

AAUW MAUI BRANCH

Advancing Equity for Women and Girls

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Aloha! Welcome to the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawaii

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AAUW WEBPAGE BANNER

Our [AAUW of Hawaii website](#) is updated and ready to supply all Hawaiian branches with the information needed to move forward in building a strong, growing, inclusive organization.

Be sure to also check out AAUW of Hawaii on [Facebook](#).

Dates To Remember:

Speaker Meeting Saturday, November 27th online using Zoom. Social time at 10:00 a.m., Business meeting at 10:30 a.m., followed by a program at 11:00 a.m. (See p. 3)

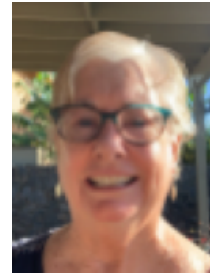
Book Group Saturday, November 6th at noon, online using Zoom. (See p. 4)

Taste and Talk Thursday, November 18 @ 6:00 p.m., at the Kula Bistro in Kula. (See p. 4)

Lunch Bunch: Tuesday, November 9 @ 1:00 p.m. at Lava Rock Bar & Grill in Kihei. (See p. 4)

Great Decisions: Friday, December 3 @ 1:00 p.m. over Zoom (See p. 7)

President's Message



First of all, a belated Happy Halloween and an early Happy Thanksgiving to all.

As this newsletter goes to press, our November 7 Chocolate Experience is still scheduled and with the COVID numbers improving we expect there will be no cancellation. If you haven't bought tickets and want to attend, please shoot me an email and I'll send you the link. pagotchalk@gmail.com. The venue in Lahaina is handicapped-accessible.

A small but dedicated group met for Lunch Bunch on October 12 at Pita Paradise. Unfortunately I neglected to take any photos but it was great catching up with everyone. We also had a fun Tastes and Talk dinner for Oktoberfest at Brigit and Bernards Garden Cafe, with about 10 members attending. If there is a restaurant you would like to try as a group, let me know and I'll keep the information for Lunch Bunch or forward it to Heather Mueller for Taste and Talk.

Now I have to get down to business – Fundraising. First of all, mahalo nunui to two Maui Branch members, Jean Keating and Rich Serbin. Jean made a \$1,000 donation to our scholarship fund, and Rich Serbin matched it with \$1,000. Jean said "I will continue to donate \$500 to the AAUW Maui Branch Scholarship Fund from each property sale that I close (Sale Must Close Escrow), when the property has been referred to me by an AAUW member." This is a wonderfully generous kickoff to our scholarship fundraising for 2022. Since we are not able to do our Whale Watch, we will be raising funds the way we did last year - by donations. So, if you would have purchased one or more Whale Watch tickets at \$50 each, please consider making that donation directly to AAUW-Maui Branch. Ask friends and family to do so as well. All donations are tax deductible and donors will receive a letter from the branch for their tax records.

Mahalo nui loa and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!
Pat

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Speaker's Meeting November 27 --- Andrew Walmisley

The work of Andrew Walmisley explores nineteenth century Maui history through the lens of the life of one Native Hawaiian man, Elia Helekūnihi (1839-1896). Born into a lesser ali'i family in the lineage of King Kekaulike, he was born at Nu'u, Kaupō, when that district was still one of the most heavily populated areas of Maui. A graduate of Lahainaluna, Helekūnihi, devoted his life in service to the Church and Kingdom of Hawai'i as teacher, pastor, lawyer, judge, member of the legislature twice (for Hāna and Makawao) and author of works on Hawaiian history and traditional medicine. As such, he was a key player in the major events that defined the Hawaiian people in their struggle to negotiate the critical issues of the century: the Christian mission, depopulation, the rise of the plantation system, the ravages of Hansen's Disease and U.S. colonialism. His position on the highly controversial issue of annexation was surprising and his final betrayal at the hands of members of Maui's haole oligarchy under the Republic of Hawai'i was tragic.

Andrew Walmisley received his doctorate in Hawaiian History from the University of Birmingham in the U.K

The September meeting will be held on Saturday, November 27, via Zoom. There will be a social half-hour starting at 10 a.m., then the business meeting at 10:30 a.m. followed by our speaker at 11:00. The Zoom log-in information will be emailed to members by Communications Director Sandi Boll prior to the meeting.



BOOK GROUP November 2

The next AAUW Book Group meeting will be held on Saturday, November 6, at noon, via Zoom. Please RSVP to Dorothy Tolliver so you can be included in the Zoom Book Group meeting. Email Dorothy at 2425047@gmail.com. The book for November is My Own Words: Ruth Bader Ginsburg with Mary Hartnett and Wendy W. Williams.

The book for December will be Miss Benson's Beetle by Rachel Joyce. It is 1950. London is still reeling from World War II, and Margery Benson--a sensible schoolmarm and lonely spinster--is just trying to get through life. But one day, she reaches her breaking point, abandoning her job and her tidy, circumscribed life, to set out on an expedition to the other side of the world in search of an insect that may or may not exist: the golden beetle of New Caledonia, Margery's childhood obsession ever since her father gave her a book on cryptozoology right before he killed himself. The assistant Margery hires to accompany her, Enid Pretty, in her pink hat and pompom sandals, is not the companion she had in mind. But together they will find themselves drawn into an adventure that exceeds all expectations. It is an intoxicating adventure that explores what it means to be a woman; and it is a tender exploration of the transformative power of friendship.

Taste and Talk

Taste and Talk has been busy. In case you missed them, here are some pictures from the September and October gatherings. The next Taste and Talk will be at the **Kula Bistro, 4566 Lower Kula Road in Kula on Thursday November 18 at 6:00 p.m.** The menu can be found here: <http://kulabistro.com/lunch-dinner-menu/> Please RSVP to Heather Mueller by Monday, November 15 at 808-446-3545 or heathermaymueller@yahoo.com.



Lunch Bunch

We will have Lunch Bunch at the **Lava Rock Bar and Grill** in Kihei on **Tuesday, Nov 9 at 1:00 p.m.** The restaurant allows lunch reservations. I have tentatively reserved 8 spaces but we can have more with notice. **Please RSVP no later than Sunday 7** by emailing pagotschalk@gmail.com or calling/texting 808-707-2001. The address is 1945 South Kihei Road. The menu can be found at lavarockhawaii.com/menu.html

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER -- CULTURE AND DIVERSITY

November is **National Native American/Alaska Native Heritage Month**, honoring the history and contributions of the indigenous peoples of this country. It is “an appropriate time when many American Indians hold fall harvest and world renewal ceremonies, powwows, dances, and various feasts. The holiday recognizes hundreds of different tribes and approximately 250 languages, and celebrates the history, tradition, and values of American Indians.” [DiversityCentral.com: Cultural Diversity at Work](#) In October 2020, Governor Ige last re-proclaimed November as “National American Indian Heritage Month” in recognition of “the accomplishments of the peoples who were the original inhabitants, explorers and settlers of the United States.” [201101-National-American-Indian-Heritage-Month.pdf \(hawaii.gov\)](#)

Mid-November often starts the four-month period of **Makahiki**, the traditional Hawaiian season of rest, renewal, and spiritual cleansing, of feasting and playing sports, of offerings and prayers for health and abundant crops made to Lono and other native gods. It was also a time of peace when all warfare was forbidden. [Makahiki - Wikipedia](#), [Lonoikamakahiki: Celebrating the Season - Ka'iwakiloumoku - Hawaiian Cultural Center \(ksbe.edu\)](#), [The Thrill and Excitement of Traditional Games During the Hawaiian New Year | Temptation Tours](#). In modern times, state-wide **Aloha Festivals** help celebrate and perpetuate this historical heritage. [Annual Aloha Festivals Waikiki | Hawaii.com](#)

Hanukkah or The Festival of Lights is a Jewish observance “commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and the rededication (of a sacred temple)”, [Hanukkah - Wikipedia](#). This year it begins at sunset November 28 and ends at nightfall December 6. Chabad of Hawaii has an attractive site on “How to Chanukah during Covid”, including traditions, food, meanings, and games. [Chanukah - Chabad of Hawaii](#). For another colorful description of Hanukkah traditions, see [What Is Hanukkah? - Info you need about Chanukah - Chanukah - Hanukkah \(chabad.org\)](#)

In addition to the many secular festivities occurring in December, **Kwanzaa** is a uniquely African-American celebration based on African harvest festival traditions and “held from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually held on the 6th day.” [Kwanzaa - Wikipedia](#) Though the African-American community in Hawaii is small, there are uniquely island celebrations, [Kwanzaa-in-Hawai'i | Queens Public Library \(queenslibrary.org\)](#)

For a more complete listing of many of Hawaii’s end-of-the-year ethnic festivals and events, see the November-December 2020 AAUW newsletter.

After the past two years compiling this column, I am signing off with the hope that we may all continue to learn and discover the richness of our islands’ culturally and ethnically diverse communities. (Editor’s note: Mahalo for your huge and greatly appreciated efforts to add diversity through education in the newsletter. It has been greatly appreciated.)

Submitted by Estelle Chun

Membership

We have a new member: **Lauren M. Akitake**. While this is her professional biography, we look forward to being acquainted with her on a more personal level.

Born and raised on Maui, Lauren earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Kansas School of Law. She also obtained a Master of Science degree in Applied Social Research from the University of Stirling, Scotland while on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy Analysis/Politics from Pomona College in California. She graduated as a Valedictorian from Baldwin High School class of 1999.

After law school, Lauren moved home to Maui, clerked for the Honorable Shackley F. Raffetto and then practiced as an associate attorney for Carlsmith Ball, LLP. She later practiced civil litigation in Honolulu for 4 years.

Lauren has over 14 years of experience in diverse areas of law, including civil litigation, probate and trust litigation, estate planning, estate and trust administration, and conservatorships and guardianships. In 2016, she opened the Law Office of Lauren M. Akitake, LLC in Wailuku.

Lauren taught Business Law at the University of Hawaii Maui College for 6 years and is a frequent volunteer at the Hawaii State Judiciary's Self-Help Center, which provides free legal information to the public. Based on her commitment to public service and access to justice, she was selected as a 2016 Hawaii Emerging Legal Practitioners Access to Justice Fellow. She is also a 2020 Ka Ipu Kukui Fellow and 2020 Hawaii State Bar Association Leadership Institute Fellow.

Lauren is a life-long member of Iao UCC and a board member for the Maui County Bar Association and Women Helping Women. She is a tennis player and enjoys working out, running, coaching for Wailuku Junior Tennis Club, and spending time with her two sons.





A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO.....

Alicia Hetman - November 7

Marty-Jean Bender - November 16

AAUW - founded 28 November 1881

ET CETERA.....

Great Decisions

HOUSING COSTS & RENTALS.....Friday, Dec. 3rd. @ 1PM on ZOOM.

It's not only a local issue but almost every state in the Union is experiencing changes. Seattle, Minneapolis, Montana, Utah, the East Coast,

even the South. What are the causes? Influences of Covid? Economics? Immigration?

I'm sure you have far more questions...Mihaela will be our facilitator....so you have plenty of time to research and present your views.

If you want to share some info in preparation, that's good too....The "Brief" is just the beginning. We encourage you to do any research you feel will be of interest to the conversation. Importantly, let's keep politics out of the discussion as much as possible. If you have any articles relating to the subject, please send along to share with everyone.

Mihaela & Diane

Diane Pure (808)793-2661

dpure@hawaii.rr.com

AAUW Maui Branch:

PO Box 1352

Pu'unene HI 96784

<https://maui-hi.aauw.net/>

AAUW Maui Branch pg 7

November 2021 Newsletter American Association of University Women