

# FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

Jan 25, 2022 - [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,

As president, I feel like I'm always asking you for something. Mostly it's for donations to support our scholarship and awards programs, and you always respond with enthusiasm. Requests for a little bit of your time? Not so much.



The luncheons and programs that we all enjoy so much happen through the efforts of our board members. While what the Board accomplishes as a unit is great, the individual tasks of a board member are not difficult, and they vary in the skill set needed to do them. You, our members, have a variety of talents and skills that could be put to good use. Are you an accountant or someone who worked with money? Consider being the Treasurer or working on our membership committee. Are you a teacher or librarian? How about joining our program committee?

Generally, we get Board members the same way we get members, by inviting them to join us, although usually getting someone to take a Board position requires a lot more strong-arming than coming to a lunch program. When I first started on the Board, I was a new member at a loss to understand most of what was discussed other than the committee I represented. Eventually I came to understand the larger workings of FAW and have been proud to work with such smart, dedicated women.

In February a nominating committee will be working to fill a variety of Board positions for next year. This is always a difficult task, and we end up with members we know personally, the same group. This is not healthy for an organization. Just as lack of funds would render us unable to fulfill our mission, lack of volunteers will do the same.

Please consider how you might be part of our Board. I would be thrilled to discuss any of the positions with you and explain how they work. Being a Board member has many rewards. My email is [bobtam410@gmail.com](mailto:bobtam410@gmail.com).



Happy February!

*Tammie Bob - FAW President*

## February 9th Program – Madam President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson - Author William Hazelgrove.



William Hazelgrove, author of numerous historical novels and at least ten non-fiction books, will talk about his novel, *Madam President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson*. After President Wilson had a debilitating stroke, his wife managed the executive branch from her husband's sick bed. Learn about how she was able to make decisions regarding international events and consider the ethical debate. Who has the power? Is the American public so easily deceived?

William Hazelgrove paints a vivid, engaging portrait of the woman who became the acting President of the United States in 1919. He is the National Bestselling author of ten novels and ten nonfiction titles. His books have received starred reviews in *Publisher Weekly*, *Kirkus*, *Booklist*, *Book of the Month Selections*, ALA Editors Choice Awards Junior Library Guild Selections, Literary Guild Selections, History Book Club Selections and optioned for the movies. Hazelgrove came of age in the Chicago area, attended college, and published his first book, *Ripples* with a small local printer. His second and third novels, *Tobacco Sticks*, and *Mica Highways*, garnered enough attention that he decided to settle down in Ernest Hemingway's birthplace in Oak Park, IL.



Twenty years ago, the February program also featured President and Mrs. Wilson. Denise Riley Philpot's presentation on February 13, 2002 was based on the book *Edith and Woodrow: The Wilson White House* (Scribner, 2001).

## Luncheon Reservations



### PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN LUNCHEON RESERVATION TIME

Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than **6:00 PM Thursday February 3, 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.

Join us for the FAW luncheon on **February 9th, 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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**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.**

Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than **6:00 PM Thursday Feb 3**. No reservations or cancellations will be accepted after 6 PM on this date. 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: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.



## SOS

The Centennial Committee needs your help! Angela Gall, Roberta Gates and Joan Gordon are all working hard on the commemorative booklet marking our centennial, but we are in need of newsletters and yearbooks, particularly from the years 1997-2012. If you happen to have any of these, please consider lending them to us. We will take good care of them and make sure they are returned to you, and we'll also list your name on our acknowledgements page!

Also, if you have photos of members, speakers, awards luncheons, or anything else relating to FAW, we'd love to take a look at them and perhaps use them in our booklet. And again, we'll take very good care of them.

If you'll be attending the luncheon on February 9, you can give whatever you have to Joan or Roberta. If you decide to pop them in the mail instead, we'll be happy to reimburse you the cost of postage.



## READERS & REVIEWERS March 9<sup>th</sup>

Join us for a Readers & Reviewers discussion of *Valentine* by Elizabeth Wetmore at 11 a.m. on March 9 in the Fortnightly Board Room.

*Valentine* was one of our prize-winning books last year, and members of the awards committee had high praise for it. Set in West Texas during the 1970s, it utilizes revolving points-of-view to examine the rape of a 14-year-old girl and the impact it has not just on her but on three other women as well. As one Amazon reader said, "These women will take you on a wild West Texas ride."

Readers & Reviewers is FAW's book club and we hope that you'll come, either to discuss the book or to listen to others discuss it. Roberta Gates will be the facilitator.



## Looking Ahead to Spring and Our Gala

During the dull days of winter, it's nice to have something to look forward to, such as our Centennial Gala on Thursday, May 12. As you probably know, it will be held at the Woman's Athletic Club, 626 Michigan Avenue, whose lovely Art Deco décor is right in keeping with our founding during the Roaring Twenties.

We'll meet at 5:30 p.m. for cocktails in the Presidents' Room, then have dinner in the gorgeous Ballroom next door. Our speaker for the evening will be Audrey Niffenegger, author of the best-selling novel *The Time Traveler's Wife*.

We are also inviting past winners to attend as our guests. If you'd like to help us by sponsoring one of them, please let us know and we'll make sure you are seated next to him or her.

The cost is \$100 per person. Valet parking is available and there will be a cash bar. If you have any questions, contact Roberta Gates or Karen Pulver, who are the Centennial co-chairs.

## FAW Program Schedule 2021-22

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



### ***The Lincoln Highway***

By Amor Towles

Review by Karen Baker

I thoroughly enjoyed Amor Towles books *The Rules of Civility* and *A Gentleman in Moscow*, and quickly purchased his new book, *The Lincoln Highway* for my Kindle. The *Lincoln Highway* book is a winding tale of travel, self-discovery, friendship, and love. It is filled with history, legends, and myths.

In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the work farm Salena, where he has just served a year for involuntary manslaughter. He arrives home planning to get his brother, Billy, and put into action a well laid plan for their future which he developed while incarcerated. Emmett has plans to start a new life with Billy by driving to Texas, use his savings to purchase a fixer-upper house, fix it up, then sell it. His plans are first changed by the young and determined Billy, who convinces Emmett to instead drive to California to find their mother via the Lincoln Highway and arrive in San Francisco by July 4th. Young Billy has a set of postcards from his mother journaling her travel to California on the Lincoln Highway, with the last card detailing fireworks in San Francisco on her favorite day – July 4.

Unknown to Emmett, his plan is swept aside by his two friends from Salena, Duchess and Wooley, who have escaped and followed him home in the trunk of the warden's car. Duchess and Wooley hijack Emmett's car and hidden money and head in the opposite direction, to New York. This begins Emmett and Billy's great adventure to regain their car and money. They make their way to New York by stowing away on a freight train and encounter a memorable set of characters during this odyssey. Towles is a magnificent storyteller. I loved the journey and the rich cast of characters.

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