

The University Women's Club of The Ohio State University

Fall 2020..... 125 Years of Service

UWC Officers 2020-2021

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Cynthia Woodbeck

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Robin Rasor Thompson

1st Vice President

Martha Miller

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Buckeye Bargains

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Communications Chair

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Database Manager

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Graybook Editor

Kathy Olson

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Antoinette Beynen

Member Concerns Chair

Priscilla Meeks

New Member

Introductions Chair

Annette Whittemore

Newsletter Editor

Tricia Herban

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Website Content

Manager

Sandy Glasner

Monthly Programs



October 5 1895 to the Turn of the Twenty-first Century: Columbus Women Step Up by Angela O'Neal

In 1936 Ruth Young White published a book called "We Too Built Columbus." Her goal was to capture the contributions of Columbus women from the beginning of white settlement into the fourth decade of the 20th century. She gathered stories from philanthropists, reformers, temperance crusaders, suffragettes and other activists of their time. She also talked with lawyers, professors, and doctors who told revealing stories about being the first women in their fields.

October's speaker, Angela O'Neal,

was inspired by this book to delve much deeper, uncovering photographs, documents, and archival materials, to further illuminate their stories and bring credit to their roles in making Columbus the thriving city it is today. As the Manager of Local History & Genealogy at the Columbus Metropolitan Library, this project was a perfect fit for her role (and interests)!

When approached to be the first fall speaker of the University Women's Club's 125th anniversary year, O'Neal was honored and also enthused to speak with our members especially because one of her favorite women in Columbus history is Flavia A. Canfield, one of the founders of the University Women's Club (UWC). To learn more about Flavia and many other extraordinary Columbus women, join your fellow members for this fascinating talk on October 5th.

Carole Williams, Program Committee

November 2

Belle Coit Kelton:

On the Front Lines Fighting for Women's Equality A First-Person Interpretation by Leslie Blankenship

On January 15, 2020, women cheered and hugged each other in the gallery of the Virginia House of Delegates and across the nation as, amazingly, Virginia became the 38th and final state required to ratify the ERA! A similar event unfolded 108 years ago in the Ohio House when the 1912 Ohio Constitutional Convention approved an amendment allowing Ohio women to vote (IF approved by male voters in a Special Election). Women in the gallery, including 57-year-old suffragist Belle Coit Kelton, cheered and jumped up and down with exuberance. It had taken 62 years of petitioning, lobbying, and overcoming continual male-imposed barriers to get there. Telling Belle's story as Belle, local historian Leslie Blankenship will touch on the highlights of her life.

Belle was born in 1855 when women across the country were holding women's rights conventions and daring to wear "pants" in public—short dresses over trousers. They demanded equality in laws, property, pay, and educational opportunities. Gaining suffrage was a tool toward achieving these rights. As a newlywed in 1884, Belle helped her mother found the Columbus Equal Rights Association, the first suffrage organization in Columbus.

The image above shows Belle and friends—several wives of Ohio State University professors—honoring their foremothers in 1910 on Susan B. Anthony's 90th birthday (she died in 1906) with a Congressional petition drive. They were part of the National American Woman Suffrage Association's (NAWSA's) Congressional Union, a committee dedicated to lobbying Congress for the national suffrage amendment. It would take another ten years of grueling work to overcome never-ending obstacles, dirty tricks, illegal arrests, and negative public opinion before they triumphed. Belle helped found the Franklin County League of Women Voters. She voted well into her 90s and worked the remainder of her life for passage of the 1921 ERA. Today, women are still waiting for equal protection under the federal Constitution.



Top—Mrs. Julius Bonn, as Elizabeth Cady Stanton; Dr. Ida Wilson, as Emily Blackwell; Mrs. Vernon Davis, as Phoebe Carey; Miss Lillian Harmer, as Abbie Kelley. 2nd row—Miss Anna Hoffman, as Dr. Anna Howard Shaw; Dr. Sara Fitcher, as Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell. First row—Mrs. Lucretia McFarren, as Mrs. Lucretia Mott; Mrs. Frank Kelton, as Elizabeth Cady; Mrs. Samuel Derby, as Susan B. Anthony.

Image courtesy of the Ohio History Connection Archives: The Frances Casement Papers, MSS 510, Box 4. Suffrage scrapbook of Mrs. William Neil King, Columbus, Ohio.

Sandy Glasner, Program Committee

Buckeye Bargains is on the Move!

Plans have been finalized on the move to our new location at 53 West 11th Ave. on the south side of campus. Current residents of that space moved out at the end of July clearing the way for Buckeye Bargains to move in by the time school starts.

We are not taking donations for the shop at the current time but we can accept items that would sell at *Everything But The House*, the online auction site. EBTH is truly a “Marketplace for the Uncommon”. They feature an ever-changing assortment of unusual art, jewelry, antiques, collectibles and more. Last year they sold a number of items for us that would not have sold well in the shop:

4 pair men’s designer shoes - \$156

Antique linens - \$142

Sterling silver Tiffany ring - \$55

Chinese tea brick - \$86

Yes, EBTH gets 40% commission but Buckeye Bargains still makes a very good profit. They have a warehouse location in Hilliard which makes it easy for us to drop off items. In addition, selling items on their online site opens these pieces up to many more buyers than would walk through the shop.

Take a look around your house to see if there are items that you’d like to donate to Buckeye Bargains for sale on EBTH. They will not accept items that they think will sell for less than \$75. From fine jewelry, art, lamps, baseball cards, beer signs, designer fashion and handbags, they take items all the way up to cars! Everything sells on this site.

At present, we are working on developing a virtual marketplace using the Buckeye Bargains Facebook page. We will wait until OSU gives the word on opening the shop for business, but in the meantime we can sell Trademark & Licensing items, household items, artwork and more. Look for our opening by October 1st.

Buckeye Bargains will be moved by the end of August. Volunteers are needed to help with unpacking and set-up. We’ll let you know when we are ready to accept donations at our new location. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Gustafson (mgustafson@sbcglobal.net) or Cathy Ballenger (cballen7277@gmail.com). And thanks as always for your support!

Mary Gustafson, Buckeye Bargains Chair

Website Development Continues

The website for the UWC was developed 2 years ago with the help of a group of university students. As our Club continues to evolve in using digital communication, the officers chose to hire a local company to host our site and help with the ongoing development of our website (<https://uwcohiostate.com>). The woman-owned, local company is called Siteinsight (<https://siteinsight.com/>).

To facilitate this effort, the Executive Committee also developed and approved a new position, the Web Content Manager. Current goals for the first year include: improving functionality of the site, increasing use by members, and improving the presentation of information on the site. In this year of COVID-19, it is more important than ever to keep communication with members timely.

As we plan for another Club year, we know things will change before we even get to October. Look for up to date information on the website and in our email communications. To gain access to the site for “members only” information, you will need to register and establish a log-in and password. Your entry will be authorized and then you can move around the website freely. Some things, like Interest Group information, can be accessed by the public without registering. Try out the site! It’s a good way to get updated information after the Gray Book has gone out.

Sandy Glasner, Website Content Manager

Introducing the Communications Committee

This past year, Club member, Suzanne Kull, shared her communication expertise with us and as a result of what we have learned, UWC has created the Communications Chair position to coordinate our myriad methods of exchanging information. Vicky Kirshner now chairs the newly created Standing Communications Committee. After three meetings, all in the group understand where they fit within the system and are

working smoothly together. In addition to a newsletter and a program booklet, we now have an interactive and secure website, an accurate database, and expertise. Furthermore, the Club has hired professional assistance from two woman-owned small businesses, a printer and a web designer. We look forward to the results of their skills and knowledge and to further enjoying the creative and sociable side of our volunteering.

Cynthia Woodbeck, President

President's Letter

Greetings UWC Members,

I am enjoying working with all of you creative ladies as we navigate through 2020 with a historic COVID-19 pandemic. Our highest priority is keeping us all safe and the second is helping each of you enjoy the wonderful experience that is UWC. To that end, we are using Zoom to enrich our get-togethers. A side benefit is that some of you who cannot come out can still participate in our learning and our merry-making. The true heart of our club, our 24 Interest Groups, are buzzing with activity! Try a new one and you will not be disappointed. I sincerely hope to meet each of you in person at one of them before our year ends in May.

All of our officer positions are filled with very accomplished leaders. Our membership renewals are holding steady and we are welcoming new members as well. A new Buckeye Bargains House is a wonderful gift from OSU and speaks to their trust in us. The anticipation of welcoming a newly-appointed OSU President and her wife only adds to the excitement. We hope they will zoom by and say a virtual "Hello" at one of our meetings.

Thank you for trusting me to lead you in this most difficult time. I invite you to contact me to share ideas on ways we can enhance your UWC experience. Stay safe and well. We are all doing our best!

Your president,

Cynthia



Scribblers Interest Group

Scribblers Interest Group meets monthly (now on Zoom) to share essays or poetry that we have written. When we read, we have the choice of requesting constructive criticism or just sharing our pieces for each other's enjoyment. New members are always welcome! A "prompt" is offered each month, but members are free to write on any topic of their choosing. This piece was an interpretive response to the prompt "A Letter".

An ode to Joy

I just read Connie Schultz's Op Ed in the morning paper. She said, "Sometimes I feel guilty in moments of happiness. But I try to remind myself that no good comes from squandering what remains. Life still brings us joy and what a waste of a heart to deny its entry. We must rely on the researchers to find the cure for this virus, but we can do our part to limit its destruction."

"Life still brings us joy and what a waste of a heart to deny its entry." What a compelling thought. We ourselves may be culpable, responsible for not ameliorating the situation, for actually making it worse if we deny joy at this time.

Life is lived in the little moments. It is literally putting one foot in front of the other. Living one minute at a time. Weeding the garden, dusting the house, taking out the trash, filling the gas tank. These are the moments that, knit together, make up the fabric of today.

The joy we experience may be as crass as the thought "There but for the grace of God, go I". Or as fleeting as a rainbow or the flight of a bird. It may be as trivial as a new lipstick or as significant as a conversation with a distant friend.

Joy is often given, but we can also create joy. Practicing a beloved craft, reading an interesting book, or cooking a favorite food may be sources of joy for ourselves and others as well. A smile over our mask or a wave to a stranger offers acknowledgment and welcome.

Joy can come from simple things if we take time to recognize them. A stretch with outstretched arms upon waking. A deep breath of air perfumed by a flower. The fall of a maple seed, twirling toward an earthly home. The quiet glow of sunset reflected on a building.

Joys such as these do not detract from the world's woes. They do not violate the grief and pain of others. They neither ignore the past nor validate the future. Evanescent as they are, these joys offer us the permanence of connection with reality. Like the soft music of a piano, these joys bring harmony to confusion, allowing acceptance of the uncontrollable, providing sustenance and hope to the heart. Joy is a gift from God.

Tricia Herban, Scribblers

Service Committee Update

Although the coronavirus kept us from implementing our May service initiative, donating children's books and diapers to the OB clinic at OSU Medical Center, we did have a number of activities going on this Spring and Summer.

- Our members donated \$1720 to Buckeye Food Alliance from April through June--a wonderful support for the over 750 OSU students who have problems securing enough food during this pandemic.
- Yarns & Stitches knitted 11 comfort blankets for patients at The James Cancer Hospital. They have two additional projects for Children's Hospital and for Project Linus coming later this year. Look for additional information about these projects on the Club's G-Blast, Ms UWC.
- Barb Herzog, Debbie Christopher, Ellen Leppert, Mary Smith and Gayle Seroka made 3,515 surgical quality masks that were distributed to hospitals, direct service providers, in-home service therapists, and nursing homes.
- Vicky Lawson coordinated a book drive from her neighbors and delivered over 1000 books to the VA Clinic.
- Active Adventurers Interest Group held a raffle during our February meeting to raise money for the UWC Scholarship Fund.
- Kris Aldemir worked with her neighbors to deliver bottles of hand sanitizer to a local fire station.
- One of our members made a major donation to OSU's LIFEsports program to support the virtual "Sport in a Bag" program for 1,000 disadvantaged Columbus youth.

I am sure there may be other initiatives that didn't get reported, so please let me know what you are involved in. If we meet in person this fall, we will have the OSU OB Clinic Book and Diaper Drive. If not, stay tuned for other ways that we might be of service to the OSU community.

Sandy Cornett, Services Committee Chair

A New Year Brings a New Format to our Monthly Meetings!



It is exciting, though challenging, to live in the time of both COVID and Zoom. But most of us are doing well and I suspect that we are all looking forward to seeing each other. Well, we can do that with Zoom and we will be for our monthly meetings. Members chose overwhelmingly not to risk meeting face to face at the Faculty Club, but we

will be able to see each other and chat over Zoom, an internet based video program easily accessible on your computer! If you do not know how to use Zoom and wish assistance, members of the Zoom Squad will help you. Please contact one of them as soon as possible.

There are no individual costs associated with joining our Zoom meeting--no parking, no lunch reservations, no PayPal, no postage. All participants will receive detailed instructions on how to join the Zoom meeting via a Ms UWC email. Our speaker will start at

1 pm: please join the meeting at 12:30. Mark your calendar now for Monday, October 5th!

You won't want to miss our October speaker, Angela O'Neal. Her remarks will showcase her special research on women who helped build Columbus, among them one of our founders, Flavia A. Canfield! Angela was delighted to be able to share her visuals and remarks with us on Zoom as she would not have been able to do so in person.

Our meetings will include all the regular features of the luncheon programs: introduction of new members—and we have three so far—honored guests, and our speaker. And since you will probably tune in from home, you will be able to enjoy the lunch or snack of your choice at your convenience. You will have the option of getting dressed up to sit before your computer's camera, or just "coming as you are".

And so we don't miss out on the opportunity to chat with each other, plans are in the works to allow us to do so at the end of the speaker's remarks. Through the magic of Zoom, "break out" rooms will put us into small groups where we can talk face to face with each other. This is all experimental, but we hope it will be a grand success and I urge you to participate and to share your feedback with me afterwards.

Ruth Anderson, Hospitality Chair

Thoughts from our Club Historian



*Estelle Thompson
Fifth and longest serving president of UWC*

Recently Sharyn Talbert, my predecessor in this role, was inspired to write a detailed history of the University Women's Club. What inspired her to do that? In fact, why would she agree to take on the job of Historian? We are just a bunch of women who have some time on our hands and enjoy meeting new friends, right?

Well yes, but of course we are much more than that. With this Newsletter you are receiving a copy of the 2020-2021 Gray Book (please note the spelling!), and on one of the first pages is a "Mission Statement". It has been re-written many times, and so have the Bylaws. This shows that the Club has evolved and will evolve in the years to come. In fact, the Club is like a living organism: if you change one thing, it affects many aspects of the Club in larger or smaller ways.

My intention is to write a little blurb for each of this year's Newsletters in the hope of initiating conversations about the "why" and "how" of our Club-- and maybe even encouraging you to further explore our archives. The past is as fascinating as our future will be!

For example, our current tradition is that a UWC President serves only one year, but that was not always so. In fact, our 5th President served off and on for almost 10 years. Her name was Estelle Thompson and she was the third wife of William Oxley Thompson. Mrs. Thompson was a divorcee and she is on the top of

my list for my next research project. Her life and contributions are but one of many fascinating bits of UWC history. Stay tuned!

Antoinette Beynen, Historian

A Warm Welcome to Dr. Kristina Johnson, OSU's 16th President!

It is a joy to greet a brilliantly qualified woman as the University's president. She brings us more than 30 years of leadership experience in both the corporate and academic worlds, having most recently served as chancellor of SUNY, supervising 64 public colleges and universities including five academic health centers and three hospital systems. She was responsible for 1.3 million students, 30,000 faculty members and 90,000 employees overall.

Johnson says that the position at Ohio State is her "dream job, a top national university with the scale to impact students, the state and national economies." Her ties to OSU date back to 1896 as her grandfather attended the university, playing right guard on one of the early football teams; and it is thought that he met his wife on the Columbus campus.

In brief, Johnson has served as provost and senior vice president for academic affairs at Johns Hopkins, dean of the Pratt School of Engineering at Duke, professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Colorado at Boulder, co-founder and CEO of ColorLink which became part of RealID and has subsequently been recognized by the National Inventors Hall of Fame and awarded the John Fritz Medal.

She was also undersecretary of energy at the DOE and co-founder and CEO of Cube Hydro Partners,

a clean-energy infrastructure company that builds and operates hydropower plants. Johnson has published nearly 150

referenced papers and proceedings and is the recipient of the Society of Women Engineers Lifetime Achievement Award and the Woman of Vision Award for Leadership from the Anita Borg Institute for Women and Technology. She holds more than 100 U.S. and international patents.

Johnson is married to Veronica Meinhard, a native of Caracas, Venezuela. Meinhard has 26 years of experience in higher education philanthropy and administration and held leadership roles at both the University of Florida and the University of Maryland, College Park, before founding Juniper Philanthropy Partners.

Our new president's first day on the job was August 24th. Dr. Kristina Johnson, you have our heartfelt support and we wish you well!

Tricia Herban, Newsletter Editor



Ms. Veronica Meinhard and Dr. Kristina Johnson

Interest Groups Stay Busy

Over the summer months, Interest Groups have continued to be the heart and soul of the Club. The friendships formed have kept many members in touch, physically fit and mentally alert during this trying time. Thanks to the internet, Zoom has become a way for many indoor Interest Groups to meet socially distanced.

Book Clubs and Cinema have had some lively discussions over Zoom. Even though they can't go to a library or a movie theater, members have accessed their chosen media for free from local libraries or on-line. Scribblers has been meeting online, exploring topics such as letter writing and protest.

International Dining members have continued to cook and share recipes including a dinner of Summer Favorites offering a Puerto Rican dish and a new specialty appropriately called "CORONA Cooking". Toymakers spent the summer sociably distanced cutting and stitching with plans to finish their lovable creatures before the holidays. Wine Tasting has switched from meeting in person to Zooming, not monthly, but every week! Yarns & Stitches is busy planning to gather supplies for a quilt making service project.



The Garden Group gathered at Ann Haney's

Active Adventures has been out and about taking socially distanced walks as planned, including an additional one in July at Prairie Oaks Metro Park. The Garden group enjoyed the beautiful blooms at the Park of Roses and met at members' gardens, finding interesting plants and discussions while getting some fresh air and exercise.

Events may not be the same as they were a year ago, but the creative ideas that the Interest Group chairs have come up with display the dedication that is typical of UWC members. If you are reading this and have been considering joining an interest group, now is the time to sign up and participate. You have the option of sharing meals and great conversation, getting some exercise and fresh air, or expanding your library until we can all meet in person. To join, contact the appropriate Interest Group chair to be put on the contact list.

Ellen Leppert, Interest Group Chair



Members of Active Adventurers hiked several parks

Remembrances

We remember with affection these members who have died. Their lives were a gift to us and we continue their legacy through our commitment to the University Women's Club.

Kay Bremner
Dorothy Cameron
Janet Fox
Betty Glower
Marlene Goodenow
Nancy Heath
Beverly Kaplan
Nancy Krieger
Katherine Twarog
Marcile Woelfel

In addition, we extend our condolences to these members who are mourning the loss of their husbands.

Barbara Dorn (Richard)
Gwen Burt (Larry)
Harriet McBride (Robert)
Sharon Walton (Eric)

We Welcome Three New Members

Jeanie Auseon

3175 Tremont Road, #501
Columbus, Ohio 43221
Phone: 614-329-4810
Email: auseonja@mac.com

Carrie Beyer

959 Maebelle Way
Westerville, Ohio 43081
Phone: 614-915-9478
Email: carriehovs@yahoo.com
Interest Groups: Antiques, Art, Cinema,
Garden, Gourmet, Health & Wellness, Wine
Tasting and Buckeye Bargains

Beverly Moore

509 North Cassady Avenue, Apt. 104
Columbus, Ohio 43209
Phone: 614-857-5652
Email: bamoore1966@gmail.com
Interest Groups: Genealogy, Toymakers and
Buckeye Bargains

Your Vote Counts!

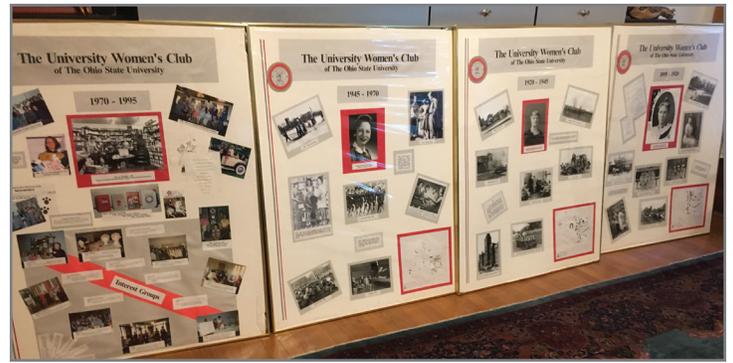
According to the Ohio Secretary of State, all registered voters will be sent an Absentee Ballot Request Form around Labor Day. This form must be completed and mailed back to your County Board of Elections. The address for your county's Board of Elections will not be on the form! The address for Franklin County is: Franklin County Board of Elections - P.O. Box 182111 - Columbus, OH 43218-2111. For other county Board of Elections addresses, either go online to the site listed below or phone 614-466-2655.

If you don't receive an absentee ballot request form, phone 614-466-2655 or go to your county site and pull up the Absentee Ballot Request Form. Complete it online, then print it out. It must be mailed back to your County Board of Elections.

In Franklin County the site is: <https://vote.franklincountyohio.gov/Absentee-Ballot-Request>. Elsewhere in Ohio go to: <https://www.ohiosos.gov/elections/elections-officials/county-boards-of-elections-directory/>. To print a blank form to be completed by hand, go to: https://www.ohiosos.gov/globalassets/elections/forms/11-a_english.pdf

Sign, date, stamp and mail the Absentee Ballot Request Form. Once you have mailed the form in, watch for the actual Absentee Ballot to be sent to you. It has to be completed and returned. Do this as soon as possible. Your vote only counts if it is received in time to be counted!

Alternatively: in-person voting begins October 6.



125TH Anniversary Celebrations - Hitting the Pause Button

We began celebrating our 125th Anniversary last year with delightful vignettes by Club Historian, Sharyn Talbert, that were published in the newsletter and shared at luncheons. Ruth Anderson created a wonderful 125th Anniversary panel, to accompany our four other history panels. Each covers 25 years and the newest panel features leadership, interest groups and service activities from 1995 to 2020. All five panels were displayed at the last luncheon where we all gathered together, on March 2nd. Our history was further highlighted that day by Ruth's slide show of photographs which ran as a loop during the social time preceding our formal meeting. We had really big plans for a celebratory anniversary "high tea" at our May luncheon, but, alas, COVID canceled them. However, Ruth Anderson and Antoinette Beynen have also created a wonderful booklet, *Hats & Gloves*, an in-depth chronicle of our history from 1895 to present. *Hats and Gloves* is being posted on the website for all to enjoy now and in the future.

The 125th Anniversary Committee

A Book Review from the Literature Interest Group: Where the Crawdads Sing

One of the books we discussed last year was Delia Owens' Where the Crawdads Sing, a beautifully written story about Kya ("Marsh Girl"), who grew up living in the marsh near Barkley Cove, North Carolina. Kya was abandoned by her mother and older siblings when she was 7 and left to live with her abusive father. When he was drinking, she learned to avoid him to protect herself—and he was rarely there.

Transportation in the marsh was by boat. Her father bought gas at Jumpin's Gas and Bait. Jumpin' and his wife, Mabel, befriended Kya, trading gas and groceries for mussels and fish that Kya brought from the marsh. They gave her clothing and supplies donated by their church. Except for Jumpin' and Mabel, Kya was on her own. When she was 7, the authorities came and told her she had to go to school. Although she wanted to learn to read and write, it was a dreadful experience because the other children laughed at her. After that, Kya hid anytime someone new came to the marsh, fearing that they would take her back to school.

She lived an isolated and lonely life and learned not only how to survive in the marsh, but to love it there. When she was 14, she met her first friend, a young man who taught her to read and write. The rest of the book is about her relationship with him, with the marsh, with the town, and a murder mystery and a trial. This book generated enthusiastic discussion and I recommend it highly.

At our monthly Literature meetings, we discuss the book that was chosen by the members. One member leads the discussion and another is responsible for snacks. We have interesting discussions, fun, camaraderie and good food. In 2020, we will meet by Zoom to discuss the books. Zoom meetings are also fun and give us a way to connect with each other.

Diane Mallory, Member, Literature