

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

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Peres Lemons*

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## President's Message

Welcome to the 100<sup>th</sup> year of AAUW Murfreesboro! As we reflect on the growth and successes of our local branch, let's be sure to remember who the real winners are—the women and girls of Middle Tennessee who have benefited from the fundraising and advocacy efforts of our members past and present. We have much to celebrate during this year, including our long-standing partnership with MTSU and the Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science/Girls Raised in Tennessee Science program headed by one of our very own (Dr. Judith Iriarte-Gross) that has served hundreds of middle and high school girls from across Middle Tennessee and beyond; our many fundraising efforts (not the least of which is the always-anticipated book sale to benefit the Ruth Houston Memorial Scholarship); continued advocacy efforts on the Pay Equity front; and a vibrant and active membership, including 40 branch members and 23 e-student affiliates.

Our celebrations are well under way. In September of last year, we unveiled a special Centennial Celebration t-shirt, and in this issue of the newsletter, we unveil the commemorative jewelry designed specially for us by a local MTSU student and artist. On the third Thursday in March, we will host a special celebration event on the MTSU campus that coincides with Women's History Month. In April we host the AAUW of Tennessee Annual Meeting, co-sponsor Lilly Ledbetter's keynote address at the MTSU Women's and Gender Studies Conference, and co-manage the annual Equal Pay Day awareness-raising event on the MTSU campus.

With all of these upcoming exciting events and activities on our calendar, we will only meet at our regularly scheduled time in February (Thursday the 14<sup>th</sup> at Central Christian Church) and May (Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Forest Oaks Clubhouse).

Our celebrations do not end in May, and 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 into the next century—*Tanya Peres Lemons*



AAUW of Murfreesboro Since 1913

## Upcoming Events

- FEB. 14--**BRANCH MEETING.** Central Christian Church (404 E. Main), 5-7 PM. Dinner, program, and business meeting. / Program: John Callow from City of Murfreesboro Development Department. / Donation: Feminine products for the Domestic Violence Program.
- APRIL 5--**LILLY LEDBETTER, KEYNOTE SPEAKER.** Women's and Gender Studies Conference, MTSU Student Union Ballroom, 3:00 PM.
- APRIL 5--**AAUW OF TENNESSEE DINNER AND BOARD MEETING.** Murfreesboro. Time and place TBA.
- APRIL 6--**AAUW OF TENNESSEE ANNUAL MEETING.** MTSU Tom H. Jackson Building. Murfreesboro Branch hosts the meeting, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
- APRIL 9--**EQUAL PAY DAY Informational Booths,** MTSU Student Union and KUC 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 10 AM to 2 PM.
- MAY 9--**BRANCH ANNUAL MEETING.** Forest Oaks Clubhouse (1002 E. Northfield Blvd.), 5-7 PM. Time to renew memberships and a Potluck Dinner and Buffalo Raffle. New members may join for ½ dues. Donation: Children's underwear for the Domestic Violence Program.

## TO BE ANNOUNCED

- MARCH—National Women's History Month Meeting  
 APRIL—Ruth Houston Scholarship Book Sale

## Centennial Celebration Jewelry

As part of our centennial celebration, branch members agreed it would be nice to have a piece of special jewelry to commemorate the occasion. We solicited designs from several artists and chose the work of Rae Smith, an MTSU student and local artist. Rae designed a pendant and coordinating earrings that showcase AAUW's colors of silver, teal, and white. Each item is handcrafted and made to order. We are finalizing details of the ordering process and will announce them at the February 14<sup>th</sup> branch meeting.

Both earrings and pendant are non-tarnish silver plated copper wire. The pendant chain is about 20" (nickel-free hypoallergenic silver plated wire, not handmade; also available in leather cord). The earrings are available in clip-on or for pierced ears. **Prices:** Pendant only \$25; Pendant with chain \$32; Pendant with hand-wrapped leather cord \$40; Earrings only \$22; Earrings AND Pendant on chain \$43; Earrings AND Pendant on leather cord \$45. *Sterling silver chain and sterling silver earring hoops may be requested at a higher cost.* For those interested in a broach alternative, Ms. Smith says, "I would have to alter the design to make a broach. I can do this, but I can't give you an accurate price, just yet."



## AAUW OF TENNESSEE MEETS IN THE 'BORO, APRIL 5 & 6

AAUW of Murfreesboro will host the annual meeting of AAUW of Tennessee in April 2013. The state board will meet for dinner and business on Friday night, April 5 (time and place to be announced), and AAUW members from across Tennessee will meet on Saturday, April 6, at the MTSU Tom H. Jackson Building, 9 AM--3 PM.

"Millie" Hoffler-Foushee, AAUW Vice President of Finance, will represent the national organization at the annual meeting. Other program specifics will be announced soon. Meanwhile, Ayne Cantrell is heading up AAUW of Murfreesboro's hosting plans. She has reserved accommodations at the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites for our out-of-town guests, Mary Hoffschwelle has agreed to coordinate lunch for Saturday's meeting, and Margaret Scott will head up table decorations. Other plans will be discussed at the branch meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

### Lilly Ledbetter to Visit MTSU, April 5

AAUW of Tennessee's annual meeting in April coincides with the **MTSU Women's and Gender Studies Biennial Conference—"Global Discourses in Women's and Gender Studies," April 4-6**. On Friday, April 5, AAUW members are especially encouraged to attend the pre-keynote luncheon and Lilly Ledbetter's keynote address (among the co-sponsors are AAUW of Tennessee and AAUW of Murfreesboro).

Ledbetter is known for her struggle for equal pay, which is detailed in her memoir, *Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond* (2012). Upon retirement in 1998 from Goodyear, Ledbetter learned that she had been paid less than her male counterparts since her hire in 1979. She sued Goodyear for pay discrimination, but the U.S. Supreme Court denied her claim because she did not file suit 180 days from her first paycheck even though she didn't know about the pay inequity at the time. In response to the Supreme Court's decision, the **Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009** (the first bill signed into law by President Barack Obama on January 29, 2009) states that the 180-day statute of limitations for filing an equal-pay lawsuit regarding pay discrimination resets with each new paycheck affected by that discriminatory action.

Ledbetter's keynote is scheduled for 3:00 pm in the new Student Union Ballroom with a book signing to follow. Ledbetter's address is free of charge, but attendees must get tickets at the door on a *first come/first serve* basis. Those who attend the pre-keynote luncheon will have tickets already. Details on how to register and pay for the luncheon will be announced soon. Attendees are encouraged to get parking passes at the university Parking Services, 1403 E. Main St.

The complete conference program will soon be available online at the Women's and Gender Studies' website <http://www.mtsu.edu/womenstu/conference>. All events will be held on the MTSU campus at the new Student Union. WGST Council member, Dr. Nancy Rupprecht reports, "Unfortunately, there is no parking anywhere near the building, so it is not accessible for mobility impaired or handicapped individuals. . . . [Should] you wish to attend but need assistance to get from your car to the venue, please call the MTSU Women's and Gender Studies Program (615-898-5910) in March to determine whether arrangements have been made to accommodate handicapped individuals."

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*Just prior to signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act, President Obama said, "Lilly Ledbetter did not set out to be a trailblazer or a household name. She was just a good hard worker who did her job -- and she did it well -- for nearly two decades before discovering that for years, she was paid less than her male colleagues for doing the very same work. Over the course of her career, she lost more than \$200,000 in salary, and even more in pension and Social Security benefits -- losses that she still feels today. Now, Lilly could have accepted her lot and moved on. . . . But instead, she decided that there was a principle at stake. . . . So she set out on a journey that would take more than 10 years, take her all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, and led to this day and this bill which will help others get the justice she was denied."*

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## WISE CLOTHING DRIVE SUCCESSFUL

During the first week of December 2012, Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) at Middle Tennessee State University conducted their first WISE Women Dress for Success Clothing Drive to collect business-casual clothing for women in need. The clothing drive was organized by WISE president, Kellum Everett, an anthropology major at MTSU. Along with chemistry professor and director of the STEM Center at MTSU, Dr. Iriarte-Gross, WISE partnered with the Murfreesboro branch of AAUW to solicit donations from the MTSU community.



Several professors and departments at MTSU volunteered to serve as collection sites: Dr. Ida Fadzillah-Leggett and Dr. Tanya Peres Lemons in the department of anthropology, Dr. Iriarte-Gross in the department of chemistry, Ginny Vesper and the James E. Walker Library, Amanda Virag at Monohan Hall, and Janet Kelly and the rest of the staff in the College of Graduate Studies. Many other faculty and staff at MTSU also reached out to support the clothing drive and to spread the word to colleagues and family members.

The week long clothing drive was scheduled to wrap up at the annual AAUW-Murfreesboro holiday meeting, but donations continued to trickle in the following week. In the end, over one-thousand items of clothing and accessories were collected and delivered to the Domestic Violence Program, the Goodwill Career Center, and Greenhouse Ministries. Due to the huge response, WISE and AAUW plan to conduct another drive in the spring.

## 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 30-June 1, 2013, University of Maryland, College Park.

NCCWSL is a two-and-a-half day conference designed to enhance the leadership skills of college women students and to promote effectiveness in their work on campus and in the community. Last year, the conference attracted more than 500 young women participants from all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, Guam, and Jamaica. 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; and enjoy endless opportunities to network.

The scholarship will cover conference registration (includes lodging and meals). With some funding from the branch who nominated her, the scholarship recipient must be able to provide travel expenses to and from the conference.

As a member of the Murfreesboro branch, you may recommend a worthy MTSU candidate for our branch nominee. Please get the student's permission and then send your letter of nomination to Ayne Cantrell ([acantrell@comcast.net](mailto:acantrell@comcast.net)). **DEADLINE FOR BRANCH NOMINATIONS: February 22, 2013.** Please give (1) the student's full name, mailing address, phone number, and email address; major and expected graduation date and (2) your reasons for nominating the student and your opinion of how the student will benefit from the NCCWSL experience.

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*Former AAUW-TN scholarship recipient, Ashlyn Gurley of Maryville College says, "Attending the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders . . . was one of the most amazing experiences I've ever had. . . . [It] was life-changing for me. I navigated myself through a large city alone, met lots of other motivated young women that I instantly bonded with, and learned about all of the great females working to help females like me."*

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## WELCOME NEW BRANCH MEMBERS!

Since September 2012, thirteen new members have joined AAUW Murfreesboro. Yes, 13! Free branch memberships were granted to five MTSU graduate students: **Cassandra Bennett, Mona Brittingham, Alexandra Collins, Jessica Reeves, and Angela Sirna.** Other newcomers are **Dannielle Davis, Jackie Eller, Kiffin McCoy, Margaret Ordoubadian, Katherine Pendleton, and Sarah Taylor.** Rejoining the branch after a short hiatus are **Stacy Graham and Becky McIntyre.**  
*Welcome All!*

A few of these new members would like to introduce themselves. **Jessica Reeves** says, "I graduated from MTSU in 2007 with a B.S. in Mass Communication/Public Relations, then moved to Boston to serve as an AmeriCorps member with City Year Boston. Currently I am a M.A. student in MTSU's Public History program, with an expected graduation date of Spring 2014. My areas of interest are material culture, death studies (including cemetery landscapes), and 19th century American history. My hobbies include listening to rockabilly music, learning the bass guitar, visiting historic sites and cooking French food." ~ **Kiffin McCoy** says, "I am the managing consultant and owner of ASTERA Business Solutions™, a learning and development firm currently focusing on eLearning and instructional design. A native of Murfreesboro, I earned a Master of Business Education--Corporate Training and Development degree from MTSU and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Judson College. I am an active member in several professional and community organizations including serving as 2011 President for the Middle Tennessee Chapter of ASTD (MT-ASTD) and currently as the Event Chair for the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) at St. Paul's Church. My favorite hobby is traveling, which I would like to do more." ~ **Margaret Ordoubadian** says, "Having retired from the MTSU English Department after thirty-eight years of full time teaching and a four-year post-retirement appointment, I am now a member of four book clubs, probably a way of easing the sense of loss I experienced after leaving the classroom. With four children, ten grandchildren, and one great-grandchild located in six states and Sweden, we are often traveling or entertaining family members from afar."

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).

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



*Melanie Price (R) sits with Kiffin McCoy (L) whom she brought to the AAUW of Murfreesboro's 2012 December Holiday meeting. The Member-Get a-Member Campaign really works. Kiffin joined on the spot!*

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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**

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