

# AAUW MAUI BRANCH

Advancing Equity for Women and Girls

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## Special February Taste and Talk Event!

As a special February Taste and Talk event, **all members and their guests are invited to make reservations for a Whale Watch at Pacific Whale Foundation on Thursday, February 24, departing at 4:30 p.m. from Ma'alaea Harbor.**

This is NOT a fundraising event, it's just a fun thing for members to do together instead of going to a restaurant. The kama'aina rate for anyone with a Hawaii driver's license is \$46.50. To get the kama'aina rate you must PHONE your reservation (do not use the online form) and bring your driver's license to the event. The reservation line phone number is **808-201-4014**. Beverages and snacks will be available for purchase on the boat. Regular adult price is \$69.95.

For more information or if you need help making a reservation, please contact Pat Gotschalk at 808-707-2001 or [pagotschalk@gmail.com](mailto:pagotschalk@gmail.com).

**No seats are being held for us by Pacific Whale Foundation, so if you want to attend, make your reservations ASAP.** Pacific Whale Foundation may also have vaccination or COVID test requirements, please check with them when you make the reservation.

Again - make your reservation for **Pacific Whale Foundation Whale Watch/Ma'alaea, Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Vessel is the Ocean Guardian.**

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### **Dates To Remember:**

Speaker Meeting Saturday, January 22 via 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, January 8th at noon, online using Zoom. (See p. 4)

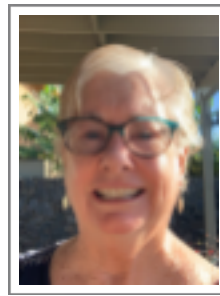
Taste and Talk Thursday, January 27 at 6:00 p.m., location to be announced.

Lunch Bunch: Tuesday, January 11@ 1:00 p.m. at Kamana Maui Indian restaurant in Kihei. (See p. 4)

Great Decisions: No meeting in January.

## President's Message

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!



**2021 is over. Whew!** On the legal front, 2021 was a mixed year. Looking back at texts and emails, I was reminded of the turmoil at the beginning of the year, underscored by the startling events of January 6 at the US Capitol. Although they did not succeed in overturning the Presidential election, the future impact on free and fair elections is still unclear. The 2022 midterm elections could be a test of many institutions that we have (arguably) taken for granted in the past. Hopefully there is bipartisan consensus that protecting voting rights is fundamental to a healthy democracy.

**Gender equity** also found itself in dangerous territory in 2021. The US Supreme Court did not make a definitive ruling declaring the Texas "Bounty" statute unconstitutional, which was a disappointment. However, at least the Court determined that some plaintiffs have legal standing to contest the statute in Federal Court, so the case is back before the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals and the constitutionality of the statute will be reviewed. There were also oral arguments in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* anti-choice case. No decision as yet, but there are concerns that six justices might be willing to either overrule *Roe v. Wade* or seriously erode privacy and equal protection rights for women. So, there is much unfinished business that AAUW national will continue to monitor.

**On a more positive note**, the Maui branch is thriving, despite the ongoing uncertainty regarding COVID. We are now in our scholarship fundraising season. We received two new donations of \$1,000 or more, one from Jan Moore and another from a donor who will remain anonymous. Of course all member's donations to the UH Maui College scholarships are valued, whether made directly or through the Maui Ku'ia Chocolate Lulima program. <https://mauichocolate.com/collections/american-association-of-university-women>. Indeed, being a member of AAUW is a great help to the mission of the organization even if you are not active in the branch. Recently at the State AAUW board meeting we discussed the intrinsic value of membership, since AAUW is an advocacy organization. The more members we have, the more credibility the organization has with legislative decision makers. So thank you to all of our members!

**Our next board meeting** is on **January 8 (a Saturday) starting at 1:30 p.m.** My thanks to the board for accommodating my need to reschedule the meeting from the usual Sunday date. All members are welcome to join in on the Zoom meeting. Or, if you can't join in but would like to give some feedback to the board, feel free to call me at 808-707-2001, or send an email to [pagotschalk@gmail.com](mailto:pagotschalk@gmail.com).

**So, onward to 2022 and all that it brings!**

*Aloha,  
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 – January 22

### Erica Davis



Give Erica a challenge and she will find a way to do it!

Erica is the January guest speaker and will give us a first hand account of her experiences as a paraplegic and how she overcame challenges to win several national challenges. Erica Davis has always been an athlete, even though at the age of 24 Erica lost the ability to use her legs.

It has been over 16 years and Erica has done more in the 16 years than most people do in a lifetime! Erica truly enjoys working with others going through life changing challenges. Erica was a high school teacher on Oahu and is still a teacher today, except now the world is her classroom! Included in Erica's accomplishments is being the 1<sup>st</sup> female to summit Mt. Kilimanjaro as a paraplegic in a wheelchair. Erica is the 2012 Paratriathlon National Champion.

### [Join us for our Speaker Meeting](#)

Saturday, January 22nd online using Zoom.

Social time at 10:00 a.m.

Business meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Followed by Erica Davis' program at 11:00 a.m.

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## BOOK GROUP January 8

The next AAUW Book Group meeting will be held on Saturday, January 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](mailto:2425047@gmail.com).

The book for January is [Boston Girl](#) by Anita Diamont. A story about family ties and values, friendship and feminism told through the eyes of a young Jewish woman growing up in Boston in the early twentieth century. Addie Baum is The Boston Girl, born in 1900 to immigrant parents who were unprepared for and suspicious of America and its effect on their three daughters. Eighty-five-year-old Addie tells the story of her life to her twenty-two-year-old granddaughter, who has asked her 'How did you get to be the woman you are today?'

The book for February will be [Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents](#) by Isabel Wilkerson. Beyond race, class, or other divisions, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives, behavior, and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars the underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people, she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.

## LUNCH BUNCH January 11

The first Lunch Bunch of the year will be held at **Kamana Maui** in Kihei on Tuesday, January 11 at 12:30 p.m. The address is 1881 S. Kihei Road. It is in the Foodland shopping center near The Rainbow Attic.

The menu can be found here:

<https://kamanamaui.com/about-our-restaurant/>

Please RSVP to Pat Gotschalk ([pagotschalk@gmail.com](mailto:pagotschalk@gmail.com)) by Sunday evening, January 9. I will make a preliminary reservation before then. For indoor seating, be sure to bring your proof of vaccination. Looking forward to seeing you there.

## TASTE AND TALK January 27

There will be a Taste and Talk at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 27 but the venue is still to be determined. More information will be sent by email later in the month. So hold the date!

## Holiday Party

**And a Great Time was had by ALL! Thank you Heather Mueller for the use of your home. The weather outside was frightful, just like the holiday song. But the party was delightful. And branch members made many donations to Women Helping Women.**



## AAUW Membership

We have two new members! Penny Andrews and Carol Allen have joined our Maui Branch. We hope to have brief bios in the next newsletter.

Welcome Penny and Carol!



## Public Policy

### Obituary for Roe v Wade Attorney Sarah Weddington

Sarah Weddington, the attorney who filed and successfully argued the landmark *Roe v Wade* abortion rights case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1971-72, died on Dec. 26. It was the first case Weddington ever filed, fresh out of the University of Texas law school at the age of 27. She was unable to find a job at a law firm, which was a typical problem for female attorneys (including Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, who was offered a job as a secretary after law school), so she took on the case. The *Roe v Wade* decision, finding a constitutional right to abortion with certain restrictions, was issued on January 22, 1973.

Perhaps ironically, one of the states that has severely limited the right to choose in recent times is Texas, her home state. Weddington was also one of the first five women to be elected from Travis County (where Austin is located) to the Texas State Legislature in 1972, and served as general counsel to the Department of Agriculture in 1977, assistant to President Jimmy Carter from 1978-81, lecturer at Texas Woman's University from 1981-90, and adjunct professor at University of Texas at Austin until 2012. Wellington was 76.

## AAUW Member Birthdays



### A VERY BELATED HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO.....

December 10...Virginia Shaw  
December 15...Linda Martin  
December 22... Lyn Austin  
December 26...Barry Solomon  
December 30...Debbie Priest

There are no January Birthdays in our group!!

## Great Decisions

There is no official meeting in January. The February meeting will be on Friday, February 25.

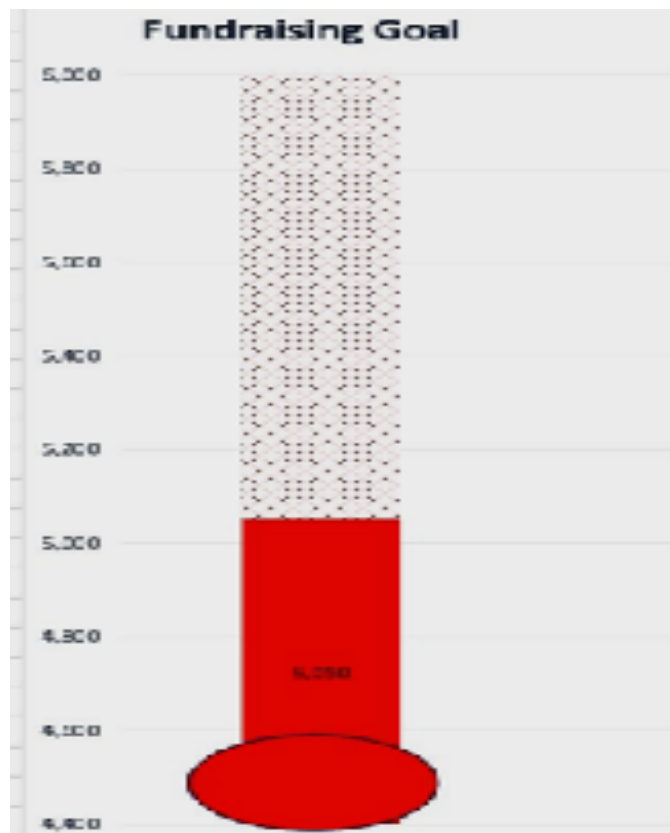
To join the group and order your book for 2022, please contact:

Diane Pure (808) 793-2661

[dpure@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:dpure@hawaii.rr.com)

## AAUW Scholarship Fundraising Goals Nearly Met!

Your donations have raised \$5,050! A check for an additional \$1,085 is in the mail from the Maui Ku'ia Chocolate Lualaba Program. Please consider making a donation even though we'll reach the goal when the Maui Ku'ia check is deposited. We can allocate any additional funds towards our 2022-23 scholarships. Mahalo!





Please mail correspondence to:

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**Pu'unene HI 96784**

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

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