Synergy on USU campus, by Gary Lee Price, 1996

2017 Bennion Teachers’ Workshop

Literature of Protest:

Civil Rights
Democracy
Social Justice

June 26-30

Utah State University
From joining Martin Luther King’s March on Washington to joining a community conversation via a letter to the editor of a local paper, the synergy of people coming together in protest proves its power to create change on global, national, local, and personal levels. Through study of past and present social movements, participants in the 2017 Bennion Workshop will consider the role of literature in civic engagement. Participants will also explore the ethical dimensions of bringing these often-sensitive issues into the classroom.

**PROGRAM DIRECTORS**

Jessica Rivera-Mueller  
Assistant Professor of English, Utah State University  

Susan Andersen  
Senior Lecturer of English, Utah State University

**SPONSORED BY**

The Mountain West Center for Regional Studies  
Utah State University

**CONTACT:**  
Email: mwc@usu.edu • Phone: 435-797-0299
WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Date: Monday, June 26–Friday, June 30, 2017
Time: 9:00 AM–4:00 PM daily
Place: Utah State University, Logan, UT

CONTENT: Launching our exploration of the relationship between protest literature and social activism, keynote speaker Dr. Margaret Whitt will engage workshop participants in conversations about literature from her book *Short Stories of the Civil Rights Movement*. Participants will consider how protest literature from the Civil Rights Movement can shape our lives as teachers, readers, writers, and citizens. Throughout the week, USU scholars from multiple disciplines will lead sessions focusing on a range of protest texts—including poetry, graphic novels, art, historical objects, music, drama, and film—to help us examine contemporary understandings of protest literature. With a spotlight on bringing the workshop experience to the classroom, the workshop leaders will facilitate coursework with practical application for teachers.

WHO SHOULD REGISTER: The workshop is designed to assist educators at the secondary and post-secondary level who teach in the humanities and social sciences, including English, history, government, and other related subjects. Graduate students or upper division undergraduates in related subjects are also welcome to register.

REGISTRATION: To register, please complete the form on this brochure and mail it to the Mountain West Center at the address provided. (Due to limited seating, early registration is encouraged and a discount is provided).

MEALS: Breakfasts and lunches are catered. Evenings are free after 4:00 PM, with dining on your own.

LODGING/PARKING: Detailed information on lodging and parking will be sent when registration is received. Lodging options in Cache Valley may be limited due to other events during the week. Accommodations at a reasonable price may be arranged through Utah State campus housing on a space-available basis.

SCHOLARSHIPS:

Travel Scholarships: Travel Scholarships of up to $500 are available to help cover the cost of lodging / travel while attending the Bennion Teachers’ Workshop.

Tuition Scholarships: Scholarships in the amount of $750 towards tuition and fees are available for those enrolling for academic credit.

Scholarship funds are limited, so please apply early. Email mwc@usu.edu or call 435-797-0299 for scholarship applications.
SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JUNE 26:
Welcome by Associate Dean Evelyn Funda, Director of the Mountain West Center
Featured Speaker: Dr. Margaret Whitt, Professor Emeritus at University of Denver
   AM: The Necessity of Protest Literature
   PM: Studying and Teaching Short Stories of the Civil Rights Movement

TUESDAY, JUNE 27:
Featured Speakers: Dr. Margaret Whitt, Professor Emeritus at University of Denver, and Dr. Joyce Kinkead, Professor of English at Utah State University
   AM: Crafting a Philosophy for Teaching Protest Literature
   PM: Retrospective Perspectives on the Civil Rights Movement

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28:
Featured Speakers: Dr. Ben Gunsberg, Assistant Professor of English at Utah State University, and Darren Edwards from Dixie State University
   AM: Studying and Promoting Civic Engagement
   PM: Poetry as Protest Literature

THURSDAY, JUNE 29:
Featured Speakers: Dr. Jason Gilmore, Assistant Professor of Communications at Utah State University, and Randy Williams, Fife Folklore Archives Curator and Oral History Specialist at Utah State University
Featured Performers: Old Folk
   AM: A Local Look at Protest Literature
   PM: Creating Text Sets for Teaching Protest Literature

FRIDAY, JUNE 30:
AM: Participant Presentations on Text Sets

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Participants must attend the complete workshop to receive course credits. During the workshop, participants will be expected to make use of materials, engage in critical reflection, and participate in structured learning activities. A final project for the course will be due for course credits.
Workers of the World Awaken!

Words & Music
JOE HILL
IONE SPENCER BENNION (1908–1997)

Utah State University’s Bennion Workshop for teachers was established in 1993 through the generous gift of Ione S. Bennion. She expressly aimed for the workshop to perpetuate democratic principles, namely “to explore the concepts upon which democracy is built, the conditions under which it flourishes, and the dangers to its existence.... The seminar participants are encouraged to explore new themes in their teaching and writing with democratic principles in mind.”

A native of Salt Lake City, Ione Spencer Bennion moved to Logan when her first husband, Wayne Bennion, began teaching at what was then known as the Utah State Agricultural College (USAC). After her husband’s untimely death in 1942, she returned to Salt Lake to complete a BA in English. She was at work on a master’s degree when USAC’s President Franklin Harris called to offer her a position as the college’s first Dean of Women. She served in that capacity until 1952 when she had to resign due to an anti-nepotism law from the 1930s that was resurrected after she married her second husband, Ted Daniel, a USAC professor of forestry. But this kind of adversity never daunted her. She spent the next 28 years in the Logan school district, homeschooling the sick and disabled.

Committed to community betterment, especially in regards to issues of social justice, Bennion was recognized as the Governor’s “Outstanding Volunteer” in 1979 for her tireless work with numerous organizations, including the Alliance for the Varied Arts, the Foreign Students Committee, the Cache United Way, and the Nora Eccles Harrison Museum. During the Eisenhower Administration, she began work on the Utah Committee on Civil Rights, contributing to the national adoption of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. She also devoted much of her energy to women’s causes, including the Faculty Women’s League at USU, the Woman’s Legislative Council, and the League of Women Voters. During the 1960s, Bennion was instrumental in starting a program allowing pregnant teenagers to finish high school. Later she served on the board of Planned Parenthood. She was also an ardent supporter of the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and always hoped it would be passed during her lifetime. Another bequest from Ms. Bennion helped establish USU’s Women’s Center, which still exists today. Ione Bennion always went to great lengths to address any need she saw. Iranian and East Indian students often lived rent-free in her home while attending USU, and she was known for personally paying many disadvantaged students’ college tuition. According to a 1979 news story, “Kindness and action against injustices ... [were] just an integral part of the fabric of her life.”
REGISTRATION FORM

Name: ___________________________________________________ USU A# (if known): _______________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________________________________

City: ________________________________________________________________ State: _______ Zip: ______________________

Email: __________________________________________________ Phone: ______________________

Current School/Teaching Position: _________________________________________________________

☐ I will be registering through Banner and taking the course for 3 academic credits during summer semester (requires payment of full tuition and fees). Course cross-listed as TEAL 5560, ENGL 6890, CHSS 5250.

☐ I am mailing in this form and payment to register for 4.5 Continuing Education Units (CEUs).

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*Discounted Fee: $25 for registration prior to May 26, 2017 (Total Payment $160)

☐ I am mailing in this form and payment to attend the workshop for non-credit. Materials Fee: $50 (Discount of $25 for reg. prior to May 26, 2017—Total Payment: $25).

Checks should be made payable to Utah State University and mailed with registration form to:
Bennion Workshop
Mountain West Center
Utah State University
0735 Old Main Hill
Logan UT 84322-0735

Or register in person at:
Mountain West Center
Old Main—Room 339

Workshop registration closes Tuesday, June 20.
Please note discounted rates for registration before Friday, May 26.