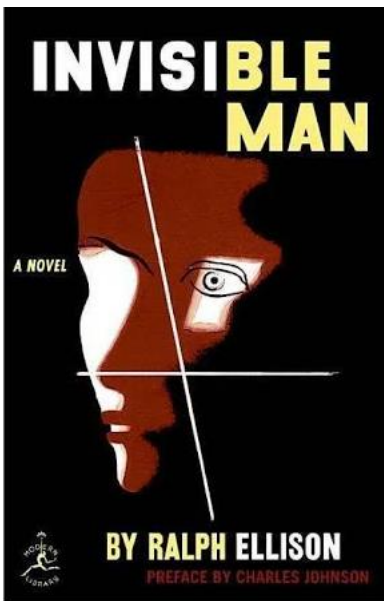


THE SPOKESWOMAN

September 2020 Volume 58

REPORTS

BOOK CLUB August 9TH



“Invisible Man” by Ralph Ellison was the book discussed by Estelle, Verena, Rose Mary, Rhonda, Marti, and Juliana. Several people experienced sadness and feeling overwhelmed by how he was SO mistreated and misled. He was treated as if he were incapable and brainless. To many, the book was a hard read and too long with too much detail. The Invisible Man was Black, and many elements of the story were exacerbated by that fact. He could trust no one, not even other Blacks. Northern Blacks looked down upon Southern Blacks. A serious discussion about tribalism, immigrants, and racism followed. Each group has a ranking within, and there is a distinct leveling according to color shades or education or place of origin. The readers likened the stepping in and out of characters to characteristics of Jazz (Ellison was a jazz musician). He wrote as if improvising on a theme, where Blacks were exposed to a range of injustices in a collection of events. Again, the group preferred the printed page to an audio presentation. “There’s more enjoyment reading than hearing.” “The language is too rich to just hear it.” “Inflections in audio are very important, especially with the Harry Potter series.”

The September book selection for discussion is “Once in a Blood Moon” by local author, Dorothea Bonneau. She will join us on Zoom to discuss the book and answer questions. Woodland AAUW will also be joining us at 9 am this Saturday, September 12th.

In October, we will be discussing “Our Time Is Now” by Stacey Abrams. The book selected for discussion in November is David Grann’s “Killers of the Flower Moon”

about injustices suffered by the Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma and the birth of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Our goal is to read books we might not normally choose.

AUGUST CELEBRATE THE 19TH

On August 23, Verena Borton, President of the United Nations Association-USA Davis chapter (UNA-USA Davis) gave a Zoom presentation about the UNA and the many UN activities and goals associated with the 75th Anniversary of the UN founding. The UN was created to have nations work together for peace after the war. UNA-USA Davis is one of the many chapters to support the UN. Mary Ellen Dolcini, a past president of the Davis chapter and Northern California UNA Division, likened UNA to a Booster Club for the UN. The Davis UNA chapter has been in existence since the 1960s with 50-70 members and is dedicated to the same values that led to the UN's creation: human rights, combating world poverty and inequality, protecting the world's environment, seeking peaceful resolutions, advocating for and supporting peacekeeping missions, and supporting the Sustainable Development Goals.

Listening to Verena's talk were: new member Helen Thompson, Shahla, Estelle, Laleh, Barbara D., Ramona, Rhonda, Stephanie, Juliana, Karen, Leslie, and Solmaz. Some programs supported by UNA Davis are the International Festival, the UNICEF campaign, UN Day (co-sponsored by AAUW) in October; Human Rights Day in December, and International Women's Day (with AAUW) in March. UNA also has fundraisers like Adopt-A-Future, which has provided money for classrooms and teacher training in refugee camps. AAUW has had special consultative status at the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council since 2008. AAUW was one of the NGOs present at the signing of the charter. AAUW has a common goal with UNA in urging people to think globally and act locally. Eleanor Roosevelt was at the 1st General Assembly meeting in 1948. She read a letter addressed to the women of the world to encourage them to take a more active part in national and international affairs. UNA and AAUW each have a youth representative to the UN.

At the beginning of 2020, UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, invited the world to go online and answer three questions: What kind of future do we want to create? Are we on track to secure a better world? What action is needed to help us

create a brighter future? UNA-USA organized 80 consultations around these questions with input from 1850 participants. One consultation took place in Davis in early February when all Northern California chapter leaders met here. Findings and discussions can be found at <https://unausa.org/un75-report/>

77% of the UNA participants think the future will be worse; 10% are unsure, and 13% think the future will be better.

All in-person activities have had to be canceled since March, but online programs and celebrations continue. There are regular webinars offered through the Global Engagement Online Series (GEOS). You do not have to be a member to attend these informative sessions. Go to <https://unausa.org/events/2020-geos/> to find past and future sessions. One exploration of education is on September 9th at 10 am. On women's issues, the Secretary-General is a feminist with gender parity as a strong goal. The 2030 Sustainable Development Goal agenda has a strong emphasis on women's empowerment as the catalyst for all the other goals.

In June, UNA-USA Davis organized a virtual advocacy session with Congressman Garamendi's office. On October 22nd, the Sacramento and Davis chapters will collaborate on a virtual UN Day program. On October 23rd, UNA-USA national will have a virtual UN 75th Anniversary program.

Verena's background of living in Europe during World War II with her refugee parents made these issues very close to her heart. She has an international outlook and passion for international issues. When she was asked to be on the UNA-USA Board in 1992, she accepted; UNA-USA Davis chapter members are grateful. Several AAUW missions mesh well with the UN. Several speakers and webinars will be available in September and October that may be of special interest to AAUW members. Go to the UNGA75 guide at <https://unfoundation.org/UNGA75>

A few upcoming events include: September 9 - Ensuring Quality Education; September 10 - Beijing + 25: Women's Rights discussion with Hillary Clinton and Madeleine Albright; September 29 - Gender Equality. Additional information can be found on the AAUW website: <https://www.aauw.org/issues/leadership/global-connections>.

The board thanks Verena for her support and advocacy for the work of the UN, her dedicated leadership of the UNA-USA Davis chapter, and for working with AAUW.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BRANCH PRESIDENT

Dear Davis Branch Members,

I hope that you, your family members, and loved ones are healthy and safe. The year 2020 has been a difficult one and has impacted the lives and well-being of far too many! Whenever a friend or colleague asks me about AAUW and what we stand for, the first thing that comes to my mind is, “Equity” – “We Stand for Equity.” It saddens me that the human race is still struggling to recognize and achieve the true meaning of this word! Think about it – equity seems like such a simple and obvious concept and a fundamental human right!

The issue of equity will be on the ballot this November. That is why AAUW at the national level has launched its ***Every Voice + Every Vote Project*** and they need our support. In a recent letter to AAUW members, Kimberly Churches, Chief Executive Officer of AAUW, asks our members for financial support: “...Your generous support will help ensure this election is a free and fair one that honors this year’s important historical milestones for women’s voting rights.”

Please go to www.aauw.org/everyvoice and donate any amount to ensure every voice is heard and every vote is counted.

Onward!

Shahla Farahnak

UPDATES



Contact tracing is a key tool to control COVID-19. Contact tracing is identifying people who were in close contact with people tested positive for COVID-19. Contact tracers are trained professionals that contact the positive cases and interview them to explain the need for isolation and provide education about COVID-19. They also

collect information about the contacts: people who may have been exposed to COVID-19 through the cases. The reason is to ask people with possible exposures to self-quarantine, reducing the risk of transmitting the disease to others, and ultimately limit the further spread of disease. Through the course of interviewing the cases and monitoring the contacts, contact tracers may identify social support needs for patients and their contacts. Contact tracers may put them in a referral for social supports or link them to a website or phone number where they can get more help.

Besides social needs, the contacts and cases might have other challenges that prevent them from cooperating with the government's tracing effort, including mistrust, concerns about losing their jobs, and stigma. The contact tracer should be able to address their concerns, establish rapport, and build trust in a brief encounter. The average experience of contact tracers shows that people tend to be very understanding. They express appreciation when the contact tracers are checking in on them, asking about their medical status, and asking how they can help and what public services they can provide.

Board member, Solmaz, is currently serving as a volunteered contact tracer while holding her position as a Water Resource Control Engineer with the State Water Board. She will be talking about her experience as a contact tracer at the Celebrate the 19th Zoom meeting on Saturday, September 19th at 4 pm. A reminder and information on how to join this meeting will be sent to members the week of this talk.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our two new members:

Helen Thompson: hthompson1234@gmail.com

Sasha Collins Oberle: collins@lawofficeinc.com

CONDOLENCES



We send our heartfelt condolences to Marti Abbott on the loss of her son, Matt.

CALENDAR

September 10 - 7 pm, Zoom Board Meeting

September 12 - 9 am, Zoom Book Group Meeting, *Once Upon A Blood Moon* by local author, Dorothea Bonneau

September 19 - 4 pm, Zoom Celebrate the 19th

October 4 - Virtual International Festival

October 11 - Virtual Sahaya Walks

BE AS ACTIVE AS YOU CAN, BUT STAY A MEMBER.