

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.

August 25, 2021 - Fawchicago.org

Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*

Dear Friends of American Writers,



First, I once again thank you for your loyalty. So many of you have renewed your membership and donations over the summer, a time when reality can seem suspended and the coming seasons' events seem remote. But the first program of our centennial year is Wednesday Sept.8, at noon at the Fortnightly, and it should be a wonderful opening program, featuring a short two-person play about the female director, Alice Guy, of one of the first films ever to tell a story: *The Cabbage Fairy* (1896). The playwright, Joanne Koch, will be present for discussion as well as a short video clip from the film itself.

FAW's program committee, led by Joan Gordon, has worked hard and successfully through the summer to plan a wide variety of interesting and edifying programs for the 2021-2022 year. Please check out the lineup in this newsletter and plan accordingly! Also, the Centennial Committee, chaired by Roberta Gates and Karen Pulver, are planning several events that specially celebrate the 100th Anniversary of FAW's founding, including an evening banquet in May at the elegant Women's Athletic Club of Chicago.

If you haven't yet sent in your membership renewal, please do so very soon so that your contact information can be included in the 2021-2022 yearbook. This is a great year to invite potential members to our programs; people are happy to be out again, and our lineup is particularly strong. It's not too early to reserve your seat(s) for the September luncheon. I hope to see you there.

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

Tammie Bob - FAW President

September 8th Program

Our first program of the 2021-22 season will feature a short two-person play about the female director, **Alice Guy- Blaché**, the first woman to direct a film. Alice was a pioneer in the filmmaking industry with her narrative action film, *La Fée aux Choux* (*The Fairy of the Cabbages*) first produced in 1896, then reproduced in 1900 and 1902. The playwright, Joanne Koch, will be present for discussion as well as a short video clip from the film itself.



Alice Guy-Blaché

Joanne Koch

Joanne Koch is the creator or co-author of seventeen acclaimed plays and musicals produced around the country, screenwriter of numerous screenplays and an Emmy winning television series, and author or co-author of nonfiction books, magazine and newspaper articles, and previously a column syndicated to 200 papers around the country.

Dr. Koch recently retired as the director of the graduate writing program of National Louis University, the Master's in Written Communication, and winner of the 2013 NLU "Excellence in Teaching Award" She initiated their renowned Pulitzer Prize Series, their annual literary anthology Mosaic, and their Writers' Week Workshops.

Joanne was featured on the cover of Today's Chicago Woman as one of 100 women in Chicago making a difference through her writing and teaching. She is also the artistic director of the Chicago Writers' Bloc playwright development group that has brought hundreds of new plays to Chicago and around the country with its festivals of new plays in staged readings supported, in part, by the Dramatists Guild Fund, Inc.

Luncheon Reservations

Join us for the FAW luncheon on **September 8th, 12:00** noon at The Fortnightly of Chicago. Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than **6:00 PM Sunday September 5**. No reservations or cancellations will be accepted after 6 PM on the Sunday prior to the scheduled meeting. No exceptions. 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 Fortnightly has COVID-19 safety measures in place. Please come with a face mask as they will require you to wear this when you are not eating or drinking. The seating is tables of 6 – 7 socially distanced.


Call: Pat Adelberg - [\(847\) 588-0911](tel:8475880911) or Peggy Kuzminski - (cell) [\(773\) 710-8637](tel:7737108637) for reservations.


- \$45.00 Pay by check(preferred) payable to FAW at the door. Cash is accepted also.
- Vegetarian meals may be requested at the time you make your reservation.
- You must call to cancel your reservation, otherwise you will still be charged.
- Group reservations - please only have one person make the group request to avoid confusion.
- You may request a permanent (standing) reservation for all the meetings. You must then call and cancel any meetings you are unable to attend.


FAW NEWS


The FAW Program Committee has been hard at work lining up terrific programs for the upcoming year. These will be luncheon program meetings at The Fortnightly of Chicago. Below are the meeting dates for the 2021-2022 year. Watch for program details!


Sept. 8, 2021	"Once Upon a Cabbage." Staged performance of playwright Joanne Koch's drama about Alice Guy, the first woman film maker.
Oct. 20, 2021	"Frida Kahlo Comes to Illinois." Diana Martinez Director McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage on Frida Kahlo's art exposition at Glen Ellyn during the pandemic. <i>+ Readers & Reviewers meeting</i>
Nov. 10, 2021	"Writing a Historical Mystery." Author Mary Logue will talk about her mystery series, <i>The Street & The Big Sugar</i> .
Dec. 8, 2021	"Becoming a Bookseller at the Book Cellar." Suzy Takacs shares her experience opening her bookstore in Lincoln Square. Not only does she stock fabulous books, but she also serves wine and treats to patrons. Book suggestions for holiday shopping will be shared. In addition, there will be a holiday grab bag with participants bringing wrapped copies of their favorite books.
Jan. 12, 2022	"Fashion and Feminism of the Victorian Era." Britta Keller Arendt, Senior Collection Manager at the Chicago History Museum, will explain how conventional Victorian fashion paved the way for the dress reform movement.
Feb. 9, 2022	"Madam President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson." Author William Hazelgrove speaks on Edith Wilson and her role at the White House after her husband's stroke.
Mar. 9, 2022	"Teens Are Readers Too!" Chicago Author Adi Alsaid will talk about his prize-winning young adult novels and his approach to writing and publishing. <i>+Readers & Reviewers meeting</i>
Apr. 13, 2022	"Happy Birthday to Us." Join us as we celebrate FAW's 100th anniversary with cake, champagne, and a panel featuring some of our busiest and most dedicated members.
May 13, 2022	FAW Awards Luncheon
May ?, 2022	FAW Centennial Celebration at the elegant Women's Athletic Club of Chicago


 **Centennial Committee:** Roberta Gates & Karen Pulver - Co-Chairs; Diana Adams, Tammie Bob, Karen Burnett, Angela Gall, Joan Gordon, Kathy Katz, Vivian Mortensen.


 **Adult Literature Committee:** Ida Hagman & Karen Pulver - Co-Chairs; Diane Adams, Tammie Bob, Adrienne Bornstein, Carrie Brenner, Karen Burnett, Mary Rob Clarke, Dale Davison, Janet Graham, Ellen Israel, Kathy Katz, Diane Miller, Barbara Smith.

 **Young People's Literature Committee:** Angela Gall - Chair, Jane Foster, Joan Gordon, Deb Hall-Reppen, Colleen Kadlec, Tanya Klasser, Sally Kowalewski, Peggy Kuzminski, Vicki Lamm, Vivian Mortensen, Betty O'Toole, Patti Smart.


 **Luncheon – Social Committee:** Carol Eshaghy – Chair, Pat Adelberg, Luana Kirby, Peggy Kuzminski, Jeanne Peraino.

 **Program Committee:** Joan Gordon - Chair, Tammie Bob, Karen Burnett, Carol Eshaghy, Roberta Gates, Ida Hagman, Karen Pulver, Christine Spatara.

 **Yearbook & Awards Program:** Karen Baker, Dale Davison - Co-Chair, Vivian Mortensen

 **Membership Report:** Hurray! Our membership is returning after the long Covid-19 spell. September at the Fortnightly is eagerly awaited by all as we begin an exciting new Fall season and the Centennial celebrations coming next Spring. If you haven't paid your \$50 dues, there's still time. Please bring the money to the meeting or send a check to Vivian Mortensen. FAW Treasurer, 506 Rose Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60016.

We have several new members joining this year. Susan Duda, Terry Forrest, Janet Graham, Kathleen Quaid, Lori Twombly & John Victor. When you see them at the meetings, please make them feel welcome. If you know friends who would consider joining, please spread the word - increasing membership is one of our goals and we need every person working towards that end. Vivian Mortensen - Treasurer

 **Readers & Reviews:** October 20, 2021 – A look back at our favorites. Vivan Mortensen will lead a discussion focusing on FAW's most popular winning books. No need to read anything new. Just come and tell us which book from our 100-year history is your favorite and why.

March 9, 2022 - *Valentine: A Novel* by Elizabeth Wetmore (*Harper*, 2020). Roberta Gates will facilitate a discussion based on this prize-winning book from last year.



Review of *Saving Ruby King* by Catherine Adel West

The FAW Adult Awards Committee comes across many books that are worthy reads but are not chosen for an award. *Saving Ruby King*, by Catherine Adel West, is one of those books. It tells the story of Layla Potter and her best friend, Ruby King. I liked this book for its evocation of Chicago's South Side. Diane Miller liked that it was a real Chicago story with well developed relationships. The story begins with the death of Ruby's mother. Ruby's father, Lebanon, who is known to have beaten Ruby's mother, is the prime suspect. Layla is concerned about Ruby's mental state and for her safety now that Ruby is left to live alone with Lebanon. Layla struggles with her relationship with her father, the minister of Calvary Baptist Christian Church, because he has forbidden her to see Ruby. The church looms large in this story. It is told in alternating points of view and Calvary Baptist is one of the narrators. It's a mystery, a story of generational trauma and the healing that friendship can bring. I hope that some of you read this debut novel and we should be on the watch for West's next book. ~Ida Hagman

History of Past Literature Award winners

1933 – Carl Sandburg was an American poet, biographer, journalist, and editor. He won three Pulitzer Prizes.

1948 - A.B. Guthrie Jr. was an American novelist, screenwriter, historian, and literary historian known for writing western stories. His novel *The Way West* won the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, and his screenplay for *Shane* (1953) was nominated for an Academy Award.

1977 - William Brashler is an American author and journalist. He is best known for writing *The Bingo Long Traveling All-Stars and Motor Kings*, which was published in 1973. A film adaptation was released in 1976.

1982 - Jane Smiley is now a Pulitzer Prize winner.

1985 - Jack William Fuller was an American journalist and former editor and then publisher of the Chicago Tribune. He was the author of seven novels and two books on journalism.

1985 - Sara Paretsky was a FAW second place winner and is now a staple in detective fiction.

1989 - John Hildebrand is a writer, educator, and naturalist. His essays and books, focus on how people relate to the natural world.

1999 - William Kent Krueger is now well known for his Cork O'Connor mystery series.

2002 - Jim Kokoris is a Chicago-area novelist and his humor essays have appeared regularly in The Chicago Tribune Sunday Magazine.

2007 - Sara Gruen is a New York Times bestselling author. *Water For Elephants* was adapted into a major motion picture.

2007 - Gillian Flynn was a second-place author. Her novel *Gone Girl* has been made into a film.

FAW 2020 - 2021 Officers	<u>Committee Chairs</u>
President - <i>Tammie Bob</i> , Vice President - <i>Christine Spatara</i> , Secretary – <i>Patty Smart</i> , Treasurer - <i>Vivian Mortensen</i>	Newsletter Editor - <i>Karen Baker</i> , Foundation Fund - Karen Burnett, Roberta Gates, Dori Roskin, 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>Dale Davison</i> , Website Manager - <i>Karen Baker</i>