

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.

Jan 2, 2021 - Fawchicago.org

Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*



Happy New Year, Friends of American Writers! I hope you were able to have some measure of joy over the holidays. It does seem that we are close to a time when we will be able to be out and about again, with other people.

In the meantime, FAW will continue our monthly Zoom meetings, which have turned out to be quite enjoyable. On January 13, please tune into your Zoom invitation at noon to watch actress and scholar Leslie Goddard bring to life the artist Georgia O'Keefe. There will be a Q & A session afterward. Friends are always welcome by forwarding your Zoom link.

Again, I thank you for your loyal support during the pandemic. Now I ask you to consider becoming more active in our organization next year by joining a committee or our board. None of the jobs are difficult or time-consuming, and it turns out we generally enjoy working together, whether vetting books for our awards, planning programs, or keeping track of our members and finances. Please contact me or any of our board members to find out how you can best be useful. We currently need a Secretary to take notes at our board meetings. Think about volunteering!

See you on January 13th, at noon, via Zoom.

January 13th, 2021 Program – Leslie Goddard as artist, Georgia O'Keefe



Get ready for Friends of American Writers January program! We will welcome back Leslie Goddard portraying Georgia O'Keefe.


Leslie Goddard is an award-winning actress and scholar who has been portraying famous women and presenting history lectures for more than 10 years. She holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University specializing in U.S. history and American Studies as well as master's degrees in both theater and museum studies. A former museum director, she is the author of two books on Chicago history and currently works full-time as a historical interpreter, author, and public speaker.

Georgia O'Keefe was a leader in female painters and one of the first to achieve worldwide acclaim from art critics and the public. Women have historically struggled to be taken seriously in academic art circles, but the 20th century marked a significant change in these attitudes. Georgia started her art education at the Art Institute of Chicago and The Art Students League in New York, then later under the tutelage of Arthur Wesley Dow. O'Keefe's paintings are unique in their style and subject matter, covering an unusual array of items in her bright, Modernist approach. You may be familiar with her

oversized **Oriental Poppies**. She features many flower subjects as well as New York skyscrapers and New Mexico landscapes in her paintings. Don't miss this wonderful presentation.

When: January 13, 2021 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. 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. If you do not receive the link email by January 12, you can send a request to 

FAW NEWS



FAW extends our many thanks to Julia and Ingrid for the beautiful music in our December meeting.

Julia Porché and Ingrid Mikolajczyk enchanted our December meeting with their beautiful voices, holiday imagery and personal photos combined seamlessly into an outstanding video presentation by Brian Johnson of Fuse-tg.com. We received numerous comments from members who enjoyed the meeting immensely and would love to hear Julia and Ingrid next year. Here is a link to the FAW YouTube area where we have posted recording of our Zooms meetings, or you can search for it in YouTube under Friends of American Writers.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfuB287f8PKMPFierqwYRQw>



Adult Literature Committee - True to form, a large percentage of book submissions arrived in November and December just before the deadline. Karen Pulver has had to deal with an avalanche of books at her front door these past six weeks. We face some challenges; one is distributing books during COVID. As usual FAW members have shown their creativity and persistence. We have mailed some books, and members have picked some up and distributed them to others who live close by. They have also gotten books from libraries and some have purchased them. We are so grateful for members' hard work and cooperation. The second challenge will be getting the books read in time to announce the winners by the end of March. We will meet by Zoom twice in January and twice in February to decide on a list of finalists by the beginning of March. During March, each committee member will finish reading all the books on the short list. We will have a Zoom meeting to decide on the winners. Despite COVID and these challenges, we are grateful that our committee work keeps us connected with meaningful work, while we remain physically isolated. The good news is we have enjoyed reading several promising titles already. – Ida Hagman, co-chair Adult Awards



FAW Upcoming Programs

February 10, 2021 - Jane Hamilton, author of two Oprah selections and other best-selling literary novels, will join us to talk about growing up in Oak Park during the initiative to integrate the village. She will tell the story of African American choir director, Norma Raybon, and of how a group reconnected with her after thirty years. Jane will discuss the challenge of writing about race then and now.

March 10, 2021 - You loved her as the pig and pork expert; join the Zoom when Cynthia Clampitt returns to talk about her latest scholarly and entertaining work, *Visiting Midwestern History*. As we prepare to travel again, we may be starting slowly and locally, so let's get some suggestions for nearby places to visit. Road trip!

April 14, 2021 - John Scheckter, presenting - Major Fitz-Gerald at Gallipoli: Archive and Empathy. The personal papers of an Australian major in the First World War not only tell an adventurous story of intelligence and courage.

May 2021 – Hopefully, our FAW Literature Awards will be ****LIVE**** at the Fortnightly.

→ We will also have **Readers & Reviewers** meeting in March of *My Brilliant Friend* by Elena Ferrante, led by Roberta Gates.

DIVERSIONS



→ **Neologisms (new words)**

Neologisms are new words, new meaning or usage of a word or expression. Some words we have incorporated into our everyday use and others are new and entertaining. Here are a few.

Adorkable	Adorable Dork, someone socially inept but charming
Abdicate	To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach
AI Desko	From AI Fresco, meaning to eat at your desk
Antifa	A Conglomeration of anti-fascist groups in the USA. Shortlisted for word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary
Anticipointment	Anticipated disappointment, often after launch of a heavily hyped product or service
Bization or Bleisure	Business trip with a vacation or leisure.
Bragony	Bra agony (from the wearing of a very uncomfortable bra)
Cashtration	The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period
Caterpallor	The color you turn after finding half a grub in the fruit you're eating
Covididiot	A person who refuses to take the necessary precautions designed to prevent the spread of coronavirus.
Coronacoaster	The ups and downs in a this pandemic
Coffee	The person upon whom one coughs
Esplanade	To attempt an explanation while drunk
Flabbergasted	Appalled over how much weight you have gained
FANG	An acronym for the four great growth US companies Facebook, Amazon, Netflix, and Google (not Apple)
FOMO	An acronym meaning Fear Of Missing Out
Frenemies	A blend of Friend and enemy
Glamping	glamorous camping
Hangry	Hungry angry; the anger you feel due to lack of food
Ignoranus	A person who is both stupid and an asshole
Laughback	When you remember something funny from the past and laugh at it like it's currently happening
Mansplaining	A man explaining, usually patronizingly, to a woman
Muffin top	The (often unsightly) roll of fat that appears on top of trousers that feature a low waist

Negligent	Describes a condition in which you absentmindedly answer the door in your nightgown
Sarchasm	The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it
Sansibilities	Rights without (sans) Responsibilities
Selfie	A photo taken of oneself, usually on a smart camera-phone
Sellebrity	Using celebrities to sell products and services, where the celeb gets closely associated with the item
Stuffocation	Suffocation from excess stuff
WFH	An acronym for Work From Home

→**National Writers Series**

I have been living in our vacation home in Traverse City, MI since the end of April 2020 due to the Pandemic situation. Before the pandemic, I had attended shows offered at the local Opera house hosted by a local organization, National Writers Series (NWS). They host conversations with nationally known authors, support college scholarships and programs to advance the writing skills of budding young writers. Check out the NWS virtual programs. The new season is about to start.

<https://nationalwritersseries.org/>



READING SUGGESTIONS

Unvarnished: A Gimlet-eyed Look at Life Behind the Bar
by Eric Alperin & Deborah Stoll

Nonfiction, Biography

When it opened a decade ago, the acclaimed Los Angeles speakeasy The Varnish—owned, designed, and managed by award-winning cocktail aficionado Eric Alperin—quickly became the stylish standard bearer for modern bars. Unvarnished is a candid, voice-driven, no-holds-barred look at the workings of a bar, and the foundation of The Varnish’s success: attention to hospitality and an abiding belief in the nobility of service. A bit of a history lesson, cocktail recipes, and well-kept bar secrets.

Alperin and veteran bartender and writer Deborah Stoll push back against the prevailing conceit that working in the service industry is something people do because they failed at another career.

Dear Mrs. Bird by A. J. Pearce

Historical Fiction

London 1940, bombs are falling. Emmy Lake is Doing Her Bit for the war effort, volunteering as a telephone operator with the Auxiliary Fire Services. When Emmy sees an advertisement for a job at the *London Evening Chronicle*, her dreams of becoming a Lady War Correspondent seem suddenly achievable. But the job turns out to be typist to the fierce and renowned advice columnist, Henrietta Bird. Emmy is disappointed, but gamely bucks up and buckles down.

Mrs. Bird is very clear: Any letters containing Unpleasantness—must go straight in the bin. But when Emmy reads poignant letters from women who are lonely, may have Gone Too Far with the wrong men and found themselves in trouble, or who can’t bear to let their children be evacuated, she is unable to resist responding. As the German planes make their nightly raids, and London picks up the smoldering pieces each morning, Emmy secretly begins to write letters back to the women of all ages who have spilled out their troubles.

***Anxious People* by Fredrik Backman**

Fiction

Looking at real estate isn't usually a life-or-death situation, but an apartment open house becomes just that when a failed bank robber bursts in and takes a group of strangers hostage. Each of them carries a lifetime of grievances, hurts, secrets, and passions that are ready to boil over. None of them is entirely who they appear to be. And all of them—the bank robber included—desperately crave some sort of rescue. As the authorities and the media surround the premises, these reluctant allies will reveal surprising truths about themselves and set in a motion a chain of events so unexpected that even they can hardly explain what happens next.

Backman incorporates feelings we all have experienced, during our biggest and smallest times of disappointment, grief, and feelings of despair while still being humorous and compassionate. At its heart, this book deals with human connection and the impact people have on each other.

***The Second Chance Club: Hardship and Hope After Prison*
by Jason Hardy**

Nonfiction

A former parole officer shines a bright light on a huge yet hidden part of our justice system through the intertwining stories of seven parolees striving to survive the chaos that awaits them after prison in this illuminating and dramatic book.

Prompted by a dead-end retail job and a vague desire to increase the amount of justice in his hometown, Jason Hardy became a parole officer in New Orleans at the worst possible moment. Louisiana’s incarceration rates were the highest in the US and his department’s caseload had just been increased to 220 “offenders” per parole officer, whereas the national average is around 100. Almost immediately, he discovered that the biggest problem with our prison system is what we do—and don’t do—when people get out of prison.

FAW 2020 - 2021 Officers	Committee Chairs
President - <i>Tammie Bob</i> , Vice President - <i>Christine Spatara</i> , Secretary - <i>Vacant</i> , Treasurer - <i>Vivian Mortensen</i>	Newsletter Editor - <i>Karen Baker</i> , Foundation Fund - <i>Edith Riley</i> , <i>Roberta Gates</i> , Literature Awards - <i>Ida Hagman</i> , <i>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>

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