

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

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President—*Tanya Peres Lemons*

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Membership VP—*Meredith Dye*

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Newsletter Editor:
Ayne Cantrell

President's Message. Fall Greetings! This summer I spent some time catching up on my stack of "for fun" reading. One of those books helped me see myself in a new light—as an activist in the work I do for AAUW.

In the Time of the Butterflies, by Julia Alvarez, is a fictionalized account that follows the Mirabal sisters, opponents of the brutal and oppressive regime of Rafael Trujillo in the Dominican Republic. This novel is a moving story about four farmer's daughters turned political activists against the wishes of husbands, cousins, and parents. Three of the four were killed by Trujillo's order in 1960. While those three did not live to see Trujillo's regime toppled, the actions they took contributed to the eventual conclusion to the story. The United Nations designated November 25 as the *International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women* to honor the lives of the Mirabal sisters who were assassinated on November 25, 1960.

The Mirabal sisters' story made me think about what it means to be an activist and how you and I can effect change in our community that will have lasting and far-reaching results. Before reading the book, I tended to think of activists as those people that hold signs and march on the state capitol . . . Or those people that meet in secret in somebody's basement to outline elaborate plans to subvert the dominant paradigm . . . Or those people that visit college campuses and stand in the quad espousing their ideas and ideologies, hoping to recruit others to their cause. I realized I had been equating "activist" with "those people," the other, unnamed persons, but never with myself.

I never considered myself an activist because of what I do: Donate to and buy books at the AAUW Book Sale; bring items for the Buffalo auctions; hold branch leadership positions; sit on the committee that has selected the last five recipients of the Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship; volunteer at EYH; and work the Equal Pay Day table. Yet it is the culmination of these seemingly small actions by you, me, and AAUW members across the nation that add up to big, noticeable, and lasting changes to improve the lives of women and girls. I feel certain we are making a difference in the lives of our scholarship recipients. I feel certain we are raising awareness about pay equity and the lack of women in the STEM fields.

Yes, we members of AAUW of Murfreesboro are all activists, and if every one of us gets involved in AAUW in a seemingly small way, the summation of all of these small actions will add up to big change.—*Tanya Peres Lemons, President, AAUW of Murfreesboro*

BE AN ACTIVIST; GET INVOLVED! Branch Meets September 12. Looking for a way to act on your activism? Join us on Thursday, September 12 (5-7 PM, Forest Oaks I Clubhouse, 1002 E. Northfield) for a potluck and silent auction to benefit AAUW's Educational Opportunities and Legal Advocacy Funds (read about these funds on page 2). The auction theme is "Autumn in Tennessee." You may be the successful bidder on exciting items that follow an autumn theme or represent aspects of Tennessee, including products made in Tennessee, such as food, maps, books, and pictures. "Autumn in Tennessee" might also suggest plants, items in fall colors, wearing apparel, and regional sports items. *Of course, non-theme items, as always, are welcome.* Start thinking of what your colleagues might like to bid on, and donate items to benefit AAUW. **Bring a friend to enjoy this event! New members may join at ½ price of dues.** Get Involved! Be an activist!



MURFREESBORO
(TN) BRANCH

What are EOF & LAF? AAUW is a four-star charity, according to the Charity Navigator, for the third year in a row. Only 10% of the charities rated received four stars. This means that AAUW efficiently applies your donations to achieve the mission of equity for women and girls. Our Murfreesboro branch of AAUW sponsors three fund raisers each year to support the Educational Opportunities Fund (EOF) and the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). Proceeds from our September Silent Auction are designated 100% to AAUW. Our Buffalo Raffle sales in December and May donate 25% of proceeds to these funds. So, where does our contributions go?

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 aid 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. Recently, a collective group of students launched a website to help students dealing with sexual assault on their campuses. To learn more about this project, go to the websites [Know Your IX](#) and [AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund resource page](#). Since 1981 AAUW has contributed more than two million dollars to assist plaintiffs with legal fees for sex discrimination cases. —*Edna Burke, AAUW Murfreesboro Development Officer*

Fall 2013 Events (*Please note meeting place change for the October and November branch meetings. We will meet at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall.*)

Be sure to

Bookmark the AAUW Murfreesboro Google Calendar so you don't miss a meeting <http://tinyurl.com/93p2mft>

"Like" us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/AAUWMurfreesboro>

Check out our fresh and friendly home on the web <http://murfreesboro-tn.aauw.net/>.

- SEPT. 12 **BRANCH MEETING.** 5-7 PM--Forest Oaks I Clubhouse, 1002 East Northfield Blvd. Potluck Dinner and "Shape the Future": Silent Auction to benefit the AAUW Educational Opportunities and Legal Advocacy Funds. / New members may join at the meeting for \$36.00, one-half price of the usual dues. / Donation: Big & tall trash bags for the Domestic Violence Program.
- SEPT. 21 **EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS (EYH) CONFERENCE.** Branch volunteers are needed to serve lunch at the sixteenth annual Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) in Science and Mathematics for middle and high school girls, MTSU. To volunteer, contact Myra Norman, 896-7303 / Myra.Norman@mtsu.edu.
- OCT. 10 **BRANCH MEETING.** 5-7 PM--St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 315 East Main St. (parking and back entrance on E. College). Dinner (\$5.00), program, and business meeting. / Program: Ryan Wallace (Child Advocacy Center) will speak on the center's new child abuse educational program called "Darkness to Light." / Donation: Toilet paper and paper towels for the Domestic Violence Program.
- OCT. 15-18 **Holocaust Conference,** James Union Building, MTSU. *See page 5 for details.*
- OCT. 27 **AAUW-TN Fall Board Meeting,** Nashville Airport Marriott, Nashville, 2:00 PM.
- OCT. 27-28 **Annual Economic Summit for Women,** Nashville Airport Marriott. Register online at <http://www.womenseconomicfoundation.org/summit.html>.
- NOV. 14 **BRANCH MEETING.** 5-7 PM--St. Paul's Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 315 East Main St. (parking and back entrance on E. College). Dinner (\$5.00), program, and business meeting. / Program: Jane Sharp from Greenhouse Ministries with Candy Carter will speak on human trafficking. / Donation: Bath towels for the Domestic Violence Program.
- DEC. 12 **BRANCH MEETING.** 5-7 PM--Forest Oaks I Clubhouse, 1002 East Northfield Blvd. Potluck Holiday Dinner and Buffalo Auction / New members may join for ½ dues. / Donation: Cash/check for the Domestic Violence Program.

AAUW Membership

By Meredith Huey Dye, Branch Membership Vice President

Why I am a member of AAUW? Because of my undergraduate experience with my local AAUW branch at Erskine College in Due West, SC. I believe recruiting MTSU students and their faculty is an important part of member recruitment. This is one reason I am excited about assuming the position of Membership VP. This year, branch President Tanya Peres Lemons, myself, and several others will begin the process of starting an AAUW student organization at MTSU. In addition, we will table at events on campus including the New Faculty Orientation and Welcome Week. I encourage all of us to reach out to the community, your neighbors and your friends. Invite them, the new faculty in your department, and your students to our AAUW meeting on September 12th. Don't forget: ½ price dues for new members at the first meeting. Share this newsletter with prospective members and tell them about our local AAUW branch.

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! If you have ideas for retaining, recruiting, and welcoming new members, please share those with me.—*Meredith*

AAUW Membership Renewal

2013-2014 membership dues are now due. Dues are \$49.00 for national, \$10.00 state, and \$13.00 branch for a total of \$72.00). AAUW-Murfreesboro has budgeted for several worthwhile programs that are dependent on everyone paying dues on a timely basis. You can pay your dues via card online at www.aauw.org or mail a check payable to "AAUW" to **Jennifer Sexton, c/o Ameriprise Financial, 270 Glenis Dr., Suite B, Murfreesboro, TN 37129**. *Please note the new mailing address for Jennifer. She has recently moved her office.* Remember that \$46.00 of your dues is tax deductible. If you pay online you will need your membership number (for your number, contact Ayne Cantrell, acantrell@comcast.net).

Welcome Newest "Shape the Future" Members!

The branch welcomes our newest members who joined in May. **Karen Alea Ford** is the director of The Writer's Loft non-degree creative writing program at MTSU. She writes fiction and teaches part-time in the English Department. Her undergraduate degree is from Palm Beach Atlantic University and MFA from Bennington College. She lives in Murfreesboro with her husband, Colin, and two daughters--all three feminists. **Suzanne Mangrum** is the Assessment Librarian at the James E. Walker Library, where, among other things, she negotiates licenses for electronic materials and assists with collection development. She lives in Murfreesboro with her husband, John, and her four year old daughter, Audrey.

The "Shape the Future Membership Campaign" is designed to help branches recruit new members by offering 50% off the national membership dues to anyone who joins at a public event. For every two new members who join, the branch earns one free national membership, up to a maximum of three free memberships per year. Recently AAUW of Murfreesboro earned three free 2013-2014 memberships. At the May meeting there was a drawing among 2012-2013 members present for the free national memberships. Lucky winners were Meredith Dye, Kaylene Gebert, and Kris Pruitt.

Membership in AAUW of Murfreesboro is open to anyone with a college degree, including an associate's degree, as well as student e-affiliates. For more information, contact Membership VP Meredith Huey Dye (Meredith.dye@mtsu.edu or 615-898-2690).

**PLEASE SHARE THIS
NEWSLETTER WITH
PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS.**

New branch members Suzanne Mangrum and Karen Alea Ford.



Ruth Houston Scholar Update

By Rita Jane Jones



Good day to you all! As I come to terms with this being my last summer at MTSU and with AAUW, Murfreesboro Branch, I proudly announce the new beginnings of my course of study. Besides researching where my master's program could be, I have also embarked on the research for my independent study in the fall. This area of study in the rhetoric of social discourse is connecting my life threads as a civil rights activist. Through the combined efforts of staff and faculty from MTSU, the University of Memphis, University of Alabama, Savannah State University, Tennessee State University, Fisk University, and the local NAACP, as well as the Civil Rights Library, Freedom Riders, along with numerous scholarly web resources and literature—my journey has only just begun. I want to thank you all with my whole soul for your overwhelming support and confidence in my abilities to further my goals. As my graduation day of December 14, 2013, comes closer, it comes with a mix of excitement and sadness as I ready myself for the next leg of reinventing Rita.

NCCWSL Scholar's Report

By Kellum Everett

First of all, I want to thank AAUW of Murfreesboro for nominating me and for supporting my trip to Maryland to attend the 2013 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). It was an amazing experience. What follows is my report.

The first day was a bit of a warm up for everyone. There were two workshops called "finding your voice" and "sharing your voice." We talked about why we were there and how we felt about the status of women in our culture. Other workshops I attended included the following: "The Well-spoken Woman: Tips and Techniques to Speak with Confidence" by Christine Jahnke (I would definitely recommend her to anyone who has an interest in portraying and building better confidence. She discussed body language when delivering speeches as well as how your body language can also change how you feel about yourself—sort of power posing); "Empowering University and College Women in STEM" (I learned a great deal about how girls dumb themselves down in school. The speakers gave many statistics from studies on how females actually do worse on tests when told beforehand that women and girls usually score lower on that specific test, essentially a self-fulfilling prophecy); "Hail to the V" (about the media's detrimental portrayal of "femininity"); and a workshop on raising money for organizations (It was geared to the political realm, but much of the information could be used for student organizations as well. The speaker really pushed just getting out there and asking for money, even if it meant asking family and friends, which many people, including myself, are afraid to do).

My all-time favorite was a lecture by Rachael Simmons who wrote *The Curse of the Good Girl*. She talked about how girls and women feel the pressure to be nice to the point where they let people walk all over them. She had several personal stories about her many "failures" and successes and how she used to be that "good girl." She talked about how women volunteer and do so many things to help others and how they have such high expectations for themselves but are also so hard on themselves, whereas men often fail over and over and might be completely oblivious to it. She even talked about how hard women are on each other and how that sabotages other women. I hope to purchase her book in the future and will definitely be on the lookout for her visiting the Nashville area.

I hope this report gives you a taste of what I experienced at NCCWSL. Thank you again for your confidence in me and for your support.—Kellum Everett, *President Women in Science and Engineering (WISE), MTSU*



Ayne Cantrell (L) congratulates branch NCCWSL nominee Kellum Everett on receiving the AAUW of Tennessee 2013 NCCWSL Scholarship.

Branch Board Sets 2013-14 Budget and Agenda

Under the leadership of branch president Tanya Peres Lemons, AAUW-Murfreeboro Board members met at the home of Ayne Cantrell on July 27, 2013, to set the branch budget, dates for meetings, and other activities for the new year (see Fall events, page 2). A proposed budget (estimated operating funds of \$1,749.00 and estimated expenditures of \$1,135.00) will be presented to the membership for approval at the September meeting. Expenditures include co-sponsorship of these events at MTSU: EYH: Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Math Conference for Middle and High School Girls; Holocaust Conference, Women's History Month, AAUW's Start Smart Negotiation Workshop for female students, and Equal Pay Day. Also plans are underway to support the startup of an affiliate AAUW student organization at MTSU and to schedule the Ruth Houston Scholarship Book Sale next spring.



Summer Board Meeting, July 27

Front Row

Ayne Cantrell, Tanya Peres Lemon

Middle

Deborah Johnson, Jennifer Sexton,
Cathy Crabtree (Zoe), Nancy Rupprecht

Back

Edna Burke, Myra Norman

Branch President's Public Policy Initiative

At the summer branch board meeting, President Tanya Peres Lemons congratulated the branch for supporting public policy issues such as STEM education for girls and equal pay for women and announced her intention to establish a branch Public Policy Committee charged with outlining an Action Plan. She has appointed new branch member Dia Cirillo as Public Policy Chair, explaining "Dia comes to us from Chicago, Illinois, with over fifteen years of experience with policy and program development and fundraising in both the corporate and nonprofit world. Dia and I will work together to prioritize public policy initiatives according to our branch's interests and create an appropriate Public Policy strategy." Those interested in advocacy on the Public Policy front, should contact either Tanya or Dia.

Branch Co-Sponsors MTSU Holocaust Studies Conference

One of the events AAUW of Murfreeboro is co-sponsoring this fall is the 11th International MTSU Holocaust Studies Conference, "Global Perspectives on the Holocaust" at James Union Building on October 15-18, 2013. All featured sessions are free and open to the Middle Tennessee community. Complete conference information (including lecture times for Gerhard L. Weinberg, internationally recognized as the premier historian of WW II) is posted at http://www.mtsu.edu/holocaust_studies/conference.php. A number of the conference sessions will focus on gender issues and will be of special interest to AAUW members:

- October 16 (1:10 PM)—The MTSU Women's chorus will perform "Songs for Silenced Voices" and Canadian political scientist Adam Jones will speak on "Understanding Gendercide." His presentation will concentrate on the importance of gender in genocide.
- October 18 (1:40 PM)—Ursula Mahlendorf will discuss the intense gender and political socialization she experienced as a young child in Nazi Germany. This indoctrination turned her into a true believer until military defeat and the revelation of the horrors of the Holocaust forced her to reevaluate her life and values and come to terms with her past. Her determination to free herself from her totalitarian childhood socialization demonstrates the malevolent coercive power of a deliberately manipulated process of gender and political socialization and reveals an uplifting story of one girl's struggle to empower and define herself as a competent, independent, and humane woman.
- October 18 (4:00 PM)—The final session of the day will be a roundtable discussion by three women who were hidden children during the Holocaust. Artist Nelly Toll, Sonja Dubois, and Frances Cutler-Hahn will discuss their Holocaust experiences from the point of a frightened female child.

"No one who listens to the personal experiences of liberators and survivors of the Holocaust remains unchanged. Since even the child survivors are approaching their eighth decade, [their presentations represent] a once in a lifetime opportunity for the Middle Tennessee community to experience a deeply moving, informative and uplifting program."—Nancy Rupprecht, MTSU Holocaust Conference Chair