



NEWS

May 2026



MAY 6TH, 2026

2025-2026 Adult Literature Awards

JENNIFER ELI BOWEN for *The Book Of Kin* (Milkweed Editions), \$2,500

ANIKA FAJARDO for *The Many Mothers Of Dolores Moore* (Simon and Schuster), \$2,500

JAMES STEWART III for *Defiant Acts* (Acre Books), \$2,500

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2025-2026 Young People's Literature Awards

BRIANNE FARLEY for *Worm Makes a Sandwich* (G.P. Putnam's Son), \$2,500

LAURIE SCHNEIDER for *Gittel* (Fitzroy Books), \$2,500

T.L. SIMPSON for *Cope Field* (Flux), \$2,500



Reservations



May 6th, 2026. FAW Literature Awards.

12:00 noon at The Fortnightly of Chicago.

Please make your reservation or cancellation by **April 28, 6:00pm**

Come early and browse the winning author's books for purchase. Hear from our authors in-person or virtually.

Call: Karen Klatt - 312-909-4581 or Kathy Quaid - 708-704-2161



First Course: French Onion Soup with Gruyere Blue Cheese Crouton

Entree: Grilled Chicken Nicoise Salad with a Lemon Dijon Vinaigrette

Dessert: Crepe Suzette

A Vegetarian meal option is the only special dietary request available. Please remember to ask for this when you make your reservation.

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

Do you have trouble climbing stairs? For a stair-less entrance to the Fortnightly call in advance to the Fortnightly (312-944-1330) and staff will give you instructions.

MEETING AND LUNCHEON COST IS \$60.00

Pay by Zelle or check(preferred) payable to FAW at the door. Cash is accepted also.

Fortnightly of Chicago
120 E Bellvue Place
Chicago, IL 60611
(312)944-1330

Reminder

Members are responsible for paying for all meals not canceled by the stated deadlines as FAW is financially obligated to pay for such meals once the deadline has passed.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - KAREN BURNETT

To Members of Friends of American Writers:

Friends of American Writers is a Chicago-based organization that supports and encourages writers with a tie to the Midwest. The organization was founded in 1922. The mission of the organization is to “encourage new, talented writers associated with the Midwest and to promote the arts, especially literature, among our members.”

The awards ceremony has always been a highlight of the FAW year. Currently, the authors are invited to join the luncheon and receive their monetary award at the Fortnightly of Chicago scheduled on May 6. We hope you will share in congratulating our 2025-26 Award Winning Authors.

We received a heart-felt thank you with artwork from the students who received a book from the FAW Book Project, as well as a formal letter from the Juvenile Protective Association. The smiles those books created are beyond words.

Your generous contributions each year make our Literature Awards, Scholarship and Children’s Book Project possible. Thank you for your membership and support of FAW. You make all this possible.

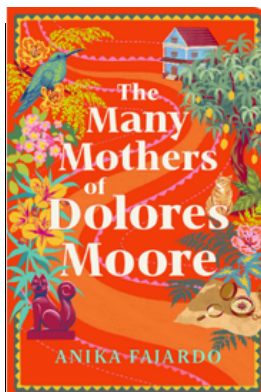


Our Authors



JENNIFER ELI BOWEN for *The Book Of Kin: On Absence, Love, and Being There* (Milkweed Editions) Nonfiction, \$2,500

A remarkable debut book that explores the imperfect ways we care for one another, and how we seek repair when care fails. “What’s our obligation to each other?” asks Jennifer Eli Bowen in this propulsive exploration of community, solitude, and love. Drawing on her experiences as a mother, daughter, and founder of the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop, the country’s largest and most enduring prison-based literary organization, she examines the wild spectrum of shapes that care can take.



ANIKA FAJARDO for *The Many Mothers Of Dolores Moore* (Simon and Schuster) Fiction, \$2,500

A magically insightful novel about a woman's journey to discover her roots and what it means to carry our ancestors with us. Armed with only a scrap of a handdrawn map, Dorrie sets off to find out where—and who—she came from.



JAMES STEWART III for *Defiant Acts* (Acre Books) Fiction, \$2,500

Drawing on the author’s experiences, this debut novel follows an interracial blended family living in Chicago in the 1990s. The story gives insight into the life of a multiracial family and the bonds that hold them together. In clear, concise prose, Stewart focuses on the complexities of human relationships and on race relations both in and outside the domestic space, placing emphasis on the values that bind this tight-knit family solidarity, care, and hope.

Our Authors



BRIANNE FARLEY for *Worm Makes a Sandwich* (G.P. Putnam's Son) Picture Book, \$2,500

A sweetly humorous picture book about composting, told from the point of view of a worm. Meet Worm. He might be little. He might have no hands. But Worm would love to make a sandwich, just for you! This hilarious, engaging picture book is the perfect introduction to the process of composting from start to finish, told from the perspective of one little worm who is very eager to help.



LAURIE SCHNEIDER for *Gittel* (Fitzroy Books) Historical fiction, middle grade, \$2,500

This coming of age story centers around a thirteen year old Jewish girl, Geetle Borenstein, who is smart and sassy. The Borensteins and twelve other Jewish families have left behind the deadly pogroms of Eastern Europe only to find life nearly as harsh in 1911 Mill Creek, Wisconsin. She's fed up with being called Geetle Beetle, or Jew girl, or worse. Gittel takes refuge in books, poetry, and family traditions as anchors to blend in and help achieve her dreams of becoming a famous writer.



T.L. SIMPSON for *Cope Field* (Flux) Fiction, Young Adult, \$2,500

Crawford "Craw" Cope has anger issues. Or so they say. Cope Field is a YA contemporary that tackles anger, expectations, and identity. After hitting his father with a baseball bat, he's sentenced to community service, repairing a rundown ball field, to be named after his father. During his assigned work, he meets Hannah, a punk rock enthusiast with zero filters. As their friendship blossoms into something more, he begins to understand the importance of speaking his truth, even when doing so might have negative consequences.

FAW Foundation *Scholarship*

Congratulations!



Presentation of Foundation Fund Scholarship
Cassandra Buell, Roosevelt University
\$3,000

*Our Members
are
Awesome*

Thank you for all your support.