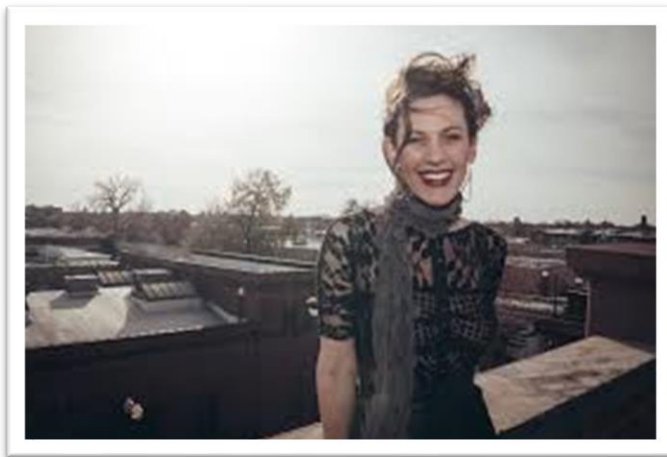


FAWCHICAGO.ORG
November 2023 NEWSLETTER



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



Program: Author **Rachel deWoskin**

Rachel DeWoskin, an award-winning author, and University of Chicago professor of Creative Writing will talk about her years as a Chinese soap opera star. Rachel spent her twenties in China as a consultant, writer, and the unlikely star of a nighttime soap opera called "Foreign Babes in Beijing." Her memoir of those years, *Foreign Babes in Beijing*, has been published in six countries and is being developed for TV.

Rachel is author of five novels and a poetry collection: *Banshee* (Dottir Press, 2019); *Someday We Will Fly* (Viking Penguin, 2019); *Blind* (Viking Penguin, 2015); *Big Girl Small* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2011); and *Repeat After Me* (The Overlook Press, 2009) and also of *Foreign Babes in Beijing* (W.W. Norton, 2005), a non-fiction account of life and Sino-US cultural exchange in China in the 1990's. Many of her essays and articles have been published in prominent journals and anthologies. Rachel currently is an Associate Professor of Practice in the Arts at University of Chicago. She divides her time between NYC, Chicago, and Beijing with her husband, playwright Zayd Dohrn, and their two little girls.

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

**Call: Pat Adelberg - (847) 588-0911
or Peggy Kuzminski - (cell) (773) 710-8637
for reservations**

Menu

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

Butternut squash "cappuccino," curry cream
Fennel spiced pork tenderloin, soft polenta, charred broccoli rabe,
pancetta, sultana pan sauce
Mixed berry & pine nut cobbler, honeyed mascarpone

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.

FAW SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

In November, FAW's Foundation Fund presents a cash scholarship to an MFA student of Creative Writing at Columbia College. Here's a little information about this year's winner, who will attend the luncheon and make a brief presentation.

Friends of American Writers Scholarship

2023-2024 Recipient



Alexandra Riseman

HOMETOWN: Oak Park, Illinois

MAJOR: English & Creative Writing

CLASS OF: 2026

About Me

I have studied creative writing for a long time now, and because of Columbia, I truly have found my confidence. I hope to not only produce creative non-fiction which explores my childhood and trauma, but I finally feel brave enough to explore fiction again. I want to create worlds and characters again that bring hope to the world.

Why is this scholarship meaningful?

I believe that because of this scholarship, I'll truly be able to focus even more on my writing as well as my goal of publishing my work. With less financial stress, I can really dive into what's important and impactful. Hopefully, I will have the ability to convey that through my writing and can show it to future readers.

Saying Thanks

Thank you so much. This means so much more to me than you know, and I will never forget this. I have been writing and studying for so long now, and to receive such an amazing scholarship has really pushed me to keep going, so thank you so much.

Portfolio or Online Profile: https://www.linkedin.com/in/alexandra_riseman-891821146/



Readers and Reviewers 11:00 AM at the Fortnightly (before the luncheon)

I've picked a novel that should appeal to many of you—it deals with important issues surrounding how we find the power to control our lives without betraying our moral or spiritual values, while doing so with humor and clarity. And it's short! And there's even a movie about it! The novel is *Women Talking* by Miriam Toews (yes, she is related to the hockey player). At the surface it is just eight women talking about terrible abuse and what they should do about it. But it is much more. Based on a real situation, the women are in an isolated community of old order Mennonites who have been repeatedly drugged and raped by men in the community. They must decide what to do to save themselves without giving up their faith. You'd think it would be grim reading, but the women's interactions and determination combine with their faith and thoughtfulness to make the novel inspiring without being remotely sappy, and surprisingly laugh- out-loud funny as they struggle to find perspective and solutions. Please come. It's bound to be a great discussion, no matter how much or little you have read of the book.

Joan Gordon

President's Corner –Ida Hagman



I hope you are proud of your support for FAW. For over one hundred years, FAW has remained true to its goal of supporting American writers through literary awards, scholarships, and book donations. When you attend a luncheon, a portion of your cost goes to the Patrons Fund, which pays the literary awards. This month we will meet our scholarship winner. The scholarship is funded by our Foundation Fund, which continues to receive generous support from you. Later this year, we will send books to a Chicago school that is under-resourced. We do all this with a minimum of expenses.

We have no paid employees; we pay no rent. We have some expenses – paying for the stamps, printing, tax preparation and so forth, but most of the work is done by our officers and members. So, thank you for your participation and donations. Please know that we spend our resources carefully.

Ida

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.