**Mission:** The ACUW seeks to further the cultural, social, and intellectual welfare of its members and the community, and to promote and participate in worthwhile community projects which are non-profit and non-commercial.

**History:** The ACUW was founded in February, 1931, when Elsie Ting Ching and Elizabeth Lam Leong organized a reunion with ten other college classmates. They agreed to meet once a month thereafter, as the “Chinese University Women’s Club,” not only to socialize but to do community service. By the end of the year, membership had grown to 43. In October, 1936, the club changed to its present name, and in July, 1983, it incorporated as a non-profit organization. The constitution of 1931 has since been amended many times, but the original purpose of the club has not changed.

**Activities**

In the early years, activities included raising monies for the China Relief Fund, purchasing dentures and glasses for patients at the Palama Clinic, tutoring sick children, and giving a scholarship to a university student. Members also relaxed by playing *majiang* and bridge. Recently, the annual ACUW Fashion Show has become a major project. It is a fundraiser for scholarships and community service, including building a room for the Palolo Chinese Home. Members visit the Palolo Chinese Home every year, taking along gifts such as homemade quilts, and providing entertainment, refreshments, and lots of good cheer. The ACUW sponsors events such as the “Chinese Cultural Day” at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, and a number of picnics, luas, teas, youth activities, lectures, etc.

In 1979, the ACUW published a softbound volume called *Traditions for Living*, written by members and their families, which focuses on Chinese customs and folk practices. A second volume, *Traditions for Living II*, appeared in time for the Bicentennial of Chinese Immigration to Hawai‘i (1989). A number of cookbooks have been produced as well, including a collection called *Golden Favorites* printed in 1981, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the ACUW. *Chinese Women Pioneers in Hawaii*, a collection of stories written by ACUW members, relatives and friends and edited by May Lee Chung and Dorothy Jim Luke, appeared in 2003. Copies may be purchased for $20 from Roanne Matsuura at (808) 596-2668, 1221 Kapiolani Boulevard Suite 326.

**Membership**

Membership in the ACUW is currently over 400, including diverse professionals such as teachers, doctors, engineers, lawyers, bankers, business people, interior decorators, computer specialists, occupational therapists, scientists, accountants, brokers, sales and travel agents, and others. Many members are retired, and volunteer their time, talent, and expertise for community service. There are more than thirty mother-daughter and even a few grandmother-granddaughter pairings within the association.

All members are female, of Chinese ancestry (or with demonstrated interest in promoting Chinese culture), and a graduate of an accredited US or international college or university.
Association presidents

1931 Elizabeth Lam Leong
1932 Elsie Ting Ching
1933 Ruth Ho
1934 Beatrice Chong Chang
1935 Eva Young Chun
1936 Bertha Chong Ebert
1937 Berthie Louis
1938 Ah Chin Loo Lam
1939 Edith Ling Louis
1940 Beatrice Loui
1941 Doris Loo Yee
1942 Kwai Ngan Luke Tom
1943 Mary Apo Chung
1944 Marjorie Wong Hee
1945 May Day Lo Walden
1946 Ardith Chock Lam
1947 Ruth Chinn Chun
1948 Theodora C.S. Leong
1949 Beatrice Lum Luke
1950 Ella Lo Lam
1951 Helen Leong Lam
1952 Sadie Li Goo
1953 Sui Ping Chun Carus
1954 Toy Len Lee Chang
1955 Lurena Yee Lee
1956 Annie May Lee Chun
1957 Violet Fong Pang
1958 Violet Leong Yee
1959 Margaret Ho Lau
1960 Annabelle Ching Fong
1961 Mary Lam Yap
1962 Gertrude Pak-Chong
1963 Pearl Young Ching
1964 Florence Young Doo
1965 Grace Richardson Wong
1966 Christine Ling
1967 Yun Soong Chock Jim
1968 Bernice Ching Loo
1969 Anita Lee Ho
1970 Daisy Pang Dung
1971 Bernadine Tom Yim
1972 Sybil Wong Kyi
1973 Audrey Ching Won
1974 Stella Lau In
1975 Jennie Yuen Tyau
1976 Patricia Ann Chun Leong
1977 Carol Lee Fong
1978 Nancy Wong Yee
1979 Lucille Lee Wong
1980 Lillian Ching Chinn
1981 Blossom Au Wong
1982 Patricia Hiu Ho
1983 Flora Auyong Siu
1984 Sandra Young
1985 Sylvia Young Young
1986 Abbie Kong Chang
1987 Peggy Loo Ching
1988 Jane Kam Pang
1989 Anita Chang Wong
1990 Mildred Fong Wong
1991 Lorinda Wong Lau
1992 Clara Yuen Ching
1993 Marjorie Chun Lau
1994 Thelma Chock Nip
1995 Lori Ching Kam
1996 Frances Hau Goo
1997 Lois Thom Mui
1998 Edith Lee Loh
1999 Eleanore Chong
2000 Patricia Wong Lau
2001 ?????
2002 ?????
2003 Betty Jong
2004 Nora Chong Wong
2005 Elvira Lo

A Chinese cultural event focusing on “Family Life and Folk Arts” held October 12, 2003, at the Honolulu Academy of Arts. Pictured are president Betty Jong (far left) and treasurer Lois Mui (far right) standing in front of the “Longevity” display. Photo by Julie Lau.