

FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS



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

Nov 1, 2020 - Fawchicago.org

Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*



We have been successful in maintaining some semblance of a monthly meeting, and I thank you for your patience and support. As Covid-19 restrictions rise and fall and rise again, we will continue to program via Zoom for the immediate future.

At our October meeting, we delved into the history and workings of our Foundation and its work awarding scholarships. Our scholarship winner, Annella Thomas, gave us an example of her work reading from her evocative essay “Honey,” and Professor Patty McNair of Columbia College gave a spirited talk probing her experience as a writer and teacher of writing. November’s program, starring Chicago Tribune columnist Rex Huppke, is described in an article below and promises to be as informative and entertaining as his columns.

I missed seeing everyone’s faces last month, so we’ve decided to turn the cameras on for the November meeting and create more sense that we are in a room together. “See” you all November 11 at noon.

November 11th, 2020 Meeting – Rex Huppke of Chicago Tribune



In the tradition of Mike Royko, columnist Rex Huppke puts his wry spin on social trends, cultural misfires, and political blowhards, providing laughter along with many head-nodding moments. Huppke appeals to readers of all ages in his columns, full of common-sense observations that just happen to illustrate the hypocrisy and absurdity of his subjects.

On November 11, at noon, it will be our privilege to spend a “Zoom” hour with Rex Huppke. This is one week after the election, and whatever the outcome, he will share his unique take on the campaigns, the election, and his predictions for what we can expect next. You will not want to miss this meeting.


If you are not familiar with Rex Huppke’s writings, take a few minutes to read some of his columns, available at this link: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/rex-huppke/> and mark this on your calendars, and watch for the Zoom link.


When: November 11, 2020 at 12:00 Central time


Where: Virtual meeting via Zoom. No need to make a reservation. We will send everyone a link to the meeting.


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. You may sign into the meeting starting at 11:45 by clicking on the link to join the meeting. Your microphone will be muted when you join the meeting.

FAW NEWS

 **The October 21 FAW meeting** was entertaining and informative and brought to the membership via a Zoom meeting. We have created a YouTube area where we will be posting recording of our meetings. Please feel free to watch it on YouTube by searching for Friends of American Writers.

 **Young People's Literature Awards** – On Wednesday, October 28th, the Young People's Literature Awards Committee met via zoom. This was the committee's first-time meeting in this manner. Our discussions about characters, theme, likes and dislikes of the 24 books we have on our contender's list flowed as naturally as our in-person discussions. There's nothing like discussing a book that lights your soul on fire—so here's hoping we find many in our midst for the 2020 season, and here's hoping we continue to feel that passion coming through our computer screens! Our next meeting via zoom will take place on Monday, November 23rd. – submitted by Angela Gall, Chair YP Awards

 **Books to Lawndale Community Academy Students** – Our program to provide a copy of Thank You, Omu! By past Literature Award Winner Oge Mora was a success and the books have been distributed. Look for an update next month and hopefully some pictures!

 **FAW Program Committee** – The Program committee will be meeting November 9 to discuss programs for February – April of the upcoming year. We hope the pandemic situation improves, but until we can safely meet, we are planning for more virtual meetings.

September 25- FAW Literature Awards

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

November 11- Rex Huppke of Chicago Tribune

November 18, Readers & Reviewers -. *The Municipalists* by Seth Fried, led by Joan Gordon

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** meeting in March of *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante, led by Roberta Gates.



HUMOR ME

→A thief stuck a pistol in a man's ribs and said, "Give me your money." The gentleman, shocked by the sudden attack, said: "You cannot do this, I'm a United States congressman!" The thief said, "In that case, give me my money!"

→A politician was a guest speaker at the golf club dinner. As the politician stood up to speak, a few of the men saw it as an opportunity to sneak off to the bar. An hour later, with the politician still talking, another man joined them. "Is he still talking?" they asked him. "Yes," the other man answered. "What on Earth is he talking about?"

"I don't know. He's still introducing himself."

→" Bipartisan usually means that a larger-than-usual deception is being carried out." —George Carlin

→ "The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with the average voter." - Winston S. Churchill

→ “Elections belong to the people. It's their decision. If they decide to turn their back on the fire and burn their behinds, then they will just have to sit on their blisters.” — *Abraham Lincoln*

→ “Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.” — *Franklin D. Roosevelt*



READING SUGGESTIONS

***Leaving Rollingstone: A Memoir* by Kevin Fenton**

Non-Fiction, Memoir

2012 FAW Literature Winner Kevin Fenton has a memoir.

In 1959, Kevin Fenton was born on a family farm overlooking Rollingstone, Minnesota—a tight-knit village founded by Luxembourgers and so Catholic that the parish school was the only school in town. The farm, and Kevin's memory, is filled with the closeness of his large family. Soon, however, the farm is lost; the school closed; the family fractured. The family's move from the farm, while not all bad, leaves Kevin yearning for Rollingstone and the old family home. *Leaving Rollingstone*, set in a time of major social change, is a portrait of the inevitability of loss and the power of choice, about how a big-city ad man and novelist reclaimed the enduring values and surprising vitality of his small-town boyhood.

***American Crisis: Leadership Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic* by Andrew Cuomo**

Non-Fiction, Politics

During the early stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic, I looked forward to the daily TV briefings by NY Governor Andrew Cuomo as a no-nonsense, shoot from the hip, factual news with the virus. Governor Cuomo tells the riveting story of how he took charge in the fight against COVID-19 as New York became the epicenter of the pandemic, offering hard-won lessons in leadership and his vision for the path forward.

***A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende**

Historical Fiction

This epic novel spanning decades and crossing continents follows two young people as they flee the aftermath of the Spanish Civil War in search of a place to call home. Set during the 1930s as a civil war grips Spain. When General Franco and his Fascists succeed in overthrowing the government, hundreds of thousands are forced to flee in a treacherous journey over the mountains to the French border. Among them is Roser, a pregnant young widow, who finds her life intertwined with that of Victor Dalmau, an army doctor and the brother of her deceased love. In order to survive, the two must unite in a marriage neither of them desires. Together with two thousand other refugees, they embark on the SS Winnipeg to Chile. Starting over on a new continent, they will face trial after trial. But they will also find joy as they patiently await the day when they will be exiles no more. Through it all, their hope of returning to Spain keeps them going. Destined to witness the battle between freedom and repression as it plays out across the world, Roser and Victor will find that home might have been closer than they thought all along.

***The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell**

Fiction, Mystery

Three siblings who have been out of touch for more than 20 years grapple with their unsettling childhoods, but when the youngest inherits the family home, all are drawn back together. At the age of 25, Libby Jones learns she has inherited a large London house that was held in a trust left to her by her birthparents. But by claiming this inheritance, Libby is claiming a darker inheritance, too: a connection to an unsolved crime and an obscure, cult-like society, one which has been waiting, biding its time, until Libby makes herself known. When she visits the lawyer, she is shocked to find out that she was put up for adoption when she was 10 months old after her

parents died in the house in an apparent suicide pact with an unidentified man and that she has an older brother and sister who were teenagers at the time of their parents' deaths and haven't been seen since. A dark, twisty, engrossing family saga.

Queenie by Candice Carty-Williams

Fiction

So much more than the marketing blurb comparing it to a modern-day *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Queenie's 25th year is shaping up to be a disaster of epic proportions. She works at a national newspaper, where she's constantly forced to compare herself to her white middle class peers. After a messy break up from her long-term white boyfriend, Queenie seeks comfort in all the wrong places...including several hazardous men who do a good job of occupying brain space and a bad job of affirming self-worth. As Queenie careens from one questionable decision to another, she finds herself wondering, "What are you doing? Why are you doing it? Who do you want to be?"—all of the questions today's woman must face in a world trying to answer them for her. Queenie is such a well-developed and layered character, and when you follow her through this book be very aware of judgments that may arise. You may be frustrated by her choices, but you root for her to grow and find herself.

Glorious Boy by Aimee Liu

Historical Fiction

It's 1942. The Japanese have invaded Burma and are closing in on India. After five years in the remote Andaman Islands, aspiring anthropologist Claire Durant and her husband Shep, a civil surgeon, must evacuate with their beloved but mysteriously mute four-year-old, Ty. They cannot, however, take Naila, the local girl whose ability to communicate with Ty has made them dangerously dependent on her. The morning of the evacuation, both children disappear. With time running out, Shep forces Claire onto the ship while he stays behind to find their son. But just days after landing in Calcutta, Claire learns that the Japanese have taken the Andamans--and cut off all access to her missing family. In the desperate odyssey that follows, Claire, Shep, and Naila will all take unimaginable risks while drawing deeply from their knowledge of these unique islands to save their beloved "glorious boy."

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

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