

THE MONTHLY MONITOR

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



Memo from Mahogany BY MAHOGANY MORRISON, BRANCH PRESIDENT

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What a fabulous time we recently had in the BWCA over the Memorial Day weekend! Because of your support we were able to take a group of BIPOC students from SCSU from Congo, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Ghana to experience camping, fishing, hiking, and canoeing for the very first time! A picture is worth a thousand words, and I hope the pictures do justice to illustrate the joy, excitement, and sheer gratitude from each of them! We also made time to briefly visit with AAUW member Bonita Beschoter and her husband in Grand Marais. This was a truly life changing experience and I was humbled and blessed to be the steward of our mission through this initiative.

Shifting gears, at the end of this month we will be sending a group of six SCSU students to Washington D.C. to participate in a President's Leadership Program with SCSU President Dr. Robyn Wacker (also a member of AAUW!)

None of the above would be possible without AAUW and the commitment and support of our members and leadership team to support opportunities like these. Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to lead this amazing organization!

NEXT GENERAL BOARD MEETING: June 29 @ 6-8 p.m.

CELEBRATING PRIDE: JUNE 2023



Upcoming 2023 Events Schedule

- **October 12, 6-9 pm:** 4th Annual Fundraising Event: An Evening of Inspiration and Empowerment! Location: Coyote Moon Grill

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBER!

Name:

Taiwo (Victoria) Ayeyemi

Student Type:

Undergraduate at SCSU

Major:

Community Health



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL BEGINS

Submitted by Patricia Obstarczyk

IMPORTANT: Some Memberships Expire on June 30th!

If that is you, be aware that National has started distributing email reminders about when and how to renew your AAUW membership (does not apply to Student Associates or Graduate Students). During a recent conference call, it was announced that National plans to send three email reminders to a member as they approach their expiration date. In our branch, 60% of our memberships expire on June 30th.

Your membership has been vital in making AAUW the only organization advancing gender equity for more than a century, and I hope you'll continue to build on this legacy by renewing soon!

Here's how:

To pay online: Visit aauw.org or click on this link: [AAUW Login page](#).

- If you have visited the Community Hub before and have already established an account you can log into your Personal Snapshot.
- If you have not, click, Forgot Your Password located below the blue login button at the bottom of the page.
 - Enter your email address of record, then click Reset Your Password to receive a login email from infosf@aauw.org.
 - If you don't receive it in 5-10 minutes, email connect@aauw.org. PLEASE DO NOT CREATE A NEW ACCOUNT.
 - After you receive the login email, enter your email address and "Create and Confirm your Password" to access your Personal Snapshot.
- Once you are in your Personal Snapshot, click RENEW at the bottom of the screen to renew your national, branch and state memberships!
 - Dual members (member of more than one branch) should self-renew ALL memberships at once.
 - College/University representatives whose national membership is covered by the school should email connect@aauw.org to request a special code before renewing.

To pay by check: send your payment to our VP of Membership.

- Make the check payable to AAUW.
- Annual membership is \$108 (\$79 National, \$2 State and \$27 Branch).
- Mail your check to Pat Obstarczyk, 6907 Northwood Lane, St. Cloud, MN 56303.

Thank you for your continuing support and I hope you will take pride in knowing that our work together is making a real difference in the lives of women and girls!

BIPOC BWCA OUTDOOR TRIP

Submitted by Mahogany Morrison



SCSU Students from **Congo, Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Ghana** recently participated in a 4 – day, 3 – night BIPOC BWCA Outdoor Excursion over the Memorial Day Holiday. This event was co-sponsored by the *American Association of University Women* under the leadership of St. Cloud Branch President – Mahogany Morrison.

University co-sponsors included the Office of Equity, Inclusion, and Title IX, University Recreation, Center for International Studies, Multicultural Student Services, and the Office of Strategic Enrollment.



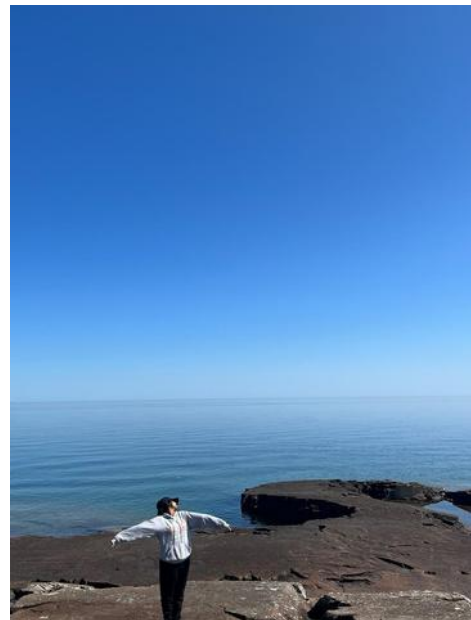
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**PICTURED IN PHOTO TO LEFT
AND MIDDLE LEFT:**

**MEMBER BONITA BESCHOTER
WITH HUSBAND
(BOTH DRESSED IN YELLOW)**

AAUW TRAVEL CLUB

Submitted by Kathryn Gainey

Well, there wasn't a huge response for getting a travel group together. However, we are not giving up! This group could be a venue for sharing recent trips and travel experiences or actually planning some traveling together!!

I would like to share a wonderful "woman owned" travel agency who has planned many trips for me, including two pickleball cruises and several family cruises.



PEGGY HINSCH

GOODHUE, MN, TRAVEL AGENT

**GROUP TRIP DESIGNERS,
AN INDEPENDENT AGENT**

Peggy started out as a flight attendant, taught in a travel academy, and eventually starting her own travel business out of her home. Her expertise is group travel. Perhaps she could speak to our travel group about planning safe group trips with friends, family, church members, or maybe even AAUW members!

If you love to travel and have stories to share, contact Kathryn Gainey at kagainy@stcloudstate.edu or 320-293-8483 (texting available).

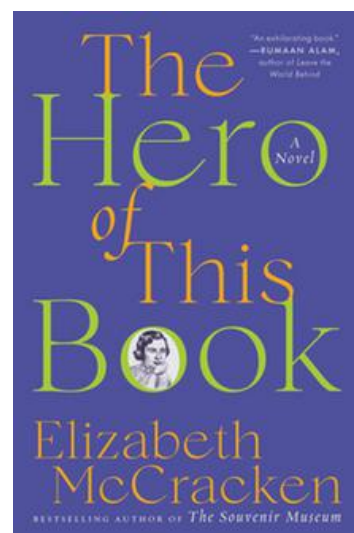
NEWS FROM AAUW BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Suzanne Rodell

Barb Wismer hosted Kathryn, Linda, Mary, Laura, and Suzanne on May 25th in her home filled with color and personal memorabilia. She graciously gave us a tour of her home designed with unique architectural touches.

“The Hero of This Book” by Elizabeth McCracken:

This book, “is a novel, but not quite.” It is also a memoir about the author’s mother, so, part memoir and part fiction because the author “wanted to make up some stuff.” It is also about the art of writing a memoir. A novel as an eulogy.



The author, in mourning after her mother had died, revisits London to reminisce about a 2016 trip with her mother where they had an exceptionally good time. The descriptions of her mother’s personality and determination to overcome her physical disabilities add humor and poignancy to this memoir. Her mother was not quite 5ft. tall, walked with a cane, Jewish, born in Iowa, had a PhD from the U of WI. and both she and her husband were on the staff of Boston, U.. She was a feisty and independent woman despite her disability related to cerebral palsy. “She was a complex woman who didn’t approve of Barbie dolls, bagels cut in half, tutus on small girls, or Young Adult fiction” She loved clothes and shoes, and would take a frozen chicken leg to work for lunch in her purse.



R to L: Barb Wismer, Linda Nistler-Schnabel and Mary Harlander -Lock

(Not in the photo, but in attendance: Kathryn Gainey and Suzanne Rodell)

Book Club Comments

Barb: I had a hard time getting into this book. I was a bit put off by some of the elements, and realized I did not understand a lot of what the author was trying to tell us. After our discussion, I had to rethink my review. I realized that the book had a lot of wisdom to share. If not for our book club discussion, I would have missed that. So I'm very grateful.

Suzanne: We decided to read and discuss this book in May in recognition of Mother's Day. A quote from the author, that the book "evokes how we feel about our mothers, that they are just there, and always there until the moment we realize they are separate human beings, who made mistakes and had faults" was personal for me.

MAY DINNER PROGRAM IN PICTURES A Dedication to the Arts in St. Cloud

