

FAWCHICAGO.ORG
February 2023 NEWSLETTER



Wednesday February 8, 2023 Program
12:00 Noon at the Fortnightly of Chicago

Program: Mark Dvorak of the Old Town School of Folk Music presents
“Celebrating Carl Sandburg”

In this lively program, 1933 FAW Award Winner, Carl Sandburg, will be celebrated through his prose, poetry, and songs. Nearly forgotten nowadays, Sandburg was a Pulitzer Prize author for both his poetry and his biography of Abraham Lincoln. He was the writer who called Chicago the “hog-butcher of the nation” and wrote that “fog comes in on little cat’s feet.”

Mark Dvorak from the Old Town School of Music and will sing songs collected and preserved by Sandberg along with short readings from selected Sandburg writings and poems. The result is a compelling and entertaining musical portrait of this icon from Illinois.

Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than 6:00 PM Thursday February 2nd.

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

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.



Donations Needed for FAW Children's Book Project

By Angela Gall

“The absolute hardest part of being a parent is the pressure to be perfect. In the hazy darkness, my frayed nerves soothe, and I become soft and comforting. The night begins with a bedtime story. As the bedtime story comes to an end, Nemo is reunited with his father, and all is well with the world.”

I wrote this paragraph as a part of an essay about What Motherhood Means to Me. There is something so magical about reading a book to a child. The bedtime ritual begins with digging through a pile of books and locating an old favorite or discovering a new one. Then comes the warm snuggles combined with the perfect story, building an unbreakable bond.

Getting more books into the hands of children through the FAW Children's Book Program is like sprinkling a glittering array of stardust into the world.

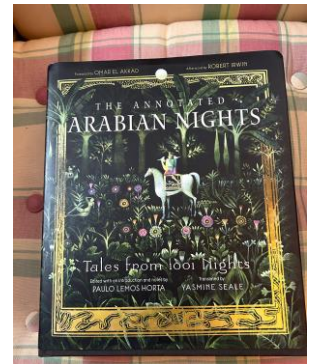
Please join in the joy by sending your donation to Vivian Mortenson. Please note on your check—Children's Book Program. We will also be accepting donations at our next luncheon in February. Thank you to all who have already so generously donated!

This year we plan on sending 25 books to Lawndale Community Academy in Chicago. We have worked with Lawndale for the past two years—first sending 25 books via mail to individual students during the Covid-19 Lockdown and the second supporting four classroom libraries with 100 books to commemorate our Centennial.

President's Corner –Ida Hagman



I have been touched and energized by many members who tell me how passionate they are about Friends of American Writers. At a time when many clubs are losing members, we are holding steady. When a guest of member attends a luncheon, they almost always join. If you would like to channel your passion, consider becoming more active by serving on the FAW board. This is the time of year when the FAW president assembles a nominating committee for filling the open board positions. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, let me know. If you would like to serve on the Board, see me or another Board member. I love books and I know you all do too. Mostly I love books for the stories, but I also love the physical qualities of books – the paper, the binding, the font. However, I try not to buy more. It's a time in my life when I should get rid of things, not add them. So, I read library books. I read on my Kindle. I get books on Hoopla and listen to audio books. But, I really like books printed on paper the best. Occasionally, I come upon a book that I want to own. One such book is *The Annotated Arabian Nights*, edited by Paulo Limos Horta and translated by Yasmin Seale. It's the kind of book to pick up and read one of the tales and the annotations then set it down to read another day. The stories should be savored. This is a beautiful book, and I enjoy seeing it on my coffee table.



Bookstore memory from Corene Anderson this month:

“As many of you know I love London, UK, and have missed my annual sojourn to that city. Its bookstores are always on my to-do list. ‘Book Sellers’ as they’re called in England seem to draw me into their magical space with their offerings and expectation.

One of my favorites is Hatchards on Picadilly, close to Fortnum & Masons if you’re familiar with that area. It dates to 1797, a gem of a little traditional Bookseller Shoppe. It’s often mentioned in stories of the 19th century. Upon entering and walking about one occasionally steps on a creaking floorboard. There are so many selections to choose from and enjoy. It never disappoints and a find always adds to my afternoon teatime read.

Another just down the street from Hatchards is Waterstones, which features big, comfortable leather chairs. Experiencing bookstores in a foreign country offers topics and opinions with that country’s perspective which I have found so interesting for my Medieval Studies as well as other work on Britain’s history. This also contributes to the adventure.

An Amazon book order is certainly convenient but a bookstore will always draw me in for a visit.” ---Corene Andersen, Past President

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.

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.