



CMWIC NEWS for January 2022

Wishing each of us health, happiness, and friendship in this new year.

January 11 Speaker: Schools Superintendent Brett Geithman

Via Zoom

We had happily anticipated having our traditional potluck luncheon for the CMWIC January 11 meeting but the record-setting surge in omicron cases over Christmas has forced a retreat to the food-free land of Zoom. Fortunately, we have lined up a speaker you won't want to miss.



Dr. Brett Geithman has served as Larkspur-Corte Madera School District's Superintendent since 2017. He will present recent district achievements, programs supported by the community, and goals for the future.

His career as an educator began as an elementary school teacher and he also taught at the secondary level in alternative settings. In 2009, he earned his doctorate from USC, where his dissertation focused on growth models to determine teacher and school effectiveness.

He has focused much of his career on personalized learning and on bringing researched best practices into the classroom. He believes all children can learn at high level and has collaborated with Dr. Jo Boaler of Stanford University on a grades 5-12 mathematics study on growth mindset.

He and his wife, Kristy, are proud parents of two Hall Middle School students.

Zoom Information

Topic: **CMWIC January 11 Speaker Brett Geithman**

Date and Time: **January 11, 12:00 PM**

Meeting ID: **224 094 9581**

Passcode: **155-94941**

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2240949581?pwd=VWo3VEdTVkpKSFNqWTdGczJpN1JvZz09>

Please join us!

Business Meeting Via Zoom on January 11

All CMWIC members are invited to attend the board's Business Meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, January 11, at 10:30 AM.

Topic: **CMWIC Zoom Business Meeting**

Date and Time: **January 11, 10:30 AM**

Meeting ID: 224 094 9581

Passcode: 155-94941

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2240949581?pwd=VWo3VEdTVkpKSFNqWTdGczJpN1JvZz09>

"First Tuesday" Workshops Canceled in January and February

"First Tuesday" activities for January and February are canceled (Covid and a blood drive). Please see the February newsletter for information about plans for March 1.

For more information, contact Becky Reed at beckyareed@comcast.net,

January Games Day Canceled

With luck, Corona virus cases will taper off and Games Day can resume in February. Please see next month's newsletter for updates.

From Josette Purkey:

"Meanwhile - speaking as a nurse - wash hands, wear effective masks, complete vaccinations and booster shots, and please encourage others to do the same. We may not avoid getting the virus, but if fully vaccinated and boosted, we likely won't get really sick."

Join a Bridge Chat Session via Zoom on January 18

We won't be able to play bridge in January because of recently updated Covid mandates, but Jana Haehl will host a Zoom chat session from 1:00 to 2:30 PM on Tuesday, January 18, for everyone who's interested in catching up with other bridge players in our group. The Zoom link is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87973009672>

Zoom in anytime from 1:00 to 2:30 to re-connect with each other and learn about alternative possibilities for playing bridge until we can all get together again in person.

Book Group Meets Via Zoom on January 25

Via Zoom

The Book Club will meet via Zoom on January 25 at 1:00 PM to discuss "The Exiles" by Christina Baker Kline. This novel revolves around three women whose lives are bound together in nineteenth-century Australia and the hardships they face as they fight for redemption and freedom in a new society.



Book group members will be contacted by email with Zoom information. Contact Marion Bank mbank15@gmail.com to ensure you are on the Book Group list to receive information.

The books scheduled through April are:

- February: "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee
- March: "The Four Winds" by Kristin Hannah
- April: "Where the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens

The Book Group is open to all CMWIC members.

"Ladies Who Lunch" and Knitting Postponed

"Ladies Who Lunch" and the Knitting/Sewing/Crafts Group are canceled for January due to the spike in Coronavirus cases. If you would like to be placed on Linda Varonin's mailing list, please contact her at linda.varonin@gmail.com.

Welcome New Member Poppy Rao

Here is an introduction written by one of our newest members, Poppy or PeiPei Rao, the daughter-in-law of longtime CMWIC member Kathy Hartzell:



“My name is Poppy Rao. I live with my husband Matthew in Larkspur. I moved to the United States from China in 2019. I grew up in Guangdong Province in the southern part of China.

“I love cooking traditional Chinese food like my mother used to make. I also love animals and am raising a cat in Larkspur. I love dogs, too, and am available for pet-sitting. I’m eager to make new friends here.”

If you see Poppy out and about (she often walks with Linda Varonin), be sure to welcome her to the club.

A Wonderful Holiday Party

Our December 14 in-person meeting was a high-energy event that succeeded in spreading joy – not Covid. The decorations by the Hospitality Committee were elegant. The cookie exchange, graciously organized and displayed by Susan Topor (who stepped in for the extremely busy Janis Luft) featured treats as pretty as they were delicious. The club splurged on pizza from Café Verde next door, and Armelle Futterman and Claudia Keast made 50 people a wonderful salad with Caesar-style dressing. Dessert was a whipped cream-topped pudding made by Cheryl Longinotti from persimmons grown on her backyard tree. Beautiful, handmade items by Linda Varonin’s Knitting Group were on display and inspired everyone present.

Of course, giving was part of the event because that’s how we roll. Suzi Beatie presented the Central Marin Fire Department with the club’s donation of \$885 in cash, checks, and gift cards for needy members of our community.

Besides celebrating the freedom of being able to get together in person, the highlight was our health! Every attendee took a Covid test immediately before the party and everyone passed. Unending gratitude goes out to Janis Luft (and assistant Ellen Greenwald), two CMWIC members who are nurses. Janis, who has been tirelessly (actually, maybe “tiredly” is more accurate!) volunteering with the County in contact tracing and vaccine administration ever since Covid arrived in early 2020, showed each member how to take a self-test, timed the tests in batches, and even re-tested one group. She was a marvel and an inspiration. (You know how “No good deed goes unpunished”? Janis and Ellen eventually emerged from the testing room to find that all the salad and pizza were gone. Will this be a funny story someday?)

Jana Haehl summed up the party like this: “Many, many thanks for everything you all did to make the Club’s ‘comeback party’ such a great success! Even if we hadn’t had food and drink, there was so much conversation and good visiting, along with shared

stories, humor, and a real sense of joy about being together again.” Please enjoy these wonderful photos taken by Suzi, Linda, and other attendees.









