



Murfreesboro-AAUW Summer/Fall 2011 Newsletter

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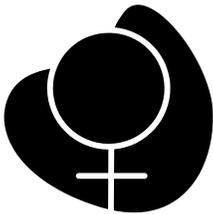
*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through
advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.*

President's Message. I'm the nerd whose favorite part of a women's magazine is the editor's letter. Thinking of this as an editor's letter makes writing my first president's message a far less daunting task. I think to myself, "Just tell them where you've been, where you are, and where you are going." This may be as close as I ever come to playing editor, so here goes!

As many of you well know, I have been on something of a "mockingbird journey" this year. "You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it," so that's what I did to *get into character* for the play. I stepped into Mayella Ewell's shoes (metaphorically speaking, of course, since I went barefoot!) and walked around in them in an effort to adequately portray her. It was as if Mayella Ewell had entrusted me to stand her trial, and I, in turn, had an obligation to do her justice. At the end of the play's run, while Mayella Ewell will forever be a part of who I am, I am not Mayella Ewell; I am Laura Schlesinger, touched deeply by Mayella Ewell.

I am not Mayella Ewell, nor am I Ayne. I couldn't fill Ayne's shoes if I tried! Ayne reminds me so much of my mother, which makes succeeding her as president somewhat easier, I suppose. I stopped competing with my mother long ago and took to learning from her instead. Similarly, Scout keenly observes, "[Calpurnia] seemed glad to see me when I appeared in the kitchen, and by watching her I began to think there was some skill involved in being a girl." I do not seek to fill my mother's shoes, Ayne's shoes, or anyone else's shoes for that matter. I do strive to follow in their footsteps, though. As women and leaders of women, we must follow in the footsteps of our foremothers *and* forge our own path. I ask for your guidance and patience as I follow as a means to find my own way as a leader.

Like a flock of Canada geese, we, the Murfreesboro Branch of AAUW, share a common direction; possess a strong sense of community and fellowship, thereby allowing us to travel most effectively and efficiently on the thrust of one another; take turns playing leading roles; and support and encourage one another. As I embark on this new journey, I am comforted knowing I do not fly solo but on the thrust of the wings of others. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Atticus prophesizes, "[Real courage is] when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do." That's where I am. Now, where are you?—*Laura Schlesinger, Branch President*



Mark Calendars for Branch Meeting and EF & LAF Fundraiser, September 8. Our first meeting after the summer hiatus will be a Potluck Dinner and "Shape the Future: Silent Auction," September 8, Forest Oaks I Clubhouse, 1002 East Northfield Blvd., 5-7:00 PM. New members may join at the meeting for \$35.00, one-half price of the usual dues. Edna Burke, Branch Development Officer, says, "Start thinking about what you can donate to our **Silent Auction to benefit the AAUW Educational Fund and the Legal Advocacy Fund**. Please bring something that will allow fellow members to get to know you a little better—an item that is meaningful to you and reflects something that you value. It may an article made by you, or purchased by you. Some ideas are a craft, a piece of artwork, a book that you have enjoyed, a souvenir from a trip, a food item, or whatever you like." Also, we will be collecting big & tall trash bags for the Domestic Violence Program. Deb Johnson, Branch Programs VP, announces the remaining fall meetings:

- **OCTOBER 13** (Farm Bureau, 818 S. Church St.)— Project Help,-Susan Waldrop Director. / Donation: Toilet paper and paper towels for the Domestic Violence Program.
- **NOVEMBER 10** (Farm Bureau, 818 S. Church St.)— Child Advocacy, Sharon DeBoar Director and/or CASA,-Susan McGuigan Director. / Donation: Bath towels for the Domestic Violence Program.
- **DECEMBER 8** (Forest Oaks I Clubhouse, 1002 East Northfield Blvd)—Potluck Holiday Dinner and Buffalo Auction / Donation: Cash or check for the Domestic Violence Program.

From Our Treasurer—Time to Renew Your AAUW Membership! About half of our branch has renewed their memberships for this subscription year, which began July 1. *Thank you* to those who have submitted your renewals. For those of you who still haven't renewed, I would like to encourage you to do so now. The budget for this year has been laid out, and our branch is ready to jump into action, but we depend on branch dues to accomplish much of what we do each year. Dues for the year are \$70 (\$49 for national dues, \$8 for state dues, and \$13 for branch dues). Part of your dues (\$49.00) is tax deductible. You can renew online through the Membership Services Database at aauw.org, or you can send a check to me. If you're on campus, you can send it via campus mail to Box 124. For those of you off campus, you can mail your renewal to: **Samantha Cantrell, 4258 Aurora Circle, Murfreesboro, TN 37127**. I'm looking forward to another productive year for all of us. I feel privileged to be part of such an active and successful branch.—*Samantha Cantrell, Branch Financial Officer*

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER 21—EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS RECEPTION—You are Invited!

A reception to celebrate the fifteenth year of EYH will be held at the Tom H. Jackson Building, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Friday, October 21, 2011. All AAUW members are invited to come and help us celebrate 15 years of EYH in Middle Tennessee. Please RSVP to eyh@mtsu.edu by September 30, 2011.

OCTOBER 22—EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS (EYH) CONFERENCE

The fifteenth annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) in Science and Mathematics for middle and high school girls will be held at MTSU Saturday, October 22, 2011. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. in the lobby of the LRC. Myra Norman, Branch EYH Coordinator, says, "AAUW members helping with registration should be at the LRC by 7:30 a.m. Please sign up to help at the September 8th branch meeting."

OCTOBER 23—AAUW OF TENNESSEE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The state organization will meet at the Marriott Airport Nashville on Sunday, October 23. The morning session, which begins at 9:00 AM, focuses on the restructuring of the state organization; the afternoon session covers economic issues women face, including how to negotiate for higher wages. You will receive more information about this important meeting in early September. Meanwhile, for registration information, please contact Ayne Cantrell at acantrell@comcast.net or 893-1786.

OCTOBER 24—TENNESSEE ECONOMIC SUMMIT FOR WOMEN

The 8th Annual Economic Summit for Women will be held at the Marriott Nashville Airport. Registration begins at 7:30 AM. At 9:00 keynoter Jean Chatzky (NBC's *Today Show*) will discuss "Money 911: Your Most Pressing Money Questions Answered." You may register online at www.tnwomensummit.org.



2011-2012 Ruth Houston Memorial Scholar. Ruth Houston Scholarship Selection Committee Chair Tanya Peres (*pictured left*) congratulates the 2011-2012 scholarship recipient Virginia "Ginny" Lucas. As an undergraduate student, Ginny paid her own way to attend the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences in New Orleans and continues to present research at local and regional meetings. She is engaged in zooarchaeology leading to an anthropology senior thesis and has been awarded a URECA grant for a related zooarchaeological research project. Just recently, she was invited to be a member of the Forensic Anthropology Search and Recovery Team (FASR). Ginny works faithfully with campus volunteer organizations, including the undergraduate anthropology club (MTAS) and has volunteered to assist in a major project assessing and mitigating flood damage to archaeological sites along the Cumberland River in the wake of the May 2010 floods. Her professors recognize her for her commitment to academic achievement in spite of the tremendous family responsibilities she has shouldered. Ginny has been the primary caregiver of her grandmother who is in the advanced stages of Alzheimer's while taking a full course load of 18 hours and working part-time. Ultimately, Ginny aspires to earn a PhD, work

for the federal government as an archaeologist, and then teach at a university as a zooarchaeologist in order that she may pursue her own research interests. The Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship fund is helping Ginny to fulfill the first step towards completing her education and realizing her career goals. She will graduate from MTSU in May 2012.

2011 NCCWSL Scholar. Murfreesboro Branch nominee Lisa Walker (*pictured left*) was selected to receive the AAUW of Tennessee NCCWSL Scholarship to attend the 2011 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders held June 2-4, 2011, at the University of Maryland, College Park. NCCWSL is a two-and-a-half day conference to help students hone leadership skills for their work on campus and in their communities. The state scholarship paid for Lisa's conference registration, and AAUW of Murfreesboro awarded her \$200 for travel. Lisa graduated from MTSU in May with a major in Sociology and minors in Women's Studies and Political Science. Presently, she is attending graduate school at MTSU. Pictured with Lisa is Kamryn Warren, also an AAUW-Murfreesboro NCCWSL nominee who was selected by the state to attend NCCWSL in 2010. Kamryn is a graduate student at the University of Connecticut studying sociology/gender.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MEMBERS. In May 2011 **Edna Burke** was elected to the Board of the Newcomers Club, Rutherford Co., to serve as Philanthropy Coordinator, and in June she began her third year of volunteer service to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate), a Rutherford Co. agency that serves children in foster care. // At the Rutherford County Read to Succeed Volunteer Luncheon in April 2011, **Ayne Cantrell** was named "Tutor of the Year"; her adult learner was named "Learner of the Year." // **Yuan-ling Chao** attended a NEH summer seminar on Daoist Literature and History at Boulder, Colorado, from July 18 to August 5. // **Sharon D. Smith** recently received notice that she passed her examination to become a Certified Research Administrator; this certification is given through the Research Administrators Certification Council.

New Branch Officers—At the May 2010 meeting of the Murfreesboro-AAUW, Laura Schlesinger was elected Branch President, Melissa Lobegeier was re-elected Branch Membership Vice President, and Ayne Cantrell was elected Communications Officer. Each will serve two years in these positions. Laura is a very active teacher at Smyrna West Alternative School where she teaches middle school students (grades 6-8) language arts and reading. Melissa is an Assistant Professor of Geosciences at MTSU. Ayne is retired from MTSU and formerly branch president. ~ *Pictured are Melissa (L), Ayne, and Laura.*



AND thanks to all the following officers who will provide leadership to the branch for 2011-12:

Laura Schlesinger, President 907-4065 (lischles@gmail.com) // **Deborah Johnson**, Vice President for Programs (shelter2@bellsouth.net) // **Melissa Lobegeier**, Vice President for Membership 898-2403 (mlobeg@mtsu.edu) // **Samantha Cantrell**, Financial Officer 494-8751 (scantrell@mtsu.edu) // **Ayne Cantrell**, Communications 893-1786 (acantrell@comcast.net) // **Jan Leone**, College and University Relations 898-1718 (jmleone@mtsu.edu) // **Edna Burke** Development Officer 809-2196 (Jeburke1209@comcast.net) with **Mary Hoffschwelle** 896-5074 (hoffsch@mtsu.edu) // **Myra Norman**, EYH/GRITS Coordinator 896-7303 (mnorman@mtsu.edu) // **Cathy Crabtree** Book Sale Chair with **Jane Leone** 898-1718 and **Nancy Rupprecht** 898-0130 (nrupprec@mtsu.edu) // **Meredith Dye** mdye@mtsu.edu & **Sharon Smith** lastpritchett@comcast.net, Website Managers // **Mattie Butler**, Telephone Caller (893-2419)

In principle and in practice, 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.