



Our mission shall be to encourage new, talented writers associated with the Midwest and to promote the arts, especially literature, among our members.

Sep 1, 2020 - Fawchicago.org

Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*



I hope everyone is safe and well. This is an important newsletter, with complete information about how to access and participate in the September 25th awards virtual meeting. I am so pleased that all five authors will be joining us for question and answer sessions after their presentations, and that we will be able to provide breakout sessions with smaller groups after the larger meeting.

You may remember that a few years ago, FAW participated in a drive to send books to a school library in New Orleans that was decimated by Hurricane Katrina. This summer, considering the difficulties Chicago teachers and students were facing this year, The Board decided to take on a small project : to provide each student in a first-grade classroom at the Lawndale Community Academy with a copy of *Thank You, Omu* by Oge Mora, a past winner of our Young People's Literature Award. The books will be purchased from the Book Cellar and shipped directly to each student in the classroom. We are arranging a Zoom meeting with the author for the class.

Please donate to this effort by sending a check to FAW with memo of “Classroom Book Donation” to Vivian Mortensen, 506 Rose Avenue, Des Plaines, IL. 60016. A \$25.00 donation will cover the cost of one book shipped to one student. This is a small way our organization can make a difference during these difficult times.

I look forward to “seeing” you at our first virtual meeting—and even more to the day when we can go back to the Fortnightly!

September 25th Meeting

Please join Friends of American Writers in the presentation of the FAW Literature Awards on September 25.

The presentation of the awards will be virtual and conducted through Zoom. There will be short video clips from each author plus introductions from the Literature Awards committee and a Q & A session. Gather your friends for a virtual table for your own chat session following the Awards.

What: Friends of American Writers Literature Awards Meeting

When: September 25th at 12:00 Central time

Where: Virtual meeting via Zoom. No need to make a reservation. Read the books in advance and plan to ask questions to the authors.

How: ****Important - Everyone with an email will be sent a link to join the meeting by email. Watch for your meeting link.** You may forward the link to friends. First install the Zoom app. On Sep 25 slightly before noon, click on the link to join the meeting. This part of the meeting is a webinar and your video and microphone will be off. During the Q & A portion, you will have the ability to ‘virtually’ raise your hand. To ask a question Click **Raise Hand** in the Webinar Controls.



You will receive a message to unmute yourself. Unmute yourself and address your question to the author. You will be muted again when the question is complete. You may also submit a question to the authors via the ‘chat’ function. If you do not receive the link email by September 24, you can send a request to info@fawchicago.org

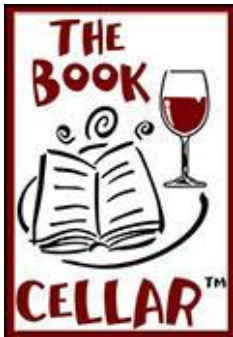


Special Feature: Break-out Rooms after the Awards meeting.

A separate break-out room session has been created to simulate the FAW luncheon tables at the Fortnightly and is optional. You will be able to see and chat with your friends or other FAW members and it will follow the Awards Session.

How to participate: Break-out room reservations and cancellations are due no later than 5:00 p.m. Saturday September 19. To reserve, please send an email to [REDACTED] with the names and email address of the attendees in your group.

If you don't have a preference for a specific break-out room group but would like to chat with members, send an email and we will get you into a group. Our members are friendly and welcoming.



Support our award-winning authors with a purchase of their book. The Book Cellar on N. Lincoln Ave is our usual book vendor at the Literature Awards. Visit them at: The Book Cellar, 4736-38 N Lincoln Ave Chicago, IL 60625, (773) 293-2665, and purchase a copy of the Award-Winning books with the FAW Literature Award seal.

The Altruists by Andrew Ridker


The Municipalists by Seth Fried


Sorry for your Loss by Jesse Ann Foley


Rising Above Shepherdsville by Ann Schoenbohm

Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga

FAW News

 The FAW nominating committee presented the following slate of new officers and directors for the 2020 – 2021 year. Some were replacements for vacated positions. Tammie Bob – President, Christine Spatara – Vice President, Secretary – Dale Davison, Newsletter Editor – Karen Baker, Membership – Karen Burnett, Programs – Joan Gordon, Revisions – Pat Schneider, Sustaining Clubs – Diana Adams. The FAW Board Members approved the slate of new officers and directors in March then convened during the June meeting via Zoom. Due to Covid-19 the slate of new FAW board members were not presented at the FAW meeting in April to the membership at large for approval. If any member has objections to the new slate of FAW board members, please contact Tammie Bob by email at bobtam410@gmail.com or mail at 474 Stagecoach Run, Glen Ellyn IL 60137.

 **Adult Literature Awards** – The Adult Award Committee members are indefatigable in searching for outstanding emerging Midwest writers. Thirteen members have agreed to return to the committee: Diana Adams, Adrienne Bornstein, Tammie Bob, Carrie Brenner, Karen Burnett, Mary Rob Clarke, Dale Davison, Ida Hagman, Ellen Israel, Kathy Katz, Diane Miller, Karen Pulver, Barbara Smith. We will soon begin the work of reviewing submissions. We will meet virtually and are working out the details of how to distribute books and maintain social distance. Diana Adams has agreed to be the point person for distributing books to committee members in downtown Chicago. Barbara Smith will be the point person for the northern suburbs. Our plan is to decide on the winners by March 2021. - submitted by Ida Hagman, co-chair Adult Awards

 **Young People's Literature Awards** – This year the Young People's Literature Award Committee has 13 members: Vivian Mortensen, Tanya Klasser, Peggy Kuzminski, Jane Foster, Colleen Kadlec, Betty O'Toole, Deb Hall Reppen, Roberta Gates, Vicki Lamm, Patti Smart, Sally Kowalewski, Joan Gordon, and Angela Gall. The Young People's Literature Awards Committee members are excited to begin our 2020 season. So far, we have 22 contenders on our list of books to read. Members have begun reading and are happy to report enthusiasm for some good finds. We will meet virtually in October to discuss them. Here's to a productive and fulfilling year! – submitted by Angela Gall, Chair YP Awards



FAW Meeting agenda – Our programs so far this year are virtual. Here is our lineup so far:

September 25- FAW Literature Awards

October 21-FAW Scholarship presentation and Columbia College’s MFA Writing program

November 11- Rex Huppke of Chicago Tribune

December 9 - A Musical Program, Vocalists Celebrating the season In Song

January 13 - Leslie Goddard performing Georgia O’Keeffe

We will also have **Readers & Reviewers** November 18 of The Municipalists by Seth Fried, led by Joan Gordon and another R&R meeting in March of My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante, led by Roberta Gates.



We all love those absolutely adorable little free libraries. Here is a positively stupendous one.

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/little-free-library-in-a-110-year-old-tree-stump>



Who Wants to Know...

Taboo deformations

These words are called, among linguists, taboo deformations. They are euphemisms for words which should not be used in public, usually because they are non-polite or or culturally unacceptable. We have created these semi-polite substitute words to convey meaning without fearing the consequences of the spoken word. These unmentionables can be a powerful entity, a fearsome being, or a swear word. Here are a few. You can guess the meanings.

Dagnabbit	Hankie pankie	Cash in your chips
Jeez	Friggin	He-who-must-not-be-named
Egad	Poppycock	Do your business
Sam Hill	Jehosaphat	Tarnation
Bought the farm	Private parts	Golly



Neat Links

PBS Newshour and The New York Times Book Club - Now Read This

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/features/now-read-this/>

Art Lectures.

Found by searching YouTube with Art Lectures YouTube

Lunchtime Talks - The National Gallery

27 different Lectures. Go to YouTube and search on Lunchtime Talks National Gallery.

Lectures at the MFA (Museum of Fine Arts, Boston)

<https://www.youtube.com/mfaboston>

Nature to Calm and amuse

Hummingbird pool party	https://youtu.be/YAer4rDnA6I
The Cornell Lab Bird Cams	https://www.allaboutbirds.org/cams/



READING SUGGESTIONS

The Lost and Found Bookshop by Susan Wiggs

Fiction, Romance

In this thought-provoking, wise and emotionally rich novel, bestselling author Susan Wiggs explores the meaning of happiness, trust, and faith in oneself as she asks the question, "If you had to start over, what would you do and who would you be?"

Susan Wiggs has written a charming story filled with family, hope, heart, and books. Natalie Harper has a stable but uninspiring job then tragedy strikes with her mother's death. She inherits her mother's charming but financially strapped bookshop in San Francisco and returns to become the caretaker for her ailing grandfather Andrew, her only living relative—not counting her scoundrel father. When she returns home, she remembers how much she loves working in the bookshop, but she is also troubled by the decline of her grandfather's health. What follows is a sweet story of family, healing, acceptance, and love.

When No One is Watching by Alyssa Cole

Fiction, Thriller, Mystery

Rear Window meets *Get Out* in this gripping thriller from a critically acclaimed and *New York Times* Notable author, in which the gentrification of a Brooklyn neighborhood takes on a sinister new meaning...

Sydney Green is Brooklyn born and raised, but her beloved neighborhood seems to change every time she blinks. Condos are sprouting like weeds, FOR SALE signs are popping up overnight, and the neighbors she's known all her life are disappearing. Sydney channels her frustration into a walking tour and finds an unlikely and unwanted assistant in one of the new arrivals to the block—her neighbor Theo. But Sydney and Theo's deep dive into history quickly becomes a dizzying descent into paranoia and fear. Their neighbors may not have moved to the suburbs after all, and the push to revitalize the community may be more deadly than advertised. When does coincidence become conspiracy? Where do people go when gentrification pushes them out? A book with many timely topics relevant to our current times.

Madam Secretary: A Memoir by Madeleine K. Albright

Nonfiction, Memoir

In this outspoken and much-praised memoir, the highest-ranking woman in American history shares her remarkable story and provides an insider's view of world affairs during a period of unprecedented turbulence. A national bestseller on its first publication in 2003, *Madam Secretary* combines warm humor with profound insights and personal testament with fascinating additions to the historical record.

FAW 2020 - 2021 Officers	Committee Chairs
President - <i>Tammie Bob</i> Vice President - <i>Christine Spatara</i> Secretary - <i>Dale Davison</i> Treasurer - <i>Vivian Mortensen</i>	Newsletter Editor - <i>Karen Baker</i> Foundation Fund - <i>Edith Riley, Roberta Gates</i> Literature Awards - <i>Ida Hagman, Karen Pulver</i> Young People's Awards - <i>Angela Gall</i> Luncheon - Social - <i>Carol Eshaghy</i> Membership - <i>Karen Burnett</i> Programs - <i>Joan Gordon</i> Revisions - <i>Pat Schneider</i> Sustaining Clubs - <i>Diana Adams</i> Yearbook & Awards Program - <i>Pat Adelberg</i> Website Manager - <i>Karen Baker</i>

Friends of American Writers – Est. 1922 Chicago, IL

FAW 2020 – 2021 meeting dates

9/25/2020, 10/21/2020, 11/11/2020, 12/9/2020 and 1/13/2021, 2/10/2021, 3/10/2021,
4/14/2021 and 5/07/2021.

Contact FAW

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