

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

## Branch Officers:

President—*Tanya Peres Lemons*

Programs VP—*Deborah Johnson*

Membership VP—*Melissa Lobegeier*

Finances—*Jennifer Sexton*

Communications—*Avne Cantrell*

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## President's Message

I am honored to have this opportunity to welcome everyone to the start of AAUW Murfreesboro's Centennial Celebration. Our members have been working to Break Through Barriers for Women and Girls in Middle Tennessee since 1913! It is my pleasure to serve as your president during this momentous and celebratory time.

The Board of Directors has been hard at work getting ready for this year. In addition to our monthly meetings and dinners, fundraising efforts, and advocacy events, we are planning several awareness-raising activities and membership drives, and our branch is hosting the annual AAUW of Tennessee Annual Meeting in April 2013. You can read about some of these in this issue of the newsletter. You will hear more about them at the monthly meetings (so be sure not to miss any!).

This year we are introducing a special Centennial Celebration t-shirt (offered in both athletic and non-athletic styles) for sale to benefit the branch's fundraising efforts. We hope to unveil them at the September 13th meeting. I would love to hear your ideas on events or activities we can incorporate into the AAUW Murfreesboro Centennial Celebration. Drop me an email at [Tanya.Peres@mtsu.edu](mailto:Tanya.Peres@mtsu.edu) or give me a call at 615-904-8590. Be sure to bookmark the AAUW Murfreesboro Google Calendar so you don't miss a meeting (<http://tinyurl.com/93p2mft>). I look forward to working with all of you as we continue the AAUW Murfreesboro tradition. —*Tanya M. Peres Lemons*

## EOF and LAF Fundraiser—Accessorize!

Our September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Forest Oaks I Clubhouse will feature a Potluck Dinner and "Shape the Future": Silent Auction Fundraiser for the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) and Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). New members may join at the meeting for \$36.00, one-half price of the usual dues.

The theme for the auction will be "Accessorize!" You may be the successful bidder on exciting accessories that you can add to enhance your outfits – scarves, jewelry, belts, purses, hats, gloves, socks. *Non-theme items, as always, are welcome.* Starting thinking of what your colleagues might like to bid on, and donate items to benefit AAUW in the following ways. The **Educational Opportunities Fund** provides financial support to advance education, research, and self development for women to foster equity and positive social change. Funds target grants for specific fellowships, career development, community action, and selected professions awards. Each year the Educational Fund provides more than four million dollars in fellowships and grants to support women scholars.

The **Legal Advocacy Fund** provides legal support to protect LAF plaintiffs in workplace sex discrimination cases. The campus Outreach Project protects college students from discrimination, harassment, and assault through ongoing program grants. Since 1981 more than two million dollars has been contributed to assist plaintiffs with legal fees for sex discrimination cases.—*Edna Burke, Development*



## Fall 2012 Meetings & Events

**SEPTEMBER 13—Branch meeting**, Forest Oaks I Clubhouse, 1002 E. Northfield Blvd. // Potluck and “Shape the Future Silent Auction” to benefit EOF and LAF. // New members may join for \$36.00. // Donation: Big & tall trash bags for the Domestic Violence Program.

**SEPTEMBER 22—EYH Conference**, MTSU. Volunteers needed to sign in students, 7-8:30 AM. Contact [Myra.Norman@mtsu.edu](mailto:Myra.Norman@mtsu.edu) or 896-7303 h / 898-5005 w.

**OCTOBER 11—Branch meeting**, Central Christian Church, 404 E. Main. // Program: Domestic Violence, speaker TBA. // Donation: Toilet paper and paper towels for the Domestic Violence Program.

**OCTOBER 22—Ninth Annual Economic Summit for Women**, Nashville Airport Marriott. Register online at <http://www.womenseconomicfoundation.org/summit.html>.

**NOVEMBER 08—Branch meeting**, Central Christian Church, 404 E. Main. // Program: TBA. // Donation: Bath towels for the Domestic Violence Program.

**DECEMBER 13—Branch meeting**, Forest Oaks I Clubhouse, 1002 E. Northfield Blvd. // Potluck Holiday Dinner and Buffalo Auction. // Donation: Cash or check for the Domestic Violence Program.

## Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program

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*“Love shouldn’t  
have to hurt.”*

For many years, the Murfreesboro Branch of AAUW has adopted the Rutherford County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program, contributing goods and sometimes cash to the program at our monthly meetings. The branch is very fortunate to have the agency’s director, Deborah Johnson, as a member and branch officer.

In 2011 the Domestic Violence Program completed twenty-five years of service in Rutherford and Cannon Counties as an independent 501 (C)(3) non-profit agency. Director Johnson, says, “I am proud our organization has increased its services to victims of domestic violence to include not only the original 24 hour crisis line, shelter, and counseling services but also court advocacy, specialized children’s services, and community support groups.” Johnson has also promoted the agency and increased its scope of programming to include Elder Abuse programming and sexual assault services. The agency has moved from a \$43,000 budget and staff of three to an annual operating budget of over \$700,000 and twenty full and part time victims’ advocates. As an adjunct professor at Middle Tennessee State University, Johnson shares knowledge about social work, elder abuse, and domestic violence with university students. She also works closely with community leaders, local social services agencies, and law enforcement.

“I have enjoyed my relationship with AAUW members,” says Johnson. “I am very grateful of all the support AAUW has provided the program. I believe strongly that ‘love shouldn’t have to hurt’ and have worked to better our community.”

*To learn more about current issues facing the Rutherford County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program, be sure to attend the branch meeting on October 11, 5:00 PM, Central Christian Church.*

**October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.** An act of domestic violence occurs every 12 seconds in the United States, and most victims are women.

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## Ruth Houston Scholar, 2012-2013

Rita Jane Jones is the 2012-2013 recipient of the Ruth Houston Scholarship, a \$1,000 per semester academic scholarship that the Murfreeboro Branch of AAUW awards annually to an undergraduate MTSU student.

A mother of two adult daughters, Rita is a Communication Studies major. As a nontraditional student, she says, "Claiming my education is changing my life. I finally have the tools I need to put together all these threads I have accumulated through my years. Understanding how much I do not know has opened so many doors for me. In 2008 when I returned to school, I began a journey of re-inventing Rita. I was not at all sure I could sit in class, take notes, pass a test—I was not sure the other students would accept 'an older student' in their class. These fears and concerns melted away within the first 'Hello' I received from my English instructor. Every semester has built courage, determination, and a confidence I have never known."

"To be awarded the Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship with AAUW," Rita says, "is an honor and opportunity that I humbly accept for myself and for all women who may find themselves in need of reinventing. With this very generous scholarship, with the wisdom and guidance of AAUW, I will continue my studies at MTSU so I may truly help make a difference in the equality for women in our education systems, our households—indeed, in every work place in America. Thank you to the AAUW, Murfreeboro Branch for this honor."



*Rita Jane Jones  
Ruth Houston Scholar  
2012-2013*

## MURFREESBORO BRANCH CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL, 1913-2013

It's not too soon to wish our branch "Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday" and to take action in ways that will highlight our branch—past, present, and future.

One of the ways to recognize this historic achievement is to wear our branch! Yes, "wear." At the September meeting, you will have an opportunity to order your choice of two types of t-shirts (athletic and non-athletic) designed by one of our own—Tanya Peres Lemons. The athletic shirt will be silver grey with teal ink; the non-athletic v-neck shirt will be white with teal ink. Both styles are available in Ladies S to 4XL—prices to be announced at the meeting.

For those runners and walkers among us, the athletic t-shirt (which says, "Women are natural leaders. You are following one now!") will raise branch awareness when our group wears them and participates in 5K Walk/Runs around the county. Other ways we plan to publicize our branch as we move into our centennial year include highlighting our history for the National Women's History Month program in March 2013 and hosting AAUW of Tennessee's annual meeting at the MTSU Foundation House on April 6, 2013.

If you have suggestions for centennial activities, please contact President Tanya Peres Lemons at [tperes@mtsu.edu](mailto:tperes@mtsu.edu) or 904-8590.

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**Breaking through Barriers**  
for Women and Girls In  
MiddleTennessee

AAUW Murfreeboro  
Since 1913



**Happy Birthday**

To AAUW of Murfreeboro  
Since 1913

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO BRANCH MEMBERS



**Sierra Baker**, member of the National AAUW Virtual Branch Digital Logistics team, is also serving as (1) Team Leader for Obama For America in the Women for Obama, (2) new campus coordinator for Students for Liberty, and (3) founder and incoming president of MTSU Women for Liberty; she attended Freedom Fest in Las Vegas where she spoke on being a woman in the libertarian movement; and she was one of only three women accepted into the MTSU Student Technology Program. ~ **Yuan-ling Chao** presented a paper entitled "The *Pi* and *Wej* in the Inner Bodily Landscape in Late Imperial Jiangnan: A Preliminary Study of Ye Tianshi's Theory of *Weiyin*" at the 4th International Conference on Sinology at the Academia Sinica, Taiwan, June 20-22, 2012. ~ **Cathy Crabtree** has been busy making dresses for her granddaughters to wear in her son Jarod's wedding on September 1. ~ **Kellum Everett** was accepted into the McNair Program at MTSU for first generation and underrepresented students to get their Ph.D.s. Her presentation on evidence of prehistoric malnutrition in native Americans won first place in the McNair symposium and will be published in the *McNair Research Review*. ~ **Katie Foss** and Dr. Kathy Roberts Forde won the 2012 James W. Carey Media Research Award for "The Facts—the Color!—the Facts': The Idea of a Report in American Print Culture, 1885-1910," published in *Book History*. This award was given by the Carl Couch Center for Social and Internet Research and was presented at an international conference. Foss's article "That's Not a Beer Bong, It's a Breast Pump!" Representations of Breastfeeding in Prime-Time Fictional Television" was published in *Health Communication*, and she subsequently spoke about breastfeeding and the media at the Capitol as part of the Great Nurse-in, a breastfeeding event. ~ **Reyna Gordon** has made these presentations in 2012: "Singing for Neurons: Breakthroughs in the Study of Language, Music, and the Brain," keynote talk at Middle Tennessee Psychological Association Meeting, April 21; "EEG Oscillatory Approach to Studying the Emotional, Timbral, and Rhythmic Features of Music Perception in Williams Syndrome," invited talk, Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany, July 11; and "The Influence of Musical Rhythm on the Perception of Word Stress in Williams Syndrome," podium presentation at the Perspectives on Rhythm and Timing Workshop, Glasgow, Scotland, July 19-21. ~ **Courtney Martin** was chosen to be the Graduate Student Representative for WHET (Women in Higher Education in Tennessee). ~ **Nancy Rupprecht** co-edited *The Holocaust and World War II: In History and in Memory* (to be published in Britain by Cambridge Scholars Press) with Wendy Koenig; each editor has an article in the book as well. ~ **Laura Schlesinger** received the Murfreesboro Little Theatre's Best Supporting Actress of 2011-2012 for *God's Favorite*.

## MEMBER-GET-A-MEMBER CAMPAIGN

Of all the ways to grow our branch, none is more effective than members reaching out to their friends, neighbors, and acquaintances and encouraging them to join. **Pledge now to bring prospective members to our September 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Share this newsletter with them and tell them about AAUW.**

**Who are we?** The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is an organization of college-educated individuals from all walks of life who share a vision in advancing education for women and girls by being part of a network that makes a difference both locally and nationally. Over 150,000 members strong nationally, AAUW is a powerful voice on women's issues. At our monthly branch meetings, September through May, we invite members to educate themselves on women's issues, make lifelong friends, have fun, and enjoy good eats!

Membership in AAUW of Murfreesboro is open to anyone with a college degree, including an associate's degree. For more information, contact Membership Chair Melissa Lobegeier ([bolivina@gmail.com](mailto:bolivina@gmail.com) or 615-898-2726). And check us out at <http://mtweb.mtsu.edu/aauw/> and on facebook.com/AAUWMurfreesboro.

**Please share this newsletter with prospective members.**

## 2012-2013 Branch Leaders

At the May 2012 branch meeting, **Tanya Peres Lemons** was elected Branch President, **Deborah Johnson** was re-elected Programs Vice President, and **Jennifer Sexton** was elected Financial Officer. Deborah and Jennifer will serve two years in their positions, Tanya one year.

Tanya is an Associate Professor of Anthropology at MTSU. Deborah is Director of the Rutherford County Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Program. Jennifer is owner of Sexton and Associates, a financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

Serving the second year of their two-year terms are **Melissa Lobegeier**, Vice President for Membership, and **Ayne Cantrell**, Communications.

Appointed officers are **Edna Burke** ~ Development with **Mary Hoffschwelle**; **Cathy Crabtree** ~ Book Sale Chair with **Jan Leone** and **Nancy Rupprecht**; **Jan Leone** ~ College and University Relations; **Myra Norman** ~ EYH/GRITS Coordinator.

**Meredith Dye & Sharon Smith** serve as the branch Website Managers, and **Mattie Butler** serves as the telephone caller.



Deborah Johnson, Jennifer Sexton, and Tanya Peres Lemons

## TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP

Enjoyable company, great food, woman-centered mission—these are just a few of the reasons that members renew their AAUW memberships. We ended the 2011-2012 year with forty members, and many of you have renewed your memberships. THANK YOU!

For those of you who still haven't renewed, you are encouraged 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 \$72.00 (\$49 for national dues, \$10 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](http://aauw.org), or you can send a check to our new financial officer: **Jennifer Sexton, c/o Ameriprise Financial, 745 South Church Street, Suite 401, Murfreesboro, TN 37130**. Also you can renew your membership at any of our branch meetings.

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*"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."*

**AAUW of Murfreesboro**  
**Murfreesboro, Tennessee**  
**Since 1913**

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

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Google Calendar – <http://tinyurl.com/93p2mft>