

# ***The Eastwind***

December 22, 2020

(Dave's computer died so he's composing this on his phone edition)

## **Happy New Year!**

President Kim McD rang the bell

There were no visitors or guest Rotarians.

Marilyn L had the quote for the day - from Martin Luther King - "Faith is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase."

Joe M lead us in the pledge.

Larry L's dulcet tones could be heard through computer speakers with "Winter Wonderland."

Then the discussion of the merger began . . .

The idea of merging has been around for a few years. Then Covid-19 brought it to the forefront.

Brian R went through a presentation that outlined the "why" and "how" aspects of merging. Most members had positive comments, but not all. Fundraisers, younger members, enough people to get things done were all discussed.

Incoming Presidents Julie M and Don C spoke about the merger saying it was a good idea.

The West Club has already voted to merge and is waiting to see the outcome of our vote.

**Remember to vote.** You have until 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 28 to vote. Didn't get the email? Check your spam filter for Ron L's email with the election information.

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 29, 2020 at 12PM**

Join us as we hear from Maite Iturri, winner of the North Bay Spirit Award for October, 2020.

Maite Iturri rejects the notion that "it can't be done." She figures if she allows herself to think too much about the enormity of need in her

community, she risks losing faith and momentum. She won't let that happen.

"I've got to keep hope alive," she said.

So the Sonoma Valley educator keeps moving and stays focused on possibilities. During the 14 years she has been principal at El Verano Elementary School, where the student population is overwhelmingly Latino and from low-income homes, she has worked relentlessly to provide programs and services to give kids the best education possible and to make their lives and the lives of their families a little easier.

For Iturri, the daughter of an immigrant from Spain's Basque country who fled during the repressive Franco regime, it's all about leveling the playing field by equalizing access and opportunities.

