The American Association of University Women at UH Mānoa (AAUW-UHM) is and will continue to be active for the 2020-21 academic school year.

The mission of our RIO is to promote the values of AAUW on the UHM campus and in the community; we are working towards equality in society by providing the tools necessary for women to gain economic security, to pursue their education, and advocate for women’s rights.

To become a member, please email aauw.uhmanoa@gmail.com expressing your interest. We will ask follow up questions at that time.

In order to have an active-status in our RIO, we ask that you attend at least one event every semester.

We have no membership fees. Our RIO is open to everyone!
UPCOMING EVENTS

**Equity Network Hawai‘i: Top Tips for Effective Job Search**
AAUW Honolulu Branch

**Women in STEM: Talk Story Event**
AAUW at UH Mānoa

*Sponsored by the UH Mānoa Office of Civic and Community Engagement*

**March 3, 2021 | 5:30-7:00 PM HST**
Join AAUW Honolulu virtually to learn how to improve your job search with advice trusted by Stanford MBAs and alumni. This event is also an opportunity to network and find community with AAUW Honolulu members.

[RSVP HERE](#)

**Wahine Webinar: Professional Development Workshop & Mixer**
AAUW at UH Mānoa

*Sponsored by the UH Mānoa Office of Civic and Community Engagement*

**March 4, 2021 | 5:30-7:00 PM HST**
Attend this virtual event to talk story with women in STEM at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and connect with RIOs on campus. Guests will include women scholars from the Department of Information and Computer Sciences, the School of Life Sciences, and Civil & Environmental Engineering.

[RSVP HERE](#)

**March 31, 2021 | 4:00-6:00 PM HST**
Register by March 20, 2021

This virtual event will focus on career-preparedness, self-efficacy, and wahine empowerment, giving participants an opportunity to speed network with working professionals and engage in critical self-exploration. This event is open to non-students!

[RSVP HERE](#)
YOU ARE INVITED!

Women in STEM

Talk story with women in STEM at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and connect with RIOs on campus

March 4, 2021
5:30-7:00 PM

Dr. Tonia Sutherland
Department of Information and Computer Sciences

Dr. Oceana Puananilei Francis
Civil & Environmental Engineering and Sea Grant

Dr. Kasey Barton
School of Life Sciences

Dr. Rosana Zenil-Ferguson
School of Life Sciences
UPCOMING EVENT FLYERS

Wednesday, March 31st, 2021
4:00pm-6:00pm

WAHINE WEBINAR

Professional Development Workshop & Mixer

Join the UH Mānoa Office of Civic and Community Engagement, in partnership with the American Association of University Women, for our Professional Development Mixer. This event is centered around career-preparedness, self-efficacy, and wahine empowerment. As a participant, you will have the opportunity to speed network with working professionals, and engage in critical self-exploration. Please note that this is open to all students & community members, regardless of campus affiliation.

ALL ATTENDEES WILL
• Be entered to win a prize
• Receive a workshop kit

RSVP HERE
AAUW Honolulu was founded in 1905 as the College Club. Created to promote “the higher ideals of education among women” it became an official branch of the American Association of University Women in 1922. Since its founding, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day – educational, social, economic, and political.

**Book Discussion:**
*The Woman Behind the New Deal—the Life & Legacy of Frances Perkins*

Join AAUW Honolulu’s Book Discussion Group to learn more about Frances Perkins, an amazing woman who served on President Roosevelt’s Cabinet.

**April 13, 2021**
**5:30-7:30 PM HST**

**Apply by April 15, 2021**
AAUW Honolulu offers multiple grants up to $4,000 each for working women seeking to enhance and improve their careers. Women who are employed, recently employed, or are current graduate students are eligible to apply. Applicants must be living in the state of Hawai’i.

**Girls Talk Back**

The Girls Talk Back program is for girls in Hawai’i ages 14-18 who have aspirations to build peace, organize community, fight injustice, take a stand, and change the world.

The free Summer 2021 program will consist of two VIRTUAL cohorts, each running Tuesday through Friday from 10am-noon over the course of four weeks.

Cohort 1: June 1, 2021 - June 25, 2021
Cohort 2: June 29, 2021 - July 23, 2021

**Presented by Women’s Fund of Hawai’i, AAUW Honolulu, & Ceeds of Peace**

**Apply here**
A BRIEF HISTORY OF WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

March is Women’s History Month in America, a time to recognize how women have shaped and continue to shape history. Here’s how it started.

Women’s History Month can be traced back to 1978, in California, when Sonoma County’s Commission on the Status of Women created the first “Women’s History Week.” The commission recognized a lack of awareness about women’s history, both in classrooms and the general public. “Women’s History Week” spread across the nation, embraced as a way to make schools more equitable. President Carter was the first to implement a National Women’s History Week in 1980; he stated that “…the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.”

The first National Women’s History Month designated by Congress was March 1987. Since then, Women’s History Month has been re-designated by Presidential proclamation. Each year, the National Women’s History Alliance selects a theme for Women’s History Month. The theme for 2021 is “Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced,” as 2020 was the 100-year-anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s passage, when American women first got the right to vote.

PHOTOS

Top Right: Portrait of Ida B. Wells, journalist and activist for women’s suffrage.
Left: Suffragettes picketing outside the White House in 1917. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.
Right: Monument of suffragettes Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Alice Paul in the U.S. Capitol. Image courtesy of Architect of the Capitol.

SOURCES

National Women’s History Alliance
National Women’s History Museum
African American Women and the Nineteenth Amendment
WHAT TO READ FOR WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH (AND ALL YEAR)

Based on The Book of Awesome Women Writers by Becca Anderson, this list of titles includes classics and works of well-known authors, but prioritizes lesser-known books by women authors that deserve recognition.

POETRY

Annie Allen by Gwendolyn Brooks – First Black writer to receive a Pulitzer Prize

The Last Song by Joy Harjo – First Native American Poet Laureate of the United States

La Frontera: The New Mestiza by Gloria Anzaldúa – Writer and scholar of feminist, queer, and Chicana cultural theory

NONFICTION

Under the Sea Wind by Rachel Carson – Pioneering ecologist and science writer who sparked the environmental movement with Silent Spring

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou – Her book was banned for speaking her experiences

Coming of Age in Samoa by Margaret Mead – one of the first women to get her PhD in anthropology

The Second Sex by Simone de Beauvoir – Founder of the feminist movement in France

Living for Change by Grace Lee Boggs – An autobiography of the inspirational Chinese American female activist and author

Curated by Ronja Steinbach AAUW-UHM Intern

Barbara Tuchman – Only woman to win a Pulitzer Prize twice
Beloved by Toni Morrison – Awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature 1993
The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall – Pioneering lesbian novelist
The Awakening by Kate Chopin – Her exploration of sexuality in 1899 resulted in the ban of her book and severe criticism
The Golden Notebook by Doris Lessing – 2007 Nobel Prize in Literature
Jigsaw by Barbara Cartland – An incredible romance novelist, she wrote 623 books in her lifetime!
Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang by Kate Wilhelm – Won the Hugo and Locus award for this piece of science fiction
Nightwood by Djuna Barnes – An obscure but important player in the modernist movement
Sharp Objects by Gillian Flynn – The first book to win two British Dagger Awards
Difficult Women by Roxane Gay – An American professor, author, editor, and commentator of Haitian descent
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – She was raised in Nigeria and won the Commonwealth Writer’s Prize and Hurston/Wright Legacy Award for this novel and did one of the most watched TED talks

* Links Included at the End of the Newsletter
Grace Yuk Ping Chin Lee Boggs, a Chinese American female activist and author, was born on June 27, 1915 and passed away at the age of 100 on October 5, 2015. She left behind a legacy of inspiration for women of color activists working for social change. This bit of inspiration is enough to encourage my own work as an AAUW at UH Mānoa student intern advocating for women’s equity, but Grace’s life is of deeper significance to my current situation than her activist work alone. If one does a little bit of digging, they will discover that Grace was also a philosopher, and after a little more digging, will find that her days as a philosophy student informed her social justice work tremendously.

As a post-baccalaureate student parent transitioning from the hard sciences of chemistry and biology to studying philosophy, and also being a social justice advocate, I often wonder what this time of studying philosophy will do for me. I love philosophy, but where will philosophy take me? Is getting an MA in philosophy going to help me get a job? I have mouths to feed! Undergraduate and graduate students alike often find themselves asking these or similar questions along the way in their academic journey. Through Grace’s life, I hope to show that even though we don’t always know the exact “what for”, it’s oftentimes enough to know the “why” of the moment.

Grace attended Barnard College and immediately explored this new world of opportunities. She studied everything from political science to German to zoology. In her junior year, however, the Depression and Hitler’s rise in Germany among other things, forced Grace to question the meaning of life, which led her to study philosophy. Grace, like myself, could not explain what she was going to do with a philosophy degree, but she did know why: she needed to learn to think for herself.

In her autobiography *Living for Change*, Grace writes, “Many years later, reading Jose Ortega y Gasset’s *What is Philosophy?* I discovered why at the age of eighteen I was attracted to philosophy. Truth is always changing, Ortega explained, and yesterday’s truth is today’s error. Every society lives by a concept of reality and the meaning of life that is based on assumptions. At a certain point these assumptions are no longer tenable, and the public begins to feel a need for a new concept of reality and the meaning of life. At that point those individuals who get an almost voluptuous pleasure from grappling with ideas begin philosophizing; they embark on the struggle to create a new philosophy.”
This statement sums up how Grace lived in implementing change. Philosophy gave her an outlet to explore ideas and as a college student in pursuing the *why* of her moment in needing to learn to think for herself, she also gained skills to think critically, dynamically, and iteratively, and thus, informed the practical steps of living for change through her social justice activism.

Sprinkled throughout Grace’s autobiography are phrases like “when people asked me what I planned to do with a college education, I had no answer” and “I had no idea what I would do after graduation. Philosophy was hardly a marketable skill.” These statements show that Grace didn’t know the “what for” in getting a college education, in philosophy no less, but she knew the general “why” and trusted the process. There are so many other connections to philosophers which informed her work around the importance of taking action, accepting change, being in constant conversation with others, and ultimately breaking down and refining accepted concepts continuously. It’s often said that the journey is just as important, if not more important than reaching the destination, and Grace's life is example of this.

Practical and translatable skills are important and should somewhat inform the path we choose, but they don’t always need to be the deciding factor of choosing the paths that we do. Understanding the *why* we do what we do, our ultimate end, is sometimes all we need to know in the process of getting where we need to go. I also want to emphasize that for some people the path will have less detours and for others the detours will seem endless, but each way is valuable nonetheless.

Grace Yuk Ping Chin Lee Boggs as a Chinese American philosopher is currently one of my greatest inspirations. Being an Asian American woman studying philosophy, I am so grateful to see someone who looks and thinks like me to have paved a successful path in life. She gives me hope that the paths I choose will not be in vain, but that each step, detour, class, interaction, and opportunity will lead me to where I need to go.

**Grace is an inspiration not only for the extensive grassroots changes that she implemented in her sphere of influence and to the countless people she mentored, but it is in her humble acknowledgment that staying true to what motivates and drives you, the "why" behind the "what for," will allow for things to emerge in due time.**

*IMAGE SOURCE*

https://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2015/06/27/417175523/
grace-lee-boggs-activist-and-american-revolutionary-turns-100
President Biden’s plan for “Education Beyond High School” during his presidential campaign in 2020 is not a new phenomenon. It is a continuing endeavor from former President Obama’s “American College Promise Program,” which was unveiled on January 9, 2015, that did not advance into a bill due to partisan differences in the congress.

In fact, the community college and almost all other public universities and colleges in the US did not charge tuition except a small fee, for example the University of California system created in 1868 with the decree that “admission and tuition shall be free to all residents of the state,” and the California state and community-college followed suit. However, free education at public institutions was ultimately overturned when Ronald Reagan got elected as governor of California in 1966. On January 17, 1967 Reagan proposed a 10% cut of state funding to these higher education institutions, thus, a proposed for tuition, and firing a UC President Clark Kerr, who stood by students who were protecting rising cost. From this point onward, California state began to pull money out of higher education, going from funding 32% in 1974 to 16% in 2004. Fast forward, as Reagan got elected as the President of the US in 1981, the “free” college tuition came to an end as he laid the foundations for a shift to a “tuition-based funding model” for the entire country’s higher education system.

Since the tuition-based funding model came into play in 1980s, in 2015, the Federal Reserve reported student debt across the US stood at about $1.2 trillion and more than two-thirds of college graduates have an average debt of $35,000 per graduate. Such an outstanding debt amongst young Americans became a hot issue amongst progressive politicians such as Senator Bernie Sanders and even became one of Biden’s priority plans in his campaign agenda. Today, according to Biden’s plan document, roughly 6 in 10 jobs in the US require some education beyond a high school diploma.
THE BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION’S PLAN FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

But for too many, earning a college degree is unaffordable, while for some taking education loan prevent them from buying a home or saving for retirement, or their parents or grandparents take on some of the financial burden. For this reason, if the Biden’s plan for community college education succeed, how will it help young Americans to access to higher education?

Biden’s plan entails:

• Investing in community colleges and training to improve student success and grow a stronger, more prosperous, and more inclusive middle class
• Strengthening college as a reliable pathway to the middle class
• Supporting colleges and universities that play unique and vital roles in their communities

Thus, if the Biden-Harris administration able to pull off their plan in providing two years of community college or other high-quality training program free of charge to the public, the US could soon see the rise of middle class. Many working-class Americans would have better access to higher education that would provide them the opportunity to upgrade their skill and broaden their knowledge that is necessary for them to seek a better-paid job or to get promoted at their workplace, to have extra income for retirement savings, or to purchase a home without worrying about education debt.

SOURCES


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| Peter J. Rappa Sustainable Coastal Development Fellowship      | **Deadline:** March 12, 2021  
**Eligibility:** Graduate students in STEM  
**About:** The Rappa Fellows will further their knowledge and understanding of sustainable coastal communities through research, extension, and community-based education in topics of coastal smart growth and community planning and their integration with hazard mitigation and climate change adaptation as well as cultural and traditional knowledge of Hawai‘i. Potential projects for the 2021 Fellowship include: preparing Kaua‘i for flooding and ensuring community resilience, developing a public engagement strategy for the Hawai‘i Sea Grant Streamside Guide, and preparing Hawai‘i for transition to renewable energy sources. Fellows receive a $6,000 stipend for the period of June 14 to August 6, 2021  
**More information can be found here:** https://seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/about/opportunities/. |
| The Laura Bassi Scholarship                                   | **Deadline:** March 31, 2021  
**Eligibility:** any discipline  
**About:** established by Editing Press in 2018 with the aim of providing editorial assistance to postgraduates and junior academics whose research focuses on neglected topics of study, broadly construed. Scholarships are intended for use in acquiring editorial assistance for master’s theses, doctoral dissertations, and academic journal articles.  
**More information can be found here:** https://editing.press/bassi |
| 2021 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship | **Deadline:** April 5, 2021  
**Eligibility:** Must be U.S. citizens, US permanent residents or US nationals; and be a graduate student in the US.  
**About:** The Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship Program provides opportunities for doctoral candidates to engage in full-time dissertation research abroad in modern foreign languages and area studies. The program is designed to deepen research knowledge and increase the study of modern foreign languages, cultural engagement, and area studies not generally included in U.S. curricula.  
**More information can be found here:** https://www2.ed.gov/programs/iiegpsddrap/eligibility.html |
### SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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| The Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Graduate Fellowship Program | **Deadline:** April 30, 2021  
**Eligibility:** Graduate Students in STEM  
**About:** The Mirzayan Fellowship Program is a full-time hands-on training and educational program spanning 12 weeks at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine learning about science and technology policy and the role that scientists and engineers play in advising the nation. The Mirzayan Fellowship offers a unique opportunity to obtain essential skills and knowledge needed to work in science policy at the federal, state, or local level. Potential applications must have completed their graduate studies within the last five years.  
**More information can be found here:** [https://mirzayanfellow.nas.edu/Default.asp](https://mirzayanfellow.nas.edu/Default.asp) |
| Rotary Peace Fellowship 2022                           | **Deadline:** May 15, 2021  
**Eligibility:** any  
**About:** The Rotary Foundation is now accepting applications for the fully-funded 2022 Rotary Peace Fellowship. Up to 130 peace and development leaders are selected globally every year to earn either a master’s degree or a professional development certificate in peace and conflict studies at one of seven Rotary Peace Centers at leading universities around the world.  
**More information can be found here:** [https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships](https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/peace-fellowships) |
| AAUW HONOLULU: Tweet Coleman Aviation Scholarship       | **Deadline:** May 1, 2021  
**Eligibility:** Residency in Hawaii and seeking FAA Pilot Certificate. Have a graduate or undergraduate degree or be studying at an accredited college or university.  
**About:** Before being a trailblazing commercial airline pilot, Tweet Coleman had careers as a nurse and as a broadcaster. But she became one of the first women to make piloting an airplane her profession. Since then, she’s made her mark in the aviation industry and among her fellow pilots, making history as part of the first all-female flight crew to fly a Boeing 727. Tweet has graciously endowed AAUW Honolulu with the Tweet Coleman Aviation Scholarship, offered yearly, for women seeking to earn a FAA Pilot Certificate.  
**More information can be found here:** [https://aauwhonolulu.org/tweet-coleman-aviation-scholarship/](https://aauwhonolulu.org/tweet-coleman-aviation-scholarship/) |
Mahalo for supporting AAUW at UH Mānoa!

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding this newsletter or any of our programs, please feel free to contact us at aauw.uhmanoa@gmail.com

LINKS: WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH BOOK LIST


The Last Song: https://www.abebooks.com/signed-first-edition/Last-Song-Harjo-Joy-Puerto-Sol/30607671125/bd


Coming of Age in Samoa: https://www.amazon.com/Coming-Age-Samoa-Psychological-Civilisation/dp/0688050326


I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings: https://www.amazon.com/Know-Why-Caged-Bird-Sings/dp/0345514498

The Awakening: https://www.amazon.com/Awakening-Kate-Chopin/dp/1503293181


Jigsaw: https://www.amazon.com/Jig-Saw-Barbara-Cartland/dp/1906950202

Where Late the Sweet Birds Sang: https://www.amazon.com/Where-Late-Sweet-Birds-Sang/dp/0312866151

Nightwood: https://www.amazon.com/Nightwood-New-Djuna-Barnes/dp/0811216713

Sharp Objects: https://www.amazon.com/Sharp-Objects-Gillian-Flynn/dp/0307341550


Purple Hibiscus: https://www.amazon.com/Purple-Hibiscus-Chimamanda-Ngozi-Adichie/dp/1616202416