selected the username @TracySamantha. “It’s a way of personal online reputation management,” she says, “which is very important in the Search Engine Optimization (SEO) industry”.

Game Change

At 9:30, on the morning of April 16, 2007, Tracy was sitting at her desk in *Time’s* Washington bureau

when she saw a headline on CNN, “Shooting at Virginia Tech, two believed dead.” A short time later, she learned that the gunman had opened fire in an academic building and killed more than 20 students. Her editor told her to get to Virginia Tech ASAP and interview bystanders and victims. Tracy rented a car and arrived in Blacksburg, Virginia, around 7:00 p.m. What happened after that would change her life forever.

Since the magazine wanted interviews with survivors, she had to find students who were actually in the French and engineering classrooms with the gunman. She resorted to Facebook—the first time she had actually used social media in an important assignment. She and a colleague logged in to the university’s web site using a student’s account (with his permission), and found hundreds of students registered for those courses. They narrowed them down by using their Facebook posts and took turns messaging the survivors. Finally, they found one who was in the French class when the gunman opened fire. He couldn’t give a phone interview because he had left his cell phone in the classroom, so he sent an email detailing the entire experience. The harrowing story was verified and published as an exclusive on Time.com. Without Facebook and a Facebook login to the Virginia Tech network, the story could not have been written. When most of the other journalists were getting information the old fashioned way—knocking on doors, Tracy and her young colleagues didn’t have to leave the press center. They had found a new way of reporting with social media. The game had changed.

This game change was critical some years later in the identification and capture of the Boston Marathon bombing perpetrators. When law enforcement and government officials sought the public’s help for clues of the crime scene, hundreds of thousands of i-phone and digital camera photographs poured in, as well as videos taken at the site. Connections were made, and within hours, the bombers were identified.

Moving On

Tracy left *Time* in 2008. She joined the Tribune Company and worked as a reporter for Chicago Tribune Local. At the same time, she taught students at DePaul University how to use social media in jour-

nalism. Tracy created and led a social media training program for 435 Digital, the consulting division of the Tribune Company. She taught seminars nationwide on creating effective social media strategies for both personal and professional use. Her clients included the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Association of Realtors, J. P. Morgan Chase, the State of Illinois, and several universities. By her own account, she estimated she had taught more than 5,000 social media wannabes in about eight months.

Tracy in Action

Tracy says she hopes her training programs will take the fear away. So many people, especially older people, believe social media is overwhelming. Tracy helps them see that it is manageable. People leave her workshops with a whole new vocabulary and a feeling of, “Yes, I can”, ready to connect with each other and share information.

To Infinity and Beyond

Tracy took a giant leap in February 2012 to become Director of Training and Strategy for Crain’s Social Media Group. She works closely with all 30 of Crain’s publications and provides consulting services to its advertisers nation wide. Tracy appears on



television and radio talking about social media, and, she is completing a book on social media due to out in 2014.

Tracy on the Air

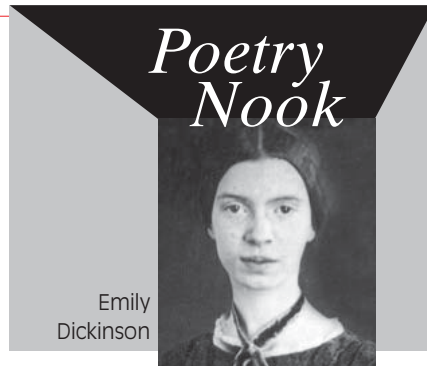
Tracy is notorious among her colleagues for her infectious smile and her dynamic personality. The young phenom is now using her skills to inspire young people by launching a high school leadership program that brings together student leaders from Chicago and the suburbs to discuss issues of local and national importance. Supported by business and community organizations, the program seeks to keep young people engaged in Chicago now and to return when they graduate from college. Well done, Tracy Samantha Schmidt! 📖

I'm Nobody! Who Are You

*I'm nobody, who are you?
Are you—Nobody—too?
Then there's a pair of us!
Don't tell, they'd advertise—you know.*

*How dreary—to be—Somebody!
How public—like a Frog—
To tell one's name—the livelong
June—
To an admiring Bog!*

Emily Dickinson was one of the greatest and most loved American women poets. She was born in Amherst, Massachusetts in December 1830, the daughter of a well-to-do, socially prominent family. She studied at Amherst Academy for seven years and at Mount Holyoke Female Seminary. Locals consid-



ered her an eccentric because of her reclusive nature and her penchant for white clothing. In her later years, she refused to even leave her room. Most of her friendships were carried out by correspondence.

This is my letter to the world

*This is my letter to the world,
That never wrote to me,--*

*The simple news that Nature told.
With tender majesty.*

*Her message is committed
To hands I cannot see;
For love of her, sweet countryman,
Judge tenderly of me.*

Although Dickinson wrote more than eighteen hundred poems, fewer than a dozen were published during her lifetime. Those that were published were usually altered by publishers to fit conventional poetic rules. Her poems were unique for her time in that they contained short lines, often did not have titles, and used unconventional capitalization and punctuation. Much of her work dealt with death and immortality.

Continued on next page ▶



My life closed twice before its' close

*My life closed twice before its close;
It yet remains to see
If immortality unveil
A third event to me.*

*So huge and hopeless to conceive,
As these that twice befell,
Parting is all we know of heaven,
And all we need of hell.*

Because I could not stop for Death

*Because I could not stop for Death,
He kindly stopped for me;
The carriage held just ourselves
And Immortality.*

*We slowly drove, he knew no haste,
And I had put away
My labor and my leisure too,
For his civility.*

*We passed the school where children
played
At wrestling in a ring,
We passed the fields of gazing grain,
We passed the setting sun.*

*We paused before a house that seemed
A swelling of the ground;
The roof was scarcely visible,
The cornice but a mound.
Since then 'tis centuries; but each
Feels shorter than the day
I first surmised the horses' heads
Were toward eternity.*

While acquaintances knew that Emily wrote, it was not until after her death in 1886 that her younger sister, Lavinia, discovered her cache of poems. Lavinia was astonished at the breadth of her sister's work. A complete and unedited volume of her poetry was

not available until 1955 when the scholar Thomas H. Johnson published *The Poems of Emily Dickinson*. Despite early criticism of her work, she is now considered one of the most important American poets.

I Dwell in Possibility

*I dwell in Possibility
A fairer house than Prose,
More numerous of windows,
Superior of doors.*

*Of chambers, as the cedars—
Impregnable of eye;
And for an everlasting roof
The gables of the sky*

*Of visitors—the fairest—
For occupation—this—
The spreading wide my
narrow hands
To gather Paradise.*

