

American Association of University Women



December 2022/
January 2023



AAUW
Empowering
women since
1881

President's Message

As we begin a month of holiday celebrations, I want to wish each of you the happiest holidays and all the best in the coming New Year.

The AAUW Baton Rouge branch annual Holiday Happening is scheduled for Saturday, January 14, 2023.

Member JiJi Jonas and her husband Larry have graciously opened their home to us this year. An email invitation will be coming in December with more details. Be sure to save the date so you will not miss a party to kick off 2023!

Your board is already beginning plans for the annual meeting next year, probably in April. The nominating committee needs to put together a slate of officers for the Baton Rouge branch. The following officers will be up for election in 2023:

President – for a two-year term to begin July 1, 2023

Secretary – for a two-year term to begin July 1, 2023

Nominating Committee – two members for a two-year term to begin July 1, 2023

Please consider saying yes when you are asked to serve. The future of the branch is dependent on filling the slate of officers for the coming year.

Check the newsletter for details on all the interest groups. As always we appreciate the wonderful newsletter and a huge Thank You to Melanie Hanley, our newsletter editor.

Until next year,

June

President

June Klimash

Vice-President

Jan Koellen

Secretary

Margot Kiehfuss

Treasurer

Rebecca Triche

Nominations

JiJi Jonas

Eileen Kennedy

Aileen Hendricks

Newsletter Publisher

Melanie Hanley

**To contact
any officer
or member,
send a
message to**

**[aauwbatonrouge
@
gmail.com.](mailto:aauwbatonrouge@gmail.com)**



**No December Board Meeting
January Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 18.
6:30 p.m. by Zoom
All members are invited.**

Reminder:

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

Donating to AAUW

Recently the state leadership for AAUW met with other states' leaders to hear more about how donations to AAUW are managed.

Back in approximately 2009, AAUW reorganized. The old categories of Educational Foundation and Legal Advocacy Fund have been rolled into other categories and therefore, do not exist anymore. The overall result is that all donations to AAUW are now tax deductible. For best results, direct your donations to the "**Greatest Need**" category. (Undirected donations go there anyway.) This allows AAUW to use the money where they need it most.

FYI, the only non-tax deductible money paid to AAUW is \$3 of your dues. You see that when you pay your dues.



AAUW Holiday Happening
Saturday, January 14, 2023
4:00 p.m. until...

At the home of JiJi and Larry Jonas

Please mark your calendar and join us for our first in-person gathering of the New Year. We look forward to visiting, catching up with one another, sharing resolutions or being inspired to making one.

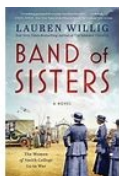
We invite you to bring savory or sweet refreshments for sharing.

Members who are making arrangements will welcome your contribution of \$5 (or more) toward beverages and paper products with excess contributions to go into our Eleanor Earle Scholarship Fund. This is the meeting at which we have traditionally accepted donations for scholarships at holiday time in the spirit of giving. Thank you!



Book Club

Book Club will not meet in December.



Wednesday, January 11

7:00 p.m.

by Zoom

Band of Sisters

by

Reviewer: **Carolyn Stutts**

RSVP **Melanie Hanley**

Gourmet

Christmas with the Baldwins

Saturday, December 10

6:00 p.m.

at the home of **Pam and Greg**

with **Catherine Roundtree**

Contact **Pam** for a recipe.

Italian Cuisine

Saturday, January 28

2:00 p.m.

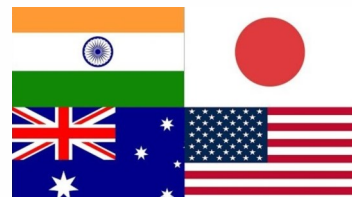
at the home of

Margot Kiefuss

Contact **Margot** for a recipe.

Great Decisions

Great Decisions will not meet in December.



Will the Quad countries

be able to contain

China's power reach?

Tuesday, January 17

6:30 p.m. via Zoom

Leader: **Suzanne Besse**

Insights

Insights will not meet in December.

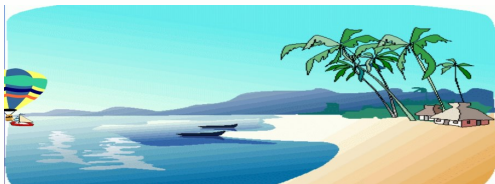
Eleanor Earle scholarship recipient **Vanessa Van Heerden** will speak about her doctoral studies **Thursday, January 26, at noon.** See Van Heerden's application on the following page. Then see La Contea's Lunch Menu offerings so you may plan your order.

Insights leaders **Mary Francis** and **Pam Baldwin** remind you that although you may order from the menu same day, the restaurant requires a firm commitment of the number of attendees well in advance. **Please confirm your attendance with Mary or Pam no later than one week ahead of the meeting. That will be by end of day Thursday, January 19.**

La Contea Italiano Ristorante

7970 Jefferson Hwy.Ste. F 70809

(behind CC's Coffee House)



Meet AAUW Baton Rouge's scholarship recipient Vanessa Van Heerden.

I have always been intrigued by the ways that humans and other species interact across the coastal environmental space. I grew up in southern Louisiana and spent many days sailing and enjoying the barrier islands and wetlands. In addition to being outside throughout all my childhood, I was raised by an oceanographer, my mother. She showed me what I could become – strong and powerful woman, knowing my worth, striving for greatness, and being open to the possibilities of life. I have been an environmental advocate since my pre-teens, writing letters, running social media campaigns, and speaking to politicians about environmental issues in my parish long before I could drive.

My passion for educating and advocating for the environment led me to a B.S. degree in Environmental Science and Resource Management, and another in Biology, both from California State University, Channel Islands (CSUCI). Within this program, I received mentorship from two female professors that are still my mentors. They helped me build the foundation to teach and expand my science communication resume. The positive role that women scientists have had on me throughout my career has shown me that my voice matters, my thoughts are important, and I serve a unique purpose in my field.

My passion for advocating and educating stemmed from before I went to college, but with the female mentorship that I have had, I know how to be a powerful and strong female multi-dimensional scientist.

My research experience is in coral reef ecology and management, sandy beach ecology, microplastic identification in beach invertebrates and sand samples, pollution management, restoration ecology, African savannah ecology and wildlife management, wetland restoration, and marine mammal conservation.

My dissertation is entitled, "Does Money Talk?: An Analysis of Ecosystem Services as a Communication Tool for Stakeholders in Coastal Louisiana." The ecosystem services (ES) concept – a tool used to value natural environments by estimating a monetary value for the benefits that they provide for human well-being, such as storm water mitigation, nutrient cycling, and soil binding – is the theoretical basis of my work. The overarching goal of my dissertation research is to understand the processes and motivation behind residents' place attachment, valuation rationale, and communication needs during statewide coastal restoration efforts.

My goal is to be a University Professor, where I can mentor students who are trying to decide on their path, to show them the possibilities in their future, and create an open space for them to work towards their educational and professional goals. As a female scientist, I know the struggles that women go through in this field, and I want to be a role model for young girls (like I needed) to show them the power of their voices and their brains. I hope to show other women the vital role that they play in society, how to be strong and passionate in their work, and to guide them towards taking their first steps in their professional careers. I want to use my research as an opportunity to teach others about the importance of our relationship to the environment. I want to help students find their own niches within their college or graduate school careers so that they can realize their full potential as future leaders, teachers, and professionals. The experiences that they gain during their years at university will shape them as informed stakeholders and citizens. If Education is their boat, I strive to be their sails.

Insights will meet at La Contea on Thursday, January 26, 2023

La Contea Lunch Specials

Wraps and Salads

\$ 13.95

Chicken Caesar Wrap

Grilled Chicken, Chopped Romaine, Parmesan Cheese, and Caesar Dressing.

Served with Home Made French Fries

Mediterranean Wrap

Grilled Chicken, Romaine, Avocado, Kalamata Olives, Feta Cheese, and Honey Vinaigrette Dressing.

Served with Home Made French Fries

Fried Chicken Salad

Fried Chicken, Mixed Greens, Sliced Almonds, Carrots, Shredded Cheddar, and Honey Vinaigrette Dressing

LaContea's Summer Salad

Grilled Chicken, Mixed Greens, Feta Cheese, Olives, Tomatoes, Croutons, and Ranch Dressing.

Tour of Italy | \$15.95

Served with choice of - Side House Salad | Side Caesar Salad | Cup of Soup

A sampling of chicken parmesan, lasagna, and fettuccine alfredo.

PASTA FARE \$12.95

Served with choice of - Side House Salad | Side Caesar Salad | Cup of Soup

Spaghetti - Served in marinara with choice of: meat sauce, meatballs (2), sausage, or mushrooms.

Ravioli- 3 cheese stuffed noodles in creamy alfredo sauce.

Lasagna - Classic lasagna layered with ground beef, ricotta cheese, noodles, and marinara.

Baked Ziti - Penne pasta tossed with marinara, ricotta cheese, and baked to perfection.

Penne Ala Vodka - Penne pasta in a creamy pink vodka sauce.

ITALIAN CHICKEN DISHES \$14.95

Served with choice of - Side House Salad | Side Caesar Salad | Cup of Soup

Chicken Picatta - Sautéed with garlic, capers, lemon, butter, and wine. Served over a bed of noodles.

Chicken Fettuccine Alfredo - Creamy alfredo sauce tossed with fettuccine noodles and grilled chicken.

Chicken Cremora Mushroom - Grilled chicken sautéed with mushrooms in an alfredo sauce.

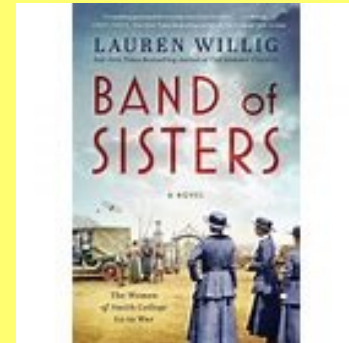
Chicken Parmigiana - Served with Pasta

Eggplant Parmigiana - Served with Pasta

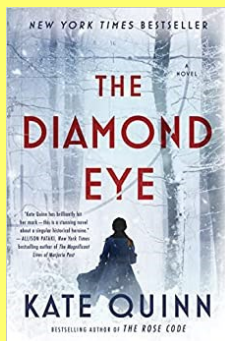
NOTE: These are offerings and prices from the restaurant website on 11/29/2022. Newsletter publisher has no way to know if either will change by when we meet in late January.

In 2022 and 2023 Won't you review a book with me?

No meeting
in December



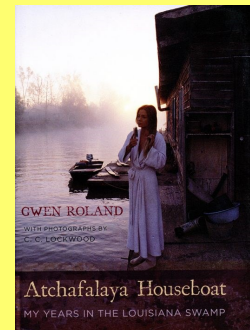
January 2023



February 2023



March 2023

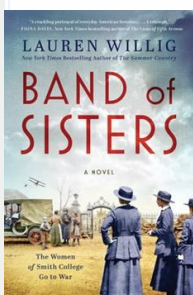


April 2023

In 2022 and 2023 Won't you review a book with me?

Book Group will not meet in December.

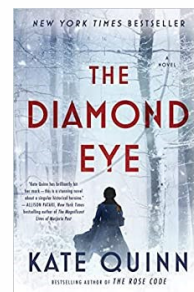
We meet on the second Wednesday of the month via zoom at 7:00 p.m. All members are invited to attend whether you have read the book or not. Drop in To receive regular notices including the zoom link, contact Melanie Hanley. You will be welcomed. No commitment is required.



“**Band of Sisters** by Lauren Willig is an absorbing, stirring tale set in German-Occupied France during WWI that follows seventeen young American women from Smith College as they embark on a mission that doesn't quite go as smoothly as planned, to befriend and use their own unique skillsets to provide relief, food, medical care, and education to the villagers whose lives have been decimated by war.”
Carolyn Stutts will be the reviewer.

The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn

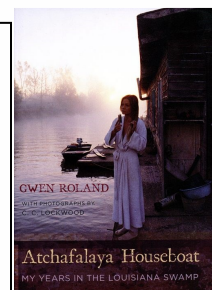
The bestselling author of *The Rose Code* returns with an unforgettable World War II tale of a quiet bookworm who becomes history's deadliest female sniper. Based on a true story. The reviewer will be Margot Kiehfuss.



Take My Hand is an unforgettable story inspired by true events of the Relf sisters. The novel is told in two timelines by Civil Townsend in 1963 and 2016. Civil is a new nurse and works at the Montgomery Family Planning Clinic. After a nurse quit, Civil was assigned to **the** Williams sisters aged thirteen and eleven. June Klimash will be the reviewer.

Atchafalaya Houseboat: My Years in the Atchafalaya Swamp

In the early 1970s, two idealistic young people -- Gwen Carpenter Roland and Calvin Voisin -- decided to leave civilization and re-create the vanished simple life of their great-grandparents in the heart of Louisiana's million-acre Atchafalaya River Basin Swamp. Catherine Roundtree will review this locally set book.



Gourmet Goings on on the Horizon

December 10: Christmas with the Baldwins, Pam and Greg Baldwin with Cathy Roundtree

January 28: Italian at the home of Margot Kiehfuss

February 17th- Southdowns Mardi Gras Parade and Potluck to share at the home of JiJi and Larry Jonas

March 11:Greek hosted by Carolyn and Charles Stutts and Ann Sperry

April 16: Theme to be announced hosted by Judy and Chuck Nielson

May---Date and Time to be Determined; Theme to be announced by hosts Lorraine and Donal Day

Note: When members entertain in their homes, recipes for the themed meal will be provided to participants so that each may contribute dishes. At restaurant meetings, bring your appetite and your wallet.



The Gourmet Group enjoyed a meal at the Cocha Restaurant in October. Pictured, l. to r., are Charles Stutts, Carolyn Stutts, Margot Kiehfuss, Catherine Roundtree, Ann Sperry, JiJi Jonas, and Larry Jonas.

Gourmet in November



Gourmet Group met at the home of JiJi and Larry Jonas in November, and the theme was “The King Is in the House” along with ‘50’s food.

Attending, L. to R., are Larry Jonas, Tom Moore, Lorraine Day, Ann Sperry, JiJi Jonas, Margaret Moore, Carolyn Stutts, Pam Baldwin, and Donal Day. Not pictured were Charles Stutts and Chuck Nielson.

Elvis is on the television screen!

Great Decisions
Global Current Events Discussion
Informed by Information from the Foreign Policy

There will be no Great Decisions meeting in December.

January 17, 2023 Will the Quad countries be able to contain China's power reach?

As part of the U.S. pivot to Asia, the **United States** has been in dialogue with **Japan, Australia,** and **India** in an effort to contain China. Recently, the Quad countries held joint naval exercises in the South Pacific. How effective will the actions of this alliance be?

New booklets from the Foreign Policy Association will arrive in January. Participants will meet to plan the calendar for the year 2023.

February 21, 2023 Monthly meetings on new topics will begin.



Insights Going Forward

Insights will not meet in December.

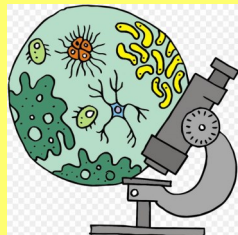
Insights, formerly Campus Study, return to in-person luncheon gatherings in 2023. Hooray!

Thursday, January 26, AAUW Baton Rouge Eleanor Earle Scholarship recipient **Vanessa Van Heerden** will share her research on Coastal Science Communication. We will meet at La Contea Restaurant.

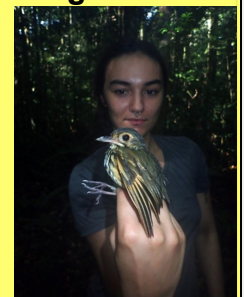


Currently, no meeting is planned in February, but a speaker may be booked by that time so stay tuned!

Thursday, March 23, AAUW Baton Rouge Eleanor Earle Scholarship recipient **Elaine Nkwocha** will share her research on Biofilm Regulation and Antibacterial Resistance, also at La Contea.



Thursday, April 27, AAUW Baton Rouge Eleanor Earle Scholarship recipient **Patty Rodrigues** will share her research on Wildlife Ecology.



No meeting is planned in February, but a speaker may be booked by that time.

American Association of University Women

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@

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



Do you know a woman who is doing advanced graduate studies? AAUW, the American Association of University Women, made 320 financial awards worth \$6 million in 2022-2023. Applications for 2023-2024 opened August 1. The application period will close at staggered times in November.

AAUW American Fellowships support women scholars who are pursuing full-time study to complete dissertations, conducting postdoctoral research full time, or preparing research for publication for eight consecutive weeks. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Candidates are evaluated on the basis of scholarly excellence; quality and originality of project design; and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions, or fields of research. Awards range from **\$8,000 to \$50,000**. Application period closes **November 1**.

Career Development Grants provide funding to women who hold a bachelor's degree and are preparing to advance or change careers or re-enter the workforce in education; health and medical sciences; science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM); or social sciences. Primary consideration is given to women of color and women pursuing their first advanced degree or credentials in nontraditional fields. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents whose last degree was received before June 30, 2015. Funds are available for tuition, fees, books, supplies, local transportation and dependent care. Awards range from **\$2,000 to \$20,000**. Application period closes **November 15**.

Community Action Grants provide funding to individuals, AAUW branches and AAUW state organizations as well as community-based nonprofits for innovative programs that promote education and equity for women and girls. Since 1972, AAUW has provided support to hundreds of communities across the United States. Awards range from **\$3,000 to \$10,000**. Application period closes **December 1**.

International Fellowships provide support for women pursuing full-time graduate or postdoctoral study in the United States to women who are not U.S. citizens or permanent residents, and who intend to return to their home country to pursue a professional career. A limited number of awards are available for study outside of the U.S. (excluding the applicant's home country) to women who are members of Graduate Women International. Both graduate and postgraduate studies at accredited U.S. institutions are supported. Applicants must have earned the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor's degree by the application deadline and must have applied to their proposed institutions of study by the time of the application. Recipients are selected for academic achievement and demonstrated commitment to women and girls. Awards range from **\$20,000 to \$50,000**. Application period closes **November 15**.

International Project Grants: To create lasting support around the globe, AAUW awards grants to International Fellowship alumnae who have returned home after successfully completing the course of study for which they received funding. These grants allow alumnae to build on their academic work and implement community-based projects that will improve the lives of women and girls. Awards range from **\$5,000 to \$7,000**. Application period closes **November 1**.

Research Publication Grants in Engineering, Medicine, and Science are open to women scholars conducting basic research in engineering, medicine or the physical or biological sciences and who have a doctorate degree in one of those fields. The grantee must publish their research in a scholarly publication and be listed as a primary author. Awards range from **\$10,000 to \$35,000**. Application period closes **December 1**.

Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded to women who intend to pursue a full-time course of study at accredited U.S. institutions during the fellowship year in one of the designated degree programs where women's participation traditionally has been low. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Selected Professions Fellowships are awarded for the following master's programs: **Architecture, Computer/Information Services, Engineering, and Mathematics/Statistics**. Fellowships in the following degree programs are restricted to women of color, who have been underrepresented in these fields: **Master's in Business Administration, Law, and Doctorate in Medicine**. Award amount is **\$20,000**. Application period closes **December 1**.

Details at: aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/

Saturday, December 10 Gourmet

December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Happy Birthday to Susan Smolinsky	10 Gourmet
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Happy Birthday to Melanie Hanley	21	22	23	24
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31

Wednesday, January 11 Book Group
 Saturday, January 14 Holiday Happening
 Tuesday, January 17 Great Decisions
 Wednesday, January 18 Board Meeting
 Thursday, January 26 Insights
 Saturday, January 28 Gourmet

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Happy Birthday to Jiji Jonas & Julie Sukkar	11 Book Group	12	13	14 Holiday Happening
15	16	17 Great Decisions	18 Board Meeting	19	20 Happy Birthday to Aileen Hendricks 	21
22	23	24	25	26 Insights	27	28 Gourmet
29	30	31				