



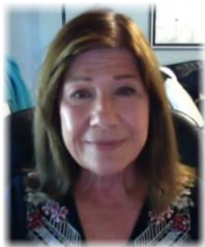
Our mission shall be to encourage new, talented writers associated with the Midwest and to promote the arts, especially literature, among our members.

Feb 24, 2022 - Fawchicago.org

March 2022 Newsletter

Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*

Dear Friends of American Writers,



This March seems full of promise: the promise that this difficult winter is about to end, the promise of Spring, the promise that Covid-19 may be finally behind us. March promises that both our Adult and Young People’s literature awards committees, after combing through dozens of books, are close to selecting this year’s winners.

If you haven’t done so this year (and even if you have) now is a fine time to donate to FAW’s Patron’s Fund, the source of the funds we award to the emerging authors of our prize-winning Books. Certainly, the Awards Luncheon (this year on Friday June 3) is the culmination of the FAW year and one of the reasons our organization exists. Please help keep our prizes significant for our winners and the literary world at large.

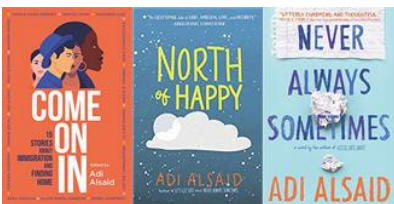
Also, I’m lobbying one last pitch for volunteers to serve on our board. I wrote about this in some detail last month, but we still need some new hands. Our board meetings are actually quite nice, held at the Fortnightly before the luncheon each month. I know no one feels they need more to do, but our positions don’t demand much, and the rewards are a better sense of connection to our organization and the incredible women who belong to FAW and keep it going.

I hope the better weather and waning pandemic inspire more of you to attend March’s program/luncheon on March 9th, when Young Adult author Adi Alsaid talks about the challenges and rewards of writing for not-quite adults. I had the honor of meeting him a few years ago and can report that this young man is an engaging charmer! The Fortnightly continues its vaccination/mask policy for your added security.

Happy Spring!

Tammie Bob - FAW President

March 9th Program – Teens are Readers Too! – Chicago Author, Adi Alsaid



Adi Alsaid, an author of several YA novels, will be our speaker for the March 2022 program. His YA novels cover topical subjects that will appeal to the YA reader.

Adi Alsaid was born and raised in Mexico City, college-educated in Nevada, and is now living in Chicago. He is the author of six novels for young adults and interested in promoting literature with culturally diverse characters. He has also edited a collection of essays about immigrant students, *Come On In*. At our luncheon he will talk about the challenges of writing for young adults and his own writing process.

Young-adult fiction, whether in the form of novels or short stories, has distinct attributes that distinguish it from the other age categories of fiction. Most YA stories portray an adolescent as the protagonist, rather than an adult or a child. The subject matter and story lines are typically consistent with the age and experience of the main character, but beyond that YA stories span the entire spectrum of fiction genres. The settings of YA stories are limited only by the imagination and skill

of the author. Writing styles of YA stories range widely, from the richness of literary style to the clarity and speed of the unobtrusive. Despite its unique characteristics, YA shares the fundamental elements of fiction with other stories: character, plot, setting, theme, and style.

Adi Alsaid Books

- Let's Get Lost (Harlequin Teen, May 2015)
- Never Always Sometimes (Harlequin Teen, Jul 2016)
- North of Happy (Harlequin Teen, Apr 2017)
- Brief Chronicle of Another Stupid Heartbreak (Inkyard Press, Apr 2019)
- We Didn't Ask for This (Inkyard Press, Apr 2020)
- Come On In: 15 Stories about Immigration and Finding Home (Inkyard Press, Nov 2021)

Luncheon Reservations

Join us for the FAW luncheon on March 9th, 12:00 noon at The Fortnightly of Chicago.

Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than 6:00 PM Thursday March 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 – 8 socially distanced.



Please remember that vegetarian meal requests are special order, and the Fortnightly chef only prepares the number of meals that are requested. Do not ask the staff for a vegetarian meal at the luncheon if you did not pre-order one at the time of your reservation. If you are unsure about the suitability of the luncheon meal, ask Pat or Peggy about the menu for the day. **Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – FAW Lunch Menu** Asparagus soup, lavender & lemon brioche croutons; Roasted chicken, celery root, freekeh, apple, toasted hazelnut, apple saba; Flourless chocolate cake, passion fruit curd, vanilla cream sauce.

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 should 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.

TROUBLE CLIMBING STAIRS?

The Fortnightly has a handicapped entrance on the east side of the building. It's not just for wheelchair users. Anyone who has arthritic knees, sprained ankles, etc. should use it. There is a sidewalk along the east end of the building leading north to a locked door. Ring the doorbell and staff will let you in and direct you through the basement to the building elevator.

If you wish to use this special entry, call ahead to the Fortnightly (312-944-1330) and staff will give you instructions. They will be ready to answer the doorbell when you come and show you to the Lounge.



READERS & REVIEWERS March 9th Please join us at Eleven o'clock in The Fortnightly Board Room on March 9 for a discussion of Elizabeth Wetmore's Valentine, which was one of FAW's award-winning books from last year.

Set in West Texas in the 1970s, Valentine opens with a horrific rape of a 14-year-old girl that reverberates throughout the town of Odessa where women and girls are always looking over their shoulders. Among the memorable characters you'll get to know are Glory, the Hispanic girl who is raped; Mary Rose, the farm wife who rescues her; Corrinne, a recently widowed alcoholic, Debra Ann, a 12-year-old girl whose mother has run off; and Karla, a single mother who waits tables and has forgotten how to smile.

And if this isn't enough to convince you to read Valentine, here's what Vivian Mortensen, a veteran of both awards committees, has to say about it.

"I loved Valentine. It was so haunting, and the despair seemed so real. I liked the format –short stories that came together into one plot. And Wetmore's descriptions were memorable – the wide empty plains with nothing but oil rigs pumping, the painful journey the young girl takes from the pickup to the farmhouse, and the kids floating in the motel pool. For most of the book I assumed there would be no hope—the men are in charge, and they're bullies--but the ending was positive, and I liked that."

Remember, though, you don't have to read the book to come to an R&R meeting. You can just sit in and listen. The more the merrier!

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.

Due to a Jan 3 mandate from Mayor Lightfoot, 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.

FAW NEWS



Centennial Celebrations You Won't Want to Miss

Mark your calendar for both April 13 and May 12 when we go all out to celebrate the 100th anniversary of FAW's founding.

- **April 13** is our birthday bash, complete with (cheese)cake and champagne. A panel of our busiest members will provide the program, and you'll go home with a centennial booklet overflowing with fun facts, as well as a surprise souvenir (sorry, we can't tell you what it is. You'll just have to come and see!).
- **May 12** is our gala at the Woman's Athletic Club. The cocktail hour starts at 5:30 p.m. in the Presidents' Room with dinner following in the lovely Ballroom next door. Our speaker for the evening will be Audrey Niffenegger who wrote the best-selling novel *The Time-Traveler's Wife*. It will be a festive event that's too special to pass up!

If you have any questions about either event, feel free to call Karen Pulver or Roberta Gates, the centennial co-chairs.



Celebrating 100 Years—FAW Member Spotlight: Corene Anderson by Tammie Bob

Meet Long Time Member and Past President Corene Anderson.

In 2003, Corene Anderson, recently retired from a 40-year teaching career in the Evanston Schools, by chance met a fellow Chicagoan while travelling in London, England. The new acquaintance suggested that Corene check out the Renaissance Arts Club, which you may recognize as one of FAW's sustaining clubs, based in Oak Park. That association quickly brought Corene to FAW, where she felt immediately at home. It didn't take long for Corene to find herself on FAW's board, where over the next decade and a half she held every position, culminating in her presidency from 2010-12.

Corene recalls a high point during her presidency: The program was Leslie Goddard channeling Elizabeth II, Queen of England. Corene, a serious Anglophile who spent many summers studying English history in Cambridge, England, may have gotten "a little carried away when thanking Ms. Goddard for her portrayal." While apologizing to the group for adding so much information about the monarch, she was unaware that Ms. Goddard had snuck up behind her and placed a crown on her head. The room cheered and Corene felt every inch a queen.

Corene's affinity for Queen Elizabeth has inspired her over the years to write the ruler during Her times of strife or celebration. Each time, Corene received a proper but regally distant acknowledgment from one of the Queen's secretaries. Most recently, she wrote the Queen a very personal and heartfelt note of sympathy upon the death of Prince Phillip. This time, she received a personal and heartfelt letter back—from one of the Queen's ladies in waiting.

English history and literature are not Corene's only interests. Her strong background in ballet and modern dance turned into a special assignment for the Evanston schools: to create a program in Movement Education. She was a bit of a pioneer in this field and wrote articles and gave lectures on this burgeoning field that encouraged students to explore their brain functions through using their bodies. Another teaching specialty was Creative Writing, which came in handy later when Corene was on the Literature Awards Committee at FAW.

If you've had the chance to meet Corene, you know that she is outgoing and loquacious, and not afraid to say what she thinks. Once, at a lecture on Medieval History in Cambridge, she caught a don in a factual error about Eleanor of Aquitaine. She was not afraid to correct the scholar's mistake. He wasn't appreciative. "Indeed," he harrumphed, but didn't disagree with her. Her chattiness and curiosity about people came in handy as FAW's president when she spent every luncheon getting to know as many people as possible. As recently as last month's luncheon, she had a great exchange with the speaker, historical writer William Hazelgrove (who spoke about the shadow presidency of Edith Wilson) about the joys and pitfalls of historical research.

FAW is forever enriched by the past and current leadership of educator, historian, artist and raconteur Corene Anderson. If you haven't met her, try to do so at upcoming FAW meetings. Her *joie de vivre* is infectious, and that's a virus share we could all use.



Another FAW Centennial Celebration! Introducing the new modern FAW Logo. The Centennial Committee has been working hard to make this a real celebration. You will be seeing more of this beautiful teal logo on future publications and promotional objects. The design was created by Chicago artist Norman Baugher in conjunction with the Centennial Committee.

The new logo presents a new image for FAW as it moves into its second millennium. It is with dedicated members like you that we can continue our mission to encourage new, talented writers from the Midwest. Thank you for making FAW the organization that it is.

FAW Program Schedule 2021-22

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



Book News

The Best Stories of Arsène Lupin by Maurice Leblanc

Review by Carol Eshaghy

I loved the story of Lupin, gentleman burglar, on Netflix, so when I saw this collection of the stories of Maurice Leblanc, I couldn't resist buying it. Leblanc died in 1941 but his stories are still fresh and clever today. I enjoyed every single one. Fingers crossed that there will be a season two and the stories in this book will be represented. If you like mysteries with a twist, you won't be disappointed.

Ruta Sepetys, FAW Young People's Award Winner from 2017, has released her fifth novel, *I Must Betray You* (Philomel, Feb. 1).

Black History Month Selections

That They Lived: African Americans Who Changed The World by Rochelle Riley and Cristi Smith-Jones

Black Inventors: 15 Inventions that Changed the World by Kathy Trusty

The 1619 Project: Born on the Water by Nikole Hannah-Jones

Go Tell It on the Mountain by James Baldwin

Ain't Burned All the Bright by Jason Reynolds, Jason Griffin (Illustrations)

The Hill We Climb: An Inaugural Poem for the Country by Amanda Gorman

South to America: A Journey Below the Mason Dixon to Understand the Soul of a Nation by Imani Perry

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