



WASATCH WATCH

October, 2014

WHY ALL THE UPROAR ABOUT THE COMMON CORE?

Whose idea was it? Why did they think it was needed?
Who wrote it? Is it helping or hurting students?



October Meeting:

Date: Monday, October 13, 2014

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Cottonwood Presbyterian Church Fellowship Room, 1580 E. Vine Street (6100 South)



Dixie Allen, Vice Chair, Utah State Board of Education

Dixie Allen spent 26 years working in public education as an elementary teacher, elementary principal, fifth grade center principal, high school principal, student service director, and elementary director. She was selected as teacher of the year and principal of the year at both the elementary and secondary levels for her district.

She has served for eight years on the State Board of Education, where she is currently the vice chair. She has also served on the Utah College of Applied Technology Board, the Utah School Boards Association, and on three national study groups and two governor's commissions. As a State Board member, she has served on the Law and Policy and Curriculum committees.

She received her B.S. in elementary education from Utah State University and her master's in educational administration from the University of Utah.

Bring your friends to this special program about a hot issue.

**To Benefit Educational Opportunities
Come to a Chili Cook-off and Bunco Party**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2014 6:00-9:00 P.M.
COTTONWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH GYM**

Admission fee \$20, which includes a \$15 contribution to the AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund

More information about the event and a registration form are inside this issue.

Date: Friday, October 24

Time: 6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Place: Cottonwood Presbyterian Gym

Cost: \$20.00 per person (\$15 is tax-exempt to AAUW Funds)



To Benefit Educational Opportunities Come to a Chili Cook-off and Bunko Party

Chili Cook-Off: Several volunteer chili chefs will compete for bragging rights for the best chili recipe

Bunko: Bunko is a game requiring absolutely no skill or experience. It provides lots of laughter and chances for new and luckier partnerships with other players. We hope to have 60 players -- of both genders -- getting to know each other...if they can stop laughing long enough to do that.

Philanthropy: While we're having such a great time, we will raise money to give to AAUW Funds for Fellowships and Grants that will support post-graduate study/research and/or community projects to empower women and girls.

Cost: \$20.00 per person will guarantee \$15.00 tax-exempt donation to AAUW Fellowships & Grants.

Prizes!: A Gift Basket will go to the Bunko Champion; fun gifts for runners up and for the one on the other end of the score sheets (hate the word "loser").

Invite significant others and friends, both male and female, from beyond the branch membership to enjoy the evening with us. Use reservation form below to sign up for you and friends. **And please turn reservations in to Desta at October 13 meeting or by October 20.**

Chili Cook-Off and Bunko Party Reservation Form

Name(s) _____

If reserving for more than one person, please include all names here

Contact info: Email _____ Phone _____

Amount enclosed: _____

\$20 per person attending; \$15 is a tax deductible donation to AAUW Fellowships & Grants

Reservation Deadline is October 20

President's Message

Fall along the Wasatch Mountains is always a spectacular and uplifting sight. The colors encourage us to get outdoors and enjoy the beautiful scenery and weather, but we know the cold and the shorter days are coming soon.

Our branch meetings are off to a good start with a substantial attendance at our opening September potluck. Thanks to all the board members who provided delicious food and to all the members who attended. Lynne led us in a fun ice-breaker of sharing the "most dangerous thing we have done". We have some very adventurous members, and we all learned a little more about each other. Sandra reminded us of our commitment to AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund and brought us up to date on the most recent national cases which members support because of our mission to empower women.

As October is upon us, it is encouraging to see that the United States recognizes the importance of empowering women by declaring October "Domestic Violence Awareness Month," "National Work and Family Month," as well as "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month" among other several tributes for the month. Internationally, the United Nations has proclaimed October 11 as the International Day of the Girl Child which supports more opportunity for girls and increases awareness of inequality faced by girls worldwide such as access to education, nutrition, legal rights, medical care and protection from discrimination, violence and child marriage. These observations serve to point out that in 2014 we are still fighting a global fight to empower women.

Lynne and Laura have a full year of programs for us, and October's program promises to help us understand why there is such a controversy in our state about the Core Curriculum. Also in October, we look forward to a fun evening of Bunco as our EO fundraiser for this year.

Hope to see all of you at these two events.

Dottie Bingman, Co-President

Books Inside: Bringing books to inmates

Laura Osburn is passing on the list of desired books for the Books Inside program which brings books to men and women prisoners. If you would like to bring donations to any of the meetings she will be happy to take them to the drop off at The King's English. The books can be transferred from your car to her car in the parking lot to save transport efforts.

Current requests include:

- classic westerns such as Zane Gray and Louis L'Amour
- any of the Dummies/Idiots Guide books
- Spanish language novels
- books to learn foreign languages
- large print books
- dream interpretation/astrology/numerology

- best selling authors such as Sidney Sheldon, Tami Hoag, Stuart Wood, James Patterson, Faye and Jonathan Kellerman
- children's books (can be read to their children or used to help the inmates learn to read)



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
Secretary:
Louise Jarvis
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 October 13, 7:30PM

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

Monday October 27, 7:00PM

Board Meeting at Carolyn Wiggin's house,



Public Policy

- Trudy Duncan
Sharyl Smith

Midterm Elections Matter!

Many Americans are in a foul mood about politics. They are fed up with congressional dysfunction, the slow pace of economic recovery, and the decline in America's ability to promote order in the world. Often they dislike both major party candidates.

Thus for midterm elections, expectations are that most voters will tune out the candidates and stay home on Election Day, **Nov. 4**, just six weeks away.

USA Today recently published an article titled: **5 Reasons the Midterm Elections Matter.**

- 1). You'll pay dearly for not voting. Some examples are as follows:
 - a) On the Federal level young voters staying home produced a government that spends often excessively on retirees;
 - b) African Americans not voting in Ferguson, MO has resulted in a white-dominated city government. Whites make up 29% of the population but account for five of the six City Council members, six of the seven school board members and nearly all of the 53 police officers;
 - c) In Utah the voter turnout was the **fourth worst** in the nation in 2012. I know you can think of several examples resulting from this low turnout!
- 2). Interest Groups Thrive on Indifference.

Partisan interest groups are pouring money into the fall elections and are happy to see independent voters stay home. A more balanced electorate would produce more thoughtful legislators---ones who do not think that compromise is a dirty word.
- 3). Important issues are at stake.

The midterms will provide a chance for voters to register their opinion on what is possibly the most important domestic issues under consideration in Congress—IMMIGRATION. And the next Congress will continue to take fateful votes on the following war and peace issues that will dramatically affect every American:

 - a) the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria;
 - b) Iran's nuclear weapons program;
 - c) Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- 4). Control of the Senate.

Democrats have to defend seven Senate seats in states won by Mitt Romney in 2012, while Republicans have just one seat up in a state carried by Obama. So there is a real chance that Republicans could net the six seats necessary to recapture a majority in the Senate.
- 5). Ballot issues affect your everyday life

Statewide decisions will determine everything from how much you earn (raising the minimum wage) to what you can smoke (legalizing recreational marijuana). Congress has repeatedly failed at basic governances, but not voting only serves the entrenched special interests and invites more gridlock.



September 23 was National Voter Registration Day

Urge any of your non-registered family or friends to get registered by October 4.

Registration on College Campuses

Did you know that the Higher Education Act requires colleges and universities to distribute in-state voter registration forms to students before the state voter registration deadline?



YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP UPDATE - Sally Hoffelmeyer-Katz

We welcome new members Carol Hottman and Paula Ashcraft. They joined in September in time for their information to appear in the Yearbook. Please greet our new members and make an effort to get to know them while continuing to learn something new about returning members. Membership/Diversity Co Vice-President Helen Nix resigned on September 6 due to health reasons. We wish her a speedy recuperation and hope to see her later in the year. We thank Helen for her work this past summer contacting current members.

Our membership is currently 64 members. We encourage all our members to invite and recruit potential members. We grow through your enthusiasm for the Wasatch Branch and our great programs.



New website for Utah and Branches - Marilyn Shearer

<http://aauw-ut.aauw.net/branches/wasatch/>
<http://aauw-ut.aauw.net/> (click on the link)

Site resources took the information from our old site and transferred it to the new one. Click on the links to take you to the new sites. When Kathy Horvat returns we will set up a link to redirect people from the old site to the new one. (Thanks Kathy for keeping our site going.)

The new site has been updated with the information that I had at the time. We will need to keep this website populated with information and pictures as we go. So please send me information that you would like to have posted. Also corrections or changes that you would like to have made. This is just a start.

There is additional information that must be added, but I wanted to get this out so our members and the public can see it. Please check it out. I will be the liaison with AAUW for the website for now.

October Meet and Eat

If you haven't had a chance to go to Meet and Eat, October's location is a good time to make extra effort to attend this social time. The restaurant is going to open just for our AAUW group. An even better chance to talk to everyone and meet members that you have not spent much time with in the past.

Place: Amici Restaurant, 2578 E. Bengal Blvd.

Date: Wednesday, Oct. 22

Time: 11:45am



Silent Auction Continues



At our September meeting, members agreed unanimously to continue our silent auction activity which nets funds for our branch. Please remember to bring items that you have that you no longer want but think others might like to have. We will have sign up sheets which you can use to place next to your item on the front table. Please list a minimum bid if you want. Check at the end of the meeting to see if anyone wanted your item. If so, they can give a check or pay directly to Desta and then they will take the item home with them. If no one has signed up for your item, you must take it home.

How a Woman Became the CEO of General Motors in 3 (Not-So-Easy) Steps



1. She started early.

It used to be that outright discrimination (to say nothing of insidious social norms) kept many girls from pursuing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). Before Title IX, women often weren't allowed to participate in opportunities like advanced STEM courses and math and science clubs.

The effects of this gender prejudice linger today. Girls disappear from STEM fields early on, and once they're off the STEM path, it can be difficult to get back on track.

Barra had both the opportunity and the drive to pursue STEM courses. "When I was in high school I loved science and math, so engineering or a math-type major seemed to be where I was headed," Barra said in an interview with Fast Company.

2. She had access to higher education.

For successful women in engineering, the ability to access higher education — through scholarships, family support, or other means — is a must. Barra got a boost of confidence and financial support to pursue her education from a somewhat unusual place: her employer.

In 1980, GM's Pontiac unit sponsored Barra's application to the co-op program at the General Motors Institute (now Kettering University), where Barra earned her bachelor's in electrical engineering. Later on, GM continued to invest in Barra's education, awarding her a scholarship to pursue a degree at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

Way to go, GM.

3. She had support from mentors and role models.

Our 2010 report on women's underrepresentation in STEM found that role models and mentors are key to encouraging women in these fields. Whether at home or work, Barra had both.

At home, she found a role model in her father, who worked as a diemaker for GM for 39 years.

"I had a basic understanding of the automobile industry and what the manufacturing world was like, just from the opportunity to spend time with him — just talking, because he was a car buff," Barra told the New York Times.

At GM, an iconic company with a masculine image, Barra has seen the company evolve into a more welcoming place for women, who today play a role in every aspect of the business.

AAUW alumna Marina Whitman, one of the first women to serve as GM vice president, has also acknowledged that evolution. "One of my greatest frustrations at GM was we were never able to persuade top management that the world was changing rapidly and they needed to change to keep up with it," Whitman said. According to the Times, she worked at GM from 1979 to 1992.

"I would say that through my career I'm very fortunate," Barra said in her Times interview. "I have worked for a lot of really great leaders and mentors that I felt provided me, along with many of my peers — many of them women — opportunities."

<http://www.aauw.org/2013/12/12/mary-barra-gm>

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, October 20**, at the home of Leona Blackbird, 607 East 3945 South. Play begins at 7 p.m. Contact Leona to arrange to play. All skill levels are welcome.

Daytime Book Group will meet on **Thursday, October 2**, at 11:30 a.m. at Jane Cooper's home, 933 E Statice Ave (933E-10420S), Sandy. The book discussion will be *The Light in the Ruins*, by Chris Bohjalian. The next meeting will be held on **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. 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, October 6, at 7:30 pm**, at the home of Sue Nissen, 3097 Teton Drive, Salt Lake City. The book is *Out of Order*, by Sandra Day O'Connor. The following book discussion is on Monday, November 3, at Leona Blackbird's home, 607 E 3945 South. The book is *Sweet Thunder*, by Ivan Doig. Contact Leona Blackbird for more information.

Meet and Eat: We will meet for lunch on **Wednesday, October 22 at 11:45** at Amici Restaurant, 2578 E Bengal Blvd. THIS RESTAURANT IS OPENING FOR LUNCH JUST FOR US, so be sure to

Contact Carol Copene, ccopene@comcast.net by Tuesday, October 21, if you would like to join the group.

Genealogy Group: The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, October 23, at 10:00 a.m.** . New members are welcome to join this group. For more information on this group, contact Carolyn: cclarke@xmission.com.

Out and About: The first Out and About of the 2014-1015 year will be on **Tuesday, October 28**, at 10:30 AM . We will meet at the south east corner of State Street and South Temple and proceed south to the second building which is the recently renovated O.C. Tanner Jewelry Building (was once the city library, then a planetarium) where we will be treated to a short tour of this wonderfully restored building. From there we will proceed a half block south and do a self-tour of the recently excavated old pioneer Social Hall, which is an under-the-street museum/passageway across to the City Creek Shopping Center food court. Upon finish ing the Social Hall Museum we can have lunch at either the food court or Harmon's Grocery Store Café or The Lion House, all of which are very close by. Parking is probably easiest found under City Creek Shopping Center or at Harmon's. Drop me an email or call if you can attend so I will have a head count. stapaj@comcast.net, or 801-272-2985.

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
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Murray, UT 84121

