



September
2020



AAUW
Empowering
women since
1881

President's Message

President
June Klimash

Vice-President
Julie Sukkar

Secretary
Rebecca Triche

Treasurer
Pam Baldwin

Nominations
Valerie
Jackson Jones

and
JiJi Jonas
and
Eileen Kennedy

Historian
This office is
OPEN

Newsletter
Publisher
Melanie Hanley

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

Dear Friends,

Last month several AAUW Baton Rouge branch members volunteered with BR VOTES to call Baton Rouge candidates for the upcoming elections. Thanks to Suzanne Besse, Sylvia Martinez and Julie Sukkar for their help. BR VOTES is asking for additional assistance during September. Details for volunteering are included in the newsletter. Let's help BR VOTES educate the electorate so informed decisions can be made during the upcoming elections.

The November election is an important one so please encourage your friends and family to register to vote, either in person or by mail. If you are over 65, you can register to vote by mail and have the choice to mail in your ballot or hand deliver the ballot should you not feel confident the Post Office will be able to deliver all mail-in ballots in November.

I hope many of you take the opportunity to join the Women's Equality Day celebrations where 100 years of Women's Right to Vote was the focus. These were originally scheduled for August 26th but were moved to September 2nd. See the State AAUW website for details.

I am asking all AAUW Baton Rouge branch members to renew their memberships now. While we are not currently able to meet in person, the organization relies on membership dues to continue our important work of advocating for women and girls. See details on page 6 for how to renew your membership.

With Covid-19 still alive and well, the Baton Rouge branch interest group activities will continue to be held virtually or in some limited cases outdoors with proper social distancing and masks. See the newsletter for details on interest group meetings. In closing, because I regularly send group emails to AAUW membership, some of you will occasionally receive spam or phishing emails that appear to come from me. Remember, I will not be sending any requests to you for any purchases or any urgent requests so please ignore these emails in the future.

Mask up and stay safe.

Until next month,
June



See our website for posts about women's suffrage following Women's Equality Day.
<https://batonrouge-la.aauw.net/>

Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 9, 2020
Via Zoom
All members are welcome.



Announcing an Initiative Meetup

Meetup is an online social networking portal that facilitates offline group activities. People who share a particular interest connect through the social-networking website Meetup. It is available for Apple and Windows computers and iPhone and Android phones (probably not available for flip phones).

Downloading and using the app is free for the user.

Individuals can search for groups based on interests. They can join the Meetup group to become involved in that organization. Note that this is not the same as joining AAUW. See [Meetup](#) for more details.

Our board has agreed to try meetup for a half a year. The cost for this is paid by the organizing organization – us. The cost is \$98.94/half year, or nearly \$200/year. **Since this is not an approved budget item, we are asking for small donations to cover this amount. If we gain new members through this app, it will be worth the cost.**

This app is used by many younger people, especially those new to an area. Since we are looking for new members, we want to try this for a half a year (the shortest available membership) to see if it attracts new, and especially younger members. We will evaluate before the renewal date and if it has not helped attract new members, we will not renew.

Please donate to either a leader of an interest group, a board member or by sending a check to:
AAUW BR
c/o Pam Baldwin Treasurer
780 Rue Crozat
Baton Rouge LA 70810.

Thank you for supporting AAUW Baton Rouge in this outreach.





**Celebrating
Adoption
of the 19th
Amendment
to the
Constitution
of the
United States
of America**

Members should have received an email message from the American Association of University Women of Louisiana inviting you to participate in a celebration by Zoom on Wednesday, August 26, 2020. If you did not open that message, please check your email history for detailed information. It was sent on August 22 just after 7:00 a.m.

Because of the weather event Louisianians anticipated that week, **the Zoom celebration was postponed until Wednesday, September 2, 6:00—7:30 p.m.**

The original event required a FREE ticket through Eventbrite. However, because of the date change, you are asked to register again through the following link.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/toast-to-tenacity-rescheduled-tickets-118940713877>

If you have the original ticket and don't get an updated one, we still have your information and you will receive your ZOOM invite when they are sent out on Wednesday Sept 2 in time for the 6pm event.

"Feminists Celebrate Suffragists: 100 Years of Voting"
by **Aileen Hendricks**



Aileen Hendricks, AAUW Baton Rouge chapter member, wrote a play in celebration of the 100-year anniversary of adoption of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which provided women the right to vote. Hendricks is Executive Director of the Louisiana Voices of Women Theatre Company. The company is known by the name LAVOW.

Among the famous female characters from history and activists from whom viewers will hear are Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Ida B. Wells Barnett, March Church Terrell, Susan B. Anthony, and Gloria Steinem. Among the actors who portray these women are three AAUW BR members — **Valerie Jackson-Jones** as Sojourner Truth,



Vivian Guillory as Mary Church Terrell,



and **Pam Baldwin** as Susan B. Anthony.



Participants in the Toast to Tenacity event Wednesday, September 2, to be held by Zoom in conjunction with the Old State Capitol and other groups will see a clip of this film. You may also see the entire play at the following link.

<https://www.facebook.com/LaVOW.org/videos/750595252458813>

BR Votes Election Guide Volunteer Opportunity. Volunteers are needed to call candidates' offices to confirm receipt of the position issue survey questions **BR Votes** recently emailed to statewide and BR area candidates. The calls are to be made from **September 7 to 11**. Volunteers are also needed to make reminder calls from **September 23 to 30** to candidates for whom surveys were not received. This is to ensure all candidates can have their positions posted on **BR Votes**. Thanks go to AAUW members **Julie Sukar** and **Sylvia Martinez** for making calls in August to get up-to-date email addresses for all candidates.

If you volunteer, you'll be thoroughly briefed, and **BR Votes** folks will be available, if questions arise. You'll work at home at your own pace and decide how many calls you can make. Any help is appreciated by **BR Votes**. If you're able to volunteer during the dates below or have questions, let me know: **Suzanne Besse**.

September 7 to 11: Calls to candidates/offices to confirm receipt of surveys.

September 23 and 30: Reminder calls of October 1 deadline; goes only to those for whom surveys have not been received.

You need not volunteer for both time slots. You may help with one time slot or the other or both.



AAUW BR member **Suzanne Besse** 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.

For the **November 3 election**, the **deadline to request an absentee by mail ballot is Oct. 30 by 4:30 p.m.** You may request an absentee by mail ballot online through the Secretary of State's Voter Portal or in writing through your Registrar of Voters Office (other than military and overseas voters).



Asking You to Consider Serving as an Officer in the Future

Since new officers were installed at our annual meeting conducted by Zoom, we have been highlighting the responsibilities of officers so you may be informed and motivated to serve. Refer to newsletters published in May, June, and August for information about president, vice-president, and treasurer. This month we are featuring the secretary's slot.

Members are invited to shadow a current officeholder to gain an appreciation for how more of us may be involved in the leadership of the group we all enjoy. Newer members may not have considered service as an officer yet, but AAUW Baton Rouge's branch will need you soon. Likewise, long time members who have served previously may be willing to share the experience they garnered as officers in the past or to accept a new and different challenge. Thank you for considering what you can do to sustain our branch before the nominating committee meets next year

Job Description for Secretary of AAUW Baton Rouge

It's a great way to serve your branch and stay abreast of activities and planning. Are you a good speller and note taker? This would be easy peasy for you.

Record and keep minutes of all board meetings, the annual membership meeting, the planning meeting, and any special meetings

Attend 8-9 board meetings a year, the annual meeting, and the planning meeting

Keep official records for AAUW BR

Assure that important records get archived at LSU's Memorial Library for each year (mainly this includes the minutes, meeting agendas, financial reports, monthly newsletters, media articles, bylaws that are mostly produced by others)

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

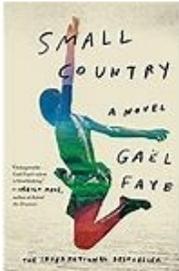
Baton Rouge, LA 70810-4543.

Evening Book Group

Small Country
by Gael Faye

Wednesday, September 2
6:30 p.m.

Reviewer: Julie Sukkar



All AAUW BR branch members 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 or Catherine Roundtree

Campus Study

See a message from the co-sponsors at lower left on this page.

Mary Francis
or
Pam Baldwin

Morning Book Group

The group will not meet in September. 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 on this page, send email to aauwbatonrouge@gmail.com



Great Decisions

Tuesday, September 8
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



TAKE
OUT

Another Planning Meeting

Saturday, September 12
9:00 a.m.

Independence Park

Bring Your Own Chair

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.



CAMPUS STUDY
Responses Invited

A message from Pam Baldwin and Mary Francis: As you all know, due to COVID, Campus Study has not met. We have discussed meeting via zoom to hear speakers. This would work, but there is no way to share a lunch.

So, Mary and I would like input from our CAMPUS STUDY group.

- 1) Are you willing to attend a zoom meeting?
- 2) If so, what time of day? Since we aren't sharing lunch, we could meet anytime.

If we do not have positive input from our members, we will plan to resume Campus Study when restaurants open and things are safe for us all to meet again.

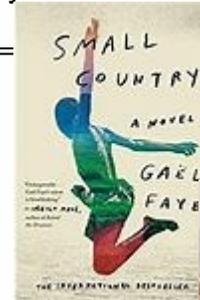
Please respond to me or Mary. FYI, no reply will be interpreted as no interest. Thank you.

Would you like to join the Evening Book Club ?

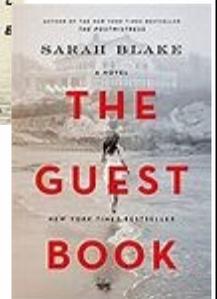
The AAUW Evening Book Group generally meets on the first Wednesday of the month. Unless otherwise indicated, the group will meet at the Bluebonnet Library at 6:30 p.m. There is no meeting in December. The May meeting is the planning session for the following year. The schedule for the 2019 – 2020 year is as follows:

There will be no meeting in August.

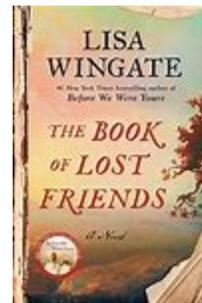
Julie Sukkar will review **Small Country** by Gael Faye on September 2.



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

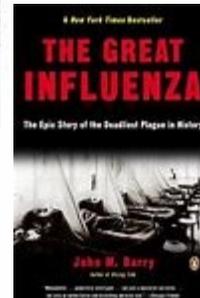
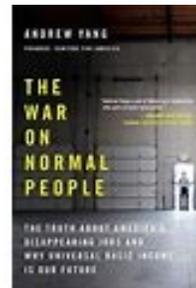


Carolyn Stutts will review **The Book of Lost Friends** by Lisa Wingate on November 4.



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.





The **Gourmet** interest group converged on the small park across Dalrymple Drive from City Park to share take out or bring your own breakfast on Saturday, August 15. This was a planning session, and it went so well that they decided to do the same in September, this time at Independence Park. Members pictured from left to right are **Lorraine Day, Judy Nielson, JiJi Jonas, Margot Kiefuss, Carolyn Stutts, and Catherine Roundtree.**

We have no photo, but the **Evening Book Group** also had a planning meeting previously at Independence Park. This month the book reviewers will meet via Zoom.

Coming next month, October 9-15, will be Women's Week in Baton Rouge, sponsored by the Women's Council.

**Theme: Women with 2020 Vision —
Recharging, Redefining, Rebuilding**

There will be opportunities for session presenters via Zoom.

September 2020

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 Evening Book Club	3	4	5
			Toast to Tenacity			
6	7	8 Great Decisions	9 Board Meeting	10	11	12 Gourmet
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Happy Birthday to Anne Campbell
						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			