



FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

Fawchicago.org
September 2022 Newsletter

FAW season starts September 14th 2022, at noon at the Fortnightly Chicago
Program: *The Mystery of Nancy Drew* presented by Susan Becker

As girls, we were thrilled and inspired by Nancy's adventures. Her fans are still legion. Susan Becker will share the results of her extensive research into Nancy Drew's origins and progression, and examine why she remains relevant to this day.

**Call: Pat Adelberg - (847) 588-0911
or Peggy Kuzminski - (cell) (773) 710-863
for reservations.**

**Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than 6:00 PM Thursday
September 8th.**

You don't want to miss this event! Make your reservation ASAP. 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.**

- ✓ 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 program you can't attend—otherwise FAW is still charged for your meal, and we must charge you.

Message from the President



Welcome back Literature Lovers!

I hope all of you are as excited as I am to attend our monthly luncheons at the Fortnightly. The program committee has done an outstanding job of lining up speakers. I hope to see you at the September 14 luncheon, where we will learn about who wrote the Nancy Drew mysteries. Be sure to reserve your seat by 6:00 pm on September 8. In October, Diana Martinez will return to tell us about the Andy Warhol exhibit coming to College of DuPage in 2023.

Thanks to all of you who renewed your memberships and made donations to the Foundation and Patron Funds this summer. If you haven't sent in your membership renewal, please do so very soon so that your contact information can be included in the 2022-2023 yearbook.

The Chicago Public Library calls Chicago the city of stories. Friends of American Writers is a part of those stories. We award emerging midwestern writers and we give scholarships to creative writing students. We support student readers by purchasing books for those who may not have books of their own. As FAW heads into its second 100 years, we take pride in our missions. We take joy in our friendships and in our lovely luncheons at the Fortnightly.

See you soon,

Ida Hagman

From Karen Burnett, Membership Chair

Friends of American Writers has just celebrated 100 Years of commitment to excellence in American literature, encouraging new Midwest authors and awarding scholarships to creative writing students. In addition to the core activities of awarding prizes for emerging authors and providing scholarships to worthy students, FAW holds regular monthly luncheons at the Fortnightly of Chicago that provide fellowship and literary programs.

As Membership Chair, I am happy to report that almost 70 members have already renewed their Memberships for the coming year. Thank those of you who have already sent their dues and the many generous additional sums for the Patrons and Foundation Funds.

Most of us who are members of FAW joined after an invitation from a current member.

Once we were exposed to the mission of the organization, we became committed to the value of our club. In order to grow and sustain our membership, please consider asking one or two of your friends or associates to join us at a monthly luncheon and become one of our members. Or better yet, sponsor them for a luncheon and provide the Membership Application which is attached. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September!!

READERS and REVIEWERS

Twice a year, Friends of American Writers gather to discuss a book chosen for its general appeal to our members. Joan Gordon has taken on the project this year. The group meets at the Fortnightly at 11:15 before the October and March luncheons. Here are details so you can prepare in advance.

October 12, 11:00 am

We will read Karen Joy Fowler’s *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*, about how three siblings navigate not only their family dynamics, but their father’s scientific examination of their interactions. Ultimately, it explores how one child’s difference makes them all question what it means to be human. Fowler has the ability to make us laugh and cry and care about these characters, using prose that dances along so grippingly that we aren’t even aware of her skill. Her new book *Booth*, about the family of John Wilkes Booth, has these same attributes, but it is quite long! This earlier novel is a faster read. You may be tempted to read *Booth* as well.

March 8, 11:00 am

Since Ling Ma, author of FAW-award-winning *Severance*, will be our luncheon speaker, we will read her new collection of short stories, *Bliss Montage*, coming out in September. These eight stories are by turn funny, sad, strange, and wise, often within one story. There are links among them although each stands alone, and they are often surreal. They are described as investigating “the ways that the outlandish and the ordinary are shockingly, deceptively, heartbreakingly alike.” You will certainly be entertained, but you may also have questions, and Ling Ma will be there to answer them after her talk!

<u>FAW Officers for 2022-23</u>	Committee Chairs
President: Ida Hagman ; Vice president: Christine Spatara ; Secretary: Patty Smart , Treasurer: Vivian Mortensen/Diana Adams	Newsletter: Tammie Bob ; Foundation Fund: Roberta Gates ; Literature Awards: Karen Pulver/Carrie Brenner ; Young People’s Literature Awards: Angela Gall ; Luncheon/social: Carol Eshaghy ; Membership: Karen Burnett ; Programs: Tammie Bob/Chris Spatara ; Revisions: Ina Flink ; Sustaining Clubs: Helene Madsen ; Yearbook and Awards Program: Dale Davison ; Website Manager: Karen Baker

Date	FAW 2022 – 2023 Program Schedule
09/14/2022	The Mystery of Nancy Drew - Susan Becker describes the little-known origins and development of America's first girl sleuth.
10/12/2022	Behind the scenes look at Andy Warhol Portfolios: A Life in Pop / Works from the Bank of America Collection, Diana Martinez Director McAninch Arts Center. + Reader & Reviewers Meeting (11:00)
11/09/2022	<i>The Long Way Home: Detours and Discoveries</i> , author Tom Montgomery Fate, how his far-flung travels led him to redefine the concept of "home."
12/14/2022	<i>The Happy Prince</i> by Oscar Wilde, interpreted by Michael Halberstam, actor, and former director of the American Writers Theater.
01/11/2023	Jennifer Miller, FAW member, will present her numerous aide trips to Africa where she worked with former boy soldiers of the Congo.
02/08/2023	Mark Dvorak of the Old Town School of Folk Music presents "Songs and Prose of Carl Sandburg"
03/08/2023	Ling Ma, author and FAW award winner, will discuss her work and the popularity of futurist dystopian novels. + Reader & Reviewers Meeting (11:00)
04/12/2023	Lisa Barr, NY Times best-selling author. Her three books - <i>Fugitive Colors</i> , <i>The Unbreakables</i> and <i>Woman on Fire</i> are historical thrillers describing events around the priceless art stolen by Nazi Germany
05/12/2023	FAW Literature Awards

Get Involved with FAW

How?

One way many of our members have stepped up is to join one of the awards reading committees. Both the adult and young people's award groups are always seeking new readers, and despite what you may imagine, the amount of reading is not soul-crushing, and you don't have to be a literary expert. Members of both committees have a great time discovering new books (some amazing, some awful, and many in-between) and discussing their merits and flaws. You don't have to be a speed-reader and your professional background is irrelevant as long as you can enjoy and discuss a good book. Contact **Karen Pulver** (contact info in your FAW Member booklet) for the Literature Awards Committee or **Angela Gall** for more information.

But there's other things you can do...anyone with an interest in communications or technical design is more than welcome to work on the newsletter, yearbook, or website. Contact me, **Tammie Bob** about those. We also welcome any ideas you may have about programs, projects or activities that might mesh with our mission. This is the perfect time of year to get started...how can you help?

