The VIM Office
The VIM office will be closed at least through the end of May during the shelter in place order. All events are cancelled – Art Classes, Talking Book Club and luncheons – until further notice. Support Groups continue in a limited edition (see below). Suzan is in the office 2 hours a week to pay bills and respond to members.

Books on Tape
Books on Tape ordering is not available during the shutdown. Also, our Talking Book Club is on hiatus until it’s safe to resume. Talking Book Group leader, Penny, will contact group members to update on the next meeting.

Rudy Marx
Rudy Marx, one of VIM’s eldest members at 99 years, has some news!!!! Rudy has gotten married to Melody (also formerly of Deer Park) and has moved to Sacramento and bought a home. Rudy reports that he, Melody and his beloved dog are doing just fine!

Support Groups
Support Groups are not meeting on their regularly scheduled days and times during the shutdown but are joining together once a month for a combined 4-group meeting using conference calls and Zoom.
In April, thirteen members participated in the joint conference call/Zoom group meeting, including two returning members, Verlena and Chris!

The May joint meeting will be from 11am-1pm on May 13 and will feature a talk by Dr. Gus Colenbrander.

For the June joint meeting date please call Larriece at 415 939-7216 or Anabella at 415 234 6353 or Suzie at 415 497-1532.

Other Support Group News

New group leader:
We are happy to report that Anabella Denisoff, who leads the Latino Support Group has volunteered to take over as facilitator for the Novato group, replacing Jeffrey Torrico, who retired. Thank you, Anabella!

Hopefully, more of the Novato group members will participate in the conference call/Zoom support Group during the shutdown.

Leader needed at Mill Valley:
Seeking low-vision or blind person to lead peer-led support group at the Redwoods Retirement Community in Mill Valley. Relevant experience helpful.

Please contact Suzan in the VIM office at 415 459-5066 if you are interested or if you know someone who might be interested.
A Message from the VIM President

Isolation is nothing new for VIM members and now sighted people are experiencing some of that isolation too. But, of course, they still can see. This has not been an easy time for any of us.

VIM has held our support group meetings via conference calls, ZOOM, and individual phone calls. Our group leaders have spent countless hours “checking in” with their members to be sure they are safe.

Predictably, the Pandemic has brought severe stress to our modest budget. We are pleading for help. We must be there for the Blind and Vision Impaired folks of Marin. (There are about 5,000 of us.) We are asking that you help us continue our work.

Every penny is appreciated. Thank you for hearing our plea.

We are looking ahead and planning for the time we will not be sheltering-in-place. For instance, we have already reserved our space at McNear’s Beach Park for our September picnic. The date is September 12th. So mark your calendar. We are also planning a Holiday luncheon party in December.

Lilli Dreyer, President

Three Ways to donate to VISION IMPAIRED OF MARIN:
1. Donate online http://www.bvim.org by Credit card or PayPal
2. Mail a check to: VIM, 851 Irwin Street, Suite 206, San Rafael, CA 94901
3. Remember Vision Impaired of Marin in your WILL.
In Memoriam - On April 23, 2020 we lost VIM Friend Allison Pratt, devoted caregiver to Marita Olian and Lilli Dreyer, and friend of Larriece Stuart for over 30 years. We will miss Allison.

VIM’s Annual End of Summer Picnic!!!
Saturday, September 12, Noon-2PM
McNear’s Beach Park, Cantera Way, San Rafael, CA
Hamburgers & hot dogs with all the fixings: beans, potato salad, beer, wine, soda, dessert, music, sun and fun!
Call 415 459-5066 to reserve your space
(If we are being too optimistic and the shut down is still in place we will not meet. We will decide by September 1st.)

Vision Impaired of Marin
851 Irwin St, #206
San Rafael, CA  94901