

FAWCHICAGO.ORG
December 2022 NEWSLETTER



December 14, 2022 Program
12:00 Noon at the Fortnightly of Chicago

Dramatist Michael Halberstam

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

Online Reservation no Longer Available

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

PROGRAM

Mr. Halberstam will entertain us with a dramatic holiday reading of *The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wilde. Oscar Wilde published his collection of children's stories in 1888. He wrote that the stories were 'an attempt to mirror modern life in a form remote from reality – to deal with modern problems in a mode that is ideal and not imitative.' Although published as stories for children, they are really fairy tales for adults with simple moral messages that would be hard for anyone to disagree with. Compassion, self-sacrifice, charitable giving, and true love - all come into play in this timeless tale, filled with Wilde's signature wit. The story is ultimately a profoundly moving, perfect complement to the holiday season.



There will be a book exchange between our members. Remember to bring a wrapped book to the luncheon if you wish to participate.

Menu for Wednesday, December 14th, 2022 – FAW Lunch

- Purée of celery soup, truffle oil
- Sautéed chicken breast, rosemary sweet potato, asparagus, tomato herb emulsion
 - Spiced cranberry tiramisu

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.

President's Corner – Ida Hagman



I hope everyone will attend the FAW luncheon on Wednesday December 14, 2022, at The Fortnightly of Chicago. It's always so festive in December.

Remember to bring a wrapped book for the book exchange.

Bookstore Memories

My first job out of college was working at Kroch's and Brentano's bookstore on Wabash in the Chicago Loop. This store was a large and popular bookstore, and, although the pay was abysmal, there were perks. For one, authors often stopped there on their book tours. Lady Bird Johnson came to publicize her book. The morning of her arrival, a box of books fell out of the window of the 3rd floor warehouse, and the secret service officers went crazy. I met Julia Child, who was publicizing the second volume of *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. That's when I realized how tall she was. She towered over me. She told me to, "Bake some bread." I never did. However, I did learn to cook using her books. When Chef Louis Szathmary of the Bakery (you lifelong Chicagoans will remember his restaurant), published his cookbook, he baked a huge, delicious cake for the bookstore staff. Another perk was that we could check out best sellers to read at home. The store managers wanted us to recommend books for

shoppers and encouraged us to read newly published fiction. I remember reading a proof copy of *Jaws*. I also read *The Exorcist* as soon as it was released.

FAW members, do you have any memories of a special bookstore? Let me know and I will include them in my next month's message.

SECOND ANNUAL HOLIDAY BOOK EXCHANGE

Last year, the Holiday Book Exchange was so popular we decided to do it again! Wrap a copy of one of your favorite books, maybe with a little note inside about why it's a favorite and put it under the tree in the Fortnightly when you arrive for our holiday luncheon. Between dinner and dessert, if you brought a book, pick a different one from under the tree and see what you received!

AWARDS COMMITTEES

Both the Young People's Literature and Adult Literature committees report a solid beginning to the reading year. The committees have met, and the evaluation and discussion of books is underway.