



THE FORTNIGHTLY

FAW AWARDS LUNCHEON

120 E. Bellevue Place

Chicago, 60611, 11:30 a.m.

1st Course: Asparagus Soup with Tarragon Citrus Crema

***Entrée: Grilled Pork Loin, Brown Butter Miso Sweet Potatoes,
Roasted Apple, Warm Cider Vinaigrette***

Dessert: Honey Shortbread, Biscoff Mousse, Meringue

PHONE RSVP ONLY by 4.24.25 6 p.m.

Kathy Quaid 708.704.2161 or Karen Klatt 312.909.4581



PRESIDENT'S CORNER



KAREN BURNETT

The 2024/2025 season for Friends of American Writers has been very successful. Our mission “to study American literature, encourage high standards and to promote literary ideals among American writers” was accomplished by the following. We awarded a scholarship to Chidera Nwume, from the MFA writing program at Columbia College, funded a successful book program at two elementary schools that provided 150 students in first through third grades with their own personal books, and selected two award winners each for our Literature Awards and Young People’s Award Programs. I wish to thank our Membership for their generosity by supporting these programs through the Foundation Fund, the Patrons Fund and the Children’s Book Program. Additionally, our monthly luncheon programs were very successful and well attended. Thank you all for your participation and support for our organization and I hope you all have a wonderful summer. See you next season!





The Adult Literature Committee is proud to announce two outstanding books written in 2024. Both authors will be at the Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Michelle Ephraim wrote Green World: A Tragicomic Memoir of Love & Shakespeare.

Margot Livesey, author of The Road from Belhaven, summarizes the book well. “In Green World Ephraim deftly braids together her own life, the lives of her parents, both Holocaust survivors, and her reading of Shakespeare. I love how she uses The Merchant of Venice to illuminate complicated questions of anti-Semitism and familial loyalty. And I love the wit and warmth with which she writes about her journey in academia. This is a compulsively readable memoir.” Michelle is a Shakespeare scholar and a Professor of English at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Green World is “A 2025 Foreword Indies Finalist” and “A Jewish Women’s Archive Summer Book Club” pick.

Roberta Hartling Gates wrote Number 12 Rue Sainte-Catherine: And Other Stories.

According to Indie Reader, Number 12 Rue Sainte-Catherine “is an impressive debut examining the life and times of a notorious Gestapo chief from his troubled childhood in Germany to his eventual arrest and trial decades later. Historical fiction at its finest.” Roberta has an MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and was awarded the Dogwood Literary Prize in Fiction in 2021. She is a past president and longtime member of FAW.





The Young People's Literature Awards Committee is proud to announce two amazing winners for titles written in 2024:

Our first winner, John Schu, wrote *Louder Than Hunger* published by Candlewick Press.

"By way of free verse and type faces of various sizes, Author John Schu takes the reader along on Jake's difficult journey to overcome his eating disorder. Louder Than Hunger, an intense, powerful book feels so real and is so moving in portraying the pain and struggles of a middle school boy as he works to make his own voice louder than the voice inside his head that seeks to starve and destroy him. How joyful it is when he ultimately begins to rediscover his passions and his love of life. This is a book to be savored and literally devoured." (Diana Wendt, Young People's Literature Committee Member).

According to his website, "John Schu has made a career out of advocating for the people and things he cares about most: kids, books, and the people that connect them. He was named a Library Journal Mover and Shaker for his dynamic interactions with students. He is the children's librarian for Bookelicious, a part-time lecturer at Rutgers University, and shares his love of reading with countless educators and students around the world. John lives in Naperville." (<https://www.johnschu.com/about-contact>).

Our second winner, Nadia Ahmed, wrote *The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything* Published by Beaming Books.

*"Missing out on his favorite Halloween treat fills the little ghost with resolve. He won't let his fears of everything (the color orange, trees, people, flying) keep him from joining his family's trick or treat fun ever again. With determination—and despite realistic setbacks—this ethereal champion perseveres and overcomes his fears. Never preachy, *The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything's* message is transparent: you can face your fears, too." (Sally Kowalewski, Young People's Literature Committee Member).*

*According to Beaming Books website, "Nadia Ahmed is an artist and author from Naperville, Illinois. She graduated from DePaul University with a BFA in graphic design. Nadia often uses only a black pen to create complex worlds that evoke an eerie nostalgia. *The Ghost Who Was Afraid of Everything* is her debut picture book." (<https://www.beamingbooks.com/store/author/8763/Nadia-Ahmed>).*



Seating Arrangements

Please mention any special seating arrangements when you make your reservation.

- Guests
- Seated with a friend or group
- Disability seating

Every effort will be made to honor your request.

Do you have trouble climbing stairs? For a stair-less entrance to the Fortnightly call in-advance (312.944.1330) and staff will give you instructions.



Visit www.fawchicago.org

We prefer Zelle
but call your RSVP first please!

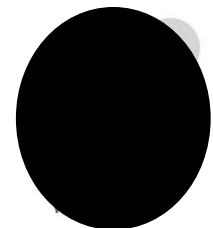
FAW 2024/25 Meetings:

- September 11th
- October 9th
- November 13th
- **December 11th**
- January 8th
- February 12th
- March 5th (first Wednesday)
- April 9th
- **May 2nd (Friday)**

Pay

* Response required

To*



From*

Available **Yippee!**

How much?*

\$50.00

NEXT



*Debra Ann Miller, our guest speaker at the FAW luncheon, enacted the amazing story of **Nellie Bly**. Her stellar performance has inspired many to read up on this modern woman before her time.*

