



*This newsletter includes information for **May and June**. The Club takes a summer break during July and August and will convene again on September 11.*

CMWIC NEWS for May/June 2023



From Our President, Suzi Beatie

Hi Everyone,

May is already here and that means it's time for the Spring Tea! I can't wait to see the beautiful and fun tables and to meet our scholarship winner. I hope you'll all be there to enjoy this joyful, traditional event. (Please see the article below.)

Some notes about what goes on **behind the scenes!** A lot of great energy goes into our club, and much of it goes on in the background. Our fun and our success wouldn't be possible without it! Doing dishes, washing tablecloths and napkins, setting tables and making things look pretty – these are part of our club and of each of our meetings.

It is with great gratitude and sincere appreciation that we thank the volunteer Kitchen



Crew. Jette and Nette have led the troops in cleaning up after the potluck lunches for many years. And they have so much fun in the kitchen (see the photos!) that many others have heard their laughter and joined in. Thank you everyone who helps in the kitchen!

Another big Thank You goes to those who have generously taken our cloth napkins and tablecloths home to wash! Your willingness to handle this chore has allowed us to continue to operate in a sustainable manner, by helping us to avoid using paper plates and plastic utensils. You know who you are, and you are angels!

Claudia Keast, along with Laura Richards, have done a grand job of making our somewhat cavernous Community Room feel warm and pretty for our events, with their lovely decorations and beautiful flowers.

All members are invited to join these groups at any time. Most of the work is fun, it



makes a difference in how we all feel about our club, and it is greatly appreciated.

Another **behind-the-scenes** effort is our newsletter production. Laura Merlo's editing skills and attention to detail have spoiled us terribly! We cannot thank her enough for her dedication and her fact-checking. As Laura retires this season, **it's time for new people to take on this**

rewarding task. She says, "When you edit the newsletter, you get to know everything that's happening!"

So, if you enjoy being "in the know" and understand how vital it is to have our club news delivered to each member's Inbox every month, we really need you to lend a hand and we would love to have you join this team. And Thank You Laura, so very much!

Hope to see you at the tea!

— **Suzi**

Photos: Top, Jette Kristensen, Janis Luft, and Nadine Smith.
Below that one: Catherine Tobin, Agneta Lyle, and Claudia Keast.

Spring Tea May 9 – Please Bring Finger Food to Share

CM Community Center

Our annual Spring Tea and Scholarship Award Presentation promises to be a fun and inspiring event. We will meet recipient Shyla Lensing, a graduating senior from Redwood High School, and hear her talk about how she has served our community during her time at Redwood. (Read more about her on the last page of this newsletter.)



Shyla will receive both the club's Community Service scholarship and The Kimberly Powell Memorial Scholarship, named for the longtime CMWIC Board Member who was instrumental in establishing the scholarships. Brian Powell will be a guest of honor.

This is a colorful event that's a perfect venue for meeting new people. Be prepared to take lots of pictures of the tea tables, which usually range from humorous to interesting to gorgeous.

You are welcome to wear old-time dress, or special hats and gloves--but don't worry, special attire is not required.

FINGER FOOD: Please bring a generous amount of finger food to share.

Thank you to our Scholarship Committee -- Janis Luft, Helen K. Lambert, and Susan Topor -- and to table hosts Armelle, Barbara, Donna, Elinor, Laura, Olga, Pam, and Rachel.

If you have questions, feel free to call Spring Tea Chair Ellen Greenwald Willoughby at 415-302-6790.

Important! [RSVP](#) right away so that limited Community Center staff can set up enough tables and chairs for everyone.

First Tuesday, May 2: A Stroll Along Corte Madera Channel (Remillard Park)

Cheryl Longinotti will lead a walk from Marin Country Mart to Remillard Park along the shore of Corte Madera Channel. This is a short, flat route (1.5 miles round trip) on paved and undeveloped paths.

Fog willing, we'll see ferries come and go with Mount Tamalpais and Ring Mountain across the water in the distance.



We'll meet at 10:30 AM sharp at the pedestrian over-crossing in Marin Country Mart near Rustic Bakery. After a leisurely stroll, there will be time to get something to eat or drink.

Bring sunscreen and a hat. It can be windy along the shore. Fog does not

cancel this outing, but any greater precipitation does.

Please let Cheryl know of your interest at cslonginotti@comcast.net, but last-minute walkers are welcome.

Friends of La Casa Buena

Second Saturdays at LCB: Potting Plants on May 13 and We Need Snacks

LCB is La Casa Buena, the former motel next to Marin Joe's restaurant that was repurposed to provide secure, long-term housing for Homeward Bound clients.



Marion Bank chats with a resident.

The Women's Club's "Friends of LCB" group is connecting with residents on the second Saturday of each month, bringing activities and a snack. Our plan is to go with four volunteers from the CMWIC, some of whom have been there before and know the ropes. One will be responsible for food, and one will come up with the activity.

Saturday, May 13, 2:00 to 3:00: Potting little succulents and other plants for each resident to enjoy in their unit. We need a volunteer to bring some sort of snack. Drinks are provided by LCB.

Email linda.varonin@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer.

Marathon Bridge Meets on Tuesday, May 16

CM Community Center

The Marathon Bridge Group will meet on Tuesdays, May 16 and June 20, from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

As a reminder, when the club's new fiscal year begins on July 1, members of our bridge group will no longer be asked to pay separate annual dues. There will be a single dues payment each year that will cover full membership in the CMWIC.

We hope this encourages more bridge players to get on the monthly bridge schedule, since we currently have just 28 players and there's room for many more. Those interested in signing up should contact Jana Haehl, jghaehl@comcast.net or 415-265-1105.

Ladies Who Lunch to Meet May 17 at The Spinnaker in Sausalito

Address 100 Spinnaker Drive, Sausalito

We will meet on Wednesday, May 17, at noon at The Spinnaker in Sausalito. All CMWIC members are welcome — we hope you can join us!

Please bring cash to pay for your meal and tip.

Always RSVP to linda.varonin@gmail.com.

Book Group Meets May 23 AT PIXLEY PARK (Location Change)

Pixley Park, across the street from the Corte Madera Post office.

The Book Group will meet at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, May 23, to discuss "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus.

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans, the lonely, brilliant, Nobel Prize-nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with Elizabeth's mind.

Like science, though, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth finds herself not only a single mother but also the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, "Supper at Six."

Her unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is

happy. Because, as it turns out, she isn't just teaching women how to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.

Laugh-out-loud funny, shrewdly observant, and studded with a dazzling cast of supporting characters, Lessons in Chemistry is as original and vibrant as its protagonist.

Note: We break for July and August.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Donna Wenig at donna.wenig@gmail.com.

Knitting Group to Meet May 30 (Date Change)

CM Community Center

We usually meet the fourth Tuesday of each month, but we will meet on Tuesday, May 30 because there's a blood drive in the community center on our usual day.

We meet from 11:00 AM to noon at the CM Community Center with optional lunch afterward at Cafe Verde. All are welcome and you don't need to know how to knit, as there are other ways of doing the work. If you can sew, there are projects for you, too.

Knitting a simple blanket with thick yarn is soothing and is much needed by hospitals and convalescent care homes. We like to make blankets and hats for pediatrics, oncology, and palliative care that we donate to Kaiser and other medical facilities in Marin County.

Note: We are no longer accepting knitting supplies including yarn, as there is nowhere to store the bags and boxes we get. You are welcome to come to the Knitting Group meeting to offer it and then take away what is not needed. Thank you.

Contact linda.varonin@gmail.com with questions.

June

June 13: Our Last Potluck Before Summer Break!

CM Community Center

We will have a potluck but we won't have a speaker on Tuesday, June 13, so that we can chat and visit before we take off for summer.

We will vote on our new Board slate and there will most likely be news to deliver.

Please bring food to share and don't forget to **RSVP**. You can even do it now!

"First Tuesday" Hike to See Mariposa Lilies With Janis June 6

On Tuesday, June 6, Janis Luft will lead a short hike to see the rare and beautiful Tiburon Mariposa lily. This wildflower is known to bloom **only** on Ring Mountain and only for about 3-4 weeks in late May-early June. This is a short(ish) uphill hike up the Phyllis Ellman Trail. The trail is a bit rocky and narrow in spots. It's about 2 miles up and back and includes a climb of about 500 feet. Be sure to bring water and wear sturdy shoes with good tread. Trekking poles or a walking stick can be helpful.

We will meet at 10:00 AM at the Phyllis Ellman trailhead on Paradise Drive.

Please notify Janis at janisluft@comcast.net by May 31 if you wish to join us.

Second Saturdays at LCB: Eddie the Therapy Dog on June 10; Snack Volunteer Needed

LCB is La Casa Buena, the former motel next to Marin Joe's restaurant that was repurposed to provide secure, long-term housing for Homeward Bound clients.

The Women's Club's Friends of LCB group is connecting with residents on the second Saturday of each month, bringing activities and a snack.

Saturday, June 10, 2:00 to 3:00 PM: Janis Luft will bring her therapy dog, Eddie, to interact with the residents. We need a volunteer to bring snacks. (LCB provides the drinks.)

Unopened toiletries such as shampoo and toothbrushes are needed. Please bring to the June 13 meeting and leave them at the registration table, where a box will be set up for the items. These are much appreciated by the residents.

Email linda.varonin@gmail.com with questions or to volunteer.

Marathon Bridge Meets on Tuesday, June 20

CM Community Center

The Marathon Bridge Group will meet on Tuesday, June 20, from 11:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

We welcome more bridge players to get on the monthly schedule, since we have just 28 players and there's room for many more. Those interested in signing up should contact Jana Haehl, jghaehl@comcast.net or 415-265-1105.

[Ladies Who Lunch Meets at The Left Bank on Thursday, June 22](#)

507 Magnolia Ave, Larkspur

We will meet at noon at Left Bank in Larkspur on Thursday, June 22. All CMWIC members are welcome -- we hope you can join us!

Please bring cash to pay for your meal and tip.

Always RSVP to linda.varonin@gmail.com.

[Knitting Group to Meet June 27](#)

CM Community Center

The Knitting Group will meet from 11:00 AM to noon at the CM community center, with optional lunch at Cafe Verde afterward. All are welcome and you don't need to know how to knit, as there are other ways of doing the work. If you can sew, there are projects for you, too.

Blankets and hats are much needed for pediatrics, oncology, and palliative care patients in hospitals and convalescent care homes. We donate to Kaiser and other medical facilities in Marin County.

RSVP to linda.varonin@gmail.com

[Book Group Meets on June 27](#)

CM Community Center

The Book Group meets on June 27 at 1:00 PM to discuss "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" by Lisa See.

Lily is haunted by memories. She has nothing but time now, as she recounts the tale of Snow Flower, and asks the gods for forgiveness.

In nineteenth-century China, when wives and daughters were foot-bound and lived in almost total seclusion, the women in one remote Hunan County developed their own secret code for communication. Some girls were paired with laotongs, "old sames," in

emotional matches that lasted throughout their lives. They painted letters on fans, embroidered messages on handkerchiefs, and composed stories, thereby reaching out of their isolation to share their hopes, dreams, and accomplishments.

With the arrival of a silk fan on which Snow Flower has composed for Lily a poem of introduction in nu shu, their friendship is sealed and they become “old sames” at the tender age of seven. As the years pass, through famine and rebellion, they reflect upon their arranged marriages, loneliness, and the joys and tragedies of motherhood. The two find solace, developing a bond that keeps their spirits alive. But when a misunderstanding arises, their lifelong friendship suddenly threatens to tear apart.

Note: We break for July and August.

For more information and to RSVP, contact Donna Wenig at donna.wenig@gmail.com.

Into the Future ... Yard Sale

SAVE THE DATE: GIANT INDOOR YARD SALE (GIYS) IS **ON** for March 22 (setup) and March 23 (sale).

THANKS to Barbara Friday for taking the lead on this important event, our big -- as in ***giant*** -- annual fundraiser, where we raise the money for scholarships!

You'll be hearing more from Barbara about the GIYS. And remember, it's never too early to **SAVE YOUR STUFF!**

Meet Shyla Lensing, Scholar and Activist

By Janis Luft



The Scholarship Committee has chosen an outstanding Redwood High School senior to receive both the CMWIC Scholarship and the Kimberly Powell Memorial Scholarship for 2023. Shyla Lensing has demonstrated both scholarship and a commitment to service and social justice during her high school career.

As an intern with Marin County's Restrictive Covenant Project, she and her team members spent many hours analyzing the county archives to document the history of discriminatory housing practices in Marin. Their work is now a part of the county library website and is being incorporated into district-wide high school curricula on Marin's history of racial discrimination. They have been officially recognized as the Best Intern Team in the County for 2022.

Shyla spent six weeks this past summer teaching at Marin City's Freedom School, a country-wide program that provides no-cost education camps for underrepresented students of color, focusing on maintaining reading skills through the use of culturally relevant materials. As a Junior Servant Leader Intern, she co-taught a class of 15-20 middle schoolers.

She has worked within her own school on a variety of projects, including the Police Free Schools Marin group, and has participated in an effort to pass TUSD's first antiracism policy. In her sophomore year, along with two friends who were also seeking connection with a more diverse school community, she co-founded Redwood's first Women of Color Club.

In addition to these activities, she is a co-editor of the school newspaper, The Redwood Bark, and has written a number of articles over the past three years on topics including sports, social issues, the conflict in Ukraine, and the history of Marin City. She is a runner and was a member of the of the cross-country team, but now enjoys runs with her black lab, Ronnie.

In the fall, Shyla will attend Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, as a Chancellor's Scholar. This program recognizes students with outstanding leadership abilities, strength of character, academic achievement, and a deep-seated commitment to diversity and social justice. She has also been recruited to Vanderbilt's MOSAIC (Medley of Students And Ideas Connecting), which showcases and promotes diversity of thought among all students. Shyla will pursue her passion for making change in social systems and making them more accessible to communities of color, possibly through a pre-law academic track.
