



Ask Sally Sears to tell you about herself and she will tell you...

...about Allison Thorne, Dorothy Lewis, Phyllis Publicover, Helen Lundstrom, Phyllis Snow, Janet Osborne, and many other influential women she came to know in Logan.

...about the source of her Utah roots, her grandfather Jack Sears, artist and faculty member at University of Utah, who signed his letters “sketchingly Jack,” and her grandmother Florence whose name she proudly shares as Sally Florence Sears.

...about her mom and dad, Peggy and Robert Sears, who raised her in Oklahoma and New Jersey, instilled her with the importance of the arts, and later retired in Utah and started an art gallery at Dixie State University in St. George.

...about growing up 16 miles from Manhattan, attending Broadway shows and museums, and the emotions of watching the horrific events of September 11 unfold from her Cache Valley home in Lewiston.

...about meeting her future husband Randy Wirth at an antiwar protest and the work that they did together to promote peace, people, and planet, along with their shared passion, “Let’s fight for what’s right; it’s pretty sweet.”

...about their wedding in Allen and Alice Stokes’s backyard and Allen’s advice that “running an ethical business here will be difficult...” and what it would mean to do so.

...about how an ethical philosophy that became known as the “Allen test” helped to build Caffé Ibis, a Cache Valley business of national and international impact that practices Sally’s vision of protecting people and planet since the 1970s.

...about her son, James Robert Sears Wirth, his many accomplishments, and his plans for a fulfilling future.

...about building a business rooted in “social justice” and “environmental stewardship” before either term existed, about snowshoeing around a track behind their Millville home, and about cycling with partners for 48 years on a tandem bicycle.

...about the importance of advocating for zero population growth, peace, and the profound goodness of the arts in Utah, along with what “Organic,” “Fair Trade” and “Smithsonian Shade-Grown” mean for coffee production and the livelihood of those who grow it.

...about coffee growers in Peru, her “farm partners,” and how important it is to her to compensate them fairly so that they can feed their families and grow high quality coffee in a sustainable way, about how her passion for people and planet led to establishment of the *Café Femenino* program, and about how Grounds for Health is helping coffee growers by providing simple tests for uterine and cervical cancer.

...about personally taking women by the hand as they made the choice to take control of their own lives, whether they were raising coffee and a family in Peru or walking into an abortion clinic in New York. Or about being at the very first Earth Day celebration at Rutgers University or marching for Martin Luther King in New

York. Or her pride and confidence in the new owner of Caffé Ibis, longtime colleague Lesa Wilson, who shares Sally's unique vision for the positive impact the business can have on its workers and global community.

...about the solace that came from the choral performances led by Utah State faculty members Cory Evans and Craig Jessop and how they helped bring her peace after Randy's tragic death.

...about her plans, now that Caffé Ibis is no longer a daily responsibility, to spend more time traveling in the US and Germany with friend and partner Steven de Hart.

Maybe she'll tell you about getting kicked out of BYU. Probably not, though.

She will tell you about coming to Utah State University as a student and taking the first Women's Studies class to be offered here, "Evolution of the Female Personality," team taught by Phyllis Publicover, Allison Thorne, and others.

If you're a student, she may tell you about how she understands what you're going through:

*"When you choose to be in music or any of the arts, the road is difficult. Embrace the peace and calmness you bring to others. Your work is a unique and essential vocation. Don't give it up."*

And, though she won't tell you, you will learn from even just a few minutes with her that she sets a wonderful example for the rest of us. She cares deeply for the needs of others while acting on her vision of supporting humanity and our planet.

*"I haven't given that much," she says. "I have been consistent in my giving, though, and I've seen the look on the faces of students when they have just a little help to pursue their vision and vocation."*

For her sustained and personal giving to students and programs in the college, we are proud to recognize Sally Florence Sears as the Caine College of the Arts Champion of the Arts for 2020.