## River Tyme and the Boating is Easy!

Come join the AAUW Travel Group for a summer time cruise aboard the River Tyme Too.

When: July 21, 2021 from 4-6 PM

Cost: $30 per person includes cruise and snacks. Beverages will be available for purchase from River Tyme Boat Company.

THERE IS ROOM FOR 8 MORE PEOPLE SO IF YOU THOUGHT YOU LOST YOUR CHANCE, YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP!

Register now: Text or call Connie at 920-205-3808 or email conniepolley@yahoo.com, THEN SEND A CHECK MADE OUT TO CONNIE POLLEY ASAP.

[in case of bad weather trip will be rescheduled.]

Tour departs from 181 S. River Heath Way (parking lot by the Tempest Coffee Shop)

Note: There are a few steps to get into the boat. Restroom facilities onshore only.

Top off the evening and get together with friends for dinner at a restaurant of your choice!

## Everything's Coming Up Roses, Butterflies, Ice Cream, and Art

Manitowoc is our destination for the September AAUW Travel Group, which includes all interested AAUW members. We'll start the day exploring the beautiful West of the Lakes Garden and then enjoy a simple lunch at Beerntsen's Confectionary before ending our day touring the Rahr-West Art Museum.

**When: Thursday, September 9, 2021**

**Where: 10 – 11:30 AM - West of the Lake Garden, 915 Memorial Drive**

We're hoping the monarch butterfly migration is on but Mother Nature may have a different idea.

**11:30 AM – 1 PM - Beerntsen's Confectionary 108 N. 8th Street**

Sandwiches and Soup are on the menu at this old fashioned ice cream and candy store founded in 1932. Complete your meal with an ice cream delight sitting in the old wooden booths from years gone by.

**1 PM (or whenever we've finished lunch and maybe some candy shopping)**

We'll explore the **Rahr-West Museum, 610 N. 8th.** The museum is housed in an 1893 Victorian mansion. (*There are steps involved in getting into the house and to explore the upper floors). The art gallery hosts the Manitowoc Country Artist Show and an exhibit entitled Really Big Prints.

**Time:** We will car pool from the Park and Ride at the corner of Hwy. 10 and Cty. N at 8:21 AM and then travel to Manitowoc. Plans are to be back in Appleton by 4:30 PM.

**Cost:** Please plan to pay your driver $5 to help cover the cost of gas. Both the Garden and the Museum are free but donations are appreciated. Lunch cost is your own.

RSVP: By September 3rd to Ruth Henschel by phone (920) 202-3300 or email Ranger1chc@gmail.com. Please let her know if you are willing to drive and how many people (including yourself) you can take.

# TRAVEL GROUP: SAVE THE DATE

## Plan Ahead and Reserve Early!

Get your holiday spirit off to a great start and join the AAUW Travel group on a November 3rd trip to Fort Atkinson and the Fireside Theater to enjoy their show, Holiday Inn. Because of the need to pay for reservations in advance, there are only 12 tickets reserved for the group. These will be available on a first come, first paid basis. The nonrefundable $100 cost includes a wonderful meal, the play, and a donation to your driver for the round trip ride. Drivers need only pay the Fireside fee of $85. A waiting list will be kept just in case anyone would need to cancel. Reservations, with payment, are being accepted NOW. Contact Ruth Henschel at (920) 202-3300 or ranger1chc@gmail.com for reservations or questions.

## Looking Ahead to 2022…

Reserve a spot on your calendar for a multi-day trip to Shipsewana, Indiana from May 2nd to May 6th. You won't want to miss this opportunity!

### *AUGUST AAUW ART CLASS:*

**Monday**, August 9

**Place**: Chris Scott's House (1406 W. Edmund Dr., Appleton)

**Time**: 12:30 pm

**Theme**: Sunset in Acrylic

**Cost**: $15.00 (All Materials Provided)

No experience necessary...just come and have fun!

Please RSVP to Laurie Leonard RJLLAL@new.rr.com by August 1.

### Member Outreach

Member Outreach is a way for our AAUW community to stay connected and reach out to members during significicant times in their lives.

Laurie Leonard, AAUW member creates beautiful cards for occasions such as:

- Thinking of you
- Congratulations
- Get Well
- Illness

If you know a member who we should reach out to in this way, please contact JaneAnne McCabe jamforever02@yahoo.com

# Influential Women STEM Essay Contest - First Place

## Katherine Johnson:
## NASA'S Female Mastermind
## by Elizabeth Riddle

Katherine Johnson broke through boundaries set by society. She saw the shackles of stereotypes clasped around her wrists and willed them to break away. She didn't let the color of her skin define her. She didn't let her gender oppress her. Katherine Johnson tackled the most complicated of equations to get a rocket to the moon and back. She rose from a teacher to a computer to working for NASA's Space Task Group. Her impact sent ripples throughout history.

But before she basked in the limelight, she was just Katherine, a girl born on August 26, 1918, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. She counted each time her foot touched the pavement of those small-town streets. She counted each dish as she scrubbed them. Numbers were her fascination. While her childhood friends attempted simple addition, Katherine Johnson climbed the steps of West Virginia State College as a High School freshman. She was just ten years of age. She graduated at age 14 and went on to attend college classes at West Virginia State College.

When I think of influential women in STEM, Katherine Johnson is the first to appear in my mind. The 1950's was an era of segregation laws and the Civil Rights Movement. Oppression of all kinds surrounded African-Americans, including Katherine. Few schools and libraries accepted African-American students. As if racial prejudice wasn't enough, Katherine also shouldered the weight of being a woman. In her time, all that was expected of women was for them to become teachers or nurses. Anything beyond that was virtually unattainable. Women were looked down upon as incompetent in STEM. But that didn't stop Katherine Johnson from pursuing her passion. Though she worked as a human computer, she asked questions. She wouldn't simply compute the numbers, she wanted to know why. And it was her inquisitive character that lifted her up to NASA's Space Task Group. Katherine Johnson proved that one doesn't need to be white or a man to be a genius.

Without Katherine Johnson, Apollo 11 may have never touched the moon; Friendship 7 wouldn't have come home from orbit. Her calculations were key to the success of many space expeditions. John Glenn, the pilot aboard America's first orbital capsule, asked the engineers to retrieve Katherine to check the computer's numbers herself. Her pinpoint accuracy was astounding. Her genius was shocking to those who had considered her incapable solely because of her gender. There was an unspoken rule at NASA: women weren't allowed in meetings.

Continued on next page

Katherine challenged this. She asked if there was a law keeping women from going, which was denied. Thereafter, Katherine Johnson became the first woman to attend a briefing at NASA. She broke stereotypes and paved the way for our future generations. Women have had a muted role in STEM fields all throughout history, but Katherine Johnson and her legacy proved that behind every space mission, every scientific phenomenon, there is the impact of women. And though underrepresented, they leave their mark on the world. Katherine Johnson assures young girls and women that there is a place for them in STEM. Don't let your appearance define you; your strengths lie beneath your skin. I now know that there is no danger in being the first. Katherine Johnson taught us that the color of one's skin is just that: color. It is not your skin that defines you, but your mind. Katherine Johnson, NASA's female mastermind, confirmed that girls and women are just as capable as men as she soared past her male colleagues, aiming right for the moon.

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## *About the Author*

*The author, Elizabeth "Ellie" Riddle, is an 8th grader at Maplewood Middle School in Menasha. Her teacher describes her as a writer—an aware student who takes in her surroundings and is intuitive in relationship. She is quiet but when she speaks, it will be something profound. Ellie enjoys writing dystopian fiction, historical fiction, and essays. Her favorite subject is English. Besides writing, she enjoys reading and walking. She is a volunteer giving tours at Grignon Mansion in Kaukauna. Her future goals involve being an author in some capacity. Ellie chose the topic of Katherine Johnson because she was inspired by* Hidden Figures.

# Influential Women STEM Essay Contest – Second Place

## Curiosity of the Glow

by Vivian Koski

It was nighttime, on the 4th of July. I was eight years old. Out of the corner of my eye, there was a glow. My wonder turned into wander, and I followed it, wanting to find out more. It was a firefly, and its intermittent glow entranced me. One hundred fifty-four years ago, another curious soul was born, one so curious that it saved countless lives.

Marie Sklodowska of Warsaw, Poland started her journey of changing science by becoming curious about a mysterious glow that came from uranium salts, which was a discovery of Henri Becquerel, a physicist. Marie, or "Manya" to her family, was one of five children raised in a poor but highly educated family. She left her home country of Poland to study at a famous university in Paris, France, called the Sorbonne. She married another scientist, with whom she would join forces to understand the glow. Marie and her husband, Pierre Curie, realized that the glow produced from the uranium salts came from the uranium atom itself. Marie and Pierre called the effect radioactivity, and their work created a foundation of the new science of radioactivity, which today touches countless lives.

For example, we use the energy of radiation in life-saving cancer treatments. Also, we use ultraviolet radiation in LED bulbs and fluorescent light bulbs. Self-powered exit signs, self-illuminating key chains, and watches use a radioactive substance called tritium, which creates a glow independent of electricity. Their discovery of radiation earned them the Nobel Prize in physics in 1903.

Marie and her husband filtered and ground-up other radioactive substances. They discovered two radioactive elements: polonium, a rare and highly radioactive element, and radium, an element that could burn away diseased cells in the body. Marie and Pierre were often fatigued and achy. They soon realized that when they investigated radiation, it was making them sick. Marie's husband died in a tragic accident, but Marie continued her scientific work while raising her two daughters as a single mother with help from her father-in-law and hired governesses. If I were Madame Curie, I might have been discouraged after losing my partner in exploring the science of radiation, but Marie kept at her work twenty-five years after he died.

Continued on next page

Even though it left her weak, Marie spent hours gathering radon gas to give to hospitals because she discovered that radium could be used as a cancer treatment. Marie and her daughter, Irene, organized a unit of mobile x-ray trucks for wounded soldiers in World War I, and she treated over one million soldiers. In 1911, she won the Nobel prize in chemistry for her continued research of polonium and radium. Despite her renown as a scientist, Marie Curie remained humble and curious, and as her daughter, Eve, said, "She did not know how to be famous." Another famous scientist, Albert Einstein, said, "Marie Curie is, of all celebrated beings, the only one whom fame has not corrupted."

Madame Curie said, "I was taught that the way of progress is neither swift nor easy." Marie's work was challenging, but she faced it head-on. Her curiosity led her to help millions of people and save countless lives. However, accomplishments come with sacrifice. She sacrificed a close relationship with her two young children to dedicate her life to science and her work. She focused on the glow, and that focus saved lives, even though she eventually died from what she was trying to save people from. The curiosity of Marie Curie led to great discoveries and similarly, simple curiosity can spark in us, discovery, learning and growth, like it did with me and the glow of a firefly.

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## *About the Author*

*Vivian Koski is a 7th grade student Appleton Connections Academy. This is her first time entering an essay contest. Our judges mentioned that her essay has a great introduction. Her teacher, Mr. Pennewell, indicates that she is a student that is easy to work with. Vivian loves school, especially math, language arts and science. She is also learning Spanish, music, and art. Outside of school, Vivian is into diving and ballet. Her future holds many possibilities including author, artist, or singer/songwriter. Vivian decided on Marie Curie after talking with her mother and doing research from a book on women in history and other "trustworthy sources".*

# Influential Women STEM Essay Contest – Honorable Mention

## Katherine Johnson's Impact on STEM

By Laila M. Gaffney

My choice for a woman who made a difference in STEM history is Katherine Johnson. I have selected Katherine Johnson because she was undoubtedly one of the most talented women mathematicians of her time and was vital to the success of sending the first American into orbit.

Katherine Johnson was born on August 26, 1918, in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, and died on February 24, 2020, of natural causes. She was a very bright young girl and was able to skip through multiple grades. She was so intelligent that she attended high school on the West Virginia State College campus at only age 13. Katherine, once finished with high school, was then entered into the college classes, flying through the math curriculum. She graduated at the top of her class in 1937 when she was 19. After college, Katherine started teaching at a Black public school in Virginia. It wasn't until 1953 when Katherine started working for NASA, formally known as NACA, bouncing between her teaching job, starting a family, and going back to school before her work at the space station.

In 1962, NASA started the preparatory process of sending the first American, John Glenn, into orbit. This would later become Katherine Johnson's most recognized work in STEM and in her time at NASA. This orbital mission required orbital equations processed by IBM computers that would calculate and control the path that John's capsule would take from liftoff to touchdown. These computers were faulty and prone to error due to how early into development they were at the time. John Glenn took a precautionary approach to this and asked that Katherine calculate these equations by hand before take-off to make sure the machine had done them correctly. He specifically asked this of her, seeing how exceptionally well she had done in her time working at NASA. With her calculations and verification, John Glenn was able to orbit the Earth. She helped to change the course of space and mathematics history and later was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama in 2015.

I chose Katherine because, as a young woman who dreams to achieve many great things and go into the medical sciences, she is a true inspiration to me and I feel she deserves to be recognized and celebrated for all of her work. In early 2017, a movie called *Hidden Figures* was released which told the story of Katherine and her friends and family. When I watched this movie,

Continued on next page

I walked away feeling that if Katherine could change the course of history, so could I. She has shown me that, despite race and gender and any other differences, you can prevail and be whoever you want to be, even an important historical leader such as Katherine. She has done so much in her lifetime and continues to inspire young women like me every day. Katherine Johnson set an example of what a leader should be. She defied the social standards and stereotypes that would usually confine a woman, especially an African American woman like herself. She instead faced oppression and prejudice and showed them what a woman really could do. This is why she is the perfect example for a leader in women's STEM history, and why she deserves to be recognized as such.

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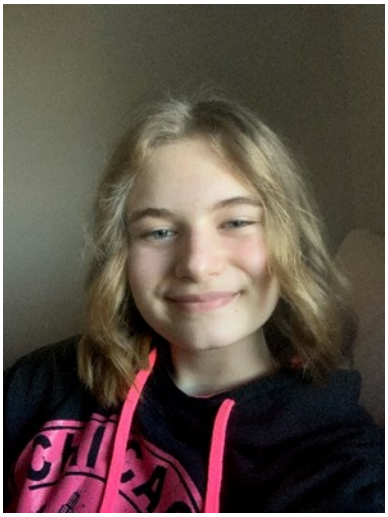
## *About the Author*



*Laila M. Gaffney is an 8th grade student at JR Gerritts Middle School in Kimberly. She is in Claire Marshall's class who describes Laila as an outstanding student with a fantastic outlook on life. In deciding about a topic for the essay, Laila remembered* Hidden Figures *and thought of Katherine Johnson. Laila enjoys Math, Language Arts and Choir. Outside of school Laila enjoys figure skating classes, playing instruments like the keyboard, ukulele and trumpet as well as hiking and basketball. She is looking forward to a career somewhere in the medical field.*

# FINANCE REPORT—AAUW APPLETON

06/01/21

## AAUW - Appleton Branch
### Balance Sheet
### As of May 31, 2021

| | May 31, 21 |
|---|---|
| **ASSETS** | |
| Current Assets | |
| Checking/Savings | |
| General Checking | |
| Beacon Fund | 206 |
| Convention Fund | 5,511 |
| General Checking - Other | 16,192 |
| Total General Checking | 21,909 |
| Scholarship Checking | 15,526 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 37,435 |
| Total Current Assets | 37,435 |
| **TOTAL ASSETS** | **37,435** |
| **LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Other Current Liabilities | |
| Due to AAUW National | 4,650 |
| Due to AAUW Wisconsin | 1,040 |
| Total Other Current Liabilities | 5,690 |
| Total Current Liabilities | 5,690 |
| Total Liabilities | 5,690 |
| Equity | |
| Net Assets | 32,668 |
| Net Income | -924 |
| Total Equity | 31,745 |
| **TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY** | **37,435** |

**AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.**

AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

The Apple Branch is a publication of the Appleton, Wisconsin Branch of AAUW, the American Association of University Women.

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