

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.

October 25, 2021 - Fawchicago.org

Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*

Dear Friends of American Writers,



The holidays have arrived so quickly this year! I hope yours are happy and full. I also hope you can spare some time to attend our meeting on Wednesday Dec. 8th. This year, we are inviting those of you who are so inclined to bring a copy of your favorite book, wrapped, for a mystery gift exchange. Who knows what literary gem you'll receive? Even if you don't want to participate in the book exchange, come for some holiday cheer and to hear Suzy Takacs of the Book Cellar.

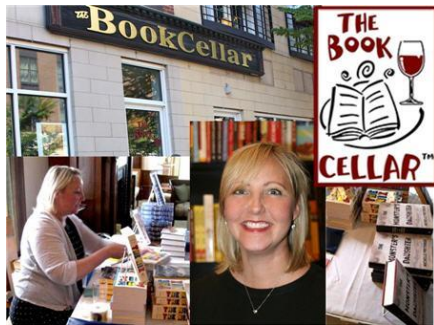
The program speaker will be Suzy Takacs, who will share her experiences as owner of the independent bookstore, The Book Cellar. Along with taking us behind the scenes of a small business that thrives in the time of Amazon and Costco, she'll present some new books that would make excellent holiday gifts.

Please consider inviting a friend or two who might enjoy it. We are always looking for new members, and new members have usually come by invitation of old members.

Happy Holidays

Tammie Bob - FAW President

December 8th Program – Suzy Takacs of the Book Cellar & Holiday Book Exchange



Holiday Book Exchange! Wrap a copy of one of your favorite books, maybe with a little note inside about why it's a favorite and put it under the tree in the Fortnightly when you arrive for our holiday luncheon. Between dinner and dessert, if you brought a book, pick a different one from under the tree and see what you received.

Our guest speaker will be Suzy Takacs who will give her presentation, "Becoming a Bookseller," not only telling us about her experience opening her Lincoln Square bookstore, The Book Cellar, but also offering book suggestions for holiday shopping.

If you are not familiar with The Book Cellar, it is an independent bookstore located in beautiful Lincoln Square. Suzy opened the Book Cellar over fifteen years ago, combining two of her favorite things, books, and wine. She created a place where you can find the best books, have a glass of wine, and feel at home in the cozy store/café. It is chock full of the best books, and they will help find that book you can't quite remember the title of, supply you with a new favorite book or help fill your holiday gift list. Suzy is our go-to person for selling our award-winning authors' books at our Literature Award Luncheon. Try visiting the Book Cellar to unwind with a book and enjoy a glass of wine. The address is 4736 N Lincoln Ave, Chicago.

Luncheon Reservations

Join us for the FAW luncheon on **December 8th, 12:00** noon at The Fortnightly of Chicago.

COVID-19 Information from the Fortnightly

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.

Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than **6:00 PM Sunday December 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:847-588-0911) or Peggy Kuzminski - (cell) [\(773\) 710-8637](tel:773-710-8637) 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



FAW Membership

A big welcome to new FAW member Madelyn Seckler!



Literature Awards

About 15 books are currently under review, and others will be added as they are submitted.



Young People's Literature Awards

Angela Gall reported: The Young People's Literature Committee met both virtually and in person. We have 36 books on our list. We are excited there are already a few contenders on it. Hopefully, again we will have hard time choosing between them. The group plans to meet again at the end of November/beginning of December for zoom and in person.



Yearbooks

Yearbooks were distributed at the November Luncheon. Undistributed yearbooks will be mailed out soon. Watch for your FAW yearbook.



Foundation Fund

Roberta Gates reported that \$47,308.61 was in the Foundation Fund managed by Merrill Lynch. Gifts from Members this year have provided the funds for this year’s scholarship. Laura Hawbaker was recognized as this year’s FAW scholarship recipient. Laura is a fiction writer at Columbia College Chicago.



Celebrating 100 Years—FAW Member Spotlight: CAROL ESHAGY *By Joan Gordon*

Tell us about your history with FAW.

I joined the FAW in 2004. I had been attending a book club at the Northern Trust Bank and I met a girl who told me about the FAW. At that time the club was meeting at the Drake Hotel and due to rising costs, they moved to the Union League Club. I had always wanted to be a member of the Fortnightly and I finally was sponsored in 2012. As a member I was able to sponsor the FAW group’s luncheons. I have served on both the adult and children’s literary committees and have enjoyed attending the group’s monthly meetings. I’ve served on the board as membership chair and luncheon chairman. The programs I enjoy most are the book dramatizations and we’ve also had some amazing holiday programs that really invoked the Christmas spirit. The house is so beautifully decorated at the holidays.

We’d like to hear about your personal world, too.

I’m 72 years old and a registered nurse. My husband is a cardiologist and I worked in his office. I retired two years ago. I love needlepoint and I’ve been stitching since the 1970s. I use multiple threads and various stitches and I find it fun and relaxing. I’m also an avid reader. I read 120 books last year and I think I will pass that number this year. I do reviews of all my books on Goodreads. I also have a blog on Instagram where I post the books which I rate 4 and 5 stars.

Tell us about some of your reading.

My two favorite books this year are *Fresh Water for Flowers* by Valérie Perrin and *Count the Ways* by Joyce Maynard. One of my favorite books is *The Heart’s Invisible Furies* by John Boyne. I’m currently reading *Apples Never Fall* by Liane Moriarty for book club. I’m enjoying it so far.

Thanks for letting us know you a bit better!

FAW Program Schedule 2021-22

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.” Nanci Gasiel, director of The Salvation Army Central Territory 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.
June 3, 2022	FAW Awards Luncheon
May 12, 2022	FAW Centennial Celebration at the elegant Women’s Athletic Club of Chicago



Black Ice

By Brad Thor

Brad Thor is back with his most intense thriller yet. This is the 20th Scot Harvath series book. If you are a fan of action/thriller books you will want to follow America’s top spy, Scot Harvath as he protects the United States through whatever means possible.

Scot Harvath is enjoying some much-deserved R&R on a fjord in Oslo with his new romantic interest. But out of vacation days and long overdue back home, America’s top spy has a decision to make—return or submit his resignation. While at a café, he sees a man emerging from a taxi which he was sure he’d killed. How is he still alive? And what is he doing in Norway? In a race against time that will take him high above the Arctic Circle, Harvath will be tested in ways he has never imagined and pushed to a limit few human beings could ever endure.

If he succeeds, he’ll walk away with everything. If he fails, the United States and its allies will be at the mercy of one of the world’s most dangerous actors.



Klara and the Sun

By Kazuo Ishiguro

Klara and the Sun is a masterpiece from Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro about the saving grace of love. The story is set in a United States of the near future, a place riven by fascist political movements. Our narrator, Klara, is a type of robot known as an “Artificial Friend,” designed as a companion for the children of this brave new world. Klara becomes the companion of a girl named Josie, who’s sick, and the story turns on Klara’s attempts to heal her. Poignant and profound, *Klara and the Sun* will make you think about what makes a creature truly “human.” – (Maureen Corrigan, book critic, *Fresh Air*)

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