



DIRECTIONS

novatoaauw.org

October, 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello and Happy Autumn to all, I hope that you and your families are all well and healthy.

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made. It shouldn’t be that women are the exception.”

Not only was the first day of Fall last Tuesday, but we saw the passing of one of our greatest feminists, “RBG” - Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Over the last few years I saw an interesting phenomenon as Justice Ginsberg became wildly popular with a younger generation. My daughter started referring to RBG and knew way more about her life and accomplishments than I did. Even though there is a proverbial “S” storm in Washington over when/who will nominate a replacement, I feel optimistic about the future of feminism. Multitudes of millennials and zillions of Gen Zs are aware of the struggles that previous feminists have made so they can be more equal in the gender equation. We all know there is a long way to go, but I am just saying there ARE younger women who feel grateful for the hard work done by fellow feminists: exemplified by The Notorious RBG. I hope that you feel optimistic too, because staying active requires a big dose of optimism.

Last month I tossed out a quote at the end of my message: I asked that anyone who wished to guess who said the quote to email your answer to me and then I mistyped my own email ;o) SO.. here is the correct email ckbarr66@hotmail.com . And, if you forgot the quote, here it is --

“No struggle can ever succeed without women participating side by side with men. There are two powers in the world; one is the sword and the other is the pen. There is a third power stronger than both, that of women.” Oct 22, 2018

I hope you have a pleasant October and please join us for any Board meeting in the coming months – via Zoom. The meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month at 5pm. All are welcome and if you want to hear details about what is coming up or has transpired recently, this is a great way to stay informed. We will use: 6849736775 and there will be a waiting room instead of password access.

Cheers and take care,

Cindy Demchuk ckbarr66@hotmail.com 415-519-2032
Novato Branch President



BELATED ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR 2019 NAMED GIFT HONOREE – MYRNA STEVENOT!



Every year, Novato Branch makes its contribution to the AAUW Fund in the name of a branch member who has done significant service to the branch. Often this is a person who has deserved recognition for more than a single year, as is the case in this instance. Myrna has led our Tech Trek camper selection process for the past three years, from soliciting nominations from Novato teachers to interviewing candidates and their families, and has found sterling candidates for us each time. She is on board to do it again next year for what will be a virtual, online camp.

The Named Gift honoree is usually announced, and the certificate awarded, at the Spring Tea following the end of the contribution year. But of course we were unable to hold our Tea this year and the months slid away before realization dawned that we should not let any more time pass before making this announcement.

Congratulations, Myrna! Novato Branch greatly values your service to the branch, Tech Trek and Novato girls.

MEMBERSHIP

We send a hearty thank-you all those members who are sticking with Novato AAUW during these difficult times. We know that you miss participating in those group activities that we all enjoy so much, but the AAUW mission goes on -- the work for equal pay and, especially right now, the get-out-the-vote effort. Even Tech Trek, though out for this year, is projected to be conducted in some form in 2021 and hopefully back to normal in 2022.

• YOUR AAUW DIRECTORY IS COMING SOON

Your AAUW Directory will be printed and mailed by the middle of October, so this is your chance to make sure that your information is correct. **Please check out your entry in the Directory and send any changes or corrections to krigallivan@hotmail.com, or leave a message at 415-897-0629.**

• TO VOTE -- DO YOU OR YOUR BALLOT NEED TRANSPORTATION?

We had a lovely note from Dorcas Higginbotham. She is offering her services to the members to facilitate their voting. She will pick up ballots to deliver to ballot boxes or the post office or she will drive the member to their voting location. Contact Dorcas if you need transportation help at either dorcashugs@gmail.com or 415-493-6841. Thank you Dorcas!



MORE MEMBER NEWS

- Nancy Garcia wrote that she is enjoying her new house in Petaluma. Her new address and phone number will be in the new Branch Directory.
- Kathleen Gallivan contacted Ginna Zoellner when she heard news that Oakmont had been evacuated (the Glass Fire). Ginna responded that she and David went to her daughter's in Sebastopol, but unfortunately were unable to find their beloved cat and had to leave her behind. When Ginna and David were able to return to their home (no damage), the cat showed up too – a happy ending! Ginna indicated that they will be looking for a home in Windsor for a more permanent residence.
- Joan Ganzhorn was also evacuated during the Glass Fire. (Joan is no longer a member but we know that her many member friends will be glad to hear that all is well.)
- Roberta Di Prete has changed her directory address to a post office box. Be sure to check your new directory for the details.

NOVATO AAUW BOARD

The September newsletter listed the branch board members for the 2020/2021 term. We did not have confirmation for one of the appointed positions, but we do now, so this newsletter gives the complete list. And thank you Claudia Elkin for continuing as Corresponding Secretary (and she is sometimes known as the Sunshine Secretary!)

President – Cindy Demchuk
President-elect – Linnea Leroux
Recording Secretary – Barbara Granicher
Finance Officer – Kathleen Gallivan
Membership – Kathleen Gallivan
Program/Hospitality – Cherry Levin
Tech Trek Chairs – Myrna Stevenot and Lucy Stevenot
Newsletter Editor – Eileen Hutchinson
Corresponding Secretary – Caludia Elkin

TRICK-OR-TREAT WITHOUT DOOR-KNOCKING

In recent years the majority of our members have chosen not to have trick-or-treaters come to their doors. Yet the trick-or-treat fundraising drive for The AAUW Fund has been very successful, thanks to mailed donations. Last year, for example, we raised \$1440 for the Fund.

So this year we will go ahead with Trick-or-Treat, virtually. You will receive email reminders and perhaps even a snail-mail solicitation with return envelope, depending on how proactive your board feels. And there may be a small gathering at an outdoor restaurant, if weather permits. It all remains to be seen, but we hope that our members will be as generous as they have always been in the past. Look for more information in your email, and perhaps your mailbox, as Halloween draws near.

PROGRAM NOTES

Based on current restrictions due to COVID-19 and possible future concerns with continuing virus protocols, some of our usual fall and winter branch activities may not be held this year or they may be held in a virtual/digital fashion. National AAUW urges all branches to host gatherings virtually for the 'foreseeable' future. In addition, National has indicated that they will not return to in-person work or events until at least 2021. Some of our fall and winter activities and how we'll conduct them now --

Trick or Treat for AAUW Fund (October – on or near October 31) – please see the article for this activity on the previous page.

See's Candy fundraiser (in time for Christmas) – As is traditional, you will find the See's candy flyer in the envelope with your Directory. Yes, the fundraiser will go on -- AAUW is still doing important work that needs our support. And who doesn't need a little sweetness in these strange days? So get out your Christmas and birthday gift lists, and celebrate Thanksgiving with a little See's chocolate for yourself. All the information that you need will be on or attached to the flyer.

Winter Party (usually the end of January) – this event will not be held (and it will be missed by many of us)

Trash to Treasures sales – future event status not known – though we're sure there will be no fall sale. If you have wonderful donations, please hold on to them!

TECH TREK

We received the following e-mail from the Tech Trek Program AAUW-California State Co-ordinators --

Yesterday AAUW National announced that in the 2021 season, Tech Trek camps in all states must be delivered on a virtual platform. This decision was made due to the many unknowns and changing regulations, which are happening so rapidly that in-person events can not be advised this far in advance.

They also advised that all states should delay student recruitment until further into 2021.

As announced in prior communications, since the cancellation of our 2020 season, California Tech Trek has been working on alternative solutions, which includes a fully tested virtual platform option designed and implemented by our UC San Diego camp director. In addition, our delay of the student selection process to January 2021 aligns with the National decision.

While this announcement is certainly a disappointment, but not a surprise given the pandemic still actively impacting our country, the California Tech Trek Program leaders are fully prepared to continue the Tech Trek tradition by providing selected campers with a stimulating, fun and rewarding STEM virtual experience.

Rest assured that when the time is right, our goal is a return to the residential Tech Trek camp model that since 1998, has been AAUW California's premier STEM camp legacy.

California Tech Trek will not go dark in 2021 - we're looking forward - and we appreciate your support and enthusiasm!

MORE TECH TREK

A subsequent note from the state Co-Coordinators had some additional news –

With the move to a 2021 virtual platform, the residential room constraints go away, campus facilities costs won't be an issue, and due to delivery via the virtual world, the cost-per-student decreases.

This opens the opportunity for schools to nominate more students ...The expectation is this will allow California Tech Trek to service more selected students across the state.

In addition, no costs will be incurred by families to prepare and transport their selected campers to campus.

And though Tech Trek will be virtual, it promises to be as educational and stimulating as ever.

Residential Tech Trek is still the Goal! Tech Trek's campus-based residential program is our goal and the baseline to return to when health mandates allow. The camp design developed by Marie Wolbach in 1998 is the bedrock of the program and is what the camp staffs execute faithfully year over year. When the time is right, we'll quickly move back to the residential format.

NOVATO BRANCH BOARD MEETING

The next board meeting will be November 3, 5:00 p.m. The meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. (December 1, January 5, February 2, March 2, April 6, and May 4). At this time, we expect these to be Zoom meetings. You should contact branch president Cindy if you wish to attend – use number 6849736775 with Zoom to enter the waiting room – Cindy will attach you to the actual meeting.

CALIFORNIA AAUW

- **WEBINARS** – Both National and California AAUW have produced several/many webinars during the spring and summer. Frequently these were announced for a specific date/time in e-mails from the organization. If you missed something that sounded interesting, many of these can still be viewed by checking either the National or California website. September's webinars included "Speech Trek 101", "Racial Injustice: Understanding It, Recognizing It, Talking About It", and "Show Me the Money: Fundraising Ideas For a COVID World."

- **PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE** – The California Public Policy Committee recently sent a survey to all members asking for input for the Public Policy Priorities for 2021-2023. This is your opportunity to provide input for this important activity. The Committee has also been active for the upcoming election – including a GOTV (Get Out The Vote) campaign and you will find a great deal of information on election matters in their pages on the California AAUW website.

AN APOLOGY FROM YOUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR

I should have put this as the lead article, but somehow it didn't fit But please accept my sincere apologies for the lateness of the October newsletter. As some of you know, I was not feeling OK – I had a fever and chills and initially couldn't see beyond the thought of COVID – however, no cough, no sneezing, no other respiratory issue (strange for someone with asthma and a history of chronic bronchitis) – and then there was the warm, red skin from mid-calf to the ankle on my left leg – definitely NOT a COVID symptom. I had a bacterial infection which hit quickly (fever and chills) and responded nicely to a week's worth of antibiotics. And yes, I did have a COVID test which was negative (along with several other tests for the leg issue).

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

In the September newsletter, we published a series of notes and pictures from some of our members that were in response to an e-mail that your newsletter editor sent asking that you send her a note with something that you would like to share – or what have you been doing as we all sheltered in place? Many enjoyed the notes that were published, and we have a few more to include in this newsletter. But there are many of you that we would love to hear from, so if you have some news, please send it to your editor.

From Gail Jackson

It's certainly been a summer of "best laid plans." Wednesday Walkers has tried to get together in limited numbers several times but we have been stymied by heat and smoke. Roy and I planned a trip in mid September to explore the area around Shaver Lake east of Fresno, but the Creek Fire certainly put an end to that. We have been on several trailer trips, one to Humboldt Redwoods State Park with the grandkids. And now that school is in I'm helping out one day a week with home schooling those same three grandkids. It sure is hard to make a seven-year-old sit still and pay attention!

From Ellen Breazeale

In September's newsletter we heard that Ellen has a dog – Rudy – who was adopted on Valentine's Day. And now we have a picture!

Ellen also shared some activities -- Rudy is the cutest and most affectionate dog -- I take him to Dog Bone (dog park) every day.

I've been involved with ESCOM, the College of Marin's organization for adults of a 'certain age', as a member of the board of directors and as the co-chair of a 'club' which meets via Zoom to discuss lecture series from The Great Courses company. Currently we are working on "Dutch Masters: The Age of Rembrandt" – a 36 lecture series.



From Eileen Hutchinson



Well you all know some of what I've been up to, this has not been a 'well' year for me. But I'm ever hopeful that the sick days are past and that there's blooming good health in store from here on out!

The picture is our grandson William Singh Hutchinson. He will be 16 months in a few days. Our son Will and his wife Harpreet have been wonderful sending lots of videos and pictures of the big events and the little everyday things. It helps since we can't be there – they live in New Jersey – but I hope that a visit isn't too far off.

From your newsletter editor – I hope that we will hear from more of you and that we'll continue sharing these brief looks at what you have all been doing. We'll continue this section in the next newsletter – if you missed sending something for this month, please send it for next month – we would love to hear from you! By the way, you can send updates every month if you would like!

I wish all of you continued good health, the joy to be experienced with another haircut (I had to cancel my early October appointment as I had to wait for the test results so once again it's been a long time) and the delight of keeping in touch with all of the wonderful Novato branch members.

Eileen Hutchinson, *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.