

March 1, 2024

THE MONTHLY MONITOR

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



Saint Cloud Area (MN) Branch *Memo From The Board* BY AAUW BOARD

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We had a fabulous Tech Savvy event at SCSU on February 24. The attending middle school girls were all excited, the Professors holding workshops had a good time with such enthusiastic audiences, and the SCSU Student and AAUW volunteers enjoyed ourselves also. Consider volunteering to assist with next year's event!

We are all looking forward to the AAUW State Annual Meeting in Hastings, MN on April 26-27. Hoping you can join us at that event.

But, in case you're staying in St. Cloud that weekend, the Paramount High School Arts event (which we sponsor), is holding their Awards Ceremony on April 26th. Our Branch not only sponsors this competition, we fund two awards. The gallery opens on April 2, and we hope you'll be able to stop by the Paramount and look at the results from all the talented young artists who are participating in the event. We thank Kathryn Gainey for chairing this event for our Branch.

We are also pleased to announce that your Board voted to fund four grants in our yearly Scholarships for Young Leaders project. We will be awarding four scholarships of \$875.00 each to two students from SCSU and two from CSB. Christine Lepkowski from SCSU and Whitney Court from CSB are administering this program.

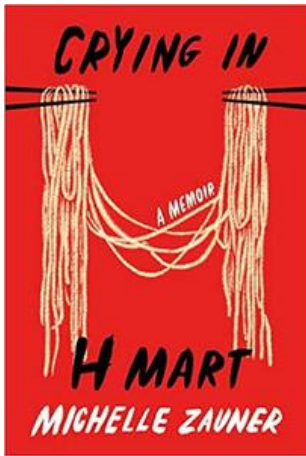
We have formed an Executive Search Committee to find and train new Board members for our 2024-2025 Board. Thanks to Pat Obstarczyk, Kathryn Gainey, and Barb Wismer for performing this service to our Branch. Please note that most positions are open, and job descriptions can be found on our website <https://stcloud-mn.aauw.net/>. Please volunteer to help ensure that your Branch continues to function and fund our programs for the community.

The nominating committee will be presenting our nominees at the May 2024 Program Meeting, at which meeting voting will occur. Please note that this will be a LUNCHEON meeting, on our regular second Tuesday of the month (May 14) from 11:30-1:00 pm. We're having picnic food, and that will be fun. It's our last program of the season, so please be sure to book your reservation and attend.

As always, if you have any suggestions regarding programs, committees, activities, or anything else regarding our Branch, please feel free to contact any of your Board members. We're here for you, and for AAUW!

March 1, 2024

NEWS FROM AAUW BOOK CLUBS



The Thursday AAUW Book Club meets next on Thursday, March 28 @ 6:30 p.m., to discuss "Crying in H Mart" by Michelle Zauner – lead by Linda N-S.

AAUW members can contact Mary Harlander-Locke for the Zoom link.

Submitted by Kathryn Gainey

If you'd like to join our book club, please contact Mary Harlander-Locke (mary.harlanderlocke@gmail.com). The schedule of books they are reading can be found on the AAUW Branch website.

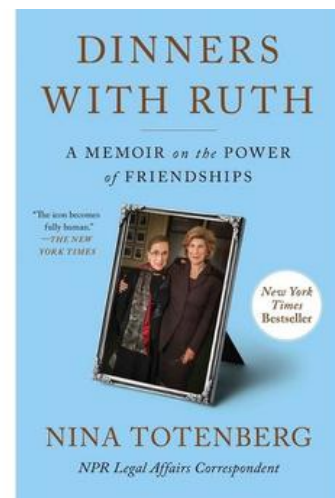
"Love this group!! Such an amazing group of women!! ❤️❤️❤️" – Linda N S

"I truly adore you all. It's so wonderful to dig deep and have such meaningful conversations - it really means a lot to me that we share". – Barb

On Wednesday, March 6, at 1:00pm, the AAUW Wednesday Book Club will meet to discuss "Dinners With Ruth: a Memoir on the Power of Friendship" by Nina Totenberg followed with dessert and discussion. Connie Crane is presenter; hostess Bonita Benschoter. Location: Mary Lou's home, St. Cloud, MN. If you are new, call Molly Ewing for more information, 320-252-2166.

Hope to see you there!

Submitted by Mary Lou Lenz



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Upcoming 2024 Events Schedule

March Program

Tuesday, March 12, 5:30p.m.

Alumni Room, SCSU Atwood

Tracy Hodel, pictured on right, will talk about wastewater purification in St. Cloud and surrounding cities, including how wastewater was used to track the spread of COVID. Tracy Hodel is the Public Services Director for the City of St. Cloud. She has been serving the residents and customers of the City of St. Cloud for over 23 years in various roles. Ms. Hodel received her bachelors degree in Aquatic Biology from St. Cloud State University. She has a passion for providing innovative, high quality, cost-effective services through big and bold actions. She leads the nationally and globally recognized City's energy and sustainability efforts

The deadline for reservation is March 5th.

Cost is \$20 for national members and \$10 for student members.



HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION...

Email: aausaintcloud@gmail.com

Subject Line: Reservations

Email Body/Message: Please reserve [#] places for [Name] for the program on [Date]. I am a [Member, Student or Guest] and I require a [Special Dietary Needs] meal. Thanks!

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Upcoming 2024 Events Schedule

AAUW is a co-sponsor of the annual High School Art Exhibition at the Paramount. Two artworks (one 2D and one 3D) will be selected for a \$250 cash award. If you would like to help make the selection of the AAUW award, please contact Kathryn Gainey.

At the art reception on Friday, April 26th, we will need volunteers to help host the event. Our organization will have an information table for visibility to the community.



Submitted by: Kathryn Gainey



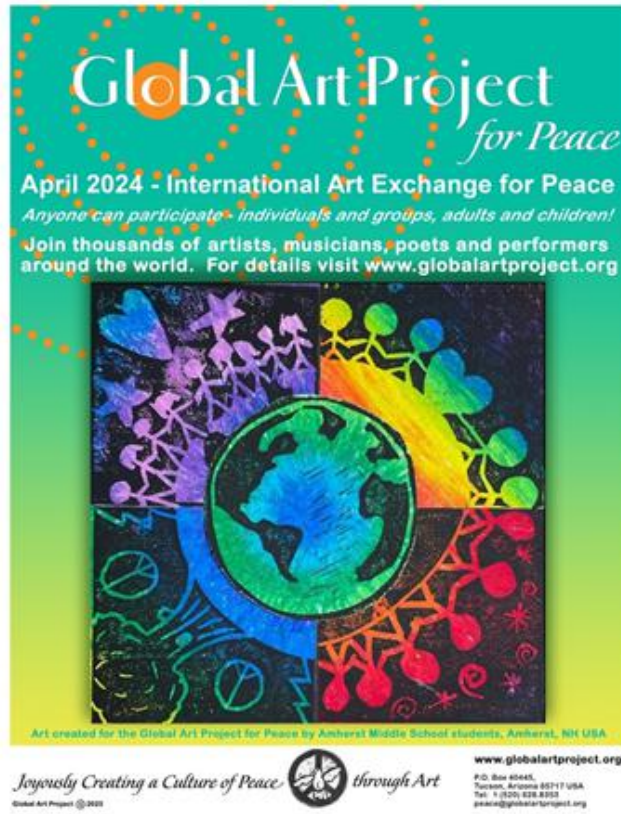
**WE NEED A COUPLE AAUW MEMBERS TO HELP
SELECT OUR AWARD WINNERS THE LAST
WEEK OF MARCH. Contact:
kagaine@stcloudstate .edu**

**At the art reception on Friday, April 26TH.
WE WILL NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SIT AT OUR
AAUW TABLE AND GIVE OUT INFORMATION,
DIRECT GUESTS TO THE GALLERIES, AND
MAKE AAUW VISIBLE.**

Contact:kagaine@stcloudstate.edu

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AAUW In The Community



During the month of March, the SCSU Faculty Wives and Women will have an art display in the lobby of the St. Cloud Public Library.

This display consists of images of PEACE in many mediums including collage, photography, paintings, and quilting.

This International Project occurs every other year. After a month long display, our artwork will be sent to a match that is made for us. We then receive peace art from them.

Several of the artists are current or past member of our AAUW branch.

Submitted by: Kathryn Gainey



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Tech Savvy 2024 Overview

We had another successful Tech Savvy event for the history books. We had around 88 participants, 12 workshops, a record of student participation and volunteers. Shout-out and an abundance of gratitude to the following individuals that participated and served as the Tech Savvy Planning Committee; Jan Benson, Sarah Petitto, Beth Zenzen, Alicia Peterson, Bobbie Lampi, Leah Stanek, Kathryn Gainey, Barb Wismer, Ginny Bisek, Molly O'Hara Ewing, Bonnie Wenkler, Pat Obstarczyk, Brady DeGagne, Linda Nistler-Schnabel, Chris Lepkowski, Andrea Thorstensen, Amy Trombley, Caroline Williams, Suzanne Rodell, Kelti Lorence, Katarina Frank and April Good-VanderLinden. A special thank you to Tech Savvy's Sponsors; St. Cloud State University, College of Saint Benedict & Saint John's University, Blattner Company, Big Oaks Foundation, Granite Partners, J.A. Wedum Foundation, Microbiologics, AMG Promotions & Apparel, Park Industries, and of course our very own AAUW Saint Cloud Area (MN) Branch.



Tech Savvy Volunteers



Lunch was provided to all participants and volunteers



Group Circle



These girls are GLOWING



Learning in the classroom



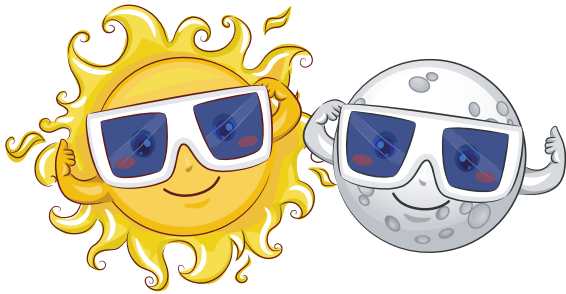
High School Volunteers

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More Tech Savvy Fun...

Here is what Tech Savvy's Presenter of "Tour of the Current Night Sky" workshop shared...

"In our session, visitors were treated to some information about how eclipses occur and how SCSU students are involved with collecting data about our atmosphere during the 2023 and 2024 solar eclipses. They got a chance to hold/pass around the instruments we use in the field, and then - with the help of our awesome student volunteers Alisha and Joe - we all went outside to view sunspots with solar-safe glasses and devices called "Sunspotters." Our session concluded with a tour of the current night sky using the Planetarium's starball projector, with a focus on the constellations, planets, and Moon which are visible from our location in St. Cloud during the evening hours." - **Rachel Humphrey**



Photos are from the Tour of the Current Night Sky Workshop



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News from AAUW State and National



This spring AAUW members will be asked to vote on amendments to the national bylaws recommended by the AAUW Board of Directors and AAUW Governance Committee to open membership by to eliminating the degree requirement for membership in AAUW..

Key Dates for 2024 Vote

- April 3 | Voting opens (online voting is encouraged)
- May 15 | Online voting ends at 12:00 pm ET and results announced online

The board firmly believes that the proposed amendment is in the best interests of AAUW and its future relevance and sustainability as an inclusive and forward-thinking organization committed to advancing equity for women and girls. The board urges a vote in favor of the amendment.

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News from AAUW State and National

SAVE THE DATE

April 26-27, 2024

AAUW MN ANNUAL MEETING

"Confluence = Inclusion, Collaboration, Empowerment"

The Confluence Hotel & Conference Center

Hastings, MN

Keynote speakers presenting the issues of the day alongside
AAUW Mission-based Advocacy.

Register for MN AAUW Annual Meeting using [AAUW-MN-2024-Annual-Meeting-Registration-.pdf](#)

Program Information: [Program-2024-AAUW-Minnesota-Annual-Meeting-1.pdf](#)

Book Your Hotel: Confluence Hotel (651-432-0202): There is no room block. Rooms will be discounted 15%, but you must mention the AAUW State Meeting when booking. Book before March 27 for AAUW discount.

Other Hotels: Nichols Inn (877-324-0295): 2400 Vermillion Street (Hwy 61), Hastings, Minnesota

Country Inn and Suites (855-516-1090): 300 33rd Street W, Hastings, MN

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Did you know that March is Women's History Month???



Did you know??? The AAUW's story begins in 1881, when a small group of female college graduates banded together to open the doors for women's career advancement and to encourage more women to pursue higher education.

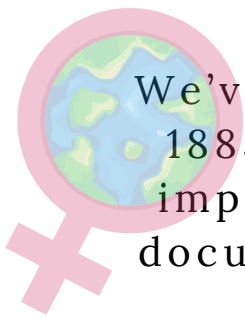
"The history of the American Association of University Women mirrors the progress of women in the United States. As the number of women graduating from college grew, so did our membership.

We've published hundreds of research reports, from an 1885 paper disproving a prevailing myth that college impairs a woman's fertility to, most recently, a study documenting the economic impact of workplace sexual harassment. We have supported the academic achievements of many thousands of scholars, from scientist Marie Curie, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, to astronaut Judith Resnik, the second woman in travel in space.

Our advocacy efforts have propelled countless new laws, including the Equal Pay Act, first proposed in 1945 and finally passed in 1963; the Title IX amendment in 1972; the Family and Medical Leave Act in 1993; the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009; and the Paycheck Fairness Act, which was passed by the U.S. Representatives in 2019 but is awaiting action in the Senate.

We've come a long way, but we still have a long way to go. In many ways, the fight for gender equity is just getting started. Join us!"

- <https://www.aauw.org/about/history/>



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Whats happening with the LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS OF ST. CLOUD AREA???

Important Dates for 2024

Election Year:

Presidential Primary: March 5, 2024

- Early registration deadline: Feb. 13, 2024
- Early/mail-in voting: Jan. 19 - Mar. 4, 2024

State Primaries: August 13, 2024

- Early registration deadline: July 23, 2024
- Early/mail-in voting: June 28 - Aug. 12, 2024

General Election: November 5, 2024

- Early registration deadline: Oct. 15, 2024
- Early/mail-in voting: Sept. 20 - Nov. 4, 2024

Unit Meeting Schedule

March 12, Book Bans

April 10, The Supreme Court

May 8, Community Policing Update

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Meet Your Board Members



VACANT
Branch President



Barb Wismer
VP Finance



Pat Obstarczyk
VP Membership



Jacqueline Ampe
Monthly Programs VP



Laura Hood
Monthly Programs VP



Linda Nistler-Schnabel
Monthly Programs VP



Jamie Swenson
VP Communications



Jan Benson
VP Public Policy



Joanna Pucel
Program Coordinator



Linda Saupe
Monthly Programs VP



Joyce Hummel
Social Chair



Mary Peterson
Social Chair



Caroline Williams
Social Chair



Molly Ewing
Recording Secretary



Mary Wagner
Finance Assistant



Kathryn Gainey
Newsletter Editor



Chris Lepkowski
Start Smart Program
Chair



Jan Benson
Tech Savvy Program
Chair



Whitney Court
CSB Representative



Chris Lepkowski
SCSU Representative



Rene Kaluza
Website Design



Whitney Court
NCCWSL Program
Chair

Want to join the board?

Contact us today!

Empowered
Women
Empower
Women



March 1, 2024

Talent and Strength Survey

**147
Current
Members**



Did you complete the survey???



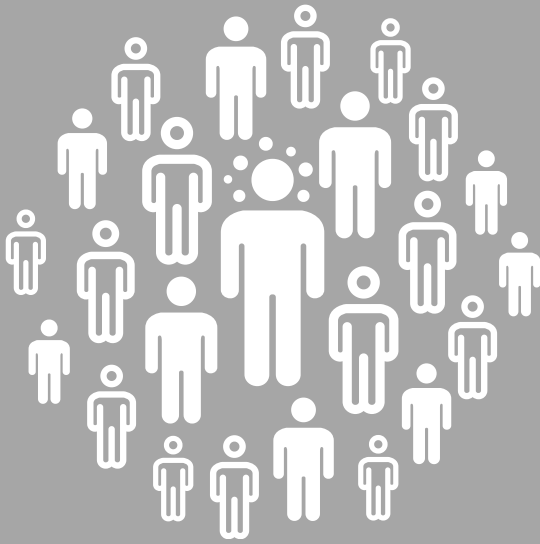
Are you interested in a position on the AAUW
executive board???

Board President
Board Finance VP
Membership VP
Recording Secretary & RS Alternative
Programs VP
Communications VP
SCSU Representative

Contact Barb Wismer today.,

bwismer1040@gmail.com or (616) 206-8677

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Do you have a special announcement or event you would like to share with all the AAUW St. Cloud Area (MN) Branch members?

Want it included in our next Monthly Newsletter???

**SEND YOUR
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
EVENT DETAILS WITH
PHOTOS TO JAMIE SWENSON
JAMIE_2992@YAHOO.COM
BY THE 15TH OF THE MONTH
TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER.**



Disclaimer: There is no guarantee that your information will be shared but we will do our best to get it shared in the following newsletter.