

# FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

December 20, 2021 - [Fawchicago.org](http://Fawchicago.org)



Our mission shall be to encourage new, talented writers associated with the Midwest and to promote the arts, especially literature, among our members.

## Message from FAW President – Tammie Bob

Dear Friends of American Writers,



Happy New Year! While the past years have been a bit “trying,” to put a Victorian spin on it, FAW has had many successes to look back on and much to anticipate. The Book Drive, where we donated 100 books to the first grade at Lawndale Community Academy, was a great success and helped brighten many six-year-old hearts during the holiday season. This project was conceived and conducted by Angela Gall but made possible due to your exceeding generosity.

Our December meeting drew a large turnout of pre-Pandemic size. The holiday décor at The Fortnightly was beautiful as always, the program lively, the food delicious. I am honored that we were joined by members of two of our Sustaining Clubs, the Renaissance Art Club and the Woman’s Reading Club of Riverside. Hope you ladies will return soon. And thanks to Program chair Joan Gordon for coming up with our first Holiday Book Swap!

The January 12th program is about 19th century women’s clothes and their historical contexts. Did they really wear those giant bamboo hoops all the time? To find out, please make your reservation and note that the deadline for making reservations is now the THURSDAY before the program (January 6th in this case.) Because of supply line issues, and aren’t they getting tiresome, the Fortnightly’s chef needs the extra lead time.

Stay healthy and warm.

*Tammie Bob - FAW President*



### PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE IN LUNCHEON RESERVATION TIME

Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than **6:00 PM Thursday January 6, 2022**. No reservations or cancellations will be accepted after this time. The Fortnightly requires the extra time to procure the supplies for the delicious meals they prepare. Please be prompt with your reservations. Call and check that your reservation has been placed if you are in doubt. Remember that standing reservations do not carry-over year-to-year.



## JANUARY 12 Program

### Around the House: The Social and Political Influences on Women's At-Home Wear 1850-1870

Social and legal structures of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century created a very different American Dream for women than what was attainable for men. These parameters shaped their world, relationships, ambitions and that most personal symbol: fashion.

Nanci Gasiel, director at The Salvation Army Central Territory Museum in Hoffman Estates, will be presenting

this program. She has been involved in museums for more than thirty years as an employee, volunteer, and living historian. Nanci holds a master's degree in History from the University of Illinois at Springfield and bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from Culver-Stockton College. Her master's thesis serves as the basis for this program. She lives in Downers Grove and enjoys cycling around the Chicago land region and gardening.

## Luncheon Reservations

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

### COVID-19 Information from the Fortnightly



**Due to a new mandate from Mayor Lightfoot, which will affect our January luncheon, the Fortnightly is now required to ask for proof of vaccination for all patrons. Please be aware of this requirement and bring proof of your vaccination record when attending luncheons at the Fortnightly. We will have a FAW member checking for this at the door.**

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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 Thursday January 6th**. No reservations or cancellations will be accepted after 6 PM on that Thursday 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 and your vaccination record as they will require proof of vaccination and for you to wear a mask 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



**FAW Membership** - A big welcome to new FAW members Noelle K. Gammie, Patricia Podczerwinski, Madelyn Seckler, and returning member Constance Richter.



**Literature Awards** -Ida Hagman and Karen Pulver indicated books are continuing to arrive, with over 50 possible candidates.



**Young People's Literature Awards** - Angela Gall reported that Committee members met again in late November and early December in person and via Zoom. 39 books were identified as candidates. Two strong contenders have been identified so far.



**Foundation Fund** - Roberta Gates reported funds of \$47,308.61. Laura Hanbaker, the winner of this year's scholarship, sent a thank you note.



**Holiday gift for The Fortnightly Employees** – Each year the Friends of American Writers contributes to the holiday gift given to the Fortnightly staff in appreciation of all the services, help and kindness they provide to our members. Think of all the help they provide to make our visits so memorable, from answering the door, helping us with our coats, checking the sound systems, serving us delicious meals, and so much more.

The club pays staff for services but there are no tips allowed except this one gift each year. There is a formula, so each staff person gets a share of the contribution based on the number of hours worked and length of service. The Board upped the amount this year to \$500. It has been hard for the staff during the COVID period, and everyone felt we needed to support them. ~ Vivian Mortensen



### **The Sweetness of Water** **By Nathan Harris**

In the waning days of the Civil War, brothers Prentiss and Landry—freed by the Emancipation Proclamation—seek refuge on the homestead of George Walker and his wife, Isabelle. The Walkers, wracked by the loss of their only son to the war, hire the brothers to work their farm, and an unexpected friendship is forged. Prentiss and Landry, meanwhile, plan to save money for the journey north and a chance to reunite with their mother, who was sold away when they were boys.

Parallel to their story runs a forbidden romance between two Confederate soldiers. The young men, recently returned from the war to the town of Old Ox, hold their trysts in the woods. But when their secret is discovered, the resulting chaos, including a murder, unleashes convulsive repercussions on the entire community.

This is the debut novel of Nathan Harris. It creates an unforgettable cast of characters, depicting Georgia in the violent crucible of Reconstruction.



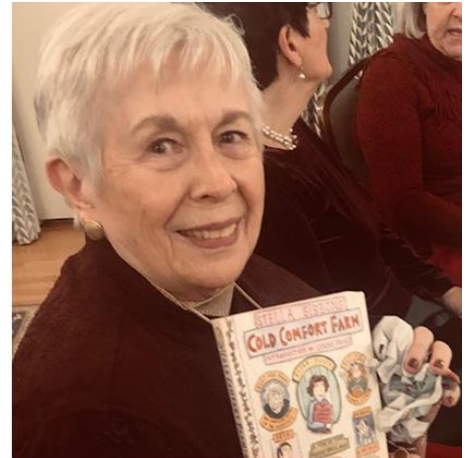
## The Book Drive at Lawndale Community Academy

We received a big thank you from the smiling First Grade students at the Lawndale Community Academy. They were so thrilled to receive over 100 books from your generous contributions.





## Pictures from the December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting



### December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting

- Thanks to Carol Eshaghy, left, we were able to have Suzy Takacs of the Book Cellar, right, as our presenter in December.
- Joan Gordon poses with the book she received from Tanya Klasser in December's book exchange. The book is Anne Tyler's *A Spool of Blue Thread*.
- Tanya Klasser displays the book she received from Joan Gordon which was *Cold Comfort Farm* by Stella Gibbons.

### FAW Program Schedule 2021-22

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 &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