



**Orlando \*\*\* Winter Park  
BRANCHLINE**

WHO ARE THESE MASKED WOMEN?  
HOW MANY CAN YOU RECOGNIZE?

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ELSE-  
WHERE IN THIS NEWSLETTER.



## From the President



### Highlights of the AAUW-FL Annual Leadership Conference April 18, 2020

The Conference was held by virtual communication and printed in the April 2020 *floriVision* Special Edition that can be found at AAUW-FL@

AAUW.net. The theme was “*Waves of Change, Oceans of Opportunity.*”

I have summarized President Patricia Ross’ overview of the state’s activities and the committee chairs’ more comprehensive reports below. For more details, please look at the AAUW-FL website.

- **Research.** AAUW-FL and a number of branches have worked with Mary Gatta, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Sociology, City University of New York, to sponsor research on women’s economic security in Florida. The results were shared with legislators and other groups. The most recent study is on Black women. The full report is available on the AAUW-FL website as are the previous reports on older women and Hispanic women.
- **Membership.** Although some branches lost members, overall, FL increased membership for the first time in a number of years to 2,036, exceeding the 90% benchmark for the Five Star Program. The Committee maintained regular phone calls with the branch Vice Presidents of Membership; encouraged all branches to use the MPP (Membership Payment Program); supported the restart of the Tallahassee branch; and recognized branches for increasing membership and total membership.
- **Development.** Conference calls were well-received and gave branches a chance to share information. Branches increased donations to the AAUW-FL Supporting Foundation and AAUW’s Greatest Needs Funds. The Committee established acknowledgment programs for financial contributions to National AAUW Funds and to Tech Trek; promoted a standard fundraising idea for Tech Trek and outreach to community foundations; and developed a page on the AAUW-FL website for branches to share successful fundraising ideas.
- **Finances.** The total expended so far in the 2019-20 fiscal year was \$18,575 and the total for the year ex-

pected to be under \$20,000. Dues generated \$23,898. Expenses included: Board meetings, *florivision*, Lobby Days, Tech Trek.

- **Public policy.** Thirty-two members participated in 2020 Lobby Days in January. AAUW-FL distributed information about AAUW research at the Florida Commission on the Status of Women’s LEAD (Leadership, Education, Advocacy, Development) conference. The Committee identifies bills each year to advocate in favor or against and to educate people about the issues. This year there were 10 bills ranging from trafficking to equal pay. The online Bill Tracker gives information about the bills’ contents, the sponsors, and tracks its progress through committees. The Committee conducted calls with the branch Public Policy Chairs; promoted community organizations’ participation in Work Smart/Start Smart Program; and disseminated the women’s economic security black women’s research report.
- **Women’s Economic Security Committee.** The Committee supervised completion of research report on economic security for black women in Florida; advocated for passage of the Helen Gordon Davis Equal Pay Protection Act in Florida; and promoted Work Smart online. The full report is on the AAUW-FL website.
- **Board Outreach.** Board members visited many branches, providing programs, consultations, inducting officers, and participating in fundraisers.
- **Tech Trek.** Successful camps were held in the summer of 2019 at Stetson and FL Atlantic Universities with 48 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Mornings were spent on core curriculum covering a arrange of topics (e.g., robotics, neuroscience, coding, marine biology), and the afternoons had rotating topics (e.g., cyber security, herbarium, 3D printing, yoga). Camp included field trips and lectures by women scientists and engineers. Tech Trek is canceled for 2020 but there will 4 four camps in 2021.
- **Women’s Vote Centennial Committee.** The Committee used the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to provide ongoing information about the suffrage movement and suggested activities to help branches organize educational community events. It shared articles listing ideas for 2020 celebrations; participated in conference calls with Florida Commission on the Status of Women; and promoted opportunities, such as Equal Pay Day, Women’s History Month, walking in suffrage parades,

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**Highlights of the AAUW-FL  
Annual Leadership  
Conference  
April 18, 2020**

attending public meetings/events in suffrage costumes. A list of innovative branch activities is on the AAUW-FL website.

- **Branch Archives.** Several branches took advantage of offers by three special collection libraries to accept branch records. The March *floriVision* and website tell how to branches involved.
- **Programs.** The Committee organized the canceled AAUW-FL Leadership Conference including Keynote Speaker and 9 workshops. It awarded 7 branches Mini-Grants (\$2,760). The balance available is \$1,240. The

Leader-on-Loan program was used by some branches at no cost to the branches.

- **Pandemic Crisis.** Branches are encouraged to reach out to their members and communities through phone calls, notes, emails, conference calls, and video conferences, check the website regularly and take Work Smart online.
- **Candidates for AAUW-FL Offices:** The statements and biographical materials are on the AAUW-FL website and in the *floriVision*. Ellen Roche – Candidate Director for Development, Rose Llanas – Candidate Director for Membership, Fay Murphy – Candidate Secretary. Candidates are needed for Director of Communications and the Nominating Committee.

*Leslie Sue Lieberman, Ph.D.*

President, AAUW Orlando/Winter Park Branch  
Professor Emerita UCF



### More from Leslie

## AAUW-FL RELEASES NEW RESEARCH ON ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR WORKING BLACK WOMEN IN FLORIDA

Dr. Mary Gatta, Associate Professor of Sociology at the City University of New York and a part-time Florida resident, has released her latest report commissioned by AAUW of Florida. The title is ***Working Black Women in Florida and Economic Insecurity: A Story of Gender and Racial Inequality.***

Dr. Gatta was to have introduced this report to us at the state convention, but in lieu of that, she has recorded a brief interview that is available on the [AAUW Florida Facebook](#) page. In observation of Black Women's Equal Pay Day, she will record a longer presentation to be sent out on August 15. This could provide a good topic for a branch meeting in the new year. The Flagler, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Sarasota, and Tampa Branches supported this research through AAUW-Florida state

grants, and the Weston branch supported it through member contributions.

Here are the websites where you can find executive summaries and the complete report:

(FLORIDA)

<https://aauw-fl.aauw.net/advocacy/economic-security/>

(ST. AUGUSTINE)

<https://staugustine-fl.aauw.net/womens-economic-security/>

For more information contact:

Patricia Ross, President, AAUW Florida : [pa-ross@aol.com](mailto:pa-ross@aol.com)

Patricia DeWitt , President-Elect, [aau-wfldewitt@gmail.com](mailto:aau-wfldewitt@gmail.com)

# Interest Groups

MAY



**Christine Porter will host a tea on July 9, 2020, at 2 p.m. to determine the Exploring Central Florida outings for next year and to choose event leaders.**

**More information will be given prior to July 9.**

*Joan Liberman*  
Interest Group Chair  
libermanjoan@gmail.com

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**INTEREST GROUPS WILL NOT MEET DURING THE THREAT FROM THE COVID-19 VIRUS. CHECK WITH YOUR GROUP LEADERS FOR ZOOMING OPTIONS.**

**Booklovers:** May marks the end of the reading year for most Booklovers Groups. Selections include *Washington Black* by Isi Edugyar for most groups; *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman for Booklovers I, and *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George for Booklovers VII. We congratulate those groups who are meeting via Zoom.

If you wish to join a Booklovers group, please contact Ellen James, Booklovers Coordinator, to join in the fun. (ellenjames54@gmail.com)

**Booklovers Lite (aka Booklovers III):** Meets at Marbeya Condominiums on the 4th Wednesday of the month. Interested in joining us? Contact Karen Deo at [Karen.deo@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.deo@gmail.com).

**Cooking Globally:** For more information, contact Adrienne Katz at [katzaid@yahoo.com](mailto:katzaid@yahoo.com)

**Couples Dining Party (Formerly Dining Couples)**  
For more information, contact Eileen Garrison at 407-620-9703 or Robbi Willenkin at 407 960 4151.

**Current Issues:** Meets monthly on the 3rd Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, contact Marcy Kysilka: [Kysilka@bellsouth.net](mailto:Kysilka@bellsouth.net).

**Dining In:** Normally meets monthly on the first Friday. Contact Jane Rosen for more information about this group: 321-295-7689 or [mjcrosen@hotmail.com](mailto:mjcrosen@hotmail.com).

**Dining Out (at night):** Dining Out meets at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday. For more information contact Susan Hoke at (407-637-6857) or [shoke5581@gmail.com](mailto:shoke5581@gmail.com)

**Exploring Central Florida (ECF):** To be added to the contact list, please contact Temp. Chair Linda Fessel at [lfessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:lfessel@embarqmail.com).

**Foreign Affairs:** Foreign Affairs meets at members' homes on the 4th Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. For more information contact D. Fuentes, chair. [Tucu662@gmail.com](mailto:Tucu662@gmail.com)

**Foreign Films:** For more information about place, time, and location (or to be added to the email list), contact Linda Fessel at [LFessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:LFessel@embarqmail.com)

**Lunching Out:** For more information about place, time, and location (or to be added to the email list), contact Linda Fessel at [LFessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:LFessel@embarqmail.com)

**MahJongg:** MahJonggers meet every Thursday, at 1 p.m. at the Clubhouse at Westminster Tower. Beginners welcome. For more information, contact Linda Fessel: [LFessel@embarqmail.com](mailto:LFessel@embarqmail.com) or Karen Deo: [Karen.deo@gmail.com](mailto:Karen.deo@gmail.com)

**The Trollopian** are a reading group that gets together in a member's home once a year to read one Anthony Trollope book. Anyone who would like to meet one of the best Victorian writers of all time is welcome to participate. See next page for more information about this summer's selection.



KUDOS to BL V. Most of us never even heard of ZOOM before a month ago. BL-V used it to hold a successful book discussion.

## IT'S TIME TO VOTE FOR OUR NEW OFFICERS

As of May 1, the slate of nominees is as follows:

President: Leslie Sue Lieberman

V.P. Finance: Phyllis Hall

Co-V.P. Membership: Maria Bonnet

Co-V.P. Membership: Elizabeth Powers-Byrd

These are two-year positions which run from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022.

Due to the cancellation of our May meeting, installation of the officers will be in September.

### HOW DO I VOTE?

Send an email indicating "Yea" or "Nay" to

Barbara Knapp

(Click on address below)

[bcknapp1949@gmail.com](mailto:bcknapp1949@gmail.com)

No email? No problem. Call Barbara at 407-620-7357

**DEADLINE FOR VOTING IS JUNE 1. DON'T WAIT. VOTE NOW!!**

### ANTHONY TROLLOPE (Con't)

The Anthony Trollope book for this year is *Marion Fay*. Martha Williamson has agreed to moderate the book. A date and time will be announced later—most likely in late June or late July—when we know it is safe. The book has 316 pages, so members should plan to start reading it early. Next year (2021), we will start re-reading the Barchester Series with *Barchester Towers*, the second book in the series. If you would like to participate this summer, please contact Joyce Folsom at [jfollev@yahoo.com](mailto:jfollev@yahoo.com) or 407-696-0769. (Current members will be contacted by email.)



My granddaughter made masks for a service project and gave me one. Here I am preparing to go out for cat food.

Christine Porter



To wear a mask is not a task. It offers a disguise... We all can bask In this simple ask and prevent our own demise!

Lynda Hinckley

### From my Journal of the Plague Year



I'm impressed with how much time I can fritter when allowed to do so. I had no goals for this period, which is good because I haven't had to account for failing to meet them.

Things I hoped I'd never have to do but have now done: washed my own car, cut my own hair, and swept out our garage.

Unexpected thrill: scoring a bag of basmati at Target after a 4-week search.

Fun things I've done: USA map jigsaw, dog jigsaw, catching up with long distance friends by phone, reading 13 books: Best Nonfiction was *The Accidental President* (about Truman), Classic was *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins, and Fiction was *Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson.

Research project undertaken: tracing my real usage rate of toilet paper by writing the date I installed a new roll to compare with the date I install its successor.

My virus protection is a thermal underwear ski mask from a trip to reindeer races in Finland many years ago.

Martha Williamson

## VP Membership

Maria Bonnet



### It's Not Too Early to Renew Your Membership

Checks should be given to Phyllis Hall in person OR  
Send your check to her @  
Phyllis Hall  
481 Forest Court  
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

**Your membership must be renewed by June 30.**

**REGULAR DUES: \$85 (or \$26 for Lifetime Members)**

If you renew before the May 9 meeting, you will be eligible to receive a  
**FREE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP.**

As part of the Shape the Future program, our branch has earned **THREE** free National memberships. If you are one of the 3 lucky winners, the Finance Director will send you a check for \$59 as reimbursement. (You would only be paying state dues of \$12 and chapter dues of \$14.)

### But Wait! There's more!

National AAUW has announced a limited time promotion for **NEW MEMBERS** who join between April 2020 and May 2021.

National is waiving their portion of the membership dues (\$59).  
New members would only pay state dues (\$12) and chapter dues (\$14).

## VP Finance

Phyllis Hall



Now that's what  
we'd call an artistic  
designer mask!  
(ed.)

Linda Dunlap



*Since it is impossible for me to thank each of you individually for your kind and loving support during my recovery from my accident, I am sending this Branchline message to thank you for your help through this difficult time.*

*I could not have done it without you, dear friends, your emails, your texts, your visits, your cards, your phone calls, and food! food! food! Thank you! thank you! thank you!*

*I'm not running foot races yet. But a picture is worth a thousand words and, as you can see, I'm off my walker, off crutches, no boot. I'm now using exclusively Penny, my mother's cane, named for her Jack Russell terrier.*

*Again, thank you so much for all that you did to make my recovery such a success.*

*Best love,  
Linda Dunlap*

## Scholarship



It is especially heartwarming to be able to announce our Branch Scholarship recipients during this challenging time.

**Estefania Sanchez Cabrejos – \$500** – Estefania is pursuing an Associate’s Degree in Computer Science at Valencia College. She plans to continue her studies at UCF with a B.S. in Computer Science/Programming as well as an M.S. degree in Data Analytics. Estefania wrote: “For me, cyber security is not only an interesting field, but is also an area in which I know I can help society.” She works at Spectrum as an Internet and phone support technician.

**Laney Payne – \$500** – For over two years, Laney has worked as an Outreach Counselor at PACE Center for Girls – Orange. She attends Troy University’s Altamonte Springs campus and maintains a 4.0 GPA in the MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. She plans to continue her education by obtaining certification in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR) Therapy. She remarked: “My education is what will open the doors ahead of me and allow me to lead the life which I have always imagined for myself.”

**Riley Havel – \$1500** – Riley is working on a B.S. in Physics with minors in Geosciences and Math at UCF. Her ultimate academic goal is to earn a Physics Ph.D. with a focus on Planetary Science Research. She is the first in her family to study STEM and have a traditional college experience. Last fall she became a student athlete tutor for chemistry and math. She noted: “Each leadership position has taught me to adjust to the needs of a particular community and individual students.”

**Jaysa Ramirez - \$1500** – While pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree with a double major in Computer Science and Philosophy, Jaysa also works at Rollins College as an IT User Services Student Assistant. She wrote: “My goal is to become a professor teaching Computer Science.” She added that this field sorely lacks diversity, something so critical for effective problem-solving. “I want to add my perspective to the mix, and I want to mentor other members of minorities to do the same.”

**Dionne Wilson – \$1500** – Dionne is working on a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction in Science Education at FSU. She noted: “It wasn’t until I graduated with my Bachelor’s degree in marine biology and worked at the National Aquarium that I realized teaching science is my calling.” For the last three summers, Dionne has volunteered as the STEM educator for a six-week reading research summer camp for black and Latino scholars from low socioeconomic backgrounds. She works part-time at FSU as a graduate researcher.

Our scholarship recipients are usually invited to our May meeting which is now canceled. They have all expressed the desire to attend a meeting and meet AAUW members in the fall.

**A BIG Shout Out to the Scholarship Committee: Judy Chatelain, Ellen James, Barbara Knapp, Sherry Kragler and Sue McDonald** who read all the applications and then communicated via email. We agreed that discussing the applications online is a challenge and very much missed our usual face-to-face meeting – BUT – we were so impressed by these outstanding young students and thrilled to be able to assist in their pursuit of higher education.

*Karen Buchan*



I have painted two rooms, and Richard always finds something to do in the garden. Masks were made by his daughter, Diane.

Christine Brown



Leslie Sue and Lee Lieberman

## Tech Trek – Cancelled for 2020

Six Middle School Students to Represent the Orlando/Winter Park area at Florida Tech Trek



Julia Pack  
Lake Eola Charter School



Ema Thomas  
Piedmont Lakes Middle School



Oghenetega Chanai  
Glenridge Middle School



Isabella Kincade  
Southwest Middle School



Brynn Fancher  
St Cloud Middle School



Estrella Herrera  
Horizon Middle School

Orlando/Winter Park AAUW announces this year’s recipients for its Tech Trek Scholarship. Six students from the Orlando/Winter Park area were to attend one of the 2020 Tech Trek camps either at Stetson University or Florida Atlantic University this June. Unfortunately, the camps had to be cancelled this year due to the Corona virus, but AAUW is planning on expanding next year’s camps to accommodate the girls selected this year.

Tech Trek is a STEM camp designed to introduce middle school-aged girls to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It offers the girls the opportunity to build model bridges, program robotic cars, create computer applications, become marine biologists for the day, explore energy through the power of wind and much more.

Tech Trek is held annually in June and usually accommodates 96 girls from all over the state. The only cost the girls assume is the \$50 application fee.

Donations for Tech Trek are appreciated and can be mailed to Diana Secor at 4153 Leafy Glade Place, Casselberry, FL 32707. Please make the check payable to “AAUW-Orlando-WP” and note “Tech Trek” in the memo section.

For additional information please contact Hanna Kruczek by e-mail at [orlaauwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:orlaauwinfo@gmail.com) or go to the Tech Trek website: <https://techtrek-fl.aauw.net/>

*Hanna Kruczek*  
STEM Coordinator



Nothing fancy for Rana—just a hanky with a coffee filter.



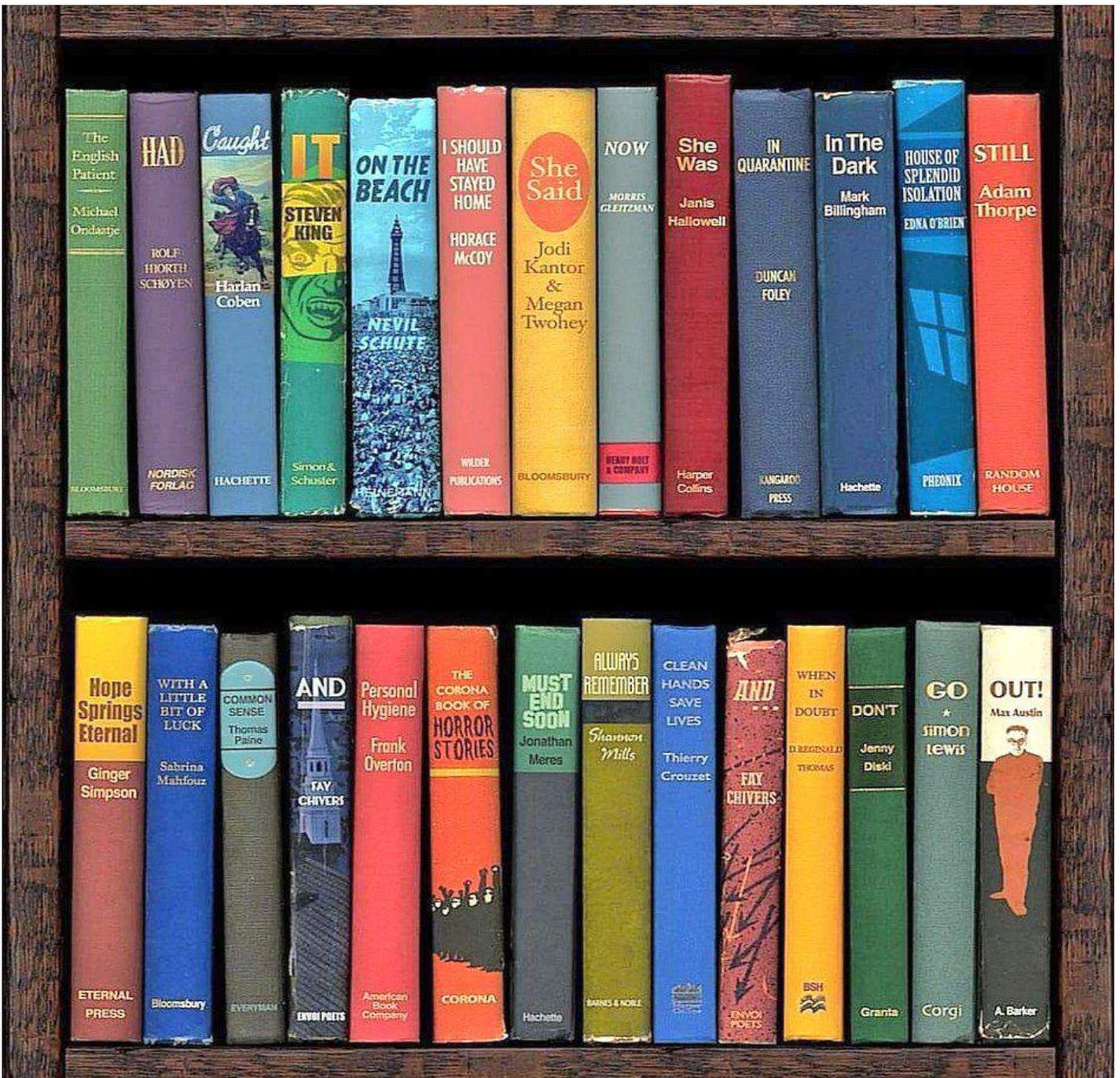
Wendy Simpson masking up to go to Fresh Market.



My accomplishments are few. Watched so many episodes of *Trapped* I can now speak Icelandic, *takk*. For the first time I cut my husband's hair—successfully. Last, but not least, I have mastered Instacart.

Karen Deo

The following shelves of books made the rounds on Facebook, so some of you may have already seen it. But for those who have not—especially those in Book Lovers—it’s a fitting close to this issue. Just read the titles left to right—starting with the top shelf. This is only one of many examples we’ve all seen lately proving that we are, for the most part, a clever, ingenious species—always looking for the humor in any situation—no matter how tragic or bleak. We don’t know yet what the future will throw at us, but one thing is for certain—laughter is a better medicine than Clorox.



I want to thank the members who answered the call to send pictures of themselves in their masks. Their assistance was vital in creating the Branchline's opening page. I also want to thank all those who have contributed articles, photos, etc., during the past 9 months. This is YOUR newsletter, and I cannot do it without YOU.

The Branchline will be on vacation until September. Maybe by then we'll have returned to "Have a nice day," instead of "Stay safe." Until then—stay safe. (Linda Fessel, ed.)

**Don't forget to vote for our new Board. AND Don't forget to pay your dues!**