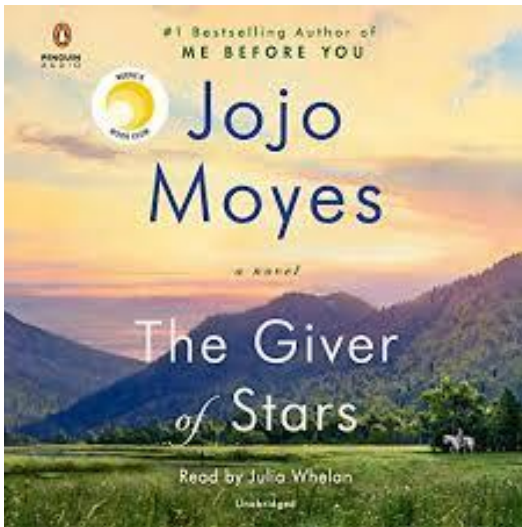


## THE SPOKESWOMAN

August 2020 Volume 57

### REPORTS

#### BOOK CLUB JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>



The July book group met via Zoom and included meeting participants: Shahla, Estelle, Juliana, Marti, Rose Mary, Verena, and Rhonda discussed *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes. The title of the book was from a poem by Amy Lowell. Estelle read us a short biographical sketch of Moyes, who lived in England and wrote many other books. Those listening to the audio version found that they could not easily get back to a particular section for clarification or review, they could not stay awake, or they read faster than listening. Everyone liked the

idea of taking books to rural areas and connecting people. Estelle pointed out that this book was similar to *The Bookwomen of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Richardson. There were also two stories within: the front story, Alice, and the back story, mining towns. We got a sad picture of living in a mining town and the industry's influence on life choices. The books were terrific gifts for the people living in rural Kentucky. Homeschooling and similar settings are still found in Appalachia, Wyoming, Montana, and in Native American communities. Thick woods give rise to isolationist areas in Maine and Mississippi and reminded us of the book, *Educated*, authored by Tara Westover. The isolation also affected people knowing their "rights" and possibilities of life outside of their town. The concept of consummation in marriage brought out a discussion that all sex education films should be viewed by both boys and girls. Other aspects discussed were racism, disabilities, domestic violence, unions, and financing libraries.

The September book selection for discussion is *Once Upon a Blood Moon* by local author Dorothea (Dottie) Bonneau. More information will be sent by e-mail.

## CELEBRATE THE 19TH

The ninth Tech Trek camp was originally scheduled on seven college campuses in June and July of 2020. The event was cancelled due to COVID-19 and Davis branch members got together on July 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate virtually instead. Leslie Rubin presented detailed information and anecdotes about Tech Trek and her experiences as Camp Nurse.

Leslie has been active with the Tech Trek for years as the Davis Camp nurse. She entertained the participants with some of her experiences. She explained why and how Tech Trek came about, the directors and numbers of camps, the process for choosing the girls, the schedule that the campers follow, details about core classes, field trips, workshops, and special programs; fundraising events and needs. In her “live” presentation, Leslie talked about her gratitude to be able to see incredible growth in self-confidence for many of these Trekkers. Leslie is passionate about the program.



The video from camps of 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 can be viewed online:  
2016 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uw9jmIvTD9o>  
2017 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0iTIBfsDwc>  
2018 - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e\\_ZBBgHZGio&t=13s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e_ZBBgHZGio&t=13s)  
2019 - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ips\\_rxfvAI&t=89s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Ips_rxfvAI&t=89s)

## BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SHAHLA FARAHNAK



Meet Shahla Farahnak, the 2020-21 Davis Branch Executive Officer. Shahla and her husband, Francis, came to the US from Iran in April of 1977, a few months after they were married. They both received their undergraduate degrees in Iran at the University of Shiraz, where they met. Shahla received her Master's degree from UC Davis in Chemical Engineering. She is currently the Assistant Deputy Director at the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Quality. Shahla oversees statewide groundwater protection programs and is passionate about protecting and preserving California's water quality and water supply. Shahla leads a 70-member team of engineers, geologists, and scientists. She enjoys mentoring staff to achieve their highest potential. Shahla is also always open to mentoring and supporting our UC Davis student organization members and the new graduates that are seeking jobs with the State or helping them to explore future career opportunities. Shahla met Rhonda and Estelle on their daily train commute to Sacramento and became close friends as they share many similar values. Rhonda was responsible for Shahla and Estelle joining AAUW; all three have served as co-executive officers on the AAUW Davis Branch Board since 2015.

## UPDATES

### *AAUW FUND VIRTUAL LUNCH WITH THE FELLOWS/GRANT RECIPIENTS*

The 2020-2021 Fund luncheons will be held on two dates by webinar, due to the pandemic. While we will miss the social gathering aspect of the luncheons, the webinars may enable more members to participate since we will not need to travel to the San Francisco Bay Area. At the luncheon, current northern California fellows and grant recipients describe how the AAUW Fund has helped them achieve their goals and dreams. From this group, two speakers will be invited to share their inspiring stories at the annual Capital Counties Interbranch Council luncheon to be held on January 30, 2021.

Please note these dates in your calendars: Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>. More information will follow in future newsletters.

## NEW CALIFORNIA CONNECTION

Watch your e-mail inboxes for the all-new digital publication, the *California Connection*. This new monthly publication will arrive before the 10<sup>th</sup> of every month and is intended to provide members with timely information about all things AAUW. If you are not receiving the *California Connection*, please check your e-mail address in the Membership Database (MSD) on the national website at <https://www.aauw.org>

If you need help checking the membership database, please contact Gail Johnson at [gejohnson08@comcast.net](mailto:gejohnson08@comcast.net) or contact Julika Barrett in the AAUW California Office at 916-448-7795 or at [office@aauw-ca.org](mailto:office@aauw-ca.org) for assistance.

## UPCOMING WEBINAR SCHEDULE

Don't miss these upcoming webinars! The webinar schedule is at:

<https://www.aauw-ca.org/2020-2021-webinars/>

8/26 – Racial Injustice: Understanding It, Recognizing It, Talking About It

9/14 – Waging a successful GOTV (Get Out the Vote!) campaign in the time of COVID

If you miss a webinar and want to hear it, recordings of the webinars and accompanying materials are posted at the link above. Just click on the webinar name.

## CALENDAR

**August 19, Wednesday** - Zoom Meeting 5:30 pm: Celebrate the 19th – Verena Borton will lead a discussion of current advocacy efforts by the United Nations Association (UNA). Verena is the President and champion educator for the UNA, Davis Chapter.

**August 29, Saturday** - Zoom Meeting 1-3 pm: Board Retreat.

**September 12, Saturday** – Zoom Book Club Meeting, 9 am: *Once Upon A Blood Moon* by local author Dorothea (Dottie) Bonneau

**Be as active as you wish, but stay a member. You count.**