

90 YEAR HISTORY

Salt Lake City Branch of the American Association of University Women

May 5, 2007

On April 30, 1917, Mrs. A. J. Gorham as the prime mover and twenty-one other women organized the Salt Lake City Branch of what was then known as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA). The Association of Collegiate Alumnae had been formed on January 14, 1882, with 65 women graduates from eight institutions: Boston University, the universities of Michigan and Wisconsin, and Cornell, Oberlin, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley. The mission of the organization was to ensure the value of their degrees, help extend the privilege of higher education to other women, and help educated women fit into a community that would recognize their talents and potential. But that s another interesting history from which we came. (Please read the 2006-2007 issues of *The Outlook* for articles about AAUW s Founding Mothers.)

Our first Salt Lake City Branch President in 1917-1918 was Mrs. E. H. Ledyard. (Remember, back then we all referred to ourselves as Mrs. So-and-So, if we were married!) The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Gorham on May 16, 1917. The treasurer s book for that first year lists the names of 57 members. All of the women were graduates from out of state since Utah institutions had not been accredited by the Association at the time. For some time, meetings were held at the YWCA, and a committee brought the lunch. Luncheons were to be the meeting format for many years to come and were held in places such as the University Club, Hotel Utah, and the Ambassador Club.

Among the first speakers were two White Russian Army boys who retreated across Siberia. They walked from San Francisco to Salt Lake City to attend the University of Utah. Study groups were to become an important part of the organization and often met at the public library. Some of the groups were Current Events, Current Literature and Art Appreciation. The first of many branch acts of community service was a survey of the history books of Utah conducted by Mrs. Ledyard. Later the branch surveyed nursery schools. Branch member Mrs. Theron Parmalee was to be the first state president when the state division was created in June of 1942.

Following World War I, the Association programming took on an international focus, and of course branch studies and activities followed suit. The ACA strongly supported the League of Nations and the International Federation of University Women (IFUW), which was formed in 1919.

1920s & 1930s --

In 1921 the Association of Collegiate Alumnae became the American Association of University Women. The new organizational structure started the Committee on Educational Policy and public education became a primary concern. Soon to follow was the establishment of the Committee on Fine Arts (1924) and the Committee on the Economic and Legal Status of Women (1926).

In 1927 the Million Dollar Fellowship Fund campaign to put AAUW fellowships on a sound and permanent basis was begun.

By the late Twenties, Regular study groups included Foreign Policy of the U.S., Schools and Children, and French, which met twice a month for many years. Programs during these years included topics such as Recent advances in Bacteriology and Recent

Advances in Art. And the Christmas party had become a tradition.

As an outcome of the Great Depression, in the Thirties the Social Studies Committee was created to study housing, individual liberties, consumer problems, and mental health. However, along with programs on **New Attitudes Toward Health**, **A Child Guidance Clinic for Salt Lake**, and **Religion in a Changing Social World**, the branch enjoyed programs on **Recent Discoveries in Archaeology**, **Evolution of the Opera**, **What Plants Tell Us**, and **Behind the Scenes in a Department Store**. A popular new study group was **Body Building through Dance and Floor Work**.

In 1935-1936, under branch president, Mrs. Theron S. Parmelee, the branch voted to offer a \$200 scholarship to a local girl, the first directory was published, and the first regular newsletter was started. A special membership tea was inaugurated in October, and the Christmas party was officially named **The Red Candle Tea**. In 1937 a Twentieth Anniversary was celebrated with a branch party, and the director of the Rocky Mountain Region of AAUW, Mrs. W. S. Garnsy came from Greeley, CO, to visit the branch.

At the end of the decade, along with programs on such timely topics as **American Neutrality in an Arming World**, the branch kept up its intellectual spirits with speakers on subjects such as **New Testament Research in Greece** and **Modern Music**.

1940s & 1950s

Association programs in the 1940s dealt with such timely activities as a refugee fund for university women refugees. Thousands of gift parcels of supplies for schools in European countries were sent by members all over the country and to Korea in the 1950s. The international fellowship grants were established in 1945. In 1943-44, Miss Olivia McHugh became the chair of our branch's **Fellowships and Finance**, and the branch **Committee on Economic and Legal Status of Women** was established. By this time, the branch was meeting in the Jade Room of the Hotel Utah for luncheon programs at \$1.15! Branch membership was 126 and \$146 was sent to the **Fellowships Fund**.

While Mrs. William L. Christensen was president during 1945-1947, the study groups were **Child Study**, **Social Studies**, **International Relations**, and a book review group. Dr. Nejla Izzeddin, famed Arab speaker, gave the branch a program on the true picture of life in her land. Dues in the late forties were \$6.00, with \$2.50 for the Association, \$.50 for the state, \$2.00 for the branch, and \$1.00 for the **Fellowship Fund**.

Reflecting national concerns of the 1950s, the Association issued a **Communist Threat** statement along with a kit of study materials for branches on **What Democracy Stands For**. Program topics during the 50s included:

The Declaration of Human Rights,
The U.N. as a Rational Approach to International Understanding,
What We as Women Can Do for Civil Defense,
 a series on **Making Freedom a Reality,**
Our Failures in the Far East,
Space World and Our Thinking, and
What Citizens Can Do About International Relations.

These programs were balanced by other presentations on **Creating Writing**, **Changing Status of Women**, **Working Together for a Minimum Standard of Living**, **Theory of**

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Ballet, Poetry Reading, The Economy of Utah, The Need for a Library Bill, and The Cancer Research Department with a tour of the of the U of U Medical Center. Three members attended the Family Life Institute at the White House Conference. In 1950, our branch was one of the sponsors of an art show at the state capitol which exhibited original portraits of leading Negro citizens.

As a result of AAUW s participation in U.S. State Department programs, our branch experienced many international contacts--a steady stream of students and professional women exchange visitors from Hawaii, Chile, Germany, Finland, Thailand, India, Japan, Pakistan, Iraq, and other countries around the world. Dr. Olivia McHugh attended the 10th International Federation of University Women s conference in Zurich, and Mrs. Douglas Whitcomb attended the meeting in Helsinki in 1958/59.

By the mid-50s, our membership had grown to 177, with 90% participation! And there were around 12 study groups. Meetings started rotating every other month with 1 p.m. luncheons and 8 p.m. evening meetings, and were being held in the Newhouse Hotel, the Ladies Literary Club, the Art Barn and the U of U Union.

The Million Dollar Fellowships Fund was completed in 1953, and 21 fellowships were awarded (13 national and 8 international). In 1958, the Educational Fund became the Educational Foundation. During these years, the branch held many fund raisers for fellowships. By 1958 the branch was sending over \$400 to fellowships.

In 1958, the branch began a new relationship with the media by voting to pay dues of \$50 to affiliate with the Utah Educational T.V. Foundation and support KUED. Soon after, branch member Mrs. Dewey Brodbeck wrote a series of eight programs that were presented on the station and were designed to stimulate young people s reading interests. Seventh grade students from Longfellow and Lowell schools appeared on the programs.

In the latter half of this decade, the Association started a financial campaign for a new building in Washington, DC. The Salt Lake City Branch s assessment was \$2060! Over three years, many teas (one at the home of Mrs. Phil Mallinckrodt), play readings, bazaars, fashion shows, Kaffe Klatsches, and benefit bridge fund raisers were held. In 1959, the Salt Lake City Branch was honored by the Association as being the second branch in the country to meet its assigned goal!

A sad occurrence at the end of the 1950s, was the passing of Mrs. A. J. Gorham, who organized the Salt Lake City Branch. Not only did she organize the branch, but she was the first woman to be awarded an honorary doctor of laws at the University of Utah, and the first woman to serve on the jury commission of Utah, as well as the organizer of the first day nursery in the state and served on the boards of many organizations. And she served as a regent for 18 years, with appointments by three governors. One of her admirers said of her, She was a proto-type of the educated woman in public affairs.

1960s & 1970s

As Salt Lake began its 4th decade in the 1960's, Westminster College was the 4th Utah institution approved by AAUW. President Dr. Duddy worked with AAUW to bring Dr. Rosalind Cassidy from the Association to personally look over the college. In 1960, branch dues were listed as \$10. In 1961, Mrs. Emery A. Morelli s name appears as branch

parliamentarian, and Mrs. P.A. Mallinckrodt is named as chair of the legislative program.

After supporting the efforts for a new public library from the beginning, when it opened its doors, the Salt Lake City Branch donated a large, lighted reference globe of the world to the library. For many years following, the branch donated books to the library in memory of deceased members. By this time, the Educational Television Foundation was in good shape, so the branch dropped the \$50 dues and decided to support KUED in other ways, such as working at telethons and previewing programs.

Program topics in th 60s included:

The Greatest Domestic Problems in the U.S. Today,
Where Is Advertising Leading Us?
Rights of Women in Utah,
Juvenile Delinquents in Utah,
Career Challenges in a Changing Society, and
The Population Gap.

Events during these years included hosting a visit from the Association President, Dr. Anna Rose Hawks. The Social and Economic Issues Study Group conducted a survey of some 50 doctors, lawyers, school counselors and ministers. The International Relations Study Group sponsored a garden tea held in Mrs. Frank Hummel s garden, which raised \$100 for IFUW s Relief Fund for the World Refugee Year. The branch reached out by sending members as representatives to other local organizations, such as the Salt Lake Council of Women, Women s State Legislative Council of Utah, and the Utah Association for the United Nations. After a lapse, the French Study Group was re-activated, a couples group began, and a style show was held at the Makoff Tea Room.

In 1962 extra money was raised by sales of calendars and candy and a benefit dessert card party. So, the branch was able to contribute a \$500 Named Gift to the Educational Foundation in honor of Mrs. John Brewster, the state AAUW president. In 1966, the branch was able to send two named gifts of \$500 to the Foundation! That year Mrs. Michael Treshow was appointed to chair the planning for the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Salt Lake City Branch in 1967.

The Red Candle Tea was first held at Ferry Hall on the Westminster College Campus in 1970, which it became a tradition until the hall was torn down in the early 1980's. In 1971-72, Mrs. P. A. Mallenckrodt and Mrs. Robert A. Miller were the branch s delegates to the Women s Legislative Council of Utah. (Bonnie later became president of the Council.) Jane Sears (later McCormick) suggested the branch sell stationery and cutlery to make money for fellowships, which Ruth Cech and Ruth Schwager managed faithfully for years. Also in 1972, the branch began to support the Equal Right Amendment by writing to our legislators and appointing two branch members to the ERA Coalition. Members also lobbied the Utah Legislature to retain funding for the Utah Commission on the Status of Women and later lobbied for the disposal of the Vitro Tailings. Members were encouraged to send their resumes to the AAUW State Division for the roster of women available to serve on government boards. We kept our KUED connection by underwriting programs such as Book Beat for \$500, hearing speakers about the effects of media violence, and touring the station. Members helped distribute the AAUW State Division s research publication, Utah Women and the Law. We selected notable women such as Lucy Beth Rampton and Genevieve Atwood to honor as the branch s Distinguished

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Woman. For several years we held **two** book sales a year in shopping malls in the spring and fall! Using a grant from the AAUW Educational Foundation, Maxine Haggerty led a branch project in researching information for a booklet listing scholarships in Utah for students, which was published and distributed widely to schools in early 1980.

In 1974, Anita Gander became chair of the **Woman, Searching for Self** study, and Bonnie Miller chaired the Serendipity group. Names such as Jeanette Misaka, LaDawn Richards, Kathy Packard, and Ceanne Mitchell began showing up repeatedly in the minutes as branch officers. As Membership VP in 1977/1978, Kathy brought in 36 new members, for a total of 210 branch members!

In her term as Education Chair, Ceanne Mitchell arranged excellent programs one at the Governor's Mansion to hear Mrs. Rampton speak about her trip to Russia, and one to hear Dr. Calvin Taylor speak on **Creativity vs. Conformity** in education.

Other program topics in the 1970s included:

U.S. Foreign Policy India, Pakistan and Nixon's Visit to China.

The Dollar's Worth,

Power and Pollution,

Women of India, (By Dr. Kamla Patel, an AAUW Post-Doc Fellowship awardee at the U of U.)

We Are All Aging Will We Meet Our Own Needs?

Meet Your Women Candidates,

The Politics of Food, and

Women as Agents of Change.

During these years, the branch continued to enjoy luncheon meetings at places such as La Morena Café at the Guadalupe Center, La Parisienne, Fort Douglas Officers Club, and The Heather.

1980s & 1990s

We started out the decade of the 1980's with Jeanette Misaka as president of the branch. She was followed by LaDawn Richards, Carol Wilson, Mary Perry, Marian Martin, Nancy Philabaum, and Ann Warlaumont. During these years our membership hovered around 200. The branch resumed its hosting of international visitors in 1980, with Anastasia Steer as the hostess for an affiliate from West Germany and Carol Wilson as hostess for an educator from South Africa. Nancy Mitchell was introduced as a new member at the April 1980 meeting.

In 1981, members in the Sandy area established the new Wasatch Branch of AAUW.

Mary Dawn Coleman, Bobby Dabling, Eugenia Nethery and her daughter, continued to raise over \$2,000 a year at the book sales in various shopping malls. The Salt Lake City Branch received mention in *The Graduate Woman* as contributing \$10+ per capita for fellowships. In 1980, Carol Wilson successfully encouraged the branch to start an endowed unit at the Educational Foundation with \$2,500. We would have 15 years to complete the total \$35,000. (Foundation policy later changed the time to 20 years.) In 1983, Olivia McHugh passed away and left \$19,105 for fellowships, with which the branch started another endowed unit named for her. Our branch then contributed over \$2,000 a year to fellowships, allocating the money between the two endowments. Extra EF fund raisers included selling Bonnie Miller's recipe book for \$10 (including her generous \$4 donation for each).

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The branch hosted the 1981 AAUW State Convention at the University of Utah, with Anita Gander in charge. Then, seven members took off for the Association's Centennial Convention in Boston in June of 1981. Ceanne Mitchell, Maxine Haggerty, LaDawn Richards, Helen Camp, Anastasia Steere, Jeanette Misaka, and Helen Allen. To raise funds for those attending the convention, a progressive dinner was held, and Carol Wilson hosted a wine-tasting party. Also in this year, the branch began to contribute to the new Association entity, the Legal Advocacy Fund.

Our branch was honored by being given the responsibility for the tea table at the reception for the first AAUW State Division's Utah Women's Artists Exhibition at the Salt Lake Art Center in May of 1982.

Over this decade, in the area of public policy, branch members lobbied 1) against the federal government's proposal to set up the MX Missile Range in Utah's west desert country, 2) against the abolishment of the Utah Commission on the Status of Women, 3) tracked Utah bills on prevention of domestic violence and the disposal of hazardous and toxic wastes, and 4) remained a part of the ERA Coalition.

Program topics these years included:

Peace and National Security, (Mary Ravarino and Bonnie Miller were co-chairs.)
Families Facing Change,
Working Women, (A presentation by Vee Carlisle)
Money Talks & Managing Personal Resources. (Carol Wilson led small groups.)
Women's Work - Women's Worth, (Lou Jean Flint chaired this study.)
Impact of Reaganomics on American Women, (Esther Landa spoke on this topic.)
Women in Leadership Positions, (Dr. Kay Coleman presented this program.)
Taking Hold of Technology & tour of Evans & Sutherland Computer Graphics,
How Private Schools Are Using Computers. (Given by a speaker from Waterford School). Anastasia Steere invited interested members for a demonstration of her personal computer at home. Dr. Barbara Beal, branch member and first woman school principal in Utah, gave us a program on Current Issues in Education.

As we moved into the 1990s, the Association was taking the lead with research concerning the next generation of women—the education of middle-school aged girls. Following this lead, our branch, under Lynda Miner's presidency, experimented with mentoring girls through the Girl Scouts of Utah. Taking the initiative in the fall of 1992, Lou Jean Flint applied for an AAUW Educational Foundation grant and organized a forum for educators, *Shortchanging Girls...Shortchanging Utah*, around the Association's first published research on the topic. Gail Bock, an educator interested in AAUW's new research, joined the branch in 1995. During Penny Archibald Stone's presidency, she set up the Utah Electronic Mentorship Project, where at-risk middle school girls were paired to exchange e-mail with professional women mentors. Branch members also were involved in Legislative Simulation workshops. In these years, Priscilla Mayden was our recording secretary and Rose Novak was our treasurer. Ann Warlaumont and Ellie Muth co-chaired Fellowships, Carole Rusho and Kathy Horvat co-chaired Public Policy. Carol Terrell Jones and Lis Thompson worked to collect branch history.

Also in the 1990s, diversity became a thrust of the Association. Members attended a winter-long series of Hispanic book reviews at the Chapman Library. Branch member and educator Teresa Maestas was honored as the branch's Distinguished Woman.

During Nancy Mitchell's presidency, in February of 1995, after 15 years, the Salt Lake City Branch completed its endowment of \$35,000 at the Educational Foundation! A year later, in the spring of 1996, the Olivia McHugh Endowment of \$35,000 was completed. Henceforth, the branch would contribute its fellowships money to the State Division's fellowship unit, which had just been established.

Even though branch membership was down to just over 100 at this time and dues had soared to \$46, in October of 1995 Mary Dawn Coleman reported that the book sale at Valley Fair Mall made \$2,805 and 70 of our members had participated in some capacity. And records show that branch members also had contributed \$230 to the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) that year.

Program topics included:

Multiple Intelligences, (Program given by Mrs. Pat Gardner)
 The Challenge of Gifted Minds, (Prog. by Dr. Jean Woolam, Curric. Specialist.)
 Problems of Disabled Women in Utah, (By Debra Mair, Dir. Indep. Living Ctr.)
 Report on the 4th International Women's Conference in Beijing, (Mary Perry)
 Speaking for Diversity, (Program by Jane Edwards, Dir. YWCA.)
 On Being a Hispanic Woman in Utah, (Program by Josey Valdez.)
 Girls and Gangs, (Program by Carol Voorhees) and
 Expanding Girls and Women's Professional Options. (Fanaye Turner, of MESA)

As the branch moved through these years, fewer of our meetings were formal luncheons. Instead, we began to adopt potluck luncheons and morning meeting continental breakfasts.

2000s --

After many years of hard work, branch members decided to give up the book sale. In Pat Dalgleish's presidency of 1999/2000, a rummage sale at the Sugarhouse Garden Center netted a little over \$700 for fellowships. Three professional women from Russia, Kenya, and India told us about their lives at a potluck meeting. And we learned about the Marriott Library's rare book collection, inspecting some at close range. Our Red Candle Tea was now being held at the U of U Alumni House. A summer social at Carol Wilson's home was started to encourage prospective members. Discrimination in the Workplace was an important program.

Beginning in 2001, the Red Candle Tea was held in members' homes first with Nancy Mathews, and following at the homes of Nancy Mitchell, and Carol Farmer. The Dresses of Diana at the Museum of Fine Arts was used as a fellowships fund raiser. A program on Title IX, by Kathy Brooks and Justine Reel brought us an Update After 30 Years. Regular study groups included Evening Literature, Daytime Literature, and two bridge groups.

In 2003/2004, president Maxine Haggerty and her board introduced some new fellowships fund raisers, including a Friday night Art Gallery Stroll; a potluck dinner at the home of Anita Gander, where Kathy Horvat spoke about her mother's early involvement in AAUW; and a book review session at Sam Weller's Book Store, with a percentage of the purchases that day being donated for AAUW fellowships.

Among the programs these years were:

--A presentation by branch member Mary Jane Morris on her Eleanor Roosevelt Teacher Fellowship;

--A Woman to Woman roundtable at the Centro de la Familia de Utah where Utah women of Hispanic, Black, Native American, and Pacific Islander ethnicity discussed how women can work together for equity;

--A panel of women professors from the University of Utah described their science careers in the academic setting; and

A panel of charter school administrators spoke about this growing educational phenomenon.

The branch also hosted the 2004 AAUW State Convention at the University of Utah, with Jeanette Misaka as committee chair.

Louise Lochhead's presidency in 2004/2005 was notable for her initiating the branch annual project, *Defining Your Path*, a conference for 8th grade girls to raise their awareness regarding future career goals. This outreach program was co-sponsored with the University of Utah's Youth Development Office, led by Claire Turner. Louise hosted an EF fundraiser at her home with a luncheon and a guest artist. Dr. Bonnie Pitblado, a Legal Advocacy Fund recipient, spoke about tenure discrimination.

During Carol Farmer's term as president for 2005/2006, she continued the established outreach programs of our branch, with members sharing a booth with the Wasatch Branch at The Great Salt Lake Book Festival booth and helping at the League of Women Voters Get Out the Vote Booth/Freedom Store. The second annual *Defining Your Path* conference was held. The program year, organized by Joyce Hansen, began with a luncheon on the Salt Lake Community College campus, where we heard the new president, Dr. Cynthia Bioteau speak. Dr. Ewa Wasilewska gave an informative program on the differences between Iran and Iraq. And branch member Gail Bock spoke on how to discover our own multiple intelligences. An EF fund raiser, Luncheon with Authors, was held at the Devereaux House, where four Utah women authors spoke and read from their works, with over \$900 netted for fellowships.

Current President Carole Rusho and her board for 2006/2007 faithfully carried on the program traditions of our 90-year-old branch with the summer social; the *Defining Your Path* conference for girls; the Red Candle Tea to honor new members; the Distinguished Woman Award Luncheon; an EF fund raiser (the second Luncheon with Authors at the Alta Club); an LAF fund raiser (very successfully chaired by Heather Dorrell, who donated a night at a Sundance cabin); and programming on 1) legislative issues (arranged for by Legislative Chair Yvonne Merrill) and 2) international affairs (a presentation by a woman student who is a citizen of Iraq, organized by Joyce Hansen). Carole also encouraged the branch's two small groups: the Evening Book Group (long led by Priscilla Mayden and Penny Archibald-Stone) and Partners Bridge (led for many years by Carol Wilson).

The years since the Salt Lake City Branch of AAUW was established in 1917 have been busy and worthwhile, full of opportunities for 1) lifelong learning, 2) service to the community, 3) working for equity, and 4) the making of meaningful and lasting friendships with interesting and engaged women.

Maxine R. Haggerty, Compiler

