

AAUW Novato Branch, February



DIRECTIONS

novatoaauw.org

February, 2019



Annual AAUW Tri-Branch Brunch

**Featured Speaker: Linda Witong
of the Marin County
Human Trafficking Task Force**

Retired from the Marin County District Attorney's Office, Linda Witong continues to receive training in the areas of homicide investigation regarding current and unsolved homicides, Human Trafficking, Child Abduction and Elder Abuse.

Ms. Witong's talk will focus with a local lens on human trafficking, including labor and organ trafficking.

Saturday, February 23, 2019

10 a.m. - noon

**The Key Room at New Beginnings
1399 Hamilton Parkway, Novato CA 94949**

\$26

**RSVP with check payable to Novato AAUW by Saturday, February 16
Send to: Kathleen Gallivan, 1610 Hotchkin Drive, 94947**

February 2019

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear AAUW Novato membership,

The new year is moving right along! I hope all of you are enjoying new experiences and old friendships. I thoroughly enjoyed seeing all of you who were able to attend the Winter Party last weekend. It was a beautiful event in general but made so special with the gorgeous table setting provided for us by our very own Cherry Levin. The room felt so lavish, but comfortable and welcoming. The food everyone brought was delicious. I never think I take too much of any one dish, but after I clean my plate, I am full and satisfied. A huge thank you to Susan Mortenson for taking on the planning of



this special event, Sue Potter, Eileen Hutchinson and Eileen Stafford for soliciting donations and organizing the silent auction, Jay Conner and Suzanne Bales for bartending and libations, Cindy Demchuk for our Heads and Tails games, and Kathleen Gallivan for keeping all the money straight. Be sure to read her report on the generous financial donations made to Tech Trek.



Saturday, February 23 is our Trip-Branch-Branch brunch with southern Marin and Petaluma branches. Be sure to send in your RSVP. Our guest speaker, Linda Witong, retired Marin County DA, is sure to be interesting

In March we are going to try something a little new: a Dine and Donate at Panera. Basically, you get to eat out on a pre-determined date and AAUW gets a portion of Panera's proceeds. More details will follow.

Have a wonderful month and see you on the 23rd.

Linnea Leroux
AAUW Novato President



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NEWS AND UPDATES

WONDERFUL WINTER PARTY!

Our 2019 Winter Party was the best one yet! The weather was lovely, the food and wine were delicious and plentiful, and the company incomparable. Best of all, this fundraiser was our most successful ever! The event raised **\$545 for AAUW Fund** (RSVPs less expenses) and nearly **\$2500 for Tech Trek** (basket raffle, silent auction and donation station). We've requested places for five girls at Stanford Camp Curie again this year, and this puts us well on our way to funding those scholarships.

Big thanks for this success go to Susan Mortensen for managing setup, cleanup and supplies; to Cherry Levin for her beautiful table settings; to Sue Potter and Eileen Hutchinson for managing the silent auction and Eileen Stafford for garnering offerings from local businesses; to Jay Conner for donating his wine and tending bar; to Cindy Demchuk for the heads-and-tails basket raffle and for raffle baskets donated by Dunja Kacic-Alesic. Thank you to Linnea Leroux, Johanna Good and Suzanne Bales for pitching in anywhere and everywhere. Thank you to Cherry Levin for donating her time and beautiful table settings for the event! Big, big thanks go to all of our generous members who donated auction items, shopped, donated money, donated food -- and came to have a good time.

(photos courtesy of Kathleen Gallivan)



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DAYTIME BOOKS LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS.

The Daytime Books group has suffered some losses recently and is looking to fill out its numbers. The group meets regularly on the first Thursday of the month at 12 noon. We have always met in members' homes but are exploring the option of meeting at a restaurant. Typically, we have had a book selection meeting in September where we set out the year's calendar in advance, but that is open to new options as well. If you think you would like to join us, offer ideas or have questions, **please contact Kathleen Gallivan, 415-897-0629. Can you think of a better toast to bring in the New Year?**

3 QUESTIONS for RACHAEL ROLLINS: Boston's First Female District Attorney



January 22, 2019

In a year of firsts for women, Rachael Rollins is among those breaking new ground. This month, the 1996–1997 AAUW Selected Professions Fellow became the first woman elected to the role of district attorney in Boston and the first woman of color to hold that job in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

“I’m very humbled and deeply grateful to the people of Suffolk County who recognized it’s time for a change,” said Rollins, who grew up in Cambridge.

That message was delivered loud and clear. Rollins won an astounding 82 percent of the vote in the general election. “Being competitive and making sure we would win was a mandate, and we put in the work to make that happen,” she said.

Rollins honed her competitive edge early. As an athletic teenager, she received a full scholarship to play Division 1 lacrosse at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

But following her freshman year, she learned that the women’s lacrosse, tennis and volleyball programs would be eliminated due to budget cuts. Yet the men’s football team, which hadn’t won in years, remained intact. She and a few of her teammates retained a lawyer, who got their teams reinstated under Title IX. The statute stipulates that federal funding for educational programs must be distributed equitably.

“In that moment, [I learned] how important lawyers are and how powerful they can be when they are activists working toward equity and what’s right,” she said. As **the Selected Professions Fellow for AAUW**, Rollins conducted research on Title IX in New England and educated other organizations on the statute and its effect on women.

Today, she has a teen daughter of her own and is also guardian to two of her nieces due to a sibling struggling with opioid addiction. “I have a lived experience that is very, very different from other people who have sat where I’m sitting now ... and I bring all of that to work every day.” We asked her to share her insights on her career and the changing landscape for women.

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What's the biggest threat to Title IX today?

The current occupant of our White House. Decades ago, Title IX was commonly associated with equity in schools, employment and athletics. But in the #MeToo era, it has also become an important tool for ensuring the rights of sexual assault victims in any educational program that receives federal funding.

President Obama identified sexual harassment and violence as forms of sex discrimination prohibited by Title IX, and he provided guidelines for addressing allegations. Then, in 2017, the Trump administration rescinded that guidance. I believe that move upends all of the best practices we recognize in handling sexual assaults.

Why are we seeing such a strong uptick of women of color to elected office?

People are realizing this is *our* government. Even though at times it feels like certain communities are being targeted, the individuals in those communities have the right to run for office—and then set policies in place to right the wrongs they've seen.

For example, people of color are over-represented in the criminal justice system but significantly under-represented as prosecutors. Women of color make up less than 1 percent of elected prosecutors in the country! So qualified people are starting to say they won't tolerate these racial disparities any longer regarding who is arrested, who is charged, and how long they are sent away.

I was really deliberate with respect to this role. To be a district attorney, you're required to be a lawyer in good standing. I decided to run because I am qualified to do so—and I will hold firm to what I believe and make sure I look at every situation in a fair, balanced and equitable way.

What's your advice to other women who aspire to public office?

Stop doubting yourself and do it! We need to realize that we are just as qualified to do things as men are. And if there's anything I can do to help, I stand as a person who is willing to take your calls.

SECTION NEWS

Lucy Stevenot lucy.stevenot@gmail.com

Section News

All sections are open to and welcome newcomers. Each member is encouraged to visit and check out sections that might be of interest to her. Newcomers, please call the meeting hostess if you want to attend. Similarly, a regular member who must be absent should always inform the hostess.

BOARD MEETINGS.

Tuesday February 5th 5:30-7pm at the home of Linnea Leroux. Contact Linnea at linnea_leroux@hotmail.com for the address if you are interested in attending. Board meetings are usually the first Tuesday of each month.

All are welcome!

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NEW SECTION:

FABULOUS FEMALES. From film to print to current events, we will explore known and lesser-known fearless females.

First book: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama.

Come with questions and to contribute to the endeavor. Thursday February 21st.

3rd Thursdays 5:30-7:30. Hosted by Roberta DiPrete in her home. Snacks/drinks served and welcome.

LUNCH BUNCH. Meets the third Tuesday at 12:30. February 19, *Pacific Catch*, 133 Corte Madera Town Center, Corte Madera. RSVP to Gail Jackson, 415-897-7696 or gejnovato@gmail.com. Looking ahead, March will be Sugo Trattoria in Petaluma and April we have scheduled LaSalette in Sonoma.

BOOKS - EVENING. Meets the third Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at Sue Potter's, 1101 Second Street. February 20 *The House of Broken Angels* by Luis Alberto Urrea. For March, *All You Can Ever Know* by Nicole Chung. Please let Sue know if you are coming. spotter12@hotmail.com or 415-892-5569.



BOOKS - DAYTIME. Thursday, February 7, 12:00 noon: *Life on the Mississippi*, by Samuel Clemens/Mark Twain. Meet at El Rey Restaurant, formerly La Pinata, 904 7th Street. **We are looking for new members.** We currently do not have a book scheduled for March because we are not sure the group will survive. If you have not been a member of this group but would like to join, come along to this meeting, or call Kathleen Gallivan, 415-897-0629.

WEDNESDAY WALKERS. Two chances to hike each month. The second Wednesday 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 Safeway parking lot (at the Dollar Tree end and closest to Redwood Boulevard). Give Gail a call if you'd like to meet us at the trailhead.

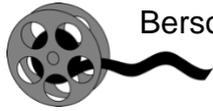
February 13: Novato open space and marsh behind the Rowland Theater. Flat and about 2 miles. MEET AT THE TRAILHEAD AT 10 a.m. Park behind the Rowland Theater. **AFTER HIKE WE WILL GO TO LUNCH TO PLAN OUR SPRING SCHEDULE.**



February 27: Walk with Marin County Open Space ranger to view early wildflowers at Chimney Rock. Breathtaking views and a slow 2-mile walk to the tip of the Pt. Reyes peninsula. Bring lunch or snacks. Departing Safeway at 9 a.m.

MAH-JONGG Generally meets on the first and third Mondays, February 4th and 18th usually at 3:00 p.m. Call Linda Henderson, 415-382-8910, to confirm time and meeting place.

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MOVIE MANIA. Movie Mania will be held February 25th at 7:30pm at the home of Elvera Berson. Discuss movies and enjoy refreshments! 415-883-5846.

GRANDMAS AND WANNABES meets Thursday, February 28th 7:30pm at Sue's, 1101 Second Street. Everyone welcome. Please bring photos of your grandchildren. We talk, brag, discuss, and share stories of our grandchildren. We share toys, joys and frustrations. We laugh and sometimes we talk about our children and even our own lives as grandparents, parents and children. 415-892-5569.

STITCHERY will meet Monday, February 4th, 1:30 at Sue's 1101 Second Street (instead of our usual first Tuesday). Bring whatever stitchery project you are working on or just come for conversation. 415-892-5569.

FOURTH FRIDAY WINE DOWN. Wine Down will meet February 22nd 5-7pm at Trek Winery in Novato. For more information contact Roberta DiPrete, roberta@robertarealestate.com.



February
Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Superbowl Sunday	4 Mah- Jongg 3pm Stitchery 1:30pm	5 Board Meeting 5:30pm	6	7 Daytime Books 12pm	8	9
10	11	12	13 Wednesday Walkers 10am	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17	18 Mah- Jongg 3pm	19 Lunch Bunch 12:30pm	20 Evening Books 7:30pm	21 Fabulous Females 5:30-7:30	22 Wine Down 5-7pm	23 Tri- branch Brunch 10am
24	25 Movie Mania 7:30pm	26	27 Wednesday Walkers 9am	28 Grandmas and Wannabes 7:30pm	1	2

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March 
Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
3	4 Mah-Jongg	5 Board Meeting Stitchery	6	7 Daytime Books	8	9
10	11	12	13 Wednesday Walkers	14	15	16
17	18 Mah-Jongg	19 Lunch Bunch	20 Evening Books	21 Fabulous Females	22 Wine Down	23
24	25 Movie Mania	26	27 Wednesday Walkers	28 Grandmas and Wannabes	29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6

Lucy Stevenot, *Newsletter Editor*

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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.

Current Board Members

President Linnea Leroux

Finance Officer Kathleen Gallivan

Recording Secretary Beverlee Sandy

Program VP Johanna Good, Cherry Levin and Roberta DiPrete

Membership VP Kathleen Gallivan

Newsletter Editor Lucy Stevenot

Tech Trek VP Myrna Stevenot