

THE MONTHLY MONITOR

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF AAUW ST. CLOUD (MN) AREA



Memo from Mahogany BY MAHOGANY MORRISON, BRANCH PRESIDENT

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Happy May Day everyone! Last night watching the News, the meteorologist made a funny joke as follows: "If April showers bring Mayflowers, what do Mayflowers bring?".....Pilgrims! I thought this was hilarious, but then you would have to know that I am somewhat nerdy and have a "different" sense of humor than most! J But I am EXCITED about May, the changing weather, and looking forward to launching several new branch initiatives in the upcoming Months.

Last week, I was at the Paramount Center for Performing Arts where we co-sponsored the High School Art Exhibit Competition again this year. The art was absolutely "stunning" and I had the great privilege and honor to represent our group in awarding the winners of the 2-D and 3-D art categories (more on this event later in this publication.) I shared the following summary of events with the community regarding our activities for the near future:

At the end of this month, for the first time, our branch will be sending a group of BIPOC Women (Black/Indigenous/ Person of Color) to the BWCA for an Outdoor Wilderness Excursion. Many of these student members have never fished, can't swim, never boated, went hiking, or enjoyed sitting around a campfire – many things we may take for granted.

More of the Memo!

In June, we are sending a group of SCSU student members to Washington D.C., to join SCSU President Dr. Robynn Wacker for a 1-week Leadership Program. In July, we will launch our inaugural “Teach a Girl to Lead” one-day workshop for 5-th – 8th grade students in our community. This program was created by Rutgers University and we have adapted it to be taught by our College and University student members to continue mentoring them and providing opportunities for them to develop their leadership and presentation skills.

Come out, support our branch, and find out what else we’re up to!

NEXT GENERAL BOARD MEETING: May 18 @ 6-8 p.m.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!



Lateefat Omolara Faluse

Graduate Student at SCSU

**College Counseling &
Student Development**

May is Mental Health Awareness Month

Excerpt from goodgoodgood.co

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! This national month of awareness and action has been recognized since 1949, as mental health activists and practitioners across the country work to spread the word that mental health is something everyone should care about.

With events, screenings, activities, and more, Mental Health Awareness Month is a catalyst for us to learn more, seek help, offer support, and open our hearts and minds to vulnerable conversations.

2023 JURIED ART EXHIBITION

AAUW had the pleasure of being a sponsor at the 2023 High School Juried Art Exhibition on Friday, April 28, at The Paramount, an experience that showcased student work from across Central MN.



Lots of great food and sorbet floats!



The AAUW information table



President Mahogany with our 2-D winner, Alix Neuenfeldt, and Michelle Kiley, Paramount Curator

Comments from the judges...

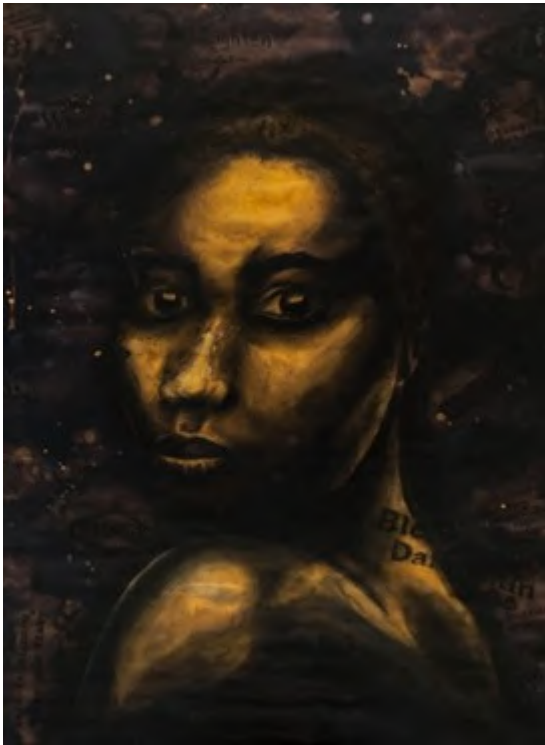
"I was so excited to see so many wonderful pieces of art displayed at the Historic Paramount! In addition to composition, creativity, and problem solving through art, it was the artist statements that helped us in our selection." - Kathryn Gainey

"You might be surprised by the selection of a dress by an AAUW judge, but 'it is not the dress itself but what it represents.'" - Mary Lou Lenz

"The dress is inspired by 'armor and the power to strive towards one's goals.' Ms Barnett is so creative!" - Bobbie McMonagle

"Beauty and the Bleached is a strong, compelling portrait which incorporates dramatic tonal contrasts and background text to illustrate the artist's theme of imposed standards of beauty." - Lynn Metcalf

AND THE WINNERS ARE...



Alix Neuenfeldt
Grade Level 12
Elk River High School

Title of Artwork:
Beauty and the Bleached

Medium Used: Charcoal
(pencil & powder), Bleach

ARTIST STATEMENT: This work is part of a larger inquiry that examines the painful beauty standards society has placed upon women. From a young age, I have fallen victim to different beauty standards that have negatively affected how I perceive myself. Through my art, I want to convey that desire to “fit in” by using extreme beauty practices to represent how other women have fallen victim as well. This piece portrays skin bleaching in an attempt to lighten one’s skin. I took a literal approach by using actual bleach for the highlights of the figure. I did many tests with different papers and bleaches in order to achieve this specific look. I placed the bleach on the final paper first, then went in with different types of charcoal for the shadows. A struggle I came across when creating this piece is the mixing of charcoal and bleach. I had to let each layer of bleach completely dry before drawing on charcoal, if they mixed then the color/texture would be irreversible. Additionally, when using bleach I was unaware of the exact shade the bleach would dry to. In the end, the inconsistent tone of the bleach added to the literal sense of the mysteries of skin bleaching. There are many aspects to this piece that might not be seen at first glance. The background includes side effects of skin bleaching, warning labels, toxic symbols and the Clorox bleach logo. All of the background treatment helps to tell the story along with the desperate look conveyed on the subject’s face.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...



Catrielle Barnett
Grade Level 12
Perpich Center for Arts
Education

Title of Artwork:
Breaking the Record

Medium Used: Fiber,
Pleather, Stir Sticks,
Vinyl

ARTIST STATEMENT: Breaking the Record (Vinyl Record and Stir Sticks) was created to celebrate overcoming obstacles. This look is comprised of two separates, a black pleather sleeveless top and a Saori woven skirt. Each separate was pattern drafted before construction. The top was created using embellishments of vinyl record slices and stir-sticks cut in half. I selected vinyl and stir sticks because I wanted objects that would reach out to the viewer. Also, to help illustrate the concept of our emotions and uncertainty of overcoming challenges. I hand-wove the skirt fabric because I wanted to show that it takes time and effort to tackle obstacles.

This weaving was created using naturally dyed alpaca and cotton yarn. The hot pink fiber was used to highlight small triumphs within the process of achievement. There are endless defeats and victories in life. This outfit was inspired by armor and the power to strive toward one's goals.

NEWS FROM AAUW BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Mary Harlander-Locke

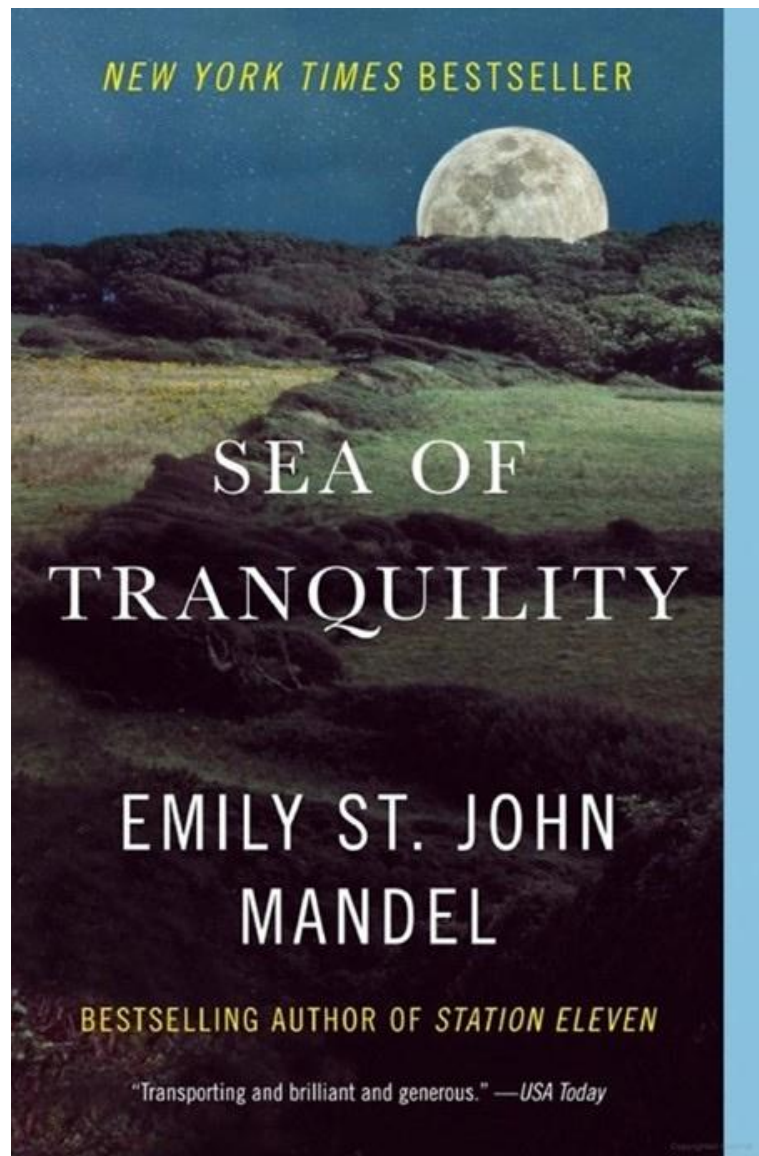
The AAUW Thursday night book group read *Sea of Tranquility* by Emily St. John Mandel for their April book. Linda Nistler-Schnabel hosted the book club with a feast of charcuterie, wine and sweet treats

Synopsis of the book: *The Sea of Tranquility* follows a time traveler and the people he encounters from the 1900's to the 2400's.

Barb Wismer: I loved the last line of the book: "I've been thinking a great deal about time and motion lately, about being a still point in the ceaseless rush."

Linda Nistler-Schnabel: "I love this genre. Anything with time travel and shifting timelines is my cup of tea!"

And, if you'd like to join our book club, please contact Mary Harlander-Locke (mhlocke@csbsju.edu). The schedule of books they are reading can be found on the [AAUW Branch website](#).



Travel Club Fun

Anyone interested in starting an AAUW Travel Club? It was discussed at one time, but it never got going. If you are interested, contact Kathryn Gainey at:

Text – 320-293-8483

Email – kagainey@stcloudstte.edu

Upcoming 2023 Events Schedule

- **May:** Monthly Dinner Program (details below)
- **October:** SAVE THE DATE! 2023 AAUW Fundraising Event - more details to come!

May Dinner Event “A Tribute to the Arts and Artists of Central MN”

Wednesday, May 10, 2023, 5:30 p.m.

Atwood Memorial Center, St. Cloud State University

Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Hisham Bravo Groover of the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, Lucia Magney, Executive Director of the St. Cloud Symphony Orchestra, and Bob Johnson, Executive Director of the Paramount Center for the Arts, will be our guests for our tribute to the arts and artists. Also, Membership Appreciation will be led by Membership VP Pat Obstarczyk. Program. VP Jacqueline Ampe coordinates this program.



Hisham Bravo Groover



Lucia Magney



Bob Johnson

Individual biographies can be found as attachments in an email sent April 26, 2023, with the subject line: "AAUW St. Cloud May Dinner Program"

Reservation Deadline: May 3, 2023

Cost: \$25

To reserve your spot, please email aauwsaintcloud@gmail.com with “**Reservation**” in the subject line.