

August 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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Hello all, hope you're having a wonderful summer!

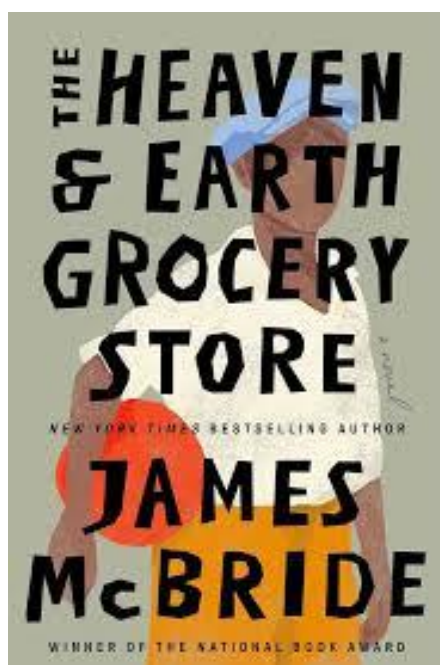
Your Board was off in July; we will resume our planning and oversight activities at the end of August.

In the meantime, we are looking forward to seeing you at our summer gathering on August 28 from 4-6 pm at the Martini Lounge, 11 5th Ave South, St. Cloud. Bring your checkbook! You'll be able to buy fundraiser admission and raffle tickets. NOTE: You'll secure our "early bird" price of \$70 per admission ticket. Raffle tickets are at our regular pricing - \$10 individually, or \$100 for 12 tickets.

See you there!

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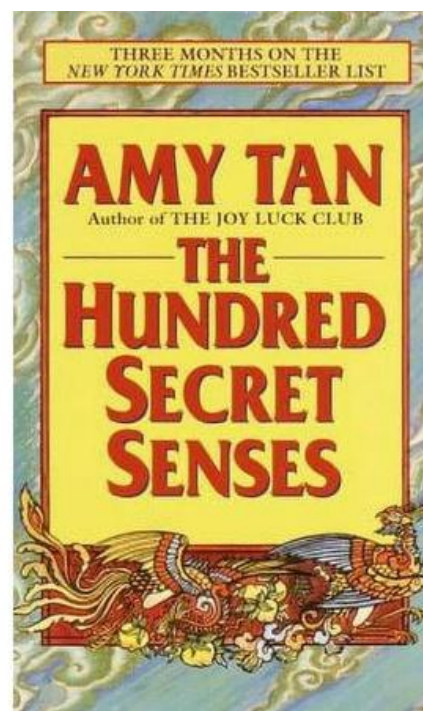
AAUW Book Club



The Thursday AAUW Book Club meets next on Thursday, August 22, @ 6:30 p.m., to discuss “The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride. Lead by Mary J-L AAUW members can contact Mary Harlander-Locke if they are interested in joining.

On Wednesday, September 4, at 12:00pm for a potluck, the AAUW Wednesday Book Club will meet to discuss “*The Hundred Secret Senses*” by Amy Tan. Hosted by Cleone Ashley at her home. If you are new, call Cleone Ashley, 320-255-1397 or Molly Ewing for more information, 320-252-2166.

Hope to see you there!



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2024-2025 Programs



SCSU Program Schedule 2024-2025

Tuesday September 10, 2024 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: Lot “L” across the street
(Ann Fleming) Ralph Carr, President of League of Women Voters
“Combating Misinformation and Disinformation in the Electronic Age”

“Fake news” now pervades our media landscape. False and malicious news spreads much faster on social media than honest evidence based information. Some media outlets and social media platforms deliberately reinforce false information. The rise of AI only exacerbates the problem. If we can’t stop it how can we mitigate its effects? First we need keep abreast of news sources that counter incorrect claims and report real news. Then the hard work begins. We need to act, both individually and collectively, to address the problem. I will share some ideas that I believe are making a difference. Maybe you have some good ideas, too. Let’s connect.

Tuesday November 12, 2024 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: Lot “L” across the street
(Linda Nistler-Schnabel) Elizabeth Bayer and Diane Nelson
Annandale Art and Textile Center
Mark your calendars for ANNANDALE ART AND TEXTILE CENTER

It's a 3 in one deal!!!

--shop for Christmas!

--support an excellent cause!!

--learn about a joyful and creative program in our backyard!!!

Our program will feature Elizabeth Bayer, Executive Director of AATC and Diane Nelson, Master Weaver and coordinator of Heart of the Lakes Weavers. They will share with us the story of their incredible journey to create a place of creativity and artistry for young adults with a variety of learning styles and abilities. Check out their website and Facebook page

<https://www.artandweaving.com/>; <https://www.facebook.com/AnnandaleArtandTextileCenter>

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2024-2025 Programs



SCSU Program Schedule 2024-2025

Tuesday December 10, 2024 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: Lot “L” across the street
(Barb) AAUW Branch Members
“What is it like to live abroad?” Panel Discussion AND
Holiday traditions Cookie Exchange

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live (not just visit) outside the United States? What experiences could you anticipate? How was it for American women in different countries, in different cultures? We’re going to be drawing on the extensive and varied experiences of our own Branch members, and it’s sure to be a fascinating discussion. We’re talking about former Peace Corps volunteers, students studying abroad, and faculty teaching abroad. Learn about what it was like living in the Middle East, China, Colombia, New Zealand and Australia – and more!

PLUS – We’re doing a Christmas cookie exchange. If you want to participate, bring a dozen and take home a dozen. It’s time to celebrate!

Saturday January 18, 2025 8:30 am – 10:30 am Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: Ramp or Pay Lot/L Lot may or may not be free
(Caroline Williams) Matt Glaesman, Community Development Director,
City of St. Cloud
“Community Planning: Initiatives Achieved and New Objectives”

Mark your calendars for a Saturday AAUW breakfast and guaranteed interesting presentation? The City of St. Cloud is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan and 2020 Consolidated Plan which establish the future vision for physical development of the community. These documents address a broad range of land use matters including: land use & development, housing & neighborhoods, economic development, transportation & mobility, community facilities and parks & recreation. The presentation will highlight a number of the 2015 initiatives successfully implemented during the last decade. You’ll also learn about a variety of new objectives, which will be defined and vetted through the community engagement process while the Comprehensive and 2020 Consolidated plans are being updated.

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2024-2025 Programs



SCSU Program Schedule 2024-2025

Saturday February 15, 2025 8:30 am – 10:30 am Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: Ramp or Pay Lot/L Lot may or may not be free
(Laura Hood) Cassandra Miles

“A Dining Table Conversation: How to Launch a Children’s Museum”

Join us in February to hear the Executive Director of the Great River Children’s Museum, Cassandra Miles, share the journey of how a single conversation at a dining room table can launch a movement! Did you know that St. Cloud will soon house the 2nd largest Children’s Museum in the State of Minnesota? This program is sure to uplift your spirits, remind you about the power of conversation, dreams, generosity of community and building a strong foundation for our children. This program is currently scheduled to be held at SCSU but stay tuned for the possibility of having the presentation and AAUW meeting on site at the Great River Children’s Museum opening in 2025!

Tuesday March 11, 2025 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (St. Ben’s)
Gorecki Center, College of St. Benedict
Parking: Free parking across the street from the entrance
(Keshia) Anita Jones

Erosion of Voting Rights & Women’s Rights

Nita Jones is a Family Advocate for the St. Cloud area school district 742, a community organizer, a program coordinator consultant, and a grant writer. As a community organizer, she has registered over 500 voters in the St. Cloud area. She has provided voter education and resources to the community for over eight years. Here are the topics she’ll discuss:

***Why we should vote**

***Why it matters**

***What’s at stake**

***The solution**

Voters and women’s rights are a priority. Our foremothers worked too hard and too long for the right to vote. All women need to understand why women should vote, why voting matters, and what’s at stake for all of us! Now, more than ever, it’s time that we stop allowing others to make decisions for us. It’s time we have a voice in making decisions for ourselves.

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2024-2025 Programs



SCSU Program Schedule 2024-2025

Tuesday April 8, 2025 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking Lot “L” across the street
(Suzanne Rodell) Ellen Heneghan, Charlotte Stephens
Our Region’s Natural Parks and Trails

Learn how the Natural Parks and Trails Coalition, (a local organization you’ve likely never heard of), has had an extraordinary impact on preserving our natural heritage. Our group has worked for three decades to create park land acquisition and trail development. Hear about the challenges and triumphs, and what was learned along the way. With gorgeous photos, you will also learn about stunning nearby natural parks as well as four regional trails.

Tuesday May 13, 2025 11:30 am – 1:30 pm Atwood Memorial Center
Parking: Ramp or Pay Lot
(Barb) Annual Business Meeting plus AAUW National Speaker (Video or Virtual)
“Current Status of AAUW National Lobbying Efforts”

In addition to holding our annual Member Recognition and Business Meeting (including reports from our Financial, Membership, and Public Policy chairwomen), we have requested a speaker (either on Video or Virtually) from AAUW National. We’re hoping to secure an update on National lobbying and advocacy efforts, including what is being promoted, current status and how AAUW National promotes issues in support of our mission.

Backups/Extra:

(Bonita) Dawn Loven, Development Director, Paramount Arts Center
(Jan) for Janell Kendell – Stearns County Judicial Campus
Chris Lepkowski for Start Smart

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HOW TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR A MONTHLY PROGRAM...

Email: aauwsaintcloud@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!

Deadline to make reservations is ONE WEEK from the date of the program.


August 1, 2024

AAUW Summer Gathering

We didn't want to let the summer go by without getting together and sharing our excitement over the upcoming program season and our annual fundraiser. So - let's meet at the Martini Lounge, 11 5TH AVE S, ST CLOUD from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm on Wednesday, August 28th.



They have a space reserved for us so we'll be able to chat and socialize at our ease. Bring your checkbooks! You'll be able to purchase Fundraiser admission with early bird pricing and raffle tickets, too! Have a wonderful summer and we'll see you at the Martini Lounge at the end of August.



August 1, 2024

Annual Fundraiser Event Update

Join us for a

A Toast to Fall

We told you the time and place, now it's time to tell you more about this fabulously exciting gala!

During our cocktail hour and dinner, we'll be serenaded with dinner music by T. J. Stang, a wonderfully-accomplished pianist. Our entertainment will be Janelle Kendall and her Wheelhouse Trio. She's played many venues in our area, including Summertime by George!

Here are some of her other performance dates this summer:

Perfect Storm:

Summertime by George (headliner) Wednesday July 17

St. Mary's Cathedral Block Party (headliner) Saturday Sept. 7

Milk and Honey Concert Series Saturday Sept. 21

Walter's Wheelhouse/Wheelhouse Trio:

Ultimate Sports in Waite Park Friday June 28 (full band)

Paynesville Koronis Concert Series Thursday July 11 (trio)

Summertime by George (opener with special guests) Wednesday August 14
(full band)


Ultimate Sports in Waite Park Thursday August 15 (trio)

Art in Motion (Holdingford) Saturday October 5 (trio)

We are using EventBrite again this year, so you can simply go to the [link](#) and purchase your admission and raffle tickets.

Note: We're doing an "early bird" special again this year. Purchase your admission ticket before August 31 and it will only be \$70!! NOTE: This means if you attend our summer gathering at the Martini Lounge on August 28th and buy your tickets, you'll get the special pricing!

Your Fundraiser committee has also decided to continue the special student pricing this year; students will only need to pay \$10 for both admission and the meal.



August 1, 2024

Annual Fundraiser Event Update

Raffle Prizes

Iranian Dinner for 4 – donated, prepared, and presented at Donna Nordang's home

Ethiopian Dinner for 4 – donated and presented at Donna Nordang's home

Transportation by Barb Wismer to Minneapolis Institute of Art for Spring "Art in Bloom" exhibition

Basket of BestSellers – donated by the AAUW Evening Book Club; includes several recent books as well as a Barnes and Noble gift card

Specially Made Garden Whirligig – donated by Kathryn Gainey, a one-of-a-kind individually crafted beautiful addition for your garden, along with some additional garden art

Special Dining Experience – donated by Ann Fleming

Art Print – donated by Barb Wismer

Pottery Tea Set – donated by Jan Bensen

.....with more raffle prizes to come!

And we will have, once again, our cabin weekend to be auctioned off, courtesy of Jan Bensen.

**Don't forget to buy your
raffle tickets...**

\$10 /each or 12/\$100

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2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients

Once the school year ended, Chris and Whitney went through the packets for the 19 applicants for the Scholarships for Young Women Leaders and made our selections. It was a tough decision, and we had many, very worthy, young women in the pool. We decided to split the allocated \$3500 to 5 different students at \$700 each. Here are our awardees:

SCSU Students:

Roxanna Iradukunda is a rising senior who is majoring in Accounting and minoring in Cybersecurity who will serve as the chapter board president of the Women in Cybersecurity this coming school year.

Garima Shrestha is a rising senior majoring in Information Systems, and served as a project team leader where she lead impactful awareness campaigns and fundraising initiatives focused on alleviating global poverty. She is also fluent in three languages including English, Nepali, and Hindi.

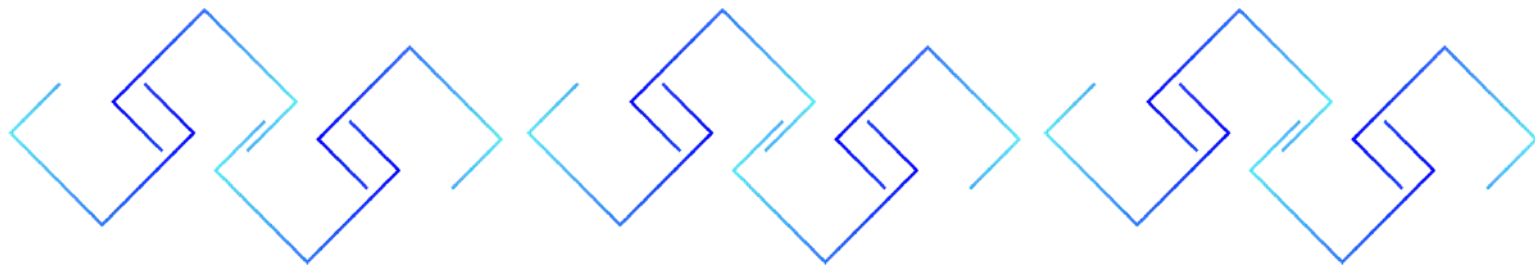
CSB Students:

Cecilia McNair is a rising sophomore majoring in Political Science and minoring in English and Data Analytics. In her first year at CSB, she co-founded the political science club, co-chairs the College Democrats, joined Model UN, and holds jobs both on and off campus.

Ella Jean Martin is a rising senior majoring in Biology with a Public Health minor. Ella is dedicated to inclusivity work at the SJU Outdoor University, through the Bonner Leadership Program, as a Women's Shelter Advocate Intern, and in the various campus organizations she is a part of like the Indigenous Student Association and the Summer Leadership Fellows.

Abby Robinson is a rising sophomore who serves on the CSB Student Senate as the Sustainability Representative, is in the Honors Program, is a recognized CSB Women in Leadership Scholar, and works as a life guard and student peer academic coach. She is a dedicated servant in all aspects of her life.

Notifications to students are on their way, and we will encourage the remaining pool to apply again in the future, to utilize our Flash Funds (if eligible and in need), and to join our branch if interested.



August 1, 2024

Brainerd Branch Event

Equal Pay for Men & Women

Unequal pay exists now in the U.S. and Minnesota

Does your employer provide equal pay for men
and women?

Pay equity can impact student loan
repayment and retirement income.

\$.81



versus



Which are you receiving for equal work?

Find out more about Gender Pay Equity
Attend a free community information session

Saturday, September 7, 2024

Northland Arboretum

10:00 a.m. registration, light refreshments

10:30 am speaker – Kelsey Waits,

AAUW MN President 2024 -2026

AAUW MN Public Policy Chair 2022 – 2024

PhD Student in Public Policy

at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Question and Answer session with presenter.

Dialogue on community concerns related to pay equity and to form a
Community Action plan to affirm Pay Equity in the Brainerd Lakes Area.



Sponsored by the Brainerd Lakes Area AAUW branch
www.Brainerdlakes-mn.aauw.net / FB AAUW Brainerd Lakes Area Branch

Call Julie at 218-829-6338 for more information.

August 1, 2024

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

Important Dates for 2024 Election Year:

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

LWVSA Special Dates

September 11, Unit Meeting

September 16, Public Information Forum for Stearns County voters on the subject of a sales tax for a new Justice Center. A range of public officials have agreed to participate as a panel.

August 1, 2024

Meet Your Board Members

Executive Board Members



Barb Wismer
Branch President



Jan Benson
Co-VP Finance



Mary Harlander-Locke
Co-VP Finance



Molly Ewing
Recording Secretary



Kathryn Gainey
Recording Secretary
Alternate



Pat Obstarczyk
Co-VP membership

Executive Board Members



Leah Stanek
Co-VP membership



Jan Benson
VP Public Policy



OPEN
VP Programs



Jamie Swenson
VP of
Communications

Voting - Standing Board Committee Chair Members



OPEN
Monthly Program
Chair



Caroline Williams
Co-Social
Chairwoman



Joyce Hummel
Co-Social
Chairwoman



Rene Kaluza
Website



Jamie Swenson
Monthly Newsletter



OPEN
Social Media

Voting - Standing Board Committee Chair Members



OPEN
Meet-a-Member



Kathryn Gainey
Directories



OPEN
Ads & Fliers



Joanna Pucel
Archives



Chris Lepkowski
SCSU Representative



Whitney Court
CSB Representative

Non-Voting Advisory Board



Jan Benson
Tech Savvy Event
Chair



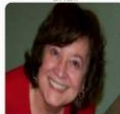
Keshia Anderson-King
JEDI (Justice, Equity,
Diversity & Inclusion
Chair



OPEN
NCCWSL Event Chair



Whitney Court
Scholarships for
Young Leaders



Barb Wismer
Flash Funds Chair



Keshia Anderson-King
8th Grade Graduation



Christine Lepkowski
Start Smart Event -
SCSU



Christi Siver
Start Smart Event - CSB



Jamie Swenson
Student Membership
Liaisons - SCSU



OPEN
Student Membership
Liaisons - CSB



Fay Bolin
Fundraising
Committee



Peggy Lodewyk
Fundraising
Committee



Joyce Hummel
Fundraising
Committee



Kathy Kampa
Fundraising
Committee



Kathryn Gainey
Fundraising
Committee



Cindy Leigh
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee



OPEN
Fundraising
Committee

August 1, 2024



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.

