



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER  
2019-2020 NUMBER 3

Editor: Shirley Baugher  
Designer: Norman Baugher

# FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS CHICAGO

www.fawchicago.org


## President's Message

CHRISTINE SPATARA, *President*

A few weeks ago, I found myself in Dublin having finished a private literary tour of Irish Writers with an Irishman who had an in-depth knowledge of Irish literature and history. You can never say enough about such literary giants as Oscar Wilde, WB Yeats, James Joyce, Samuel Becket, George



Bernard Shaw and many others. We finished our tour at the Dublin Writers Museum which, despite its small size, could easily take a week to explore.

The tour made me think of our goal as an organization: FAW helps writers realize their dreams. Even if we only play a small part, our encouragement can inspire another Wilde or a Yeats. Genius flourishes around us, just waiting to be recognized. 

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

**Susanna Calkins,  
mystery writer and  
author of *The Speakeasy Series* presents**

### Flappers, Cocktails and Temperance— True Stories of Prohibition

By TAMMIE BOB  
*Program Chair*

#### About the Author

Susanna Calkins has a PhD in history and teaches at Northwestern University when she's not writing engaging mysteries. Join her in solving this exciting adventure! Join us for the FAW luncheon on Wednesday, November 13, at 12:00 noon.


Flappers, bootleggers and gangsters, cocktails and speakeasies—these are the common images of Prohibition. But what led to Prohibition? What was its impact? At our November luncheon, Susanna Calkins, historian and author of the historical *Speakeasy Mysteries*, will share insights into the paradoxes of Prohibition on the eve of its hundred-year anniversary. She will explain how the illicit alcohol trade impacted society, culture, and daily life in Chicago throughout the “Roaring Twenties.”

Ms. Calkins is the author of *The Lucy Campione* mysteries about a 17th century London chambermaid turned printer's apprentice who solves a series of grisly murders. Ms. Calkins' new series, which begins with *Murder Knocks Twice*, tells the story of Gina Ricci, who takes on a job as a cigarette girl to earn money for her ailing father and to prove to herself that she can hold her own at Chicago's most notorious speakeasy, the Third Door. She is enchanted by the harsh, but glamor-



ous, world she discovers: the sleek socialites sipping bootlegged cocktails, the rowdy ex-soldiers playing poker in a curtained back room, the flirtatious jazz pianist, and the brooding photographer—all overseen by the club's imposing owner,

Signora Castellazzo. When Gina arrives, the staff is whispering about her predecessor, who died under mysterious circumstances. The club photographer, Marty, heightens tensions when he warns Gina to be careful.

But it is Marty who should have heeded his own admonition. Early in the story, Marty is brutally murdered. Since Gina is the only witness to the murder, she is determined to track down his killer. She wonders what secrets Marty captured on his camera, and who would do anything to destroy these secrets? As Gina searches for answers, she's pulled deeper into the shadowy truths hiding behind the Third Door. Come to the presentation on November 13, and as the famous fictional detective Hercule Poirot is fond of saying, “All will be revealed.” 



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Luncheon Reservations

Fortnightly of Chicago  
120 E. Bellevue Place

Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than 6:00 p.m. Sunday November 10. To reserve, please call Pat Adelberg (1-847-588-0911) or Peggy Kuzminski (1-773-710-8637). Permanent reservations are preferred and can be requested when making a reservation. Regular reservations can be made month by month.

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 per person, payable by check (preferred) to FAW in the front lobby on the day of the meeting. Cash is also accepted. For group reservations, we ask that only one person make the reservation 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. Discounted parking is available at 100 Bellevue Place, two doors west of the Fortnightly.

**Seating Arrangements:** Please mention any special seating arrangements when you make your reservation, e.g., with guests, with a friend or group, or disability seating. Every effort will be made to honor your request. If you have trouble climbing stairs, please call the Fortnightly in advance (312-944-1330) and staff will give you instructions.

### Membership Corner

PATRICIA SCHNEIDER, *Membership Chair*

We extend a hearty welcome to our new members: **Joan Gordon, Victoria Lamm, Virginia Mullin, Jamie O'Malley, and Pat Wyrick.** We currently have 97 regular members, two honorary members, and three sustain-

ing club members. We know that our new members will derive great benefit and pleasure through their participation in FAW.

Your continued membership drive participation by inviting friends to join FAW is much appreciated.

### FAW Officers 2019-2020

For those of you who need an update, here is a complete list of FAW Officers for 2019-2020:

**President** - Chris Spatara (1 year)

**Vice-president** - Tammie Bob

**Secretary** - Karen Burnett

**Treasurer** - Vivian Mortensen

**Literature awards co-chairs**

Ida Hagman and Karen Pulver

**Young people's literature awards chair** -  
Angela Gall

**Newsletter editor** - Shirley Baugher

**Membership chair** - Patricia Schneider

**Luncheon chair** - Carol Eshaghy 

## FEATURE ARTICLE

# FIRST

by SHIRLEY BAUGHER



# THANKSGIVING

**T**HERE is a lot we don't know about the first Thanksgiving, celebrated in the Plymouth Colony in 1621. This is because historians, who get their information from primary sources, have had to rely on only two eyewitness accounts of the event. We do know that such a celebration was a rare event. In New England, the pursuit of pleasure was looked upon

with suspicion. Games and sports were prohibited. Cards and dice were especially condemned because of the gambling element in them, and gambling was banned by law. Stage plays and dancing between men and women were frowned upon. Shuffle board was not allowed because it was considered an idle game that caused young people to waste precious time. Likewise swimming was thought to be a waste of time. As for children playing with toys, the Puritans were not favorably disposed toward that activity. Although toys were sold in New England, they were expensive and available only in a very small quantity.

But no one can exist solely without pleasure, and even the Puritans had their diversions. Thus, Thanksgiving. The first harvest at the Plymouth Colony was a disappointment. The wheat, barley, peas, and other things planted with seeds brought from England came to nothing, either from "...ye badness of ye seed, or lateness of the season, or both, or some other defeete," according to Governor William Bradford. Still, the harvest did enable the Puritans to increase the colonists' rations to a peck of meal a week

per person. To this was now added, a peck of corn, thanks to the Wampanoag Indians and their chief, Massasoit. Bradford decided this was cause for celebration. He sent four men out to kill wild fowl so that he could hold a feast for the members of his little colony. The men brought back enough to supply the settlement for a week. It seemed only right to invite the Indian chief Massasoit and his people, without whose assistance the colony would not have survived. Massasoit came with ninety brightly painted braves. He also brought five deer and other good things from the fields and forest.

The gala occasion was not limited to food. Colonists and Native Americans engaged in games of chance and skill. Afterwards, they gorged themselves on venison, duck, goose, clams and other shellfish, smoked eels, corn breads, leeks, watercress, and other greens. For dessert, they served up wild plums and dried berries. They washed it all down with wine made from wild grapes of the region. The celebration went on for three days and was proclaimed a great success.

Setting aside a day to celebrate the harvest caught on in other parts of the young nation. The first Thanksgiving in Boston was held on February 22, 1630, to show gratitude for the safe arrival of ships from England bringing food and additional settlers. The next year Thanksgiving Day was held on November 4. As time went on, it became a New England tradition and was even carried West by restless Yankees searching for more land. By 1684, no fewer than twenty-two days were designated in Massachusetts for giving thanks.

#### **By the President of the United States of America: A Proclamation.**

*The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle, or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who,*

*while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.*

*In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.*

*Done at the City of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.*

—By the President: Abraham Lincoln

#### **Shop till you drop**

The idea of an annual day of celebration was not limited to having a good crop. It could commemorate a victory over the Indians, the success of the Protestants over the Catholics in Germany, the crowning of a new king, the ending of epidemics, and the suppression of pirates. Nor was Thursday the only day on which Thanksgiving was observed. One year it was held on a Tuesday, another on Wednesday, and so on. Colonist John Cotton wrote, “We sometimes, upon extraordinary occasions or of notable judgments, do set apart a day of humiliation, or upon special mercies we set apart a day of Thanksgiving.”



As the Thanksgiving holiday evolved, it became a day for family and friends to come together and give thanks for their blessings. The feast was an integral part of the day and became more elaborate in good times—less so in hard

**Ben Franklin's preference for the national bird**

by Norman Baugher

CONTINUED



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times. Certain foods, some part of that first Thanksgiving, others added later, were associated with the meal: turkey, squashes, corn, berries (cranberries), dressing (or stuffing), various vegetables, and pumpkin pie.

Although it was celebrated, Thanksgiving did not become a fixed annual observance until 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving and decreed that it should be observed on the last Thursday in November. Federal offices were closed, as were many businesses. But the great god profit would not be ignored. Commercial establishments began opening after the meal was concluded and offering “door busters”—desirable items at ridiculously low prices to lure customers in. The sports world also saw this as a day to lure viewers to their television sets with contests between popular teams.

So will you be feasting and shopping, feasting and binge watching, or feasting and feasting and feasting? However you choose to celebrate your Thanksgiving, this year on November 23, you might give a nod to those “fun loving” Puritans who made this day possible by putting aside their serious sides long enough to relax and give thanks for the good things they had been granted. ■■

## **FAW MEETINGS 2019-20**

A reminder of the FAW meetings for 2019-20. Be sure to mark your calendars. You won't want to miss a single one!

### **September 11, 2019**

Rosellen Brown  
Award-winning author of  
*Before and After*

### **October 9, 2019**

“Confessions of a Literary Translator: The Prose and the Cons”  
Ann Fisher

### **November 13, 2019**

“Flappers, Cocktails, and Temperance: True Stories of Prohibition”  
Susanna Caulkins, author of  
*The Speakeasy Murders*

### **December 11, 2019**

Jenny Riddle brings to life  
“The Bouvier Sisters”

### **January 8, 2020**

“All About Pork”  
Cynthia Clampett

### **February 12, 2020**

“Meet the Vanishing Woman”  
Doug Peterson and Ellen Craft

### **March 11, 2020**

“Growing up Jewish and Surviving in Nazi Germany”  
Eric Blaustein, Holocaust Survivor

### **April 8, 2020**

Jane Hamilton  
Award-winning author of  
*The Book of Ruth*.

### **May 1, 2020:**

Literature Awards Program