

THE MONTHLY MONITOR

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



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Memo from Mahogany

BY MAHOGANY MORRISON, BRANCH PRESIDENT

Hello everyone – I hope your summer was filled with numerous memorable activities and that you are ready to transition to Fall and “back to School!”

This is year three (3) for me in the Doc program here at SCSU and I am excited to continue chipping away at the few final semesters of “classroom learning” I must complete before solely embarking upon the research and writing portion of my degree...this is actually the perfect segue to introduce, or rather, “re”-introduce that I am looking to hear from members who are interested in becoming a “mentor” to a student affiliate member who you can partner with to coach and/or mentor as a part of our mission, vision, and organizational values.

(More of the Memo...)

Our student membership is growing and we will have several opportunities for member mentors and student member mentees to connect in our upcoming programmatic calendar of events. If this sounds appealing to you, please email me @ mmorrison1@stcloudstate.edu

As we shift and begin to prepare for our courses to resume on both campuses and within our communities, think about someone who might not have everything they need for school whether it be a backpack, school supplies, or other necessity you may have observed or wonder about. Reach out if you can and do what you can, when you can. Maybe someone did it for you along your way. ***I certainly know many did this for me.*** Setting the tone for a successful semester and/or school year is fundamentally integral for promoting student success on any academic level. As members of AAUW, education is one of the pillars of our organization.



I have shared updates of our last *Community Collaborative Youth Event* to Wisconsin Dells (please see more details later in this publication.) I want to thank the members of the Executive Board for passing this unscheduled program/event/initiative forward in a very hasty electronic vote. Sometimes opportunities do not last for very long or don't remain available for lengthy timeframes. We act as stewards of our broader membership and hope that you are liking the various programs, event, and initiatives we presented starting last Spring and throughout the upcoming year. A complete schedule of our entire year of programming is provided inside of this communication for your convenience. Your feedback and input is valued and I'd like to hear from you.

Please drop me a line @ mmorrison1@stcloudstate.edu or call or text me @ 612 - 644 - 7705.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you again this Fall!

Wisconsin Dells Youth Group Trip Planting “seeds” for future Huskies within our Black Youth Community

Content submitted by Mahogany Morrison

On July 26th, 2023, SCSU hosted a group of 22 black youth from the St. Cloud community. These potential “future Huskies,” ranged from elementary to high school, and were participants in youth programming from either D-Blake Center, United Way of Central Minnesota, or other similar community organizations offering positive learning and recreational activities for area youth. The students attended a mandatory on-campus workshop prior to traveling to Wisconsin Dells the upcoming weekend for an immersive 2-day teambuilding, experiential learning, and outdoor recreational trip including a visit to Ripley’s Believe It or Not, Wisconsin Duck & Boat Tours, Wizard Quest, and Noah’s Ark Water Park.



The event was a community collaboration between AAUW, SCSU, D-Blake Center, and United Way of Central Minnesota to offer these youth an incredible and memorable activity during summer break boosting their sense pride and well-being while broadening their life experience. The students, aged 6 to 21 years old, were from

marginalized and low-income families with backgrounds ranging from broken homes, problematic pasts, and families who lost a loved one during COVID. Many of these students had no realistic aspiration or resources for college.

These community youth experienced a ½ day campus workshop in attendance with their parents, to discuss a path to college and higher education including available SCSU programming, resources, and supports promoting student success for our students of color. Provost Zink opened the workshop by sharing Universities are “dream factories,” and “it is our responsibility to help students achieve their dreams.” The workshop was facilitated by Mahogany Morrison, Communications and Administrative Manager in Research and Graduate Studies.



Workshop presenters included School of Health & Wellness Professions Dean, Dr. Shonda Craft, VP of the Office of Institutional Equity & Access, Chocoletta Simpson, Assistant Director of International Recruitment and Admissions, Jarreth Martina, and Associate Director of Undergraduate Transfers & Admissions, Brittney Kwallek. Each presenter shared their personal trajectory leading to a college education, as well as fielding questions and providing attendees with business cards.



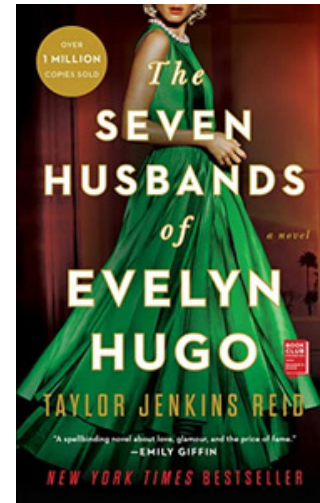
when we bring outside groups into AS 114 or conduct similar recruitment activities. The only difference with this group is that we are intentionally connecting these special guests with our BIPOC administrators and staff to create a more visible message that “College IS accessible to you!”

Morrison stated, “Many of the parents and high school students attending this workshop had never heard of “Huskies in the High School,” or the PSEO programs we offer, which is why these types of events and community engagement are so critical. I wanted these students and parents to feel the same “HUSKY” energy and excitement exhibited

AAUW BOOK CLUB: JUNE MEETING

Submitted by Kathryn Gainey

The New York Times bestseller, *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* (Taylor Jenkins Reid), tells the story of a glamorous movie star. As you read this novel you can't help but think of other screen stars such as Katherine Hepburn, Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor and others. As with many great books our book club has read, this story is in the process of becoming a movie to be released on Netflix.



Linda Nistler-Schnabel was captured by a quote in the book:

“Sometimes reality comes crashing down on you. Other times reality simply waits, patiently, for you to run out of the energy it takes to deny it.”

Mary Harlander-Locke:

“I thought Taylor Jenkins Reid did extensive research into the lives of various Hollywood types and describes their needs, vulnerabilities, and desires (such as love and fame) in a very personal approach. Stars such as Evelyn Hugo strive for their careers while trying to balance their personal lives, which often is very messy. It’s a good read and I would read more from Reid!”

Barb Wismer:

“I expected a gossipy, fun beach book, but instead, we got ruminations on a hard life, a hard career, and the wide variations of love that are available to all of us as human beings. The book was much more complex, enjoyable, and had more depth than I ever anticipated. Highly recommend!”

All AAUW member are welcome to join us for our monthly discussions.

Reading the book is not necessary, but it helps for the discussion!

A lively discussion was held in the home of Kathryn Gainey...see the next page for pictures!

Scenes from AAUW Book Club

Submitted by Kathryn Gainey



SEPTEMBER DINNER PROGRAM

Information provided by Barbara Wismer

Chief of Police Jeffrey Oxton

Human Trafficking, Cop Houses

Atwood Center, SCSU

September 12, 2023, 5:30-9 p.m.

Our **RESERVATION SYSTEM** is in place and working well for all. **Please remember to use it this year as you save your place at our monthly programs.**

Send an email to our Branch gmail address: aauwsaintcloud@gmail.com. **The subject line must only be: Reservations.**

Reservations

aauwsaintcloud@gmail.com

Reservations

Please reserve my place for the program of 12-13-22.

I'm a member and I require a Vegetarian meal. Thanks!

Please give us your status (member, student, guest) and meal preferences if you need a Vegetarian or Gluten-free meal. You will receive an automatic reply confirming your reservation. (NOTE: If you do not receive the automated reply, please check the email address and/or your subject line.)

REMEMBER: The reservation deadline is seven days **BEFORE** the event. We must pay for every meal we reserve.

The deadline for the September program is **SEPTEMBER 5, 2023.**

AAUW ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Submitted by Barbara Wismer

We hope you will join us for **An Evening of Inspiration and Empowerment** on Thursday, October 12th at the Coyote Moon Grille from 6-9 pm. While we are still working on some of the smaller details yet, we assure you this is an event you will not want to miss. Your ticket includes admission into the annual fundraiser event, a delicious buffet style meal from your choice of three different meats, light entertainment (*will be announced and revealed at a later date*), live raffle auction and announcement of winners, short program with members and program attendees to share purpose and experience with AAUW updates and goals/plans for the next year ahead and more. Be sure to invite your family, friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Event Details:

When: Thursday, October 12 2023

Time: 6:00-9:00pm CST

Where: Coyote Moon Grille

480 55th Ave SE, St. Cloud, MN

Theme: Masquerade

Sneak Peak at some of this years Raffle Prizes:

Up North Weekend Getaway - Donated by AAUW Member Jan Benson

Endless August LLC - Gift Card

Fairy Garden - Donated by AAUW Member Leah Stanek

Backwards Bread Co. - Gift Card

And more...We can't give it all away quite yet, we have to leave some suspense!

Anyone who orders their ticket before **August 31st** will be entered to win TWO free raffle tickets for this years raffle auction. If more than 40 tickets are purchased before August 31st, we will draw for TWO lucky winners to win TWO free raffle tickets for this years raffle auction. Winner(s) will be announced at the September program.

DON'T MISS OUT - RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Submitted by Pat Obstarczyk

Summer is short and full of fun activities that keep us busy with friends and family! If your membership expired on June 30th, you still have time to renew before the September 12th meeting. Won't you take a few minutes to renew your membership in the St. Cloud Area branch? I know you won't want to miss our kick-off program with John Oxton, Chief of Police for St. Cloud!

Renewing your membership is easy - for fiscal year, 2023-2024 the dues are **\$72 National + \$9 State + \$27 Branch for a total of \$108. You have two options for renewing:**

1. **Pay by check:** Make payment to AAUW St. Cloud. Feel free to use the stamped, address envelope that Pat Obstarczyk sent to you in June. If you misplaced that, then mail the check to:

Pat Obstarczyk, AAUW VP-Membership
6907 Northwood Lane
St. Cloud, MN 56303

OR

2. **Renew on-line by credit card:** Log in at AAUW.org and follow the instructions in the *User Guide* that Pat sent out in June.

If you have questions or need assistance, feel free to contact Pat Obstarczyk, VP Membership via phone or text at (320) 333-2552 or email at paobstar@yahoo.com.

Thanks for your attention to this matter and we appreciate all that you do to help us meet the challenges today's women!