



## *November/December 2013 Salt Lake City Branch Newsletter*

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## **President's Message**

At the special “Women at Any Age”, panel event on October 12<sup>th</sup>, AAUW SLC Branch members were captivated by three amazing passionate women leaders who helped everyone realize the positive power of being willing to always keep learning, using technology wisely and supporting the ideal of empowering women by eliminating racism and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. This was the second year the AAUW SLC Branch has hosted a panel event where topics were suggested by branch members and just like last year’s event the information given by the presenters was overwhelmingly received with positive praise.

First, to speak was Nancy Mathews who as most of the SLC members know is our own member and a past president of the AAUW SLC Branch and a retired Educator/Administrator. But retirement has never slowed Nancy down in her passion to support lifelong learning activities. Nancy spoke as an active “lifelong learner” representing the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at The University of Utah. Osher provides opportunities for intellectually stimulating, affordable, non-credit courses and meaningful social engagement to people 50 and better. Nancy leads by example and her

desire to alert women in the branch of continuing to be lifelong learners resulted in her paying for a one year membership to a branch member through a drawing.

Second, was Rachel Brisson who is currently in her fourth year at Brigham Young University, pursuing a BS in Sociology. As an appointed member of the University Student Advisory Council, Ms. Brisson represented the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences, which is BYU's largest college. Rachel presented on the many positives and also on some of the negatives to SLC branch members concerning the use of technology devices and social media which has gradually changed the dynamics of human communication and social networking. Her tips for using technology and social media were astute and reinforced her message that using technology wisely has potential for connecting and empowering women in creative and powerful ways.

Finally, Keri E. Jones, LCSW and the Chief Program Officer for the YWCA Salt Lake City of Utah reported to branch members on the YWCA Salt Lake City programs. The YWCA of Salt Lake City has been a women's membership organization in Utah for over 100 years, and currently has 8 programs that serve women, teens, and children who are victims of domestic violence. Keri as Chief Program Officer is in charge of supervising all residential and community programs which include services for women who have been affected by domestic violence in the community. Her personal stories gave AAUW SLC branch members insight into the important and emotional work that the YWCA does in our local communities. Their work makes them a valuable team member in supporting the focused work that AAUW members in Utah also strive towards, "Empowering Women"!

We look forward to the **November** event on the importance of leadership. Please mark your monthly calendars with a "**Save the Date**" notice for **November 16, 2013** and plan to be at **Botanica 2030 S 900 E, Salt Lake City from 10:00 to 12:00**. Our speaker for this leadership event is Carol E. Merrill the director of the Weber State University Women's Center. She completed her master's degree in Social Work from the University of Utah, with an emphasis in clinical counseling. Carol is a local, national, and international speaker focusing on issues related to: personal empowerment, single parenting, leadership, and achieving your potential. She firmly believes that once a person has identified their strengths, the opportunities for success and personal fulfillment are limitless. I hope to see all members at this life empowering leadership event.

## Branch Educational Opportunities Chair

### Update

*Maxine Haggerty*

#### New Local Branch Scholarship

Thanks to the assistance of our branch president, Patricia Matthews, and treasurer, Darliegh Webb the branch now has a designated money market account at the University of Utah CreditUnion, where we are depositing money being donated toward our future branch scholarship for a woman student. The **total in the account at present is \$199!** Our branch book club members have donated \$69; 3 members have donated \$110 “In Memory” of Marti Weber’s father, Joyce Hansen, and Ruth Schwager; sales of books and miscellaneous items donated for sale at our last two branch meetings have totaled \$25. When you decide to donate to our local scholarship, **please make your check to: Salt Lake City AAUW Branch Scholarship.**

Be aware that **donations to our branch scholarship are not tax deductible** because the branch board realized that our budget could not support the fees and legal requirements of a tax deductible status. The Brigham City Branch of AAUW has been able to award a scholarship to a local woman for many years on a non-deductible status, so our Salt Lake City Branch board has decided to attempt supporting a local scholarship on the same basis.

Approved by the board, a committee is currently developing the structure and parameters that will guide this branch endeavor. The branch members who volunteered to be on the committee are: Maxine Haggerty; Louise Lochhead; Jeanette Misaka; Jeanette Misaka; Carole Rusho. **They urge and welcome input from any branch member.** When the committee has completed its charge, it will submit a report to the board and then to the branch membership for approval.

#### Donations to AAUW Fellowships and Grants

The Bridge Group continues to donate generously to the fellowships and grants at AAUW in Washington, DC. So far in 2013 they have given \$300--\$50 being credited to two Wasatch Branch member bridge players—for a total of \$250 credited to our branch. Our 2013 April luncheon fundraiser netted \$1,301.91. **Branch total donated so far in 2013: \$1,551.91.** Donations are accepted any time, duly recorded, and sent in to Washington, DC, on a timely basis.

**Please make your check to: AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund.**

As EOF chair, I will add the fund number on the memo line of your check. You may also add the name of anyone you wish to give in memory of. AAUW in Washington, DC, will send an acknowledgment of your gift to the family if you provide me the name and full address. These donations are tax deductible.

### Legal Advocacy Fund

These donations should be given to Martha Bales, who is the LAF Chair. Make your checks to: These donations should be given to Martha Bales, who is the LAF Chair. Make your checks to:

**AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund #3999.**

## Board Spotlight- Maxine Haggerty



What Branch member manages to juggle a busy schedule of meeting with State Representative Jason Chaffetz, organizing our new Branch Scholarship, running a Bridge Group and writing letters to the Editor of the Salt Lake Tribune that actually get published?! It's Maxine Haggerty, of course. In case you missed Maxine's Article in the Trib, here it is:

### AAUW RESEARCH SAYS WOMEN GRADUATE TO A PAY GAP

Members of AAUW (The American Association of University Women) in Utah appreciate the coverage that the Salt Lake Tribune continues to give the wage gap between women and men. For more than

130 years, AAUW has advocated for gender equity in education and the workplace and is well known and widely trusted for research reports it sponsors on issues affecting women and girls. One of its recent reports available to download at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) is *Graduating to a PayGap: The Earnings of Women and Men One year after College Graduation (2012)*.

Most people are aware of the wage gap, but they may not realize that one year after a woman graduates from college she is financially behind—on average paid 82 percent of

what her male peer is paid (2009 data). Women working full time earned \$35,296 on average, while men working full time earned \$42,918. Using regression analysis and controlling the data for hours, occupation, college major, employment sector, and other cultural factors associated with pay, the Graduating to a Pay Gap report states that the pay gap shrinks but does not disappear. “Collegeeducated women working full time were paid an unexplained 7 percent less than their male peers were paid one year out of college.” Over a full-time working lifetime college-educated women earn \$500 thousand dollars less than male peers.

Gender discrimination is often blamed, but the report fairly points out other possible causes for the pay gap. “Negotiating a salary can make a difference in earnings, and men are more likely than women to negotiate their salaries.” To help women overcome this reticence, AAUW has cooperated with the WAGE Project to bring “\$tart \$mart” workshops to college and university campuses to train women how to negotiate their salaries. Plans are underway to hold \$tart \$mart workshops at the University of Utah during the coming year. (Learn more about \$tart \$mart at [facebook.com/StartSmart-forEqualPay](https://facebook.com/StartSmart-forEqualPay) or at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org).)

Through the years AAUW has been a leader among those who have lobbied Congress for laws to protect equal employment and pay for women and has been at the President’s side when legislation was signed. Recently, AAUW led the effort for passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009, which clarifies when pay discrimination on the job can be legally contested. Because many private employers retaliate against workers who compare wages and salaries, legislation to remedy this practice has been introduced into every congress since 2005 without becoming law. The current Paycheck Fairness Act bills (H.R. 377 and S. 84) introduced in January 2013 would amend the Equal Pay Act of 1963 by imposing stiffer penalties against employers who violate the 1963 law and by prohibiting retaliation against sharing salary information. AAUW members throughout the country currently are encouraging everyone to join them in lobbying their congressional delegations to bring these bills to the floor for favorable vote.

In Graduating to a Pay Gap, AAUW states that “Fifty years after the passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963 it is surprising that women continue to be paid less than men are paid, even when they make the same choices.” So, AAUW continues to encourage and support women to make good life choices through its stated purpose of Empowering Women, its research on issues impacting women and girls, its campus women leadership programs, its emphasis on girls going into STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math), its Educational Opportunities Fellowships and Grants for Women, its Legal Advocacy Fund, and its Public Policy Program activities in Washington, DC.

Equal pay for women matters to everyone. When a woman makes less, her family has less of everything (food, clothing, educational opportunities, health care), it takes her longer to pay off her student loans, and she earns less toward her Social Security and retirement. AAUW works everyday to make pay equity a reality.

Maxine R. Haggerty

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## Upcoming SLC Branch Events

November 16, 2013 - Leadership Focus- Guest Speaker Carol E. Merrill, Director of the Weber State University Women's Center

Location: Botanica, 2030 S 900 E Salt Lake City. Time: 10:00 am.

December 14, 2013 - Red Candle Tea (Westminster College)

January 11, 2014 - Legislative Meeting (Girl Scouts of Utah Building)

February 8, 2014 - Vagina Monologues (Westminster College)

March 8, 2014 - Distinguished Woman (TBA)

April 8, 2014 - Equal Pay Day (TBA)

Event May 10, 2014 - Installation of Officers (TBA)

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## In memoriam - Ruth Schwager

Ruth Schwager was a long-time member of our Salt Lake City Branch of AAUW. Ruth was born on April 27, 1912, in Augsburg, Germany, and died on October 9, 2013. She left Germany with her husband Joseph and son Pete in 1939 to escape from the Nazis. Her parents were unable to get visas and so perished in the Holocaust. After living in Pennsylvania, the Schwagers moved to Salt Lake to join Ruth's two brothers. Joe operated a men's clothing store, while Ruth worked at Auerbach's department store and later as a weaving instructor. After Joe died in 1964, Ruth decided to get a college degree and started studying at Westminster College. In 1970 she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Art. As a graduation present, she treated herself to a three month tour of Central and South America, the first of many international travels. In addition to AAUW, Ruth volunteered with the Jewish Community Center and Holy Cross Hospital. [From Ruth's obituary in the Salt Lake Tribune.]

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## West Valley Women in Motion Conference



The state office of AAUW had a table at this conference right outside our Utah Women Artists exhibition at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center in West Valley City. The table was staffed by Jeanette Misaka and Claire Turner from the AAUW SLC Branch and Janet Bunger and Kathy Horvat from the Wasatch Branch. This conference gave us the opportunity to share what AAUW is doing to address issues such as the pay gap, sex

discrimination, and bullying in schools.

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## Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for SLC Branch Member.

**Jeanette Misaka** is recipient of the Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation for 2013. Jeanette is a past president of the SLC Branch and the state office of AAUW and has received our branch's Distinguished Woman Award. For more information <http://education.utah.edu/about/news/jeanette-misaka.php>.

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## Regional AAUW conference

Nevada is the host state for the Rocky Mountain Regional Conference in 2014. The conference will be held in Reno on June 6-8, 2014. Please put this date on your calendars and watch for more information in future newsletters. AAUW NV will be following through on national themes, but will also emphasize what is unique to us in the West that permeates our branch and state AAUW organizations.

## AAUW 2014 April Branch Fundraiser



Plan to come and laugh along with Peri Kinder and Ann Cannon, as they read selections from their newspaper columns about the funny side of life! Just \$40 for a delicious lunch at the Town Club (1081 E. South Temple), which includes your \$15 donation to either 1) AAUW Fellowships and Grants or 2) our tentative at this time AAUW Salt Lake City Branch Scholarship. (A committee will be presenting the



local scholarship idea to our branch members for approval before the luncheon.) Both Peri and Ann have samples of their columns on the Internet. Just type in their names for a preview of our program!

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## Treasurer's Report

As of 10/31/2013 we have a total of \$9,589.41 comprised of \$2,206.94 in checking, \$199 in our scholarship fund and \$7,183.47 in savings. Since July 1st we have collected \$2,261 in membership dues of which \$1,718 has been remitted to AAUW at the state and national levels. We have \$114 in dues still to remit. We have also earned 8.38 in interest.

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## Branch Members Support YWCA

At the October 12th AAUW SLC Branch meeting there was a special highlight on the month of October as the "Domestic Violence Awareness Month". Many members who attended the meeting were kind enough to donate to the YWCA Kathleen Robison Huntsman Apartments Program. Keri E. Jones, LCSW, Chief Program Officer for the YWCA of Salt Lake City one of the distinguished panel presenters at the event informed those present that this program supports creating transitional housing for women with dependent children in their care which is available for up to 2 years through a partnership with the Salt Lake City Housing Authority. Eligibility prioritizes women who

have experienced intimate partner violence within the last year, qualify under the federal definition of homeless, and are eligible for the services through the Housing Authority.

Donations to this program from members included two large grocery bags of kitchen, bathroom and laundry room products along with cash and check donations in the "Purple Purse" drive that amounted to a gift from the branch of \$199.00. The grocery items and money will be used by YWCA staff to help newly sheltered women and children with basic items needed in the apartments to allow for quality living conditions. AAUW SLC Branch members through their generous donation proved their desire to support the empowerment of women hoping to escape from unhealthy and even life threatening domestic violence situations. Please read the letter below sent by Amberlie Phillips Chief Development Officer of YWCA of Salt Lake City thanking AAUW SLC Branch members for all gifts collected at the meeting.