

FAWCHICAGO.ORG  
April 2024 NEWSLETTER



Wednesday April 10, 2024 Program  
12:00 Noon at the Fortnightly of Chicago

Program: Ellie Carlson Presents: *Speaking of Unmentionables, The Rise and Fall of Women's Undergarments.*



Women's fashions are shaped, literally and figuratively, by their underclothes. Throughout history, a woman's frame has not always been entirely her own. Delicate pieces of linen and lace, stiff corsets, and sturdy hoops and bustles are fascinating to modern eyes. They are the unseen history of an era. Modern contrivances are no less remarkable. Please deliver us from Spanx, couldn't we just go back to

corsets?

This novel and sometimes naughty presentation will unveil facts and expose myths about women's unmentionables. It includes stories from real women past and present and their amusing and sometimes uncomfortable relationship with their foundations. Participants will also view actual examples of historic underwear.

Ellie (Carlson) of Ellie Presents, Chicago, Ill., is a museum curator with 30 years of experience in small to mid-sized museums and a first-person interpreter portraying several women from the 19th and 20th centuries. Carlson has a B.A. from Roosevelt University and a Master of Historical Administration and Museum Studies from the University of Kansas.



Luncheon reservations and cancellations are due no later than 6:00 PM  
Tuesday, April 2nd.

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

Menu for April 10, 2024

A follow-up menu will be sent when the menu is available.

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 orders, 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 will be charged for your meal, and we must charge you.

### President's Message



#### President's Message April 2024

This month has been especially busy behind the scenes at FAW. The book award committees are reading and making their decisions about which authors will receive awards. This is the culmination of many, many pages read and much deliberation. The nomination committee is asking members to

fill officer and director positions for next year. The treasurer is depositing and recording your donations to the Patrons Fund, which provides the awards to the authors. Finally, FAW officers are getting ready for the April luncheon which includes a brief annual meeting. Speaking of the annual meeting, members will vote on the new officers and directors for 2024-2025. Please attend the April luncheon because we need a quorum of at least 30 members.

Membership in FAW has held steady at around 100 members, but it is time to push for an increase. Thanks to those of you who bring guests to luncheons because this is the best way for us to grow. Almost every time I invite a guest, they join. So, if everyone brings a guest to the April and May luncheons, we could double our membership for next year.



#### AWARDS COMMITTEES

#### EXTRA, EXTRA

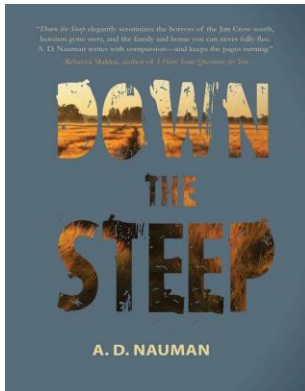
Adult Literature Committee has selected our prize-winning books for 2024! Thanks to the leadership of Karen Pulver and Carrie Brenner, and the careful efforts of Committee members Tammie Bob, Adrienne Bornstein, Karen Burnett, Mary Robb Clark, Dale Davison, Ida Hagman, Kathy Katz, Diane Miller, Kim Swartz, and Barbara Smith, two outstanding books have emerged as winners. Please plan on attending the Awards Luncheon on **Friday May 10<sup>th</sup>** to celebrate both the books and their authors.

And the winners are:

<b>Adult Literature Awards</b>	
<b>A.D. Nauman</b>	<b><i>Down the Steep</i></b>
<b>Thao Thai</b>	<b><i>Banyan Moon</i></b>

## ***Down the Steep* by A.D. Nauman**

*Down The Steep*, a novel by A. D. Nauman, tells the story of Willa Mc Coy, a white teenager who grew up in a small town in Virginia in the 1960's. Willa admires her

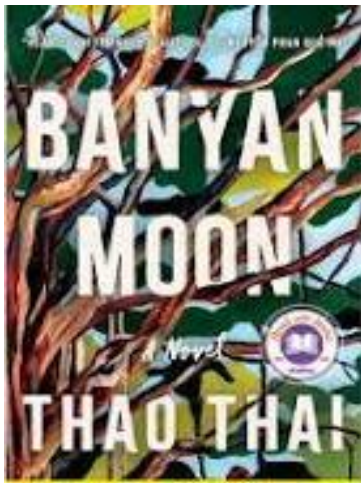


father and wants his esteem. Her father is a klansman (I refuse to capitalize “klan.”). Willa would like to be a leader like her dad, and she fully endorses the values of her white community and family of origin until she babysits for the Swansons, who have moved to Willa's town to be a part of the civil rights movement. At the Swansons', Willa meets Langston Jones, a young black man. Willa and Langston hate each other, but a crack begins to form in Willa's belief in her racist values. How Willa reacts to sociological challenges and conflict in her

family creates drama. The book is a page-turner.

A.D. Nauman is an author and educator in Chicago. She has been a member of FAW and even chaired the Awards Committee.

## ***Banyan Moon* by Thao Thai**



*Banyan Moon* by Thao Thai is a lyrical, multi-generational saga focusing on three Vietnamese-American women and the push and pull of their relationships. Ann is beautiful, talented, and has a rich boyfriend from an elite family. Ann's mother, Huong, lives with her mother, Minh, in Banyan House, an old decaying home in Florida. While at an elegant party with her prospective in-laws, Ann learns that she is pregnant and that Noah has cheated on her. Ann then receives the news that her grandmother has died. Ann decides to return to Banyan House, a place she loves, without Noah. In the process of cleaning out Banyan House, Ann uncovers family secrets. Ann and Huong repair

their relationship, and Ann finds some clarity on who she is, who she wants to be and whether she should be with Noah. Here is a quote that illustrates why I liked the book, “The shame of motherhood is that your instincts never leave,” Huong thinks, “even as everyone decides they aren't needed anymore.”

This is Thao Thai's first novel. Her work has been published in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *WIRED*, *Elle*, *Lit Hub*, and other publications. She lives in central Ohio with her husband and daughter.

### **Young People's Literature Awards**

Due to an overload of excellent contenders, the committee will announce their award winners soon.

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