



DIRECTIONS

novatoaauw.org

May, 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to day ??? of Shelter in Place. I have truly forgotten how long this has been in effect. I have had to learn how to teach 7th grade from a couch in my garage, my 2 college age boys have moved back home and my dog is in 7th heaven with the extra love and affection all day long. I miss seeing my friends, I miss wandering around my usual shopping haunts, I miss exercising with real people; however, I enjoy the peace of silence, I have time to be creative, I have purged all sorts of "precious" unwanted items, and I have even begun to enjoy cooking again. I hope you all have some positive outcomes from this experience.

Unfortunately, all AAUW functions are cancelled until further notice. Since we can't be together in person, the Board decided that we would host a virtual get together instead. 13 people came to our Zoom meeting on Friday, April 24th and it was a smashing success! We laughed, commiserated, shared our experiences, and enjoyed seeing each other after so long. We are planning another virtual get together on Friday, May 22 at 4:00. You will receive an email the day before with the Zoom code. We hope to see you there. The Board also decided that when it is safe to come together in person, we will plan and host a celebratory gathering. Be on the lookout for details after the safety measures begin to loosen.

In case you were wanting to get a bit more involved with our branch, but not take a Board position, we might have just the right position for you. We are actively seeking 3 people to:

1. Chair the Winter Party
2. Coordinate Trick or Treat fundraising
3. Provide a home for the Hospitality bins

Take your pick of the positions! Encourage a friend to join you! Each job is a finite event/position and will not take too much time or create too much extra work.

Finally, if you are interested in serving on the Board, please contact Linnea_Leroux@hotmail.com, kathleen@alera.com, or ehutchin@earthlink.net for positions and details. The branch will be voting on the incoming board at the May 22nd virtual get together.

Take care, stay safe, stay hopeful, and wash your hands!

Linnea Leroux
Novato Branch President



MEMBER NEWS

Sue Potter has lost her husband, Dick, to the Parkinson's disease that he fought so long. A fall and consequent surgery was ultimately too much for him; he died on Wednesday, April 15.

These are difficult times for all of us. We know that it must be particularly difficult for Sue to deal with this loss in the middle of isolation and social distancing. To balance, she does have family close, her son, Mike, in Petaluma, and daughter Karen's family in Chico, including much-beloved grandchildren Grace and Levi.

When able, all her friends in AAUW, are sure to rally around in as many ways as possible, offering comfort and support, as a return for all that Sue has done for the branch over her many years of membership. Our thoughts are with her.

AAUW RENEWAL SEASON BEGINNING SOON

AAUW renewal notices will be going out soon to our members. Many might think it's too bad to have to send dues when the branch is prohibited from continuing its normal activities, but be assured that we are committed to carrying on as best we can, including our virtual meet-ups, and a promise to meet in person as soon as possible.

A new membership year begins July 1. Please watch for the membership renewal notice, coming to your email inbox around the middle of May. Many members find it convenient to click on the link and renew by credit card -- it couldn't be easier!

NOVATO AAUW BOARD ELECTION AT MAY VIRTUAL MEET-UP

When we meet online on May 22, we will conduct an online vote for next year's branch officers.

The proposed slate of candidates:

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

Those participating in the virtual meet-up will be instructed how to vote during the meeting.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

As mentioned in the President's Message:

We are looking for a member who will be willing to store the bins containing the branch's hospitality supplies – tablecloths, paper plates and napkins, etc. They require about a cubic yard of space (but not necessarily in a cube; there are a few bins in two sizes that allow for storage in whatever space configuration you might have). If you think you can help with the bin storage, please contact Eileen Hutchinson, ehutchin@earthlink.net.

Finally, please consider volunteering to take charge of the Halloween Trick-or-Treat fundraiser next October (we are sure it will happen!). This is a fun event that means a lot to the branch and to AAUW Fund and requires only a brief burst of activity. You will receive much help from the board and many thanks. Please contact Linnea Leroux, linnea_leroux@hotmail.com, if you can help organize this fundraiser.

TRASH TO TREASURES



We included this note in the last newsletter, but your editor wanted to repeat it.

It's possible that with all of the enforced 'stay at home' time that you may have decided to do a thorough spring cleaning or clean out a few closets, garden, garage (eek!), etc. Please keep the Trash to Treasures sales in mind in case you find some appropriate donations for the sale and set those items aside. A future communication – either newsletter or e-mail – will let you know when those items can be brought to the branch collection area. Many thanks!



NOVATO BRANCH BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting is scheduled for May 5, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m., a Zoom virtual meeting. (This is the last scheduled board meeting for this (AAUW) year. Contact Linnea at linnea_leroux@hotmail.com if you are interested in attending a board meeting. Zoom information and code will be sent out the day before the meeting.

SECTION NEWS

All sections have been suspended – any changes or new schedules will be sent in either the newsletter or through e-mails. Several sections had hoped to resume activities in May, but the latest stay in place mitigation makes that unlikely.

MAY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Board Meeting 5:30 pm Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Zoom meet-up 4:00 pm	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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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!

