



## CMWIC NEWS for June 2021

### **June 8: Todd Cusimano on Zoom and Membership to Vote on Board**

At our June 8 meeting, Corte Madera Town Manager Todd Cusimano will give us the very latest news on what's going on in town!



This Zoom meeting will provide a great opportunity to hear about the state of the town, ask questions, and get the straight scoop on what's happening in Corte Madera.

**Date and time:** Tuesday, June 8, at noon

**Meeting ID:** 224 094 9581

**Passcode:** CMWIC2021

**Vote on the Board:** The membership will also vote on our slate of Board Members for 2021-22. The list below it is not final; changes and comments can we made at the meeting.

### **CMWIC Board 2020-21**

President – Laura Merlo

Vice-President – Cheryl Longinotti

Treasurer – Rachel Miller

Auditor – Joan Vaughan

Recording Secretary – Pamela Berg

Membership Secretary – Armelle Futterman

Parliamentarian – Jan Shaw

Historian – Jana Haehl

Newsletter – Laura Merlo

Hospitality/Programs – Suzi Beatie, Ellen Greenwald, Claudia Keast, Becky Reed, Linda Varonin, Donna Wenig

### **Activities**

Book Club – Donna Wenig  
Bridge Club – Jana Haehl  
Field Trips –  
Knitting Club – Linda Varonin  
Rummy – Jane Purkey

If you have questions about the club or a club activity, feel free to contact any of us.

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### **Board “Retreat” for June Business Meeting**

This month’s Board Meeting is in-person and offsite. Let a board member know if there are topics you would like to place on the agenda.

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### **Reserve Your Copies of Our Club Cookbook**

No pressure! The club's cookbook is simmering along with many original recipes from our members. We are planning to put the finishing touches on it over the summer break so it can be printed and ready for release in the fall. We hope that by then more Covid restrictions will be lifted so that we will be able to celebrate all together with a book launch party.

We will print a limited number of books, so please reserve your copies early. Please let us know how many books you would like to purchase (this will also be our only fundraiser this year) by clicking [here](#). We want to make sure that we have enough copies for everyone. If you still have some recipes and accompanying stories that you would like to see included, see the instructions below. The deadline to contribute your favorite recipes is June 30. We loved talking with you about the food (and drinks) that make you and yours happy. Thank you all for the delicious recipes and the meaningful stories.

Claudia Keast and Armelle Futterman, Cookbook Co-Chairs

To submit a recipe, go to [\*\*www.CookbookFundraiser.com\*\*](http://www.CookbookFundraiser.com)

- In the **Cookbook Login** box at top right, enter Your Contributor Name **as you would like it to appear** in the printed cookbook.
- Enter your email address so we can keep you up to date on this project.
- Enter "**CMWIC**" as our Group Login and the Password **recipe60**.

Once on the cookbook homepage, click on Add a Recipe under the Recipes tab.

Enter the Ingredients and Directions in the marked areas as well as the Personal Note about what makes this recipe special. Click the green Save button.

Finally, let us know how many cookbooks you would like to purchase (\$20 each). In the **Home** section, on the right side, choose the number of books in the dropdown box and click **OK**. The cookbook will make a great holiday gift for relatives and friends.

If you prefer, you can email the recipe and your personal note to us and we will enter it for you. Be sure to include the special note about why you selected this particular recipe.

If you have questions, email [claudiakeast@att.net](mailto:claudiakeast@att.net) or [rmlvanfutt@gmail.com](mailto:rmlvanfutt@gmail.com)

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### **Schedule for June, July and August “Social Hour” Zooms**

Zoom “Social Hours” are drop-in meetings with no agenda, just friendly faces and conversation. They are held the first and third weeks of each month and Jana and Cheryl are offering to meet throughout the summer.

**Cheryl Longinotti** will host social hour Zooms on the **first Monday** of each month, **June 7, July 5, and August 2** at 1:00 PM.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85866297448>

**Meeting ID:** 858 6629 7448

**Jana Haehl** will host social hour Zooms on the **third Tuesday** of each month, **June 15, July 20, and August 17** at 1:00 PM.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/5532664079?pwd=Y21kTjhrenNyTUEzQ2pHOVpFUXNIZz09>

**Meeting ID:** 553 266 4079

All members are welcome to attend!

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### **Two Field Trips, June 10 and June 25**

*Trips begin at 10 AM. Be on time, wear a hat, and bring water!*

**Thursday, June 10: Baltimore Canyon Hike** from Piedmont Ave. in Larkspur (with easy parking):

This walk is a loop that’s about an hour long. We will go down some stairs without railings and there are gentle uphill slopes.

**Friday, June 25: Ring Mountain Hike** from the end of Westward Drive.

Out and back, a semi-loop, and this walk is semi-steep. This will be the one-hundredth hike Linda Varonin has led for the CMWIC and is her “last field trip” of a wonderful

volunteer service that has meant so much to club members. There will be an optional, no-host lunch at the Town Center afterward.

All participants must RSVP to Linda [linda.varonin@gmail.com](mailto:linda.varonin@gmail.com).



*Enjoying the hike from Corte Madera to Mill Valley's Horse Hill in May were Cathy Tobin, Marilyn Ryan, Coral Fathy (Marilyn's daughter, visiting from Texas), Armelle Futterman, Suzi Beatie, Anne Miller, new member Claudia Hardin, Jette Kristensen, and Marion Bank.*

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### **Knitting Club Meets Friday, June 18 and During Summer**

The Knitting Club meets on Friday, June 18, at 11:00 AM, in the park across from the Post Office. Everyone is welcome and Linda encourages "easy knitting of small blankets."

Knitting Club will meet during the summer. For information on when and where, please email Linda [linda.varonin@gmail.com](mailto:linda.varonin@gmail.com) and she will send the information for July and August in a timely manner.

The blankets, scarves, and hats made by knitting club members were gratefully accepted at Novato Healthcare by Aisha Kay. She loves the blankets and says she passes them out in the dining room when the fans are turned on and the residents complain of the chill.

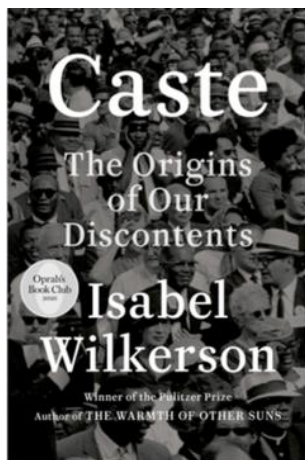


*The Knitting Club's May meeting:  
Back, left to right:  
Marilyn Ryan, Kathleen Sheehan, Renee Sakillaris, Janet Sayles, Marie McDevitt, Michael Cobbina.  
Front row, left to right:  
Joyce Quinn, Chiz Shiro, Olga Thomsen, Annie McDonough, Wendy Springstead.*

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## **Book Group Meets June 22 at Piper Park**

The book group will meet on Tuesday, June 22, at 1:00 PM in Piper Park's picnic area to discuss "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" by Isabel Wilkerson. In this nonfiction book, the Pulitzer Prize-winning, bestselling author of "The Warmth of Other Suns" examines the unspoken caste system that, she argues, has shaped The United States and shows how our lives are still defined by a hierarchy of human divisions.



The Book Group will take a break in July and August. When we meet again on the fourth Tuesday in September, we will discuss "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck.

A few favorites from our members to tide you over in the coming months:

- Once Upon a River by Ann Sutterfield (Armelle Futterman)
- A Piece of the World by Christina Baker Kline (Donna Wenig)

The Book Group is open to all members. For questions, contact Armelle [rmlvanfutt@gmail.com](mailto:rmlvanfutt@gmail.com) or Donna [donna.wenig@gmail.com](mailto:donna.wenig@gmail.com).

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## **Games Day Meets June 16**

After a long break due to Covid, CMWIC Games Day will resume on Wednesday, June 16, at 1:00 PM. Participants will meet at Jane Purkey's home in Larkspur. This is a fun afternoon that includes Corte Madera Rummy and other games. Contact Joannie Vaughan at 415-924-0150 or email [joannievaughan@att.net](mailto:joannievaughan@att.net) for details.

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## **A New 'Club Year' Begins – Time to Renew Your Membership**

Our membership year runs from July 1 through June 30, so we are on the threshold of Club Year 2021-22. Happy New Year! Please renew your membership today.

CMWIC does not meet in July and August but we're offering two Zoom Social Hour meetings each month – and we have plenty planned for September and into 2022. We anticipate being able to resume many of our activities in person and we are planning a Book Launch celebration for our CMWIC Cookbook, which will be printed over the summer!

Do not miss out. **Renew Now.** It's easy to renew via our website using the PAYPAL button; go to <https://www.cortemaderawomensclub.org/join-us.html>. Be fearless – jump into the next fiscal year by making your payment now.

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## **Our Covid Year in Review**

CMWIC members can be proud that our club survived and even thrived during the pandemic. While the coronavirus mostly prevented us from meeting in person, a large group met monthly over Zoom, the knitters continued to turn out beautiful work and donate it, and we stayed true to our mission of strengthening our community.

For much of the past year, it was unsafe to gather in person. But we persisted, improvising as we went. During summer 2020, when we usually take a break, Jana Haehl, Cheryl Longinotti, and Becky Reed held Zoom Social Hours, call-in conversations with no agenda but the purpose of "being there" for each other. Those calls proved so popular that we kept them going throughout the roller-coaster year, and bi-monthly Zoom calls will continue during summer 2021 as well.

We found a fun way of deepening our connections through Janis Luft's "Who Did That?" trivia game, played during our monthly meetings. We now know who had donkeys to ride when they were kids, who wore glittering tap dance costumes, who spent a night in a Cuban jail, and who took a day off work to try out a special beach where she could wear her birthday suit on her actual birthday. In other words, we got a fuller picture of each other.

In December, we elaborately plotted how to safely make, package, and deliver a selection of home-baked cookies to members during a lull in lockdown. And even now,

Armelle Futterman, Claudia Keast, and crew are producing a club cookbook that will serve as a memento of what sustained us during this challenging year as well as a sort of yearbook to forever remind us of each other.

True to the ideal of “Improvement” embodied in our club’s name, we made donations to the Marin Food Bank and Corte Madera Summer Camp, and we selected three impressive young women who are local high school seniors to receive the Kimberly Powell Community Service Award and two \$1,000 scholarships for community service.

Linda Varonin adapted her field trips, keeping them local so that carpooling wouldn’t be necessary, and we experienced more places to hike and explore right near home.

The Knitting Club contributed hats, blankets, colorful adult bibs, breast cancer radiation treatment pillows, and additional handmade items to numerous rehab and treatment centers throughout the county.

The Book Group met outdoors, fully masked but ready to engage in animated discussions of a broad array of titles, fiction and nonfiction alike.

We heard from especially interesting speakers throughout the year via Zoom. Club members Jan Sherwood and Lucy Marquart told us about Advokids, a legal organization that represents youth in foster care and the court system, and Jody Lewen told us about the inspiring college at San Quentin State Prison.

Cheryl compiled a list of resources, “Thinking Ahead for Emergency Care,” to help people avoid some of the difficulties encountered by several members who had to learn about hospitalization “the hard way.”

Resources are always available on the club website. To access a current membership roster on the For Members Only page, use “member” as ID and “MMXIX” as the password. Check out the Gallery for a recap of the entire year’s activities. Members also receive the monthly newsletter, compiled and edited by your club president.

At our core, the club is about enriching each other’s lives. We’ve accomplished good things during the past year and can be confident that the club will continue to offer fun and friendship in the future.

– *Laura Merlo*

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*Most of these hats were made by Maria Welch, who is in Marin Acute Care herself due to a heart condition. She is in her 80's. No excuses in this group!*