



## **CMWIC NEWS for DECEMBER 2020**

### **Hear About the African Library Project At December 8 Meeting & Play Member Trivia**

Pamela Bostelmann, speaker at our December 8 meeting, says she has two great passions: reading and the continent of Africa. Volunteering with The African Library Project allows her to indulge in both.

She has visited Burundi, Egypt, Eritrea, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Benin, Lesotho and South Africa. In addition, she has taught English to judges, attorneys, and courtroom staff at the Ministry of Justice in Asmara, Eritrea, and to English teachers at the University of Burundi and its Institute of Applied Pedagogy.

In 2018, her third year of retirement, she became involved in The African Library Project, a U.S./Canadian nonprofit that has started 3,086 libraries in rural areas of 13 countries in sub-Saharan Africa along with its partners, African governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Every other year, ALP has a "Summit" meeting with its African partners to share "best practices" with local teacher-librarians. Pamela was able to attend this year's summit and to participate in and conduct training sessions. She also visited four schools where ALP volunteers worked side-by-side with local teachers to set up school libraries from the more than 65,000 books that had just arrived in a railroad car-size container shipped by ALP from the United States. In addition to the work, "there was a lot of music and dancing, too," she says.

In the United States, Pamela taught 7th grade English in Richmond/San Pablo for 10 years and has taught at U.C. Berkeley and community colleges in the East Bay. She attended Bennington College, graduated from Columbia University, and earned a Master's in Teaching English as a Second Language from San Francisco State University.



*The photo at left shows Lesotho teacher Ernestine Nts'asa and some of her students and Monica Letsoha from the Lesotho Ministry of Education and Training. The students danced at the ALP Summit's celebration of Moeshoeshoe Day, Lesotho's national holiday, at the Thaba Bosiu Cultural Village, just outside of Maseru, Lesotho's capital city. Pamela is fourth from left.*

### **Member Trivia – “Who Did This?”**

After hearing from our speaker, we'll play “Who Did This?”

Janis Luft always does a wonderful job of preparing this fun game, using information and photos that members send her.

To keep the game going, be sure to look for old photos or jot down a memory and send it to Janis. Seeking ANY photos, not limited to holiday mementos.

Stories or interesting/entertaining/scandalous facts about yourself are also great for the game. Send to Janis Luft [Janisluff@comcast.net](mailto:Janisluff@comcast.net).

### **Zoom Information**

**December 8, 12:00 Noon**

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2240949581?pwd=SU5aRjFIM0REVDd6TUpsa2ZFaXRIQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 224 094 9581

**Passcode:** CMWIC2020

### **The Holiday Gift Drive Is ON!**

Now dubbed the "Annual Holiday Gift Drive," our old, reliable "Things for Teens & Toys for Kids" may have a prosaic new name, but CMWIC member donations are needed as much as ever.

Central Marin Police and Central Marin Fire are again sponsoring this great gift-giving drive, which our club has supported for many years. Please participate, if you can, by making a donation of any size before our December 8 meeting -- or at least by the gift drive's **deadline, December 11**. These monetary gifts will be used to purchase items for local children and young people. Covid has made this a challenging year for kids, too, so let's brighten up their holidays.

- You can donate by sending a **check** made out to Corte Madera Women's Club with a notation "Gift Drive " in the memo section. Mail to CMWIC, PO Box 486, Corte Madera, CA 94976.
- Or use **Paypal** by clicking on "Join/Donate" at the top right of our home page, [cortemaderawomensclub.org](http://cortemaderawomensclub.org). Enter your donation amount on the first Paypal page.

Any questions? Contact [Suzi Beatie](#)

---

### **Book Group Meets December 1: "The Orphan of Florence"**

The Book Group will meet Tuesday, December 1, at 1:30 PM. The weather is forecast to be sunny and dry, so bring a chair, wear a mask, and meet at the gazebo. The book is "The Orphan of Florence" by Jeanne Kalogridis. The next book will be chosen at the meeting.

This is an open group; all members are welcome.

If you have questions regarding the Book Club, please contact Donna Wenig [donna.wenig@gmail.com](mailto:donna.wenig@gmail.com) or Armelle Futterman [rmalvanfutt@gmail.com](mailto:rmalvanfutt@gmail.com).

---

### **Business Meeting December 2, All Members Welcome**

All CMWIC members are invited to attend the board's Business Meeting on Wednesday, December 2, at 2:00 PM. Among the topics will be how best to circulate Cheryl's research on preparing for hospitalization.

Please join us to share your ideas for club activities.

#### **"CMWIC Business" Zoom Meeting**

Wednesday, December 2, 2:00 PM

#### **Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2240949581?pwd=SU5aRjFIM0REVDd6TUpsa2ZFaXRlQT09>

**Meeting ID:** 224 094 9581

**Passcode:** CMWIC2020

**Dial:** +1 669 900 6833  
**Passcode:** 885080917

---

### **Two “Social Hour” Zooms Offered in December**

“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.

**Cheryl Longinotti** will host a social hour on the **first Monday** of the month, **December 7**, at 1:00 PM.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

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

**Meeting ID:** 858 6629 7448

**Jana Haehl** will host a social hour on the **third Tuesday** of the month, **December 15**, at 1:00 PM.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

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

**Meeting ID:** 553 266 4079

---

### **Knitting Group Meets December 18**

Bring your needlework projects and meet with the Knitting Group on Friday, December 18, at 11:00 AM at the picnic tables under the redwoods in CM Town Park, across from the post office. The group stays about an hour, wearing masks and keeping socially distant. Bring your own chair or sit at the picnic tables. Rain will cancel. Please RSVP to [linda.varonin@gmail.com](mailto:linda.varonin@gmail.com).

Right before Thanksgiving, Linda divided the handicrafts members made during the month and delivered them to two care homes: Pine Ridge and Northgate, both on Professional Center Parkway in San Rafael. She met the activity directors at both facilities, who were very pleased to receive the handmade items. The “radiation heart” created by Olga Thompson for women under treatment for breast cancer was taken to radiology at Marin Health Services.

The Knitting Group is doing wonderful things for people at care facilities and is shining a light on the CMWIC name. They began by contributing to Kaiser Hospital and have expanded to include Wind Chimes, Pine Ridge, Northgate and Marin Terrace. A recent IJ newspaper carried a letter to the editor from Sally Gelardin, in-service coordinator for the countywide group of activity directors of care homes, thanking the club for its great work.

On November 20, Linda held a surprise award ceremony to honor the knitters. Please see the photos at the end of this newsletter. Renee Sakillaris showed up with a half-dozen blankets and a patch covering one eye. She apologized for what she considered

her low output! She had undergone cataract surgery but still produced so much. Olga Thompson brought a variety of hats made by her boyfriend, as well as the “radiation heart” she was finishing.

Thank you, Knitting Club, for helping people in the community and for making the CMWIC look so good! When we are able to meet in person again, please come to the monthly luncheons so we can enjoy you all. Thank you, Linda, for your work with yet another facet of CMWIC.

Be sure to see the photos at the end of this newsletter.

---

### **December 30 Field Trip to Fairy Houses in Point Richmond**

Linda Varonin is offering “a very loosely organized, self-guided trip” to the little handmade “fairy houses” along Washington Street in Point Richmond on Wednesday, December 30.

Participants meet at 11:00 AM at the corner of Richmond and Washington avenues in Point Richmond. The area with the houses is only a few blocks long but is up a hill.

See this article to learn more:

<https://www.jenniferrhode.com/blog/2019/8/2/the-fairy-houses-of-washington-avenue>.

There are many restaurants nearby with delicious takeout food for those who want to have lunch together afterward. The group can eat downtown or in the Wave Garden. “If you have not seen the Wave Garden, it is worth the effort,” says Linda.

She will provide clear, printed directions to those who reserve a spot on the trip. Hesitant drivers may make an appointment to meet Linda in Marin and follow her to the rendezvous site.

If it’s pouring rain, the trip will be canceled.

Other places to visit in Richmond include Annie's Annuals and Pt. San Pablo Harbor. Linda urges you to “open yourself up to the fascinating East Bay!”

RSVP to [linda.varonin@gmail.com](mailto:linda.varonin@gmail.com).

---

### **CMWIC Member Pati Stoliar** **“CM Volunteer of the Year”**

“Inspired by the volunteer efforts of those who preceded her, RN Pati Stoliar began devoting time to the community in the mid-1980s. She proposed a town-wide survey of residents; served on the Citizens Advisory Housing Committee; worked on Corte Madera’s 75th Diamond Jubilee; joined the Disaster Council; served on the Accessibility

Commission; volunteered with CERT, the Marin Medical Reserve Corps, Get Ready 94925, and the NRGs; garnered funds for the two Disaster Trailers at the shopping centers and for disaster kits; dedicated years to the Town's Centennial celebration, chairing the birthday festivities; established Age-Friendly Corte Madera in 2014 to improve quality of life for older adults and recently volunteered for the Town's Objective Design & Development Standards Technical Advisory Committee.

"Once Corte Madera was welcomed to the World Health Organization Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in 2015, the task force only gained momentum. Using data from a survey provided to all Corte Maderans over 55, they developed the Age-Friendly Corte Madera Strategic Plan, which included the vision of an intergenerational center that launched in 2018 and went virtual in March of this year (Age-Friendly Intergenerational Center). AFCM also offers helpful and informative presentations on a variety of topics, participates in Senior Fairs, honors all those 90 or better with a festive celebration each year and teams up with Rotary and the CM Lions to assist older adults with small household tasks.



"In 2020, Pati and the AFCM team offered initial outreach to seniors when the shelter-in-place order began. With the Third Wednesday Talks on hold, they joined other Age-Friendly towns in Marin to present their monthly forums on Zoom. They partnered with the Town and the Lions providing free masks in Town Park. In August, unable to hold a large community celebration, AFCM took the party to the doorsteps of some most appreciative nonagenarians and centenarians. They are also currently collaborating with the Town to generate a community walking map which will identify routes with benches, restrooms, and drinking

fountains."

(Lifted from The Corte Madera Chronicles. Thank you, CMC!)

---

### **"Holiday Happiness Packets" and "Social Call"** **- Volunteers and Recipients Wanted**

Vivalon (formerly Whistlestop) and individuals throughout Marin are creating free Holiday Happiness Packets for homebound older adults. If you would like a packet, please call 415-456-9062.

If you are looking for a non-contact way to help our community, Vivalon would appreciate your donated packets. You choose what you'd like to put in your packet. Ideas include crossword puzzles, Sudoku, adult coloring books, colored pencils or markers, magazines, puzzles, lotion, and a handwritten card. No food items, please.

Drop packets off by Wednesday, December 9, at Vivalon, 930 Tamalpais Ave., San Rafael, M-F, 9-5. Call 415-456-9062 if you have questions.

Vivalon and Covia also offer “**Social Call**,” a program that links friendly volunteers with isolated older adults through one phone call, once a week. Social connection on the phone can make a huge difference to a person isolating to avoid Covid. Call 415-456-9062 for more information or to sign up.

---

### **A Perk Is Coming Our Way Soon**

When Donna Wenig learned that CMWIC members could receive a discount at the Columbia Employee Store in Richmond, she got us set up in the free Employee Store B2B Program. The Columbia Sportswear Company manufactures outerwear, sportswear, and footwear, as well as headgear, camping equipment, and ski apparel. They will schedule our initial shopping period shortly and when they do, we will follow up with additional information.

In the meantime, here is a brief breakdown of how the program works:

- The club will receive multiple invitations during the year, with each invitation valid for several weeks.
- The week of CMWIC’s access, Columbia will send Donna an email with a PDF invitation attached.
- This is an in-store offer for the Richmond employee store.
- The store is at employee pricing, so tags are already marked with prices typically 40-50% off MSRP.
- The shopper must show proof of affiliation (details to come).
- Shoppers can bring up to four guests each time they visit.

Columbia doesn’t tell us when our discount period is beforehand, but when Donna receives the invitation, she will let us know.

---

### **Photos from The Knitting Club: Red Ball of Yarn Awards**



*“Most Prolific” Renee Sakillaris*



*“Most Inspirational” Janet Sayles with  
“Most Prolific” Renee Sakillaris*



*Olga Thomsen (above) and her sister Maria Welch received the “Most Creative” award*



*“Most Amazing” Chiz Shiro.*