

AAUW Sacramento Annual Authors Event By Kim Rutledge

Saturday, April 10, 2021

12:30 - 2 p.m. via Zoom

Featuring historical fiction writer

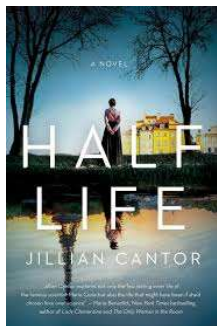
Jillian Cantor

Please join us as we celebrate our annual Authors Event to hear Jillian Cantor speak. Cantor, a best-selling author of 11 books for teens and adults, is known for her works of historical fiction, including “The Lost Letter” and “In Another Time”. In her latest book, “Half Life”, Cantor reimagines the life of Marie Curie, using a parallel structure to create two alternative timelines --one that mirrors her real life, and one that explores the consequences for Marie and for science if she had made a different choice.

Cantor has a BA in English from Penn State University and an MFA from the University of Arizona. She will be speaking to us via zoom from her home in Arizona, where she currently resides with her husband and two sons.



Photo of Jillian Cantor by Galen Evans



April is also the month for our annual meeting, and we will be electing new officers during the business portion of our gathering. The business meeting will begin at 12:30 p.m.

Cantor’s latest book, “Half Life”, is scheduled for release by Harper Perennial on March 23. In partnership with local women-owned bookstores, we are encouraging members to order and purchase “Half Life” from them, thus supporting both local small businesses and AAUW’s mission. In exchange, these bookstores are publicizing our Authors Event.

Underground Books: 2814 35th St., Sacramento, CA 95817

916-737-3333 gwest@underground-books.com

Ruby’s Books: 724 Sutter St., Folsom, CA 95630

916-790-8760

INFO@RUBYSFOLSOM.COM

Face in a Book: 4359 Town Center Blvd., El Dorado Hills, CA 95762

916-941-9401

Crawford's Books: 5301 Freeport Blvd., #200, Sacramento, CA 95822

916-731-8001

sue@crawfordbooks.net

This meeting is open to the public so please invite friends, family and prospective members who can join AAUW at this event and receive a discount as well as a bonus of three extra months on their 2021-2022 membership.

Register with EventBrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/142636576841>. The Zoom link will be sent out two days before the event.

President's Message By Angela Scarlett

Fellow AAUW Members, as I write to you today, I have a heavy heart. My alma mater, Mills College, one of the few remaining women's colleges on the West Coast, has decided to stop

granting degrees, sell its historic campus to UC Berkley and become an institute. Like many other graduates, I was shocked that the Board of Trustees made this decision as swiftly as they did.

I greatly value my Mills education, the friends I made there and the beautiful campus. It is also the first place where I began to understand better how the world works for other people. During my second semester, all BIPOC students started a campaign to address the fact that Mills had no tenured professors of color. I cannot understate the turmoil and painful stories that needed to be shared. This work that our BIPOC students began in 1992 fostered much-needed change and diversity in both the faculty and the student population. Representation matters.

This period in my education was also my first lesson in intersectional feminism. If you are not familiar with the term, [Kimberlé Crenshaw](#), an American law professor who coined the term in 1989, explained intersectional feminism as "a prism for seeing the way in which various forms of inequality often operate together and exacerbate each other," in a recent interview with Time magazine (<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2020/6/explainer-intersectional-feminism-what-it-means-and-why-it-matters>).

As president, bringing an intersectional sensibility and equity training to our branch is my core mission. By the time this newsletter hits your inbox, our March 24 program about California's Master Plan for Aging will have happened. When Kim Rutledge invited the speakers, she



ensured that we would hear a diverse set of voices. Race, education, gender and other factors can all impact aging citizens. While AAUW is an organization composed mainly of retired, educated white women, its voice matters when it comes to policy issues for women and girls. We want to consider everyone's perspective, even when they don't have a seat at the table with us.

If you would like to learn more about intersectionality, this site (<https://www.opportunityagenda.org/explore/resources-publications/ten-tips-putting-intersectionality-practice>) is a good resource.

On another note, here are some of the critical email addresses for National AAUW: advocacy@email.aauw.org, editor@email.aauw.org, and memberinfo@email.aauw.org. Be sure to add these email addresses to your contact list or search for them in your email.

As always, feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS START MID-APRIL By Sharon Anderson and Liz Jordan

From Sharon Anderson, Membership Treasurer, and Liz Jordan, Finance Director:



Renewal forms for 2021-2022 membership will be mailed out by USPS in mid-April. The **deadline** for returning dues and paperwork is **June 1, 2021**.

The process is the same as last year's process, and it is very easy for first-timers.

Please remember, we have the opportunity to **pay our dues, plus any donation to any of National's Funds, online in the Membership Payment Program (MPP)**.

1. The renewing member receives an email from an AAUW email address.
2. With your credit card handy, fill in the required blanks and click "submit."
3. You don't have to request this renewal email; Membership Treasurer Sharon Anderson, will send an email dues invoice to each and every member with an email address on file.

We anticipate members will increase their use of National's MPP for paying dues because it is *so easy*. Many more members used MPP last year, which is a tremendous help to the branch.

Calls for assistance are welcome!

1st Reminder: any **donations to our branch programs** can be made by check, made out to AAUW Sacramento, and returned with your renewal application.

2nd Reminder: Dues for 2021-2022 will increase by \$3 because the National dues are going up from \$59 to \$62. Your total renewal fee (except for life members) will be **\$102**.

AAUW MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

BY Bonnie Penix and Jan Stuter

50-YEAR MEMBERS

This month our membership treasurer, Sharon Anderson, has submitted the names of three of our branch members to be considered for Honorary Life Membership in AAUW. Each of them has been an AAUW member for 50 years! They are Susan McLearn, Elaine Moody and Gloria Yost. They richly deserve recognition for their many years of helping to advance equity and opportunities for women and girls in many facets of our lives. We will be honoring them at our May meeting, still on Zoom, and hope you will attend.



Jan Stuter

ON OUR RADAR

Once again, members of AAUW will be asked, in a national organization election, to eliminate the degree requirement as a condition for membership. Neither of us agrees that taking this step is necessary for us to show our dedication to inclusion.



Bonnie Penix

There are organizations, such as NOW, founded in 1966, that are open to any woman wishing to improve women's life situations. Our organization recruits individuals who have acquired formally awarded degrees of two, four or more years; have a sincere interest in providing equal opportunity for women and girls in all phases of life; and are committed to nurturing their own ongoing personal growth, culturally, politically and socially.

We both attended the recent webinar on this issue and remain unconvinced that removing the membership requirements will result in a substantial improvement in attaining our goals or improving our membership numbers. We would much rather see adding a new area of eligibility, equal to full membership, for those exceptional individuals who have through their actions contributed substantially to the positive programs and opportunities available for women and

girls.

NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome two new members to our branch: Elaine Ellers and Rosemary Howard.

Elaine lives in Fair Oaks. She has a BA in international relations from Monterey Institute of International Studies and an MA in social work from UC Berkeley. She works as manager of the Sutter Teen Programs. She is interested in Film Fans, Great Decisions and Scrabble. Elaine

would like to assist with our Speech Trek program. Elaine was referred by Arlene Cullum. Thank you, Arlene.



Rosemary lives in Carmichael. She has a BS in biochemistry from UC Davis and an MBA from CSUS. Rosemary is retired and is interested in Arts & Architecture, Film Fans and Great Decisions. She also is interested in Speech Trek outreach.

Officer Slate for 2021-2022

The following slate of officers has been submitted by the 2021-2022 Nominating Committee (Molly Dugan, Donna Holmes, Elizabeth Jordan, Hedda Smithson & Linda Sparks):

- President Elect **Vacant**
- Membership-co # 1 Donna Holmes
- Membership-co # 2 Marty McKnew
- Secretary Carol Cline
- Nominating Committee 1 Linda Sparks
- Nominating Committee 2 Cherril Peabody
- Nominating Committee 3 Nancy Lawrence

Continuing Officers:

- President Angela Scarlett
- Programs Kim Rutledge
- AAUW Fund Director Charmen Goehring
- Financial Director Elizabeth Jordan

The Time is — Now?

Submitted by Liz Jordan. From the AAUW CA Board: Living our Vision of Equity for All Click [here](#) to find out more and see some inspiring videos. Also, see <https://www.aauw-ca.org/documents/2021/03/living-our-vision-of-equity-for-all-presentation.pdf>.

Is this the time, now, after 140 years, to invite *everybody* with similar goals to join AAUW? The AAUW California Board of Directors thinks it is and would like you to know why. We work hard for the AAUW vision of equity for all and the mission of advancing gender equity, education,

health issues, and more. But so do others, including many without a college degree. Are we missing out on their energy, ideas, and help? Before you vote, please review the aauw.org home page. It reflects our inclusive mission for equity. Our membership bylaws do not.

Here is some history that may surprise you: Until the late 1940s, only women with four-year degrees from a small list of accredited, elite universities could join AAUW. According to Sharon Schuster, past AAUW National and California president, “Some would like to forget that we used to vote on prospective members — with all of the implications of what that meant.”

The World War II years broadened AAUW’s vision and all women with four-year degrees from any accredited schools were invited to join; applicants were required to present their degree certificates.

The next requirements to be dropped were accreditation and proof of degree. Then the 4-year degree requirement was dropped as holders of 3-year nursing degrees and 2-year associate degrees became eligible. Eligibility was also extended to students working toward a degree. In the 1980’s, men were allowed to join. Now, in 2021, most membership requirements have been eliminated and only one remains: that of the two-year degree.

AAUW California understands why some members might be reluctant to embrace this idea: it has long been a badge of accomplishment for women to earn a college degree, and we all enjoy socializing with others who enjoy the same things. But shared values are not an automatic byproduct of a college degree.

Before we discuss the benefits of removing this last barrier, you should know that quite a few foundations refuse to grant funds to organizations that **discriminate**. Yes, that is how they view this requirement. And this reduced funding pool restricts our work.

The younger generations do not view our restriction receptively either. We believe that they are more likely to join organizations with open membership working for similar goals.

The same can be said for potential members of more diverse backgrounds. We have the same vision for the future of all women and all girls; we should work together. And we can do that more effectively if we welcome everybody. Also, in order to provide support for those excluded or marginalized, we need to stop excluding and marginalizing. We need to LIVE our mission and vision.

So, how **would** AAUW change if everyone could join?

Your enthusiastic Tech Trek moms without degrees want to help our splendid STEM camps. Now they could.

New people might join your board to help with AAUW projects and events. They will bring fresh perspectives.

Remember when you had a friend who wanted to join AAUW but was one year short of a degree? Now she could.

This would be AAUW's future face: more people of all backgrounds and colors, more hands working on our mission; more members to join discussion groups. We would be an organization that welcomes everybody.

And, how would it NOT affect AAUW or your branch?

It will not affect the uniqueness of AAUW. Its uniqueness is its breadth of programming, research, policy, advocacy, fellowships and grants, and grassroots membership.

- It will not change your branch's involvement in local scholarships or interest groups.
- It will not change the mission of the branch. Mission is not determined by a degree, but by belief in and dedication to equality for women.

Sharon Schuster also said, "AAUW has survived because of our ability to change and because our membership requirements have changed over the years."

So, when April 7th arrives, do remember the issues we raise here and cast your vote in the AAUW National election for a positive future for an AAUW that welcomes everybody.. As much as we value the way we have been, we can also value the way we will be. It's time we walked the talk.

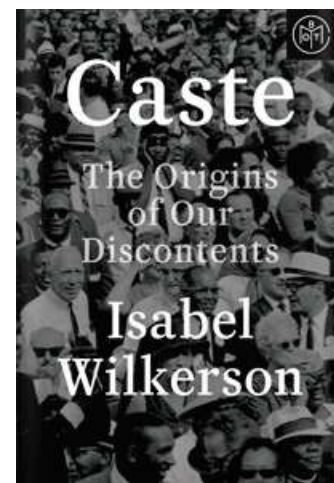
Carol Holzgrafe, Director
Branch Assistance Contact
AAUW California

Living Our Mission of Equity By Charmen Goehring

We invite you to join us in a monthly equity conversation looking at our own biases and what actions we can take to attract diversity to our branch and become better people in the process. We are reading the book "**Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents**" by Isabel Wilkerson and discussing **Part Two**, along with exploring other issues related to race and equity. **We meet the second Wednesday of each month from 7 to 8pm on Zoom.**

The Zoom meeting code is 737 420 3780 or you can join us using this [link](#).

We will discuss Part Two on April 14 at 7pm. If you have questions and to RSVP, please email Charmen at charminme@yahoo.com.



Update on Funds, Legacy Circle, AAUW CA Annual Meeting By Charmen Goehring

Although I had planned to host a silent auction to benefit the Greatest Needs Funds in April, I have yet to hear from anyone expressing interest in participating. Generally, we have benefited from a small auction in January at the annual Interbranch Council luncheon -- we did not have that opportunity this year with the event on Zoom. I am looking for members to donate items. (It can be a service offered, physical item or specialty -- for example, I just won a bid for three months of oranges delivered to my house next winter in another auction.) I just need a picture or two of the offering and a sentence or two describing it. If we have sufficient interest, we will run the online auction in May. Please contact Charmen Goehring for more information.



Legacy Circle

I would also like to congratulate and thank Ruth Werner for making the decision to join the Legacy Circle. By pledging to leave a gift to AAUW, Ruth is living her values and dedication to equity for women and girls. If you would like to follow Ruth's example and join the other Sacramento members who have already made plans to support AAUW's mission into the future, click [here](#) or visit <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/> or contact Charmen Goehring.

AAUW CA Annual Meeting - April 17, 2021, 9:30am-1:00pm

From the comfort of your home, come hear how AAUW CA and its branches fared during the past year!

Named Gift Awardees and Activity of the Year will be announced, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson will be honored for her many years of support, and we will receive an update from National Board Chair Julia Brown. The Speech Trek finalist videos will be shown and the winner named. Jo Harberson's daughter will announce her final gift and share some words on what AAUW meant to her mother. Legacy Circle members will be recognized (including those in the Sacramento branch!) and we will meet the candidates running for the State Board next month. The event will wrap up with a special treat -- the play "We Did It For You", directed by past State President Cathy Foxhoven.

Register to attend the online event at aauw-ca.org. For more information, contact Charmen Goehring.

Sacramento AAUW Participates in AAUW California Virtual Lobby Day By Arlene Cullum



AAUW California Lobby Day on March 24 was a resounding success! It was the first time State AAUW legislative visits have been conducted virtually. 120 attendees divided into 38 teams, representing most branches in the State, lobbied legislative offices over the course of the day. MVM Strategy Group, our State advocacy firm, and the two State Public Policy co-chairs did an outstanding job coordinating the March

22 “How To Talk To Your Legislator” webinar and the virtual visits the day of the event. Each team was composed of three or four members; there were two teams from our Sacramento Branch.

Branch members lobbied Assembly and Senate offices, and described the mission and public policy priorities of AAUW, the key pieces of legislation and requested the member office’s support of each bill. The following are lead bills which AAUW California has prioritized for 2021:

AB92 (Reyes): Child Care Family Fees

This bill would waive all family fees for low-income families, using federal funding, through Oct. 31, 2022. After that, the bill will create an equitable sliding scale for family fees, relieving the burden on working families struggling to pay for daycare. AAUW is a co-sponsor of this bill.



SB62 (Durazo): Garment Worker Protection Act

SB62 would expand and strengthen enforcement of wage theft liability in the garment manufacturing industry, ensuring that retailers cannot use layers of contracting to avoid responsibility under the law. By eliminating the piece rate in the industry while still allowing for bonus and incentive payments, this bill would ensure that workers are paid for all the time spent working.

SB373 (Min): Consumer Debt: Economic Abuse

This bill would prohibit debt collectors and creditors from being able to collect from an individual when that individual can demonstrate that the debt was incurred through economic abuse. It also will prevent the debt from being reported to credit agencies.

This year, input on revisions to the AAUW California Public Policy Priorities were compiled, new changes have been proposed to the State Board of Directors, then the general membership will vote in April for adoption. Check the State website for the current priorities list and please weigh in! In addition to the priorities, the bills which are key to furthering the priorities are also listed now on the State website.

I invite you to join us next time for AAUW California Lobby Day... a rewarding activity to take part in seeing AAUW Public Policy in action!

The COVID-19 Recession Further Undercuts California Women's Opportunities for Economic Security By Kristin Schumacher - Submitted by Kim Rutledge

Note: Kristin Schumacher presented at our November program. To read the report online with relevant charts, click [here](#).



The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed many Californians and Americans to unprecedented economic instability, but many women in California were already struggling to pay the bills prior to the onset of the economic crisis.

According to the California Women's Well-Being Index, in a five-year period leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, many women across the state were experiencing economic hardship — and this was happening during the longest period of economic growth on record. California women faced a significant wage gap, and women were more likely than men to earn low wages and to live in poverty. Pre-pandemic hardship and lack of economic security was particularly acute for American Indian, Black, Latinx, and Pacific Islander women in California.

Policy barriers and discrimination have blocked women from economic opportunities, including the ability to save money or build assets, and many women in California are not in the position to weather a financial crisis. Even so, the COVID-19 recession was the first recession in which more women than men lost jobs, and Black and Latinx women and women who are immigrants lost their jobs at especially high rates in the early months of the pandemic. Now, nearly one year into the COVID-19 recession, many women in California face harsh realities as they scramble to pay for everyday expenses after losing jobs and household income.

Over half of women in California were living in households this past fall that lost employment income after mid-March 2020, reflecting the depth of job loss in California. Latinx and Black women have been far more likely to feel the economic effects of the recession. More than 6 in 10

Latinx and Black women were living in households that lost earnings during the pandemic. As of December 2020, the state still had 1.5 million fewer jobs than in February, the month before the COVID-19 recession began.

Lost jobs and earnings have stretched California household budgets. This past fall, more than 1 in 3 women in California lived in households that found it somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual expenses, such as rent, utilities, food, and child care. Black, Latinx, and most other women of color have found it especially difficult to get by with more than 4 in 10 living in households that were struggling to pay the bills this past fall. Data also show that Latinx, Black, and most other women of color were also far more likely to live in households that were behind on their rent or mortgage payment and in households struggling to afford enough food.

Individuals across the state and nation are dealing with a caregiving crisis, isolation, economic hardship, illness, and the loss of loved ones. The COVID-19 pandemic has had a toll beyond the risk of contracting the virus. In the US, the share of individuals experiencing symptoms of anxiety and/or depression has more than tripled during the pandemic. In California this past fall, nearly half of women were coping with these mental health conditions. For women experiencing multiple economic hardships — such as the loss of household income or the inability to pay for food or housing — three-quarters reported symptoms of anxiety and/or depression.

California Policymakers Must Center Women in an Equitable Economic Recovery

Many women were locked out of the state's prosperity well before the pandemic and have been hit especially hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. A brighter future begins with an equitable economic recovery that centers women — particularly women of color — in pandemic relief and recovery efforts. To start, California leaders should:

- Boost women's economic security, especially women who are immigrants who have been blocked from federal COVID relief efforts, so women and their families can meet their basic needs.
- Ensure that women have access to health care services — including mental health care — during and after the pandemic via in-person or telehealth services.
- Help workers balance career and caregiving responsibilities — particularly women with low incomes who are far less likely to have employer-provided benefits.

It is time for state leaders to invest in women, their families, and communities. When women thrive, their families and communities, and our state prosper.

The Future for Roe v Wade and Choice by Claire Noonan, California Public Policy committee

The following article was submitted by Arlene Cullum, AAUW Sacramento Branch Public Policy:

The times they are changing – a new president and vice president who support pro-choice, but a sixth very conservative justice is added to the Supreme Court.

Abortion rights activists stress state-by-state vigilance to be aware of how reproductive choice is now used as a political tool, says Ilyse Hogue, recently retired president of NARAL. New anti-choice bills are mainly introduced by the white male religious minority, except in Montana with six abortion-limiting bills introduced this year by conservative female legislators and one male.

For instance, extreme 2021 legislation in Tennessee will allow fathers to veto an abortion. A Texas bill will require a fetus to have a lawyer. Arizona's new bills propose to criminalize a woman who gets an abortion and the doctor who performs it.

During a pandemic, telemedicine is valuable to prescribe pills for medication abortions. In July 2020 the federal courts temporarily suspended the doctor's visit rule for the first pill, mifepristone, but in January 2021 SCOTUS reinstated the rule. Patients again must visit a doctor for the first pill and get a prescription to obtain the second, misoprostol.

These restrictions have a particularly significant impact on low-income communities, which often include women of color, which are stressed economically by the year-long-and-counting pandemic. Clinics, especially in the South, like [West Alabama Women's Center](#), are constantly searching for money sources to provide reproductive services as well as current needs for newborn assistance. The center focuses on providing financial assistance to the underserved, even when services are "temporarily" deemed "non-essential". Despite efforts to provide full-spectrum reproductive healthcare access, dwindling numbers of clinics from the Sun Belt across the Deep South curb the availability of services. In the Navajo Nation, Covid infection is so high that patients need a doctor's note to leave the tribal area for a clinic appointment.

Consequently, vigilance means watching the power of the courts, encouraging reversal of the Hyde Amendment and backing codification of the Roe v Wade decision. As you know, each woman in California can choose, but support for organizations that oversee the reproductive health rights of women in America are worth the effort.

Sacramento Branch Sends Three Students to NCCWSL By Gloria Yost and Liz Jordan

AAUW's highly rated National Conference for College Women Student Leaders, NCCWSL, is being held virtually this spring with a two-day program on May 25 and 26, 2021. Because of the lower cost of a virtual event, our branch can send three young women who are excited to attend.

NCCWSL
is an acronym for
National Conference for
College Women Student
Leaders
by acronyms.com



Serena Sotelo, a junior at CSU Sacramento, is from Oxnard, CA. She is majoring in forensic chemistry and hopes to get her master's in forensic science at the University of New Haven after completing her bachelor's degree.

Tiffany Joseph, a sophomore at American River College, is from Sacramento and a current AAUW Sacramento scholarship

winner. She plans to transfer to UC Davis to work for a chemistry degree.

Another local Sacramentan, **Ashley Jeffers**, is a senior at CSUS who is graduating this May with a BS in women's studies. She plans to begin applying for doctorate programs in women's and gender studies this fall.

Keynote speaker Brittney Cooper is associate professor of women's and gender studies and Africana studies at Rutgers University. She is a widely sought-after public speaker at universities throughout the country, and an in-demand commentator for radio, podcasts and television. She is also an author.

In addition to hearing other distinguished speakers, attendees will participate in workshops on **leadership development, professional development, women's issues, and identity and diversity.**

Seeking Applications for Commissioners



Sacramento County is making history this month for our women and girls by seeking applications for Commissioners on the newly created Sacramento County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls. We invite you to celebrate women's history month by sharing this great news and/or applying to

be an inaugural commissioner. Applications can be found here as of today.

Women's commissions have a long and impressive history of advising California government leaders and the public on issues affecting the well-being and equity of women and girls. In addition to the California State Commission on the Status of Women and Girls, there are 26 women's commissions in cities and counties throughout California. Each of these commissions advises its respective governing body and leads local efforts on a wide range of issues affecting women and girls. These issues include, but are not limited to poverty and economic security, safety, housing, health, education, business, and childcare.

In Sacramento County there are many effective programs supporting women, particularly with respect to domestic violence, homelessness, healthcare, and trafficking. A commission responsible for regularly assessing and advising the Board of Supervisors and the public about the status of women and girls will be an invaluable asset to already existing programs, including helping to identify gaps and opportunities for leveraging resources for women who continue to be disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.

It is our hope to seat a skilled and diverse Commission that truly represents the women and girls in our county. We are excited about this historic moment, invite your participation, and thank you for all you do to support women and girls.

Sincerely,
The Blue Ribbon Commission on the Establishment of a Sacramento County Women's Commission

Did You Know?

Members can view more than 60 webinars on topics of Social Justice, Advocacy, Professional Development, STEM and Membership at AAUW.org.

AAUW's latest research effort is now available for download. "Factory Flaw: The Attrition and Retention of Women in Manufacturing" examines how a history of sexual harassment, unequal pay and opportunity denied drive women away from lucrative jobs.

Interest Groups

You can find out about the Interest Groups offered by the branch by looking at the banner on the home webpage (just under the branch photo) and clicking on "Activities". Click on "Interest Groups" and you will find a list of all Interest Groups, when they meet, and the group leader to contact for more information (email addresses and phone numbers can be found in the Branch Membership Directory and Handbook).

Some Interest Groups are taking a break during the pandemic, but a number are still meeting - virtually! According to the Interest Group Coordinator, Vicki Nicholson, here are the groups that are currently meeting:

- All Book Groups
- All 3 sections of Great Decisions
- Art & Architecture
- Film Fans
- Reader's Theater
- Travel

Feel free to contact a group leader to learn more about the Interest Group. They would love to have you join in!