

# 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.

September 30, 2021 - [Fawchicago.org](http://Fawchicago.org)

## Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*

Dear FAW Members,



Today it definitely feels like Fall outside, a reminder that our FAW season is underway. It was wonderful to see such a strong turnout at the September luncheon. I understand that some of us are not able or quite comfortable congregating yet, and you are missed. I look forward to the day when the decision to attend a gathering is not based on health concerns!

**Please note that our next luncheon is Wednesday Oct.20th**, a departure from the usual second Wednesday of the month. The speaker, Diana Martinez, head of the McAninch Arts Center at College of DuPage, will share the story of how this summer's fantastic Frida Kahlo exhibition came to Glen Ellyn, Illinois. If you saw the exhibit, you'll want to know more about it; if you didn't, the program will give you a sense of what you missed.

Also on **Oct. 20th**, consider coming to the Fortnightly at 11:00am to participate in a **Readers & Reviewers** session. To participate, check out the extensive list of FAW Literature Award winners (on the website [www.fawchicago.org](http://www.fawchicago.org) under "Literature Awards") and pick a book you enjoyed to briefly describe to the group. If you simply want some ideas about what to read next, you are still welcome to attend. Vivian Mortensen will lead the session. It is interesting to look back over the century of awards, to get a sense of changing times and literary tastes, and to consider the scope of FAW's support for new writers.

Hope to see you October 20th.

*Tammie Bob - FAW President*

## October 20th Program

Welcome art lovers to the October program featuring Diana Martinez, Director of the McAninch Art Center at College of DuPage, who will talk about the Frida Kahlo art exposition at Glen Ellyn during the pandemic.

Diana Martinez has an extensive career in the entertainment business. She has managed significant projects for Second City in Chicago, the Aurora Civic Center Authority and Paramount Theatre, and has produced and directed countless plays at various venues. In 2014 she was appointed to her current position at College of DuPage, where nothing has been the same since. She has brought in many performers for packed house events and has accomplished a successful marketing campaign.



A coup de grace in the art field has been her connection to the Frida Kahlo collection in Mexico. Through the generosity of a local family, the Mac was able to bring the art of one of Mexico's most treasured personalities to Glen Ellyn. Although the viewing was delayed due to the pandemic, it happened this past summer. Diana will tell us how it was done and how it put COD on the map.

Magdalena Carmen Frida Kahlo y Calderón was a Mexican painter known for her many portraits, self-portraits, and works inspired by the nature and artifacts of Mexico. Inspired by the country's popular culture, she employed a naïve folk-art style to explore questions of identity, postcolonialism, gender, class, and race in Mexican society. Her paintings often had strong autobiographical elements and mixed realism with fantasy. Don't miss the October program of FAW.

## Luncheon Reservations

Join us for the FAW luncheon on **October 20th, 12:00** noon at The Fortnightly of Chicago.

### COVID-19 Information from the Fortnightly

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*The Fortnightly is very pleased to report that 100% of the Fortnightly staff and managers have been vaccinated. All members of the staff will continue to comply with the City of Chicago masking mandate which has been in place since August 20.*

*Increased vaccination rates are the strongest preventative measure against COVID-19 currently available. We expect all members and guests to arrive fully vaccinated, if able, and be prepared to wear a mask as mandated by the City and State except when actively eating or drinking.*

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Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than **6:00 PM Sunday October 17**. 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.

- ✓ **Cost is \$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



### Readers & Reviewers - October 20, 2021

*A Look Back at Our Favorites*  
11am before the FAW Luncheon

What are your favorite winners...books you would recommend to a friend? Friends of American Writers has awarded a wide variety of selections through the years, everything from current fiction to historical novels to family crises to mysteries to science fiction to nonfiction and more.

Meet with us and remind the group of one or two of your favorites. It can be a book from the last couple years or from fifty years ago. It can be from the adult list or a young people's winner. Just a quick sentence or two is all that is needed. This is for fun. We are looking for good reads, not an in-depth analysis. Find the complete list of awards in the yearbook or the FAW website [https://fawchicago.org/doc/FAW\\_Lit\\_Award\\_complete.pdf](https://fawchicago.org/doc/FAW_Lit_Award_complete.pdf).

Some people may just want to come and listen. That's great too. We'll see you there. ~ Vivian Mortensen



## Help Bring Books to Children in Lawndale

*“An hour spent reading is one stolen from paradise.” – Thomas Wharton*

To celebrate our 100 years as an organization that promotes the love of reading and writing through the support of emerging writers from the Midwest and budding talent with college scholarships, we found it fitting to once again, reach out to our youngest readers and gift them 100 books to bridge their connection to literature. Our first project working with first graders during the pandemic sent smiles to their beautiful faces when we delivered our award-winning picture book, *Thank You, Omu*, by Oge Mora, directly to their homes.

With this second project, we will continue to work with Lawndale Community Academy in Chicago. At this time, the school does not have a librarian or functioning library. Therefore, their kindergarten, first, second and special needs classrooms will receive 25 books each. If you would like to donate to this special project, please send a check to FAW with memo of “Classroom Book Donation” to Vivian Mortensen, 506 Rose Avenue, Des Plaines, IL 60016. A \$20.00 donation will cover the cost of one book purchased from the Book Cellar. Please send all donations by the end of October. You may also bring your checks to the October 20th FAW luncheon. Thank you for your generous support. ~ Angela Gall



## Centennial Profile – Meet Pat Adelberg

*By Roberta Gates*

During our centennial year, we’ll be spotlighting some of our longtime members, such as Pat Adelberg, who joined FAW in 1989 after the late Lorraine Campione invited her to a meeting. Pat says she joined because she liked the programs, especially those given by the dramatist Barbara Rinella. At that time, FAW was meeting in the Wedgewood Room on the seventh floor of Marshall Field’s, meaning that after the luncheon and the program, which she always enjoyed, she could go shopping!

Just one year after joining FAW, Pat found herself on the board of directors. Her first job was as a reader for the young people’s literature awards committee, which was followed by a stint as the membership chair.

Over the last couple of decades, however, her biggest contribution has been producing the yearbook—a very detail-oriented job! Fortunately, though, she had the help of Lorraine Campione and Vivian Mortensen.

“Vivian and I really labored over the directory,” says Pat, reflecting on her early years as the yearbook chair. “Back then, ‘cut & paste’ was literally cutting and pasting.”

Pat became good friends with Vivian in 1995 when she started driving Vivian to meetings. Lorraine was also a part of Pat’s carpool.

In addition to doing the yearbook, Pat produced the programs for our awards luncheons and took luncheon reservations over the phone, something which she still does. In addition, Pat is the seating guru who determines who sits at which table (not an easy job!).

Pat was born 90 years ago in Chicago. She attended Linne School on Sacramento Avenue, then Carl Schurz High School on Milwaukee Avenue. Her father died in her first year of high school, so Pat, who was focused on getting a job as quickly as she could, managed to graduate after just three and a half years. She then went on to the National College of Education, which at that time was an all-girls school. (It is now called National Louis University.)

Then, in 1952, when she was just 21, Pat got her first job teaching kindergarten at Foster School in Evanston. Later she worked at Lincoln School and Noyes Street School, before returning to Lincoln.

Being a kindergarten teacher may sound easy, but it wasn’t! When she started her career, Pat taught a group of 50 children in the morning and another 50 in the afternoon.

In those days, she says, social and emotional development, rather than academics, were stressed, which was the way she liked it. But the biggest reward for her was getting to work with children. “I just loved kids, and I didn’t have any of my own,” she says, noting that she’s still in touch with one of her students, a man who is now 74.

After working 34 years, Pat retired and took on the job of nanny, working two days a week to help care for her niece’s two children, Jacob and Jessie. Her job evolved as the kids got older, but she still helped out, providing the 200 hours of supervision they needed to get their driver’s licenses. Jacob, now 27, graduated from Notre Dame, while Jessie, 25, graduated from the University of Iowa.

Pat is one of our longest serving members, so now that you’ve read all about her, I hope you’ll seek her out and thank her for everything she’s contributed during her 32 years of membership!

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 &amp; Reviewers meeting</i>
Nov. 10, 2021	“Writing a Historical Mystery.” Author Mary Logue will talk about her mystery series, <i>The Street &amp; 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 &amp; 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.
June 3, 2022	FAW Awards Luncheon
May 12, 2022	FAW Centennial Celebration at the elegant Women’s Athletic Club of Chicago



***Just Us: An American Conversation***

By Claudia Rankine

*Just Us: An American Conversation* is a collection of essays and images exploring racism and white supremacy. It is meditative. Ms. Rankine reflects on conversations with others, unravelling the hidden, sometimes unconscious, racism implicit in people’s words and actions. As everyday white supremacy becomes increasingly vocalized with no clear answers at hand, how best might we approach one another? Claudia Rankine, without telling us what to do, urges us to begin the discussions that might open pathways through this divisive and stuck moment in American history.

***Frida Kahlo: The Paintings***

By Hayden Herrera, Joel Avirom (Designed By)

In this beautiful book, art historian Hayden Herrera brings together numerous paintings and sketches by the amazing Mexican artist, documenting each with explanatory text that probes the influences in Kahlo’s life and their meaning for her work. Included among

the illustrations are more than eighty full-color paintings, as well as dozens of black-and-white pictures and line illustrations. Among the famous and little-known works included in *Frida Kahlo: The Paintings* are *The Two Fridas*, *Self-Portrait as a Tehuana*, *Without Hope*, *The Dream*, *The Little Deer*, *Diego and I*, *Henry Ford Hospital*, *My Birth*, and *My Nurse and I*. Here, too, are documentary photographs of Frida Kahlo and her world that help to illuminate the various stages of her life.



This past week (Sept 26 – Oct 2, 2021), I noticed posts on social media sites that were causing many clashes. The cause of these on-line disputes is **Banned Book Week** and opinions on the appropriateness of certain books. Banned Book Week was created in 1982 in response to an increase in the number of challenges to books available to students in school. It celebrates the freedom to read, to seek and to express ideas, even those some consider unorthodox or unpopular. Here is a short list of some of the books which have drawn challenges, old and new.

<i>The Color Purple</i> , by Alice Walker	<i>Persepolis</i> , by Marjane Satrapi
<i>1984</i> , by George Orwell	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> , by Mildred D. Taylor
<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> , by L'Engle, Madeleine	<i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</i> , by Sherman Alexie
<i>All American Boys</i> , by Jason Reynolds & Brendan Kiely	<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> , by JD Salinger
<i>Are You There God? It's Me Margaret</i> , by Judy Blume	<i>The Glass Castle</i> , by Jeannette Walls
<i>Beloved</i> , by Toni Morrison	<i>The Hate U Give</i> , by Angie Thomas
<i>George</i> , by Alex Gino	<i>The House on Mango Street</i> , by Sandra Cisneros
<i>Of Mice and Men</i> , by John Steinbeck	<i>Where Did I Come From?</i> , by Peter Mayle

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<b>FAW 2020 - 2021 Officers</b>	<b>Committee Chairs</b>
<b>President</b> - Tammie Bob, <b>Vice President</b> - Christine Spatara, <b>Secretary</b> – Patty Smart, <b>Treasurer</b> - Vivian Mortensen	<b>Newsletter Editor</b> - Karen Baker, <b>Foundation Fund</b> – Roberta Gates (Chair), Karen Burnett, Dori Roskin, <b>Literature Awards</b> - Ida Hagman, Karen Pulver, <b>Young People's Awards</b> - Angela Gall, <b>Luncheon - Social</b> - Carol Eshaghy, <b>Membership</b> - Karen Burnett, <b>Programs</b> - Joan Gordon, <b>Revisions</b> - Pat Schneider, <b>Sustaining Clubs</b> - Diana Adams, <b>Yearbook &amp; Awards Program</b> – Dale Davison, <b>Website Manager</b> - Karen Baker, <b>Centennial Committee</b> – Roberta Gates & Karen Pulver