

# Mother's Ink

*The Newsletter of the Novato Mothers Club*



## Director's Corner

Can you believe the end of 2021 is nearly upon us? This is the time of year for cozy nights and special moments with family and friends. The air is crisp and many of us are busy with holiday preparations, travel, and visitors from out of town.

As moms, sometimes we are so busy taking care of our families that we forget to pause and take a little time out for ourselves. So during this holiday season, we remind you to take a deep breath, set aside some "you" time, and enjoy all of those little things that make this time of year so special.

We also wanted to take a moment to thank each one of you for your contributions to the NMC. From volunteering your time and helping put on great events for members and their families, to contributing to our community outreach drive for foster children and bringing snacks to an event, we thank you! We wouldn't have such a strong club without all of the participation of our wonderful members.

We want to give a big thank you to our awesome Mom's Night Out crew of Candy Voorhees, Amanda McCormick, Christien Hembrecht, and Victoria Olson. They are doing a great job organizing so many fun and creative events, including recent events at

B12 Love, the charcuterie board class, yoga, movie nights, and a wine social. Keep an eye out for more fun Mom's Night Out events in the new year – I hear we are even going rock climbing!

We want to give a huge shoutout to our fantastic Family Outings team, Ziba Ansari-Orlando, Ronald Flores Valenza, and Kegan Donlan. We've loved getting the whole family involved in events like train town and the family hike, and look forward to more chances for our littles to socialize in the coming months.

We have been lucky enough to enjoy some seasonal events this year. Thank you to our Halloween Party committee, Tiara Johnson, Jaime Greene, Sina Szabados, and Heather Lugassy. The outdoor trick or treating event was a blast, and the kids looked adorable in their costumes. More recently, the Holiday Party team, Sina Szabados, Cayla Anderson, and Sonya White, threw a festive Holiday Party, complete with our very own Santa. Thank you Colin Anderson for, at Santa's request, standing in for him at the Holiday Party so that the kids could get their Santa photos.

A few more "thank yous" for those who keep things running behind the scenes – you don't go unnoticed and we appreciate everything you do. Thank you to Lauren Zieff for keeping on top of the finances as Treasurer, our web and social media teams, Shan Yam, Iris Dodge, Gail Nott, and Beth Spotswood Daza, our behind the scenes Membership coordinator, Amy Adkins, and of course our fabulous Newsletter Editor, Ashley Lane, who has been working diligently to get this out to you all.

From Sarah, Emily, Cynthia, and me (Candice), we wish you and your families a very happy holiday season. See you in 2022!

Your 2021 Co-Directors,  
Sarah Rubalcava, Emily Cremidis, Cynthia Stempek, Candice Chatfield

## Event Recap: Grossi Family Farm Pumpkin Patch



Several of our Novato families gathered together for a family outing to support the opening of the Grossi Family Farm Pumpkin Patch. It was an especially hot October weekend, and the wasps were particularly friendly to all the folks trying out the delicious pineapple whips, courtesy of "Trader Jim's floats." The haystack, bunnies, goats, maze, and pumpkins filled up the day. The 360 degree view of the hillside, nearby pond, and park also provided a beautiful backdrop.

We had roughly thirteen families come out, a great turnout for our first official event. We raffled off a medium-large sized pumpkin to the lucky winners Victoria and her son, Jackson – we couldn't be happier for them! We had several families say what a wonderful venue this was, and the setting could not have been more picturesque.

## Event Recap: Dad's Night Out Poker

The Dad's Night Out committee held a poker night in September. Incredibly, we got through the evening with one pitcher of beer! And even though the food was ok and the beer was lousy, the company was great.

We look forward to seeing the dads again in the new year. And if your partner needs "dad friends," send them along!



## Holiday Party Donor Shoutout

The NMC is extremely grateful for all of its holiday party donors this year. The success of our club is largely dependent on our generous donors and community.

[Loop Baby](#) (2021 holiday party sponsor)  
*Rent top-rated baby gear by the month.*

[Clear2Close Brokers](#) (2021 holiday party sponsor)  
*Get low mortgage rates in seconds.*

[A Piece of Cake & Confections](#)  
*Welcome to your local corner bakery.*

[Beauty Heroes](#)  
*We're on a mission to use less, live lighter and love more every day, and show that the thrill of beauty discovery is not about consumption, but transformation.*

[Copperfield's Books](#)  
*A truly full-service community-based bookstore.*

[Marin YMCA](#)  
*The YMCA, for youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility.*

[Noelle Joy Designs](#)  
*Trendy and fun accessories for girls of all ages owned by NMC member Kimberly Terral*

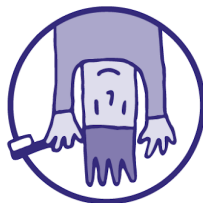
[Sustainable Exchange](#)  
*Earth-friendly essentials and refillery. Because this planet means the world to us*

[Starbucks on Olive & Redwood](#)  
*Our Mission: to inspire and nurture the human spirit – one person, one cup, and one neighborhood at a time.*

[Village Child](#)  
*Village Child is a mama-owned and operated boutique, specializing in hand-curated clothing and accessories for babies and kids with a focus on natural and sustainable materials.*

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## Event Recap: NMC Family Hike



On a foggy Sunday morning, eight members and their families met at Indian Valley for a nature hike. While the waterfall was only a trickle, the woods were lovely. Some hiked far, some did a turnaround, but all enjoyed hearing birds, stomping in puddles, and chatting with NMC friends. We met back up at a predetermined time and the sun came out and warmed us as we made pinecone bird feeders to take home and hang. We can't wait for our next group hike!

## NMC Mommy's List

Hi parents,

Are you looking for a photographer or a notary? Do you want to support other local Novato families? Look no further than our Novato Mothers Club Mommy's List!

This is a list of our member-owned businesses, so take a peek at all the wonderful moving and shaking family business!



[Click here for the list!](#)

If you would like to add your business to the list, [click here to give us your info!](#)

## A Piece of Cake & Confection cooking classes

Baking and cooking is what we do here. Kids roll up their sleeves and get into flour, sugar, butter, and all those yummy spices. Participants make it all from scratch – whether it is a pie, cake, or cookies – and bring their finished product home to share with their family and friends.

*We offer month to month classes and each has a different theme.*

### *Benefits of cooking with kids, whether at home or in a class*

- *Children are more likely to eat what they make, which may help to develop a more mature palate*
- *Long term life skills and the ability to enjoy cooking*
- *Growing confidence – whether it's the ability to keep flour in the bowl when mixing, or to crack an egg*
- *Early introductions to math and science skills, such as measuring, fractions, language, counting, and fine motor skills*
- *Focus, turn taking, and communication*
- *Problem solving. It is okay to make mistakes!*
- *Quality time with the family*
- *A relaxed way to discuss nutrition, food choices, and impacts on the body*

### **Birthday Parties**

It doesn't matter whether you are young or a bit older, we can help celebrate your birthday with a Birthday Baking Party. Please contact us via our [website](#).

### **For special events**

A Piece of Cake & Confection offers a wide array of seasonal crafted delights to add a special touch to any occasion.

To see our upcoming seasonal offerings, please follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or our [website](#).



## Event Recap: 2021 Holiday Party!



The NMC hosted its Holiday Party on December 11th! The kids enjoyed hula hooping, dancing, and playing in gingerbread houses. Our volunteers from San Marin High School took on a huge role facilitating raffle sales, face painting, crafting with the kids, taking photos of Santa, and serving food. Many generous donors made our raffle a success. We raised \$150 and collected 13 pairs of pajamas for the Marin Foster Care Association to help kids stay warm and comfortable at night. It felt wonderful to host a holiday party in person this year and we are very thankful for all our members who attended and made this party a success!



## Novato Piano School

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*For more information please visit*

**[www.novatopianoschool.com](http://www.novatopianoschool.com)**



## Board Member Q&A: Ziba Ansari

*Each newsletter we'll highlight a NMC board member. This quarter, we're chatting with Ziba Ansari, one of NMC's board members.*

### **What is your role on the NMC board?**

My current role is serving on the family outings committee. Throughout the years I have served on various committees and have enjoyed each one.

### **What is your favorite part of being an NMC member?**

I joined NMC when I was about six months pregnant, and over the last four years I have built some amazing friendships. Watching our children grow from tiny, adorable little infants to the precious, wise, and curious toddlers has been a gift to share with moms at NMC. I am confident some of these friendships will last a lifetime.

### **If you could wake up anywhere tomorrow, where would that be?**

Honestly, it would be Iran (Persia). My heart has especially been calling me to go back, and I would love to show my family the magic there. My daughter is interested in the language and poetry. Along with showing her the amazing food, the people, and the rich culture, I want to expose her to this ancient civilization where I was born.

### **What is your favorite dish?**

Persian Kebab and Kookoo [an egg-based dish], and my husband's bread with fine olive oil.

### **I hear you've written a children's book. Can you tell us a little about it?**

[\*The ABCs of Life to Nourish the Mind and Soul of Children\*](#) serves as a conversation starter. It is aimed at deepening connections with children, while demonstrating how to view the world through the lens of love versus fear and appreciate our human differences and uniqueness. It encourages children to participate in life, lead with kindness, work hard, and be honest.

This book presents everyday difficulties as natural parts of life. It invites families to engage with the words and illustrations and make them their own.

I plan to provide our NMC members a discounted 'mom' price, and those copies will be available late January. If you want to secure a copy for 2022, please email me (ziba.ahatefulpath@gmail.com) and I'll send you the details.



Live Music ~ Comedy ~ Events

Wed - Thurs: 3pm-8pm

Fri-Sat: 3pm - 10pm

Sun: 3pm - 7pm

## Novato Mothers Club Playgroups

Did you know about the NMC Playgroup section of our Facebook page? We have created group pages for children based on their kindergarten classes. Below is a list of the groups and links to each. Please remember that these groups are for **active** NMC members only. To be admitted to the group you will need to provide the birthday of your child so that we can confirm that you are in the correct group. If you have a caregiver for your child that you would like to be included in the group, please message one of the admins so that we can add that person to the group. You can get more information about that promotion and the club on our website, <https://novatomothersclub.com/>

### Links to playgroups with corresponding birthdates:

[2016-2017 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2010-Sept 1, 2011

[2017-2018 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2011-Sept 1, 2012

[2018-2019 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2012-Sept 1, 2013

[2019-2020 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2013-Sept 1, 2014

[2020-2021 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2014-Sept 1, 2015

[2021-2022 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2015-Sept 1, 2016

[2022-2023 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2016-Sept 1, 2017

[2023-2024 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2017-Sept 1, 2018

[2024-2025 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2018-Sept 1, 2019

[2025-2026 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2019-Sept 1, 2020

[2026-2027 Kindergarten Class NMC Playgroup](#): Sept 2, 2020-Sept 1, 2021

[NMC Working Moms Group](#) \*\* [NMC Single Parent Group](#) \*\* [NMC Step Parent Group](#)





novato mothers club  
friendship, community, and learning

December 2021



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