

November
2021



AAUW
Empowering
women since
1881

President's Message

Happy Halloween (late) and Happy Thanksgiving (early). It is indeed November already and another year fast approaches its end. Despite most of the Baton Rouge branch activities being held remotely, we have managed to provide members with regular opportunities to connect and meet over a wide variety of topics throughout the year. As you plan your November, consider joining AAUW BR in one of the many meetings offered to you this month and detailed in the newsletter.

AAUW BR member Suzanne Besse is working with Together BR/LA to organize efforts that will work toward equity in redistricting. The group is looking for concerned citizens to join their effort. Some very important decisions will be made over the next few months as district lines are redrawn to take into account 2020 census data. The outcome of redistricting can create imbalances that reduce the voting power in certain districts, so it is essential that a strategy is developed to ensure everyone's vote continues to count equally. Reach out to Suzanne for more information.

Campus Study has changed its name to "Insights". The group remains committed to bringing information and insight on topics of interest to members and guests through speakers from the universities and community. Let co-chairs Pam Baldwin and Mary Francis know if you are interested in meeting in person over lunch in the coming year. Of course suggestions for speakers are always welcome.

In January the nominating committee will begin its search for a slate of officers for 2022. Please consider serving the branch as an officer or co-officer in the coming year. The offices of Vice President and Treasurer are to be elected in even years and we still have an unfilled office of Secretary from 2021.

Visit the rest of the newsletter for interest group activities. Have a great November.

June



Board Meeting
Wednesday, November 10
6:30 p.m.
by Zoom
All members are invited.

President
June Klimash

Vice-President
Julie Sukkar

Secretary
Unfilled Position

Treasurer
Pam Baldwin

Nominations
JiJi Jonas and
Eileen Kennedy

Historian
Position Unfilled

Newsletter Publisher
Melanie Hanley

To contact any officer or member, send a message to
aauwbatonrouge@gmail.com

Reminder:

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The message above appears on **page one of the newsletter, lower left corner.** Some time ago, AAUW Louisiana and AAUW Baton Rouge boards decided that we would no longer post email addresses or telephone numbers of members in lists or stories because anyone can view our newsletter online and obtain private contact information.

If you want to RSVP to an interest group, the newsletter will include the name only. If you need to get in touch with a member for whom you do not have email or telephone number information, first check to see if you saved the member roster that was provided to each of us when this change went into effect. If you do not have access to that list, write to the address above and **Pam Baldwin** will provide you with what you need.



Election Time This Month



From: [Early voting in Louisiana's delayed election begins Saturday \(sfgate.com\)](https://www.sfgate.com)

“After a five-week postponement, early voting began Saturday, October 30, in Louisiana’s hurricane-delayed fall election, with four constitutional amendments the only thing facing all voters statewide.

The weeklong period for voters to cast their ballots in advance of the Nov. 13 election will feature some changed voting locations in areas damaged by Hurricane Ida and may require some advance homework for people to figure out just what the constitutional changes would do. “

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

The two most prominent amendment proposals involve taxes. One proposal would start the the process for centralizing sales tax collections through a commission, rather than dozens of local government agencies as is currently done. The other would set in motion a complicated tax swap plan that would get rid of personal income tax and corporate tax deductions for federal income taxes paid in exchange for lowering the state’s overall income tax rates. It also would eliminate the corporate franchise tax for small businesses.

The other amendments would allow some local levee districts to increase their taxing authority and let lawmakers cut more deeply into protected funds when the state faces a budget deficit.

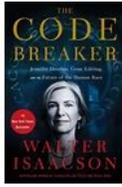
For your convenience, links to various guides explaining the constitutional amendments follow.

[It's time to vote, Louisiana: 4 amendments you need to know before heading to the polls | WRKF](#)

[PAR ConstAmend2021-2_Sep10Update.pdf \(parlouisiana.org\)](#)

[A guide to the 2021 constitutional amendments - Louisiana Budget Project \(labudget.org\)](#)

Evening Book Club



The Code Breaker

by Walter Isaacson

Wednesday, November 3

6:30 p.m. by Zoom

Reviewer: **Anne Campbell**

RSVP **Ann Sperry**

or **Catherine Roundtree**

Note: Anne's presentation of this book was postponed because of Hurricane Ida.

In December, **Julie Sukkar** will lead a discussion of

Things We Lost to the Water

by Eric Nguyen Wednesday, December 1.

Gourmet



Margot's Marvels!

Friday, November 12

6:30 p.m.

at the home of

Margot Kiehfuss

Share and Savor

Sensational Surprises,

Specialities of the Hostess

RSVP **Margot Kiehfuss** to accept a recipe to prepare.

Great Decisions



The End of Globalization

Tuesday, November 16

6:30 p.m. by Zoom

Discussion Leader

Suzanne Besse

Reading begins on page 91.

RSVP **Melanie Hanley**

Coming: No meeting in December; In January **Rebecca Triche** will lead a discussion of the World Health Organization (previously postponed).

Insights, formerly Campus Study

Because the fourth Thursday falls during holiday periods, Insights will not meet in November and December. Insights will resume meeting in January.

The question will be whether to return to a restaurant or remain on Zoom. (An aside by Pam, those who have responded are in favor of returning to in-person meetings.)

Mary Francis and Pam Baldwin, co-chairs, have identified Zorba's on Essen which has a private room with a television and video equipment for presentations. There is no cost beyond each individual's food ordered from the menu.

Mary and Pam request comments from regular participants before mid-December whether to commit to in-person meeting again and to secure the restaurant.

AAUW Baton Rouge Participated in Women's Council's Women's Weekend

AAUW Baton Rouge has an ongoing, longstanding relationship with the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge

JiJi Jonas represents AAUW Baton Rouge on the Women's Council. Member **Eileen Kennedy** is also a member of the Women's Council.

AAUW Baton Rouge branch participated in the Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge "Women's Weekend" in September. The event was totally virtual and hosted several speakers over the course of three days.

Saturday morning September 25th, AAUW Baton Rouge presented "Don't Leave Money on the Table".

Vivian Guillory, **Rebecca Triche** and **June Klimash** each contributed to the presentation that introduced women to the AAUW Work Smart tool and the many benefits it offers to help women negotiate for salaries that are fair and equitable.

The Work Smart workshop is available at no charge through the AAUW National web site at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/salary/>. Please share this link with any women you know who may benefit from improving their salary negotiation skills.





Wanted

AAUW Baton Rouge member to represent our branch by attending monthly meetings of the Inter-Civic Council.

This is an opportunity to message a large group of prospective members who may not be familiar with AAUW.

Eileen Kennedy, who serves on the nominating committee, has graciously accepted appointment as one of our representatives. **We are recruiting a second representative.**

If you are interested, you are invited to speak with **JiJi Jonas** to learn more about this volunteer opportunity. JiJi and her husband represent another organization to which they belong. She has experience.

Meetings are held at Hunan's Chinese Restaurant on South Sherwood Forest Boulevard and by Zoom.

The Inter-Civic Council selects Baton Rouge's Golden Deeds Award recipient each year and sponsors the gala dinner at which the recipient is honored.

FYI:

Inter-Civic Council

Participating Organizations

Altrusa International of Baton Rouge
Alzheimer's Services of the Capital Area

American Association of University Women -- Baton Rouge

American Legion -- Nicholson Post 38
Baton Rouge Area Chamber
Baton Rouge Regional Eye Bank
Brave Heart -- Children in Need
BREC Foundation
Cajun Clickers Computer Club
Capital Area Law Enforcement Foundation

East Baton Rouge Lions Club
Exchange Club of Baton Rouge
Families Helping Families Greater Baton Rouge
Friendship Force of Baton Rouge
GFWC Lagniappe Woman's Club
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Info Center of LA

FYI:

Inter-Civic Council

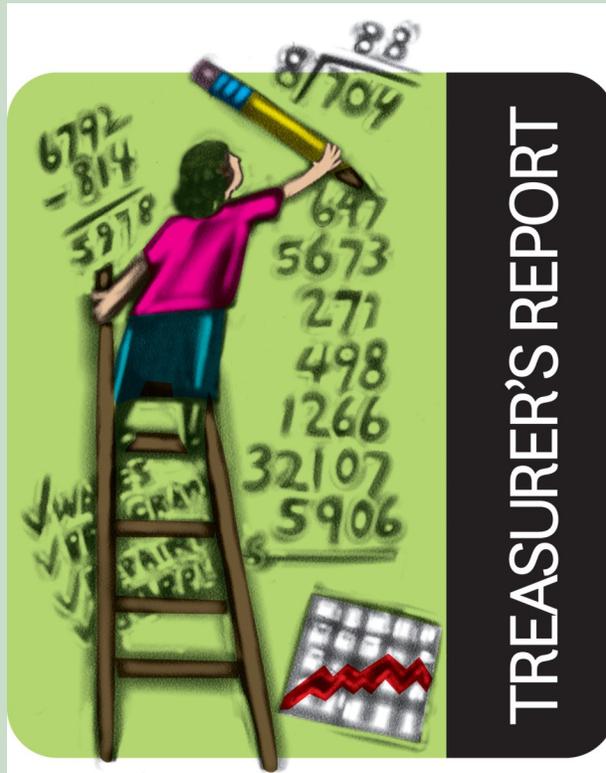
Participating Organizations

GFWC Lagniappe Woman's Club
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Info Center of LA

Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank
Kids Orchestra
Kiwanis Club of Baton Rouge (Downtown)
Kiwanis Club of Cortana
Kiwanis Club of Early Risers
Kiwanis Club of Louisiana State University
Kiwanis Club of Red Stick Louisiana
Bonsai Society
McMains Children's Development Center
Metanoia, Inc.
O'Brien House
The Hospice of Baton Rouge
Women's Council of Greater Baton Rouge
YWCA of Greater Baton Rouge



STEP UP FOR AAUW
STEP UP FOR
STEP UP
STEP



TREASURER'S REPORT

Wanted

AAUW Baton Rouge member to serve as **branch secretary** for the remainder of a two-year term which began July 1, 2021.

When officers were last installed, the office of secretary was unfilled.

The member who accepts this appointment will have only two responsibilities: to attend regularly scheduled monthly meetings of the board and to produce minutes of the board meeting.

We archive our minutes, so this position is important. It requires a minimal commitment.

AAUW Baton Rouge member to serve as **branch treasurer** for a two-year term which will begin July 1, 2022. AAUW national regulations require that branches have a minimum of two officers, president and treasurer. Our branch cannot continue without filling both of these offices, Responsibilities include attending regularly scheduled monthly meetings and handling payment of dues to the national organization and the local allocation of dues and scholarship funds.

Reminder from Last Month:

Thanks to AAUW Baton Rouge member **Ann Sperry**, who is employed by Catholic Charities, here is information about how our chapter may help Afghan refugees who will be arriving in Baton Rouge soon.



To be sure that you are all fully informed and use correct terminology, the US Government makes a distinction between an immigrant (one who freely chooses to come to the US but could safely remain in their homeland) and refugees (one displaced due to war, or persecution and cannot safely remain in their homeland).

While most folks don't seem to know the difference, I wanted you all to be aware of the difference here. The Afghans coming to BR are by this definition refugees and not immigrants although their refugee status is considered SIV (Special Immigrant Visa).

In any case, they receive SIV status as I am sure you've read because they were engaged in helping the US military during the war in Afghanistan and cannot safely remain for fear of persecution and death from the new Afghan government.

While there is a lengthy list of things these folks will need to successfully resettle here, Catholic Charities generally is able to provide most of the items with government funding provided to them for this purpose. What is needed is **time** dedicated to working with families to help them resettle. This would include time to:

- **help their children adjust to school - facilitate parent-teacher conferences if needed, learn bus routes, provide information on school operations in US, encourage parent involvement in child's education etc.**
- **locate and attend religious services - find transportation if needed, see if someone at the church would be willing to mentor**
- **learn bus routes or provide transportation for shopping, medical appointments, etc.**

Insights last month in October

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Angelle Bradford

Angelle Bradford's Zoom message to the Insights group in late October was timely since the November election includes a vote on the 10-year renewal of the Capital Area Transit System tax in Baton Rouge and Baker.

Bradford, a cardiovascular physiology doctoral student at Tulane University, is active with the Delta Sierra Club. Sierra Club branches advocate for protecting our wildlands and wildlife, keeping our air and water free from pollution, and promoting a clean energy future. Theme for the group in 2021 is Transit Equity.

Her remarks touched on vocabulary like choice riders, infrastructure nationally and locally, environmental implications of how transit is powered with respect to climate change issues, and funding. CATS reports that the 10.6 mil tax creates \$17.6 million per year for the agency, representing nearly 60% of CATS' annual budget.

Rene Singleton who heads the local Democratic Women's organization accompanied and supported Bradford in messaging.



Rene Singleton

Gourmet Autumn Brunch in October

Gourmet Group participants gathered at the home of **Judy and Chuck Nielson** Sunday, October 24. **Catherine Roundtree** does not appear in the photo below because she was the photographer. Left to Right are **Chuck Nielson, Donal Day, Margot Kiehfuss, Larry Jonas, Ann Sperry, Lorraine Day, Judy Nielson, Charles Stutts, JiJi Jonas, Pam Baldwin, and Greg Baldwin.**



Wednesday, November 3 Evening Book Club

Wednesday, November 10 Board Meeting

Friday, November 12 Gourmet

Tuesday, November 16 Great Decisions



November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 EVENING BOOK CLUB	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 BOARD MEETING	11	12 Gourmet	13
14	15	16 GREAT DECISIONS	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 THANKSGIVING	26	27
28	29	30				