



WASATCH WATCH

November, 20



Here to tell us about the dangers of air pollution and what we can do about them



will be Cherise Udell, founder of Utah Moms for Clean Air. She is a mother of two young daughters and

a resident of Salt Lake City. Cherise has a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from U.C. Berkeley and is nearly finished with her M.S. in Environmental Health and Social Ecology at Yale University. Her husband, Kent, is a Lehi native with Utah roots spanning back many generations. Prior to being a mom and an advocate for clean air, she was an Amazon jungle guide with an impressive 12-inch machete (really!).

As a mother of two small children she was horrified by the dangerous quality of Utah's air in the winter of 2007. On red alert days she felt as if she was locking her babies in a windowless room full of chain smokers. Thus, she wrote a simple, but heartfelt letter, to about 100 moms inviting them to join her and other mothers who want to help make Utah's air cleaner and safer — and the response has been phenomenal. Hundreds of mothers emailed her saying, "yes, count me in" and Utah Moms for Clean Air was born.

**AIR POLLUTION
IT MATTERS BECAUSE
WE ALL HAVE TO BREATHE!!**

**COME HEAR THE WASATCH
BRANCH GUEST SPEAKER
Monday, November 10, 2014
Cottonwood Presbyterian Church
1580 Vine Street (6100 South)
Murray, Utah
7:30 p.m.**

SAVE THE DATE !!

**HOLIDAY LUNCHEON AT CAFÉ MADRID
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014
11:30 a.m.**

More Information about this event will be available inside this issue of the newsletter.

President's Message

What a busy month this has been for Wasatch Branch. Dixie Allen filled us with optimism about the Common Core. Thanks to Lynne and Laura for arranging this enlightening program.

The First Annual Chili Cookoff and Bunco night was an outstanding success. A hearty thank you to Sue Nissen who did the detailed planning and execution to help make this a success. Of course we also are appreciative of the support of our Branch members whose generous donations amounted to \$830 going to Educational Opportunities. And how can we forget our Chili Chefs - Lynne, Gina, Laura, Reba, Fred and John who made the job of judging very difficult. I think they were all winners. Lynne came away with first place for her scrumptious chili. Thank you all for your support.

Meet and Eat had a great gathering thanks to Carol Copene. Nineteen women enjoyed lunch at Amici and it was opened just for us. Thank you Carol.

Out and About under Patti's leadership will also have an exciting meeting this month.

Now for National News -- This week I had the opportunity to be involved in a conference call with Mollie Lam of the national AAUW LAF staff. What a rare opportunity to connect with such a well informed individual. Probably the biggest news is the fallout from *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby*. AAUW is an "amicus party" in this case. Here's is a section from Mollie's report.

"In last summer's disappointing *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* decision, the Supreme Court ruled that closely-held corporations may prevent their employee health plans from covering forms of contraception to which the corporation's owners are religiously opposed. Despite Justice Alito's assurance that the Hobby Lobby ruling would have limited reach, fallout from the decision continues to threaten employees' access to preventative healthcare. The implications of the decision for all for-profit corporations may be significant. Religious non-profits are testing the limits of the Hobby Lobby decision by challenging other aspects of contraceptive coverage." According to Mollie this case is the most discussed case before the court as it refers to the Affordable Care Act.

Also for our attention are the TRAP laws already passed in several states. See the Public Policy article starting on page 3 for detailed information about these laws. The *Young v UPS* is a case discussing requested temporary light duty work because of medical complications during a pregnancy. Also of interest are the Voting Rights At Risk cases where in 2013 the Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* weakened the law, gutting the spirit but leaving the name. And finally Marriage Equality Surging activity which all of us in Utah are well aware. Lots happening. Stay tuned for further progress.

We look forward to seeing you on November 10th at our Branch meeting and Happy Thanksgiving.

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive;
and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some
humor, and some style" Maya Angelou

Ann Williams - Co-President



2014-15 Wasatch

Branch Officers

Co-President
Dottie Bingman
Ann Williams
Pres. Elect
Carolyn Wiggins
Co-Program VP
Lynne Romney
Laura Osburn
Membership/Diversity Co-VP
Sally Hoffmeyer-Katz
Brenda Clausen
Helen Nix
Secretary
Louise Jarvis
Marilyn Steward
Treasurer
Desta Aure
Marilyn Shearer
AAUW Grants & Funds (EO)
Sue Nissen
AAUW Grants & Funds (LAF)
Sandra Roach
Public Policy
Trudy Duncan
Sharyl Smith
Wasatch Watch Editors
Kathy Horvat
Marge Thomas
Yearbook
Chris Sebba
Sunshine Chair
Jane Cooper
Hospitality
Lucetta Roy
Colleen Alter

Wasatch Branch Calendar

Monday November 10, 7:30PM

Branch meeting at Cottonwood Presbyterian Church, 1580 E. Vine St. See more details on page 1.

Monday November 24, 7:00PM

Board Meeting at Eva-Maria Bates' house,



Happy Thanksgiving

EDITORIAL: State rated the worst for women

An editorial appearing in the October 25, 2014 Salt Lake Tribune, repeated a quote from 24/7 Wall Street, "Utah is the worst state for women." The website/blog 24/7 Wall Street is directed at the financial community, but the Tribune editorial made the point that paycheck inequality is not the only way in which Utah women find themselves lagging behind. Utah is bad, not just for women, but also for their children, whom they struggle to support, often on a single paycheck. The editorial cites the anticipated: gender issues, pay equity, levels of education achieved, number of women in executive posts for elective office, but expands into other, perhaps less well recognized, areas where women are affected, including access to health care, availability of state-funded pre-kindergarten programs, and difficulties for women and their children to get an education, to demonstrate to their children independent adult responsibility, to find and keep jobs with sufficient salaries, and to make necessary visits to the doctor for themselves and families.

The editorial closes with a strong conclusion, "...it means that Utah is basically squandering the talents and drive of half of its population, leaving their social, cultural and financial contributions on the table. And that means Utah isn't just a bad state for women. It's a bad state. Period."

We AAUW members care about these issues! Keep these ideas in mind when you vote on (or before) November 4th. What else can we do? Each of us personally can promote equal pay; more money for education, including pre-kindergarten programs; better health care for all citizens; and education and job opportunities for women. Choose your favorite(s), those issues you feel most strongly about, then, in every way you can, from one-on-one conversations, to full-fledged activities with advocacy groups, become involved! Let's turn this around!



"THE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE WHY UTAH IS THE WORST STATE IN THE NATION FOR WOMEN WILL NOW COME TO ORDER..."

In preparation for this year's Supreme Court actions, here is a retrospective look at cases from the last session which affect women in particular:

The actions of the U.S. Supreme Court this last session, were disappointing for many women. The following report, based on the AAUW Supreme Court Wrap-Up Telephone Conference, was written by AAUW's Mollie Lam and Beth Scott. There is another tele-conference preview of forthcoming Supreme Court cases scheduled by AAUW this October. We'll keep you posted.

Here are the case outlines from the session of the recent past:

I. How the Supreme Court Works

In the federal system there are three levels of courts. A lawsuit is initially filed in a district court; it may then be appealed to one of the circuit courts of appeal. Each circuit court covers multiple states, and their decision may be appealed to the Supreme Court. The Court can choose which cases to take, and if it declines to hear a case, the ruling of the lower court stands. In addition to the petitioner and the respondent, Supreme Court

(Cont.on pg4)

cases often involve amicus curiae. “Amicus curiae” means “friend of the court.” Amici are most often organizations (though they can also be individuals) that are invested in the question the case presents and want to offer the Court additional information or arguments. AAUW signed on to numerous amicus briefs for cases heard by the Court this term. Nine justices sit on the Supreme Court. As a general rule, all it takes for the Court to issue a ruling is a five-vote majority—five of the Justices must agree on the outcome of a case. It is notoriously difficult to predict how individual justices will vote and how the Court as whole will rule in a given case.

II. *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby and Conestoga Wood v Burwell*

On June 30, in a disappointing 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court sided with two for-profit companies that had challenged the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive coverage requirement. These businesses, which included Hobby Lobby, a national arts-and-crafts chain, claimed that providing employee insurance plans that cover certain forms of contraception to which Hobby Lobby’s owners have religious objections violates their religious freedoms. The Court agreed, holding that at least some corporations cannot be required to provide contraceptive coverage when the corporation’s owners state religious objections. Continuing AAUW’s long-standing support for access to contraception and reproductive healthcare, AAUW signed several amicus briefs in different circuits, arguing that for-profit business owners should not be exempt from providing healthcare coverage to their female employees.

AAUW strongly disagrees with this decision, which singles out women’s health for discrimination. The full impact of the court’s Hobby Lobby decision won’t be known for some time. Hobby Lobby challenged four particular forms of contraception, but the Court’s opinion did not limit the ruling to those forms of contraception only. Thus, corporations may argue that they can refuse to cover ALL forms of birth control if the owners raise religious objections. Before the court’s decision, dozens of other for-profit companies had already offered this broader challenge to the contraceptive coverage requirement in separate lawsuits. More than 80 companies have indicated that they will change the coverage available to their female employees because of the Court’s decision.

A week after the Court’s ruling, legislators in both the Senate and the House introduced legislation to directly address the decision. AAUW supports this legislation, which is officially called the Protect Women’s Health from Corporate Interference Act, and unofficially known as the Not My Boss’ Business Act. The bill would prevent employers from refusing to cover any guaranteed health benefit (including contraception) for their employees and their dependents. The legislation is designed to protect women who work at for-profit businesses. It would retain the coverage exemption for houses of worship and accommodation for religiously-affiliated non-profits, policies which AAUW strongly supports.

III. *McCullen v. Coakley*

In *McCullen v. Coakley*, anti-choice activists challenged a Massachusetts law that prohibits anyone not having business at a reproductive health care facility from entering or remaining on a public way or sidewalk within thirty-five feet of an entrance, exit, or driveway of the care facility. The Court ruled unanimously that the Massachusetts law was unconstitutional on the grounds that it impermissibly restricted the protesters’ free speech rights. The Massachusetts law was designed to protect patients from harassment and intimidation at the hands of protesters, who can be very aggressive in getting their message across and who sometimes block clinic entrances. AAUW signed on to an amicus brief urging the Court to uphold the law. Although AAUW is disappointed, we are pleased that the *McCullen* decision did not upset standing precedent that at least some buffer zones pass constitutional muster. It will be some time before we can clearly identify what effect *McCullen v. Coakley* will have on clinic access.

IV. *Schuette v. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*

About a decade ago, the Supreme Court ruled that a race-conscious affirmative action admissions program used by the University of Michigan’s law school was constitutional. Following that ruling, anti-affirmative action groups worked to pass Proposal 2, a Michigan state ballot initiative. That initiative passed and created Section 26 of the Michigan Constitution, barring considerations of race in university admissions. Affirmative action advocates filed suit, arguing that Proposal 2 violated the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution because it prevented affirmative action advocates from lobbying universities to use race-consciousness in admissions

(Cont.on pg7)

NOVEMBER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- Brenda Clausen



We now have 64 members. Help us grow to reach our goal of 70 members. I am sure you all know another woman who is a college graduate who would enjoy our company and our great programs this year. Show them the flyer promoting the next meeting and invite them to join you at the meeting.



October Program notes

Why All the Uproar about Common Core?

Speaker: Dixie Allen, Vice Chair Utah Board of Education

Following her introduction by Lynne Romney, Dixie began by giving her background. She went to school in Altamont, Utah, where she ran out of classes to take in high school her senior year and entered college. She went to work at the Bureau of Reclamation. She is married to a General Practitioner and they have three daughters and a son. She lives in Vernal, UT, and her husband works at Ft. Duchesne. Dixie taught school for five years, then earned a masters in administration and served as a high school principal. She became a member of the State Board of Education. Two years later, she retired from her position as principal but remains on the State Board representing Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah Counties.

On the State Board Dixie is Chair of Standards and Assessments, which includes the SAGE assessment. She evaluates what Common Core does for students. No matter what anyone else has to say about Common Core, what counts for Dixie is what it does for students. One third of Utah students are not able to enter college because they are not prepared. Common Core information is available on the State Board of Education website. Many college professors helped evaluate the Common Core in its beginning, and Dixie served on its adoption process.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) has computer adapted testing related to Common Core curriculum. Tweaks to the program are being made as it goes forward. One already made is the addition of handwriting back into the Core because it has been found to be a vital skill. There have been push-backs opposing Common Core by parents and grandparents, but educators are supporting it.

The Common Core is vital to move forward, but it needs to be adaptive. Our students need to be able to compete for colleges, jobs, etc. One example Dixie gave is the oil industry in Vernal area, which is very competitive for jobs requiring math skills. She said a computer lab is needed in every school large enough for a whole class to use together at the same time.

Dixie also serves on the Utah Centers of Applied Technology (UCAT) board. Utah has a waiver on "No Child Left Behind" that has just been renewed. Utah scores have increased by 25% since Common Core was implemented.

In answer to an audience question, Dixie said the state board is working on ways to adapt Common Core for Special Needs students.

First-Ever Bunco Night Success Story

- Sue Nissen, AAUW Funds EO Chair



This year's fund raising event for AAUW Funds Educational Opportunities combined a Chili Cook-Off with a Bunco party. The event in the Cottonwood Presbyterian Church's gym brought a good time and some fun surprises for 41 branch members, spouses, and friends.

The Chili Cook-Off judging began the evening. Six chili chefs vied for bragging rights for "Judges' Favorite" chili. The first surprise was our celebrity chili judge, Chef Carl Rubadue, who was joined by Kathie Mawson, veteran chili cook-off competitor, and Howard Peckham. The six chili chefs were John Vickrey, Fred

Bingman (many thanks, Guys), Laura Osburn, Lynne Romney, Gina Rieke, and Reba Nissen. Lynne Romney's chili was named the Judges' Favorite, and she received a logo coffee mug donated by The King's English Bookshop and 9 dice with Bunco rules to host her own party. Chef Rubadue reported all the chili offerings were delicious, and the judges' decision was difficult and based in the end on personal taste.

The chili offerings were accompanied by salad and bread sticks courtesy of Olive Garden restaurant in Sugarhouse. Next time you go there, please thank any one of their managers for helping us with the generous donation. Sweet dessert bites finished the meal.

Then the Bunco fun began. Many were first-ever Bunco players, others were "played it before but don't remember how" players, and one or two were Bunco veterans. In spite of some confusion over rules and how to move between rounds, players managed to complete two complete sessions of the game with good humor and gamesmanship. After tallying up scores, the following prizes were given:



Val Treuting (friend of Chris Sebba) - For most Wins she received a Gift Basket, made beautiful by Carol Copene. It contained KUER logo fleece throw, a hard cover copy of Sweet Thunder by Ivan Doig, a logo coffee mug donated by The King's English Bookshop, and 9 dice with Bunco rules.



Marge Thomas - For most Buncos she received 9 dice and Bunco rules

Leona Blackbird - For the last Bunco rolled during the game she received 9 dice and Bunco rules

Kathie Mawson (Chili Judge) - For an equal number of Wins & Losses she received 9 dice and Bunco rules

Bill Cooper (Jane's long suffering husband) - For most Losses he received 6 dice and Farkle rules, since Bunco is clearly not his game

Chris Sebba - For good spirits in spite of losing 3 tie breaker roll-offs for prizes took home 6 dice and Farkle rules. Her comment, "Ooh I love Farkle!"

Receipts for the event are as follows:

AAUW Funds Educational Opportunities Donation - \$830.00

Money available for Branch expenses - \$230.00

If you were unable to attend for whatever reason, **you do not have to play Bunco to make a donation to AAUW Funds**. Any amount you can comfortably give will be appreciated by women who are seeking financial aid to support them as they work toward post-graduate degrees. If you give before December 1, your gift will be added to our branch's total giving for 2014.

but allowed all other advocacy groups—such as those that might want to lobby a university to consider a student’s alumni connections, athletic ability, or any other factor—to push for consideration. AAUW supports affirmative action programs to increase equity and diversity in education and signed on to an amicus brief urging the Court to declare the amendment unconstitutional.

The Court held that the Proposal 2 was constitutionally permissible, meaning the Michigan ban will stand. However, it’s important to remember that the Schuette ruling does not affect the status of any affirmative action plans now in place across the country; the opinion does not in any way upset the standing law that some affirmative action plans are constitutional. But AAUW is still very disappointed in the Court’s ruling, and of course concerned that the ruling will encourage affirmative action opponents to pursue similar measures in other states.

V. *Town of Greece v. Galloway*

Town of Greece v. Galloway is a case about legislative prayer. Galloway was the first legislative prayer case Court had taken in some thirty years. The Town Council of Greece, New York maintained a practice of holding prayer before each town council meeting. Two town citizens challenged the practice in court. The circuit court sided with the town citizens and ruled that Greece’s legislative prayer practice was unconstitutional, but it emphasized that its ruling hinged on the particular facts of this case, specifically, that the prayers at issue were so strongly Christian that an objective, reasonable observer might think the town was endorsing Christianity itself. The Supreme Court reversed and ruled that Greece’s legislative prayer practice was constitutional. AAUW firmly supports separation of church and state. Since Galloway was the first legislative prayer case the Court had considered in quite some time, legislative prayer may be a more prominent issue in the next few years.

VI. *Cline v. Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice*

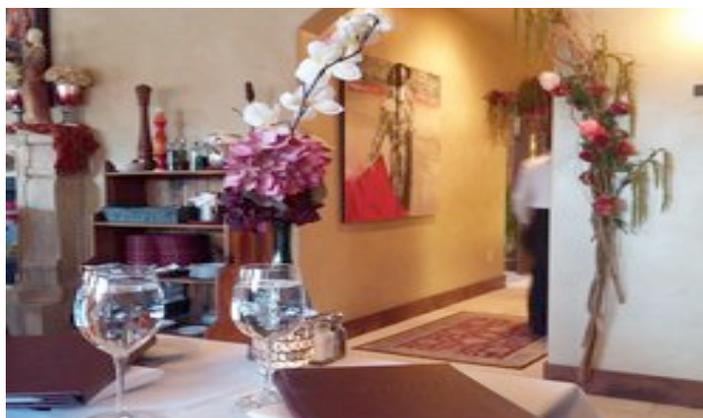
Cline concerned a 2011 Oklahoma law that imposed severe requirements on the use and administration of medications that end pregnancy. The law mandates that doctors may only prescribe and administer those medications if they do so precisely in line with the FDA labeling, even though many FDA labels are quite outdated. This law created a dilemma for doctors: they could continue use these medications following outdated protocols that are not the safest treatment or they could stop providing medication abortion altogether. Thus, the effect of the law was to end medication abortion. The Oklahoma state supreme court ruled that the law unconstitutionally burdened women’s access to abortion.

Under AAUW’s Public Policy Program, AAUW strongly supports reproductive choice and access to reproductive healthcare.

You may recall from our call last October that at that time the Court had not issued a ruling on the cert petition. Ultimately, Court decided not to hear the case at all, meaning that the Oklahoma State Supreme Court’s decision overturning the law will stand. However, several other states have passed similarly restrictive laws, and pro-choice advocates have filed challenges to those laws. One or more of those lawsuits may come before the Supreme Court in the next year.

VII. Looking forward: What to watch next fall

- a. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear *Young v. UPS*, a pregnancy discrimination case. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act requires employers to treat pregnant employees the same as non-pregnant employees “similar in their ability or inability to work.” Young, the plaintiff in the case, was a UPS worker who became pregnant. Because of medical complications related to her pregnancy, her doctor recommended a lifting restriction. Other UPS employees with the same lifting restriction had been accommodated by UPS. But Young’s supervisor refused to accommodate Young’s lifting restriction, and Young was forced to leave her job for the duration of her pregnancy.
- b. Following the Court’s 2013 ruling that invalidated a large portion of the Defense of Marriage Act, several states have seen their bans on same-sex marriage struck down by federal judges. Many of these states, including Utah and Florida, are appealing these decisions, and the Court is expected to take up this issue soon.
- c. The Court is also expected to consider additional challenges to the Affordable Care Act’s contraceptive coverage requirement. This term’s Hobby Lobby decision may embolden some corporate owners to test the limits of the Court’s ruling.
- d. Stay tuned for more information about our preview call this October, during which we’ll analyze these and other cases the Court will hear next term.



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON at CAFE MADRID

Where: 5244 S. Highland Drive

When: December 13, 2014

Time: 11:30 AM

Menu: Mediterranean Chicken Pesto Sandwich,
Mediterranean Salad
Coffee/ Tea

**OUR HOLIDAY DONATION THIS YEAR WILL BE
TO THE WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH**

(checks to be made out to:
U. Of U. Women's Resource Center)

Cost: \$20.00 (tax and tip included)

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECKS PAYABLE TO AAUW AND GIVE OR MAIL THEM TO
CAROL COPENE NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 8, 2014.**

Of Interest

Following is a schedule for current Interest Groups of Wasatch Branch. If you wish to participate, let the contact person know. New members are always welcome, and knowing how many to expect is helpful for those hosting an event.

Bridge: We will meet on **Monday, November 17**, at the home of Kathy Horvat, 515 S 1000 East, Apt 307. Play begins at 7 p.m. Contact Leona to arrange to play. All skill levels are welcome.

Daytime Book Group will meet on **Thursday, Thursday, November 6**, at 11:30 a.m. at Sandra Roach's home, 8924 Shady Meadow Dr(8900 S-1830 East). The book being discussed is *The Signature of All Things*, by Elizabeth Gilbert. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 4 at 11:30 a.m. at Desta Aure's home, 10227 Hickory Point Drive (1950 E 10227 S), Sandy. The book discussion will be *Flight Behavior*, by Barbara Kingsolver. Bring a sack lunch to the meetings; dessert is provided. For information, call Jane at 801-571-2350.

Evening Book Group: The next meeting will be held on **Monday, December 1, at 7:30 pm**, at the home of Louise Jarvis, 6146 New Haven Drive, Salt Lake City. The book is *March*, by Geraldine Brooks. Contact Leona Blackbird for more information.

Meet and Eat: Because of the holidays, there will be no "Meet and Eat" lunches in November or December. Come to the holiday lunch on December 13 instead.

Genealogy Group: The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, November 20, at 10:00 a.m.** at Trudy Duncan's home, 1475 East 6030 South. Note that this is the **Third Thursday** of the month. New members are welcome to join this group. For more information on this group, contact Carolyn: cclarke@xmission.com.

Out and About: For the Out and About in November, we will go to the Ronald McDonald House on 900 East and South Temple Street. We will meet Lauren on Tuesday, the 18th of November at 10:30 AM at the door. Everyone is invited, bring all your friends.

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

Value Promise: By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women and girls have a fair chance.

Vision Statement: AAUW empowers all women and girls to reach their highest potential.

AAUW Wasatch Branch of Salt Lake County
c/o 6224 Rainsborough Circle
Murray, UT 84121

