

August 2020



AAUW
Empowering
women since
1881

President's Message

President
June Klimash

Vice-President
Julie Sukkar

Secretary
Rebecca Triche

Treasurer
Pam Baldwin

Nominations
Valerie
JacksonJones

and
JiJi Jonas
and
Eileen Kennedy

Historian
Thi office is open.

Newsletter
Publisher
Melanie Hanley

To contact any
of the above
send email to
aaubatonrouge@gmail.com

Dear Friends,

As we enter the month of August, Louisiana continues to see a second spike in Covid-19 cases and our hospitals are struggling to accommodate our sick. AAUW Baton Rouge will continue holding events via Zoom or outdoors with safe distancing practices through the remainder of this year.

The 2020 AAUW Baton Rouge branch planning meeting was held on Sunday, June 7th as a Zoom meeting. Ten members attended and the following are highlights of plans for our branch for the coming year.

Promote and celebrate the 100th anniversary of "Women's Right to Vote" through sponsorship of LA VOW play this month and possible radio or TV interviews

Address issues around voter access especially during the current pandemic and beyond. I encourage everyone to register to vote by mail and tell everyone you know over 65 to do the same. Another email will go out in the next few days to remind you to post information about "Vote by Mail" on Next Door and any other social media where you are able.

Valerie Jackson Jones has been working on a script for younger voters to use to produce short videos to post that will encourage the younger population to vote.

In 2021 the branch will focus efforts on increasing membership and engaging our branch members

Please review the newsletter for details on interest group activities during the month of August. If you have any questions please contact the interest group chairs listed in this newsletter. I encourage all interest groups to meet by Zoom if possible so we keep moving forward and stay in touch. Mask up and stay safe.

Until next month,
June Klimash





Women's Equality Day
is celebrated in the United States
on August 26
to commemorate the 1920 adoption
of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States
Constitution,
which prohibits the states and the federal government
from denying the right to vote
to citizens of the United States
on the basis of sex.
It was first celebrated
in 1973
and is proclaimed each year
by the United States President.

Presidential Proclamation on Women's History Month, 2020

Women have influenced and advanced every facet of American life and culture. The strength, ingenuity, and spirit of our female leaders, innovators, and pioneers shape our Nation's character, government, industry, families, and communities. During Women's History Month, we honor the women who have changed our Nation and the world, and we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the next generation of female trailblazers and dreamers as they carry forward this distinguished legacy.

This year marks the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, securing the right to vote for women. This milestone in our country was made possible by the devotion, leadership, and perseverance of pioneers like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. The ratification of the 19th Amendment enabled women to finally have their voices counted in voting booths, paving the way for greater female participation in all levels of government. Heroes emerged like Frances Perkins, who, as Secretary of Labor, was the first woman to hold a cabinet-level position in the Federal Government, and Clare Boothe Luce, an influential journalist, playwright, Congresswoman, and the first woman appointed to a major ambassadorial post abroad.

Throughout our history, women have also been pioneers in fields like science, medicine, and engineering. Bessie Coleman, the world's first civilian licensed African-American pilot, and Marie Luhring, the first female truck designer, changed the way we think about aviation and transportation. Saint Katharine Drexel selflessly served those in need and left an indelible mark on nursing and education. NASA mathematician Katherine Johnson, who passed away just a few days ago, was behind some of the brilliant work that made possible the first manned spaceflights by United States astronauts. And just last year, two brave American astronauts, Flight Engineers Christina Koch and Jessica Meir, made history by conducting the first all-female spacewalk outside of the International Space Station.

My Administration is committed to empowering all women across the Nation and around the world to continue pursuing their dreams and lifting humanity to new heights. As President, I have championed policies that create economic prosperity and opportunity, enabling women to thrive as workers, parents, consumers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and investors. In 2019, women comprised 71 percent of the net increase in employment, the female unemployment rate reached near historic lows, and women for the first time made up the majority of the college-educated labor force. I have also signed into law legislation securing historic levels of funding for child care so that both women and men can better provide for their families, secure in the knowledge that their children are being well-cared for. In addition, we secured the first tax credit for employers who offer paid family leave for those earning \$72,000 or less and doubled the child tax credit, benefitting nearly 40 million American families, who received an average of \$2,200 in 2019. In December 2019, I was also pleased to sign legislation providing for 12 weeks of paid parental leave for all Federal employees. To drive this effort further, I have also called on the Congress to pass a nationwide paid family leave program.

On the international front, last year I signed a National Security Presidential Memorandum to direct my Administration to prioritize global women's economic empowerment through the first ever whole-of-government effort dedicated to this issue: the Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative. To date, W-GDP has reached 12 million women through United States Government programs and partnerships, with a goal of reaching 50 million women by 2025. W-GDP's efforts help secure a place for women to thrive and to lead their families, communities, and nations into new arenas of excellence.

This month, we pause as a Nation to pay tribute to the women who strengthen and enrich our society through civic action, devotion to family, and tireless dedication to community, innovation, peace, and prosperity. We pledge also to continue fighting for the further advancement of women in our society and around the globe, living up to the promise of our Nation's founding.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, **DONALD J. TRUMP, President of the United States of America**, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2020 as Women's History Month. I call upon all Americans to observe this month and to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8, 2020, with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-eighth day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fourth.

DONALD J. TRUMP

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/proclamation-womens-history-month-2020>

HISTORY OF WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY

Women's Equality Day, celebrated every August 26, commemorates the passage of women's suffrage in the U.S. and reminds us of the hurdles overcome by the heroic women who faced violence and discrimination to propel the women's movement forward.

In the early 19th century, American women, who generally couldn't inherit property and made half of a man's wages in any available jobs, began organizing to demand political rights and representation.

By the early 1900s, several countries including Finland, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom had legalized voting for women as the movement continued to sweep across the world. In the U.S., the 19th Amendment to the Constitution was first introduced in 1878, but it failed to gain traction. It wasn't until women's involvement in the World War I effort made their contributions painfully obvious that women's suffrage finally gained enough support. Women's rights groups pointed out the hypocrisy of fighting for democracy in Europe while denying it to half of American citizens at home.

Because a Constitutional amendment requires approval from two-thirds of the states, 36 of them had to ratify the 19th before its passage. The deciding vote in the Tennessee legislature came from Harry T. Burn, a young state representative whose mother's plea to support the amendment became a deciding factor in his vote (which he switched at the last minute).

Women aren't done fighting for equal rights. Today, the wage gap between men and women still impacts women's economic power, and gender-based discrimination still plagues workplaces and business transactions.

To remind us of the struggles of the past, present, and future, Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day in 1971.

<https://nationaltoday.com/womens-equality-day/>

Continuing Feature—Branch Board Responsibilities

So You Want to be the Treasurer!

Here's what this job entails. You are the person who handles the money, the ins and outs of all things financial. This is one of two required positions in the branch (minimum requirements), President being the other.

You:

1. Are the primary bank contact with full signatory rights.
2. Manage all bank accounts, including CDs held by the branch (money set aside for funding the scholarships). You'll pay any bills for the branch.
3. Provide monthly budget reports to the branch board with updates of financial status, including attending board meetings.
4. Develop an annual budget for discussion then approval by the board.
5. Are the primary contact for AAUW's membership services database (MSD). This system creates invoices for each branch member to renew annual dues. Also processes all other membership details like adding new members, processing transfers, dual members, and noting deaths (unfortunately we've had more of these than we'd like).
6. Are the person who receives manual payments (checks) from members to renew their dues. You will use the MSD system and a branch debit card to make the payments.
7. Using AAUW's MSD, you will submit the required tax forms to the IRS for the branch. (Note, this takes about 5 minutes per year.)

But mostly, you need an attention to detail! After all, you're the money person.



AAUW Gets Out the Vote

Are you 65 or older ? If so, you may request a mail ballot for the August 15 election or for any/every election to come. Doing so does not prevent you from going to the polling site in the future when the covid-19 no longer makes being out and about less than safe. You may receive your ballot but choose to vote in person instead for any election.

Not yet 65 ? For the election to be held Saturday, August 15 **only**, anyone may request a mail ballot for a number of reasons related to the covid-19 problem. This is the only special provision for voters who are younger than 65 at this time. Louisiana has not announced similar opportunities for the November 3 election. If more information about that election is forthcoming before publication of this newsletter for September, we will provide it.

AAUW BR member **Suzanne Besse** has provided us with a link to the BR Votes election guide. <https://www.brvotes.org/> It is worth copying and pasting that link into your browser. There are links within that guide to take you to dates for every opportunity through the Louisiana Secretary of State's office.

 **REGISTER TO VOTE**
Make sure your information is up to date before Election Day!

 **MEET THE CANDIDATES**
Find out who's running and for what office.

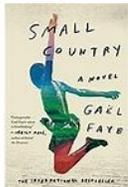
 **IMPORTANT DATES**
Election dates, events, and deadlines.

Not feeling like being your own secretary ? Last nerve frazzled because you have been shut in for some time ? Wishing your mail ballot would just appear in the mail as if by magic ? **Melanie Hanley** will assist you in this non-partisan undertaking. It will seem as though it has happened by magic.



Evening Book Group

The group will not meet in August. Julie Sukkar will review *Small Country* by Gael Faye on September 2.



See page 7 for a list of books to be reviewed throughout the coming year including the selection for September so you may begin reading.

All AAUW BR are welcome to meet with us. **Morning Book Group members are especially encouraged to meet with us.** We will meet by Zoom until further notice.
RSVP Ann Sperry

Catherine Roundtree

Campus Study

The group will not meet in August. Please check the September newsletter to learn whether there will be a September event.

Mary Francis

Pam Baldwin

Morning Book Group

The group will not meet in August. Neither will the Evening Book Group. However, members are invited to meet with the Evening Book Club by Zoom in September.

Please check the monthly newsletter to learn whether there will be a separate meeting of the Morning Group.

Suzanne Vincent

To contact any of the members on this page, send email to

aauwbatonrouge@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Annual Dues

Reminder from Our Treasurer

Thanks to the many of you for paying your dues on time. For the few who have not, you'll see electronic and in some cases snail mail letters soon with dues paying info. We don't want to lose you and I know you don't want to stop supporting AAUW.

Thanks,
Pam Baldwin

- Dues - National: \$ 59
- Dues - State: \$ 12
- Dues - Branch: \$ 18
- Total Dues: \$ 89

If you would like to pay by check, please send the check for \$89 payable to AAUW BR to :

Pam Baldwin
Treasurer, AAUW Baton Rouge
780 Rue Crozat
Baton Rouge, LA 70810-4543.



Great Decisions

Tuesday, August 25
6:30 p.m. on Zoom

Panic at the border: U.S. relations with the Northern Triangle (Honduras, El Salvador, And Guatemala)

Reading begins on page 53.
Discussion Leader,
Rebecca Triche

RSVP **Melanie Hanley**

Gourmet

"Bring your own take out" breakfast meeting



8:30 a.m.

at the small park
across Dalrymple Drive
from City Park

RSVP **JiJi Jonas**

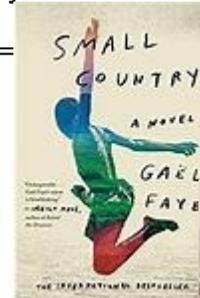
Please let Jiji know if you will attend and if you need directions. P.S. She recommends Louie's for your take out breakfast.

Would you like to join the Evening Book Club ?

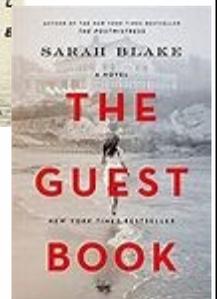
The AAUW Evening Book Group generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Unless otherwise indicated, the group will meet at the Bluebonnet Library at 6:30 p.m. There is no meeting in December. The May meeting is the planning session for the following year. The schedule for the 2020 – 2021 year is as follows:

There will be no meeting in August.

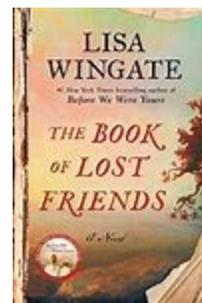
Julie Sukkar will review **Small Country** by Gael Faye on September 2.



Margot Kiehfuss will review **The Guest Book** by Sarah Blake on October 7.

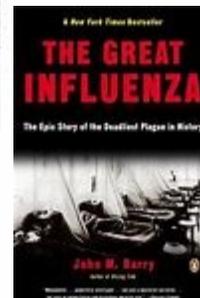
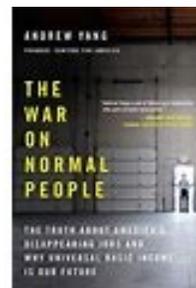


Carolyn Stutts will review **The Book of Lost Friends** by Lisa Wingate on November 4.



There will be no meeting in December.

Margo Brault will review **The War on Normal People** by Andrew Yang on January 6.



Susan Smolinsky will review **The Great Influenza** by John Berry on February 5

Cathy Roundtree will review **The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek** by Kim Michele Richardson on March 3.



Anne Campbell will review **The Splendid and the Vile** by Erik Larson on April 7.



Happy birthday to these members who celebrated in July when there was no newsletter !
July 8 Pam Baldwin
July 14 Gail Johnson
July 25 Rebecca Triche

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> early voting
<i>2</i> NO early voting	<i>3</i> early voting	<i>4</i> early voting <i>Happy birthday to Claire McVadon</i>	<i>5</i> early voting	<i>6</i> early voting	<i>7</i> early voting	<i>8</i> early voting
<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>deadline to request mail ballot</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i> <i>4:30 p.m. deadline for registrar to receive voted mail ballot</i>	<i>15</i> Gourmet ELECTION DAY
<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i> <i>Happy birthday to Judith Nielson</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Great Decisions	<i>26</i> Women's Equality Day	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>
<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>					