



# DIRECTIONS

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

May, 2022

## May/June Highlights



- 5-3 Novato Branch Board Meeting
- 5-5 Wine down & Cinco de Mayo
- 5-8 Mother's Day
- 5-11 Wednesday Walkers (1)
- 5-14 AAUW California Election Ends
- 5-16 AAUW National Election Ends
- 5-17 Lunch Bunch
- 5-25 Wednesday Walkers (2)
- 5-30 Memorial Day
- 6-2 Wine Down and Installation

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all, I hope this finds you well.

As I finish my term on the board this year, I am reflecting on the future. I look forward to helping out with programs and Tech Trek next year and hope that we can all get together more often whether at Wine Down or somewhere else.

Of special interest in this newsletter is a note from our Tech Trek Coordinator Myrna Wright with bios of those girls who were selected by our branch for Tech Trek this year. It definitely sounds like a stellar group.

At the June Wine Down, we will take advantage of your attendance to have a brief installation ceremony for those elected to branch officer terms next year.

Respectfully, Cindy D

Cindy Demchuk  
Novato Branch President [ckbarr66@hotmail.com](mailto:ckbarr66@hotmail.com)

## TECH TREK

The good news for California Tech Trek this year is that five of the colleges that host Tech Trek were offering residential camps. Since not all of the past hosting schools were having residential camps, the Virtual Camp that was developed for Covid years 2020 and 2021 was also an option for this year. Both types of camp have been well received -- AAUW California reports that branches selected over 500 campers for residential camps and almost 200 campers for virtual camps.

Our Tech Trek Coordinator Myrna Wright sent the following note for publication:

Dear AAUW Members,

Thank you to all who donated, helped me interview, and supported me this year! It's been a weird (but expected) transition in 2022, so we will be sending two virtual and three residential students to camp. Stanford wasn't ready for camps, so our students will be attending Tech Trek at Sonoma State.

Getting to know the smart young women out there is always a highlight of my year and your donations are helping them get a step up in STEM. So THANK YOU again!

Your Tech Trek Coordinator, Myrna

### 2022 Novato Tech Trekkers

#### OUR RESIDENTIAL CAMPERS

**Mattea** is a Jill of all trades. She plays sports, does theater, volunteers, and learns Italian in her spare time. She is a problem solver and loves to learn and do experiments. Math hasn't always been one of her favorite subjects, but this year she has a teacher that makes math fun and even ended up competing in a math competition for school. She has spent a lot of time during the pandemic volunteering (which included pretending to be an elf with her grandfather as Santa for a Zoom charity event). She was lovely to talk to, and as an only child she is definitely ready to get out of the house to attend camp!

**Alexandra (Sasha)** comes from an impressive family, both her mom and grandmother are in medicine and her grandfather is a physicist. She had a hard time in the pandemic seeing her mother come home from frontline work at hospitals. Her essay reflected that, as she would like to change the world by helping find cures for diseases. In addition to wanting to cure diseases, Sasha also plays volleyball, sings in a choir, and plays the harp. She also recently created a Rube Goldberg machine to pass notes in class.

**Rio** was eloquent and mature, but also bubbly and fun to chat with. Her essay was one that stood out for me. Students were asked how they would change the world with STEM and Rio wrote about educating people about world issues, equality in healthcare, global

warming, pollution, etc. She believes that with the right opportunities she can make a difference in the world. I hope Tech Trek helps her get there, because I think she would be a great doctor or teacher or whatever she sets out to do to change the world.

### OUR VIRTUAL CAMPERS

**Joey** was a little quiet at first but she quickly opened up, telling us about her love of school (she's a fast learner), her volunteering at the Marine Mammal Center, and her love of chess. She also plays soccer and loves art. One of my favorite parts of our interview, was learning about the Tipton Kangaroo Rat (she recently finished a project for school). Because she is a fast learner, she loves to help other students out in class. She often solves math problems quickly, and then moves on to work with others.

**Lyla** is smart, loves rules and team spirit, and wants to change the world by becoming a biology or chemistry professor. In her spare time she does gymnastics, plays the ukulele, and rock climbs with her family. Her essay discussed the great impact teaching has on the world and her desire to follow in those steps. She is the go-to person in her class when anyone has a problem or question relating to their science class. She wants to empower and inspire students, as she has been empowered and inspired by her teachers. One of our favorite quotes from her essay: "You can count the seeds in an apple but you can't count the apples from a seed."

### OUR ALTERNATE

**Julianna's** essay was about human waste and trying to solve the problem of waste in the Bay Area. She was the only girl in her class who chose to take Engineering as an elective this year. She wants to use engineering to help solve the waste problem in the world and prevent it from going into our waters. One of her many ideas was to create a robot to go into sewer drains to help clean up. Julianna loves hands on activities and experiments. She also plays tennis and participates in 4H. Her favorite class right now is history where she is learning about China.

## Tech Trek Schedule and Campuses

Virtual Camp 1	June 19-25
Virtual Camp 2	July 24 – 29
California State University Fresno	June 12 - 18
Sonoma State University	June 19 – 25
University of California Davis	July 17 – 23
University of California Santa Barbara 1	July 10-16
University of California Santa Barbara 2	July 17 - 23
Whittier	June 19-25

## WINE DOWN

With the end of the AAUW year fast approaching and a busy time for many in June (trips, graduations, etc.), the board was having a difficult time finding a date when the elected officers could be recognized and 'installed' for next year (2022-2023). Since many of those elected officers are frequent attendees of Wine Down, the June meeting seemed like a perfect time for the installation. So Wine Down chair Ellen Breazeale and the others on the Novato Branch board invite you to attend this special Wine Down. The date is Thursday, June 2 and we'll hope to start promptly at 5:00 p.m.

Hopefully we'll have information from Ellen for the June newsletter about Wine Down and the summer months. Contact Ellen with questions, 415-892-6546...[breazeales@comcast.net](mailto:breazeales@comcast.net)

## AAUW RENEWAL TIME APPROACHES

A note from your Membership VP, Kathleen Gallivan

It's almost time to start thinking about renewing your AAUW membership. I usually start reminding members around the middle of May about the upcoming renewal, since memberships expire on June 30. But this year, many things have changed.

You will still be able to renew online with a credit card but the process has changed. AAUW has replaced the old Member Services Database, which formerly handled all things membership, with a new Community Hub. This is still a work in progress, so I'm not quite sure yet of all the details. I have submitted questions and will get instructions out to you as soon as I can. Of course, you will still be able to mail your dues check to me if that is your preference.

Membership dues for 2022-23 will be \$107; the tax-deductible portion is \$64. Watch for a subsequent email with instructions for online renewal.

## LUNCH BUNCH

**May 17** Join us at 12:30 at Lemongrass, a Thai restaurant, [208 Petaluma Blvd N Petaluma CA 94952](#). (There are two locations; be sure to go to the downtown venue.) RSVP to Ginna Zoellner, 415-761-0456 or [zoellnernovato@gmail.com](mailto:zoellnernovato@gmail.com). Let Ginna know if you want to carpool from Novato Safeway lot at noon.

## 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. For your planning purposes we have included dates for April and May.

**May 11** – Indian Tree Preserve off Vineyard Road in Novato. We'll do the lower part for about 2 miles. This one has some mild rolling hills. Meet at 10; no carpool. To get to trailhead take Vineyard Road to its western end and park where pavement turns to dirt/gravel.

**May 25** – Indian Valley College. Arlyn Serber will lead this one and choose trails based on what the group is in the mood for. Meet at 10; no carpool. Meet outside the entrance gates to IVC at end of Ignacio Blvd. Let Arlyn know if you plan to join her at [a@arlyn.info](mailto:a@arlyn.info).

## AAUW CA AND AAUW NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Both elections are still open for voting.

On April 23 you should have received an e-mail "2022 AAUW California Election" with voting information and instructions. Online voting continues until May 14.

On April 28 you should have received an e-mail "Reminder: Please vote in the AAUW National Election" with voting instructions including your Member ID and PIN to be used for your vote. Online voting continues until May 16.

### From your newsletter editor –

The June issue of the newsletter will be the last issue for the 2021-22 AAUW year. If you have any news you have wanted to share or pictures still in your smartphone, please get them in an e-mail and send for the end of year publication.

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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.*