

February  
2022



AAUW  
Empowering  
women since  
1881

**President's Message**

Dear Friends,

As Mardi Gras season is in full swing I hope you are enjoying King Cakes and balls and parades. The Baton Rouge branch board meetings have been changed from the second Wednesday of the month to the third Wednesday of the month. The board meetings continue to be on Zoom starting at 6:30. All members are always welcome to attend.

February is Black History month and the theme for 2022 is "Black Health and Wellness". There are many reasons to celebrate including the appointment of Gloria Blackwell as the new CEO of AAUW last October. Visit the AAUW website and you will find many articles to help members understand the challenges our fellow women, especially women of color, still face with respect to pay equity, educational opportunities and economic security.

Last month the AAUW Baton Rouge branch board voted to increase the amount awarded to recipients of the Eleanor Earle Scholarship from \$500 to \$1000. As the award amount has not changed for many years it was felt that an increase in the award amount would be in keeping with the rising costs of a PhD education. The board also approved increasing the maximum number of recipients per year from 2 to up to 3 qualified candidates. We have an abundance of funds designated for the Eleanor Earle Scholarship and the board wants to make sure we are using the funds in the most responsible and effective way.

As we begin to plan for the Baton Rouge branch annual meeting in April, the nominating committee needs to finalize a slate of officers for the 2022-2023 AAUW year. I know you will each give careful consideration when asked to serve, as the future of our branch is dependent on member participation.

The Book Group has moved their meeting date from the first Wednesday of the month to the second Wednesday, so check out the newsletter for the details of all interest group meetings in February.

Until next month,  
June



**Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 16**  
**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](mailto:aauwbatonrouge@gmail.com).

## Reminder:

To contact any officer or member, send a message to  
[aaubatonrouge@gmail.com](mailto:aaubatonrouge@gmail.com)

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 in pdf format, write to the address above and **Pam Baldwin** will provide you with what you need.

Washington DC, Oct. 13, 2021 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) —

## The AAUW Board of Directors selected [Gloria L. Blackwell](#) as the new Chief Executive Officer of AAUW, effective October 18, 2021.



Blackwell, who previously served as AAUW's Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer, was chosen for the role because of her deep executive experience and her impressive record of innovative contributions to AAUW's mission for nearly two decades, said AAUW Board Chair Julia Brown.

"As AAUW proudly celebrates 140 years of advancing equity for women and girls this year, we know that Gloria is the right leader at the right time," Brown said. "Her outstanding talents are unparalleled assets to AAUW. The Board of Directors and AAUW's members are privileged to partner with Gloria to continue to uplift our mission and vision of equity for all."

Blackwell, who is also AAUW's main representative to the United Nations, brings more than 30 years of nonprofit, international and government experience to her new role. Among her many accomplishments is her 17-year record of managing and expanding AAUW's highly esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and abroad.

Blackwell has also been the driving force behind AAUW's signature initiatives, including its salary negotiation program, which has reached more than 190,000 women nationwide. She has initiated and built partnerships with major corporate and foundation funders, state and municipal governments and institutes of higher education. Most notably, Blackwell has significantly expanded the AAUW's outreach to girls and women of color.

"I am incredibly honored and grateful to the Board for valuing my commitment to global gender equity, my leadership at AAUW and the contributions of my high-performing teams," said Blackwell, who is the second Black woman to lead AAUW. "I stand in a unique place, and I plan to use my skills and expertise to build a new and stronger vision for AAUW. I vow to grow our impact across all communities and expand our commitment to infuse equity and inclusion into everything we do."

Prior to joining AAUW, Blackwell worked at the Institute of International Education (IIE) in Washington D.C., leading and managing girl's education programs in Africa and mid-career fellowships for global professionals. Her lifelong desire to make a difference through international education and gender equity was inspired by her service as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Cameroon and Country Desk Officer at the D.C. headquarters for five Sub-Saharan countries.

Blackwell is the recipient of multiple honors and awards and has led and served on numerous boards and advisory groups, including the UNA-USA Council of Organizations Executive Committee, the International Book Bank, Latina SciGirls and the Canadian Organization for Development Through Education (CODE).

Blackwell holds a master's degree in Education and Human Development from The George Washington University, and a bachelor's degree in Foreign Service from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. A fluent French speaker, she also studied at the American University in Paris, France.

**The American Association of University Women (AAUW)** advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and more than 800 college and university members. Learn more and join us at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

## Hip Hip Hooray!

The AAUW Baton Rouge Branch officers/board have determined that there are sufficient funds held for the Eleanor Earle scholarship to double the stipend from \$500 to \$1,000 and to grant an additional scholarship— three instead of two per year if well-qualified women Ph.D. candidates in the Greater Baton Rouge area who are at least halfway to receiving their degrees apply.

How is that for good news that makes us proud ?

Following the loss of his wife, Mr. John Earle endowed the Eleanor Earle Scholarship. Subsequently our members have made donations, most years at the Holiday Happening social gathering in January. Many of us have made memorial donations in memory of other members who have died.

This spring, when you receive notice that the application process has opened, please help our branch reach out to deserving women scholars to advise them of this enhanced opportunity.

We invite recipients to share their stories with us at a meeting even if it is by Zoom. They have never disappointed. It is a treat to acknowledge their intelligence, diligence, and enthusiasm.

Please see Eleanor Earle's obituary on the following page to remember the member for whom the scholarship is named.

## Obituary of Eleanor Earle

Eleanor Grace Lee Earle, who died Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2010, was the daughter of Robert and Cornelia Olmsted Lee. She was born Sept. 2, 1929, in Pachuca, Mexico. Eleanor was a professional registered parliamentarian, a past president of the Louisiana Association of Parliamentarians and founder of the Baton Rouge unit. She served as a meeting parliamentarian for organizations on the local, state and national levels. During a period of 44 years, she hosted a series of LSU international students as part of the International Student Hospitality Association. *Feminists Who Changed America* (by Barbara J. Love, University of Illinois Press, 2006) contains this report: "A registered nurse with a bachelor's degree in political science, Earle was the president of the League of Women Voters in Wausau, Wis. In 1966, she moved to Baton Rouge and became the League president there as well. During her membership she worked to elect Joe Delpit, who was the first African-American to serve on the city council. She also worked to seat four women on the local school board. Earle joined NOW, the ERA Coalition and AAUW. She served on the LWV and AAUW state boards unit. She served as a meeting parliamentarian for organizations on the local, state and national levels. During a period of 44 years, she hosted a series of LSU international students as part of the International Student Hospitality Association. *Feminists Who Changed America* (by Barbara J. Love, . In addition, she counseled at the Battered Women's Program and served on the board." She is survived by her husband of 54 years, John Sutherland Earle; a daughter and son-in-law, Eleanor Joan and Robert Bloxham, of Columbus, Ohio; a son and daughter-in-law, John Sutherland Earle and Dana Saporu; grandson, Alexander Sutherland Earle; and granddaughter, Elisabeth Caterina Earle, all of Arlington; a son and daughter-in-law, Robert Leonard Earle and Sri Susilowati, of Los Angeles; and a sister and brother-in-law, Betty and Dick Wood, of Seattle. We will keep her in our minds as a wonderful person, a devoted mother and grandmother, an example of courage and determination, of optimism and kindness. A memorial celebration will be held later.

## Important Announcements:

### Name and Meeting Dates Are Changing

There is now a single active book club among AAUW's interest groups. It was previously known as the Evening Book Club. **It will now be known simply as the Book Club. It will now meet on the second Wednesday of the month. The time remains 6:30 p.m.**

If you are a current member, you know this. Please make a change to your monthly calendar.

If you would like to join this group, get in touch with either co-leader, **Ann Sperry** or **Catherine Roundtree**. Contact information for these two members is included in the branch roster you were sent some months ago by treasurer **Pam Baldwin**. If you do not have that roster handy, **see page 2 of this newsletter or the notice at bottom left of page one** to send a query to Pam who will respond and put you in touch.

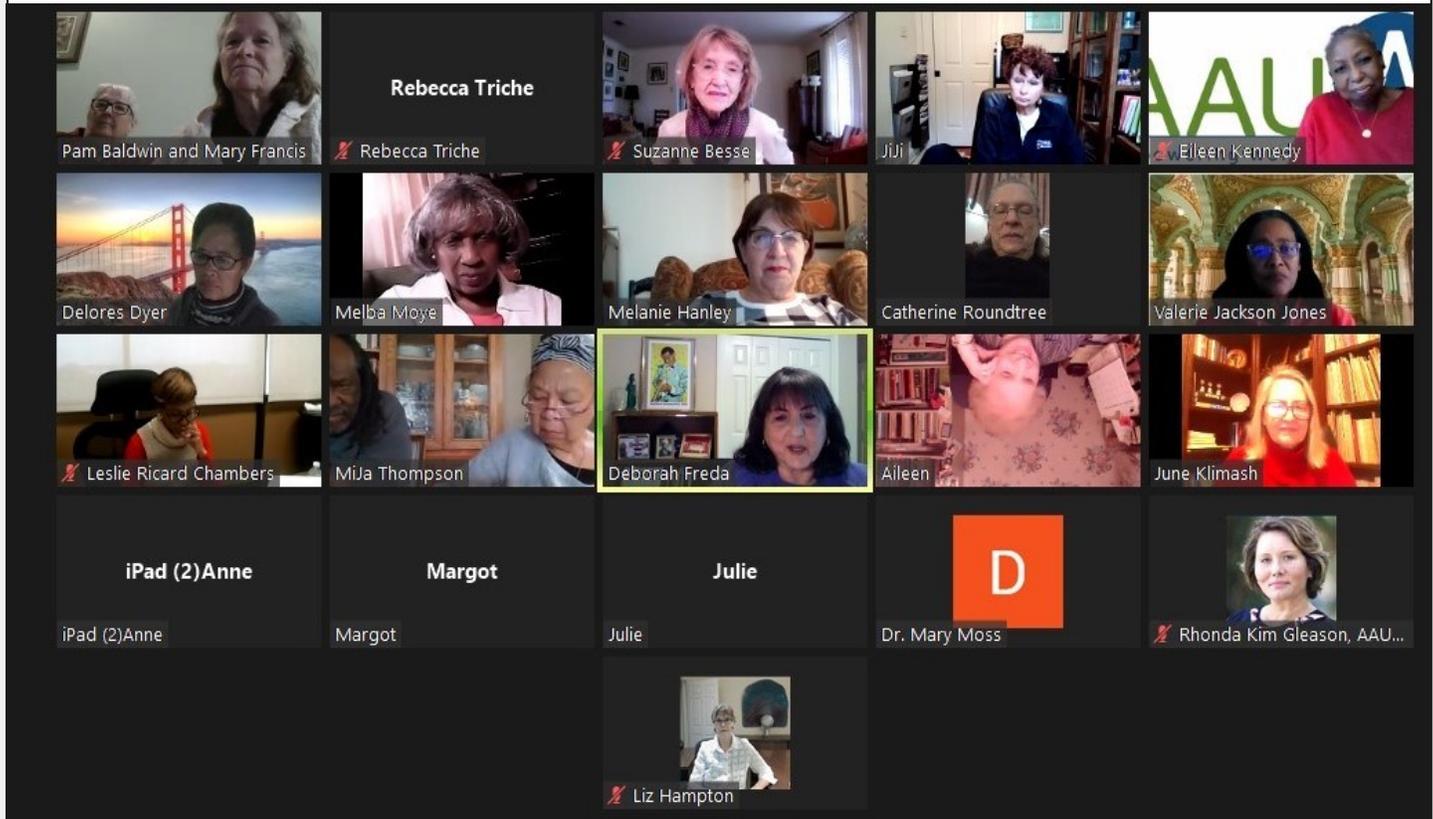
Likewise, branch officers who attend the monthly **board meeting** have changed that meeting date to the **third Wednesday of the month. Meeting time remains 6:30 p.m.** All members are welcome to attend every board meeting. The group is still meeting by zoom. **Work through Pam Baldwin to request the zoom link any time you would like to attend.**

### Condolences



Branch members join in sending condolences to our member **Eileen Kennedy** following the loss of her husband **Ronald Bruce Kennedy** on December 9, 2021. Besides Eileen, he leaves two adult sons and grandchildren.

## Insights Last Month in January



The Insights meeting by Zoom on Friday, January 1 was to learn more about **Mayor Sharon Weston Broome**'s initiative to address unequal pay for women both in her administration and throughout the Baton Rouge community. AAUW Baton Rouge member **Valerie Jackson-Jones** who has served on the mayor's Commission on Women throughout the mayor's tenure was invited to speak to us. She went a step farther and invited the mayor to speak. The mayor agreed, but as things go in government, sometimes the best laid plans don't go exactly as anticipated. The mayor was called away. Her assistant **Leslie Ricard Chambers** ( email [lchambers@brla.gov](mailto:lchambers@brla.gov)) filled us in instead. She was thorough about what she knew and not only listened to our questions but took notes. The commission has not convened yet, but they will do so soon. And there is a date in the fall by which he commission must have completed its work. Mrs. Chambers agreed to stay in touch with us about opportunities for public input. (Leslie shared her email for us to send questions or suggestions as we might think of them.) President **June Klimash** recommended an initial look at AAUW's national website for data on the subject.

## Looking Forward: Call for a Secretary Now Through June 30, 2023

New officers are elected for two-year terms to begin on July 1. Various officers are elected in alternate years.

**Please bear in mind that we do not have a secretary for our organization for the two-year term which began July 1, 2021 and will end June 30, 2023. We need to fill that office asap for the duration of that term.**

The current board would appreciate a volunteer who will come forward to meet this need for less than the full two-year term.

Sitting officers are a dedicated group who have kept the AAUW Baton Rouge Branch in compliance with national requirements by in some cases serving two terms in a row, a four-year obligation, then trading places, shifting to different office for two years of service. Some of these members also serve as state officers and have been doing so since AAUW BR stepped up to assist the state organization a few years ago.

We request that you consider helping us by accepting the office of secretary now. Confirm your interest with President **June Klimash**.

### **Duties of the Secretary**

1. Record and keep minutes of all board meetings, the annual membership meeting, the planning meeting, and any special meetings
2. Attend 8-9 board meetings a year, the annual meeting, and the planning meeting
3. Keep official records for AAUW BR. Assure that important records are archived at LSU's Hill 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).

## Looking Forward: Call for Officer Candidates

New officers are elected for two-year terms to begin on July 1. Various officers are elected in alternate years.

**We will need to fill the offices of treasurer and vice-president who will take office on July 1, 2022, each for a two-year term. in the spring of 2022. Please respond positively to elected nominating committee members JiJiJonas and Eileen Kennedy and board-appointed member of the nominating committee Mary Francis.**

*Newer members may not have considered service as an officer yet, but AAUW Baton Rouge's branch will need you. 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 chapter.*

### Duties of the Vice-President

1. Assist the President by serving as Acting President in her absence at board meetings and other events.
2. Assume the office of President if for any reason the President is unable to complete her term of office,
3. Plan at least one event per year to attract new members, such as an open house or meet and greet.
4. Plan at least one new member recognition event per year.
5. Assign a sponsor for each new member for the first year of branch membership.
6. The term of office shall begin on July 1.
7. The Vice-President shall be elected in even years and shall serve for two (2) years.

### Duties of the Treasurer

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.

1. Serve as 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. Serve as 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.
6. Receive 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 attention to detail! After all, you're the money person.

## Opinion

Dear AAUW Friends,

Our branch hosts four interest groups. Know that you are welcome to attend one or all of them. You may have found just one that suits you perfectly. You have come to know those who attend that group and may never realize that there are also nice people doing interesting things in the other groups as well.

Do not let preparation or the lack of it keep you from trying another group in this new year. If you would like to know what the book group is like but can't yet commit to reading a specific book on a schedule, try just dropping in to observe. You will not be called upon or asked to make a presentation unless you express an interest.

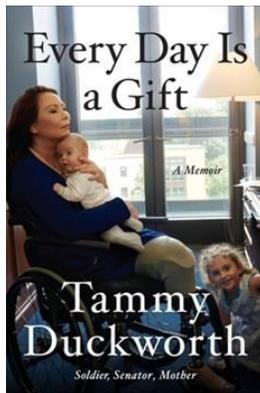
If you would like to know what the Great Decisions group does, start by googling Great Decisions, sponsored by the Foreign Policy Association, to get an idea. You may also drop in on that group without having bought reading materials and done your homework just to see if the group might interest you. Again, you will not be put "on the spot".

Insights used to involve eating out to enjoy an interesting speaker. Now it is by zoom for the time being so you will need to eat before you view. Topics change so that you might find one that appeals to you or you might be an equal opportunity attendee who just enjoys learning. There is no preparation in advance. We are there to learn about our community.

Gourmet is a bit different. Gourmet participants are expected to prepare a dish using a recipe provided by that month's hostess. Makes sense that if you are going to eat you would be willing to pitch in. You are in luck in February, though, because the participants are dining out in February. One admonition, though. You cannot wait until the last minute because someone must make a group reservation well in advance. JiJi Jonas, Gourmet chair, will need to know to include you in the count and that is a firm commitment on your part. This is one group that is happy to include your spouse or significant other while also embracing single attendees.

You will not receive the zoom link for a meeting that requires that unless you contact the group leader. See the regular listings on page of this newsletter.

### Book Club



#### *Every Day is a Gift*

by Senator Tammy Duckworth

Wednesday, February 9

6:30 p.m. by Zoom

Reviewer: **Catherine Roundtree**

RSVP **Ann Sperry**

or **Catherine Roundtree**

### Gourmet



Sunday, February 27

Noon

Cocha Restaurant

445 N 6th St

RSVP **JiJi Jonas**

### Great Decisions



#### *Changing Demographics*

Tuesday, February 15

6:30 p.m. by Zoom

Discussion Leader:

**Carolyn Stutts**

Reading begins on page 5 of the 2022 booklet.

RSVP **Melanie Hanley**

## Insights

Insights meets on the fourth Thursday of the month unless scheduling a speaker necessitates a change. Please mark your calendar. A February speaker has not been confirmed yet as so often happens during the covid environment, so we cannot provide specific information about a February meeting before the newsletter is published on the first of the month.

Every member will receive an email notice when there is more to report either later this month if all goes as planned or next month either in this spot or by individual email.

As of now, meetings will continue to be by Zoom. The speaker is always a draw. A lunch time meal will be an additional draw in the future at some time. And the opportunity to socialize with one another in person will be the piece de resistance some day over the rainbow.

**Mary Francis** and **Pam Baldwin** hope you enjoyed hearing from the **Mayor Sharon Weston Broome's** special assistant **Leslie Ricard Chambers** about the mayor's pay equity initiative last month.

## Graze with Gourmet this Spring!

Contact JiJi Jonas.



On **Sunday, February 27**, at noon all comers will meet at Cocha Restaurant.



On **Sunday, March 13**, at noon, **JiJi** and **Larry Jonas** will host at their home. Recipes to be provided for preparation will come from the Jambo Cookbook, a publication of an African restaurant in Santa Fe.

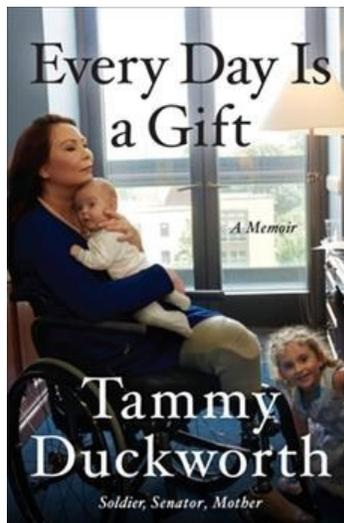


On **Saturday, April 9**, the group will converge on Zorba's Greek Restaurant at 6:00 p.m. to dine together.

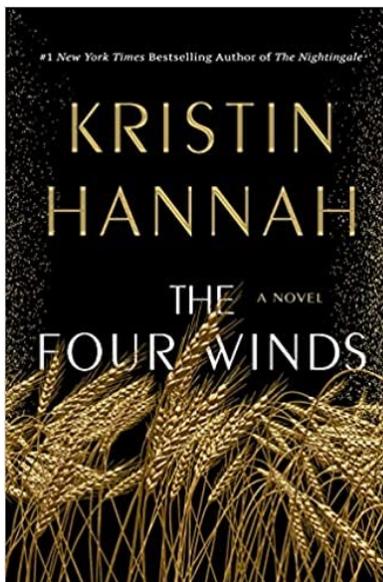
**Take the opportunity to enjoy a TASTE of Gourmet goings on!**

**Help yourself to Book Club this Spring!**  
**Contact Ann Sperry or Catherine Roundtree.**

To be reviewed  
by Catherine Roundtree  
on February 9



To be reviewed  
by Mary Francis  
on March 9



To be reviewed  
by Susan Smolinsky  
on April 13

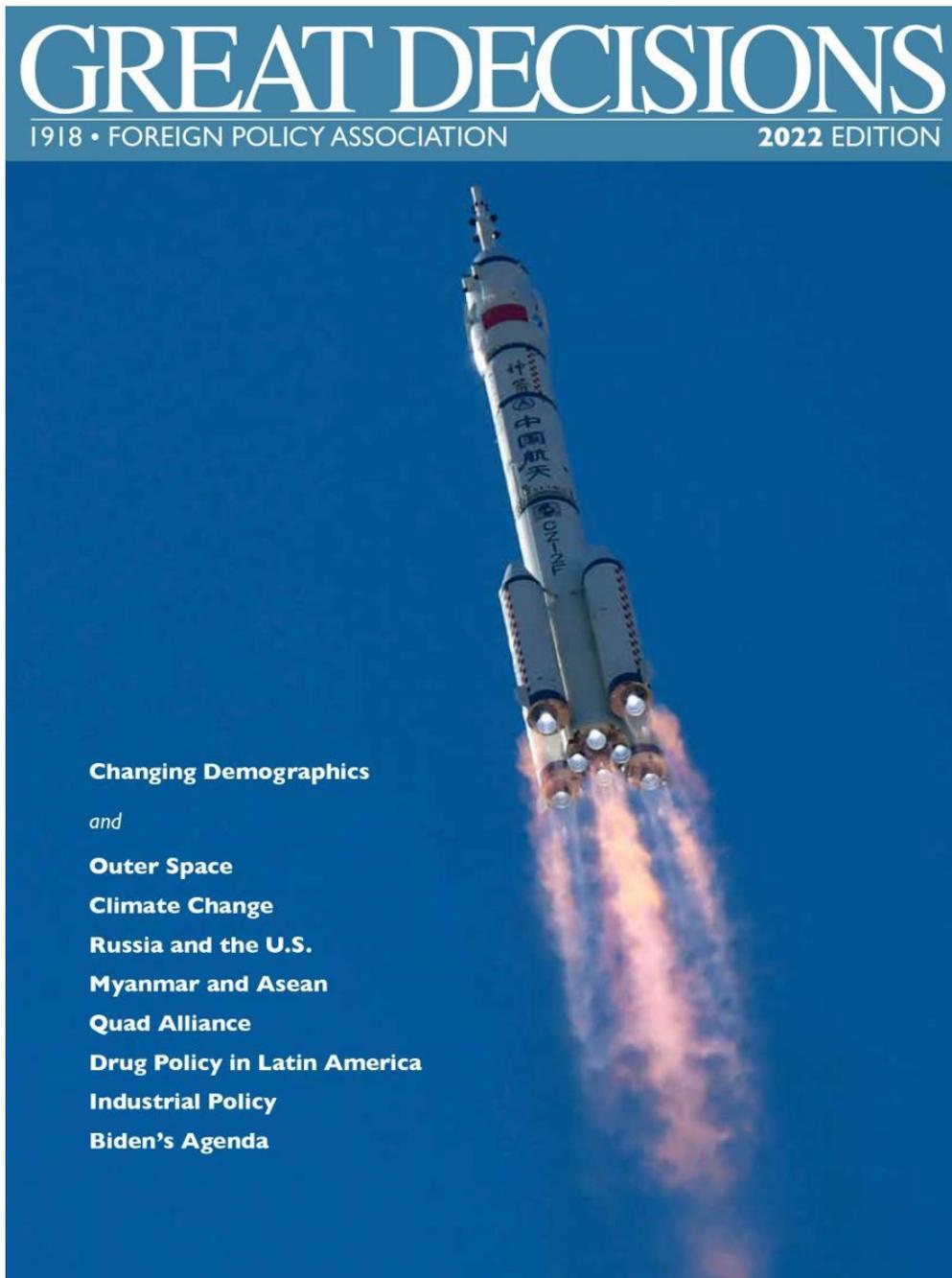


## Add an interest group to your participation with AAUW Baton Rouge in 2022!

The Great Decisions Group invites you to join us as we explore global current events informed by readings from the Foreign Policy Association. You are invited to visit with us or to join us monthly.

We are enthusiastic about learning more about our world.

Contact Melanie Hanley.



Wednesday, February 9 Book Club  
 Tuesday, February 15 Great Decisions  
 Wednesday, February 16 Board Meeting  
 Sunday, February 20 Gourmet

# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Happy Birthday to you! 		1	2	3	4	5
6 Catherine Roundtree 	7	8	9 Book Club Mary Jacob 	10	11	12
	14 Valentine's Day	15 Great Decisions	16 Board Meeting	17	18 President's Day	19
20 Ann Sperry 	21	22	23	24 Sylvia Martinez 	25 Margot Kiehfuss 	26
27 Gourmet	28	1 Mardi Gras				