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Lighthouse Peddler

Issue #194 December 2017

(707) 684-1894

www.thelighthousepeddler.net

Take Flight With Peter Pan At Arena Theater December 23

There are a few things I remember being 'seasonal' productions. One was "The Nutcracker". The other was Peter Pan. I'm not suggesting that Peter Pan has a Christmas/Holiday theme, but I do know that it was something I got excited about as a child, and perhaps you did too.

Well, it's time to get excited again. This winter **Peter Pan**, JM Barrie's much-loved tale, takes flight at Arena Theater, Saturday, December 23 at 1:00pm (doors open at 12:30pm). And to make this an even more special performance, the first 100 children (age 18 and under) will get in



free. Take a moment. Yes. Free. Their admission is a gift from one of Arena Theater's generous benefactors.

"All children, except one, grow up . . ." When Peter Pan, leader of the Lost Boys, loses his shadow during a visit to London, headstrong Wendy helps him reattach it. In return she is invited to Neverland where Tinker Bell the fairy, Tiger Lily and the vengeful Captain Hook await.

Captured live at the National Theatre, director Sally Cookson's acclaimed London stage production has been described as "a delight for children and adults alike, a riot of magic . . ."

CONT'D on Page 10

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Publishing Consultation Returns To Four-Eyed Frog Books For Writers, Aspiring Writers, and Readers • December 7

Curious about how to turn your manuscript (or the vision of it) into a finished book? Four Eyed Frog Books and graphic designer & marketer, Connie King, have joined together to offer monthly free publishing consultations and the basics of self-publishing your book. Open to all, it's at the Frog on Thursday, December 7 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Drop in to discuss your specific work with Connie, and questions are welcomed!

Writing may be the hard part, but getting published may prove even harder. You have that manuscript in hand (or the vision of it!) ... now what? Join Connie King in this conversational talk on The Art of Self-Publishing, and how to turn those great ideas and literary prose into a finished book. Topics include keys to understanding print-on-demand publishing, file prep for production, the importance of good editing and design, how to acquire ISBNs/copyrights/LCCNs, choosing a printer, e-books or print, distribution, seller commissions, and marketing — the basic 101 of self-publishing.



Connie King has loved books and art since joining the fans of Pooh Bear, Babar, and Dr. Seuss as a child. Her career began with a children's book publisher and transitioned to graphic design for exhibitions and marketing at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, consulting with other Bay Area museums, and design, writing, and publishing for North Bay businesses and writers. Her book design and publishing services for local authors include Rim of the World

by Robert Scarola, Mapping the Sea Ranch by Phil Graf, Wild Solitude by Lorraine Lipani, and The Happy Book by the 2nd and 3rd grade class at Horicon Elementary school. Come to Four-Eyed Frog Books, a Community Owned Bookstore, 39138 Ocean Drive (Cypress Village), PO Box 1122, Gualala, CA 95445. (707) 884-1333, www.foureyedfrog.com.



The Annual Holiday Open House Point Arena Lighthouse, Saturday, December 2

The Point Arena Lighthouse will host its annual Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 2 from 10:00am to 3:30 p.m. The Lighthouse grounds, Museum and Gift Store will be open to all guests free of charge during this event. Guests that wish to climb to the top of the Lighthouse Tower will be offered discounted Tower Tours passes for \$5 and children 11 and under will be given free Tower Tours when accompanied by an adult. Hot mulled spiced cider and seasonal goodies will be served to all guests.



Santa Claus will be listening to every-

one's Christmas wishes in the Whale Watch Room from 11:00am to 1:00pm with the first 25 children 11 and under receiving a special gift from the Lighthouse Gift Store elves. The Lighthouse Gift Store will also be offering many items at discounts of 25% to 50% or more starting the day after Thanksgiving and continuing through December 24. Get your holiday shopping done early!

For more information about the Holiday Open House please contact the Lighthouse at (707) 882-2809, ext. 1 or visit PointArenaLighthouse.com.



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Handmade Gifts Sundstrom Mall, Gualala

ACORN Presents "Our Changing World" A Community Film Festival At Arena Theater December 2

On Saturday, December 2, 2017, ACORN Partners in Education presents a community film festival, "Our Changing World: Global and Local Issues Affecting our Community" at Arena Theater in Point Arena. Film topics include climate change, immigration, and community solutions; a panel discussion or Q&A will be offered after select screenings.

The festival kicks off at 2:00pm with *Age of Consequences*. This film investigates the impacts of climate change on increased resource scarcity, migration, and conflict through the lens of



US national security and global stability. Former Point Arena local Hypatia A. Porter worked on this film as editor and associate producer. Porter and Executive Producer Sophie Robinson will participate via Skype in a filmmaker Q&A following the film.

At 4:00pm, three films on the subject of immigration will be presented. A 6-minute short about the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) immigration policy will begin this program. Global refugee issues will be addressed in *4.1 Miles*, an Oscar-nominated short. The program's feature film, *Farewell Ferris Farewell Ferris Wheel*, will explore

issues around how the US carnival industry legally employs Mexican migrant workers with the controversial H-2B guest worker visa. After the feature, KGUA's Peggy Berryhill will moderate a panel discussion with community representatives. This program is underwritten by Redwood Coast Democrats.

The final presentation of the evening will be *Tomorrow* at 7:00pm. This upbeat and award-winning documentary offers examples of creative and grassroots solutions to issues concerning agriculture, economics, energy, and education. The film's aim is to "encourage local communities around the world to change the way they live for the sake of the planet." The Point Arena Merchants Association is an underwriter for this presentation.

Cost for admittance is \$10 for one film; \$15 for two films; \$20 for all three films. Tickets will be sold day-of at the box office. Light fare will be available for purchase between screenings, the theater's snack



TOMORROW



A FILM BY CYRIL DION AND MÉLANIE LAURENT

bar will be open, and beer will be sold. For more information please visit www.acornpartnersineducation.org.

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HARRISON GOLDBERG, SAXOPHONE
SATURDAY DECEMBER 9, 7:00PM
HARRISON GOLDBERG & TIM MUELLER
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 7:00PM
HARRISON GOLDBERG, HARRISON, SAXOPHONE
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ADVERTISERS INDEX

• 215 Main	4	• KZYX	18
• Action Network	10	• Little Green Bean	8
• Anchor Bay Store	13	• Loft, The	2
• Arena Frame	15	• Mar Vista	4
• Arena Pharmacy	8	• McCann, Peter P.T.	13
• Arena Tech Center	17	• Mendo Viné	2
• Arena Theater	7	• Mend. Coast Bot. Gardens	front cover
• Arff Feed and Pet	7	• MTA	17
• B Bryan Preserve	2	• Office Source	16
• Banana Belt Properties	9	• Oz Farm	4
• Bed and Bone	14	• Pacific Coast Herb Company	19
• Coast Highway Art Collective	12	• Phillips Insurance	16
• Cove Coffee	18	• Pier Chowder House & Tap Room	3
• Denise Green	10	• Point Arena Light Station	7
• Dream Catcher Interiors	15	• Red Stella	9
• Four-Eyed Frog Bookstore	cover	• Redwood Coast Chamber of Com.	8
• Garcia River Casino	11	• Rollerville Cafe	16
• Green Room, The	5	• Roots	12
• Gualala Arts	5	• Sea Trader, The	13
• Gualala Building Supply	8	• Sonoma Clean Power	20
• Gualala Supermarket	6	• Transformational Bodywork	19
• Healing Arts and Massage	13	• Uneda Eat	12
• Ignacio Health Insurance	14	• Village Bootery	19
• Jasper Brady	7	• Wellness On The Coast	15
• KGUA	17	• Zen House Motorcycles	4
• KTDE	16		

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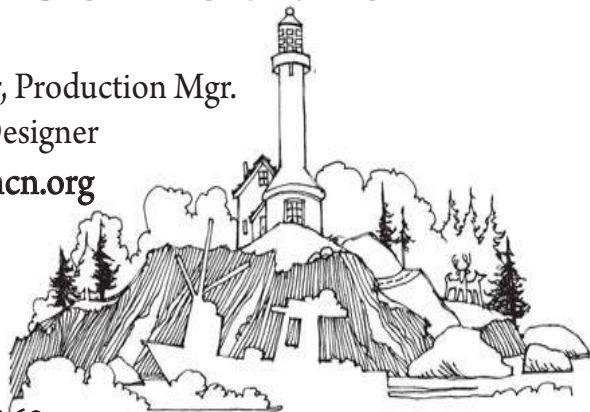
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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Peter Pan flies into first Arena Theater, December 23. (Cover, Page 10).
Four-Eyed Frog helps writers December 7. (Page 2).
Community Film Festival at Arena Theater December 2. (Page 2).
Open House at Pt. Arena Lighthouse, December 2. (Page 2).
"Exhibition on Screen", Venice and Canaletto, December 10 at Arena Theater. (Page 4).
Annual Open Mic Solstice & Poetry, December 21 at 215 Main. (Page 4).
Library Retrofit Is Complete. Opening December 3 and 4. (Page 4).
Bells and Singers at Gualala Arts Holiday Concert, December 9. (Page 5).
Jennifer Beattie and Adam Marks at Gualala Arts, December 10. (Page 5).
Uncle Sus' gift ideas at Dolphin Gallery and Gualala Arts. (Page 6).
The December Crossword Puzzle answers here (like you need them . . .). (Page 5).
Bogas and McCarroll give a Christmas Concert, Gualala Arts December 17. (Page 5)
The Moon gets phased. (Page 6).
"Augustin's Photons" clarified at the Pt. Arena Lighthouse, December 10. (Page 7).
Voter registration is available December 2 and 16. (Page 7).
Renovations at Gualala Arts, beginning December 23. (Page 7).
5th Annual Salon and Salon des Refuses at Gualala Arts, December 1. (Page 8).
Point Arena Lighthouse has a Cold Moon Tour for you, December 2, 3. (Page 8).
Karin Uphoff introduces us to the bright, beautiful, Toyon berry. (Page 9).
The Pied-billed Grebe is Audubon's bird of the month. (Page 9).
Cathy and Rex return with some pet-friendly advice. (Page 9).
Alice & Babette: 2 classic names and films. December 4 & 11 Arena Theater. (Page 10).
Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols, December 24 at Gualala Arts. (Page 11).
Holiday Faire opens at Coast Highway Art Collective in Point Arena. (Page 11).
David Steffen has been looking into lobsters, and going deep. (Page 12).
The December Sudoku Answer key is here. (Page 12).
Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens is all lit up (thru December 17). (Page 13).
The Ninth Hour. A novel book review by author Jennifer Bort Yacovissi. (Page 14).
The Top-15 book list is here. Reading is good for you. Really. (Page 14).
Mitch McFarland is thinking about giving, receiving, and trash. (Page 15).
The December Sudoku Puzzle is here. (Page 15).
Christmas Memories are on Caitie Steffen's mind. (Page 16).
Arena Theater hosts an Open Mic night, with Anthum, December 10. (Page 17).
More planning for M L King's Birthday celebration December 6 & 13. (Page 17).
The RCMS 40th "Be Our Guest" returns. Get into the planning now. (Page 17).
The December Crossword Puzzle is here. (Page 18).
Mary Jane Schramm has eight arms to hold you . . . sort of. (Page 19).
Get Out!. Our listing of things to do. (Back cover).



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The Annual Open Mic Solstice & Reading At Third Thursday Poetry December 21 • 215 Main, Pt. Arena by Blake More

On Thursday, December 21 at 7:30pm, The Third Thursday Poetry Reading Series at 215 Main in Point Arena will feature the group's annual "Open Mic Solstice Reading & Party".

The reading will begin with live improv jazz followed by an open mic with jazz improv; the reading will conclude with more live jazz. Following tradition, there will be no featured poet this month, but instead all members of the community are encouraged to bring in extra poems & potluck food to share if they are inspired to do so.

Third Thursday Poetry is supported by The Third Thursday Poetry Group, many anonymous donors, and Poets & Writers, Inc. through a grant it has received from The James Irvine Foundation.

215 main

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Exhibition On Screen At Arena Theater "Canaletto & the Art of Venice" • Sunday, December 10

Exhibition On Screen returns with another brilliant presentation. Great art comes to Arena Theater Sunday, December 10 with **Canaletto & the Art of Venice**. The film screens at 1:00pm; doors open at 12:30pm.

Directed by David Bickerstaff and co-written by David Bickerstaff and Phil Grabsky, "**Canaletto & the Art of Venice**" is an immersive journey into the life and art of Venice's famous view-painter.

No artist better captures the essence and allure of Venice than Giovanni Antonio Canal, better known as Canaletto. Despite Canaletto's close relationship with the city in

which he lived and died, the world's largest collection of his works resides not in his native Italy, but in Britain as part of the Royal Collection. In 1762, George III purchased almost the entire collection amassed by Joseph Smith, British Consul in Venice and Canaletto's principal agent.

Exhibition on Screen's latest release will grant unique access to the Royal Collection's exceptional holdings of Canaletto's work, much of which is on display as part of the exhibition "**Canaletto & the Art of Venice**" at The Queen's Gallery (19 May - 12 November). The remarkable group of over 200 paintings, drawings and prints on display offer unparalleled insight into the artistry of Canaletto and his contemporaries, and the city he became a master at capturing. The film also offers the chance to step inside two official royal residences - Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle - to learn more about the artist, and Joseph

Smith, the man who introduced Canaletto to Britain.

From London, "Canaletto & the Art of Venice" will travel to the great Italian city to explore the origins of Canaletto's art. Whilst appearing to be faithful representations of the city, Canaletto's skill came from his manipulation of reality. He moved buildings around or opened up vistas to create the perfect composition, and his paintings of Venice were highly sought after by Grand Tourists. His playful imagination extended into a new genre in which he excelled. The 'capriccio' combined real and fantasy architecture into imagined views. In this sense, Canaletto is more than a topographical artist - he is a master storyteller.



Cinema-goers will embark on their very own 21st century Grand Tour, visiting the sites enjoyed by their 18th century counterparts and immortalized in Canaletto's views - from the Rialto Bridge to the Piazza San Marco, and the Palazzo Ducale to the Church of Santi Giovanni e Paolo. Guided by Royal Collection Trust curators and the world's leading experts in Venetian history, the film is not only a wonderful way to see the exhibition, but an opportunity to get closer to Canaletto and the city that inspired him.

Tickets are \$15, and are available at the door or online at www.arenatheater.org. The film has a runtime of 90 minutes and is underwritten by Craig Gilliland and Lori Dotson of Spindrift Gallery.

The Retrofit Is Complete! The Return Of Our Coast Community Library is Monday, December 4,

The Coast Community Library's seismic retrofit has been completed! The branch will reopen on Monday, December 4, resuming regular hours:

Monday 12:00pm - 6:00pm
Tuesday 10:00am - 6:00pm
Wednesday 10:00am - 8:00pm
Thursday 12:00pm - 8:00pm
Friday 12:00pm - 6:00pm
Saturday 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Sunday - Closed
(except for special programs)

Patrons may still pick up hold items at Action Network in Point Arena from 11:00am-4:00pm on Saturday, December 2. NOTE: The bookmobile is no longer scheduling a Friday stop in Point Arena.

Ahead of getting back to business on Monday, the Friends of the Library plan a reopening celebration on Sunday, December 3 from 3:00pm-5:00pm, and everyone is welcome! In addition, here's a list of some upcoming events:

- Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers playing at the entrance to the library on Saturday, December 2 from 4:00pm-7:00pm as part of Point Arena's Hometown Holidays.
- Holiday Origami workshop on Sunday, December 10 with Kathy Silva, 2:00pm.
- Book talk on Sunday, December 17, 2:00pm. Shaping the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast: Exploring the Coastal Geology of Northern California by Thomas Cochrane.

Come celebrate, come get a book, use a computer, or just appreciate this marvelous library. For more information, please contact Julia Larke, Coast Branch Librarian, (707) 882-3114; larkej@co.mendocino.ca.us; www.mendolib.org. Jump for joy.

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The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers and The Coastal Singers A Holiday Concert at Gualala Arts December 9

On Sunday, December 9, at 3:00pm Gualala Arts Local Eyes presents a concert by the Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers that is "sure to get everyone in the holiday spirit," says Bell Director Jeanne Jackson. A favorite perennial is "Carol of the Bells", Jackson said, and a



hauntingly beautiful arrangement of "A Midnight Clear" will be performed. Local musicians will join the bell ringers with Dan Laux playing the hammered dulcimer on "What Child is This?" and Cyndy Solomon the recorder on "Still, Still, Still."

Under the direction of Sue Bohlin, the 15-member Coastal Singers will sing two songs with the bell ringers and four songs on their own. Songs with the bells include



"Joy to the World," "The Night before Christmas" Also featured will be Bach's "Jaesu Joy of Man's Desire" and "Sabbath Prayer" from Fiddler on the Roof. Bohlin has been working with the singers for a few months now, said Christina Chapman, a member of the

group and former director. "She has taught us so much... we really sound good." Bohlin is Associate Conductor of the Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir and her husband, Bob Geary, is Founding Artistic Director. The Piedmont choir competes internationally. The couple lives part-time in Anchor Bay.

Ticket prices for the bells concert are \$15 in advance, plus \$5 day of, and youth 7-17 are free.

Jennifer Beattie and Adam Marks • Mendonoma Chamber Singers A Holiday Celebration at Gualala Arts Sunday, December 10

The holidays here on the coast would not be the same without great live music. And the amazing talent of Jennifer Beattie and Adam Marks guarantees a wonderful afternoon of music.

Sunday, December 10, at 4:00pm, Mezzo-sopranos Beattie and pianist Marks of Albatross Reach present a varied holiday celebration with the Mendonoma Chamber Singers.



music and sing-a-long with kazoo. Beattie and Marks co-direct Artists at Albatross Reach, an artists' colony in Gualala that fosters collaborations, experiments, and boundary breaking new works alongside active community engagement. Tickets to this event are \$15 each, youth are \$5; tickets purchased the day of the event are an

additional \$5. More information is at www.gualalaarts.org.



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Chamber Christmas Concert Roy Bogas and David McCarroll December 17 • Gualala Arts

More beautiful music of and for the season is set for Sunday, December 17 at 4:00pm at Coleman Hall at Gualala Arts.

For this special holiday concert, violinist David McCarroll and pianist Roy Bogas present a program that includes Mozart Sonata in B-flat Major, K. 454, Ravel Sonata No. 2 in G Major, and Brahms Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op. 108.

David McCarroll was a child prodigy who began studying the violin with Helen



Payne Sloat at the age of 4. By age 13 he was playing internationally with a group of 60 young music students at the Yehudi Menuhin School outside London. McCarroll received his Master's at New England

Conservatory of Music in Boston and studied with Antje Weithaas in the Konzertexamen program at the Hanns Eisler Academy in Berlin.

Also a prodigy with the gift of perfect pitch, Roy Bogas received his training in New York and at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. At the age of 19 he became accompanist to Yehudi Menuhin, playing over a hundred concerts with him throughout North and South America.



Bogas has played with many other artists including Zara Nelsova, Ruggiero Ricci, Michael Rabin, Jaime Laredo and Joseph Szigeti, with whom he recorded a number of 20th century works for Mercury Records.

Gualala Arts is honored to have him return each year for the Roy Bogas Summer Weekend Chamber event in July.





Gualala Arts

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Fri 12/1 Exhibits 5-7 pm
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Sat 12/9 A Holiday Concert for the Coast 3 pm
The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers
\$15 in advance, +\$5 day of event
Youth 7-17 free

Sun 12/10 Holiday Concert 4 pm
with Albatross and Guests
\$15 in advance, +\$5 day of event
Youth \$5, +\$5 day of event

Sun 12/17 Roy Bogas & David McCarroll 4 pm
Chamber Music Christmas Concert
\$25 in advance, +\$5 day of event. Youth 7-17 free

Sun 12/24 Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols 5 pm
All faith carolling & readings Community Holiday Event
Coleman Hall *free*

Purchase advance tickets at BrownPaperTickets.com, 1.800.838.3006 or at Gualala Arts Center or Dolphin Gallery VISIT GUALALAARTS.ORG FOR DETAILS

**Open 10 am – 4 pm weekdays
Noon – 4 pm weekends**

Wishing you a happy and healthy winter!

Gillian Nye Lee,
New Hampshire

T	N	E	D	E	C	E	D	E	H	E	E	T
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L	I	S	T	O	L	P	I	S	T	O	L	P

Solution to crossword:

"In the bleak midwinter Frosty
wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen,
snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago."

Christina Rossetti
(1830 - 1894)

Full Moon



December 3

New Moon



December 18

Uncle Sus's Stocking Stuffers and Uncle Sus' Attic
In Downtown Gualala At The Dolphin Gallery and in the Woods At Gualala Arts
(Both Through December 31)

Downtown At The Dolphin

The Dolphin Gallery will be home to Uncle Sus's Stocking Stuffers through Sunday, December 31, offering locally sourced items from artists and food artisans for holiday shopping.

Support local artists and artisans and Gualala Arts by purchasing meaningful, useful gifts at the Dolphin Gallery this season. The Dolphin Gallery is open Wednesday through Monday, 10:00am to 5:00pm (closed Tuesdays,) and is run by volunteers.

Choose from jams and specialty items from Lisa's Luscious Kitchen of Point Arena, baked goods by Lua Hentschel of Café Selkie, quilts by Barbara Dunsmoor, placemats by Miriam Owen, socks and scarves by Becky Thompson, fused glass items by Catherine Riehm, and bird houses by Bill and Sue Halderman.

Ceramicist Eric Harald Nordvold will offer his striking vases and bowls by Viking Pottery and Brenda Phillips, of Manchester, will offer vases, cups and bowls. Eric Wilder is selling his hand-colored and painted cards and artwork. Enrique Ortiz will be selling carefully handcrafted woodwork items and Jan Maria Chiappa will have her signature clay pots and bird houses for sale.

"We are so appreciative our local community that supports Gualala Arts, and we hope that encouraging people to buy local during the holidays will be a gift to our many artists," said David "Sus" Susalla, Executive Director of Gualala Arts.



In The Woods At Gualala Arts

Take a peek in Uncle Sus's Attic throughout the month of December and you might just find the perfect gift for your most difficult holiday customer (or a little something for yourself!).

Uncle Sus's Attic, upstairs in the Gualala Arts building and open for perusal through December 31, offers large and small "lightly loved" donated items that include fine furnishings, small appliances, art work, and antiques.

Donations to this Gualala Arts fundraiser include paintings by Bill Elmore, who exhibited oil paintings and charcoal and graphite figure drawings at the Gualala Arts Center in 2007 and 2011. Elmore's work includes still life oil paintings of people, fish, apples and flowers.

At the time of his exhibits, Elmore, of Point Arena, said he enjoyed drawing the figure (more than the still life set-ups) because he knew the body better and realized it still had much to teach him. He said he was also attracted to the field of art because of its historical significance for painters of the last several centuries. Born in Sebastopol in 1945, Elmore studied under American painter Wayne Theibaud at University of California, Davis. Elmore passed away in 2014.

Another highlight in Uncle Sus's Attic are a chest of drawers painted by artist David

Wayne Floyd and a large portrait painting. Floyd, of Anchor Bay and San Francisco, is a recognized painter, muralist, colorist, and



performance artist. His vibrant, expansive paintings and furniture pieces have been exhibited at the Arts Center many times, including this past January.

Also donated by a local resident is an antique postal sorting table from the early 1900s that once stood in the San Jose post office. The piece is about 6-foot tall and 8-foot long and worth \$2,500. A picture of the item will be available and the actual item can be picked up in Gualala.

Other items include books from local haiku poet Jane Reichold, handmade dolls, art supplies and pastels from Anne Kreswell, a large flat-screen television in working order, a metal sculpture and a few other small art objects.


So, make your list, check it twice and head on down to Uncle Sus's Attic to find that unique gift that is sure to spread a wide smile.

Thank You for Allowing Us to Serve You

Happy Holidays

Closed Christmas Day
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**"Augustin's Photons"
A lecture At Pt. Arena Lighthouse
Sunday, December 10**

On Sunday, December 10, at 4:00pm, Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc. Board President Glenn Funk will present "Augustin's Photons," which will introduce attendees to the charismatic French physicist, Augustin-Jean Fresnel. Admission is \$5 per person, and the lecture will be presented in the Fog Signal Building Museum at the Point Arena Light Station, 45500 Lighthouse Road, Point Arena.

Thanks to Fresnel's work we have highly efficient head and tail lights for automobiles, pocket magnifiers the size of credit cards, wide-angle view panels and, perhaps best of all, the magnificent lens in the Light Station's Fog Signal Building museum. Glenn's



lecture will answer many questions about Fresnel, including what was his great discovery and how does it work, is it still valuable today and does it have a

future.

Glenn is a retired biomedical scientist specializing in infectious agents. He is a retired Naval officer and holds degrees from UC Berkeley, UCLA Med and Stanford Med and a postdoctoral fellowship from Baylor College of Medicine. After serving 13 years in NASA's life sciences space flight program, he retrained at UC Santa Cruz in occupational and environmental safety and hazardous materials management. He was the Biosafety Officer at UC San Francisco and ultimately at Lawrence Livermore National Lab before retiring in 2005 and moving permanently to the North Coast with his wife Kalynn.

For more information or to make reservations, call the Lighthouse at (707) 882-2809, ext. 1.

**Renovations Planned For
Gualala Arts Center
December 23 - January 18**

Gualala Arts Center will be undergoing some renovations and maintenance during the latter part of December and into January. While the building will be open for groups and classes that meet at the center locally, the bathroom will be closed and there will be no exhibits from December 23 through January 18.

Visitors to the Arts Center in the New Year will find new hardwood floors in the Burnett Gallery, new carpeting on the main foyer staircase and in the main office, new slate floors in the Powell Conference Room, and totally renovated and updated bathroom facilities. There will also be some spot treatments for termites made during 2018 and a new dance floor added to the Redwood Grove events area.

"Our Arts Center is 20 years old and we want it to continue as this shiny jewel in the redwoods for another 20 years," said David "Sus" Susalla, Executive Director of Gualala Arts. "It is part of taking care of this major investment and continuing our commitment to promoting and supporting public interest in the arts."



**Voter Registration Planned For
The Coast In December**

Voter Registration will be available at the Pay N' Take at the Gualala Community Center on Saturday, December 2 and 16; and at the Manchester Guild (formerly the Grange) at the regular Garcia Guild Breakfast Sunday, December 3).

People can register to vote from 8:30am to 12:00noon. You must be a United States Citizen, be a resident of California, and be 18 years old by November 2017 for local district elections, and by June 2018 for the General Election.

Voter registration forms are in English and in Spanish. You must re-register if you



have moved, changed your name, or wish to change your party. Please

bring your Driver's License or your Social Security card.

For more information or questions please call DJ Sister Yasmin at 707-884-4703, or Mendocino County Registrar of Voters: 707-234-6819, Sonoma County Registrar of Voters: 707-565-6800, and visit www.sos.ca.gov.

Please respect and exercise your Precious Right To Vote! Many have died for the right to vote, and many in our country still do not have their rights to the ballot.

Contemporary American children, if they are old enough to grasp the concept of Santa Claus by Thanksgiving, are able to see through it by December 15th.

Roy Blount Jr.



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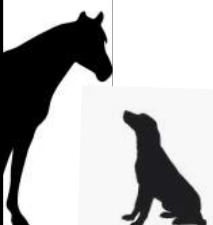
Arena Theater Film Club
Mondays 7 PM
Dec. 4 The Disappearance of
Alice Creed
Dec. 11 Babette's Feast
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5th Annual Gualala Salon & Salon des Refusés Opening Reception December 1 At Gualala Arts

The opening reception of this year's fifth annual Salon & Salon des Refusés Gualala and Let Them Eat Cake! Fine Arts Cake Decorating Contest at Gualala Arts Center Friday, December 1 looks to be a fine way to kick off December holiday events.

The evening begins with cake judging at 4:00pm, cake exhibiting and the opening of the Salon at 5:00pm and cake tasting – with champagne – at 6:00pm. The cake contest is part of the reception for the Salon, which will be catered this year.

Part of the fun of the Gualala Salon is that all artwork accepted into the Salon, the part of the exhibit in the Burnett Gallery, is kept

Top Secret until the night of the opening. In the tradition of the Paris Salon, all rejected artwork will be hung in the Salon des Refusés – the Elain Jacob Foyer.

To celebrate the Salons' fifth anniversary, this year's reception will be catered (in addition to champagne and cake!) and the stakes have been raised with awards increased by 20 percent. In addition, there is a special anniversary judging trio of artist Karen Shapiro and art collectors April and Ronald Dammann.

The Dammanns were third generation owners of the renowned Stendahl Galleries in Hollywood. The couple sold their galleries this year and moved to the coast. The Dammann's have a lifetime of experience in the fine arts. Artist Karen Shapiro, of Gallery 391 in Gualala, has work exhibiting in galleries throughout California, Texas, and Arizona.

The Salon is the largest exhibit at Gualala Arts aside from Art in the Redwoods. There are more than 135 entries this year. The Salon is presented by Gualala Arts and the North Coast Artist Guild but is sponsored by anonymous donors. Many artists save their best new art for this exhibit, as the Salon has gained much notoriety for the qual-

ity of the judging.

This year's monetary awards are first prize of \$1,250, second prize of \$1,000, and third prize of \$750. In addition, the People's Choice awards in the Salon des Refusés were also increased to first prize of \$125, second \$100 and third \$75. The award for Emerging Artist Under 18 years of age is \$100.

The original Salon des Refusés was an art exhibition that took place in Paris in 1863, showing works that had been rejected by the official Paris Salon conservative judges. These judges represented the French Academy and were advocates

of traditional, orthodox style of painting and sculpture. In 1863, they rejected almost 3,000 pieces of work which resulted in loud protests by the artists. Emperor Napoleon III, ever sensitive to public opinion, ordered a new exhibition to be organized – dubbed the "Salon des Refusés" – in order for the public to judge the merits of the artwork themselves. In the spirit of the original Paris



Salon des Refusés, all visitors will be able to vote for the "People's Choice" awards.

The cake contest is a fun, more whimsical side of the evening. This year's judge is cake artisan Shani Christenson of Shani's Sweet Creations in Mendocino.

This year's cake contest theme is "A Night at the Movies!" Each year, the cakes get larger and more extravagant and, this year, so are the prizes. Cash awards this year are \$250 for First Place, \$175 for Second Place and \$100 for Third Place. An Emerging Artist award of \$75 is given to a winner under age 18. All cakes must be 40 percent edible.



Pt. Arena Lighthouse • Events & Tours Starting December 2 Full Cold Moon On View This Month

The Point Arena Lighthouse will offer two opportunities to climb the Tower at night with their (almost) Full Cold Moon Night Tour on Saturday, December 2 and the Full Cold Moon Night Tour on Sunday, December 3. On both nights the Lighthouse gates will open at 5:00pm and the tours will begin around 5:30pm.

The evening will feature a special presentation about the Light Station, its history and technology, sweet and savory snacks accompanied by champagne or sparkling juice, capped off by a guided "Climb to the Top" tour of the tallest lighthouse on the West Coast under the rising full moon

– if the weather cooperates, of course!. An etched Point Arena Lighthouse souvenir champagne flute is included in the price of admission for each participant, which is \$30 per person or \$50 for two. Reservations must be made at least three days in advance of the tour.

While the tour is scheduled to coordinate with the full moon, weather conditions may preclude lunar visibility. The tours are conducted regardless of weather conditions, unless the Lighthouse Staff deems them to potentially cause safety issues for the guests. In the event the tour is cancelled, guests will receive a full refund. The Lighthouse is located at 45500 Lighthouse Road in Point Arena.

According to the Farmer's Almanac, some Native American tribes called December's full moon the Full Cold Moon. It is fittingly associated with the month when winter cold fastens its grip and the nights become long and dark. It is also called the

Long Nights Moon by some Native American tribes because it occurs near the winter solstice—the night with the least amount of daylight.

"These Night Tours have been extremely popular, selling out well in advance many times in the last several months," says Mark Hancock, Point Arena Lighthouse Executive Director. "We do limit the number of



guests to 20 so make your reservations early!" For more information or to make a reservation, call the Lighthouse at 707-882-2809, ext. 1 at least three days prior to date of the tour.

While the tour is scheduled to coordinate with the full

moon, weather conditions may preclude lunar visibility. The tour is conducted regardless of weather conditions, unless the Lighthouse Staff deems them to potentially cause safety issues for the guests. In the event the tour is cancelled, guests will receive a full refund. For more information or to make a reservation, call the Lighthouse at (707) 882-2809, ext. 1 at least three days prior to the date of the tour.

More events are planned for the Point Arena Lighthouse this December. Included are the Annual Holiday Open House set for Saturday, December 2 (Santa's there too!. See story on page 2.) And, On Sunday, December 10, the Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc. Board President Glenn Funk will present "Augustin's Photons," introducing attendees to the charismatic French physicist (see story on page 10.)

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Words on Wellness

by Karin Uphoff

In the darkest time of winter, people enjoy putting up holiday decorations to keep the mood bright and celebrate the coming light. Nature also adds to the festivities with Toyon berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), also referred to as Christmas berry or California holly (the bush that gave Hollywood its name). The evergreen serrated leaves and bright red berries called 'pomes' lend themselves well for Christmas wreaths and other decorations. Toyon grows along the length of California coast from dry chaparral to oak and scrub. It makes an excellent drought tolerant native addition to your garden. In the rose family and closely related to apple, it wears white flowers in early summer followed by clumps of bright red pomes/berries in winter, that have a mealy, sour apple taste.



Flowers from toyon are pollinated by local butterflies, while fruits serve as winter dinners for berry-eating birds. They attract migrants, bringing life and movement to a usually damp, gray season. Robins come and hang out in flocks, yelping and elbowing each other around the table. A mockingbird might hold its territory all year, sometimes muttering its spring songs in December, if its territory includes toyon. The quiet hermit thrush and boisterous flocks of cedar

waxwings will also join the scene. It has been an important indigenous food for thousands of years, especially to avoid winter starvation. The berries can be nibbled raw (spit out the seeds), but are acidic and astringent and contain small amounts of cyanide, which is removed by mild cooking, roasting or drying. Therefore Kashaya

Pomo wilted berries in hot ashes, then winnowed them in a basket plate. The berries (budu) were ready for eating by the handful without further cooking. They were also dried and stored and later cooked into porridge or pancakes. Tea from the leaves was used by women to regulate menses and a decoction of the bark and leaves made an effective wound wash. In the last century, settlers also used the berries by adding sugar to make jelly, custard and wine.

In the 1920's, so many Californians were cutting toyon to make decorative wreaths that a statewide protection was placed, making it unlawful to cut branches off toyon on public lands! However a popular non-native garden shrub, cotoneaster, also in the rose family, provides copious red winter berries perfect for wreath-making.

Karin is at <http://rainbowconnection.net>.

Part Bird, Part Submarine.

Pied-billed Grebe

The scientific binomial for Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, is Latin for "diving rump foot." It's a fitting description of the small bird's legs and feet, which are attached toward the back of its body. This is a perfect arrangement for underwater diving, but it makes for awkward walking in the rare instances when the bird gets onto dry land.



Pied-billed refers to the dark ring that circles the middle of the bill in

summer. The bill is chunky and chicken-like. The bird is a small, stocky grebe with a large head and dull brown feathers. It is 13 inches long. It appears to have no tail. There is a narrow white ring around a dark eye.

Although it is one of the most common grebes, it is often hidden among rushes on sluggish streams, ponds and marshes. The Pied-billed Grebe has been called "part

bird, part submarine." It can trap water in its feathers and deflate them so that it submerges straight down. Sometimes, only the eyes are visible above water. The thick bill is used to stab crayfish, amphibians and fish.

It also forages on seeds and insects on the water's surface.

Courtship is more vocal than visual. The male and female sing together. The nest, a floating platform anchored and hidden in reeds or rushes, is constructed with grass, reeds, and decayed plants—and often plastered with soft green pond scum. Both parents incubate the 5-7 bluish-white eggs for three weeks. The striped chicks typically leave the nest the first day after hatching. Chicks spend three weeks riding around on the parents' backs, even back-riding when parents dive.

Our thanks to the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society for contributing this article.

Each month, the Lighthouse Peddler features another bird regularly seen at or near the Mendocino Coast. More information is at www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org.

Animal Care & Welfare

By Cathy Riehm

The other night, Rex was restless and reluctant to climb up on the couch. The next morning, he was sitting hunched over, tucked under and shaking with his eyes closed.

I'm pretty sure we can all recognize obvious signs of pain in our pets, but what about those not-so-obvious behavior changes that might indicate pain?

In my last article, I talked about knowing your pet's 'normals'- vital signs, behaviors and routines. A cat that suddenly urinates outside the litter box could possibly have a urinary tract infection- thinking 'Ouch- it hurts when I pee in my box, maybe it won't hurt if I pee outside the box...'

A horse that bobs his head and drops food while eating might not be saying 'Ew- I don't like this food', but could be saying 'It hurts when I chew', and your horse needs his teeth floated.

Does your dog suddenly snap at you when you reach to rub behind his ear? Did your cat used to love a good muzzle and chin scratch, but now she won't let you touch her mouth? Does your geriatric horse rock his weight back onto his hind end more and more throughout the day?

Could there be a foreign body deep in your dog's ear? Does your cat need dental attention due to an infected tooth? Could your horse be reluctant to bear a lot of weight on his front end due to a short hoof trim or the navicular bone rotating?

When you notice an abnormal behavior, ask 'Is this an isolated behavior?' (happened only once, maybe twice) or has this behavior become a regular part of your pet's routine (possibly indicating chronic pain)?

Try to think like your animal and understand what their particular behavior might indicate- is your donkey being 'stubborn' by freezing in his tracks or is he telling you, in the only way a donkey knows how to tell a human, that a particular movement/situation causes him pain?

Recognize the species behavior- a dog in pain might become needy while a cat (like herd animals) will tend to isolate.

Turns out, Rex had a bad case of 'swimmer's tail'— a condition that hunting breeds (including Labs) can get from swimming in cold water— causing cramping, swelling and pain. By telling me, in his Rex way, that he was in pain, I was able to help him.



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"Alice" and "Babette" • Arena Theater Film Club • December 4 and 11 Drama, Crime, And Some Sensual Pleasure, in December

December always brings an abbreviated slate of films for the Arena Theater Film Club. There many events to choose from, from one end of the coast to the other. Nevertheless, the Club has selected two notable films.

First up is **The Disappearance of Alice Creed**, screening Monday, December 4, at 7:00pm. Directed by J. Blakeson, the film is a British neo-noir thriller about the kidnapping of a young woman by two ex-convicts.

Peter Bradshaw, writing for *The Guardian* said **The Disappearance of Alice Creed** (2009) "is a terrifically enjoyable British film from debut writer-director J Blakeson, who on the tightest of budgets delivers a professionally honed thriller, melodramatic maybe, but socked over with cracking energy.

Eddie Marsan and Martin Compston play Vic and Danny, two criminals who kidnap Alice, a rich daddy's-girl played by the impressive Gemma Arterton. Arterton, it should be



noted, appeared in the title role of this year's National Theater Live production of Saint Joan. But Alice isn't taking it lying down.

Alice Creed offers twist and counter-twist, cross and double-cross, and with each narrative reveal comes a firework display of Big Acting. It's taut, claustrophobic and very well put together, with nice performances all round." Produced in the U.K., the film is rated 'R' for violent content, pervasive language and some sexuality/nudity. Running time is 100 minutes.

A week later, Monday, December 11, at 7:00pm, the Club screens one of the more well known foreign films, **Babette's Feast**.

Director Gabriel Axel was clearly the right director for this film. *The Washington Post* offered a warm bit of praise for the film: "Dinesen's story, an episodic meander with potentially stolid cinematic results, is suffused



with cinematographer Henning Kristiansen's beautiful compositions and captured light, and warmed by Axel's affinity for actors and details."

At once a rousing paean to artistic creation, a delicate evocation of divine grace, and the ultimate film about food, the Oscar-winning **Babette's Feast** (1987) is a deeply beloved treasure of cinema. Director Axel adapted the screenplay from a story by Isak Dinesen.

The film is a lovingly layered tale of a French housekeeper with a mysterious past who brings quiet revolution in the form of one exquisite meal to a circle of starkly pious villagers in late nineteenth-century Denmark. **Babette's Feast** combines earthiness and reverence in an indescribably moving depiction of sensual pleasure that goes to your head like fine champagne. The film is not rated, and has a runtime of 104 minutes. In Danish, French, Swedish with English subtitles.

As the year draws to a close, consider: it doesn't matter whether you are religious, agnostic, or atheist—if we give gifts to anyone or everyone, let's hope that we find a way to fill their stockings.

"Let each put in his share, loving kindness, warm hearts, and a stretched out hand of tolerance. All the shining gifts that make peace on earth."

(Adapted from the film *The Bishop's Wife*.)

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PETER PAN from cover page

... music and make-believe ensues while exploring the possibilities and pain of growing up."

"There are some wonderfully theatrical moments here," wrote Natasha Tripney in *The Stage*. "There are flying scenes in which the fact that the counter weights and 'fairy strings' are visible does not discount in any way from the magic. A green sheet ingeniously transforms into Peter's missing shadow, a corrugated crocodile with gleaming red eyes stalks the stage, and a pirate ship emerges from the depths of the Olivier's

drum revolve." *The Times* wrote, "An awfully big adventure. Sally Cookson's production is a wonder, ticks all the Christmas boxes for adults and children."

Tickets are \$18, \$5 youth (18 and under), available online at www.arena-theater.org.

Photo: Captain Hook from National Theatre Live production of Peter Pan.



I'm sick of following my dreams. I'm just going to ask them where they're going and hook up with them later.

Mitch Hedberg (1968 - 2005)

"May the Holidays Set You Free."

Sally Marshall,
Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

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Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols A Christmas Eve Coast Tradition • Gualala Arts

Since 1992, Christmas Eve in Gualala has included a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, a fulfilling one-hour service held at the Gualala Arts center in the Coleman auditorium. The auditorium is decorated with Christmas greenery, candles, and a Christmas star, and luminaries guide you in from the parking lots.

The service starts December 24 at 5:00pm (doors open at 4:30pm), and finishes by 6:00pm. It's always a full house, and a nice opportunity to share the Christmas spirit with your neighbors in the local Mendonoma community. The audience joins together in singing nine familiar carols, alternating with short readings by members of our diverse local community, sharing the Christmas story.

The event lasts one hour, and is free. If



you would like to give a donation as you leave, all proceeds go to support the work of South Coast Crisis Aid, which distributes vouchers for emergency food, transportation, and lodging assistance throughout the year via local clergy and the Action Network in Gualala and Point Arena. In recent months, emergency food and gas vouchers assisted many of the wildfire evacuees passing through Gualala from Santa Rosa.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols originated at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, in 1918 and was first broadcast in 1928. The Cambridge service is still broadcast worldwide each year. Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal-Lutheran church coordinates with other local churches and spiritual groups to sponsor the event. Everyone is welcome.

"My Christmas wish is to live in the moment and not take time with family and friends for granted."

Caitie Steffen,
Point Richmond

The Return Of Brandybuck's Bizarre Bazaar December 2 & 3

Once again there's holiday shopping to be had about 10 minutes—15 minutes (tops) from Gualala, Sea Ranch, or Point Arena. South Coast Mendonomans will feel right at home at the 13th Annual Brandybuck Bizarre Bazaar.

Hosted by the Brandybuck Ranch Pottery Studio, the Bazaar will be open from 10:00am to 4:00pm on Saturday and Sunday, December 2 and 3. They've invited their numerous artisans on the coast to display and sell their items for your gift giving pleasure. First-time and veteran shoppers will find unique, funny, thoughtful, practical and affordable items. Your gift-giving ideas will support the wonderful local artists, and your special person will (I'm certain) be suitably impressed. Once again the

Grand Raffle, a basket of donated goods by participating sellers, is always a treasured delight. Enjoy a wide variety of sweet and savory hors d'oeuvres, hot apple cider, music and community!

This year's artists will include enough of a selection for even the most finicky recipient: jewelry, pottery, woodwork, soap, leather, farm raised products and fiber. Come and go or spend the day.

Brandybuck Ranch is located east of Point Arena at Schooner Gulch and Ten Mile Cutoff. Best routes are the newly-paved Fish Rock Road east from Anchor Bay to Iverson Road, or Riverside and Eureka Hill from Point Arena, or Old Stage, Pacific Woods. Watch for the signs and festive decorations. More information- 882-2269.

Holiday Faire Comes To Coast Highway Art Collective in Point Arena Holiday Gift Faire and Show • Opening Reception December 2

By Rozann Grunig

On Saturday, December 2, the main street of Point Arena lights up and stays open late during the annual Hometown Holidays event. Festivities begin at 4:00pm when merchants welcome the public with seasonal food and drinks. The Coast Highway Artists Collective is proud to again participate in this fun event, providing locals and guests the opportunity to purchase reasonably priced art and gifts for the holidays. "The Highwaymen" will provide live music at the CHAC during a special opening reception for its annual holiday gift show from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

The gallery, located up the hill and next to Redwood Credit Union, will be decorated and lighted for the holidays, ready to welcome shoppers of all ages with hand-crafted gifts and holiday ornaments. The current CHAC members include Bea Acosta (mythical face masks from pottery,) Andrea Allen (Chinese brush painting,) Barbara Fast (embellished gourds, baskets, textiles,) Rozann Grunig (photography, greeting cards, 2018 Mendonoma Calendar,) Chris Grassano (Oils,) Ling Yen-Jones (fine jewelry,) Nicolette Kaliebe (leather handbags

and accessories,) Anne Kessler (Pastels,) Jack O'Rourke (watercolors,) Brenda Phillips (ceramics), Cathy Riehm (fused glass,) Charlie Ross (woodworking, music stands,) Barry Semegran (woodworking, furniture) and Mike Sorbelli (fused glass).

During the open reception, live music will be provided by "The Highwaymen." This creative duo consists of Eric Dahlhoff on vocals, guitar and dobro and Norm Fast on the stand-up acoustic bass. Both members are active on the music scene in Mendonoma. Seasonal food and drink will be provided in the warm



and comfortable gallery.

The Holiday Gift Show will be open during regular gallery hours for the month of December, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11:00am to 5:00pm. The gallery is located at 284 Main Street, Point Arena.

Photo: The holiday tree, decorated with hand-crafted ornaments that are available for purchase, is the center piece at the Coast Highway Artists Collective during the annual holiday gift show, opening Saturday, December 2 in Point Arena. Photo courtesy of Ling-Yen Jones.

GARCIA RIVER CASINO



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NEW YEARS EVE
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Lobster, Privacy

by David Steffen

I can't remember the moment I first tasted lobster—or "lopsta", as I learned the correct pronunciation while living back east—but I truly enjoy it. Broiled, fried, steamed, if it's the real deal from the coast of New England, I'm there. Unfortunately, Maine lobster is \$30-\$50 per pound in restaurants. (The Palm Restaurant, famous for steaks and lobsters, is reportedly currently charging \$75 for a 3-pound Nova Scotian—not Maine—lobster.) Needless to say it's been a long, long time since I had dinner, much less order lobster at the Palm; it's simply too pricey for most of us. As an alternative to dining out, there are deals on the internet where you can order live lobsters, at a much lower price, and get them shipped to your home. But then you have more issues.

I recall a New Years Eve get-together twenty years ago where everyone knew lobster was one of the food items for our celebration. I ordered live lobsters from Maine, shipped to our home in Connecticut. Once the carton was opened, the enthusiasm of friends and family quickly waned; they didn't even wish to look at the living creatures. Comments were swift in coming. "You're really going to kill them? I can't eat him, her, them." As for me, I looked the lobsters in the eyes, and carefully explained about the pot, the steam, butter, sauce, and their expected place on the table. In reality, lobsters seem to lose interest when they understood that they're not 'coming to dinner', but rather 'were to become dinner'. As I couldn't send them back, I persevered and cooked them. No one else ate the lobster that evening.



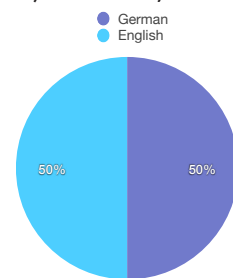
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From a physiological standpoint, whether lobster or fried chicken, everything we intake (eat), travels along our internal highway, on its way to an eventual "outflow". All of this brings me to something I recently read.

It appears that lobsters (and other menu items) may need to get dressed up so that they can smile for the camera during digestion. In an article titled "FDA Approves First Digital Ingestion Tracking System Med", the *Associated Press* reported that the Food and Drug Administration "has approved the first drug in the United States with a digital ingestion tracking system." That's right. Swallow this little pill and not only may it make you feel better or cure what ails you, but in theory your doctor or primary care provider will be able to determine the exact location of that pill. I am not making

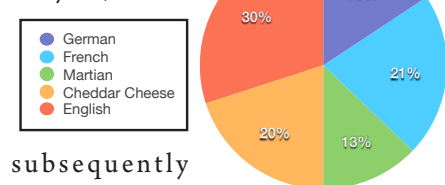
this up. The pill, or as it's referred to by the drugmakers—the "digitally enhanced medication"—sends a message to a sensor on a wearable patch somewhere on your body. At first glance some might shrug and say, "so what, big deal." However, given what the Russians have been doing for the past few years, it's entirely likely that the Kremlin will be able to track my lobster dinner as it travels through me. Let's be honest. It might also be tracked by the FBI, the NSA, or the CIA (the CIA in Langley, Virginia, not the CIA cooking schools in Hyde Park, New York, or St. Helena, California). If the Russians, or anyone else got hold of Hillary's emails, it would seem like a small task to read the information traveling through me and stored on a patch.

I'm one of those people who's been reluctant to send my saliva (and \$60-\$100 or more) to companies like 23 And Me to have my DNA analyzed. I've long maintained that



I am part-English and part-German, based on my mother's description (with her emphasis on "English"). Besides, I'm just not that curious about my exact make-up, due to a couple

of factors. First, I don't care if the analysis shows me to be 30% English, 16% German, 21% French, 13% Martian, and 20% cheddar cheese (although my friends believe this last one is quite probable). The prospect of my DNA being analyzed, and



subsequently used to evaluate, compare, contrast, and categorize me and other people into very specific groups is not compelling to me either. More to the point, it's my belief that these DNA-companies will in all likelihood sell and resell my DNA information to other companies or worse.

Two billion (that's 'B': billion) people, 27% of the planet use Facebook each month. And if we haven't yet learned about Facebook's business structure, it's high time we did. Simply put, the more information we put on Facebook the more clicks are generated on Facebook as our friends, family, and our social and business connections check in with us. And every click, each and every piece of data, is stored in Facebook's database, forever. You, too, add to the clicks as you check out the pages of friends, family, total strangers, and cats. Here's a simple

example. That cat video you just watched is another click captured by Facebook. While you enjoy the cat, Facebook is capturing your viewing as data to be sold and resold to advertisers, marketers, and "interested parties". It is no coincidence that once Facebook knows that you like cats you suddenly begin receiving offers for cat sand, cat food, cat toys, cat brushes, cat clippers, cat clothes, cat beds, cat medicines, and so on.

DNA contains the fundamental and distinctive characteristics of who we are. DNA testing services are, I believe, a variation of the Facebook model. So just what do I believe the DNA companies will do with our information? Sell it. And if they don't sell it, someone will gain access to it. Some people don't care if their information, including DNA, is sold and resold, and I'm fine with that. For me, if DNA companies want my DNA, they can pay me for it. Privacy should be close to sacred. But private data is not always secure. Ask Equifax. Between May and July, 2017, the Social Security numbers, birth dates, and home addresses for up to 143 million Americans were hacked. Oops. Yet, consider this little 40 word section from one DNA company's Privacy Statement: "As our business continues to grow and change, we might restructure, buy, or sell subsidiaries or business units. In these transactions, customer information is often one of the transferred assets, remaining subject to promises made in then prevailing privacy statements."

My interpretation of this could find the following chain of events: A corporation in the United States owns a DNA Company, collects a \$99 fee, analyzes the DNA and sends you or me the results. They also retain the information. Forever. Twenty minutes or twenty years later, the corporation sells its DNA business to another corporation headquartered in, say, Tajikistan. The individual's DNA will be, according to the above quote,

one of the transferred assets. The buyer (new owner) will now have access to all of the DNA information collected to that point. The primary languages in Tajikistan are Tajik and Russian. Who might tap into that DNA database?

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Saturday, Dec. 2
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Quick Takes:

A Sampling Of More Live Music In Our Area This Month

While not unusual for a December on the coast, we're pleased that music lovers will have numerous options.

—> On Thursday, December 14th, Quartet Enchantment and their popular Jazz-style "Christmas in Rio," returns to The Fireside Room at Sea Ranch Lodge* in their fifth annual holiday performance, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. This special feature hosted by Harrison Goldberg, and part of the ongoing twice monthly Sunset & Jazz Series held at the Lodge on the second Thursday and fourth Wednesday of each month, pairs local saxophonist Goldberg with equally stellar musicians Chris Doering on 7-string guitar, Don Watanabe on upright bass, and Gabe Yanez, drums.

In addition to paying tribute to the beautiful melodies and infectious Bossa Nova rhythms of the late and legendary Brazilian composer/pianist, Antonio Carlos Jobim, and in keeping with the Holiday Season, the quartet will offer their good and holiday-joyous latin arrangements of Christmas tunes in addition to playing some of their originals along with those timeless classics from The Great American Songbook as well as tunes inspired by the late alto saxophonist Paul Desmond and other legendary jazz icons. It's easy to get into the rhythm and the Holiday Spirit. An admission-free musical event. Available for purchase will be a selection of delicious small sweet and savory plates along with an assortment of wines, beers and alcohol-free beverages.

—> On Friday, December 15, from 7:00pm to 9:30pm, six-string guitarist Tim Mueller and saxophonist Harrison Goldberg will present their popular "guitar and saxophone adventure" at Gualala's MendoViné. The coast-based eclectic musicians, who also perform together in the Mendonoma-

based fusion ensemble, BAKU, will create "moods, melodies and sonic magic" while drawing upon some familiar jazz and pop tunes, show tunes, ballads, blues, swing, and bossa novas. Throughout the evening, and in keeping with their name and adventurous creative spirit, the duo will also embark on a completely improvised and intuitive musical journey. This is an admission-free event. MendoViné will be serving delicious small sweet and savory plates and a variety of wines, beers, non alcoholic beverages and coffee, all available for purchase.

—> On Wednesday, December 27th, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, the popular Mendonoman music ensemble, BAKU, returns to the Fireside Room at The Sea Ranch Lodge*, once again in performance with their distinctive and captivating improvised sounds that combine contemplative, ambient structures and melodies with a strong yet relaxing rhythmic pulse. Their self-styled musical hybrid, "Jambient Soundscapes," is a fusion of jazz and Afro beat, drawing upon Cuban, Latin, Middle Eastern and other world cultural influences and rhythms.

The performance includes the release of the band's pioneer CD recorded live in late July also at The Sea Ranch Lodge. BAKU was selected as the name of the group to honor the capital of Azerbaijan, which marks the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe, and to pay homage to the region's diverse and rich cultural and musical influences and heritage.

For the band, each and every performance is an opportunity and celebration of discovery as they joyfully and spontaneously take themselves and their audience on an unpredictable yet unforgettable musical journey. BAKU is comprised of musicians Harrison Goldberg, saxophones and percussion, Chris Doering, 7-string guitar and synthesizer, Tim Mueller, 6-string guitar and guitar synthesizer, David French, upright bass

The Holiday Spirit Continues Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens' Festival of Lights

The Mendocino Coast is a beautiful area to visit during the holiday season and best of all, the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens transforms into a luminescent winter wonderland for its annual Festival of Lights.

An unbelievable show of glittering color draws people into the Gardens for a stroll along the twinkling pathways lined with inventive displays. After dark, the Succulent Garden morphs into a fantastic underwater scene of seaweed and floating jellyfish. A sailing brig that struck nearby reefs back in 1850 is reanimated with dazzling lights amidst the Gardens' nationally recognized Heath and Heather Collection. A beautifully decorated tent offers visitors a place to warm up and wind down. Each night the tent comes to life with live music, hot cocoa, cider, sweet treats, craft brews, and some of the best wine Mendocino County has to offer.



This year's event continues rain or shine each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening from December 1 through December 17. Doors open at 5:00pm (last entry is at 7:15pm; lights out 7:30pm.) Adult tickets are \$10 and children age 16 and under are free, thanks to the funds raised by an annual benefit gala.

We often boast about the beauty of the Mendocino Coast. If you plan on exploring, why not consider a day-trip to Fort Bragg? Make a break for the coast this winter, where crisp air and crashing waves mix with good cheer for a unique experience you won't soon forget. Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens is a unique natural treasure located at 18220 North Highway 1, just two miles south of Fort Bragg and seven miles north of Mendocino. Winter Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (December-February; closed the Saturday after Christmas).


and percussion, and Nancy Feehan, cajon and percussion. Admission to this event is free. Delicious small plates complemented by an assortment of fine wines, beers and coffee are available for purchase in the cozy Fireside Room.

—> On Friday, December 29, from 7:00pm to 9:30pm, local jazz musician, Harrison Goldberg, appearing solo as "HarriSong" and accompanied by professional audio backing tracks, will create moods, melodies and sonic magic with his saxophone performance featuring blues, bossa novas, swing, ballads, and other popular selections from The Great American Songbook. This is an admission free event; delicious small sweet and savory plates and a variety of wines, beers, non alcoholic beverages and coffee are available for purchase.

* MendoViné is located at 39145 South Highway One, Gualala, California, 95445. (707) 896-2650

* The Sea Ranch Lodge is at 60 Sea Walk Drive, P.O. Box 44, The Sea Ranch, California 95497. (707) 785-2371.






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The Local Top-15 Books
Fall/Winter 2017

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Sir Richard Steele (1672-1729)

1. **Hall of Femmes: Barbara Stauffacher Solomon; I Broke All the Rules**
by Barbara Stauffacher Solomon
2. **Qh awala.li: "Water running down place"**
by Annette White-Parks
3. **The Hidden Life of Trees**
by Peter Wohlleben
4. **Shaping the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast**
by Thomas Cochran
5. **What Happened**
by Hillary Rodham Clinton
6. **Mendonoma Sightings Throughout / Year**
by Jeanne Jackson & Craig Tooley
7. **Wildflowers of Calif's North Coast Range**
by Reny Parker
8. **All the Light We Cannot See**
by Anthony Doerr
9. **The Woman in Cabin 10**
by Ruth Ware
10. **My Absolute Darling**
by Gabriel Tallent
11. **Life Drawing**
by Robin Black
12. **The Couple Next Door**
by Shari LaPena
13. **The Whistler**
by John Grisham
14. **The Noise Of Time**
by Julian Barnes
15. **Rogue Heroes: The History of the SAS, Britain's Secret Special Forces**
by Ben MacIntyre

The Lighthouse Peddler is pleased to bring our readers a list of the most popular books being picked up and read by locals and visitors alike. Our thanks to Four-Eyed Frog Books.



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The Ninth Hour: A Novel

A book by Alice McDermott, Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

Novelists are often drawn back to the same time and place again and again in their work, to an emotional geography that formed them as people and as writers. For Alice McDermott, that place is among the working-class Catholics of 1950s-era Brooklyn and Long Island. Her work consistently involves the quietest stories focused on lives of little note. And yet.

In the Catholic canon, the "Liturgy of the Hours", such as vespers and lauds, marks the time of day for certain prayers; none, the ninth hour of the day, 3 p.m., is the time for mid-afternoon prayers. It is around that time on a cold and rainy February day that a young man sends his pregnant wife out to do the marketing so that he can close up their tiny apartment, kill the pilot light, and lie down in the bedroom for a permanent nap.

We see the aftermath of the explosion and fire through the eyes of neighborhood nun Sister St. Savior. Despite her desperate need for a toilet after a day spent begging at the Woolworth's for the Little Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor, the nun walks into the house rather than pass by, and immediately takes matters into her capable if arthritic hands.

Thus begins the story of Annie, the new widow, her daughter, Sally (christened St. Savior), the nuns of the convent of the Little Nursing Sisters, and the various characters that inhabit their work-weary neighborhood.

As unassuming a writer as McDermott is, she sometimes surprises readers with her willingness to break rules. In her 1998 National Book Award winner, *Charming Billy*, she got away with using a first-person narrator for a closely told story, the bulk of which took place before the narrator was even born.

Rebel McDermott is here again, this story narrated by an even more captivating "we," signifying the children of Sally and her husband, Patrick Tierney, who grew up together.

The Tierney children — how many? boys? girls? — tell this story in intimate detail, describing their grandfather's last solitary moments, Sister St. Savior's internal considerations of God, and countless other hidden moments. It's a delicious little twist of narrative expectations that McDermott pulls off

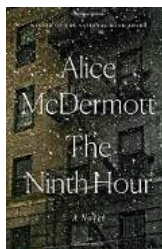
"... the story is an object lesson in being sure the thing you think you want is worth the price you have to pay to get it"

effortlessly.

The story unspools gradually, alluding to certain incidents and episodes, returning to them, adding flavor and depth at each pass. Sally and Patrick's children recount the stories they grew up hearing. That their grandmothers, Annie and Liz, were fast friends from before their parents were born means the stories of the two families bleed into each other to become one.

Many of the stories involve the residents of the convent of the Little Nursing Sisters of the Sick Poor — primarily Sisters Lucy, Illuminata, and Jeanne — women who understand what needs to be done and simply do it. They are by necessity practical and tough, and have few saintly illusions about life. Their devotion to God is primarily manifest in the unceasing labor they pour into easing the suffering of others.

If Lucy is brusque and unsmiling while Jeanne's eyes twinkle perpetually on the brink of laughter, both women prove themselves equal to any task, starting with making Annie's apartment habitable again and finding the money to employ her to help Illuminata with the convent's mending and washing. They also see things clearly, including the developments between Annie and the



convent's milkman, Mr. Costello.

Sally grows up in the warm embrace of Annie, the various sensibilities of the convent nuns, and the messy, tumultuous household of Liz and Michael Tierney and their six children. Sally and Patrick knew each other from infancy, and in Patrick's stories they were destined for each other.

One of Patrick's favorite stories involves Red Whelan, Aunt Rose, and the lasting enmity between his father and grandfather, for whom young Patrick is named. The Tierneys paid Red Whelan to take the elder Patrick's place in battle during the Civil War.

When Red came back missing an arm, a leg, and an ear, the Tierneys bestowed on him permanent residence in their third-floor bedroom, and their young daughter Rose to be his lifetime caregiver. So much given to ensure the future of a son on whom all hopes rested. As Aunt Rose later said, "Weighed down all his life by the burden of gratitude." Hence the bitter and permanent break between father and son when young Michael, carelessly throwing away a generation of advancement that came at such a cost, insisted on marrying a mere immigrant servant girl — Liz.

The final insult, in the end, is that Red survives the old man. "I wonder if it irked my father, to see Red Whelan outlive him," Michael tells Patrick. "I wonder if he thought, as he lay dying, that perhaps for three hundred dollars more Red Whelan would take his place again."

As told to the children, the story is an object lesson in being sure the thing you think you want is worth the price you have to pay to get it. It's the same object lesson that Sally learns when she thinks she wants to become a nun, and yet again when she thinks she wants to spend her mornings with miserable, self-pitying Mrs. Costello.

Sister Jeanne tells the children stories, too, in her old age but still with a twinkle in her eye, discussing with them the ideas of God's sense of fair play and the joys of Heaven, something she is certain will be denied to her. How sweet, stalwart Jeanne could permanently be out of God's grace is the central mystery of this story, while the reader's central question, for her and several other characters, is, "Was it worth the price?"

McDermott, the master of understated storytelling, leaves us to ponder the answer.

Jennifer Bort Yacovissi's debut novel, *Up the Hill to Home*, tells the story of four generations of a family in Washington, DC, between the Civil War and the Great Depression. • Jennifer's website is:

<http://www.jbyacovissi.com>

This review originally appeared in the *Washington Independent Review of Books*.

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Scuttlebutt

by Mitch McFarland

I return this month to the subject of recycling, the simplest way to reduce your garbage bill. Of course this is a particularly good time to think about waste reduction since we are about to have our national consumer holiday. Gift wrapping and packaging create a mountain of things to be disposed. Often in the excitement of gift exchange we tend to put aside thoughts of doing the right thing. Some might complain, "Do we have to be politically correct on this issue even at Christmas?" Well, yes, I'm afraid so. Your holidays will not be ruined by giving a little thought to what you buy as presents and how you deal with all the junk that comes along with the gifts you receive.

You have heard the waste reduction mantra, "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle". This is not merely a platitude, but a precise prescription for intelligent resource use. These admonitions are in their order of importance, the most important, obviously, is reduce. Are you buying someone a gift that they really need or is it one that you really like? Will the recipient be any better off owning your gift or is it something you are giving out of obligation? What about donating money to a cause that your recipient supports? How about volunteering to help them do a job of some kind that they can't do alone or simply hate to do? How about writing a poem for them? There are more ways to show your love than shopping at Amazon.

Reusing items comes in second to not having it in the first place. Some people wrap gifts in cloth material that can be reused for something else. Others wrap in newspaper that is freely available and easily recycled. And don't be afraid of re-gifting. If you have something that you don't need/want and it will benefit someone else, why not give it to them? Why should anyone care if it isn't still encased in plastic? What else are you going to do- buy them something they may not even want or already have?

Lastly, there is recycling. The amount of wrapping paper and cardboard that fill our homes is substantial and, of course, can be recycled. Unfortunately, styrofoam is NOT. Please don't put it in with your recycling. It is not recycled in any system that serves you. Don't pretend it is just because it has chase arrows. Simply because some can be recycled, doesn't mean anyone is actually doing it and with styrofoam, virtually no one actually is. In fact it is a curse on the land and should be avoided whenever possible. If anyone is planning to give me a gift this year that has styrofoam in it, please remove the gift from the packaging and just give me the item. I don't want any styrofoam and neither should you. If that pisses you off, you are free to not give me anything. Most of the stuff that people get for the holidays they don't need anyway.

Numerous people have asked me why

"Most of the stuff that people get for the holidays they don't need anyway."

the redemption center in Gualala is gone when they may have heard that there is a state requirement that there be some kind of redemption center within a mile of large grocery stores such as the ones we are lucky to have in Gualala. I did a little checking around to find out. The answer lies initially with the fact that the primary destination of most recycled resources is China. China is now producing plenty of their own discards and they have become much more particular about what they will accept from other countries. Unfortunately, loads from the U.S. have been turned down and the stricter standards are difficult to meet for a country that has not yet taken recycling seriously, especially at the household level. People put all sorts of junk in with recycling and the cost to remove it and create clean loads makes it a tough sell.

Our industrialized, highly efficient and rapacious consumption of virgin resources competes favorably with labor intensive recycled feed stock. An increase in the minimum wage hasn't helped.

The long and short of it is that the county has permitted Solid Waste of Willits to close the redemption center "temporarily". Per Paul Andersen of the Point Arena City Hall, "As part of a recently negotiated contract with the County, the County agreed for the buyback center to be closed 'temporarily.' That was in February. Now that there is a new contract, the buyback center is supposed to reopen sometime in the new year but on a much more limited schedule." If you really miss the redemption center don't be afraid to call county authorities at 468-9710 to give them a nudge. Little happens in government without public pressure.

Film plastic, essentially the No. 2 and No. 4 plastic bags, are generally not permitted in with other recyclables. They tend to mess with machinery, so must be recycled separately. Surf recycles their in-house film plastic, which is taken by SuperValue, who recently purchased United Natural Foods, and sold to a firm in Nevada that makes Trex decking out of it.

Formerly, customers could recycle their plastic bags at the door, but Solid Waste of Willits no longer accepts these bags. This means that you must recycle your bags elsewhere, which is not that hard to do as Harvest Market and Safeway in Fort Bragg will accept these bags.

I don't mean to dampen your holiday spirit. I just want to remind you that we only have one planet and we are using it up at an accelerating pace. If you care about future generations, you might want to remember that.

Arena Theater Live
Open Mic • December 18
3rd Monday Music:
Holiday Edition

What's your talent? Arena Theater's quarterly Open Mic night for local musicians and bands is now open to talents of many varieties. Circus tricks, dance routines, comedy skits, all is welcome but music will remain the center piece.

The featured band is local rock band Anthum, with Mari Pitocco on vocals and bass, Detroit Danny on lead guitar, harmonica and vocals and TrAsh on drums.

Doors for sign-ups will open at 7:30 p.m. with the show starting around 8 pm. It's just \$5 at the door and proceeds benefit Arena Theater. The dance floor and the theater bar will be open.

All shows are organized and run by volunteers including lights and sound, setting up and managing the stage and tending the bar. People who are interested in getting involved can call the teater office at (707) 882-3272 for more information.

Arena Theater is at 214 Main Street, Point Arena, 95468. And there's information on the web at www.arenatheater.org.

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THE DECEMBER SUDOKU by Margie E. Burke

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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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"Come One, Come All Christmas Memories"

By Caitie Steffen

I'll be frank; I don't have one Christmas memory that resonates with me. Instead, I have a variety of Steffen traditions and annual occurrences that I think of when I think about Christmas. My Christmas memories in Connecticut can be described as childhood days dreaming of snow days, sledding in my front yard, falling asleep on the floor with the dogs in front of the fireplace, making sugar cookies for Santa even after I stopped believing, going to a Christmas tree farm to pick out and cut down a tree, and watching my Dad select seasonal varieties on the jukebox, like Bing Crosby's White Christmas, while my Mom and I decorated the house and tree with miniature winter villages and delicate, antique ornaments.

Christmas Memories Indoors

My Mom always made sure that the house felt like Christmas in December. The boxes of decorations would start coming downstairs after Thanksgiving and one day after school, I would come home and it really would begin to look a lot like Christmas. In the front hallway, she'd set up the "Department 56" corner village scenery. Every year it was arranged differently, but the animated ice skating rink and sledding hill were almost always in the front of the house as the main attractions. I remember being so fascinated watching the mag-

netic figurines move across the rink in their predetermined patterns clearly outlined but fascinating nonetheless. I liked moving them around so they could skate on different pathways testing the capability of the magnets and their timing. Sometimes I would help my mom put the village up and decide who would live where for the next month and a half. I would strategically position my favorites, like the little girl and her dog, which I picked out at the annual Steffen tradition, where we added to the village.

Every year, we would head to the Christmas shop and I would walk around looking at the variety of village themes set up all around the store before settling on my choice. Each year I could see that selection come to life in a Christmas magical spirit as they were made right at home somewhere in the village scene. After the village was set up, wreathes, Christmas lights, bows, and Christian-inspired scenes would follow suit, taking up residence at various parts of the house and property. Decorating the tree would always come last, on Christmas Eve night, so that it laid bare for most of the month but received daily fixes of sugar water.

Sometime prior to Christmas Eve my Mom and I would make sugar cookies. This might

not sound like anything special, but the best part of the cookie making process was customizing the ones for Santa. The cookies always had to look fashion forward with a little sass; take the snowman, looking way better than Frosty ever did, with a sparkly scarf and candy cane shoes or the sleigh with some bling cinnamon dots and trim of vanilla icing. Even after I stopped believing in Santa, we continued making sugar cookies and the only difference was that we would get to eat all of them.

Christmas Memories Outdoors

In Connecticut we had a unique driveway with a sharp curve mirroring the winding country roads of West Redding. Our driveway was steep and shaped like a horseshoe. The significantly steep incline continued up past the edge of our driveway all the way up the front yard hill to the neighbor's property line. As you can imagine all it takes is 3 feet of snow and a freeze overnight to become a dream sledding hill. Then, after a large snowstorm, I can remember turning on the radio around 11:00pm and listening for which schools were closed the following day. As they listed the schools in alphabetical order, I'd sit on the stairs by our front entrance looking out the window, watching the snowplow that would also come around 11:00pm to create those perfect mounds around the border at the peak of the driveway. The school list seemed to take hours and then the moment came . . . Landmark Academy . . . CLOSED! I remember pitying the poor fools who only had a 30-minute or one-hour delay. Suckers! A snow day meant sleeping in until around 10:30am, waking up, eating breakfast, getting dressed in cold weather clothes and snow gear and heading out for a day of nonstop fun. The three dogs and I would spend all day outside. Poor Mandy, our English Springer Spaniel, was usually too short to be able to comfortably walk in the snow so she'd hop her way through and tunnel from the front door to the driveway. I would head straight for the garage to grab my favorite sled, the flexible flying carpet, because boy would I fly!

I trudged my way to the top of the hill, got set up and would slide down. The first time always sucked because you had to forge new

territory and create the sled path. But by the third time down the hill, I would fly past, just a flash of pink. And now I'll tell you the true value prop of snowplowing our driveway. Those mounds they built by pushing the snow up the driveway made really awesome speed bumps to catch some air off of.

After a solid morning and afternoon sledding and building snow castles, the dogs and I would head inside for some hot cocoa by one of the two fireplaces my Mom constantly had going in the winter time. Our 3 dogs all had fringed fur and snowballs would accumulate on their fur. As we four lay in front of the fireplace, the snow would melt off the dogs and I would drift off to sleep listening to seasonal records playing on the jukebox.

Christmas Eve

Time would fly and the tree-trimming eve would come all too soon. It was a picture perfect winter sight with snow softly falling in the background, and Frank Loesser's, Baby It's Cold Outside, playing on the jukebox as my dad flipped through the catalog, feeding dimes, and punching in codes to queue up all the best holiday records. The ornaments would make their way around onto all the branches with zero discrimination between the clay baked, handmade, painted ones and the fragile, antique beauties. And once every ornament, string of garland, and string of lights covered every inch of the tree, it was usually close to my bedtime. I can still remember that feeling of being unable to fall asleep as the excitement built up inside with anticipation knowing Christmas Day was only a few hours away. Fighting sleep as long as possible, but always losing the battle. I would drift away only to return and awake to the special experience and surprises Christmas Day provided the Steffen family in Connecticut.



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"Be Our Guest" Is Coming Back To Celebrate RCMS' 40th Save The Date (March 3) And Get Involved Now

From Manchester to Timber Cove, The Redwood Coast Medical Services/RCMS has been making the coast better for 40 years. Save the date of Saturday March 3, 2018 and expect some birthday surprises.

In announcing the return of this signature event after a hiatus of two years, CEO Diane Agee said, "I have been here 20 years, our fundraising gala — Be Our Guest — has been held for 30 years, and RCMS is turning 40. Sounds like an occasion to have some fun!"

Co-chairs Colette Coad and Ginny Rubin are planning a festive evening including entertainment, live and silent auctions, and



some reminiscences from 1978. That was the year RCMS was founded at Stewarts Point: it moved to its current location in Gualala in 1985.

Proceeds will support the work of the three RCMS clinics in Gualala and Point

Arena serving the medical, dental and behavioral health needs of the community. RCMS turns no one away and receives



more than 24,000 visits a year. A full 35% of its patients are below the federal poverty level.

"RCMS is a tax-exempt organization, so donations of auction items as well as cash contributions are tax-deductible," said Rubin. "Given the uncertainties surrounding healthcare funding at the federal level, we are looking to keep our clinic healthy," said Rubin, "so we hope our stakeholders will make this the most successful event in the 30-year life of the event."

Photos:

Left: In the early days RCMS conducted CPR courses out on the lawn. Photo by Lois Falk.

Above: Building at far left was the RCMS mobile unit in 1978. Photo by unknown.

Planning Sessions for MLK Celebration Call For Volunteers And Donations Meet December 6 and 13

This January 15 would have been Dr. King's 89th birthday. The 2nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration will be held on King's birthday, the U.S. legal holiday, Monday, January 15, 2018. The celebration will be held at the Gualala Community Center.

A group of local (and dedicated) peace activists are in the process of planning and organizing this all-inclusive community event,



and perhaps most importantly all members of our community are invited to participate and attend. All should feel welcome including students, teachers, artists, poets, dancers, singers; all people of all ages and cultures who wish to join in celebrating love, justice and peace inspired by the life of Dr. Martin Luther King. Dr. King's mission, life and work resonates greatly today as we face the challenges of our fractured world.

All are invited to upcoming planning meetings Wednesday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 13, at 5:00pm at the Sundstrom Mall, next to Gualala Super Market in Gualala. (Two additional planning meetings will be held next month in Sundstrom Mall: January 3 and 10).

FREE JUNKER HAUL AWAY



Want to get rid of an old car, truck, boat, RV or motorcycle taking up space on your property? Donate it to KGUA! Making a donation is as easy as clicking on the vehicle donation button at www.kgua.org or by calling and speaking to a live representative. If you have any questions, you may call one of our friendly service reps toll-free at 844-KGUA-CAR or 844-548-2227 seven days a week. We accept all kinds of vehicles and will even tow them away for free! Plus, your donation is 100% tax deductible. It's a win-win for everyone.



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Karin Uphoff

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Mary Jane Schramm, Corte Madera

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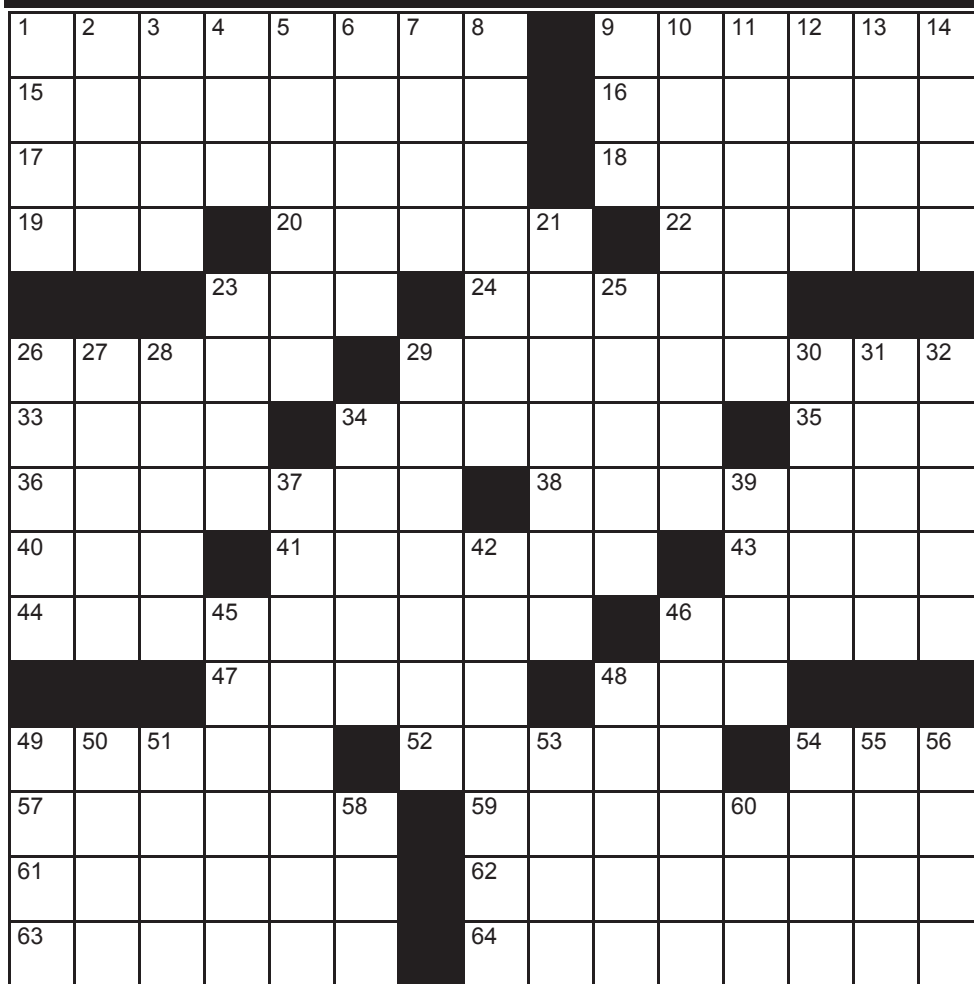
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The December Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1. In the cards
9. Energetic sort
15. Succotash ingredient
16. Page size
17. _____ Park, KS
18. Low pair
19. Perfect score, some times
20. Venomous viper
22. Fern-to-be
23. Farm structure
24. Hardly wimpy
26. Butter up?
29. Hamlet, e.g.
33. Kind of code
34. Official mandate
35. Windy City athlete
36. Molasses yielder
38. Style seen in "The Great Gatsby"
40. Easily tamed bird
41. Post-vacation task
43. Parade stopper

44. Inlaid with gold or silver
46. Hunky-dory
47. Treasure holder
48. Corn's core
49. A deadly sin
52. Gripper
54. Kind of gun
57. Exit, in a way
59. Poison ivy aid
61. Arrival en masse
62. Parrot
63. Cut molars
64. Silent party at a will reading

DOWN

1. Connive
2. Tear to pieces
3. Sign of trouble
4. Keep out
5. Remove by erosion
6. Like some eyes
7. Touch down
8. Indigenous

9. Pea jacket?
10. Arctic cover
11. Daze
12. Fiesta fare
13. Part of OTC
14. Come in last
21. Grind
23. Doe's mate
25. Counter worker
26. Stationed
27. Cooking smell
28. Red Cross supply
29. Violent storm
30. Poseidon's place
31. Clear
32. Dark wood
34. Kind of cap
37. Secret
39. Lackluster
42. Alka-seltzer, eg.
45. Rebel, in a way
46. Be generous
48. Infant's illness
49. Crack
50. Word in Texas' nick name
51. Storybook monster
53. Unconvincing
54. Commend
55. Ever and ____
56. Sassy
58. Not just any
60. Certifiable task

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The Giant Pacific Octopus: Wizard Beneath the Waves

by Mary Jane Schramm

You needn't venture far below the surface of the sea to encounter some of nature's more bizarrely designed and marvelously adapted life forms. One such is a multi-limbed, blue-blooded, squishy-bodied, consummately clever master of disguise; a supreme contortionist, a formidable predator, and a fiercely protective parent. Meet the giant Pacific octopus, *Enteroctopus*



dofleini. They hail from an impressive family.

A word about octopuses in general: Octopuses are cephalopod (head-footed) molluscs: marine invertebrates with two eyes, three hearts, four pairs of arms and nine brains. Their mouths are at the nexus of their arms (tentacles). They are 90% muscle, but can relax and squeeze through tiny openings, limited only by the size of their beak. The octopus' muscular but supple body can squeeze into cracks and crevices in which it conceals itself – its disappearing act - for either ambush or self-preservation. A 50 lb. octopus can push itself through a two-inch hole; the size limited only by its hard beak. These creatures are capable of blending into a landscape in a heartbeat. Color-changing chromatophores in its skin, even reflective cells that seem to render it invisible, create near-perfect camouflage and concealment. Now you see it ... now you don't.

An octopus is a true "blue-blood," courtesy of hemocyanin, a copper-rich pigment that binds oxygen at great depths. Two of its hearts pump blood to its gills, while a third heart circulates blood elsewhere throughout its body.

The Einstein of Invertebrates: Among all the invertebrates – marine and terrestrial - the octopus is among the most intelligent, most behaviorally diverse. It boasts

the most complex brain. Its nervous system consists of about 500,000,000 neurons, with two-thirds of them located in the octopus' arms. This permits each arm to move and otherwise function autonomously from the "head" brain located in the main body. This is due to the fact that neurons in the octopus brain are arranged in lobes that are far more specialized than simple ganglia – a quite sophisticated adaptation. It has a retentive memory and can learn quickly – to solve puzzles, to quickly assess and adapt to changing situations.

Octopuses are found worldwide: in pelagic waters, coral reefs, and on the deep ocean floor. Sometimes, even shipwrecks! For defense against predators, they

expel ink, flash colors to confuse and alarm, jet quickly away from danger, or hide in inaccessible crannies. All are venomous to some degree. More than 300 species of octopus are currently recognized.

Giant Pacific Octopus: The giant Pacific octopus, *Enteroctopus dofleini*, ranges from Japan, across the North Pacific and south to Mexico, living in water temperatures around 50-52° F. Nocturnal predators, they feed mainly on

crabs, clams, abalone, scallops, fish; but they sometimes will attack each other. This



species may be found in tide pools, kelp forests, and deep rocky habitats. Of all the octopuses, it grows bigger and lives longer than any other. The largest recorded was nearly 600 lbs., its arms stretching nearly 30 ft. across and weighing over 600 pounds. Adults more commonly average 16 feet and 110 lbs.

Giant Pacific octopuses pursue a "live fast and die young" philosophy. They grow rapidly; they must. These creatures rarely live beyond four or



five years, both sexes dying soon after breeding. Females will live only long

enough to tend their eggs, fiercely defending them against predators, but they fast all the while. Left with no reserves, they die soon after the brood of eggs hatches, after nearly two months.

These animals occupy a unique ecological niche, able to live and thrive at extreme conditions where others could not survive: truly remarkable creatures.

Mary Jane Schramm
NOAA Greater Farallones
National Marine Sanctuary
Maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov

Photos Credit: NOAA

To see footage of a giant Pacific octopus visit https://www.afsc.noaa.gov/species/octopus_vid.htm

Or for more octopus images, see <https://www.google.com/url?hl=en&q=http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/forfun/octopusfriday/welcome.html&source=gmail&ust=1511646529735000&usg=AFQjCNGELI4KimkgKT92L8CDLf ezIhr5Q>

"Cats regard people as warmblooded furniture."

Jacquelyn Mitchard,
The Deep End of the Ocean

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Get Out! December's Music, Poetry, Theater, Films, Art & Events

- Friday 01: 5:00pm, Salon & Salon des Refuses, Gualala Arts Center
- Friday 01: 5:00pm, Festival of Lights at Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens (thru 12/17)
- Friday 01: 8:30pm, Butch Kwan and Friends at Garcia River Casino
- Saturday 02: 8:30am, Voter Registration at the Pay 'n Take at the Gualala Community Center
- Saturday 02: 10:00am, Bizarre Bazaar at Brandybuck Ranch
- Saturday 02: 10:00am, Open House at Pt. Arena Lighthouse
- Saturday 02: 2:00pm, ACORN Community Film Festival at Arena Theater
- Saturday 02: 4:00pm, Santa at Action Network for Hometown Holidays, Point Arena
- Saturday 02: 4:00pm, The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers, outside the Coast Community Library
- Saturday 02: 5:00pm, Full Cold Moon Lighthouse Tours, Pt. Arena Lighthouse
- Saturday 02: 7:00pm, Holiday Faire and Reception at Coast Highway Art Collective, Pt. Arena
- Saturday 02: 7:30pm, Mendocino Country Dance, Caspar Community Center
- Sunday 03: 8:30am, 1st Sunday breakfast, and Holiday Crafts Fair, Manchester Comm. Ctr.
- Sunday 03: 8:30am, Voter Registration at the Manchester Community Center (Guild)
- Sunday 03: 10:00am, Bizarre Bazaar at Brandybuck Ranch
- Sunday 03: 3:00pm, Reopening Celebration at Coast Community Library
- Monday 04: 12:00pm, The Coast Community Library in Point Arena reopens for everyone!
- Monday 04: 7:00pm, Arena Theater Film Club presents **The Disappearance of Alice**.
- Wednesday 06: 5:00pm, Martin Luther King Celebration Planning Session at Sundstrom Mall
- Thursday 07: 3:00pm, Publishing Consultations at Four-Eyed Frog Books
- Thursday 07: 6:00pm, The Casuals for Oldies and Trivia, at Garcia River Casino
- Friday 08: 7:00pm, Chris Doering, Karl Young at MendoViné
- Saturday 09: 12:00pm, Holiday Open House, Act. Network, Gualala, w/Santa, Jump House
- Saturday 09: 3:00pm, Holiday Concert w/ Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers & Coastal Singers, GAC
- Saturday 09: 7:00pm, David Jenkins, Harrison Goldberg at MendoViné
- Sunday 10: 1:00pm, Exhibition on Screen (Canaletto) at Arena Theater
- Sunday 10: 4:00pm, Holiday Concert with Beattie, Marks, and Guests, Gualala Arts
- Sunday 10: 4:00pm, Glenn Funk lecture "Augustin's Photons" at Pt. Arena Lighthouse
- Monday 11: 7:00pm, Arena Theater Film Club presents "Babette's Feast."
- Wednesday 13: 5:00pm, Martin Luther King Celebration Planning Session at Sundstrom Mall
- Thursday 14: 6:00pm, Christmas in Rio
- Thursday 14: 6:30pm, International Indian Themed Dinner at MendoViné
- Friday 15: 7:00pm, Harrison Goldberg, Tim Mueller at MendoViné
- Friday 15: 8:30pm, Black Horse Blues Band at Garcia River Casino
- Saturday 16: 8:30am, Voter Registration at the Pay 'n Take at the Gualala Community Center
- Sunday 17: 4:00pm, Chamber Christmas Concert w/R. Bogas & D. McCarroll, Gualala Arts
- Monday 18: 7:30pm, Open Mic and Third Monday Music at Arena Theater
- Thursday 21: 7:30pm, Annual Open Mic Solstice & Reading, 3rd Thursday Poetry, 215 Main
- Saturday 23: 1:00pm, Peter Pan, a National Theater (London) production at Arena Theater
- Sunday 24: 4:00pm, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, Gualala Arts
- Wednesday 27: 6:00pm, BAKU performs at The Fireside Room at Sea Ranch Lodge
- Friday 29: 7:00pm, Harrison Goldberg, Harrisong, at MendoViné
- Friday 29: 8:30pm, DJ Emilio at Garcia River Casino
- Sunday 31: 8:30pm, New Years Eve Bash with Richie Blue at Garcia River Casino
- Sunday 31: 9:30pm, New Years Eve Gala at MendoViné

Merry
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
New Year