



# FRIENDS OF AMERICAN WRITERS

CHICAGO

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January

2011-2012 No. 5

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## Greetings FROM THE PRESIDENT

## January Program

New Year's good wishes to all!

Our holiday tea was a great success thanks to each and every one of you and your guests. Mr. Henry Kupjack was delightful. His expertise was amazing while his stories brought depth to the miniature world of expression as another art form. It certainly added to my further appreciation of the Thorne Rooms at the Art Institute.

The food at the tea was exquisitely displayed. There were lots of tasty sandwiches and pretty little sweets at the buffet. Many of us went back for seconds and even thirds!

This month we will hear from Elizabeth Taylor, Literary Editor of the *Chicago Tribune*. She will share her revelations on our former mayor, Richard J. Daley.

See you then,

Corene Anderson  
President



## American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley – His Battle For Chicago and the Nation

January 11, 2012

**Elizabeth Taylor**, Literary Editor of the *Chicago Tribune*, will discuss the book she co-wrote with Adam Cohen, *American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley: His Battle for Chicago and the Nation*, (Back Bay Books, 2001, 614 pages). This is a landmark book about Daley and the era in which he lived.

Ms Taylor joined the *Tribune* in 1996, after spending 13 years as a correspondent with *Time Magazine*. Elizabeth has been President of the National Book Critics Circle, and continues to serve on its Board of Directors. She has served on three Pulitzer juries, chairing both the Biography and Fiction juries. She has also served on the Harold Washington Literary Prize committee, including two stints as chairman.

Program Committee

[www.fawchicago.org](http://www.fawchicago.org)

Have you looked at our website? Karen Baker, the FAW website writer, has done wonders. The full color site has all kinds of information about current programs, award authors, scholarship winners, the

Foundation Fund and much more. There are even membership forms available.

The website provides a presence and legitimacy for our club in the literary world. It allows publishers and writers to check the requirements for submitting books. And it is a resource for members and prospective members looking for FAW facts.

It's a wonderful resource!

## Read More about him... Richard J. Daley

Below are some books still in print about this colorful, powerful mayor:

**American Pharaoh: Mayor Richard J. Daley: His Battle for Chicago and the Nation**, (Paperback: Back Bay Books, 2001, 614 pages) by Adam Cohen and Elizabeth Taylor.

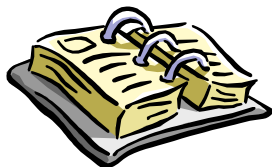
This first full account of the life of Chicago's mayor tells the life story of Daley from his birth in 1902 to his death in 1976.

**Boss: Richard J. Daley of Chicago** (Paperback: Plume, 1988, 224 pages) by Mike Royko,

First published in 1971 when the late Daley was mayor of Chicago, this classic "provides a detailed and, for some, eye-opening account of Daley's rise to absolute control of the Chicago Democratic political machine," said *Publishers Weekly*, finding the book "sar-donic and sometimes hilarious reading."

**Richard J Daley: Politics, Race and the Governing of Chicago** (Paperback: Northern Illinois University Press, 1995, 302 pages) by Roger Biles.

Author Biles portrays a politician eager to maintain the status quo, despite governing in a time of massive change. But as Daley's administration bridged the gap from the late 1940s to the 1960s, he had to face racial unrest and massive youth uprising.



**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

## Awards Luncheon May 9<sup>th</sup> At The Fortnightly

This year the date of the Annual Awards Luncheon has been moved to May 9<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully the weather will be warmer, more members will be in town, and FAW will not be competing with Spring holiday events.

Also, this will be the first time this event will be at The Fortnightly - everyone enjoys the ambiance of the club, the delicious food and the convenient (and reasonable) parking. This will not be a regular luncheon but will be stepped up to be a gala affair.

Mark your calendar and start thinking of guests to invite!

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE looking for candidates

The Nominating Committee will be looking for members to fill the following vacancies on the 2012/13 Board:

- Awards Luncheon
- Foundation Trustee
- Luncheon & Social
- Membership
- Programs
- Sustaining Clubs

Think about volunteering for one of these positions. It's not difficult to serve ... in fact it's fun and a way to get to know others in the club. And there are always Board members to help you learn the job. The Board meets at 10:00 a.m. at the Fortnightly the same day as our luncheon.

Give it some serious thought. We need you! For more details call Vivian Mortensen at 847-827-8339 or email her at [vmortens@comcast.net](mailto:vmortens@comcast.net).

Please don't ask Fortnightly staff to set up more tables

Recently, some members have asked Bernie, the Fortnightly Maître D, to set up extra tables so that

they can sit with their friends. Last month the tea was crowded and (on request) staff got out two extra tables, even though there were enough chairs already set up. The club wanted to charge us for this extra work but luckily we were able to remove it from the bill.

Try to arrive early...or least ask one of your group to come early to save chairs for everyone in your party. If there are too many people for the number of chairs, talk to the members sitting at the Reservation Table to help you. The Board doesn't want to raise the luncheon fee to reflect this extra cost.

The Standing Rules for FAW state, "No resident of the metropolitan area shall be a guest at more than two meetings during a club year." Recently there have been several nonmembers who have attended two meetings. Please don't invite a guest more than twice per year – the Annual Award Luncheon is not included in this count.

If guests wish to attend more meetings, please invite them to join our membership. Now is a good time to sign up because half-year dues are only \$20.

Reminder:  
A GUEST MAY ATTEND A FAW  
MEETING ONLY TWICE per year



January LUNCHEON  
WEDNESDAY, January 11, at NOON  
\$35 PER PERSON

The fortnightly of Chicago  
120 Bellevue Place, Chicago, IL

To make reservations, call **Pat Adelberg at 847-588-0911** or **Ruth Ann Brinkman at 773-271-9604**. Vegetarian meals may be requested at the time you make your reservation.

REMEMBER:

- **Reservations (and cancellations) are due before 6 p.m. on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>.**
- Pay by check (\$35) payable to FAW at the door.
- \$14 parking is available two doors west of the Fortnightly at 100 Bellevue Place.
- The seating arrangements in the room are round tables seating eight people. If you wish to sit with your friends and/or guests, please arrive early.
- Complimentary coffee and tea service are available in the parlor prior to the lunch.
- If you make a reservation but cannot come, you must call to cancel. Otherwise you will be charged the \$35. If this happens, send your check to Eileen McNulty, 4450 North Kostner, Chicago, IL 60630-4102.

**Favorite 2011 reads by Elizabeth Taylor and Julia Keller**

## ELIZABETH TAYLOR'S PICKS:

**The Marriage Plot** by Jeffrey Eugenides (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); fiction: A clever, spirited look at a complicated but irresistible institution.

**Beautiful & Pointless: A Guide to Modern Poetry** by David Orr (HarperCollins); nonfiction: Elegant, infinitely sensible approaches to poems and poetry-making by a brilliant poet and critic.

**The Buddha in the Attic** by Julie Otsuka (Knopf); fiction: Mesmerizing voices of Japanese women who arrived in the United States in the wake of World War I.

**Space, in Chains** by Laura Kasischke (Copper Canyon); poetry: Luminous verses by a radiantly talented and exhilaratingly diverse author.

**The Convert: A Tale of Exile and Extremism** by Deborah Baker (Graywolf); nonfiction: How religious passion can change minds — and the destinies of nations — enfolded in the story of a woman's embrace of Islam.

**The Forgotten Waltz** by Anne Enright (Norton); fiction: The Booker Prize-winning author spins a yarn about adultery with bleak humor, pathos and a crisply unflinching eye for detail.

**Thinking, Fast and Slow** by Daniel Kahneman (Farrar, Straus & Giroux); nonfiction: A clear and constantly surprising study of how we make critical decisions about our lives.

## JULIA KELLER'S PICKS:

**The Tiger's Wife** by Tea Obreht (Random House); fiction: The soul of the war-ravaged Balkans is elevated to the status of myth — yet retains its power to wound — in a family saga told with rigorous imaginative force.

**Island of Wings** by Karin Altenberg (Penguin); fiction: A heartbreaking tale, based on fact, about a minister and his restless wife sent to a remote island to save souls — perhaps at the cost of their own.

**A Death in Summer** by Benjamin Black (Henry Holt); fiction: Writing under a pseudonym, Irish author John Banville exhumes 1950s Dublin in a gloomy and hypnotic mystery about skulduggery among the well-connected.

**A More Perfect Heaven: How Copernicus Revolutionized the Cosmos** by Dava Sobel (Walker); nonfiction: The man who turned the universe right-side up

— and defied religious law to do so — explored in prose and drama by a splendidly lucid writer.

**The Great Northern Brotherhood of Canadian Cartoonists** by Seth (Drawn & Quarterly); graphic novel: A made-up town and a lost era of cartooning nirvana, all set forth in tiny boxes with big ideas.

**Gone** by Mo Hayder (Atlantic Monthly); fiction: Yet another creepy whodunit by the eerily talented British author, about a missing girl and the emotionally damaged detectives who handle the case.

**Losing It** by William Ian Miller (Yale); nonfiction: A stylish, effortlessly erudite and refreshingly clear-eyed essay about the dastardly — yet inevitable — fate of getting older.

**George F. Kennan: An American Life** by John Lewis Gaddis (Penguin); nonfiction: A haunting, morally complex biography of a Midwestern boy who became an influential diplomat and author despite a lifelong case of self-doubt, told with thoroughness and flair.

**Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman** by Robert K. Massie (Random House); nonfiction: The life of the passionate, pathbreaking woman who ruled a great swath of the world with headstrong brio is illuminated by a great historian.

**What There Is To Say, We Have Said: The Correspondence of Eudora Welty and William Maxwell** edited by Suzanne Marrs (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt); nonfiction: The legendary Southern writer and her invaluable editor, Maxwell, revealed in their own funny, smart and touching words to each other.

**The Prague Cemetery** by Umberto Eco (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt); fiction: Paranoia stalks our age, and few have captured it as well as this master novelist in his disquieting tale about a 19th-century paranoid's foul thoughts and revolting prejudices.

**The Stranger's Child** by Alan Hollinghurst (Knopf); fiction: A World War I era family saga, wrought with the author's usual crystalline prose and shattering emotional insights.

## JOINT SELECTION

**Hemingway's Boat** by Paul Hendrickson (Knopf); nonfiction: A lyrical and expansive search for the essence of a famous writer — heart, soul and hull.

(Chicago Tribune, December 17, 2011)