



DIRECTIONS

novatoaauw.org

December, 2021

Happy
Holidays!

Happy
New Year
2022

December and some 2022 Highlights

- 12-21 Lunch Bunch
- 12-22 Wednesday Walkers (2)
- 12-25 Christmas Day
- 1-1 New Year's Day
- 1-4 Novato Branch Board Meeting
- 1-17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 1-22 Petaluma Branch Title IX Zoom
- 1-30 Winter Party
- 2-26 Tri-Branch Brunch

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we roar into the chaos of the Holidays (Happy Hanukkah to start us off), I am amused and astonished by the travel stories we have been hearing. Astonished that so many folks are pitching tantrums over wearing masks during flights when it is clearly stated everyone must wear one, to the amount of already drunk people sneaking alcohol onto airplanes. Then today I heard a travel story that I can only shake my head at. Apparently on a flight from Syracuse to Orlando (or vice versa) a pilot alerted the tower that they would be delayed landing because a woman on board refused to stop nursing..... her CAT!!! Yes, you read that right - nursing her CAT!!! I am a really open-minded person, but this disturbs me on sooo many levels. First, I never knew a human could nurse a cat, let alone *would* nurse a cat. It cannot be healthy on even more levels. But in the grand scheme of things, another COVID variant causing more pandemic lockdowns, I have to find amusement in some nutter nursing her cat, in public, on a plane, and refusing to put the cat in its carrier so they can land. We live in a mad, mad, mad world. Stay safe and sane out there and please, laugh often.

May your holidays be merry and happy and my best wishes to all for a wonderful New Year.

Cindy Demchuk
Novato Branch President ckbarr66@hotmail.com

FUNDRAISING RECAP – IT'S ALL GOOD!

The final donations to Trick-or-Treat have trickled in, and the last-minute See's orders. So here's where we stand:

Thanks to our so-generous members, our Trick-or-Treat was phenomenal. We collected a total of \$1720! That's \$860 each for AAUW Fund and Tech Trek, and a record. Our recent previous high for Trick-or-Treat was \$1711 in 2017-18, when we had several more members and no pandemic. So, congratulations and thank you!

The See's Candy sale was solid if not quite as stellar. We will clear \$472.50 this year. Last year we made nearly \$650; *that* was a record. I think maybe being shut in made people hungry for chocolate! Currently there are more options outside your own kitchen for your calorie indulgence, clearly, but you still came through and we are grateful. That's \$236.25 each for AAUW Fund and Tech Trek. Or \$1096.25 each, total, if you're keeping track.

Thank you, thank you, to our wonderful members!

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE WILL BE A WINTER PARTY! (WELL, PROBABLY...)

The branch has reserved the Bahia Clubhouse for Sunday, January 30, for our traditional Winter Party, so mark your calendars. We think we can pull it off, but of course we will have to keep an eye on the omicron variant. And we're not sure whether there will be any kind of auction. Stay tuned!

One thing that will most likely have to happen is vaccination verification (see item below). You're getting used to this, no doubt. It's a nuisance but unfortunately necessary.

ORGANIZATIONS REQUEST MEMBERS TO SHOW PROOF OF VACCINATION

We're aware of several organizations that require their members to provide proof of vaccination to attend events. It's only prudent, and it's easily done in a one-time effort.

We will ask each member to email a .jpg or a .pdf of her vaccination card or certificate to Membership VP Kathleen Gallivan, kgallivan@hotmail.com. As these are received, the member's vaccination status will be updated in the membership database, where it can be referenced for any event.

LOOKING FORWARD TO TRI-BRANCH BRUNCH IN FEBRUARY

Novato Branch is host for the upcoming Tri-Branch meeting.

The Key Room at New Beginnings, our usual meeting place, has been reserved for Saturday morning, February 26. Kristy Higaes, Director of Development for Girls Garage in Oakland, has agreed to speak to us about that amazing organization and the terrific work that it is doing. Check it out: <https://girlsgarage.org/>

Novato Branch was fortunate to hear a presentation by Emily Pilloton-Lam, the founder of Girls Garage (a past recipient of an AAUW Community Action Grant), in May of 2019. All who were at that meeting came away full of energy and excitement about its mission and how it reflects AAUW's.

But there is a cloud, unfortunately. At this time it is not entirely certain that the Key Room will be able to open in time for our meeting. This will become clearer after January 1 and Darby Tarantino of the Key Room has promised to get in touch with us then about the status of our reservation.

This is our preferred venue, both because of location and because we know it can easily accommodate a multimedia presentation (and the brunch served is wonderful!). So if a change becomes necessary, the first option would be a change of date, assuming that our speaker can work with that. Otherwise, we must look for another venue.

Fingers crossed!

LUNCH BUNCH RETURNS!

Gail Jackson sent the following note –

On Tuesday, December 21, let's get together at 12:30 for some holiday spirit at Alfredo's Italian Restaurant, 1426 East Washington St, Petaluma. Alfredo's is on E Washington on the east side of US 101; don't go towards downtown. Also, the entrance and parking are in the lot behind the building, not actually on E Washington. Let me know if you will attend and if you want to carpool from Novato.

WEDNESDAY WALKERS

There are two chances to hike each month. The second Wednesday of the month is generally a shorter, gentler stroll; the fourth Wednesday can involve some hills and/or a longer route. Please RSVP to Gail Jackson, 415-897-7696, unless otherwise noted below. In general we will carpool from the DeLong Safeway parking lot adjacent to the electric vehicle charging stations. Give Gail a call if you'd like to meet us at the trailhead. (Only the second date is in this newsletter - editor.)

Dec 22 - Rush Creek Ridge Loop, Novato. 4ish miles with just one hill. Meet at trailhead on Binford Road (the street that goes to Gness Field) at 10.

WINE DOWN

Theo indicates that November's event was small but hearty (or so she heard). The next scheduled date was December 15th, however Theo will not be there to hostess and she suggests that it may be good to skip this month. On her absence, Theo offered the following – "I am planning my first trip out of town since the 'great smokeout'! Was that only last year? My, how time does not fly these days. Omicron notwithstanding, I hope many of you will find the time to cheer each other. Merry Holidays -- see you in the New Year.

HOLIDAY MESSAGE FROM THE STATE ORGANIZATION

Dianne Owens, President, AAUW California sent the following message in the State Board's December newsletter --

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!

December is here and 2022 is just around the corner. This will be a busy month for most of us with shopping, mailing, and planning events with family and friends. I am hoping it is a joyous month for all. Let's plan to come back in January with renewed spirits and new resolve to carry out AAUW's mission to ensure equity for all.

Your AAUW California Leadership Team will be busy this month planning activities that will "kick-off" in January. As Eleanor Roosevelt reminds us, "You must do the thing you think you cannot do." That is wise advice for all of us as we prepare for the New Year. Wishing you contentment, joy, and peace this holiday season and always.

Be bold, brave, and brilliant,
Dianne

AAUW PETALUMA TITLE IX PROGRAM

AAUW Petaluma invites you to join the conversation.

Title IX at 50: We Need It As Much As Ever!

Saturday January 22 at 3pm via ZOOM

It's the law! Gender discrimination is illegal. It's been nearly 50 years since Title IX was enacted into law prohibiting discrimination based on sex. Why are we still talking about it today? Can Title IX be enforced? Do you know your rights? What needs to be done next? SF Giants Broadcaster Amy Gutierrez will be our host in a conversation with three experts in Title IX.

Three lawyers walk into a room ... and it's Amy G's ZOOM room! The topic is Title IX. Listen in as Amy engages in conversation about the law that prohibits discrimination based on sex. It's been nearly 50 years since the law went into effect. Why are we still talking about it today? Can it be enforced? Do you know your rights? What needs to be done next? Amy's partners in conversation are:

Maha Ibrahim, Equal Rights Advocates, Staff Lawyer

ERA protects and expands economic and educational access and opportunities for women and girls through legislative advocacy, direct services, and litigation. Maha's areas of expertise include civil rights, sexual harassment, gender discrimination and Title IX policy.

Elizabeth Kristen, Legal Aid At Work, Director of Gender Equity & LGBT Rights Program

LAAW is a nonprofit legal services organization that assists low-income, working families facing employment discrimination and harassment based on gender. Elizabeth directs LAAW'S Fair Play for Girls in Sports Project, which spurs schools to treat girls equally on and off the field.

Kim Turner, Coaching Corps, Director of the Gender Equity Initiative

Coaching Corps recruits, trains and supports energetic community members to use sport to teach kids living in under-resourced communities valuable life lessons and inspire them to reach their full potential.

Amy Gutierrez, host

Better known as Amy G, Amy is an 8-time Emmy-award winning producer, reporter and host, covering the San Francisco Giants since 2008 while also serving as a national correspondent for the MLB Network. Born in 1973, she is a direct beneficiary of Title IX.

[Sign up](#) to get the ZOOM link which will be available a few days before the event.

NOVATO BRANCH BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 5:30 p.m. Please contact president Cindy if you wish to attend. She will send you the Zoom link needed to enter the Zoom waiting room, from which she can admit you to the actual meeting.

From your newsletter editor –

As always, I hope to hear from you with any news or pictures that you would like to share in the newsletter. So send pictures for the newsletter!

And please add my best wishes to all the others that were in this newsletter for a merry and happy holiday time. I will see this holiday season through the 2-1/2 year old eyes of our grandson – we are looking forward to *his* view!



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Submissions for articles written by members or news articles of interest are always welcome. Feel free to email me if you have something interesting you would like to share and it may be added to the newsletter.