



***A Note About Covid:** At our meetings, gatherings, and other activities, we recommend that you wear a mask or have one close at hand.*

## **CMWIC NEWS**

**December 2022** \*AND\* **January 2023**

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### **From Our President, Suzi Beatie**

Happy Holidays, Everyone!

This year has just flown by and here we are, already looking at both December and January in this double-month newsletter. Read carefully and mark your calendars now, since it's packed with two months' worth of dates and information. There are lots of wonderful events on our upcoming schedule!

Holiday time is here! The club offers a Latke Making Workshop on December 6 and Holiday Potluck luncheon on December 13. I'm looking forward to the festive dishes and fun activities. Check out the articles below and note them on your calendars.

Don't forget that you are all invited to attend our Business Meetings at 10:30 AM, both in December and January and before all of our potluck luncheons.

Last month's guest speaker, Doug McConnell, wrote that he was very happy to address our club; he felt your warm welcome deeply and was very thankful to have joined us.

Here's some health guidance about winter gatherings from UCSF Department of Medicine Chair Dr. Bob Wachter:

1. Covid self-test before attending
2. Don't go if you aren't feeling well
3. Have a wonderful time.

I'll be following his advice and I hope you will, too.

If you're on Medicare: Don't forget to get your free test kits and share them if you'd like. Kits are available for Medicare Part B beneficiaries at most CVS or Walgreens. They can also be **mail-ordered** monthly.

I hope to see you all on December 6 and 13 for holiday friendship and joy.

**--Suzi**

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### **So Much Happening at Our Holiday Party December 13**

*CM Community Center. Please bring a festive dish to share.*

Our December meeting has always been about fun, friendship, and social time, and this one is no exception. Here's what's in store at the party:

- Bring a yummy dish to share, maybe from a special holiday or family recipe.
- Have a cup of warm cider and mingle with friends.
- Consider wearing your "ugly" (or beautiful) sweater or other special holiday garb.
- Enjoy special holiday cookies to take home if you're participating in the "cookie exchange." See details below.
- Bring a little cash and check out the jewels! You might go home with a special gift for yourself or someone else, thanks to Barbara Friday and those who donated to GIYS earlier in the year. See details below.
- Join Linda Varonin for the short time it takes to make a beautiful, lacy Pizzelle cookie to eat on the spot or take home! See details below.
- Bring a donation for the annual Central Marin Police Authority and Fire Department's Annual Holiday fundraiser. See details below.
- The Corte Madera Parks and Recreation Department is hosting a display of 50 works by local artists at the Second Annual Corte Madera Invitational Art Exhibition, right at the Community Center.

Please **RSVP** and join fellow members on December 13 at noon.

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### **Sweater Contest**

Back by popular demand, Vicki and Cheryl will emcee a sweater contest at this year's holiday gathering. To participate, just pull out an old sweater from your closet and decorate it with just about anything.

Prizes for the Most Festive, Most Creative, the Cutest and, of course, the Ugliest. If you need ideas, google "ugly sweater." Don't be shy; you could be a winner!



*Ugly Sweater Contest competitors back in the 'teens.*

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### **Cookie Exchange**

If you would like to participate in the Cookie Exchange at our Holiday Party, just bake and bring 2-4 dozen of your favorite cookies (or an assortment).

Package 3-4 cookies (depending on size) per "exchange bundle." Use a clear plastic bag (the Dollar Store is one resource for inexpensive, festive bags) or wrap them in plastic wrap (add a small bow if you'd like).

Please include a recipe card or ingredient list for your cookies so that we can label the bags for potential allergens. We will display all the cookies on a table. Trade yours and you can go home with a great assortment of holiday sweets.

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### **Jewelry Sale**

Come to the party early so you can shop for some of the beautiful jewelry available for purchase that day. Sale opens at 11:00AM. Remember to bring a little cash or a check. The jewelry is delightful, and proceeds will go to our scholarship fund. See you there!

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### **Pizzelle Making**

Linda Varonin will have a pizzelle press all fired up on the bar so that participants can make several of these thin, crispy cookies during the party. It takes 40 seconds to make two pizzelles, according to Linda, and she plans to keep going until all her batter has been used. No need to RSVP on this project; it's part of the party.

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### **Donate to Police and Fire Gift Drive for Kids**

Sponsored by Central Marin Police Authority and Central Marin Fire Department, this gift drive has been going on for about 20 years. The gifts go to Larkspur and Corte Madera children in need. Cash or check donations are preferred for these kids from lower-income families and foster care.

Write your check to "Central Marin Fire" and indicate "Holiday Gift Drive" on the memo line. You may bring your donation to the CMWIC Holiday Party or mail it **\*before December 15\*** to CM Women's Club, P.O. Box 486, Corte Madera, CA 94976.

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### **"First Tuesday" Latke-Making Workshop December 6**

*CM Community Center. Limited to eight members.*

Come have a frying good time at a Latke Workshop with Susan Topor and Armelle Futterman on December 6 at 10:30 AM. Limited to eight members because of hot oil and sharp blades.

We will prepare latkes from spuds to (taste) buds for a small group. Please bring a protective apron as well as your favorite vegetable peeler. Cost of the workshop is \$5 to cover supplies and ingredients.

Be among the first eight members to **RSVP** to make the cut.

**Note:** Pizzelle-making has been moved to the holiday party.

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### **Marathon Bridge Canceled December 20**

Bridge is on hold for December due to the holiday, but the grand plan is to meet January 17, February 21, and on the third Tuesdays of each month going forward.

Contact Jana Haehl, [jghaehl@comcast.net](mailto:jghaehl@comcast.net) or 415-265-1105.

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### **Ladies Who Lunch to Meet at Il Fornaio on December 21**

*223 Corte Madera Town Center*

Ladies Who Lunch will meet for a special holiday treat on Wednesday, December 21, at Il Fornaio, located on the north side of the CM Town Center. If you like, wear some fun holiday jewelry to add sparkle to the lunch!

See [ilfornaio.com](http://ilfornaio.com) for menus.

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

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### **Knitting Group to Meet December 27 and January 24**

*CM Community Center*

Knitting meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. This month's meeting is December 27 from 11:00 AM until 12:00 in the warmth of the Community Center. We then have the option of going to lunch next door at Cafe Verde. All are welcome. Bring sewing, knitting, crocheting, or any hand project. Even mending!

This group has donated to 26 different organizations, but most often to Kaiser in the departments of pediatrics, oncology, palliative care, and cardiology. We also donate to individuals we know who have dementia or other health problems and are living in care communities.

**Note:** Knitting will also meet on January 24.

Email [linda.varonin@gmail.com](mailto:linda.varonin@gmail.com) with questions.

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## **JANUARY 2023**

### **An Activity Every Tuesday in January**

... And there are five Tuesdays in the month!

Mark your calendar now, as there will be **no January newsletter**. It's all here now!  
Details below.

January 3	<b>Chinese New Year Fun</b>
January 10	A <b>Marine Mammal Center</b> representative at our regular meeting
January 17	<b>Marathon Bridge</b>
January 24	<b>Knitting at 11:00 / Book Club at 1:00</b>
January 31	<b>CM Town Manager Adam Wolff</b>

### **Tuesday, January 3, “Chinese New Year Fun” – Music, Food, Arts & Crafts**

*CM Community Center*

Please join us on Tuesday, January 3, at 11:00 AM for music, food, brush painting, and lantern making with Peipei Rao, Stella Lee, and Linda Varonin. This event is a celebration of Chinese New Year, which takes place on January 22.

Peipei will play her Guzheng (Chinese zither) and you will not want to miss it!

This workshop filled fast with 16 participants after it was announced in last month's newsletter, so Linda ordered 10 more lanterns to accommodate a larger group. Cost of the workshop is \$10 to pay for your lantern kit. Respond to [Linda.varonin@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.varonin@gmail.com)



## **Learn About the Marine Mammal Center at January 10 Meeting**

*CM Community Center*

The speaker for our January 10 meeting is Laura Gill, the Community Engagement Manager at The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. Gill leads public program development and implementation, including virtual programs, interpretive resources, and tours. After earning a B.S. in Marine Biology from UCSC, she began her work in conservation education. She believes that we are all interconnected and dependent on a healthy ocean.



She will share a brief history of The Marine Mammal Center's work with rescue, rehabilitation, release, research, and education and then take a "deeper dive" into stories about the center's most common patients -- sea lions, elephant seals, and harbor seals. She will describe the challenges they face, how the center cares for them, and how people can get involved to protect them and our shared ocean environment.

Please **RSVP** as soon as possible, even though January seems to be far into the future. Believe me, it will be here soon and you want to remember to come hear this speaker. We need to let the Community Center know the number of chairs needed.

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## **Marathon Bridge Meets January 17**

Marathon Bridge plans to meet January 17, February 21, and on the third Tuesday of each month going forward.

Contact: Jana Haehl, [jghaehl@comcast.net](mailto:jghaehl@comcast.net) or 415-265-1105.

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## **Ladies Who Lunch to Meet Friday, January 20, at La Vier**

*1025 C Street, San Rafael*

You won't want to miss our lunch at La Vier, a Latin fusion restaurant that has been a favorite in downtown San Rafael since it opened. The restaurant is full of plants and flowers and the food is delicious. [View a menu](#). See you there at noon on Friday, January 20. RSVP to [linda.varonin@gmail.com](mailto:linda.varonin@gmail.com).

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## **Knitting Group Meets January 24**

*CM Community Center*

Knitting meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month. This month's meeting takes place from 11:00 AM until 12:00 in the Community Center. We then have the option of going to lunch next door at Cafe Verde. All are welcome.

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## **Book Group Meets January 24**

*CM Community Center*

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, January 24 at 1:00 PM to discuss *American Dirt* by Jeanne Cummings, a 2020 novel about the ordeal of a Mexican woman forced to flee her home and travel as an undocumented immigrant to the United States with her son.

If desired, we can talk about *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi, since the November Book Club meeting had to be cancelled. *Homegoing* follows the parallel paths of two half-sisters born in Ghana and their descendants through eight generations.

The group is open to all CMWIC members. For more information, please contact:

- Donna Wenig at [donna.wenig@gmail.com](mailto:donna.wenig@gmail.com) or
- Marion Bank at [mb.shop15@gmail.com](mailto:mb.shop15@gmail.com)

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## **“Town Talk” January 31: CM Town Manager Adam Wolff**

*CM Community Center*

Join us for a brown bag lunch by the fireplace at the Community Center, with Corte Madera Town Manager Adam Wolff. He has been with the town for many years as head of the Planning Department and was chosen as Interim Manager when Todd Cusimano moved on. We will have a chance to hear what’s new and enjoy a chat with him.

It would be helpful to RSVP to [Suzi Beatie](#) but don’t let that keep you from attending. Mark your calendar now so you don’t miss it.

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## **Looking Ahead**

- CMWIC Creative Director Linda Varonin has a craft planned for the first Tuesday in February: Creating fabulous handmade envelopes from old calendar pages. Please save your calendars for use in this workshop.
- At our Valentine’s Day luncheon, you will see some of the incredible botanical photography in Rob Badger and Nita Winter’s beautiful, award-winning book, which weaves art and science. The two will talk about how climate change impacts the natural world.



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**Modeling a Memento from a Well-Loved TV Show**



*CMWIC member Joan Connor modeled her "Mac and Mutley" T-shirt for the show's "Mac," Doug McConnell, after he spoke to the club on November 8.*