

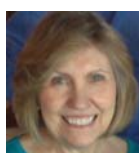


SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER
2016-2017 NUMBER 1

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Designer: Norman Baugher

FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS CHICAGO

www.fawchicago.org



President's Message

ROBERTA GATES, *President*

Welcome back to another season of FAW! Our program committee, headed up by Lorraine Campione, has worked hard to provide us with an excellent lineup of programs, and our two literature chairs, Marti Daniel and Tammie Bob, are already at work soliciting books by new authors for their committees to read and consider.

In addition, the board is considering reviving the Readers & Reviewers, a program which was popular for

many years but which was dropped due to a change in venue.

Readers & Reviewers was a bit before my time, so those of you who remember it can probably describe it better than I. But from hearing enthusiastic descriptions of it, I think I can safely say that it's a guided discussion that's a little like a book club meeting (except shorter) and a little like a class (except more informal). Three of our best-read members have volunteered to facilitate a Readers & Reviewers session, so if interest warrants it, we plan to try out the concept once in the fall, once in the winter, and

once in the spring—probably during the months of November, February and April. Where and at what time meetings would be held haven't been decided yet, but one possibility would be scheduling them either just before or just after our luncheons.

In any case, I hope you'll take the time to fill out the survey found on page 2 of this newsletter so we can determine how many of our members would be interested in participating. Or you can simply tell me, or one of our board members, how you feel about the idea at our first meeting on September 14. ■■■

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■

The Breakfast Queen Has Lunch with Friends of American Writers

SHIRLEY BAUGHER

You all recognize the face smiling back at us. She is the incomparable Ida Pickney, aka the "Breakfast Queen." For years "Ina's," serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, was the place to go on Chicago's trendy Randolph Street. The good food was made even better by the presence of the effervescent Ina. She would greet you at the door, guide you to a table, explain the menu, and assure that every visit was a delight. Nobody went just once to "Ina's."

Not only was Ina Chicago's "Hostess with the Mostest" during her Randolph Street tenure, she researched and developed recipes for various publications and institutions. An appearance with Gale Gand on the Food Network was so popular she was featured

on that network's "BEST OF" program. She became a frequent guest on other food shows and was a local media darling. Articles about her have appeared in the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal, The Chicago Sun Times, Gourmet, Crain's Chicago Business, and Midwest Living. Her recipes were so requested she published her own cookbook/memoir in 2013, *Taste Memories: Recipes for Life and Breakfast*. That book is about to enjoy something not often seen in the publishing world, a paperback release under a new title, *Ina's Kitchen: Memories and Recipes from the Breakfast Queen*.



Because of her vast knowledge of food—its production and preparation—Ina has been a guest lecturer at Northwestern University, DePaul University, and the University of Illinois, Chicago. She is a sought after

Ina Pickney: Restaurateur, Cookbook Author and Tribune Columnist

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judge at food competitions, and her accolades are too numerous to mention. Ina has been on the Board of Directors of the Chicago Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier and was Vice President of The Women's Foodservice Network. She led a coalition of Chicago restaurateurs and chefs in a movement to ban smoking in restaurants. She also created the "Green" purchasing cooperative to champion use of locally grown, organic foods in Chicago restaurants. She writes a monthly column about breakfast spots in the Chicago Tribune.

The iconic Ina is now the subject of a feature-length

documentary titled "Breakfast at Ina's," which gets its world premiere at the Chicago International Film Festival in October 2016. The movie chronicles the last month of Pickney's restaurant, which closed December 31, 2013; and depicts the media fanfare that accompanied the closing. It includes testimonials from Ina's friends and fans and reveals the reason behind the closing, which I will leave for her to share.

You won't want to miss a visit with Ina on September 14 to hear her talk about her restaurant, her book, and her very interesting life. 



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Luncheon Reservations

Luncheon reservations for the September 14, 2016 meeting of the Friends of American Writers are due no later than 6:00 on Sunday, September 10. Please be advised, this deadline is firm. No reservations will be accepted following this date and time. To reserve, please contact only Lorraine Campione (773-275-5118) or Pat Adelberg (847-588-0911). Luncheon will be served at 12:00 noon in the main floor dining room of the Fortnightly club of Chicago, 120 E. Bellevue Place. The cost of the luncheon is \$45 payable by check (preferred) in the front lobby on the day of the meeting. (Due to rising

costs of food and service, it is necessary to raise the price of the luncheon from \$40 to \$45. We hope this is not an inconvenience to our members.)

If you are reserving for a group, we ask that only one person make the group request to avoid confusion. Please note: 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. Parking is available in the parking lot at 100 E. Bellevue Place.

For the September FAW meeting, there are no carryovers from the previous year. Everyone who will be

attending must reserve. Those who wish to make standing reservations may do so beginning with the October meeting.

Literature Awards Committee

TAMMIE BOB, *Chair*

Tammie is pleased to report that the Awards Luncheon proved to be very successful for the authors. A good many books were sold, spurred by the winners' dynamic presentations. Beginning in September 2016, the committee will no longer be able to hold their meetings at the Fortnightly, and a new space is being sought. An announcement of the new meeting site is forthcoming.



Readers & Reviewers Survey Form

The FAW board would like to know if you'd be interested in Readers & Reviewers, a guided book discussion group that would probably meet three times a year for about 45 minutes each time. Books would be chosen by the facilitators, who would give a brief review of the book, then open up the discussion to all those attending.

Name: _____

YES, I'd be interested in attending at least one Readers & Reviewers meeting. **NO**, I'm not interested.

If you are interested, when would you like meetings to be held? Immediately **before** our monthly luncheons

Immediately **after** our monthly luncheons On some **other afternoon** On some **other evening**

Book titles I'd like to suggest for Readers & Reviewers: _____

Other comments: _____

Return this form to Roberta Gates, 366 Bartram Rd., Riverside, IL, 60546, or bring it to the September meeting and give it to her or any board member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Young People's Literature Awards

MARTI DANIEL, *Chair*

The 2016 Awards Luncheon was a big success for the Young People's Literature Award winners as well. Attending authors sold many books and received accolades from FAW members. Entries for the 2016-17 year are already coming in.

■ ■ ■ New Program Proposal

A new FAW program, Readers and Reviewers, is being considered. The group would be similar to a book club in that members, under the direction of a facilitator, would meet in October, February, and April to have lunch then review and discuss current books of interest. The format is fluid at this time. Suggested venues are the parlor of the Fortnightly or a downtown restaurant with meeting space. If you would be interested in being part of this group, an informa-

tion sheet is included and will also be available at the September meeting.

Friends of American Writers 2016-17 Programs

Program Chair, LORRAINE CAMPIONE has been hard at work with members of her committee to arrange the programs for the coming year. The following presentations have been selected.

September 14, 2016

INA PICKNEY, *Restaurateur, Cookbook Author and Tribune Columnist*

October 12, 2016

MARK DVORAK, *Old Town School of Folk Music*. Readings and Songs of Carl Sandburg

November 9, 2016

SARA PARETSKY, *Chicago Mystery Writer and 1983 FAW Award Winner*

December 14, 2016

SOUNDS OF SWEETNESS. *Male a Ca-*

PELLA Choir of Walter Payton College Prep High School

January 11, 2017

STEPHEN KLEIMAN, *Inside Scoop on how "West Side Story" was written and produced*

February 8, 2017

DAN CRAWFORD, *The Newbery Library—Its Sale and Collections*

March 8, 2017

BETSY MEANS, *A Portrait of Gertrude Stein*

April 17, 2017

ELIZABETH BERG, *Chicago Author of 24 books—The Story Behind the Stories*

May 12, 2017

AWARDS LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars. You won't want to miss any of these outstanding programs. ■ ■ ■

Every year, we look forward to the arrival of summer—those fleeting months when the world seems to burst with color, activity, and a plethora of good things to eat and experience—from the fruits, flowers and vegetables that crowd vendors' tables at Farmers Markets to the music emanating from artists under the band shell at Grant Park.

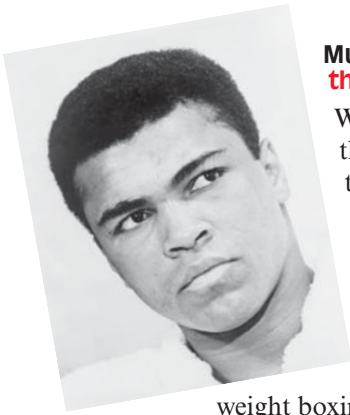
By now, you have all savored ripe blueberries, raspberries, juicy peaches, luscious cherries, and crisp, juicy apples. And many of you have sat enraptured at the sound of the Grant Park Orchestra and Chorus under Artistic Director, Principal Conductor Carlos Kalmar and Chorus Di-



rector Christopher Bell. Among the season's highlights were: An All-Tchaikovsky weekend featuring the Piano Concerto No. 1, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition, Dvořák's New World Symphony, Mozart's Mass in C Minor, a Cole Porter Celebration, and performances by favorite festival artists: pianists Stephen Hough and Kirill Gerstein, violinists Christian Tetzlaff and Rachel Barton Pine, vocalist Storm Large. The season concluded with a stirring performance of Hector Berlioz's "The Damnation of Faust," under the direction of Carlos Kalmar. The Grant Park Chorus, directed by guest director Michael Black, was superb. We look forward to next year.

But just as summer gave, summer also took away. Here are just a few of the things we lost last summer.

Continued ►



**Muhammad Ali
the Greatest**

We said good-bye to Muhammad Ali, the greatest heavyweight boxer of all time. Born Cassius Clay, he grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. He started training as an amateur boxer when he was 12 and won a gold medal in the light heavyweight division at the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome. In 1964, he won the WBA and WBC heavyweight boxing titles. He then changed his name to Muhammad Ali, as a message of racial pride. He antagonized the white establishment by refusing to serve in the military during the Vietnam War, an action which caused him to be found guilty of draft evasion and stripped of his boxing titles. His stance as a conscientious objector to the war, however, made him an icon for the counterculture generation. He appealed his case to the U.S. Supreme Court which overturned his conviction in 1971. By this time, he had not fought for nearly four years, losing out on a period considered peak performance time for athletes.

He came back to fight in and win a number of key contests: the Super Fight II against Joe Frazier, the Thrilla' in Manila also against Joe Frazier, and the Rumble in the Jungle vs. George Foreman. Following these wins, he was ranked as the greatest athlete of the 20th century. Ali loved the spotlight. He was as well known as his trash talking and rhyming as for his prowess in the ring. He recorded two albums for which he received two Grammy Award nominations. He also performed in movies, a Broadway musical, and wrote two autobiographies. He retired from boxing in 1981 and devoted his life to religious and charitable work. In 1984, he was diagnosed with Parkinson's syndrome, a condition doctors attributed to injuries from his boxing days. Ali died on June 3, 2016 in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Among his more memorable quotes were:

Float like a butterfly sting like a bee. His hands can't hit what his eyes can't see. Now you see me, now you don't. George thinks he will, but I know he won't.

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.

I'm young, I'm handsome; I'm fast. I can't possibly be beat. Don't count the days. Make the days count.

If my mind can conceive it, my heart can believe it—then I can achieve it.

It's hard to be humble when you're as great as I am.

If you even dream of beating me, you'd better wake up and apologize.

I'm so mean I make medicine sick.

He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life.

If they can make penicillin out of moldy bread, they can sure make something out of you.

At home, I'm a nice guy, but I don't want the world to know.

Humble people, I've found, don't get very far.

A man who has no imagination has no wings.

He's (Sonny Liston) too ugly to be the world champ. The world champ should be pretty, like me.

It's just a job. Grass grows, birds fly, waves pound the sand. I beat people up.

Live every day as if it were your last, because someday, you're gonna' be right.

Hail and farewell, Ali. You were pretty, and you were the greatest!

On July 2, 2016, we said goodbye to Elie Wiesel, one of the most notable men of our time.

**Elie Wiesel
a messenger for mankind**

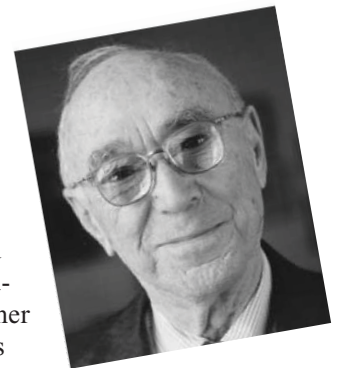
A Romanian born American Jewish writer, Wiesel was a professor of the humanities at Boston University which later created the Elie Wiesel Center of Jewish Studies in his honor. He spent his life defending human rights and campaigned for victims of oppression in South Africa and Nicaragua and was instrumental in establishing the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.



Elie Wiesel survived the Holocaust and went on to write 57 books, the most well known of which was *Night*, a work that described his experiences as a prisoner in Hitler's death camps at Auschwitz and Buchenwald. When he won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1986, the Nobel Committee called him a "messenger to mankind." He was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal.

**Jerome Bruner
a learning genius**

Summer took Jerome Bruner from us on June 5, 2016. Bruner made enormous contributions to mankind through his work in human cognitive psychology and cognitive learning theory. A graduate of Harvard University, Bruner believed that a child of any age is capable of understanding complex information. He wrote, "We begin with the hypothesis that any subject can be taught effectively in some intellectually honest form to any child at any stage of development", a feat made possible through the concept of the spiral



curriculum. According to this concept, information could be structured so that complex ideas could be taught at a simplified level first, and then re-visited at more complex levels later on.

Bruner's theory of discovery learning allowed students to construct knowledge for themselves, rather than have teachers give them information. He maintained that teachers were meant to facilitate the learning process and allow students discover the relationship between pieces of information, in other words, to learn through a process of discovery. The worlds of learning and education will forever be indebted to Jerome Bruner.

With all of the emphasis on the games of the 31st Olympiad, we would be remiss not to recognize the accomplishments of Pat Summit, to whom we said goodbye on June 28, 2016. She was only 68 years old. For those of you who do not recognize her name, Pat was an American college basketball coach whose 1,098 career wins are the most in NCAA basketball history. She served as head coach of the Tennessee Lady Vols basketball team from 1974 to 2012. She was forced to retire at age 59 because of early onset Alzheimer's disease. During her time as head coach, she won eight NCAA championships. She was the first NCAA coach with at least 1,000 wins.

**Pat Summit
the motivator**

Pat won two Olympic gold medals: a gold as head coach of the 1984 U.S. women's basketball team, and a silver as a player on the 1976 team. In 2000, she was named the Naismith Basketball Coach of the Century. Sporting News called one of the 50 greatest coaches of all time—the only woman on the list. In her 38 years of coaching, she never had a losing season. President Barack Obama awarded Summit the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2012. That same year, she received the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the ESPYs.



Pat Summit wrote three books about her amazing life and career: *Reach for the Summit*, *Raise the Roof*, and *Sum It Up*. All are part motivational and part autobiographi-

cal. *Sum It Up* not only covers her life, it tells what it was like to be diagnosed and live with Alzheimer's disease. She was an inspiration to us all.

The summer of 2016 took others of our national treasures: Buddy Ryan, the great NFL defensive coach; William McNeill, world historian and distinguished scholar; Garrison Keillor, who did not die, but who moved out and away from our beloved Lake Wobegone; and the incomparable Garry Marshall.

**Garry Marshall
the winningest**

He made us laugh, he made us cry, and he provided us with hours of unforgettable entertainment. Going all the way back to "Happy Days," Garry Marshall was a fixture in our living rooms. He brought us such memorable characters as "the Fonz", Laverne and Shirley, Mork and Mindy, Joanie and Chachi, and countless others.

Nor did he confine himself to the small screen. He was a movie mogul, directing "Pretty Woman," "Runaway Bride," "The Princess Diaries," and "Royal Engagement," among others. Who can forget "Pretty Woman" Julia Roberts in that gorgeous red gown opening the jewelry case to find an eye-popping diamond necklace, or Julia weeping while experiencing her first opera, or Julia pointing out to a sales clerk on Rodeo Drive that she had made a big mistake in not helping her select a new wardrobe, or Julia leaning over her casement while Prince Charming, Richard Gere, climbed the ladder to claim his Cinderella. Thank you, Garry Marshall. Thank you very much.



*The doors were cedar
And the panels strips of gold
And the girls were golden girls
And the panels read and the girls chanted
We are the greatest city, the greatest nation.
Nothing like us ever was.*

—CARL SANDBURG

Four Preludes to Playthings of the Wind

And so, summer is gone. We look forward to the promise of fall. Maybe the Cubs will make it to the World Series. 🏆

Nan A. Talese, Doubleday

Reviewed by SHIRLEY BAUGHER

Have you ever dreamed of spending time on a faraway island with the person of your dreams? Well, Frances Conway did just that, and later wrote about the experience in her memoirs. Midwestern author Allison Amend, inspired by Conway's recollections, framed a novel around them which

she called *Enchanted Islands*, the story of an independent American woman whose path takes her far from her native Minnesota when she and her husband, an undercover intelligence officer, are sent to the Galápagos Islands at the brink of World War II.

Born in Duluth, Minnesota, in 1882 to immigrant parents, Frances Frankowski covets the life of her best friend, Rosalie Mendel, who has

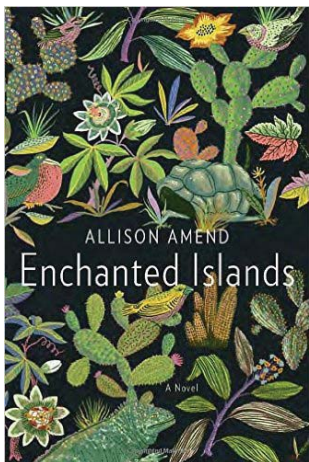
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**The
Reading
Corner**

Enchanted Islands
by Allison Amend



SHIRLEY BAUGHER
1710 N. Crilly Court
Chicago, IL 60614



everything Fanny could wish for—looks, money, parents who value education, and a personality that charmed everyone she met. But Rosalie wanted more, in part to experience the world outside Duluth, and in part to escape the horrifying situation in which her parents

have placed her. Rosalie decides she and Frances should run away to Chicago. She arrives on Frances's doorstep with her carpetbag packed and gives her friend an ultimatum—now or never. Frances chooses now, knowing she will have to support both of them since her parents had forced her to quit school and take a secretarial course. Rosalie, of course, has no skills—only her looks and personality. All goes well, for a while;

then, Rosalie commits an unforgivable betrayal and Frances strikes out on her own.

Years go by before the women reconnect in San Francisco where Rosalie has married a very wealthy man and become a mother. Frances, now 55, works as a secretary for the Office of Naval Intelligence. She is introduced to Ainslie Conway, an impossibly handsome intelligence operator ten years her junior. Because both are unattached, the Navy arranges a marriage between Frances and Ainslie and sends them on a spying mission to a Galápagos island to determine if the Germans are planning to construct a military base there to advance Hitler's plan for world domination. Both Frances and Ainslie are hiding personal secrets from each other, which are revealed on the island. No longer a lonely spinster, Frances embarks on the most fascinating and intrigue-filled years of her life, while Ainslie is reveling in the not so glamorous life of a spy.

Life on the island is harsh: the couple have to grow their own food, build their lodging, get by on the barest necessities, and befriend the few German inhabitants without giving away their cover. Despite the difficulties, Ainslie and Frances carve out a life for themselves and come to love each other. War does come, and their paradise is lost, of course, when the war ended the course of their life on the island, their secrets are revealed to the world and to each other with significant consequences. Of course Frances and Rosalie reconnect and their troubled relationship goes on to its inevitable conclusion.

Enchanted Islands is both a history lesson and a look at a controversial time in American history. It examines the complexity of male and female relationships, the desire to find a place to call home, and the repercussions of secrets we keep from others and from ourselves. It's a good read, and one you will not soon forget. ■■■