

Mother's Ink

The Newsletter of the Novato Mothers Club



We're Still Here!

2020 has been the longest year in the history of time, or at least it sure feels like that. The NMC is trying to keep spirits up with virtual Moms Night In events, Family Photoshoot activities to celebrate the upcoming special events like Halloween, and virtual Playgroup communities on Facebook. To keep our network strong, we're offering a \$35 Shelter in Place Membership Special!

Everyone can benefit from this special deal, valid through December 31st. New members can join the club at a discount. Current members can purchase an extra year to be added to their existing membership. Anyone can purchase a membership as a gift for a friend or loved one! You can purchase the \$35 special membership on our website at the following links:

For new members, go here: <https://novatomothersclub.wildapricot.org/join>

For returning members, go here:
<https://novatomothersclub.wildapricot.org/event-3969083/Registration>

Directors Corner:

Friendship with a Side of Spaghetti

Hello, mamas! I am Emily Cremidis, one of the new NMC co-directors this year. I live in the San Marin neighborhood with my husband Sacha (a chef), three-year-old Thomas, eleven-month-old Henry, and two fur babies. I am an education consultant by day. I had served on our board for two years prior to this role. I participate because I want to be part of creating and maintaining a vibrant community for my boys and all of Novato's families.

I joined NMC in 2016 when I was pregnant with our son Sebastian. I was so excited to be a part of this community- for our child and for me. The prospect of playgroups, bookclubs, picnics, and parties all sounded like so much fun and a means of helping me feel established in a town where I'd lived for four years. Unfortunately, that pregnancy ended in stillbirth. I remember reaching out to NMC to cancel my membership. Even then, as an unknown quantity, I was shown such compassion and care. I knew it was a great group and that I'd be back.



When Thomas was born in 2017, I quickly rejoined the club. At 18 days old, my little guy accompanied me to a meeting of new members at Hilltop where we heard all about the club's offerings. The ladies seated around the table were smart and funny and came from a variety of backgrounds and professions. I wanted Thomas to meet their kids and I wanted to get to know them better. Shortly after the brunch, a mama reached out asking if she could bring by spaghetti as part of mothers' support. How kind! That spaghetti tasted so good that evening. It came with the promise of new friendships and a stronger connection to our community.

Fast forward to crazy 2020 and I am one of the club's co-directors. I so appreciate all the work the NMC board is doing to be supportive of mamas. We know everyone is overextended and still needing connection. I have been very impressed with the creativity we've already shown in finding new ways to engage members. I encourage you to join these wonderful, thoughtfully-planned offerings. There is room for more ideas as well. Please, let us know your thinking by engaging in post-event surveys, sending an email (mine is nmc.ecremidis@gmail.com), or filling one of our open positions on the board

Be well, mamas!

-Emily



novato mothers club
friendship, community, and learning

October 2020



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Welcoming New Members

The Welcoming Committee has not been able to run the usual welcome event for new members, but we were able to send a little love. New members received a Novato Mothers Club mug, beautifully crafted by a local momma, Made by Merly, and a tasty hot chocolate stick from Celine's Sweets. We will be having a virtual Welcome coffee date soon to get to know you all, and put those mugs to good use.



Event Recap: Virtual Spa Party

We were treated to some much-needed, socially distanced pampering with a Moonstone Virtual Spa Party in August! It was a perfect debut to our Mom's Night In evenings on Zoom with NMC. We all really needed a break after a few months of SIP so...we treated ourselves to luxurious at-home facials! By the end of the party, we were glowing and had some new knowledge of how to continue to care for our skin. Thanks Moonstone! www.moonstoneskincare.com.



Save the Date:

NMC Early Education Fair is
Thursday, February 4!

We'll be hosting a virtual Preschool Fair, but expanding it this year to include daycares, preschools, kindergartens and other resources like summer camps, classes and tutors!



Fall Family Photo Shoot

Life starts all over again when it gets crisp in the fall.
-F. Scott Fitzgerald

Fall is here. You made it! NMC and Maya G Photography want to help you commemorate it. On Saturday, October 24th from 10-12, your family is invited to Arroyo Avichi Park to participate in a fall photoshoot with Maya Gingold.



Registered families will participate in a ten-minute session and receive one complimentary digital photo. Additional digital photos will be available for \$10/each. NMC volunteers will be sanitizing the space in between sessions. Families are encouraged to make the shoot their own by wearing a Halloween costume or their favorite autumn fashion.

IMPORTANT: *The Fall Photo Shoot is currently full but see below for more photo sessions with Anchored Images and keep an eye on your email for more photo sessions with NMC!*

NMC board member Tiara Johnson and co-director Emily Cremidis will reach out to registered families closer to the event with additional details. Thank you, [Maya G Photography](#), for donating your time to NMC members.

Family Photo Shoot for Holiday Cards

There are still spots available for our Family Photo Shoot on Nov 7 & 8. If you would like some professional photos for framing or for holiday cards, use the links below to sign up!

Anchored Images is ready to help NMC members get holiday cards ready! You will get 5 to 7 edited photos of your family for \$40. Use the links below to sign up for some fabulous photos!

[Click here to sign up for Saturday November 7.](#)

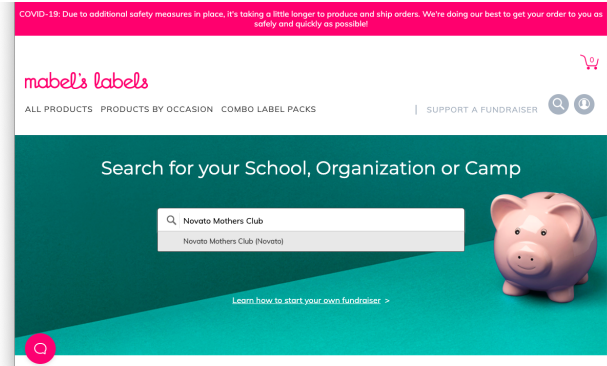
[Click here to sign up for Sunday, November 8.](#)





Fundraising News!

Did you know you could help support the Novato Mother's Club and make shopping for your little one a little easier? Head to [MabelsLabels.com](https://mabelslabels.com) and click on "Support a Fundraiser" in the menu bar. Type in "Novato Mothers Club" and then shop from their diverse product selections - the NMC gets 20% back of all sales, which we'll reinvest in the club for future activities! They've got labels (duh) for just about everything, but they've also got kid safety products like masks, and cute home and garden items! Mabel's Labels are dishwasher, laundry and microwave safe, and they're 100% guaranteed.



Sad yet exciting news (we're moms so we can handle complex emotions):

Since our annual Rummage Sale has been postponed due to COVID, we pivoted to become a seller at the JBF Sale in Santa Rosa in early October. We took good condition clothes, toys, books and more to the sale, all generously donated by NMC members. We raised over \$300 that will go directly into 2020 events for NMC members. We were thrilled with the results, so we'll be doing it again in the Spring. If you have any donations you'd like to include in the sale, please email nmc.codirectors@gmail.com.

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Connect on Facebook!

The Novato Mothers Club Facebook page is attempting to bring the social aspects of our community to your home with our new Facebook Live Series, Surviving the Pandemic. We go through topics pertinent to moms in the community, like managing your own mental health or surviving distance-learning. We bring conversations with local mamas and take community questions. If you have a topic you want to see the mothers club discuss please let us know or drop a note on Facebook. We hope you enjoy this new format.



Take a look at our past Facebook Live talks:

September 9: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=658238408443003>

October 6: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1292494017749819>



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It's the Season of Giving!

Whether you are able to give or if this year has hit you hard and you need a little help to make this season bright for your family, these agencies may be able to offer you some help.

Every year, the Novato Mothers Club participates in Adopt-a-Family of Marin's gift drive. We would love to continue this tradition! You can adopt-a-family or you can do this with your play group/group of friends, and combine forces to adopt-a-family. Contact NMC board member Sophia Osotio if you are able to participate, as we're sure there are many families in need: NMC.SOsotio@gmail.com.



Adopt A Family
OF MARIN

Sparkle Foundation

sparklenow.org

Adopt-a-Family of Marin (415) 456-7805

adoptafamily.org

North Marin Community Services (415) 892-1643

northmarincs.org

Salvation Army

salvationarmyusa.org

Do you and/or your kids like doing arts & crafts? Would you decorate a few holiday (Christmas, Hannukah, New Years') cards for us to send out and spread some holiday cheer? It could be as simple as construction paper folded with some drawing on it- you don't need to be an artist! I would love to send them to homebound older adults across Marin who may be quite lonely this holiday season- especially during the pandemic. (Contact me to arrange pick-up of your cards: NMC.SOsotio@gmail.com)



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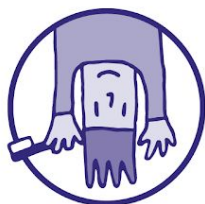
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October 2020



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Mom's Night Out/In News

The Mom's Night In Committee has kept us busy with a wide array of events this quarter.

At the end of August the moms were invited to join us for a creative Board & Brush event in which members enjoyed creating beautiful pieces for their home.

In September, our first online cooking classes for the year were a huge success, so much so that we have already got more scheduled! Stephanie Tyson curated a fall themed menu with a pumpkin quiche, squash and apple bake, and pumpkin spice hot chocolate. Yum! We even learnt how to roll our own crusts! Two sessions were offered, and many Mommas had their little chef sidekicks along to help.

Sing Dance Play provided some much needed family fun and music in early October, with a class just for members, including a class focused on babies and inviting moms-to-be to join.

In October we were lucky enough to have Love2Dance providing us all with a good excuse to get out boogy on with two seperate dance classes. The music was great, and seeing everyone's smiling faces as we worked up a sweat was fabulous. Even the kids got involved!

This year isn't slowing down - we have plenty of upcoming events to get members connecting! November will feature a holiday themed cooking class, as well as the kick off of our book club. Keep an eye out for cookie decorating in December, and we have many more surprises planned for the new year.

