



**AAUW Funds & Marie Curie**

*An example of AAUW*

**Message from Co-Presidents, Lucy & Teresa**

Our September Branch meeting proved to be a great start to our 2021-2022 AAUW year. Members joined us in person and by Zoom and shared information about themselves as part of our “Getting to Know You” program. We always enjoy learning about new members and are always surprised to learn new information about returning members. We have an amazing group of active and knowledgeable women!

We hope that each of you will participate in one or all our October meetings and/or events – the Branch meeting on Tuesday, October 12, the AAUW sponsored speaker at Tuesday Group on October 12, our highway cleanup along a stretch of Hwy 169 and the Public Policy Committee meetings. All of these are good opportunities to learn new information and to get to know other AAUW members.

Since our last Branch meeting, we have welcomed another new member – Anna Beth Heil, who works for Outward Bound. We look forward to getting to know Anna, and we thank Linda Sutton for “recruiting” Anna as a member. We also welcome Jeanette Cox who is joining Kate Cowley as the VCC College/University Representatives to AAUW.

*Funds supporting women in STEM and providing legal advocacy for more than 100 years. The following is adapted from <http://www.aauw.org/resources/faces-of-aauw/marie-curie/>*

In 1920, the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (a predecessor to AAUW) helped raise money to purchase a gram of radium for Marie Curie. The effort was led by Marie Meloney, a journalist and editor of The Delineator women's magazine, who learned while interviewing Curie that her research was being held back by short supply of radium.

Meloney formed the Marie Curie Radium Fund in the U.S., where ACA was an active participant along with the International Federation of University Women American Committee.

In 1921, Curie and her two daughters visited the U.S. to receive the gift and travel the country. The AAUW New York City (NY) Branch organized an event in her honor at Carnegie Hall.

Annette Horvat, a previous representative, continues as a branch member. Thank you, Annette, for your many years serving as one of our liaisons as we worked in partnership with VCC.

Teresa will be sending a revised 2021-2022 Membership Directory that will list our newly appointed AAUW Funds VP, **Barb Wonson Liukkonen** (thank you Barb!) and the contact information for Anna Beth and Jeanette. If you see other corrections or additions contact Teresa ASAP.

### ***Lucy and Teresa***

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Ely Branch Meeting**

#### **October 12, 2021- 5:30p.m. Grand Ely Lodge**

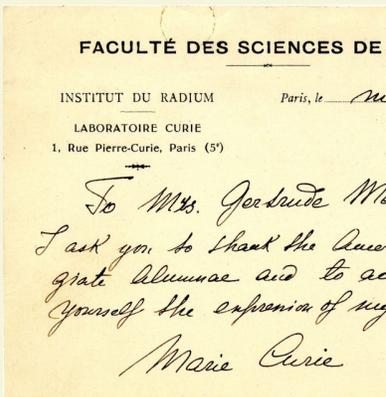
Peg Stolley & Peg Simonsen, along with other clinic staff, will provide an overview of Ely Community Health Center's Free Medical Clinic and the newly expanded preventative dental services. Many may not even be aware that these services are available. They will share the history and vision for the future! A generous grant from Blue Cross/Blue Shield has enabled the clinic to set up a dental operatory on site (the ECR building at 4th and Harvey), and they have started seeing patients for preventative care including cleanings, fluoride treatments, oral cancer screenings, and dental education. The clinic is able to offer these services for free due to the grant and donations from other community resources. Peg et al are anxious to share their vision and goals in the hopes that all of us will help us spread the news that the clinic is available to serve the community needs.

Those attending in person are welcome to order dinner off the menu.

**Zoom Information (ID# and Password) will be sent in an email 2 days prior to the meeting which will begin at 5:30 p.m. Join 10- 15 minutes early to socialize with other members.**

### **Fall 2021 AAUW-Ely Adopt-a-Highway Clean-up**

Continuing something we started last year due to COVID, our litter pick-up on Hwy 169 this fall will be a stretch of days between October 13-16. Vests, trash bags and maps will be available at our branch meeting on October 12 at the GEL. You can pair up with one or more persons to pick up litter on a section of the highway anytime between Wednesday October 13 and noon on Saturday, October



At the time, a gram of radium cost \$100,000. The Marie Curie Radium Fund was so successful that it raised an additional \$56,413.54. After Curie died in 1934, the money was passed to her daughter, Irene Joliot-Curie, who continued her mother's research.

The funds eventually went into a trust managed by a bank, and the ownership of the money was called into question. AAUW had to fight the case in court in order to secure the money for a cause related to its original purpose. After the court case, the bank granted the funds to AAUW to use for the Marie Curie Fellowship, which was first awarded in 1963, to support a French or American woman studying chemistry, physics or radiology.

AAUW was not only involved with Curie's work when she was alive but also continued to serve as the steward of her money long after the fanfare of her visit had faded.

16.

If you want to help out and can't come to the October 12 branch meeting, please call or text Jeanne Tomlinson at 218-235-8470 and leave a message or send an email to her at [tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com](mailto:tomlinson.jeanne@yahoo.com) to work out vest/bag/map pickup.

Safety reminders for participants:

- Remember to wear gloves and sturdy shoes or work boots with good ankle support.
- Even though you'll be wearing a bright yellow safety vest, plan to also wear light- and/or bright-colored clothing so that motorists can see you easily. Layers are best.
- For your skin protection, wear a hat and long sleeves, and apply sunscreen prior to arriving.
- Though we probably won't have a lot of insects at this point, bring bug repellent anyway, just in case.
- Pick up only during daylight hours and only in decent weather.
- Always walk with your left side on the side of the road, facing the oncoming traffic.
- Don't pick up any dead animals or any large, heavy, suspicious or hazardous materials – though we do need to note where they are so we can contact MnDOT for them to handle. Let Jeanne know if you found any such items.
- We want to pick up as much litter as possible, but more importantly, we want to stay safe.

### **Holiday Planning: Raffle/Auction at December Meeting**

Let's step it up a notch. We'll do our typical banquet bucket raffle where you purchase a bunch of two part raffle tickets, place one half of the tickets in the buckets in front of the items of your choice, and keep your winning stubs. But---because we have a few items lined up that are particularly special, we will also do a silent auction of just a few items. There will be a starting bid and minimum bid increments on those, but no buy it now price so we can test to see what kinds of items people in our group prefer. If you have an item or two you would like to donate to the event, let **Kay** know at [khv771@gmail.com](mailto:khv771@gmail.com). But don't feel like you need to go buy something to donate. This is for fun and a few bucks in our AAUW coffers so we can continue to provide the scholarships we do in the community.

So bring some cash and join in the fun. Maybe---just

**AAUW Mission: AAUW Advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.**

**AAUW Vision: Equity for All**

**AAUW Values: Nonpartisan, Fact-based, Integrity, Inclusion, and Intersectionality**

maybe --you'll find that perfect Christmas present for someone special to you---or a one of a kind item for yourself.

And thanks to **Andrea Landro-Pike**, one of our newest members, for stepping up to help pull this raffle/auction together.

[Branch, State, National News](#)

## **Public Policy**

### **Coronavirus and the Increased Gender Pay Gap**

The first data on COVID-19's impact on the gender wage gap has been released and it's not good. The wage gap narrowed, but it narrowed due to growing inequality rather than progress for women. Women's average earnings increased more than men's because the lowest paid women were the most likely to lose jobs during the COVID-19 [recession](#) and are no longer counted in the average women's weekly median earnings. As a result of the missing lowest-paid women, the gender wage gap narrowed (from 18.5% to 17.7%) between all women and men, and between women and men by race and ethnicity. When things return to normal, this is likely to stall any long-term improvements to bring equal pay to women. When the impacted women return to work, they will have the disadvantage of having a gap in their employment history, as well as accepting lower pay which will affect their social security and future retirement income.

The expanding gender gap is first explained by the disproportionate impact Covid-19 has had on jobs and occupations that tend to employ more women. In addition, working mothers were already shouldering the majority of family caregiving responsibilities. The disruptions to daycare centers, schools, and after-school programs have been hard on all members of the family, but the empirical evidence since the Covid crisis started shows that working mothers are more frequently reducing their hours or leaving their jobs entirely in response.

In particular, studies show that women have absorbed over two-thirds of the additional responsibilities due to Covid-19. The increase in childcare needs affects women more than men for several reasons. There are many more single mothers than single fathers. Women provide the majority of childcare even in couples where both parents work full time. As a result, women have picked up the majority of the increased childcare needs during the crisis.

The World Economic Forum estimates that an additional 36 years will be added to the time it takes to close the pay gap due to the pandemic.

In the most recent National Geographic magazine, an article projects at the present rate of closure of the pay gap:

- Asian women will reach pay equity in 4 years.
- White women in 34 years.
- Black women in 112 years.
- Latina women in 189 years.

(The projections were based on the pace over the past 50 years. There was no data available for Native American women)

AAUW believes that pay inequality isn't just a women's issue; it's a family and national economic issue. The organization endorses the Pay Equity for All Act, the Paycheck Fairness Act, Paid Family Leave and Student Debt Forgiveness as remedies for this ongoing problem.

Additional Resources:

[WEF: Gender Pay Gap Will Take an Extra 36 Years to Close Due to COVID \(businessinsider.com\)](https://www.businessinsider.com/gender-pay-gap-will-take-an-extra-36-years-to-close-due-to-covid-2020-11)

[The expanding gender gap in the US due to Covid-19 | VOX, CEPR Policy Portal \(voxeu.org\)](https://www.voxeu.org/article/the-expanding-gender-gap-in-the-us-due-to-covid-19)

[Covid-19 risks turning the gender pay gap into a chasm – unless we act now - Timewise](https://www.timewise.com/covid-19-risks-turning-the-gender-pay-gap-into-a-chasm-unless-we-act-now)

[How COVID-19 Sent Women's Workforce Progress Backward - Center for American Progress](https://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/women/policy-ideas/how-covid-19-sent-women-s-workforce-progress-backward)

[Equal Pay Day 2021: The Results of a COVID-Impacted Economy - IWPR](https://www.iwpr.org/publications/2021/03/equal-pay-day-2021-the-results-of-a-covid-impacted-economy)

***Linda Sutton, Public Policy Chair***

## **AAUW Funds**

What is **AAUW Funds**?

Some of you may have forgotten what you once knew about our AAUW Funds and some new members may never have even heard of it. AAUW Funds includes both our (previous) Educational Foundation and our Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) and provides critical funding for AAUW's mission and valuable work of equity for women and girls.

Our AAUW American Fellowships program was founded in 1888, at a time when women were discouraged from pursuing higher education. The program has since supported more than 5,000 women scholars who are

completing dissertations, taking research leave from their colleges or universities, or finalizing research for publication — three critical points in a woman's academic career.

Ida Street, a pioneer in the field of early American Indian history, was the first AAUW American Fellow, receiving a grant of \$350 in 1888. Since then, thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, AAUW has established endowments that will continue to support the next generation of women scholars and leaders for years to come.

Through our Legal Advocacy Fund, created in 1981, AAUW has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system. LAF Case Support Grants fund cases in state or federal court that address sex discrimination in employment or education and have the potential to set or reinforce precedent for future cases on gender discrimination.

Your contributions directly to AAUW Funds (at AAUW.org), as well as through Branch fund raisers helps support AAUW's mission via the Education and Training Fund, Economic Security Fund, and Leadership Fund. As part of our Ely Branch, the Minnesota state AAUW, and our National AAUW organization, YOU are doing great things to advance equity. **Thank you!**

More next month on how AAUW Funds is structured, how we honor our members through gifts, and how you can contribute.

***Barb Wonson Liukkonen, VP AAUW Funds***

## **Legal Advocacy Update**

### **The US Supreme Court's Shadow Docket—some important background information...**

*\*\*A synthesis of articles taken from Wake Forest Law Review, The New York Times, The Atlantic, The Guardian, and The Supreme Court of the U.S. Blog*

The United States Supreme Court issues about 70 formal opinions in the cases in which it hears oral arguments each year. This is considered the 'merit docket' where the Court writes an opinion after multiple rounds of briefing and oral arguments. Most of the time, the Supreme Court appears to the public like a cautiously deliberative body.

But unofficially, the Court has a shadow docket outside

these 70 formal cases—of orders that are peripheral and procedural, as well as potentially contentious policy disputes, or matters of life and death. The shadow docket has come out of the shadows over the last several years. And, it is important for us to understand what it is and how it operates. In the last month, the US Supreme Court's Shadow Docket has taken center stage and made front page headlines across the US.

Although the shadow docket rulings may be temporary and nominally procedural orders, rather than full-fledged legal opinions, they often have the effect of handing one side a decisive substantive victory. These shadow docket orders can come down after only one round, or less, of briefing, do not contain a majority opinion nor any legal reasoning, and most of the time provide no record of how the Justices voted. And, the opinion can be unsigned. Because these orders can be handed down at any time—even in the middle of the night—and lack transparency, these rulings come from the 'shadows'.

Although the Court issues thousands of orders via the shadow docket each year, until recently, many did not pay much attention to it because it was meant to resolve "unremarkable scenarios." When systems work as expected, citizens generally are content to let such systems work in the background—in the shadows—without needing to know the details. However, when those same systems start producing unexpected results—people want to shine a light into the darkness and shadows to understand and diagnose, and if necessary, fix the system. Over the last 5 years, we have started paying attention to the shadow docket.

The concept of the shadow docket is as old as the Supreme Court. These so-called emergency proceedings now constitute a majority of the Court's business. The shadow docket orders were once a tool the Court used to dispense with legally unambiguous matters. Traditionally, applicants would need to demonstrate that they would suffer 'irreparable harm' if their petition was not granted immediately. One historical use of the shadow docket has been in federal death penalty cases, where the Court has used the emergency proceeding to affirm or deny requests for stays of execution (to stop the execution of a death row inmate).

In recent years, the Court has largely dispensed with any meaningful application of the 'irreparable harm' standard, and instead has entertained emergency relief petitions from more and more litigants, issuing shadow docket rulings on increasingly significant and controversial legal

questions without the intellectual rigor or transparency that such issues demand.

A newer, expanded version of the shadow docket began to emerge in 2017, when the Trump administration came into power. Previously, the shadow docket emergency requests had rarely been used to advance the interests of the governing administration. From 2001 to 2016, the Department of Justice applied for these emergency relief interventions only 8 times. During the 4 years of the Trump presidency, the Justice Department applied 41 times. Bypassing the lower courts, the Trump administration was able to get the Court's greenlight for border wall funding/construction, for a ban on transgender in the military, for a ban of immigrants from Muslim countries, and for many death row executions during the 11<sup>th</sup> hour (in the latter part of 2020). It is important to note that many of the orders that could be rescinded were rescinded after President Trump left office.

With increasing frequency, and even today, the Court is taking up weighty matters in a rushed way, considering emergency petitions and issuing orders on high-profile matters such as immigration enforcement, disputes over election rules, pausing the census, public health orders regarding religious gatherings during Covid-19, evictions, and most recently the Texas abortion law, among others.

Other concerns that arise regarding the shadow docket relate primarily to a special system that allows litigants to seek emergency relief from the Supreme Court in the middle of an ongoing litigation. Under the normal procedures, a case typically reaches the Justices only after full consideration and the final decisions of a trial court and court of appeals—a process that can take years. But the shadow docket gives the litigant a potential short-cut. When the lower court issues a ruling, the losing side can ask the Supreme Court to order an “emergency stay” (or stoppage) of that ruling. A stay, if the Justices issue one, freezes the lower court's ruling, stripping it of legal force while the litigation proceeds. By preserving the status quo—as it existed before the lower court's ruling, emergency stays can favor litigants who wish to run out the clock. They were meant to prevent extraordinary circumstances not running out the clock.

A major criticism of the recent orders the Court has issued via the shadow docket is that they are sloppily inconsistent with one another and with past precedent, leading some to view the decisions as advancing policy rather than the law. In some cases, the Court has changed substantive law through emergency relief orders, articulating new constitutional rules to support such relief.

The shadow docket looks less like a place for emergency cases than one where the majority of Justices can implement their preferred policies without having to go through the tedious formalities of following legal procedures, developing arguments consistent with precedent, or undergoing public scrutiny.

***Submitted by Valerie Myntti***

### **Membership**

**Invite someone new to our branch meeting!**

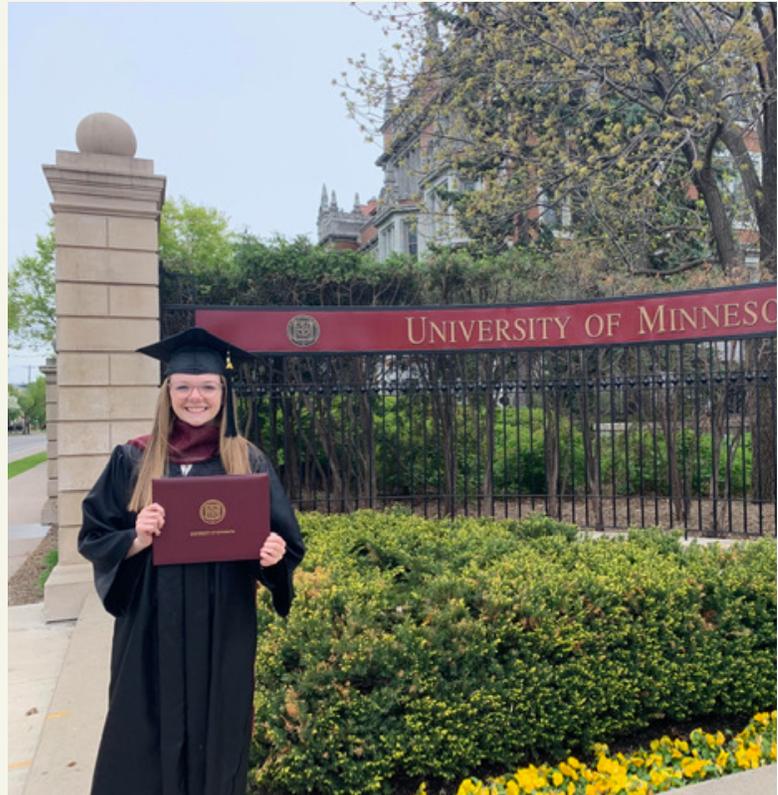
If anyone you know is interested in finding out what AAUW is all about, invite them to a meeting, encourage them to review the AAUW Website, and share your newsletter. Please ask them to contact Judy Klun at judyklun@gmail.com

***Judy Klun, VP Membership***

### **Branch Scholarship Update**

Every year, our branch provides a scholarship to NCCWSL. Most of these scholarships are provided to students at VCC, right here in our community. The scholarship committee thought it would be interesting to hear what some of the past recipients are doing today. Here is a note from the 2016 recipient.

**Megan Olson**



My name is Megan Olson (also known as Phyllis Olson's granddaughter) and I attended NCCWSL back in 2016 (gosh so long ago already!).

The 2016 conference was such an amazing opportunity and I was not only able to meet so many different women around the country but hear from influential women speakers who have done great things. This experience helped give me lots of perspective on facing adversity as a woman as I continued on in my education. I graduated with my B.S. in Microbiology in 2018 from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. Throughout my time in undergrad I worked in a research lab with an amazing female PhD who showed me how to overcome adversity in a male dominated area of science (although this is greatly changing!). After I graduated I entered the Master of Healthcare Administration program at the University of Minnesota- Twin Cities. Here I learned how to be an effective leader in healthcare, as well as worked on teams doing hands-on projects in the

community, working to fix today's healthcare problems. During 2019 I spent several months living and working in East Africa, specifically Tanzania. There I worked at a hospital working to help fix supply chain issues as they construct a much needed cancer treatment center, it was only the second one in the entire country! Living in Tanzania gave me so much perspective and gratitude for the opportunities and resources that we have here in the United States. It was truly a life-changing experience and motivated me to seek opportunities in which I can have impacts on global health. I graduated with my MHA degree in 2020 and since then have been working at the American Red Cross in the Cell and Gene Therapy Solutions division doing business development. Moving forward throughout my career I hope to work for non-profit organizations that are connected to improving the health of individuals worldwide.

When I attended NCCWSL I was only 19 and had never traveled alone anywhere before- I've always been independent but it really pushed me to be fearless as I was traveling across the country to go to a conference with complete strangers. Little did I know just a few years later I would be going across the country by myself to live in Tanzania! Being able to make a positive difference in the world takes a lot of bravery and stepping outside of your comfort zone, something that I was just starting to tap into as I attended NCCWSL. Attending NCCWSL I was able to learn from amazing females, one that really stood out to me was Kimberly Bryant, founder of Black Girls Code. I think she stood out to me because I was a STEM girl whose best friends were also STEM girls and we were constantly faced with being outnumbered by men in our cohorts. When I went on to my MHA program, we had more women than men but then I was once again coming from an educational background different from my peers- I came from STEM, not business or public health like most of my peers. Being at NCCWSL we were surrounded by others like ourselves but then we went back home and were challenged to be leaders and changemakers in our

own ways, something that I really had to tap into in graduate school. After doing copious amounts of networking I was able to find a job where I can thrive on a female-led team that combines my STEM background and my love for healthcare. I truly believe that NCCWSL was only the beginning in sowing the seeds for my female leadership journey. Thank you again for sponsoring my scholarship to attend NCCWSL, it was an experience that truly enriched me.

Megan Olson

***Submitted by Darlene Nemanich, Scholarship Committee***

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**Meet Our Members**

**Andrea Pike**



I joined AAUW at the Garden Party this summer. It was such a great gathering of so many wonderful women. I retired to Ely four years ago after working 30 years for NCUA, a government agency similar to the FDIC, where I was able to assist credit unions to help people financially. My husband, Jeff, and I spent many summers paddling the BWCA and Quetico in the 80's and 90's so Ely seemed the perfect place to buy a cabin back in 2004. After growing up in Cloquet, I went to UMD graduating with an accounting degree. I enjoy volunteering with various groups, canoeing, XC skiing, and gardening. I

look forward to getting involved with AAUW and some of  
the great projects



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