

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.

Fawchicago.org

April 2022 Newsletter

Message from FAW President – *Tammie Bob*

Dear Friends of American Writers,



Happy 100th Birthday! On April 22, 2022, our organization will officially be a century old. As there's still a lot of life in this old gal, it's time for us to celebrate. FAW's Centennial Committee, led by Roberta Gates and Karen Pulver, has been working tirelessly for a year to plan the festivities. First is the luncheon April 13th at the Fortnightly, during which we'll celebrate ourselves with champagne and Eli's cheesecake, party favors, games, and a trip down memory lane with some past presidents. If you've been staying away because of weather, COVID-19 anxiety, travel, or general winter blahs, please consider it time to come back and enjoy yourself with your FAW friends. And be sure to look for your invitation to the Centennial Gala, arriving in your mail at the end of March.

Also, this month I'm pleased to announce FAW's new Board slate for 2022-2023:

President--Ida Hagman
VP/Co-Program Chair--Christine Spatara
Secretary--Patricia Smart
Treasurer--Vivian Mortensen/Diana Adams
Newsletter/Co-Program Chair--Tammie Bob
Foundation Fund Chair--Roberta Gates
Literature Awards--Karen Pulver/Carrie Brenner

Young Peoples Awards--Angela Gall
Luncheon--Carol Eshaghy
Membership--Karen Burnett
Revision --Ina Flink
Sustaining Clubs--Helene Madsen
Yearbook--Dale Davison
Website Manager--Karen Baker

We'll formalize the slate with an official vote at the April 13th meeting. Thanks to Nominating Committee Chair Chris Spatara along with committee members Diana Adams, Karen Baker, Marti Daniel, and Susan Bennet for putting together this dynamic group. Also, welcome new Board members Carrie Brenner, Ina Flink, and Helene Madsen, and thank you Ida Hagman and Diana Adams for stepping up to your new leadership positions.

Just a reminder to reserve your April luncheon seat by calling Pat Adelberg by Thursday April 7th. The Fortnightly requests this longer lead time to adequately plan around shortages—one way in which the larger world is touching our small group. Hope to see you all April 13th.

Happy Spring!

Tammie Bob - FAW President

April 13th Program – Happy Birthday to FAW!



Please join us for our birthday bash celebrating FAW's 100th year! Celebrate FAW's history and continuing mission with a brief presentation of FAW highlights; a panel discussion by some of our busiest members, including Tammie Bob, Angela Gall, Vivian Mortensen, and Chris Spatara; drawings for special prizes; birthday cake and prosecco.

In addition, we'll be distributing our centennial booklets which have been in the works for months as well as a surprise souvenir.

Come Celebrate!

Luncheon Reservations

April 13th, 12:00 noon at The Fortnightly of Chicago.

Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than 6:00 PM Thursday April 7. 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. The seating is tables of 6 – 8 socially distanced. Proof of vaccination is no longer required.



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, April 13, 2022 – FAW Lunch Menu:** Starter: *Roasted beet, goat cheese, baby arugula, blackberry, puffed quinoa*; Main: *Tagine of chicken breast, Israeli couscous, dried fruit, chickpea, pistachio*; Desert: *FAW Birthday Cheesecake!*

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.

FAW GALA - MAY 12

The pinnacle of our centennial year will be the gala held on Thursday, May 12 at the Woman's Athletic Club (WAC) at 626 Michigan Avenue. Many thanks to Kathy Katz, a member of both FAW and WAC, for hosting us at this truly special venue!



The festivities will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Presidents' Room where a cash bar will be available. Dinner will be served in WAC's lovely Ballroom at 6:30. Following the three-course meal, our speaker, best-selling author Audrey Niffenegger, will address the group.

In addition, some of our prize-winning authors will be present as special guests, including Kevin Fenton (author of *Merit Badges*); YA author Jesse Ann Foley (*Sorry For Your Loss*); Abby Geni (author of *The Last Animal*); Jim Kokoris (*The Rich Part of Life*); picture-book author Laurie Metcalf (*Beatrix Potter, Scientist and Farmers Unite!*); YA author Ann Schoenbohm (*Rising Above Shepherdsville*); and Elizabeth Wetmore (*Valentine*).

Soon you'll be receiving an invitation to the gala in the mail. For your convenience, an RSVP card and self-addressed return envelope will be enclosed. To reserve your place, just fill out the card and return it along with a check made out to Friends of American Writers. **The cost of the gala is \$100 per person. The deadline for reserving is April 20.**

Seating: Please list your seating preference on the RSVP card. Every effort will be made to honor your seating preference. If you are reserving a whole table, please have one member of your party call in all the names to Pat Adelberg at (847) 588-0911. Valet parking is available at the door.



HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SPONSOR AN AUTHOR!

Sponsor one of our prize-winning authors at the gala on May 12. You will have the fun of being able to sit next to one of your favorite authors during dinner. The cost is \$100 to purchase their ticket. If you think you might be interested in being a sponsor, please email Roberta Gates (robicatas3@gala.com) or call her at (708) 979-2468.

Attending Authors (** Already Sponsored)

Kevin Fenton (Author - <i>Merit Badges</i>)	Jesse Ann Foley (YA author - <i>Sorry For Your Loss</i>)
**Abby Geni (Author - <i>The Last Animal</i>) SPONSORED	Laurie Metcalf (<i>Beatrix Potter, Scientist ; Farmers Unite!</i>) picture-book author
Jim Kokoris (Author - <i>The Rich Part of Life</i>)	Ann Schoenbohm (YA author - <i>Rising Above Shepherdsville</i>);
Elizabeth Wetmore (Author - <i>Valentine</i>).	



FAW_History

It was on April 3, 1922 that Nettie Bohr and 21 other women, most from either Oak Park or Chicago, met at the Oak Park library to sign the articles of incorporation. Disturbed by what they regarded in their day as sensational journalism and trashy literature, they made it their goal “to encourage high standards and promote literary ideals among American writers.” This purpose was reflected in the original mission statement which remained in place from 1922 until 2018. By that time, however, members were less concerned with a book’s “morals” than the quality of its writing. Today our mission statement reads:

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

Over the years, FAW has done its small part to boost the careers of such literary luminaries as Carl Sandburg, John Gardener, Toni Morrison, Jane Smiley, and Deborah Eisenberg. More recent winners include Chad Harback, Nathan Hill, and Ling Ma.

In addition, FAW’s Foundation Fund has given away almost \$67,000 in scholarships since 1989 to promising young writers enrolled in an M.F.A. or similar program.

And let’s not forget the outreach FAW has undertaken, including:

- Helping to restock school libraries in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina;
- Joining with Roosevelt University in 2013 to supply books to women in prison; and
- Celebrating our centennial by providing the Lawndale Community Academy with more than 100 new children’s books.

FAW isn’t just old, it’s venerable, and now, at a time when readership and attention spans are shrinking, it’s more important than ever that we continue to celebrate books and their writers.

FAW Program Schedule 2021-22

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

A NEW BOOK BY RUTA SEPETYS - Ruta Sepetys, a 2017 Young People’s Literature award winner, has a new book out called *I Must Betray You*. Set in autocratically ruled Romania in 1989, it features a teenager who becomes a reluctant informer. Described as “a well-researched nail-biter” by *The Christian Science Monitor*, it is a book that transcends its young adult genre.

The Paper Palace by Miranda Cowley Heller

Fiction, contemporary, romance

It is a perfect July morning, and Elle, a fifty-year-old happily married mother of three, awakens at "The Paper Palace" -- the family summer place which she has visited every summer of her life. But this morning is different: last night Elle and her oldest friend Jonas crept out the back door into the darkness and had sex with each other for the first time, all while their spouses chatted away inside.

Now Elle will have to decide which fate to choose. Does she stay with the husband she love, or leave him for an different life with Jonas. The pages drip with longing and desire. And they pose an intriguing question: How do we know if we're living the life we were meant to lead? Told on multiple timelines, this will lead you on an emotional roller coaster. There are heavy subjects of sexual abuse and adultery.

The Maid by Nita Prose

Fiction, Mystery

Review by Carol Eshaghy

Twenty-five-year-old Molly Gray is socially awkward and misinterprets the intentions of others. Her Gran used to help her navigate the world, but now she is dead, and Molly is left on her own. She loves her job at a high-end hotel and considers herself the queen of clean. Everything changes when she enters the room of Charles Black, an infamous and rich client, and finds him dead. Suddenly she finds herself the police's number one suspect. Molly thinks she doesn't have any friends but to her surprise people who work at the hotel step up to help her. Can they prove her innocence? Don't miss this unique book. I loved it.

The Thursday Murder Club Series by Richard Osman

Fiction, Mystery

Four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves The Thursday Murder Club. The first book introduces you to the quirky residents of Coopers Chase, a British retirement village and the septuagenarians that pit their skills against the local police to solve the crimes. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case.

The Man Who Died Twice (Thursday Murder Club #2) - Osman follows *The Thursday Murder Club* (2020), his supremely entertaining debut, with an even better second installment. A letter from a dead man plunges Elizabeth and her friends into a dangerous case involving local crooks, the Mafia, and MI6.

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 (Chair)</i> , <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>