



FRIENDS OF
AMERICAN WRITERS
CHICAGO
www.fawchicago.org

February

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Greetings FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of FAW,

We all have our special gifts and interests and thank Elizabeth Taylor, Literary Editor at the *Chicago Tribune*, for sharing her time with us at our January luncheon. The Q and A session was very informative.

Remember who...remember when...so many great movies, stories, stars and '40's memories. Richard Klein will help us recall Hollywood in the '40's on February 8th. Watching movies made during that time was all so interesting. Points of view, clothes and humor all remind yet document another period of time. The '40's were the years of World War II and the media reflected the issues of the day. I'm sure Mr. Klein will bring to mind many forgotten Hollywood stories.

Thank you for your support of FAW. I enjoy chatting with you before the luncheons. Your guests are always welcome and encouraged to join FAW.



See you soon,

Corene Anderson
Faw President

February Program

Hollywood In the Forties

February 8, 2012

Hollywood during the 1940's was when films exuded supreme confidence. The film studios produced an output of unrivaled movie excellence and richness. Over 80 million people went to the movies every week; and never mind what the critics thought! Feature films ran the gamut of musicals, "women's pictures," westerns, horror, suspense, comedies, biographies, war and home front stories. Motion picture venues were often movie "palaces" decorated in any number of fanciful styles.

Through narration and film clips, **Richard Klein**, will guide us in a panoramic, "Technicolor," and black and white look at a few film classics including *Casablanca* starring Humphrey Bogart, Bette Davis' *Now Voyager*, *Adam's Rib* with Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy and *Laura* with the beautiful Gene Tierney.

Program Committee

**An Author
Among our
Membership**

Chicago history lovers have a new book to investigate, *The Hidden History of Old Town* (The History Press, 2011) by Shirley Baugher.

Shirley is a new FAW member this year, and has volunteered to serve on the Adult Literary Committee. Her book divulges secrets of past residents and historical events which fashioned the area Chicagoan's know as 'Old Town'. This is Shirley's fourth book! She also writes a blog which can be found at:
www.chicagonow.com/my-kind-of-old-town

Karen Baker



**Looking for
FAW authors**

Karen identified Shirley Baugher as an FAW published author. Are there others? One of our goals is to promote emerging authors and we love to promote our own. Please let us know!



**WELCOME
New members**

Joan T. Ross
1529 S. State Street
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Bette Wittenberg
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The website has book reviews

One of the many reasons to look at the FAW website, www.fawchicago.org, is to read the book reviews. Karen Baker, the webmaster, would like to add more. Can you help us? Old and newer books are welcome. If you can contribute a suggestion, contact Karen Baker at 312-643-0153 or karensuebaker@hotmail.com.

***The Forgotten Soldier* by Guy Sajer**
Reviewed by Roberta Gates

*I have a special interest in World War II and am always looking for diaries, letters or autobiographies that, I hope, will tell me the way it really was. Unfortunately, war stories are often boastful (we got those Japs) or just plain boring (pincer movements, etc.). But Guy Sajer's autobiography, entitled **The Forgotten Soldier** (Potomac Books, 2000, 508 pages) is neither. In fact, I would say it comes close to being a masterpiece in its closely observed moments, acute psychological insights and masterful writing.*

First published in 1967 in France under the title , it was translated into English in 2000 and published by Potomac Books. Guy Sajer (a synonym for the author) was the son of a German woman and a French peasant from Alsace. Unfortunately for Guy, Alsace was annexed by the Nazis after the fall of France, which meant that he (still two-and-a half months shy of his seventeenth birthday) was conscripted into the Wehrmacht. Damned by his French relatives as a traitor and held in contempt by his German comrades who regarded him as "one of those damned Alsatians pretending to be German," he had a lot to prove, both to himself and his fellow-soldiers.

*When **Forgotten Soldier** was first published in the U.S. in 2000, The New York Times said*

*anyone who read the book would never forget it,
and I agree completely.*

(NOTE: This has been edited for space – go to
the website for the complete review.)

Bringing lots of guests?

There have been some problems when members bring several guests. Sometimes it's difficult to find enough chairs together. The Board discussed this issue - we want members to invite guests and have a pleasant experience. It's best to come early, but sometimes this is not possible.

When making reservations for a large group of guests, ask the person taking the reservations to make name cards and put them out so that your group will have assigned seating. When you arrive, look for the cards and seat your group.

Newsletter delivery

Members are asked to choose whether they receive their newsletters by mail or email. If you wish to change how you are receiving the newsletter, please contact Vivian Mortensen, 847-827-8339, vmortens@comcast.net.

We assume everyone is getting their monthly bulletin. If there is a problem or you are moving, please let Vivian know so that she can make changes and keep the newsletters coming..



February LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY, February 8, 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, February 5th.**
- Pay by check (\$35) payable to FAW at the door.
- \$15 parking is available two doors west of the Fortnightly at 100 Bellevue Place.

- The seating arrangements in the room will be 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.

Bestselling fiction from the forties

How many of these old favorites have you read? Winter is a good time to dig out some older titles and cozy up to a good read.

FICTION

- *Arch of Triumph* – Erich Maria Remarque
- *Father of the Bride* – Edward Streeter
- *For Whom the Bell Tolls* – Ernest Hemingway
- *The Grapes of Wrath* – John Steinbeck
- *H. M. Pulham, Esquire* – John P. Marquand
- *How Green Was My Valley* – Richard Llewellyn
- *The Human Comedy* – William Saroyan
- *The Keys of the Kingdom* – A.J. Cronin
- *Mrs. Miniver* – Jan Struther
- *The Naked and the Dead* – Norman Mailer
- *The Nazarene* – Sholem Asch
- *Random Harvest* – James Hilton
- *The Razor's Edge* – W. Somerset Maugham
- *The Robe* – Lloyd C. Douglas

- *Saratoga Trunk* – Edna Ferber
- *The Song of Bernadette* – Franz Werfel
- *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* – Betty Smith

NONFICTION

- *Anna and the King of Siam* – Margaret Landon
- *Black Boy* – Richard Wright
- *Blood, Sweat and Tears* – Winston S. Churchill
- *Cheaper by the Dozen* – Frank B. Gilbreth
- *Cross Creek* – Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- *The Egg and I* – Betty MacDonald
- *Good Night, Sweet Prince* – Gene Fowler
- *Here Is Your War* – Ernie Pyle
- *Inside Latin America* – John Gunther
- *Mission to Moscow* – Joseph E. Davies
- *Our Hearts Were Young and Gay* – Cornelia Otis Skinner

- *The Roosevelt I Knew* – Frances Perkins
- *A Study of History* – Arnold J. Toynbee
- *The Thurber Carnival* – James Thurber

