



# DIRECTIONS

[novatoaauw.org](http://novatoaauw.org)

June, 2020

## PRESIDENTS' MESSAGES

**From outgoing president Linnea Leroux** – We are wrapping up the 2019-2020 Novato AAUW Branch season. We started the fall with a bang with a lovely gathering at El Rey. Many of you came to share tales of your summers and to hear what upcoming events were on the horizon. Many a fun Wine Down was had at Trek Winery. Cherry Levin hosted an elegant holiday party at her home in San Rafael. She graced us with her beautiful place settings and generous hospitality. The Winter Party was a grand success! Cherry again shared her talents and place settings with us, everyone shared their most delicious dishes, and the auction was a huge success in raising money to continue our mission of sending as many girls as we can to Tech Trek. And then things changed! Even though we were no longer able to see each other in person, we have made the best of it. While it is a shame we were not able to proceed with all the plans we had in place, we have hosted two Zoom get-togethers that have been quite fun. Each gathering had about 14-15 members attend. There was joy and laughter and a sense of calm in seeing each other.

As I wind up my second year as President, I thank you so much for all your support and encouragement. I will be staying on the Board as Past President and Cindy Demchuk will step into the role of President. I look forward to working together and seeing you all again soon.

**From incoming president Cindy Demchuk** – Happy June to all as we start to re-enter society in a whole new way. I am excited to be your new branch president for the 2020-2021 year, and was able to virtually attend the state convention in April. One of the speakers mentioned how important mentors are. This little tidbit led me to reflect on the mentors I have had, known and unknown, who shaped who I am today.

One was my “Aunt” Nancy McClintock, who was a second mom to me all throughout high school. Showing me how a competent woman can display heart-felt affection in small thoughtful gestures and so much more. Aunt Nancy took me under her wing when I was a teenager adjusting to a newly merged family and a new city. Seeing how she has navigated all the trials and tribulations of her life has given me inspiration to cope with what the post Corona world has in store.

She will be thrilled to know I view her as a mentor and so I think I will share this with her. Our lives have diverged much since we met in Virginia Beach, Virginia over 40 years ago, but she is still in my heart living up in Winters now.

So, I am giving us all a bit of summer homework: reflect on who your mentors are. We all have them; some made big impacts and some were small guiding lights. Remember their names and lessons while you go about your summer in this unprecedented time.



## MEMBER NEWS



A happy note from Kathleen Freitag last month announcing her engagement to Jim Murphy. A wedding is planned for fall 2021.

## AAUW RENEWALS ARE FLOWING IN --- THANK YOU!

Quite a few of you have already renewed your membership in Novato AAUW. Thank you! It is very encouraging to those of us trying to steer the branch ahead in these difficult times.

There's still plenty of time for the rest to come along before the renewal date of July 1. In a week or so another invoice will be sent to those who have not yet renewed; look for a message from [memberinfo@aauw.org](mailto:memberinfo@aauw.org), subject: **AAUW Membership Renewal for Fiscal Year 2021** (plus your membership number). This is the email that will facilitate your online renewal. It will also tell you how you can renew by check, if that is your preference, so please read it carefully and in full.

Meantime, your AAUW Board sends you best wishes for continued health and companionship.

## NOVATO AAUW BOARD ELECTION AT MAY VIRTUAL MEET-UP

When we met online through Zoom on May 22, we conducted an online vote for next year's branch officers. The following members were elected:

President – Cindy Demchuk  
President-elect – Linnea Leroux  
Recording Secretary – Barbara Granicher  
Finance Officer – Kathleen Gallivan

Congratulations to the elected officers and to those other branch members who hold appointed positions on the board. We thank all of them for the work they do for the branch and look forward to a hopeful resumption of many of our branch activities and sections in the fall.

## CALIFORNIA AAUW NEWS

On May 29, your editor received an e-mail from California AAUW announcing the summer edition of *California Perspectives*. Since this was an e-mail sent to all branch members, I hope that it also reached your mail box. This issue contained lots of information from the state covering most of the state-supported programs and other events including a wrap up of the past AAUW year and challenges to the operation of the organization due to the virus.

Of interest were the highlighted statements for the Mission, Vision and Values for California AAUW –

**Mission** - To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

**Vision** – Equity for all.

**Values** - Nonpartisan.  
Fact-based.  
Integrity.  
Inclusion and Intersectionality.

In addition the *California Perspectives* contained many links to programs and additional information for some informative summer reading. Check it out!

### Editor's Note

I wish all of you continued good health, joy in long-awaited non-digital contact with family and friends, and the happiness that many of us will experience with our first haircut in a long time. Have a wonderful summer!

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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.*

STAY HEALTHY!

