

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.

April 1, 2021 - Fawchicago.org

Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*

Happy Spring, Friends of American Writers,



First, thank you again for your continued support of our organization during the Covid-19 Year. We have been able to maintain our programming, our scholarship, and our awards due to your participation and generous support. And the prospects for our June Awards Luncheon are very promising: while indoor gatherings may still be capped at 50, the new State regulations do not count people who have been fully vaccinated for more than two weeks against that number. I believe that most, if not all of us will be in the “uncountable” category by June 4th, so we should be able to gather in full force..

For the next two months, though, our programs will continue to take place on Zoom. Some benefits of our Zoom programming are that you’ve been able to attend no matter where in the world you are; also, we haven’t had to go out in bad weather. The programs have been informative and entertaining. Our April program will be so as well, although the title, “Major Fitzgerald at Gallipoli,” may be a bit obscure to most of us. I did a bit of research: Great Britain’s Gallipoli campaign during WWI was a spectacular, and important, failure! Victors are known to write history, and probably to dwell less on their losses. History Professor John Scheckter will bring this lesser-known episode to life and show its impact on the post-WWI World. Please be sure to join us Wednesday, April 14th at noon.

April 14th, 2021 Program – Major Fitz-Gerald at Gallipoli: Archive and Empathy By John Scheckter



The Gallipoli Campaign of 1915-16, also known as the Battle of Gallipoli or the Dardanelles Campaign, was an unsuccessful attempt by the Allied Powers to control the sea route from Europe to Russia during World War I. The land portion of the campaign began on April 25 involving British and French troops as well as divisions of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

Join FAW on April 14 as John Scheckter, Professor Emeritus of English, Long Island University walks us through the failed invasion as captured in the scrap book of war hero, Richard Francis Fitz-Gerald.

When: April 14, 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 11:50 by clicking on the link to join the meeting. Your microphone will be muted when you join the meeting. Please leave it muted during the program. There will be a Q & A opportunity following the presentation.

Major Fitz-Gerald at Gallipoli: Archive and Empathy

By John Scheckter

When a colleague at Long Island University loaned me her father's scrapbook, I found a unique opportunity—an inside perspective on a formative moment in Australian history. Her father, it turned out, was a war hero.

The Gallipoli campaign of 1915 was an effort by British imperial forces to capture Constantinople and knock the Ottoman Empire out of World War I. On 25 April, thousands of British, Australian, and New Zealand troops landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula of Turkey, at the head of the Dardanelles and ironically close to the ancient site of Troy. The commanders expected no resistance in this isolated space, crossed by steep ravines and nearly uninhabited; however, the landing troops encountered a large, disciplined Turkish force. Retreating to an exposed beachhead, the imperial troops dug in and traded fire with the Turks for the remainder of the year. The fighting was close and brutal: in some places, the enemies were only yards apart (the 1981 film *Gallipoli* shows some of it). At Lone Pine, Australians and Turks fought hand to hand for four days. After suffering more than 30,000 casualties, the commanders ordered a retreat from Gallipoli. On two moonless nights in December, the forces silently withdrew without loss in a well-planned operation that was the only real success of the entire campaign.

My colleague grew up in Australia, and her father, Richard Francis Fitz-Gerald, was the last Australian to leave an exposed position at Gallipoli. At the time, he was a thirty-five-year-old major commanding the 20th Battalion of the Australian Imperial Force. He kept a diary in that year, and throughout the war collected documents and written artifacts that explained or reflected his experience. His “scrapbook” carefully preserved these in a small personal archive, often writing annotations or comments as he later revisited the scenes they represented. These materials not only personalize or bring to life the public history in which Fitz-Gerald participated, but also offer meaningful lessons for approaching unfamiliar people and situations with openness and empathy.

FAW NEWS



Help Us Celebrate the Centennial!

Next year Friends of American Writers will be 100 years old, and a committee has already been formed to plan ways we can celebrate this significant milestone.


A gala at the Woman's Athletic Club is being planned for May 2022 that will include cocktails, dinner, and a speaker. We'll also be inviting some of our past winners back during the course of the year so we can catch up with them and their writing careers. A centennial booklet summarizing the club's history is also being prepared.


If you have any ideas or would like to help in some way, please get in touch with Roberta Gates or Karen Pulver who are the co-chairs of the committee. They'd be happy to hear from you!



FAW Board Nominating Committee – Christine Spatara headed the FAW Nominating Committee with the following slate of nominations, which the FAW Board voted to approve on 03/23/2021. If any FAW member objects to the proposed board members, please send your objections to Tammie Bob.

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| President: Tammie Bob VP: Chris Spatara Secretary: Patti Smart Program Chair: Joan Gordon Treasurer: Vivian Mortensen Lit Awards: Ida Hagman, Karen Pulver YP Lit Awards: Angela Gall | Newsletter/Webmaster: Karen Baker Membership: Karen Burnett Luncheon Chair: Carol Eshaghy Yearbook: Dale Davison Revisions: Pat Schneider Sustaining Clubs: Diana Adams Foundation Fund: Karen Burnett, Roberta Gates, Dori Roskin |
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 **We traveled to historical sites with Cynthia Clampitt at the (Zoom) March FAW meeting.** We visited Native American historical sites and museums such as the Cahokia Mound in IL, Oneida Museum in De Pere, WI, Mille Lacs in Minnesota, Isle A La Cache Museum in Romeoville, IL, first settlements at St. Genevieve on the Mississippi. Living history sites of Sauder Village in Ohio, Stuhr Museum Nebraska, and Greenfield Village in MI. We saw highlights of Lincoln's New Salem Historic site, the Forest History Center and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center in Cincinnati Ohio as well as Roscoe Village, the National Road Museum, the Kansas African American Museum and Livian History Farms in Iowa. Close to Chicago sites included The Grove in Glenview IL, Napierville IL, Galena and the National Czech and Slovak museum in Cedar Rapids Iowa. You may view our meeting recordings by searching on YouTube for Friends of American Writers or this link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfuB287f8PKMPFierqwYRQw>

 **Literature Awards Committees** – Both the Adult and YP Literature committees are very excited to be finalizing their choices for this year's awards. Watch for an announcement of the upcoming winners. Due to the unusual circumstances this year, the Award meeting will be held on June 4, 2021.

 **FAW Upcoming Programs**

May 12, 2021 – (Virtual) Cindy Crosby to speak on the Midwestern prairie. Cindy is the author, compiler, or contributor to more than 20 books. New in 2020: *Chasing Dragonflies: A Natural, Cultural, and Personal History* (Northwestern University Press). She also teaches natural history for The Morton Arboretum, Wild Ones Native Landscape groups, Sierra Club, The Illinois Extension, Illinois Garden Clubs, and other organizations. A Master Gardener and teacher of the Master Naturalist program are among her many listed credentials. As a prairie steward, Cindy helps manage and coordinate the work of volunteers on the fourth oldest restored prairie in North America. Cindy also trains dragonfly monitors and coordinates dragonfly programs at two sites in Illinois. Her enthusiasm for nature will engage and inform you.

June 4, 2021 – FAW Literature Awards. (Hoping for in person at the Fortnightly).

DIVERSIONS   

Beverly Cleary, revolutionary children's author, has passed at the age of 104. Generations of young readers have been influenced by her stories with real-life characters and situations children could imagine as themselves. May the characters of Klickitat Street live on in the minds of young people forever. Here is an [interview from NPR](#) to enjoy.

Spring is here (sort of) and the anticipation of the baseball season is full of promise. Last Spring baseball play was at first cancelled then restarted in July on a sporadic basis as the teams grappled with COVID-19 testing. Carboard cutouts filled the seats in the stadiums and recorded crowd noises cheered on homeruns and awesome plays. Here are some interesting baseball books or books about the sport of baseball – some new, some older goodies.

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| <i>The Court-Martial of Jackie Robinson: The Baseball Legend's Battle for Civil Rights during World War II</i> by Michael Lee Lanning Stackpole Books (February 21, 2020) |
| <i>The Incredible Women of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League</i> by Anika Orrock (a YP book, but enjoyable by people of all ages) Chronicle Books; Illustrated edition (March 10, 2020) |
| <i>War Fever: Boston, Baseball, and America in the Shadows of the Great War</i> by Randy Roberts and Johnny Smith, Basic Books; Illustrated edition (March 24, 2020) |
| <i>The Boys of Summer</i> by Roger Kahn |
| <i>Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game</i> by Michael Lewis |



READING SUGGESTIONS

***The Office of Historical Corrections* by Danielle Evans**

Fiction, Short Stories

Danielle Evans is widely acclaimed for her blisteringly smart voice and x-ray insights into complex human relationships. With *The Office of Historical Corrections*, Danielle Evans zooms in on particular moments and relationships in her characters' lives in a way that allows them to speak to larger issues of race, culture, and history. She introduces us to Black and multiracial characters who are experiencing the universal confusions of lust and love and getting walloped by grief--all while exploring how history haunts us, personally and collectively. Ultimately, she provokes us to think about the truths of American history--about who gets to tell them, and the cost of setting the record straight.

***Temporary* by Hilary Leichter**

Fiction

In *Temporary*, a young woman's workplace is the size of the world. She fills increasingly bizarre placements in search of steadiness, connection, and something, at last, to call her own. Whether it's shining an endless closet of shoes, swabbing the deck of a pirate ship, assisting an assassin, or filling in for the Chairman of the Board, for the mythical Temporary, "there is nothing more personal than doing your job."

This riveting quest, at once hilarious and profound, will resonate with anyone who has ever done their best at work, even when the work is only temporary.

***Exhalation: Stories* By Ted Chiang**

Short Stories

Exhalation is nine stories plus a collection of notes on those nine stories. Some have appeared elsewhere; some are brand new. Some are ridiculously short. All are packed with questions of the universe, dealing with AI (artificial intelligence) and many which explore the material consequences of various kinds of time travel. In this fantastical and elegant collection that will make you think and grapple with big questions of what it means to be human.

***The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani**

Historical Fiction

The audiobook version of *The Night Diary* is narrated by actress Priya Ayyar. Her voice pulls you into the story as told by diary entries of twelve-year-old Nisha. Although it is a YA book, it is a nuanced story of the human cost of conflict appropriate for both children and adults.

It's 1947, and India, newly independent of British rule, has been separated into two countries: Pakistan and India. The divide has created much tension between Hindus and Muslims, and hundreds of thousands are killed crossing borders.

Half-Muslim, half-Hindu twelve-year-old Nisha doesn't know where she belongs or what her country is anymore. When Papa decides it's too dangerous to stay in what is now Pakistan, Nisha and her family become refugees and embark first by train then by foot to reach her new home. The journey is long, difficult, and dangerous, and after losing her mother as a baby, Nisha can't imagine losing her homeland, too. But even if her country has been ripped apart, Nisha still believes in the possibility of putting herself back together.

Told through Nisha's letters to her mother, *The Night Diary* is a heartfelt story of one girl's search for home, for her own identity...and for a hopeful future.

| FAW 2020 - 2021 Officers | <u>Committee Chairs</u> |
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| <p>President - <i>Tammie Bob</i>, Vice President - <i>Christine Spatara</i>, Secretary - <i>Vacant</i>, Treasurer - <i>Vivian Mortensen</i></p> <p><i>Tammie Bob</i> - bobtam410@gmail.com <i>Christine Spatara</i> - chrisspatara@yahoo.com</p> | <p>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></p> |