

**ALWAYS
FREE**

December 2021



Mendocino Coast's **Lighthouse Peddler**

The Best Original Writing, plus the Guide to Art, Music, Events, Theater, Film, Books, Poetry and Life on the Coast



The
Nutcracker.

The
Bolshoi.

Arena
Theater!

While the Nutcracker may sometimes be thought of as just another Christmas show, a presentation of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker by the Bolshoi is always a treat worthy of anticipation, wonder, and supreme satisfaction. Arena Theater presents the classic ballet as part of its Bolshoi Ballet on screen. There will be one showing on the big screen Sunday, December 19 at 1:00pm. The show has a running time of 2 hours and 15 minutes with one intermission. General admission tickets are \$18, with \$5 youth tickets (for those under 18.)

Continued on page 2

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Holidays At The Coast Highway Art Collective

Including Painting, Ceramics, Textiles, Photography, Wood Work, Metal, Jewelry And Mixed Media

Holiday shopping can seem overwhelming, but if you're looking for a one-of-kind, hand crafted and locally made gift, forget online shopping and head to Point Arena on Saturday, December 11 when the Point Arena Merchant's Association (PAMA) hosts Hometown Holidays. This special evening is when many of the businesses stay open late and create a magical holiday event.

The Coast Highway Art Collective has participated in Hometown Holidays for

11:00am to 7:00pm, featuring live music, meet the artists and all that art. Everyone in the community is invited. Masks and social distancing apply.

The members of the collective have been creating very special items for this event, including many handcrafted ornaments for the Christmas Tree. They will be displayed in the center of the gallery on the holiday tree. Visitors will find art in several mediums, including painting, ceramics, textiles, photography, wood work, metal, jewelry and mixed media. Guest artists for the month of December include Elizabeth Beronich Solomon, embroidered and embellished pocket shoulder bags; Colette Coad, glass ornaments; Emma Hurley, clothing & ceramics; Nicolette Kaliebe, leather; Kerstan Tanner and Anthony Rees, jewelry; Shawn Quinlan, art quilts, misfits stockings and Siobhan, silk scarves. The show runs from December 3 through January 6, 2022.

Music for the opening reception will be provided by Bards of a Feather from 1:00pm to 4:00pm, the musical duo of Sharon and Jim Lieberman. They play acoustic guitar, mandolin, tambourine and fiddle and specialize in old blues tunes from the 1920s to folk tunes from the 60's and

70's. Their repertoire includes music they learned on the streets of Mexico when they lived there in the 1970s, as well as works from some French songwriters the couple fell in love with. From 4:30pm to 7:00pm, Bryn Harris, Tom Merline and Keith Abrams perform, featuring songs from Harris's album *Melody Me*. It promises to be a memorable evening!



The Coast Highway Art Collective is located at 284 Main Street, Point Arena, the little red building with the big yellow sun, located next to the Redwood Coast Credit Union. Regular hours in December are Thursday through Sunday, 11:00am to 4:00pm. Visit the website at www.coast-highway-artists.com for information about the collective's artists, upcoming events and how to join.

Left: Green bag
by Elizabeth Beronich Solomon.



many years, transforming its gallery space into a holiday wonderland, filled with gifts for everyone on your list. The collective members are excited to host an opening reception for their Winter Magic Holiday Gift Fair on Saturday, December 11 from

BOLSHOI continued from cover.

The simple description is that on Christmas eve, Marie and her whole family are gathered around the tree in celebration of the holiday. Marie receives a magical gift from her godfather Drosselmeyer and soon enough this Christmas eve will take an unexpected turn for her. Marie's new doll comes to life and carries her into a whirlwind adventure.

This Nutcracker was choreographed by Yuri Grigorovich, and it is a reminder of just how great his interpretations of the classics are. As Charlotte Kasner opined in an earlier review, "although its setting is very German, Grigorovich somehow makes it parochially Russian. When premiered in 1892, 11 months before Tchaikovsky's untimely death, the ballet was staged in a contemporary 19th-century setting where it has tended to remain, even when choreographers attempt to set their own stamp on it.

Grigorovich, unusually, sets it slightly earlier at the end of the 18th-century and eliminates all of the mime. Almost every note is danced and some of the scenes that can drag rather in other productions, such as the party and the battle with the mouse king, simply zip along."

The exceptional score, brought to life by the Bolshoi Ballet dancers, delights the hearts and ears of all generations of music lovers. Experience this holiday classic with the whole family on the big screen.

The cast includes Margarita Shrayner (Marie), Semyon Chudin (The Nutcracker Prince), Denis Savin (Drosselmeyer), Alexander Vodopetov (The Mouse King) and the Bolshoi Corps de Ballet. This production was filmed December 23, 2018. Tchaikovsky was 53 when he died in 1893.

Arena Theater is at 214 Main Street, Highway One, in Point Arena. Information is at ArenaTheater.org. The Arena Theater snack bar be open. All attendees 12 and over must be vaccinated.

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Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)



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ADVERTISERS INDEX

• Action Network	16	• KGUA	12
• Anchor Bay Store	6	• KTDE	12
• Arena Frame	4	• KZYX	2
• Arena Tech Center	13	• Little Green Bean	8
• Arena Theater	5	• The Loft	3
• Arff Feed and Pet	16	• MTA	Back Cover
• Banana Belt Properties	7	• Office Source	5
• Denise Green	4	• PAMA	8
• Four-Eyed Frog Bookstore	Front cover	• Phillips Insurance	8
• Franny's Cup & Saucer	4	• Point Arena Light Station	9
• Garcia River Casino	16	• Red Stella	13
• Green Room, The	9	• Rollerville Cafe	13
• Gualala Arts	6	• Sea Trader, The	3
• Gualala Building Supply	4	• Skunk Train	2
• Gualala Supermarket	6	• Village Bootery	16
• Ignacio Health Insurance	13	• Zen House Motorcycles	5

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

- Put on your dancing shoes (or ballet slippers.) The Russians are coming. (Cover).
- The Discovery Gallery opens its arms. Your invitation is to the left. (Page 2).
- This month's Film Club selections offer Russians, serpents, and dancers. (Page 4).
- Winter Wonderland is in full swing at Gualala Arts. Got your raffle ticket? (Page 5).
- Confirm your crossword puzzle answers (I'm sure they are all correct). (Page 5).
- New Moon? Yes there will be one. Full moon? Yes, one of those too. (Page 6).
- The Point Arena merchants are all inviting you to their Hometown Celebration. (Page 6).
- Karin talks about Chickweed and other greens. Good for you! (Page 7).
- This month a Jay makes a stellar appearance. Actually, that's steller. (Page 7).
- Rex makes a return visit to the Peddler. Our favorite carrot-eating dog. (Page 7).
- Elk and Discovery invite you to visit their wonderful galleries. (Page 8).
- Delacroix to Gauguin. That about covers it. See the new film. (Page 8).
- The holidays at Sea Ranch Lodge will be very musical. (Page 8).
- Start warming up. The opera from the MET is here. (Page 9).
- Need gift ideas? The Dolphin Gallery's Uncle Sus has got you covered. (Page 9).
- Looking for a soundtrack? Consider your own. (Page 10).
- Maybe it's time to travel the Lincoln Highway. Amor Towle's book is here. (Page 11).
- Need a book recommendation? Our list is here. (Page 11).
- Poetry is still on Blake's mind. Check out her December plans. (Page 11).
- If you take a sheep, and add a solar array, what have you got? Love! (Page 12).
- This month's Sudoku has 9 numbers. Really. Nine. (Page 12).
- The sudoku answers are here. No peeking. (Page 12).
- The return of Brandybuck. Is this the 13th or the 17th Bizarre Bazaar? (Page 13).
- Nothing to do in December? Sea Ranch Lodge has some options. (Page 13).
- More Jazz from Harrison and friends. Get ready to chill. (Page 13).
- Challenge yourself. The December crossword puzzle is here. (Page 14).
- Want to try everything at Pt Arena's December 11 celebration? Here's the list. (Page 14).
- Our official Midwest writer, Sally, is back with some thoughts on crazies. (Page 15).
- It appears MJ saw her own shadow. Or someone else's. Or something else's. (Page 16).
- Get out! Really. Get out! See, hear, taste, feel. Plenty to do! (Back cover).

Our thanks to December contributors including Rozann Grunig, mai haiku, Sally Marshall, Mitch McFarland, Blake More, Cathy Riehm, Mary Jane Schramm, David Steffen, Kirsten Tanner, Karin Uphoff and Jennifer Bort Yacovissi.

Cover photo from *The Bolshoi*.
Cover elf image by *aleksandra85* photo from Pixabay

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" How many times can a man turn his head
And pretend that he just doesn't see?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind
The answer is blowin' in the wind"

From "Blowin' in the Wind" by Bob Dylan

Issue #242 December 2021

Lighthouse Peddler

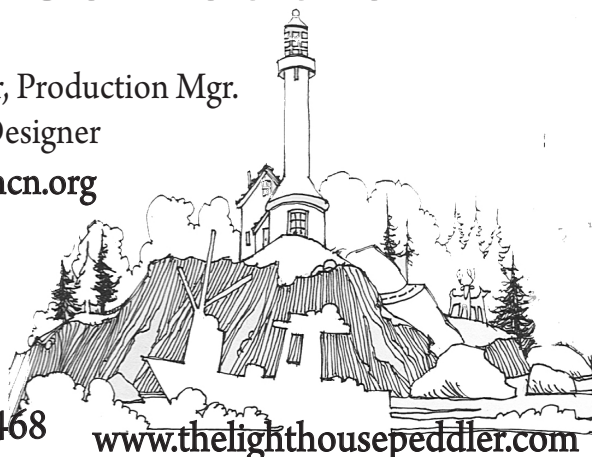
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"Judgement at Nuremberg" • "The Serpent's Egg" • "Shall We Dance"

The Arena Theater Film Club's December Films

The Arena Theater Film Club returns with three films featuring the work of Ingmar Bergman, Stanley Kramer and Friz Freleng Mark Sandrich.

Opening December's film offerings is "The Serpent's Egg". Producer Dino De Laurentis put the considerable weight of his company (and its financial support) to bring this Bergman film to a wide audience. The director was on a roll at the time and De Laurentis believed the timing (1978) was right for this big budget Bergman film.

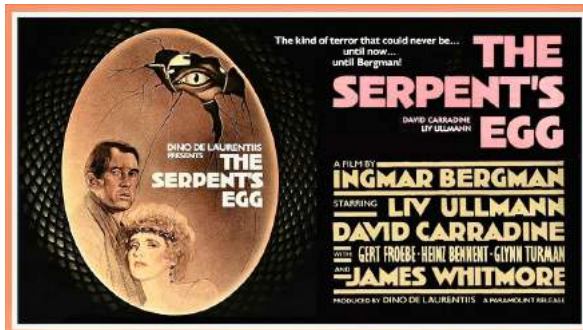
It's early November, 1923. Jewish-American brothers Abel Rosenberg (David Carradine) and Max Rosenberg, and Max's ex-wife Manuela Rosenberg (Liv Ullmann) had a trapeze act in a circus touring through Europe, but a recent wrist injury to Max sidelined the act. The three remained in Berlin, Germany generally depressed with rampant inflation leading to Abel taking up the bottle to cope. The Jewish are also being blamed for many of society's problems, but Abel fears no impact on him provided he stays out of trouble. Manuela, who ended up living in a

takes a recent historical event, creates a narrative, and then brings a solid cast together to tell the tale. In "Judgement at Nuremberg", Kramer brought together a cast that included Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, Richard Widmark, Marlene Dietrich, Maximilian Schell,



Judy Garland, Montgomery Clift, William Shatner and Werner Klemperer. Each role is shaped to present a credible telling of the painful end of the war, and the necessary blend of the facts of the horrors of war.

The plot of the 1961 film is well-known among Baby Boomers, historians, and film buffs. In 1948, a series of trials were held in Nuremberg, Germany, by an international tribunal, headed by American legal and military officials, with the intent of bringing to justice those guilty of crimes against humanity. However, by that time most of the major figures of the Nazi regime were either dead or long missing, and in the resulting legal proceed-



rooming house on her own while working in a cabaret, are reunited when Abel tells her that Max committed suicide. Feeling at a loss both professionally (with the demise of their act) and emotionally due to Max's death, Abel and Manuela turn to each other for comfort, and support they both clearly need.

Abel's life becomes even more complicated when Police Inspector Bauer (Gert Fröbe), who handled Max's suicide case, questions Abel about a series of other recent mysterious deaths near his home. Abel begins to believe that he may be set up to take the fall solely for being Jewish. It's a complex story under Bergman's direction.

"The Serpent's Egg" screens Monday, December 6 at 7:00pm. The film is rated R, has a running time of 120 minutes, and is in English and German with subtitles.

One week later, Germany is once again a significant part of the plot, the cast is dominated by both American and German actors, and death is on the mind of everyone. However, the storyline and subplots are both well-known, well understood, and involve death and human destruction.

Stanley Kramer—as he does so well—

This is vintage Rogers and Astaire (or Astaire and Rogers, if you prefer.)

Gossip threatens to halt the budding romance between a ballerina and a tap dancer who find themselves in the midst of some very much unwanted publicity.

In these days when much trans-Atlantic travel was via steamship, ballet star Pete "Petrov" Peters arranges to cross the Atlantic aboard the same ship as the dancer he's fallen for but barely knows: musical star Linda Keene. By the time the ocean liner reaches New York, a little white lie has churned through the rumor mill and turned into a hot gossip item: that the two celebrities are secretly married. The ballet dancer and the showgirl fake their marriage for publicity purposes before falling in love for real in this delightful musical comedy starring Astaire and Rogers in their seventh film together. Numerous mistaken-identity gags ensue.

As was typical of the era (and the genre) a number of well-known songs make their way into the movie-goers consciousness: Included in George and Ira Gershwin's score are "Slap That Bass," "They Can't Take That Away From Me," "They All Laughed," and "Let's Call The Whole Thing Off," the latter of which features Fred and Ginger in a showstopper on roller skates. The film was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Song.

Directed by Friz Freleng and Mark Sandrich, the film is unrated and has a running time of 109 minutes and is not rated.

Admission for all Film Club movies is \$7 for Arena Theater Association members, guests welcome at \$10. Cash at the door, please, maximum audience 55 people. Face coverings required except when seated while eating or drinking.

The Arena Theater Film Club is a membership-based film society which meets the first, second and fourth Mondays of most months at the Arena Theater to screen and discuss a variety of movies, including recent independent releases, classics and foreign films. Screenings are \$7 to current Arena Theater members (memberships are \$60 per year); their guests are welcome at \$10 each. For a schedule of upcoming films, visit the Arena Theater Film Club's website, www.arenatheaterfilmclub.org.



ings American judges often found themselves confronting the question of how much responsibility someone held who had "just followed orders." "Judgment at Nuremberg" is a dramatized version of the proceedings at one of these trials.

Originally written and produced as a play for television, the screen version of Judgment at Nuremberg was nominated for 11 Academy Awards, with Maximilian Schell and Abby Mann taking home Oscars for (respectively) Best Actor and Best Adapted Screenplay.

The film screens Monday, December 13 at 7:00pm. It's rated PG-13 and has a running time 178 minutes.

The final film offered by the Film Club this month is "Shall We Dance". Screening on Monday, December 27 at 7:00pm, the 1937 film stars Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire.

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Winter Wonderland Transforms Gualala Arts

Gifts, Sweet Treats, Music: It's a Holiday Event for the Entire Family, All Month

Winter Wonderland, the kickoff to the holiday season on the coast, has returned to Gualala Arts. From now through December 30, visitors will find that Gualala Arts shines with holiday spirit, and is ready to welcome everyone, every day from 11:00am to 4:00pm. And, as always, admission is free.

The trees have arrived! Gualala Arts has consistently offered the largest selection of trees on the Mendocino Coast, and 2021 is no exception. The Foyer is filled with trees of all sizes, and visitors will almost certainly find just the tree they're looking for.



Finding unique gifts for friends and family is easier than ever during Winter Wonderland as local artisans bring their special arts and crafts to Gualala Arts. **Harald Eric Norvold** will be offering his Viking Pottery ceramics. Working mainly in silver, semi-precious stones, and pearls, **Ling-Yen Jones** brings jewelry that is sure to please.

Siobhan of Siobhan Silks creates evocative, sensual, spirited wearables. **Kathryn Weiss** creates her glass beads in a rainbow of colors at Fogline Studio here on the coast. The works of the **Gualala Arts Collage User Group**, a com-



munity of artists, incorporates a delightful display of mixed media techniques. **Marla Skibbins'** jewelry and glass is infused with intentions of courage, love, wisdom and gratitude. **Michelle Kirby** will be display-

ing her custom jewelry. Members of the **Gualala Arts Clay Studio** bring beautiful and functional ceramics, and the members of the **Pacific Piecemakers Quilt Guild** bring quilts that are highly prized. **Andrea Allen** creates Chinese Brush style paintings, ceramics, urns, prints and greeting cards.

Visitors will find a wide variety of Gualala Arts-branded gifts. There are wearables, like caps, hats, tee-shirts and aprons, plus wine glasses, water glasses, champagne flutes, pens and notepads. New this year is the Gualala Arts hoodie. There is also a large selection of beautiful gift cards and photographs by Scott Chieffo.

Adding to the fun is the return of the Holiday Silent Auction and Raffle. Raffle tickets will be available at Gualala Arts and the Dolphin Gallery. And the holiday season is also a great time to purchase gift-memberships to Gualala Arts for friends and family.

Music will be in the air throughout December, with special performances by a number of local musical contributors. Saturdays will feature Don Krieger playing piano from noon to 1 pm (except December 4. That week he will be playing on Friday, December 3.) The Bell Ringers will be performing during Winter Wonderland, and visitors can enjoy

their holiday sounds on Saturday, December 4, from noon to 1:00pm both days. Lorri Pimentel will offer piano favorites on Wednesday, December 8 from noon to 1:00pm. The Coastal Singers bring musi-

cal joy on Friday, December 17 at 3:00pm. The Broke Trio will entertain on Saturday, December 18 at 1:00pm (and possibly on the 19th at 2:00pm.)

Santa Claus will be visiting at about 2:00pm most weekends to check Santa's special mailbox where he'll find all of the childrens' letters to Santa with their wants and wishes! It's cheerful good fun for the family that puts everyone in the holiday mood! Although no food or beverages will be served on the grounds of Gualala Arts, Mrs. Claus's treats—freshly prepared from the commercial-grade kitchen at Gualala Arts—will be a delicious take-it-home option, and there will also be boxes of See's



Candies for sale.

Executive Director David "Sus" Susalla adds, "Due to Mendocino County requirements, proof of vaccinations during live performances are required for all performers, visitors, staff and volunteers. In addition, masking is required for everyone during Winter Wonderland.



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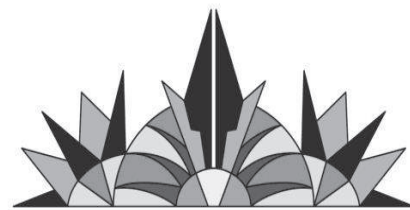
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December 2021

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Saturday, Dec. 11, 4 PM
Elf - A Christmas Tale

Met Opera Live in HD
Saturday Dec. 4 10 AM
Eurydice
Saturday Jan. 1, 10 AM
Cinderella

Exhibition on Screen
Sunday Dec. 12 1 PM
The Danish Collector

Bolshoi Ballet
Sunday Dec. 19 1 PM
The Nutcracker

Arena Theater Film Club
Mondays 7 PM
Dec. 6 The Serpent's Egg
Dec. 13 Judgment at Nuremberg
Dec. 27 Shall We Dance
214 Main Street Point Arena

"I've always thought Prince Charming in 'Cinderella' was the most boring role; I'd rather be the Wicked Witch."

Jude Law (1972-)

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P	H	O	S	H	L	B	A	W	L	B	A

Solution to Crossword:

New Moon



December 3

Full Moon



December 18

"Think".

Alfred E. Newman (1894-)

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Hometown Holidays In Point Arena

From Main Street to the Cove to the Lighthouse • December 11

Dive into holiday festivities in Point Arena on Saturday December 11th! Live music by local musicians will compel merriment, and holiday treats throughout town will bring out our sweetness! Letters to Santa can be mailed at Coast Highway Art Collective. Arena Theater will show the holiday movie 'Elf' at 4:00pm. Come early for the PAHS bake sale 2:00-4:00pm. Photos with Santa can be taken in the center of town at Centennial Plaza, time TBA, and Tree Lighting will take place there at 5pm. Come sing favorite old Christmas carols and watch with friends and neighbors as our town Christmas tree lights up.

Shops from the Cove to the Lighthouse, and up and down Main Street will have fabulous discounts and goodies. Make the rounds, find the raffles, sweet treats and live music and get into the holiday spirit! While each shop has its own hours of operation this is an all day event and some stores will be open late with live music until 7:00pm.

You can find locally made art and crafts at Coast Highway Art Collective, open this day from 11:00-7:00pm, where people will be celebrating with music by Bards of a Feather from 1:00-4:00pm, and with Bryn Harris, Keith Abrams and Tom Merline from 4:30-7:00pm. Come and shop for artwork and crafts by talented members of this community while enjoying the music and seasonal good cheer.

Even more crafts will be available at the Crafts Market in Druids Hall at 140 Main Street from 12:00-6:00pm with handmade gifts, stocking stuffers and decorations. From abalone shell earrings and keychains to painted purses and pottery, over a dozen vendors will display their wares. Candles,

wrist bands, tumblers, herbal body care products, jewelry, and much more – there will be an impressive variety of items at prices ranging from two dollars to two hundred dollars. Emma Hurley will have her ocean-themed printed clothing and Jennie Henderson's artistry can be seen in her weaving and surface design.

Take a scenic drive to the Lighthouse where locals from Timber Cove to Elk can enter free with ID, and the store is having a raffle of a \$150 gift basket. Marvel at our local history in the Fog Signal Building Museum and the magnificent views of the cliffs and ocean, and shop the huge discounts of 10% to 75% off in the Light Station Store. Or drive down to the cove where kids can sip a cup of hot cocoa, a discount of 10% is offered with receipt of purchase from local stores or the Crafts Market, and there will be 25% off logo clothing and glassware.

Starting at 3:00pm The Zen House will show off two extraordinarily rare motorcycles; an Italian 1939 Miller Balsamo, one of 3 in the world; and an historic, all original, military 1943 BSA with original toolkit. Meet the bikes' owners for Q&A at 3:00pm while shopping the annual holiday sale. Then from 4:00-6:00pm enjoy live music by acoustic duo Black Sugar Rose and complimentary hor d'oeuvres with Dave's Danish Glogg.

Or up the street drop by for jazz and a glass of wine at Think Visual showing paintings by Alysia Caulkins with artist reception 12:00-5:00pm, and a 15% discount on any art. There will be even more live music on December 11 at this Point Arena Merchants Association event so come to Pt. Arena for small town flavor and big time celebrations!



Gualala Arts

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Winter Wonderland at Gualala Arts Center: Open Daily*, Now thru December 30th.

Come and enjoy Holiday Music, Bell Ringers, Gifts, visits from Santa, Arts and Crafts from Local Vendors, plus Hanukkah Supplies incl. Menorahs, Candles, Dreidels & Macaroons, Santa's Mailbox, Silent Auction & Raffle, See's Candies, Mrs. Claus's Treats, and the Largest Selection of Trees on the Coast!

*except Christmas Day

The Dolphin Gallery is ready!

There are gifts, paintings, sculpture, woodwork, ceramics, glassware and more. And don't forget about the unique selection of gifts in Uncle Sus's Attic, available now through December 30. Dolphin Gallery is open Thursday through Monday.

4 New Chamber Concerts in 2022

January 9: David McCarroll

February 20: Alexander String Quartet

March 13: Eric Kritz & Friends

April 10: Gabrielle Després

Tickets: \$40 advance, \$45 at the door
Season tickets are also available.

Much Love to all of YOU . . .

. . . our artists, community, sponsors, donors, staff & volunteers! We would not be same without each and every one of you!

Gualala Arts: Open daily, 11 - 4

Dolphin: Open Thu-Mon, 11 - 4

Due to Mendocino County regulations, proof of Covid vaccine required for all TICKETED inside concerts & workshops, until further notice.

Gualala Arts and Dolphin Gallery require face masks for all, inside and outside during events.

"I never wore high heels in my hometown."

Lie Wen (1988-)

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Happy Holidays

Closed Christmas Day
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Words on Wellness • Chickweed, Mallow & More.

by Karin Uphoff

The amazing effects of rain are a shining bright green everywhere on the coast. What looked dead or dormant is rising vibrantly from the ground as young grasses, mosses, lichens and wild herbs wax in the winter sun. This is the time to supplement our diets with this lively abundance; especially as our garden greens begin to diminish. With just enough moisture, nature's pantry will sustain through the winter, so get into the habit of foraging for plantain, chickweed, mallow, miner's lettuce, cleavers, self-heal and the rogue leaves of nasturtium.

All of these gone-wild greens (many are non-native), are densely packed with vitamins A (beta carotene), C, K and various B's, plus more antioxidant compounds, than home grown greens. While identification is beyond the scope of this article, there are books and online tools to help you get started. Remember that a little herbal power-package goes a long way, only pick what you will eat. Chop a small handful of plantain leaves and add to salads or stir fry, or try stuffing chickweed into your taco or sandwich in lieu of sprouts. Some leaves like nasturtium and young radish have spicy flavors that lend themselves to inclusion in pesto and salsa. Bitters like yarrow, or sour sheep sorrel can



enhance a sauce, soup or salad dressing. Eating them raw, retains their vitamin C content for winter: miner's lettuce, chickweed, plus young blackberry and strawberry leaves have some of the highest levels.

The complex chemistry of wild plants adapting to current environmental conditions, can greatly enhance our own immunity because of their high polyphenol and flavonoid levels (2 types of antioxidants). Besides that, each plant has its particular gift; for instance the humble nasturtium leaf has been shown in studies to reduce DNA lesions and protect the myelin sheath of nerves. Essential oil extracted from the flowers and leaves (which you receive when you eat them), have antimicrobial, antifungal, hypotensive, expectorant and anticancer effects. That is what you are tasting in that peppery pop they have.

Wild greens growing near the sea are typically high in mineral content. For instance plantain leaf has sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, iron, copper, zinc, manganese and phosphorus in its leaves. This dense nutrition gathered from the earth is in a form easily understood and absorbed by the body - enjoy nature's gift with gratitude.

Karin C. Uphoff, is a Master Herbalist, Iridologist, Bodyworker and author of **Botanical Body Care: Herbs and Natural Healing for Your Whole Body**. Learn more at: www.karinuphoff.com. Image by barmanCZ from Pixabay..

Steller's Jay: "Beautiful Forehead"

Although blue, and a jay, our black-crested raucous friend is named Steller's Jay after the German explorer, Georg Wilhelm Steller, who, on an Arctic expedition in 1741, first "collected" this type of jay. This bird and its raspy call are known to most of us, as it has adapted remarkably well to humans. It is often seen on low branches around campsites or in our yards waiting for its opportunity to snatch up any part of our lunch or a bite of dog food.

The Steller's Jay has a dusky black head, crest, and back, and a dark blue body with heavily barred wings and tail. My favorite part is the beautiful forehead with its turquoise stripes. Males and females look alike.



In spring, rowdy flocks change to quiet secretive pairs at their nesting sites. The female incubates three to six light blue-green speckled eggs and is fed by the male.

The Steller's and the Blue Jay of the East Coast are the only jays with a crest and the only New World jays that use mud in their nests. The Blue Jay has expanded its range westward and where the two overlap they occasionally interbreed and produce hybrids.

These jays produce a scream that sounds amazingly like a Red-tailed Hawk. It is thought to be used to scare small songbirds from their nests, allowing jay to fly in and eat the eggs or nestlings.

Our thanks to the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society for contributing this article about the Heron. Each month, the Lighthouse Peddler features a bird regularly seen at or near the Mendocino Coast. More information is at www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org. Image by Amy Spielmaker from Pixabay

Animal Care & Omnivores & Carnivores by Cathy Riehm

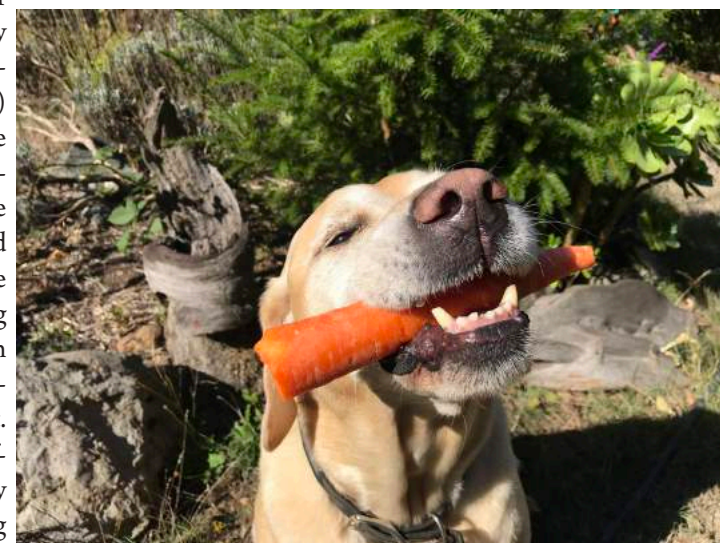
Rex's favorite treat is munching on a carrot. While he may need to get beta-carotene from his diet, his cat, The Texan, can actually convert vitamin A to beta-carotene. What are some differences in the needs of our cats, as carnivores, and our dogs, as omnivores?

Our kitties are obligate carnivores. A cat's natural diet is high in protein (requiring about twice as much protein as dogs), and low in carbohydrates. Historically, cats were able to get moisture in their diet from their prey. Cats have a lower stimulus for thirst than dogs. This decreased water intake causes cats to form more concentrated urine, which can make them more likely to develop crystals in their urine, and thus urinary tract infections, or even blockage. Many of our older kitties develop renal (kidney) disease- a low moisture diet can make it harder for cats to excrete phosphorous, urea and other metabolic waste by-products. Feeding canned cat food can provide more moisture in your cat's diet. Another possible effect of cats (especially seniors) not ingesting enough water is constipation.

Providing fiber by adding psyllium or canned pumpkin can help regulate your kitty's GI tract. Fiber can also help kitties who have trouble with hairballs. One very important requirement of cats is taurine, an essential amino acid. Dogs are able to make the taurine they need, but cats need to get taurine from a meat source in their diet.

Our dogs are omnivores. Dogs need to meet their amino acid requirements- more protein isn't necessarily better for dogs.

Ancestors of our canines would kill an herbivore and eat the intestinal contents, along with the organs and flesh. Like us, dogs get their nutrients from meats, grains and vegetables. If provided a balanced diet, dogs can be vegetarians, but not cats. Supplementing your dog's diet with colorful vegetables can help provide carotenoids that act as provitamins and antioxidants. Some fruits that can be added to your dog's diet include apples, blueberries, cantaloupe and watermelon. Do not feed them cherries, grapes, raisins and citrus fruits. Some veggies your dog might like are carrots, green beans, peas, zucchini and sweet potato. Pumpkin (canned or baked) is also good for your dog's GI system. Dangerous to give to your



dog are onions, garlic, rhubarb, wild mushrooms, and (some say) avocado. Corn is not usually recommended to feed dogs as it is a common allergen. When it comes to water intake, dogs usually self-regulate based on physiological need.

Ask your veterinarian and educate yourself on the particular nutritional needs of your pet. Pictured:

(Picture: Rex, the Omnivore.).

"Old Mill Site"

The Old Mill site sits on almost an acre just off Sunset Drive in Enchanted Meadows. Gently sloping land, redwoods abound. The shingle mill still stands with active water service, 3 bedroom perc test and electricity to site. This is a beautiful, very private parcel



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Gallery News from Elk and Gualala

During December **The Artists' Collective** in Elk will hold its annual Christmas Gift Show, open everyday 10:00am to 4:00pm. They will be featuring less expensive, hand made arts and crafts, appropriate for Christmas gifts. They'll also have cards and ornaments. Come meet some of the artists, different artist everyday.

The Artists' Collective in Elk is located at 6031 South Highway 1 in Downtown Elk. Original art makes wonderful holiday gifts! Information is at 707-877-1128.

Discovery Gallery Artist Collective extends an invitation to their gala Winter Art Event from 5:00pm to 7:00pm on December 3. There will be wonderful handcrafted holiday cards and one of a kind original gift items for your viewing and purchasing pleasure. They'll have food and drinks, and holiday music will be played, and the artists will be there to greet you. It is a great way to begin your holiday season. The gallery is at 39140 Hwy 1, Gualala, CA 95445. Open Thursday thru Tuesday, 10:00am to 4:00pm. They'd love to see you any time.

"The Danish Collector: Delacroix to Gauguin"

Exhibition on Screen Returns to Arena Theater, December 12

Exhibition on Screen returns to Arena Theater this month with "The Danish Collector: Delacroix to Gauguin" screening Sunday, December 12 at 1:00pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door or online.

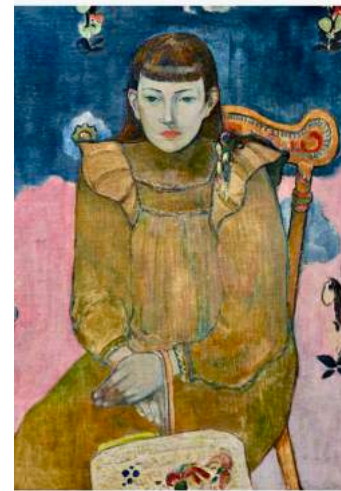
For many years no-one was interested in the art of the Impressionists. Artists like Monet, Degas and Renoir were vilified, attacked, and left penniless as a result.

Then, something remarkable happened. A new breed of collectors emerged and, before long, they were battling to acquire any work by these new, radical artists that they could find. Amongst them was the visionary Danish businessman Wilhelm Hansen. It was an extraordinary moment in art history; full of drama, intrigue and subterfuge. Some collectors we may recognize and

some we may not, but Hansen amassed a remarkable collection housed at his summer home, Ordrupgaard, on the outskirts of Copenhagen. Exhibition on Screen tells his fascinating story and, with exclusive access to a sell-out exhibition at London's Royal Academy, brings the extraordinary collection to the big-screen in glorious high-definition.

From Hansen's beautiful house and gardens at Ordrupgaard to the streets of bohemian Paris, this film takes you on a journey to discover some of the best examples of 19th-century French art ever collected.

All attendees must be fully vaccinated. The film is directed by David Bickerstaff and has a Running time of 90 minutes. Doors: 12:30 p.m. The Arena Theater Snack bar will be open.



Holiday at the Lodge: Part Two

Harrison Goldberg and Friends, December 23

On Thursday, December 23, from 6:00 to 9:00pm in The Fireside Room at The Sea Ranch Lodge, Sunset & Jazz with Harrison Goldberg and Friends presents Holiday at the Lodge, Part Two! a second 2021 Christmas-themed program, this time performed by Goldberg's stellar jazz trio JAZZIN'3.

The band features popular coastal jazz singer and guitarist Danny Barca, with Peter "Pete" Gealey on upright bass, and accompanied of course by Goldberg on saxophones. The trio will feature traditional Christmas favorites and holiday jazz standards, many with vocals and custom arrangements by Barca.

Most music lovers on the coast know Harrison Goldberg as a premier Jazz musician who also happens to be one of our neighbors. Respected by other musicians and by artists and galleries who have come to appreciate his multiple artistic talents.

Danny Barca has been a part of the Coast music scene since he arrived from the Bay Area in 1976. As a singer and guitarist, he has performed with all kinds of bands from the Mendocino All Star Big Band to smaller jazz combos, as well as playing in a

variety of other music styles. Most recently, he has appeared with Tenor Madness, the Francis Vanek Quartet, and Jazzin'3. As a singer/songwriter, he has produced three CDs of original songs: "No Separation," "A Certain Light" and "The Sky Above. These CDs will be available for purchase at the performance.

Jazz bassist Pete Gealey moved to the Mendocino Coast in 1977, and in 1995, along with his wife Mary & brother Dave,

opened the Headlands Coffeehouse which featured live music every night, much of it jazz. This of course gave him an ideal performance venue where he

frequently played with numerous local and visiting musicians over the next 25 years. Pete has enjoyed playing at many of our other Coastal venues as well, and is also an accomplished cartoonist with successful art shows and exhibitions to his credit.

Admission to this event is free, and the Bar and Lounge and Dining Room will be open per their regular schedules and menus. The Sea Ranch Lodge is located at 60 Sea Walk Drive, The Sea Ranch. For additional information please contact: community@these ranchlodge.com.



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The Metropolitan Opera Brings Two Special Operas For The Holidays
 "Eurydice" on December 4 • "Cinderella" on January 1

The Metropolitan Opera, The MET, returns to the screen at Arena Theater on Saturday, December 4 with its production of "Eurydice," and then on January 1 the MET will present Massenet's "Cinderella". Please note, for both operas: Doors open at 9:15am and the screening begins at 10:00am. Tickets may be purchased through the theater's website (ArenaTheater.org): \$24 for adults, \$18 for students, and \$22 for seniors. For season subscriptions please call the Arena Theater office at 707 882-3272.

The ancient Greek myth of Orpheus, who attempts to harness the power of music to rescue his beloved Eurydice from the underworld, has inspired composers since op-



era's earliest days. Brilliant American composer Matthew Aucoin now carries that tradition into the 21st century with a captivating new take on the story—a product of the Met's commissioning program. With a libretto by Sarah Ruhl, adapted from her acclaimed 2003 play, the opera reimagines the familiar tale from Eurydice's point of view. Yannick Nézet-Séguin oversees the December 4 transmission, leading Aucoin's evocative music and an immersive new staging by Mary Zimmerman. Soprano Erin Morley sings the title role, opposite baritone Joshua Hopkins as Orpheus and countertenor

Jakub Józef Orliński as his otherworldly alter-ego.

Orpheus is almost the archetypal operatic tale, and composers throughout history have adapted it for the operatic stage. But in his evocative new (2020) opera, celebrated American composer Matthew Aucoin reimagines the story from Eurydice's point of view and imbues these familiar characters with surprising new dimensions. "Eurydice" runs 165 minutes with one intermission.

On this New Year's Day's performance, Laurent Pelly's storybook staging of Massenet's "Cendrillon," a hit of the 2017-18 season, is presented with an all-new English translation in an abridged 90-minute adaptation, with mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard as its rags-to-riches princess. Maestro Emmanuel Villaume leads a delightful cast, which includes mezzo-soprano Emily D'Angelo as Cinderella's Prince Charming, and soprano Jessica Pratt as her Fairy Godmother.

Charles Perrault's 1698 fairy tale, the classic telling of the Cinderella story, is an excellent source for an opera—providing color, romance, and relatable themes for audiences of all ages. The work includes many moments in which Massenet is at his best and most widely accessible, from the pageantry and glowing musical nostalgia for the French baroque in the court scenes to the otherworldliness of the love music to the wit and humor that permeate the work.

Massenet's score features a preponderance of the lower female voices—including a mezzo-soprano as the object of Cinderella's affection—that were so favored by French composers in the 19th century. The result is an otherworldly yet sensual tonal palette that serves as a rich background for

this familiar tale. Against all the fairy-tale wonder of the score, the title character and her prince are recognizably human. Their love duet is a masterful moment emblem-



atic of Massenet's elegant style: The prince is lyrically effusive, while all of Cinderella's gushing emotion is expressed in refined yet poignant phrases.

For season subscriptions please call the Arena Theater office at 707 882-3272. Vaccine Requirement for Met Opera attendees at Arena Theater. All Met Opera audience members must be fully vaccinated. You are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after you have received a second dose in a two-dose vaccine series or two weeks after you have received a single-dose vaccine. Arena Theater will need to see proof of vaccination against Covid-19 with a vaccine approved by the U.S. FDA or by the World Health Organization. Please provide proof of vaccination through an original physical vaccination card or photograph of it upon arrival at the box office.

The Arena Theater snack bar will be open.

The Dolphin Gallery Has Holiday Gift Ideas For Everyone

A walk through the Dolphin Gallery will give gift buyers and collectors a wonderfully diverse assortment of gift items this holiday season. Of course there is art—paintings, prints, jewelry, sculpture, wood works—but there are also gift cards, photographs, wearables, and so much more to explore. The Dolphin may be the most unique stop on the coast for art and gift shopping. It's open Thursday through Monday from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Of particular fun each year at the Dolphin is browsing through Uncle Sus's Attic. The opening of the "Attic" is a sign that unusual gifts and treasures have been released from their confinement in attics, garages, storage spaces and odd corners around the house

to become gifts anew this holiday season. There are paintings, prints, tea sets, jewelry, candlesticks, vases and more. Residents and visitors donate items to the Dolphin, and each donation is a new or very lightly used item that will appeal to people shopping for a unique gift. It's a delightful way to repurpose items from your home, and all sales benefit Gualala Arts. In addition, there are stocking stuffers throughout the Dolphin. See's candies are also there for those with a sweet tooth. The Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop is at 39114 Ocean Drive, Cypress Village, Gualala. 707-884-3896.



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Haiku for December

"full cold moon
 transparent misty clouds
 float by"

by mai haiku

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If you live from Timber Cove to Elk you get 5% off non-sale items in the Point Arena Lighthouse Light Station Store on December 9th and 23rd AND a free gift with purchase. Also check our sale table with items up to 75% off! Show your local ID at the Entry Kiosk for free admission to the Light Station and find unique gifts for everyone on your list.

Open daily (except 12/14, 12/16 & Christmas Day) from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. 45500 Lighthouse Road, Point Arena

The Soundtrack Of Our Lives

by David Steffen

All of us have inherent talents, but creativity often needs some outside stimuli. It's like priming the pump. Sometimes drawing the creative juices to the surface is a matter of a simple nudge in one direction or another. I guess it's another way of acknowledging the ideas of nature and nurture. Even if we have some innate talent, creative people often need a push.

My writing talents (whatever they are) have been helped considerably by "outside forces," not insignificantly during my years at Fairfield University and New York University. Almost all of my instructors—adjuncts, lecturers, visiting professors, associate and full professors—managed to help me raise my level of writing. Similarly, the ability to play a musical instrument is not the same as being able to write a song. Much more is necessary. In fact, some very successful songwriters are not, necessarily great musicians, and being able to write a song is not the same as writing a hit.

In post-1950 America, the musical instrument of choice for teenagers (mostly boys) was the guitar, and the choice was made for two simple reasons, both of which are borne out in the concept of "natural selection." First, beginners learned to play the guitar because, well, it was an instrument that, with a softcover book by Mel Bay along with repeated listening to 45-rpm singles, could be self-taught. Second, pop music songs (and country music and rhythm & blues, for that matter) are based on a three-chord progression, known to musicians as I—IV—V (pronounced "one, four five.") Musically, the foundational chords were C, F, and G.

This past week I watched—for the 3rd or 4th time—the film "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil". Set in Savanna, Georgia, the music of prolific lyricist (and occasional composer) Johnny Mercer becomes a subtext in the screenplay. At film's end, I found myself thinking about some of the hit songs created by Mercer—sometimes on his own, more often as a lyricist with a musical collaborator. The list is impressive. It includes "One for My Baby (and One More for the Road)", "That Old Black Magic" and "Come Rain or Come Shine". Coincidentally, I found myself looking through a list of Rolling Stone Magazine's "100 Greatest Songwriters of All Time". While reading through the list, I began to notice that often the music was instantly on playback in my head. I could

hear almost every song as if the radio was on right next to me. The list of songwriters and their songs was almost overwhelming. Here are my thoughts on some of those talented people from the birth of rock 'n' roll.

In the 1950s, Elvis Presley recorded (at least) three songs written by Otis Blackwell: "Don't be Cruel", "All Shook Up" and "Return to Sender". Blackwell, who was Black, was also the writer who gave the song "Great Balls of Fire" to Jerry Lee Lewis and that, in turn, provided Sun Records label owner Sam Phillips with cash flow and profits. There was clearly no color barrier when Presley and Lewis—both white—recorded Blackwell's songs.

Successful husband and wife songwriting teams are not common place, but they do exist in the world of popular music. Felice and



Boudleaux Bryant cranked out hit songs for years. One of their hits was "Love Hurts" recorded by Roy Orbison in the 1960s. A decade later, I was working for A&M Records in Chicago when I found myself working a version by the Scottish band Nazareth. Their single of "Love Hurts" entered the Top-10 in 1974.

And while we're talking about songwriting couples, consider the original songs from Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil. "On Broadway" (The Drifters), "Uptown" (The Crystals), "We Gotta Get Out Of This Place" (The Animals), and "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" (Righteous Brothers). During their marriage, Carole King and Gerry Goffin delivered a string of now classic hits like "Up On The Roof" (Drifters), "Will You Love Me Tomorrow" (Shirelles), and "One Fine Day" (The Chiffons). Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry wrote "Then He Kissed Me," and "River Deep Mountain High."

Motown had its share of amazing song-

writers, and there was a couple among them. When you think of "Ain't No Mountain High Enough" (Diana Ross) or "Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing" (Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell), you may not know that the songwriters were also a couple: Nick Ashford and Valerie Simpson. They had their own hits including "Found A Cure" and "Solid as a Rock".

Marvin Gaye became a solid songwriter who co-wrote "What's Goin On", as well as "Let's Get It On" and "Sexual Healing". Gaye may have had the bedroom in mind. but these songs went mainstream.

Another force in the soundtrack of my life was Sam Cooke. Think about "You Send Me", "Cupid", and "Twistin' the Night Away." And for anyone who thinks that Cooke was writing only songs that were just good American

pop music, go back and listen to one of his most enduring songs: "A Change is Gonna Come." Cooke, who died in 1964, didn't live to see the federal legislation that passed just a couple of years later, and the elevation of his song as an anthem of the Civil Rights movement.

Like Sam Cooke, Curtis Mayfield displayed his songwriting chops with "People Get Ready", "Keep on Pushing", and "It's All Right", as well as "Fool For You," "This is My Country" and "Choice Of Colors". Civil rights were woven into much of Mayfield's repertoire.

My introduction to Lucinda Williams was standing in a record store in Portland, Oregon. The store's owner (and my friend Terry Courier) and I were chatting when the store's sound system brought us "Car Wheels on a Gravel Road" and "Right On Time." Williams, too, has often delivered hot love through vinyl grooves.

The name David Porter may not be as quickly recognized, but he co-wrote hit songs with Isaac Hayes, including "Soul Man", "Hold On, I'm Comin'" and "I Thank You" which all became hits by Sam & Dave.

Burt Bacharach and Hal David were powerhouse composers for decades. Consider their work with Dionne Warwick: "I Say a Little Prayer," "Walk on By" and "Anyone Who Had a Heart." There were many more: "Alfie", "I'll Never Fall in Love Again", and "Do You Know the Way to San Jose?" Bacharach music is still easily recognized to this day.

Chuck Berry not only wrote songs that became danceable rock 'n' roll anthems,

but he showed a generation of young musicians what a dynamic stage presence looks like. Berry was in his 70s when we saw him perform in Connecticut. He could out-stage many much younger performers.

In his short life (and even shorter career), Buddy Holly gave us a treasure trove of hit songs: "That'll Be the Day," "Rave On," "Everyday," "Oh Boy," "Peggy Sue," "Not Fade Away," and so many others.

In 1965 I had the pleasure of seeing the self-professed 'hardest working man in show business,' James Brown. Much of his music transcended race and color but his impact was measured way beyond the 1960s with "Papa's Got a Brand New Bag," "Say it Loud, I'm Black and I'm Proud," "It's A Man's World" and "Please Please Please." The 'Godfather of Soul' was one of a kind.

I could write another 1000 words about the legacy of Bob Dylan, George Harrison, Paul McCartney, John Lennon, Keith Richards, and Mick Jagger.

Smokey Robinson gave us "Shop Around," "My Girl," "My Guy," "Ain't That Peculiar," "The Tracks of My Tears," "I Second That Emotion," "Going to A Go Go."

Songwriters Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller gave us "Jailhouse Rock", "Yakety Yak," "Kansas City," "On Broadway" and many more. Brian and Eddie Holland along with Lamont Dozier were the writing team behind so much of Motown's hits in the 1960s. Songs like "You Keep Me Hangin' On." Look at a Motown label and you'll very often find this songwriter credit: Holland-Dozier-Holland.

Brian Wilson and the Beach Boys gave us plenty of songs and recordings, and they also helped teenagers who lived a thousand miles from any ocean feel the surf.

Stevie Wonder wrote and recorded "Higher Ground," "Living for the City," "You Are the Sunshine of My Life," "I Just Called to Say I Love You," "Signed, Sealed, Delivered (I'm Yours)," "Uptight (It's Alright)," and of course "Fingertips"—Part 1 and 2.

The songwriters who emerged during the 1950s and 1960s left their mark on American music. But it wasn't a small, intimate clique. It was hundreds of talented songwriters. They were then, and subsequent generations of songwriters continue to be a cross-section of America. Black, white, female, male, solo practitioners, like-minded friends and husbands and wives. Take a moment. Pull out a 45, or a vinyl album, a CD if that's your thing, or listen online. Whatever your music, I hope it provides you the same memories that I carry with me all these years later.

Images (clockwise from upper left): Boudleaux and Felice Bryant; Carole King and Gerry Goffin; Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil; Ellie Greenwich and Jeff Barry.

"The Lincoln Highway"

A Book by Amor Towles • Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

The master storyteller is back with a rollicking road trip that nonetheless wrestles with thorny moral questions.

In Amor Towles' incomparable *A Gentleman in Moscow*, Tennyson's tale of Ulysses sounded a recurring note as the favorite poem of a man condemned to remain in a single building for the rest of his life. Towles' latest novel, *The Lincoln Highway*, offers up a full-on odyssey in which the Trojans' wine-dark sea is replaced by good old American macadam and the infinite promise of the open road.

As Towles notes at the beginning of *Highway*, his three books (the third being *Rules of Civility*) tell distinctly different tales, though by now we certainly know the voice and style of this consummate storyteller.

Here, the tale, set over 10 days in June of 1954, revolves around three 18-year-old boys — Emmett Watson, Duchess Hewitt, and Woolly Martin, whom the Fates have thrown together at a juvenile reformatory in Salina, Kansas — and Emmett's 8-year-old brother, Billy.

Emmett and Billy hail from the tiny farming community of Morgen, Nebraska, where Emmett's solid punch to a bully's nose, together with "the ugly side of chance," lead to the boy's death and Emmett's confinement. Emmett is released early when their father, Charlie, dies, and the bank forecloses on the farm.

Unfortunately for Emmett's plan of a new start with Billy, Duchess and Woolly stow away in the trunk of the warden's car, happy to make Emmett's fresh start their own.

Billy's plan, which he lays out to Emmett as a map of nine postcards sent by their fleeing mother back in 1946, is to retrace her route from their house along the Lincoln Highway all the way to San Francisco to find her. Duchess' plan is to settle up accounts — both debts and collections — with several people and then liberate the cash equivalent of Woolly's trust fund from a safe in the Martin family's summer camp in the Adirondacks and split it three ways. Conflicting geography is the least of the incompatibilities in their various intentions.

For his part, Woolly is the innocent of all innocents, taking in the world with a child-like sense of wonder, which is accompanied by an innocent's clarity of perception. He understands that, whether it was a boarding school or a boy's prison, every day was

certain to be "an every-day day," which prepared well-heeled students and shoddy inmates alike for an entire existence of every-day days. Oppressed by these expectations for "the one-thousand-page version of one's own life," Woolly is instead searching for "a one-of-a-kind kind of day."

In many ways, Charlie Watson was a similar innocent, having ditched the demands and expectations of wealth by stealing his bride away from their old-money Boston families and striking out to prove his mettle on the Great Plains. To their misfortune,

he was not cut out to be a farmer, and his bride was not cut out to be a farmer's wife. Much like Woolly, she finally realized "what joy could be if only she were willing to leave her daily life behind."

In so doing, she also left behind a 10-year-old Emmett and an infant Billy. Emmett's life lesson from that early abandonment and from watching his unwise, unlucky, debt-ridden father is to get as far away from farming as possible

and to pay off debts or, more crucially, never to incur them in the first place. That includes dissuading his neighbor Sally from helping him and Billy in any way that leaves him beholden to her — though he is forced to ask for her help more than once. He doesn't want to owe anyone anything.

Duchess, a loquacious charmer with the patter of a conman and a sharp-eyed view of human nature, has abandonment issues of his own. Still, he has managed to develop a sketchy but well-meaning personal code of ethics built on its own interior logic.

When he and Woolly drive off in Emmett's Studebaker for New York — leaving Emmett and Billy to hitch to the city on freight trains — he is merely borrowing it. And when he begins to spend the money Charlie left for Emmett, he has every intention of paying it back. After all, he is the only one of the three actually innocent of the crime that sent him to Salina, having been framed by his dissolute father.

As with any good odyssey, this one is peopled with characters who flit through the story in cameos to move the plot, thwart progress, or add flavor. There is the wise, patient Sister Agnes; the malevolent Pastor John; an actual Ulysses separated from his wife and son and wandering the country; Emmett's bunkmate from Salina, Townhouse; Professor Abacus Abernathie, whose book of adventurers Billy keeps close and

reads aloud for any who will listen; Woolly's suffering but loving sister Sarah (and her angry, entitled husband, whom Woolly thinks of as "Dennis," quotes and all); and a large cast of others.

Arguably, that cast is a tad too large, and some of the stories range too far afield, but this is Amor Towles in an antic mood, and many of his readers will be willing to follow him wherever he leads. In this case, playing against type, especially for what is at heart a comic novel, he leads us to a morally ambiguous ending.

The four travelers indeed make their various ways to the remote Martin family "camp" — as only old money can call a huge, beautiful manor house on its own private lake — for the inevitable collision between Emmett and Duchess, with their conflicting plans, intentions, and codes of honor.

In a novel that wrestles with thorny questions of moral culpability — such as, if we mean no harm but cause harm nonetheless, how much does our intent weigh in the balance, and what punishment should we accrue? — *The Lincoln Highway* ends with another question: If we are unknowingly the author of another's misfortune, how is that debt recorded on our moral balance sheet? Towles leaves us to ponder.

Jennifer Bort Yacovissi grew up in Bethesda, MD, just a bit farther up the hill from Washington, DC, where her debut novel, Up the Hill to Home, takes place. The novel is a fictionalized account of her mother's family in DC from the Civil War to the Great Depression. In addition to writing and reading historical and contemporary literary fiction, Jenny reviews for both the Independent and the Historical Novel Society. She owns a small project-management and engineering consulting firm, and enjoys gardening and being on the water. Jenny lives with her husband, Jim, in Crownsville, MD.

Third Thursday Poetry Hosts A Virtual "Open Mic Solstice Reading & Party" December 16

On Thursday, December 16 at 7:00pm, The Third Thursday Poetry Reading Series will host a virtual "Open Mic Solstice Reading & Party". There will be no featured reader, but instead they will have a Zoom party with poetry and conversation. To watch or participate as an open mic reader, please email blake@snakelyone.com or find them on Facebook at [facebook.com/thirdthursdaypoetry](https://www.facebook.com/thirdthursdaypoetry).

Third Thursday Poetry Zoom made possible by the Arena Theater and continues to be supported by Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation.

December's Reading List Best Sellers and Best Bets

"Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else's shoes for a while."

Malorie Blackman (1962-)

- *The Devil's Sea* by Clive Cussler
- *Where Snow Angels Go* by Maggie O'Farrell
- *Midnight in Washington* by Adam Schiff
- *Renegades* by Barack Obama and Bruce Springsteen
- *The Storyteller* by Dave Grohl
- *The Boys* by Ron Howard and Clint Howard
- *The House of Gucci* by Sara G. Forden
- *Talking to Strangers* by Malcolm Gladwell
- *Gilded* by Marissa Meyer
- *Our Violent Ends* by Chloe Gong
- *Daughter of the Deep* by Rick Riordan
- *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- *How H.G. Wells Predicted the 20th Cent.* by Claire Tomalin
- *The 1619 Project* by Nikole Hannah-Jones
- *Will* by Will Smith
- *The Judge's List* by John Grisham
- *Mercy* by David Baldacci

Another Book You Might Like*

*. *The Lincoln Highway*
A Book by Amor Towles
(See review on this page)

The Lighthouse Peddler is pleased to bring our readers a list of the best-selling books being picked up and read by locals and visitors alike. Our thanks to Four-Eyed Frog Books, a Community-owned Bookstore.

5	9	2	7	6	3	4	1	8
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8	1	3	2	5	4	7	6	9
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6	2	5	6	1	9	7	8	3
9	8	1	4	3	5	2	6	7
1	4	8	3	6	2	9	7	5
3	9	6	5	4	8	9	2	1
2	5	9	6	1	7	3	8	4

Solution to Sudoku

Scuttlebutt

by Mitch McFarland

A couple of things caught my eye this month. First up is yet another amazing use of nature's miracle plant- marijuana. I know, you aren't suppose to call it marijuana or weed or any of those other names that were used before it went mainstream. You are supposed to call it cannabis if you smoke or eat it, but you call it hemp if you are going to build your house out of it.

Do you think that is crazy? A guy in Britain named Steve Barron has built his house out of the hemp that he grew on his own property. He is a music video producer by trade, but bought a small dis-used wheat farm and converted it to a hemp farm.

I have read that 30 – 40% of greenhouse gas emissions come from the construction and building industry as well as a similar percentage comprising landfills. Finding carbon neutral construction materials is a must for an ever-expanding world if we are really interested in having a sustainable planet.

Cambridge University biomaterials researcher Darshil Shah, who consulted on the project, claims a hemp field can sequester 3-4 times as much carbon as a typical forest. Shah, who is senior researcher at the Centre for Natural Material Innovation at Cambridge, says that hemp absorbs between 8 to 15 tonnes of CO2 per hectare of cultivation per year compared to a typical forest, which absorb between 2 and 6 tonnes.

But how can a plant become construction material?

The stems of the plant have, of course, been known for centuries for their hardy fiber, but they now can be mixed with bio-based resins to create compression moulded roof tiles, siding, and numerous other items. Shah points out it can be used to "replace fiberglass, composites, aluminum and other materials in a range of applications."

The shives of the plant, that is, the fibrous material inside the stems, can be put together with lime and water to make hempcrete, which stores heat rather than simply transmitting it. Barron claims that this drastically reduces the need for additional heating in the winter while having the opposite effect in the summer.

Barron described hemp's properties as "amazing". "The thermal insulation on the hempcrete blocks is fantastic," he said, adding that the acoustic properties make the home sound like "you're in a recording studio".

His home was designed to be factory-built, allowing it to go up very quickly.

The most amazing thing to me about the house is that it continues to absorb carbon even after it is constructed, making it ultimately carbon negative.

Barron states that since his project has become known, "We've probably had three or four hundred architects who have emailed us".

The next up on our tour of sustainability is solar power. It has been estimated that to power the entire world with solar energy would require about 191,805 sq. mi of surface area. That is a little less than the land surface of Colorado and Wyoming combined. That sounds like a lot and it is, but it is still only .33% of the Earth's land surface. Consider also that the United Nations estimates that 65,600 sq. mi of land is deforested each year.

Of course, the other things to consider are that much of the required area will be on rooftops, not the ground and we are not, and should not be, planning to power the whole world with only solar power. There is wind, tidal, geothermal, and numerous other carbon free energy sources to be tapped (but not the super expensive nuclear power).

Nevertheless, a lot of land area is going to have to be devoted to solar arrays if solar voltaic energy is to play a major role in our future energy mix. This has caused some concern in the agricultural community as it is rightly claimed that even more food will need to be grown to feed our growing planetary population.

No problem is without a solution if you are looking for one and this apparent dilemma can be mitigated by something called agrivoltaics. It turns out that by raising the height of solar arrays just a bit allows for the cultivation of food beneath the panels.

The U.S. Department of Energy is funding a quest for best uses of lands around solar farms. The project, called In SPIRE, involves the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory and other partners conducting research at 25 sites nationwide.

In Longmont, Colorado, Jack's Solar Farm offers another example of solar meeting agriculture. Instead of wheat and hay as before, the farm's 24 acres host 3,276 panels, generating enough power for about 300 homes. Beneath them grow tomatoes, squash, kale and green beans. With less direct sunlight, they lose less water to evaporation, reducing irrigation demand. And the plants keep panels cooler, boosting performance. The inverters there generate enough power for 300 homes to use in a year. Kominick hopes to soon grow enough food beneath the pan-

els to maybe feed as many local families.

Growing agricultural crops under the shade of solar panels uses water much more efficiently while shielding plants from the worst of the midday heat.

Cornell University researcher Niko Kochendoerfer says initial data from her three-year study shows light grazing — about eight sheep per acre — produces abundant bees and wildflowers, while keeping plants from shading panels. Some rare bee species are also turning up.

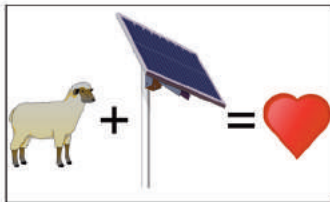
Farmers get \$300 to \$550 per acre yearly to graze sheep at solar sites, increasing farm

income while sparing them the cost of renting or buying pasture, said Kochendoerfer, who owns about 400 sheep with her fiancée, Lewis Fox. Grazing is less expensive than traditional site management, she said.

Fox has sheep at solar sites from southern Pennsylvania to Vermont "Certain times of the year ... the sites will be like a butterfly house in a zoo — there's just butterflies everywhere," he said. Pollinator-friendly solar installations can also boost crop yields at surrounding farms. The ground shading and increased evaporation provided by a healthy layer of undergrowth can actually cool solar panels, increasing their energy output.

At a University of Arizona site, cherry tomato yields are doubled and require less water when grown in the shade of solar panels.

These are the type of ideas that need support if we are to avoid the worst of climate change. We may have a federal government that currently feels the same. Let's hope so.



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SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

(Answer appears elsewhere in this issue)

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The 17th Annual Brandybuck Studio Holiday Bizarre Bazaar Made Local • Shop Local • Go Local—December 4 and 5

Seventeen—or as it is otherwise expressed, 17—is a lucky number. It's lucky for all of us because it marks the return of the Brandybuck Pottery Studio's Annual Bizarre Bazaar. Although it is clearly the 17th year of this event, the artists and crafts people who are the backbone of this community event believe either [a] 13 is a lucky number, or [b] because some cultures follow lunar calendars which follow (more or less) 12 and a half months and it rounds up to 13, or [c] the patron saints of the Bizarre Bazaar decided that it will always be the 13th. Not surprisingly, it makes perfect sense to the staff of the Lighthouse Peddler. Now, about this wonderful event.

Welcome to the 17th year of the 13th Annual Bizarre Bazaar. As one enters the studio turning the door handle will acquaint you with one of the imaginative works created by a past student. On that Saturday, eighteen years ago, outside in the meadow, entertainment was provided by a group of local tribal belly dancers accompanied by live musicians. The weather was brilliantly sunny adding to a magical aspect of the day.

Brandybuck's Pottery Studio Holiday Sale "Bizarre Bazaar" has provided coast residents the opportunity to shop local and

support our hometown artisans. Brandybuck Pottery Studio is again hosting this very popular holiday event the first weekend of December. Open from 10:00am to 4:00pm both days, visitors will have ample time to shop. The studio will be following guidelines from Mendocino County due to Covid. The number of shoppers may be limited in our small space to provide social distancing.

Although Brandybuck Studio is a pottery studio, on this weekend the studio is transformed into a wonderland of gift displays at affordable prices. The selection of items is unique to our Mendocino coast. Local handmade items include

jewelry, by Marla Skibbins, Michelle Kirby, and Susan May, clothing by Emma Hurley, culinary delights such as jams, spices and chutneys by Allan and Astrid, soaps by Joel Kies, magnets by Jim Hayes, mystical images by Carol Williams, wood ornaments by Janet Loxley and, of course, pottery by Bea Acosta, Cyndy McPeak, Gretchen Barton, Brenda Phillips, Justin York, Kevin Hofer, and Kaye Like. There is always a second table where bargains abound.

Follow the signs to the decorated fence on Ten Mile Road across from the ridge entrance to Schooner Gulch Road.



Trio Enchantment Bring Music to the Sea Ranch Lodge A Christmas-themed Program December 9

On Thursday, December 09, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm in The Fireside Room at The Sea Ranch Lodge, Sunset & Jazz with Harrison Goldberg and Friends presents Holiday at the Lodge, a Christmas-themed program performed by his group Trio Enchantment.

Joining Goldberg on his three saxophones, the band includes local coast jazz guitarist/composer/arranger Chris Doering on seven-string



guitar and guitar synthesizer, and Petaluma-based upright bassist Trevor Kinsel. Along with a repertoire of jazz standards and iconic Bossa Novas, the trio will feature traditional Christmas favorites - a selection of Yuletide Songs and Carols both ancient and modern showcasing the arranging skills of Doering.

Chris Doering is a composer who performs locally as a soloist in multiple small groups including, of course, Trio Enchantment. He has appeared in concert at the

Gualala Arts Center with the improvising ensemble Baku, alongside Harrison Goldberg; with the Wind in The Wires trio including shakuhachi master Karl Young and the late poet and didgeridoo player, Janet Debar; and most recently with The Open

Air, a quartet including fellow guitarist/bassist Tim Mueller along with Karl Young on shakuhachi and drummer Gabe Yanez.

Trevor Kinsel is one of the Bay Area's most sought after musicians. Although he most often serves as an accompanist, Kinsel enjoys leading musical groups as well. Audiences enjoy his unique program that features, along with great musicians, some singular and compelling arrangements.

Admission to this event is free, and the Bar and Lounge and Dining Room will be open per their regular schedules. The Sea Ranch Lodge is located a 60 Sea Walk Drive, The Sea Ranch.

The Month of December Spells Fun at The Sea Ranch Lodge

Saturday, December 4, 4:00pm:

Arthur Drooker Book Signing: Come and meet Arthur Drooker as he shares and signs his new book "LIGHT ON THE LAND". Accompanied by architect Obie G. Bowman.

Thursday, December 9, 6:00pm

Jazz Night (see story on page 13).

Thursday, December 16, 4:00pm:

Donlyn Lyndons Exhibit Sneak Peek Reception. Continues through January 31.

Saturday, December 18, 6:00pm:

Don Krieger will be singing with the chorus Coastal Singers with Sue Bohlin directing a number of great songs.

Saturday, December 19, 5:00pm:

Don Krieger will be playing on the keyboard your favorite Christmas and Holiday music.

Monday, December 20, 5:30pm:

The Sea Ranch Lodge hosts a Carol Sing. Bring friends and family and join Don Krieger in singing Holiday carols.

Tuesday, December 21, 5:00pm

Don Krieger plays favorite Christmas and Holiday music on his keyboard. The restaurant will be closed, the Bar and Lounge will be open for lite bites and beverages.

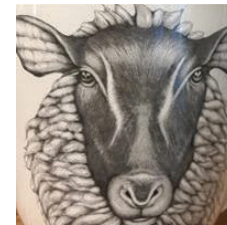
Thursday, December 23, 6:00pm

Jazz Night (see story on page 8).

Friday, December 31, 9:00pm

NYE Studio 54 Celebration. The Lodge will be ringing in the new year to some old Studio 54 tracks and vibes throughout the evening! Dinner reservations are required. To rsvp please subscribe to their newsletter. They'll be sending out invitations in the coming weeks.

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Sounds from the meadow
- 5 Cry like a baby
- 9 Word with "gift" or "thrift"
- 13 Cattle breed
- 15 "The Mod Squad" coif
- 16 Fillable bread
- 17 Everybody's opposite
- 18 Fight stopper
- 19 Pasty-faced
- 20 One who etches
- 22 Sofa's cousin
- 24 Nile wader
- 25 Do museum work
- 26 Black currant liqueur
- 29 Fourth-down player, often
- 30 Up in the air
- 32 Anger, with "up"
- 35 Genetic letters
- 36 Part of DWTS
- 39 Atlantic food fish
- 40 Fill beyond full
- 42 Future organ giver's document
- 44 Casual top
- 47 ____ Forge, PA
- 48 Film material
- 50 Gambling game
- 51 Sheiks' bevies
- 52 One of the ancient Seven Wonders
- 56 Chrome alternative
- 57 Glade or green starter

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51						52				53	54	55	
56					57	58				59			
60					61					62			
63					64					65			

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- 59 Renter's document
- 60 Lily plant
- 61 Quarterback's protection
- 62 Hole-boring tool
- 63 Scout groups
- 64 Crumbly cheese
- 65 Pear homophone

- 6 Way off
- 7 Kind of humor
- 8 Give some slack
- 9 Splash in drops
- 10 Like some fiction
- 11 Survey choice
- 12 Check casher
- 14 Pelican or puffin
- 21 Scenic outlook
- 23 Jersey time zone
- 25 Altercation
- 26 Cows' mouthfuls
- 27 Tolstoy heroine
- 28 Double-barreled weapon
- 29 Lace edging
- 31 Agassi of tennis
- 33 Old stories

DOWN

- 1 Source of misery
- 2 Mysterious by-line, for short
- 3 Keyed up
- 4 Eagles tune
- "Tequila ____"
- 5 Makes a cake

- 34 Water whirl
- 37 Hemingway work
- 38 Snack bar?
- 41 Holds high
- 43 Macro lens shot
- 45 Omelet ingredient
- 46 In and of ____
- 48 On the horizon
- 49 Core members
- 50 Where Hawkeye served
- 52 Dime division
- 53 It's a long story
- 54 "Ruse" anagram
- 55 Dried up
- 58 Compete (for)

Point Arena Merchants Association's Hometown Holidays, December 11

- 7a-7p: Arena Market and Café
10% off member purchases
Free gifts with purchases over \$500
Live Music
- 9:30-7p: Good Buy Clothes
Complimentary snacks
- 10a-3:30 The Point Arena Lighthouse
Holiday sale 10% - 75% off
\$150 Gift Basket Raffle
Complimentary cookies and mulled cider
- 10a-5p: Roots Herbal Apothecary
Holiday sale 15% Off
- 11a-5p: My Sister's Marketplace
Holiday Sale 10% - 50% off
Complimentary sweets
- 11a-7p Lisa's Luscious
Complimentary wrapped candies
- 11a-7p: Think Visual
Alysia Caulkins paintings reception 1p-5p
15% discount on art
Jazz music, wine and snacks
- 11a-7p: Coast Highway Art Collective
Hand crafted holiday gifts
Bard of a Feather 1-4
Bryn Harris, Keith Abrams and Tom Merline 4:30 - 7
- 11a-7p: Chowder House and Tap Room
Complimentary hot cocoa (for children)
10% discount w/ receipt from merchant or craft vendor
25% off logo glassware and clothing
- 12p-6p Crafts Market at Druids Hall
Hand crafted gifts
Christmas decorations and stocking stuffers
- 12p-4p: PAHS Bake Sale at Arena Theater
Home baked holiday goodies
- 3p-6p: The Zen House
Holiday Sale 10%-30% off
Motorcycle Event 3:00
Black Sugar Rose 2:00 - 4:00
Complimentary Hor d'oeuvres and Danish Glogg
- 4p-7p: Franny's Cup and Saucer
Complimentary chai tea & cookies
- 4p Arena Theater Holiday Movie 'ELF'
- 5p: Tree Lighting Ceremony
- TBD: Odd Fellows Toy Drive
Complimentary Hot Cider with toy donation

Holiday Crazies!

By Sally Marshall

According to Merriam-Webster, a holiday is a day set aside to commemorate an event or a religious observation. So, when did Thanksgiving and Christmas become a consumer frenzy? The true significance of these holidays has been buried under mountains of consumer goods, all made in China, all brightly packaged and waiting for the stores to open on the first official day of holiday shopping – strangely called Black Friday (?).

I won't go into Wal Mart on Black Friday. The store actually puts up special barricades to the entrance as if preparing for an invasion of Huns. The parking lot is filled with garage-size SUV's and monster trucks on steroids, all volleying for parking space – not for me and my little truck. The other thing – and this is important – I hate shopping!! I am evidently missing the “shopping gene” in my DNA, because I would rather have a root canal than have to go holiday shopping. I am not thrilled to enter a store bathed in red and green holiday cheer, and I get nervous and irritable in crowds; I have absolutely no talent for finding “just the right gift” for anyone, and I am successful only at buying gifts for little children. One year I bought a little farm set for my niece, complete with farm animals, a fence, tractor, truck, and a barn that folded into a carrying case – just because I would have liked that when I was a kid. She loved it. She dragged that farm set around with her everywhere. So, I handle the problem of gifts for family by baking cookies. I'm really good at this because my grandma, who was an excellent baker, taught me the art of baking.

During my childhood (1940's-50's), our family lived together in grandma's big house overlooking Lake Michigan, where the holidays were a grand event. The large dining room would be opened, revealing an elaborate chandelier, heavy wine-colored drapery and a huge table that was only used for special occasions. The legs of this table had claw feet and, as a little kid, I imagined it prowling around at night when everyone was asleep. Grandma worked from early morning to make Thanksgiving dinner. As she did the baking, I would hover near her to watch the magic unfold as her hands deftly kneaded the dough, humming to herself while she worked. When dinner was ready and all the relatives had arrived, we would settle down around the table and say a blessing. The best part for us kids was getting to sample the sweet red Mogan David wine in little cut crystal sherry glasses. The wine warmed our tummies and settled us down so we behaved ourselves. The only other time we got to sample alcohol was

when we were sick and grandma made us a “hot toddy” which was a combination of honey, lemon, and a bit of whiskey in hot water. This actually worked as a cure because it made us sleep; so, we grew up with the firm conviction that alcohol should be used for “medicinal purposes”.

My older sister was one of those people, like my grandma, who could pull off a holiday dinner perfectly without getting a hair out of place. I am not one of those people, although my mom secretly wished I could be more like her instead of the train wreck I turned out to be. I still remember my one and only Thanksgiving dinner I attempted when I was first married, inviting the in-laws from both sides of our families (I can do this – right?). I started the turkey roast very early and then set out on a mission to create Thanksgiving dinner. At about 11:00 a.m., I was losing control of my sanity: every time I opened the oven, the turkey yelled “I'm not done yet”; the potatoes nesting in a bowl taunted me with whippers and giggling; the green beans kept reminding me to add those fried onions they like so much; and the pies just regarded me with disdain. I eyed the bottle of wine that was to be set out for dinner, opened it and had several generous “medicinal” slugs to settle my nerves. Then I called my mother and she came over to help me out, bringing another bottle of wine-Yes! By the time the guests arrived, the wine was half gone, I was quite “shnockered” and mom had pretty much taken over the dinner, albeit slightly inebriated herself – but she saved the day.

Then, guess what? We get to do this all over again – Christmas!! When I was a child, the big event was getting the Christmas tree. Grandma's house had very large rooms and high ceilings, so my dad and two uncles would come home with an enormous tree, which we all helped decorate with an assortment of ornaments that were handed down from past generations and were uniquely beautiful and fragile. After the ornaments were carefully arranged on the tree (with grandma's stern supervision), the lights installed and the tinsel hung, dad would do the “plug in ceremony” and the tree would glow in brilliant yellow, green, red and blue bulbs. Then, grandma would

go up to her room for a well-earned “rest” and a couple of shots from her stash of whiskey, and I would lay down under the tree and imagine I was a tiny fairy flitting among the lights and ornaments.

On Christmas Eve, as kids usually are, we were so wound up waiting for Santa we couldn't sleep, so we would sneak over to the staircase landing and watch the grown-ups talking in the living room. They were so elegant and sophisticated, drinking cocktails, the smoke from their cigarettes rising up from the lighted lampshades. Mom in her blue velvet dress, grandma in her black suit and pearls, and everyone enjoying a pleasant evening, unaware of the mischievous pairs of eyes from above.

Even as a little kid I was a bit suspicious of the Santa story, where a very fat man in a fuzzy red suit, carrying a large sack of presents, is supposed to slide down the inside of our chimney. I remember looking up the chimney of our big fireplace and thinking “this is not going to work”. Then, there was visiting Santa Claus at the department store.

We all got into dad's big old Buick sedan and went downtown to Gimbels to pay a visit to Santa. There I was, sitting on Santa's lap, my hands folded in supplication, as I studied his long, white beard and thinking “that doesn't look like a real beard”. We were supposed to tell Santa what we wanted for Christmas, but I was busy examining his beard, so Santa finally said “how about a little dolly?” This brought me back to attention because what I really wanted was a tray of Prang watercolor paints and some drawing paper. But I was too late - that Christmas I got a doll. The only doll I ever got that I really bonded with was a Raggedy Ann, which had such a look of docile stupidity on its face that I felt the need to protect it with my life. I kept that doll for years until I decided I wanted a cat – a real cat; but, this wasn't going to happen until years later, when I was on my own, and could finally enjoy the company of these unusual, creative and mischievous little pets.

Then, there is Louise's house. Going to Louise's is like stepping back to that time when the holidays were filled with romance and elegance. My friend, Louise has been

73 for quite a number of years now, and her delight in having people over for the holidays is quite evident as soon as she opens her front door. Entering the foyer of her house is like walking into a big hug. There are Christmas decorations everywhere, a big decorated tree, numerous candles, all lit, and a fire in the fireplace, creating a warm glow. She is wearing her holiday attire: a pair of sparkly snowflake earrings and her red sweatshirt with the big inebriated Santa on it. On the back, it says “Out of Wine Again, Damn”. Louise was a strawberry blond in her younger days, and she keeps that tradition alive with the help of henna dye. Add penciled eyebrows, fire engine red lipstick, a generous spot of rouge on each cheek and some wildly blue eye shadow, and she is quite a delight to behold. Louise likes to serve a rather potent cocktail she makes with Vodka and fruit juice; which she has obviously been sampling as evidenced by the red nose and flushed cheeks, not to mention a slight balance problem. I love going there, especially for the holidays – she is so uniquely charming! I commented once about how amazing her house is – every room is decorated to the ceiling. She looked at me with that wry little smile and said, “I'm old and I have a lot of shit.”

So, the holiday season finally ends once again, as evidenced by all the Christmas trees thrown out on front lawns. The pine needles are vacuumed up, the house is put back in order, and some of us breathe a sigh of relief and look to the new year. When we were kids at my grandma's house, the tree stayed in place well into January, being kept alive with care, so we could enjoy playing around it for a long time. Gradually, the ornaments were removed and packed away, the tinsel taken off, and then dad would remove the lights and drag the monster tree, leaving a trail of needles, off to the back yard to cut it up for firewood. This left a large gap in the space where the tree was enthroned and also in our little hearts.

The holidays back then were a moment in time that was special because of how we lived, when life was filled with simple pleasures and homemade love. I will always remember my grandma baking in the kitchen: the wonderful smells and the magic she created; the big enamel mixing bowls she always used, and the big rolling pin for pie crust and sugar cookie cut outs. Over the years, I acquired all these things from her, and continue the tradition, contentedly baking in my kitchen and humming to myself, while the world outside rushes by and occasionally catches a whiff of something wonderful.





"Shadows in the Deep Blue Seas"

by Mary Jane Schramm, Freelance Writer, Naturalist

The Pacific stretched to the horizon in a slow rhythm of swell broken only by the flighty tease of wind and wavelet. The vessel's engine gave off guttural growls as it broached each swell, subsiding to a steady purr as it slid down the far side. Earlier, humpback whales had put on a lively show near the Farallon Islands: lunge-feeding, breaching, and pectoral fin slapping to the delight of the whale watchers. But radio chatter in the wheelhouse had reported blue whales off the Continental Shelf, so they headed west to the several thousand-foot deep waters of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. But whales can prove elusive, and after awhile the vessel came about, ready to return to port. Suddenly, a cluster of small fins slicing and dappling the surface came into view: it was a school of long, lithe sharks slowly milling near the surface, sinuous and elegant. Instead of giant whales, the group had encountered arguably the most beautiful shark species in the world: the blue shark, *Prionace glauca*.

PORTRAIT IN INDIGO: Blue sharks are slender and lissome, their backs and

sides a vibrant indigo or deep lapis lazuli hue, countershaded to a crisp white beneath. Large, round eyes lend them a slightly surprised expression, and their exceptionally long, winglike pectoral (side) fins help buoy them up as they glide through the water, sometimes riding the currents. Adult females often reach 11 ft., with males around 9 ft., though larger individuals have been reported. Being ectotherms, i.e., taking their body heat



from their cool surroundings, their movements are slow - that is, until "the game is afoot." Second only to the mako shark for speed, blues can reach 43 mph and faster in bursts, and are sometimes called "the wolves of the sea." Their tapered conical snouts are armed with revolving layers of sharp, recurved teeth for grasping squid, octopus and cuttlefish, crustaceans, herring, hake, and occasionally, seabirds and marine mammals. Humans aren't on their menu.

OCEAN NOMADS: *P. glauca* are among the widest-ranging sharks, traversing ocean basins in deep temperate and subtropical seas, but preferring the cooler

(50 to 68°F) food-rich waters of the mid-latitudes.

PUP-A-PALOOZA: Blue sharks remain sexually segregated most of the year, but come together in to mate and feed together, often migrating long distances for trysts. Mating is a rambunctious affair involving "love bites," and mature females often bear many scars from these encounters. They are viviparous - i.e., they give live birth to litters of four to 135 pups.

Gestation lasts around 12 months.

SURVIVAL BLUES: Natural predators include killer whales, white sharks and makos, but humans are their major threat. They're fished directly for fins and meat, but also represent major bycatch in pelagic longline, gillnet and purse seine fisheries,



mostly by industrial high-seas pelagic fleets. Globally, their numbers are declining, and the International Union now lists blue sharks as "Near Threatened."

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Be an informed consumer; visit the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch site, <https://www.seafoodwatch.org/> for a pocket card or app listing species to avoid and sustainably caught alternatives. Learn about international protections for blue sharks via the UN Convention on Migratory Species at <https://www.sharktrust.org/cms>

NOAA's Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary partners with the nonprofit Greater Farallones Association to ensure healthy habitat for all marine species, and offers education programs for all ages. Visit <https://farallones.noaa.gov> and <http://farallones.org> for more information.

Photo Credits:

Upper Left: The blue shark's graceful, elongated shape. Credit: Diego Delso-delso.photo-LicCC-BY-SA.

Top: Loligo, or market squid, are a favorite entree. Photo: NOAA.

Above: Blue sharks are often curious. Credit: MA Marine Fisheries-PD

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Anne Frank (1929-1945)

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Get Out! December Music, Poetry, Theater, Film, Art, Radio, Online & more.

Please be advised that some events currently included in Get Out! are virtual. This "◇◇" means that the host organization will have information on attending virtually via Zoom or other platform.

- Wednesday 01: 3:00pm, Teen & Young Adult Poetry Circle, On Line ◇◇
- Wednesday 01: 11:00am, Winter Wonderland continues at Gualala Arts Center, Thru Dec. 30.
- Thursday 02: 11:00am, Dolphin Gallery Holiday including Uncle Sus's Attic, Thru Dec. 30.
- Friday 03: 5:00pm, "Festival of Lights" at Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Ft. Bragg.
- Friday 03: 5:00pm, Wine & Art Holiday Event at Discovery Gallery in Gualala
- Saturday 04: 10:00am, Brandybuck Studio Annual Holiday Bizarre Bazaar
- Saturday 04: 10:00am, Met Opera Live, "Eurydice" on screen at Arena Theater
- Saturday 04: 4:00pm, Arthur Drooker Book Signing at Sea Ranch Lodge
- Sunday 05: 10:00am, Annual Christmas Show at Artists Collective in Elk (through 12/31)
- Sunday 05: 10:00am, Brandybuck Studio Annual Holiday Bizarre Bazaar
- Monday 06: 7:00pm, Featuring "The Serpent's Egg" at Arena Theater Film Club, Pt. Arena
- Thursday 09: 6:00pm, "Trio Enchantment", Jazz with Harrison Goldberg and Friends
- Saturday 11: 11:00am, Hometown Holidays, Celebration at locations throughout Pt. Arena
- Saturday 11: 11:00am, Opening Exhibit at Coast Hwy Art Collective in Pt. Arena
- Saturday 11: 4:00pm, Featuring the film "Elf" at Arena Theater in Pt. Arena
- Sunday 12: 1:00pm, Exhibition on Screen, featuring "The Danish Collector" at Arena Theater
- Monday 13: 7:00pm, Featuring "Judgement at Nuremberg" at Arena Film Club, Pt. Arena
- Thursday 16: 6:00pm, Donlyn Lyndons Exhibit at Sea Ranch Lodge
- Thursday 16: 7:00pm, 3rd Thursday Virtual Poetry with Open Mic. ◇◇
- Saturday 18: 6:00pm, Don Krieger & Coastal Singers. Sea Ranch Lodge.
- Sunday 19: 1:00pm, Bolshoi Ballet "The Nutcracker" at Arena Theater
- Sunday 19: 6:00pm, Don Krieger playing holiday favorites at Sea Ranch Lodge
- Monday 20: 5:30pm, Holiday Sing-a-long at Sea Ranch Lodge with Don Krieger
- Tuesday 21: 5:00pm, Sea Ranch Bar & Lounge open with Don Krieger playing holiday music.
- Thursday 23: 6:00pm, "Holiday at the Lodge", Jazz with Harrison Goldberg and Friends
- Friday 24: Christmas Eve
- Saturday 25: Christmas Day
- Monday 27: 7:00pm, Featuring "Shall We Dance" at Arena Theater Film Club, Pt. Arena
- Friday 31: 9:00pm, Studio 54 New Years Eve Celebration at Sea Ranch Lodge
- Saturday 01: 10:00am, Met Opera Live, "Cinderella" at Arena Theater

SOUTH COAST BUS SERVICE

ROUTE 75:
POINT ARENA/ GUALALA TO UKIAH/ FORT BRAGG



Route 75 Monday through Friday from Point Arena to Gualala at 7:15am. Saturdays: Route 75 runs only from the Navarro Store at 9:15am to Ukiah and back.

ROUTE 95:
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