



Murfreesboro-AAUW Winter/Spring 2012 Newsletter

<http://mtweb.mtsu.edu/aauw>

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

President's Message. Since this time of year lends itself to both reflection and projection, I thought it fitting to share the EYH Welcome I gave on behalf of our AAUW Branch to the participants of the 2011 Math and Science Conference for middle school and high school girls. I hope you enjoy reading it as much as I enjoyed writing and delivering it!

2011 EYH Welcome--I have always been fortunate enough to have strong female role models, particularly in my teachers. I was lucky enough to have a nontraditional kindergarten teacher who had a parachute suspended from her classroom ceiling and brought her cat to school every day; Buffy, was our class mascot while Cocoa, the horse that grazed in the pasture, in back of the school was our school mascot, thus spawning my love of animals. She also introduced me to John Denver whose songs, such as "Looking for Space," "slipped the bonds" of the record player during naptime.

My second-grade teacher was a space fanatic, so I was, too; in fact, she was one of the runners-up to be the first teacher in space. "To [...] school children of America" like us "who were watching the live coverage of the [Space Shuttle Challenger's] take off" and resultant explosion, President Ronald Reagan said this: "[P]ainful things like this [are] all part of the process of exploration and discovery; it's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons." A stalwart supporter of space exploration, John Denver memorialized the "brave, wonderful people who were aboard the Challenger Space Shuttle" by writing the song "Flying for Me."

In middle school, I joined the math team and competed regularly. Simply put, I love math. I am one of those rare breeds who harbors a love of math and literature. I always say the two keep me in balance: literature is open for interpretation whereas in math, while there is almost always more than one way to arrive at the correct answer, ultimately, there is only one correct answer. I would have welcomed such an opportunity as this when I was your age. At the end of high school I had to decide what I would pursue: English, math, dance, or any combination thereof. I chose the latter but ended up pursuing the former and would later go on to earn my teaching certification in both English and math. Now, as a middle school language arts and reading teacher, I can make math cross-curricular connections and reach students who may not like literature but like math. Incidentally, we are encouraged to teach eighth graders Ronald Reagan's address on the Challenger Disaster.

By virtue of the fact that you are here today tells me either you have expressed an interest in math and/or science or someone has encouraged you to expand your horizons. Embrace it! This past summer I played the role of Mayella Ewell in the play *To Kill a Mockingbird*; now, I am playing the role of Mina in *Dracula*. A colleague—a *male* colleague—brought it to my attention that these women are the linchpins of the stories, without whom there would be no story. In real life, I play the role of a leading lady; as such, I am a proud member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), which has supported education for girls and women since 1881. For 15 years now, our local branch has co-sponsored this conference. The women you met at the sign-in tables are members of Murfreesboro AAUW. As girls, soon-to-be women, you, too, will play a vital role in the world that is a stage, and we, the women of AAUW support you and applaud you in your efforts to expand your horizons! So, go get 'em tiger!—*Laura Schlesinger, Branch President*

Branch Winter/Spring Meetings and Programs. Murfreesboro-AAUW meets each month, September through May (excluding January), and always at 5-7 PM. Upcoming meetings are as follows (***please note that the branch will no longer meet at the Farm Bureau:***

- **FEB. 9--Forest Oaks Clubhouse, 1002 East Northfield Blvd.** Dinner, program, and business meeting. / Program: Court Appointed Special Advocates—CASA of Rutherford County. / Donation: Feminine products for the Domestic Violence Program. *Dinner Hostesses are Leola Fouts, Katie Foss, Kaylene Gebert, Reyna Gordon, and Tanya Peres Lemons.*
- **MAR. 15--MTSU, James Union Building, Faculty-Senate Room 100.** National Women's History Month reception, program, and business meeting. / Program: "Women and Quilts of the Civil War" presented by Cathy Crabtree (MTSU History Department). / Donation: Sugar or sugar substitutes for the Domestic Violence Program. *Note this is the third Thursday of the month.*
- **APRIL 12—Place TBA.** Dinner, program, and business meeting. / Program: Sharon DeBoar, Child Advocacy Center / Donation: Laundry supplies for the Domestic Violence Program. *Dinner Hostesses are Cathy Crabtree, Meredith Dye, Mary Hoffschwelle, Jan Leone, and Kris McCusker.*
- **MAY 17--Forest Oaks Clubhouse, 1002 East Northfield Blvd.** Annual meeting to renew memberships with a Potluck Dinner and Buffalo Raffle / Donation: Children's underwear for the Domestic Violence Program. *Note this is the third Thursday of the month.*

Welcome New Branch Members. Pictured below (left to right) are Mary Early-Zald, Kris McCusker, and Jennifer Sexton, our newest branch members who joined AAUW in 2011, bringing branch membership to 37 members. **Mary Early-Zald** is an Academic and Professional Life Coach who specializes in working with academics to increase their meaningful productivity and achieve life balance. A former therapist for eight years, she has served as a student development professional, worked closely with academic faculty and other leaders, taught at the university level, and been certified as a diversity trainer. Mary received her PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Minnesota and her BA in Psychology from the University of Nebraska. Locally, she taught at Belmont and served as an administrator at Vanderbilt before starting her coaching business. / A native San Franciscan, **Kristine M. McCusker** holds a Ph.D. in History, Folklore and Ethnomusicology from Indiana University and is now a Professor of History at MTSU. She authored *Lonesome Cowgirls and Honky Tonk Angels: The Women of Barn Dance Radio* (2008) and co-edited *A Boy Named Sue: Gender and Country Music* (2004). She is currently writing a NIH-funded book on Southern death rituals in the 20th century. Kris is married and has two brilliant, beautiful daughters, Katie Lou and Grace. / **Jennifer Sexton** is a native Nashvillian who graduated from Hillwood High School in 1982. After graduating from Motlow State Community College in 1984 where she majored in Accounting and Information Systems, Jennifer returned to Nashville and worked for a data processing company. In 1992 she graduated from Belmont College with a Bachelor's in Business Administration. She then joined IDS Financial Services (now known as Ameriprise Financial) as a financial advisor and obtained her Certified Financial Planners (CFP) license in 1997. Jennifer has been in the financial planning business for twenty years. Her main office is in Murfreesboro with a satellite office in Nashville, TN.



Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship Available for Fall 2012

Our current scholarship recipient, Virginia Lucas, is graduating in May, so the scholarship committee will be reviewing new applicants this spring. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must have successfully completed their freshman year. We seek candidates with academic promise, who have a demonstrated financial need. Returning adult students, in particular, are encouraged to apply. The scholarship is renewable each semester as long as full-time status and a 2.5 GPA are maintained. If you know of a good candidate who meets these criteria, please direct her to our Scholarship Committee Chair, Dr. Samantha Cantrell (samantha.cantrell@mtsu.edu) for the specific application procedure.

Scholarship Book Sale Scheduled for April 2 & 3. Got books and DVDs to donate? There will be three Saturday drop off takes at Lyon Hall in March. Contact Committee Chair Cathy Crabtree for details: 867-3963 or ccrabtre@mtsu.edu.

Call for Branch NCCWSL Scholarship Nominations

AAUW-Tennessee invites branch nominations of undergraduate college and university students for scholarships to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to be held May 31-June 2, 2012, University of Maryland, College Park. Participants will have the opportunity to

- Hear energizing keynote speakers and meet inspiring Women of Distinction Award recipients.
- Participate in workshops focusing on advocacy, leadership, health and wellness, and "real world" issues such as financial literacy and life after college.
- Get involved in preconference activities, community service projects, and skill-building events.
- Enjoy endless opportunities to network.

As a member of the Murfreesboro branch, you may recommend a worthy MTSU candidate for our branch nominee. Please contact Ayne Cantrell (893-1786 or acantrell@comcast.net) for nomination details. **DEADLINE FOR BRANCH NOMINATIONS: February 20, 2012.**

Branch Members' Generous Donations—The December Buffalo Raffle raised \$170.00, which will be donated to the AAUW Educational Opportunity Fund and the Legal Advocacy Fund. Also branch members generously contributed \$125 to the Domestic Violence Program.

April 2012 is a busy month!

- April 2 & 3—Branch Book Sale for Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship
- April 12—Members elect Vice President for Programs and Financial Officer
- April 12—Report of Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship Selection Committee
- April 17—Equal Pay Day
- April 20-21—AAUW of Tennessee Meeting, Knoxville



Branch Board Meeting. Members of the Murfreesboro-AAUW branch board met on January 21 at the home of Ayne Cantrell to discuss spring branch activities, including awarding the 2012-2013 Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship; organizing the scholarship book sale, April 2-3; submitting a branch nominee for the AAUW of Tennessee NCCWSL Scholarship; and partnering with MTSU's June Anderson Women's Center and other women's groups for Equal Pay Day, April 17.

Picture left to right back row are Ayne Cantrell, Samantha Cantrell, and Nancy Rupprecht. Center row are Edna Burke, Cathy Crabtree, Deb Johnson, and AAUW mascot Zoe. Front row are Jan Hayes and Laura Schlesinger.

Much thanks to all 2011-12 officers who continue to provide leadership to the branch:

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 **Jan 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