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Lighthouse Peddler

Issue #196 February 2018

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Daimh Returns To 215 Main February 27 Gaelic Band's Only Area Performance



When a musical performance gets our attention—that is, they are terrific—we can all brag about the evening. When that artist returns, it's time to tell our friends.

While we don't use the word "supergroup" casually, Daimh is a Gaelic supergroup returning to the coast to play at 215 Main in Point Arena Tuesday, February 27. The group, based around West Lochaber and the Isle of Skye,

takes its name from the Gaelic word for "kinship". (FYI, there are no letters j, k, v, x, y or z in the Gaelic Alphabet, hence "Daimh" is pronounced "Dive".)

Daimh has performed their contemporary take of Highland and Gaelic music to over 20 countries, setting audiences alight from Moscow to San Francisco. With a reputation as giants of the . . .

Cont'd on page 16



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790 PORT ROAD (The Cove) IN POINT ARENA

**Live Music and CD Release Party with Bluesman James Armstrong
At Arena Theater, Saturday February 3**

As cooler days and colder nights remind us that winter has arrived on the coast, it's time to recall how we warm up in February. A sweater, comforter, or a fire in the fireplace are options. But to really get warmed up, get out of the house and head to Point Arena. February marks the opening of the 2018 Blues On The Coast series. Veteran bluesman James Armstrong will be cranking up the heat from the stage. Touring in support of his latest release, **Blues Been Good To Me**, the California-based blues guitarist, songwriter and singer, along with his 3-piece band, will perform at Arena Theater on Saturday, February 3. Showtime is 8:30pm; doors open at 8:00pm.

Born into a musical family in 1957 Los Angeles, Armstrong was exposed to music from the very start. His mother was a blues singer, and his father played jazz guitar. Armstrong formed his first band in 7th grade, and by his 20s he started making waves on the local California blues circuit, becoming the youngest member of Smokey Wilson's band. Armstrong has cited Jimi Hendrix, Robert Cray, Albert Collins, Albert King, and Eric Clapton as inspirational in his development. Highlights from his years in the Los Angeles area before moving north to the San Francisco Bay Area include shows backing Collins, Wilson, and another blues legend, Big Joe Turner.

Using both slide and pick, critics rave that Armstrong's guitar playing and ability to read the audience makes him one of the smooth-



est in the business. Promoters have stated that "few blues artists know how to play the crowd as Armstrong can, shifting dynamics from a whisper to a growl. . . .Wherever he travels around the world, his magnetism continues to hush a noisy rabble or entice a crowd to follow him out into the street or down the length of a beach."

Armstrong's status as one of the premier players are more impressive when people learn the backstory. Events surrounding a mid-1990s home invasion left Armstrong without the use of his left hand and arm, including permanent nerve damage. Although a clear threat to forever end his career, with thanks and the support of friends, fans and the blues community, Armstrong came back two years later with a second album, "Dark Night."

What Armstrong lost in the tragedy he gained in "a whole new respect for the music itself, the power in slow blues, how the silences between the notes are as important as the notes." Armstrong also turned his efforts to perfecting his songwriting, vocal and slide guitar skills, all the while developing his gift for turning hardship into song. The results were a third album, "Got It Goin' On." The CD garnered two Blues Music Award nominations for "best blues guitarist" and for "best song of the year" with "Pennies and Picks."

The blues series is underwritten by The Pier Chowder House and Tap Room. Tickets are \$20, available at The Sea Trader and Four-Eyed Frog Books in Gualala; Arena Market and The Pier Chowder House and Tap Room in Point Arena; Twist in Mendocino, and online at www.arenatheater.org. The Arena Theater bar and snack stand will be open.

Photo: James Armstrong, courtesy of Armstrong promotion.

**"Even Whales Do It: Sex, Mating, and Menopause Among Killer Whales"
Jodi C. Smith Tells All At Pt. Arena Lighthouse • February 17**

On Saturday, February 17 at 4:00pm cetacean researcher and Executive Director of Naked Whale Research Jodi C. Smith will present "Even Whales Do It: Sex, Mating, and Menopause among Fish-Eating Killer Whales" as part of the Lighthouse Lecture Series at the Point Arena Lighthouse. This fascinating lecture will discuss how sex-play and mating contribute to long-term social bonds among Southern Resident killer whales; strengthening both individual pod membership and family stability. She also illustrates the potential benefits of, and the important role that, post-reproductive "grandmothers" play in a matrilineal fish-eating killer whale culture. The lecture will be presented in the Fog Signal Building at the Point Arena Lighthouse, 45500 Lighthouse Rd. in Point Arena. Admission is \$5 and reservations are recommended.

Smith is a cetologist who specializes in the behavioral biology of killer whales. She has spent the past 20 years studying the J, K and L killer whale pods that make up the Southern Resident population of the Pacific

Northwest. Her research on vessel effects on killer whale behavior and habitat use helped to aid policy makers with the 2005 Federal endangered listing status of this population under the U. S. Endangered Species Act.

In 2010, she founded the scientific nonprofit Naked Whale Research. This local nonprofit is dedicated to understanding killer whale habits between Vancouver Island, Canada and Monterey Bay, CA focusing on winter travels by the K and L pods from Washington State as well as studying lesser known populations of transient and offshore type killer whales off Mendocino County.



Naked Whale Research offers the public as well as conservation and federal agencies hands-on access to regional data collected on killer whales in their mission to educate and encourage "back-yard" stewardship and increase overall scientific discovery on west coast killer whales.

To make reservations or for more information, contact the Point Arena Lighthouse at (707) 882-2809, ext. 1.



**BAKU, A Musical Performance,
A Benefit Concert for
Global Harmony
Summer Adventure Camp 2018
Sunday, February 25, 4:00pm
at Gualala Arts
Complete Story on Page 12**

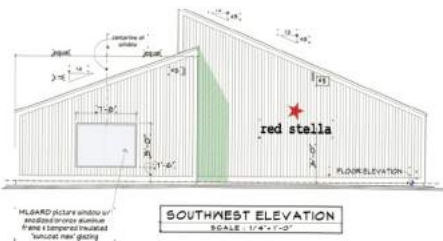


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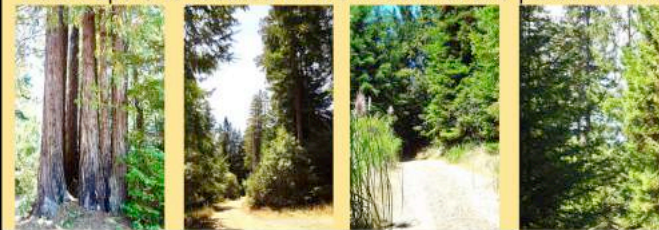
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Our thanks to February contributors Rozann Grunig, Mitch McFarland, Blake More, Paula Ray Power, Cathy Riehm, Mary Jane Schramm, David Steffen, Karin Uphoff, Jennifer Bort Yacovissi.

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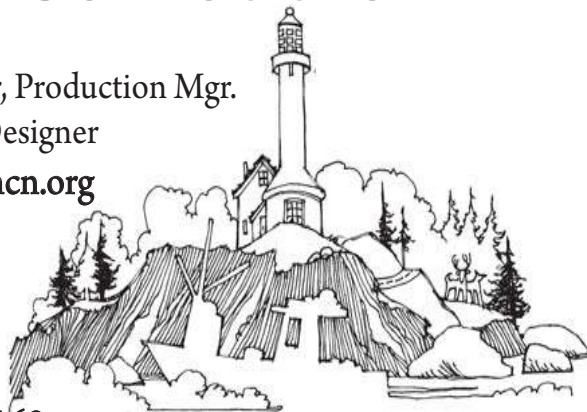
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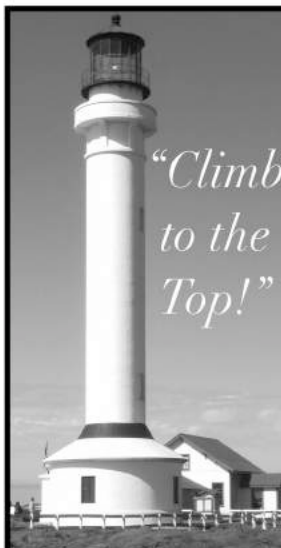


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Announcing The Seed Exchange A Project Of The Coast Community Library and You!

Join friends and neighbors on Saturday, February 17 for a Local Seed Forum and Seed Swap from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in the community room at the library, 225 Main Street, Point Arena.



There will be time to go over the basics of seed saving, including challenges, best practices, recommendations, and questions. Bring seeds to share if you have some. Seeds that are already part of the exchange will be available to borrow. All are welcome. More information is at (707) 882-3114.

Arts Center Theater Presents Guys and Dolls March 23-31.

It may seem a little early to be talking about the March production of *Guys & Dolls*. Well, not really. Demand for tickets for these Gualala Arts Center Theater productions is generally strong (and we know you don't want to be left out. . . .)

The Arts Center Theater presents the Tony and Pulitzer Prize winning musical of Damon Runyon short stories. Directed by Bryn Harris it is a PG13 production.

Evening performances at 7:00pm, Friday March 23, Saturday, March 24 and Friday, March 30 and Saturday, March 31. Matinees: Sunday, March 25 and Saturday, March 31, at 2:00pm. \$20 in advance, plus \$5 day of event; PG13 performance, Youth 7-17 must attend with an adult. Opening and closing nights only, Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 31, Cuban Tapas small plates buffet with specialty drink, \$30 in advance. Purchase food tickets separately one week in advance. Plus \$10 afterward.

Tickets are now on sale for the March production of *"Guys and Dolls"* at Gualala Arts Center and can be purchased online at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006 or in person at Gualala Arts Center and the Dolphin Gallery. Tickets are \$20 in advance, plus \$5 the day of the show. Youth 7-17 must be accompanied by an adult for this PG-13 performance.

The show is set in the 1950s and follows the adventures of a group of gamblers and hot box dancers with Sergeant Sarah Brown and the "Save-A-Soul Mission" working to save the souls of these shifty characters.

Music and Lyrics are by Frank Loesser and the book is written by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows. Don Krieger will provide music and accompaniment. With memorable songs such as "Fugue for Tinhorns", "Luck Be a Lady", "Miss Adelaide's Lament", "Bushel and a Peck", "Sit Down, You're Rocking the Boat" and the Title song "Guys and Dolls", this show is sure to be a colorful romp through the New York underworld and back. After much success in New York City and at the Pacific Conservatory Theatre in Santa Maria, Calif., Harris returned to Gualala in 2010 and has been part of several local productions as choreographer, performer and/or director. Recent productions include "Of the I Sing", "Jekyll and Hyde the Musical", "Honk!" and her one-woman Valentine's show in 2014. Bryn says she is thrilled to have the opportunity to give Musical Theater back to the community. This will be her directing debut at Gualala Arts Center. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Directing from the UNC School of The Arts where she worked with Gerald Freedman on the 50th anniversary of "West Side Story" and "Sunday in the Park with George".

A Full Blue Moon Night Tour March 1 Point Arena Lighthouse Suggests Booking Early

It's been an unusual month for the monthly evening tours at Point arena Lighthouse. Technically there are no Full Moon Tours in February 2018. Technically. However, the moon didn't disappear from the sky.

Blame the missing tours on the calendar since there were actually two Blue Moons right on the edges of the month. The January 31 tour sold out which suggests that booking space for the March 1 (Thursday night) tour is a really good idea. On tour evenings the Lighthouse gates will open at 6:00pm and the tours will begin around 6:30 p.m.

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.

"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.

Gualala Arts Kicks Off A New Year Of Workshops Classes Begin In February And Continue Into Spring

Who says there's nothing to do on a Friday night on the coast? Gualala Arts is kicking off a new year of workshops with a Friday night 2-hour class that is perfect for a crafty night out with friends.

Ukrainian Egg Painting, or Psansky, is the first in an upcoming series of Entertainment Art Classes to be held most months at the Arts Center. Each class will feature a different project, and everyone leaves feeling successful and with a personal piece of art to display or gift to a friend. Artist Whitney Badgett Hasan, a practicing Point Arena artist and teacher at Pacific Community Charter High School, will teach the classes.

Ukrainian Egg Painting, on Friday, February 23, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm, features the ancient craft of Psansky that involves dying and writing, or etching, on wax. Cost for this one-time class is \$25 or Gualala Arts members, \$30 for non-members, and there is a \$10 materials fee due to the instructor the day of the class. This class is recommended for ages 14 and up. The class will be upstairs in the Memorial Mezzanine classroom. Sign up by February 22.

Using a wax-resist method, Hasan says this traditional art is similar to batik — patterns are drawn on the egg with wax, which then protects the covered areas from the dye that

is applied. By repeating this process with different colors of dye, a multi-colored pattern is built up. Finally, the wax is removed to reveal the colors that were added at each stage. Eggs can be put in baskets, hung on trees, or saved as keepsakes. All supplies are provided by the instructor, so all you need bring is your lovely self and a friend!

Whitney Badgett Hasan has an M.F.A. in Interdisciplinary Art from Goddard College, a M.Ed. in Cross-Cultural Education from National University, and a B.A. in Visual Arts and History from University of Montana Western. She is also a practicing artist and the author and illustrator of a children's book "Toy is from Thailand". Whitney currently resides in Point Arena and is a teacher at Pacific Community Charter High School.

March kicks off with a six-week series of spatial awareness and creative expression in "Movement Improv" with instructor Ruby Claire. This class, for ages 18 and up, is on Thursday evenings from 6 to 7:30 p.m., starting March 1. (Class dates: March 1, 8, 15, 29, April 5 and 12). No class March 22. Sign up by February 28.

Cost of this workshop series is \$80 for Gualala Arts members, \$90 for non-members. Drop ins are welcome at \$15 for members and \$17 for non-members.

Zephyros Winds Ensemble,
Chamber Music Concert, Gualala Arts, February 11

The February Chamber Concert Series at Gualala Arts Center brings the Zephyros Winds Ensemble to Coleman Hall on Sunday February 11 at 4:00pm. Tickets are \$25 in advance, plus \$5 the day of the concert, and can be purchased at BrownPaperTickets.com or by calling 1-800-838-3006. They can also be bought in person at Gualala Arts Center and Dolphin Gallery.

Now in its 21st season, Zephyros Winds is one of America's distinguished chamber ensembles. Bringing together five of the finest wind virtuosos of their generation—Fatma Daglar (oboe), Jennifer Grim (flute), Marianne Gythfeldt (clarinet), Saxton Rose (bassoon), and Zohar Schondorf (horn). All five members enjoy accomplished chamber and orchestral careers, as well as teaching positions as some of the country's best music schools.



Zephyros performances encompass the repertoire for wind quintet, works for winds and piano, winds and strings, and works from solos through wind ensemble. Taking its name from the Greek god of the West Wind, Zephyros Winds first gained national attention in 1995, when, one year after its formation, it won both the First and Grand Prizes at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition, becoming the first wind quintet in the competition's 22-year history to do so. They made their New York debut in 1997 at Merkin Concert Hall and began extensive touring

throughout the United States. Zephyros Winds made its New York concerto debut opening the 2004 Mostly Mozart Festival and has appeared at the nation's most prestigious concert venues, including The Library of Congress, Wolf Trap, Carnegie's Weill Hall, Dumbarton Oaks, Duke Performances at Duke University, "The Movado Hour" at The Baryshnikov Art Center in New York City, Da Camera Society of Los Angeles, Skaneateles Festival, and Lincoln Center's

"Great Performers Series." In 2010, Zephyros performed in Beijing, China at the National Centre for the Performing Arts' May Festival. The Philadelphia Museum of Art engaged Zephyros to create a program complimenting their exhibition, "Manet and the Sea," and at the invitation of the French Embassy in Washington, DC, Zephyros performed a gala concert celebrating the centenary of Francis Poulenc's birth. Numerous Radio broadcasts include "Performance Today" for National Public Radio (most recently in early 2016), Public Radio International's "Music from Chautauqua," and WNYC's "Around New York." Their live-recording of Irving Fine's "Partita for Woodwind Quintet," was released on Bridge Records. Zephyros has given master classes at The Yale University School of Music, The Juilliard School, The Eastman School of Music, and the Idyllwild Arts Academy.

integrity, responsibilities and reality. That dream is within reach now, because Wayne Garner's story is your story too. Born and raised in eastern Oklahoma, primarily growing up in Native American communities Wayne Garner was deeply influenced by the people, the land and the struggle around him. He started playing guitar and creating music early on to find a voice for the story that was growing within. Finding moments of joy and reflection in the sounds of Radney Foster, Steve Earle, George Ducas, Buddy Holly, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, as well as other great storytellers and wordsmiths. Catch Wayne Garner while he's here on the Mendonoma Coast. Information is at (707) 467-5300. The Casino is at 22215 Windy Hollow Rd, Point Arena.

Wayne Garner
at Garcia River Casino
Friday, February 23 8:30pm
Texas Country In Pt. Arena

Who is Wayne Garner and why is he coming to the coast? It's simple. This is one solid traveling music man. He'll perform at the Garcia River Casino Friday, February 23. Show begins at 8:30pm.

Garner is a CMA and Grammy member singer/songwriter from Austin, Texas who's currently touring in support of his latest album "Love Drunk Fool". The young road-worn troubadour and his band have already logged thousands of miles playing 150-plus dates a year in front of loyal crowds at late-night clubs and halls all over Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arkansas.

New listeners will find enjoyment with "Love Drunk Fool" as well as identify with Garner as someone who knows first-hand the challenges of balancing one's dreams,



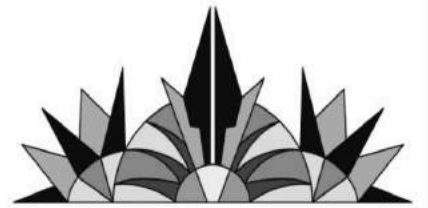
integrity, responsibilities and reality. That dream is within reach now, because Wayne Garner's story is your story too.

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Catch Wayne Garner while he's here on the Mendonoma Coast. Information is at (707) 467-5300. The Casino is at 22215 Windy Hollow Rd, Point Arena.

Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it whether it exists or not, diagnosing it incorrectly, and applying the wrong remedy.

Ernest Benn (1875-1954)



ARENA THEATER
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Blues on the Coast
Saturday Feb. 3 8:30 PM
James Armstrong
Coming Sunday March 4 2 PM
Bolshoi Ballet in Cinema
The Flames of Paris
Met Opera Live in HD
Saturday Feb. 10 9 AM
L'Elisir d'Amore
Saturday Feb. 24 9:30 AM
La Bohème
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National Theatre Live
from London
Saturday Feb. 17 1 PM
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Y	A	H	O	E	D	H	E	A	R	

Solution to crossword:

New Moon



February 15

Full Moon



March 2

"One of my chief regrets during my recent years in the theater is that I couldn't sit in the audience and watch me."

John Barrymore (1882 - 1942)

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**L'Elisir d'Amore: The MET Opera Live In HD
February 10 at Arena Theater**

Donizetti's comic gem *L'Elisir d'Amore*, staged by Bartlett Sher and conducted by Domingo Hindoyan, stars Pretty Yende as the spirited Adina, with Matthew Polenzani as Nemorino, the simple peasant who falls in love with her. Davide Luciano makes his Met debut as the role of Adina's arrogant fiancé, Belcore and Ildebrando D'Arcangelo sings the role of the magic potion-peddling Doctor Dulcamara. Domingo Hindoyan makes his company debut conducting. *L'Elisir d'Amore* screens at Arena Theater on Saturday, February 10 at 9:00am.

One of the most popular comic operas in the repertoire, *L'Elisir d'Amore* combines a lighthearted story with beautiful melodies and four great leading roles. Among the star tenors to appear as Nemorino, and to perform that most rewarding of arias, "Una furtiva lagrima," are Enrico Caruso, Beniamino Gigli, Ferruccio Tagliavini, Carlo Bergonzi, and, more recently, Luciano Pavarotti (pictured) and Matthew Polenzani.

World premiere: Teatro Canobbiana, Milan, 1832. Met premiere: January 23, 1904. *L'Elisir d'Amore* has been among the most consistently popular operatic comedies for almost two centuries. The story deftly combines comic archetypes with a degree of genuine character development rare in works of this type. Its ending is

as much a foregone conclusion as it would be in a romantic comedy film today—the joy is in the journey, and Donizetti created one of his most instantly appealing scores for this ride.

The opera is set in a small village in rural Italy. Some early editions indicate a location in Basque country. The important fact is that it's a place where everyone knows everyone and where traveling salesmen provide a major form of public entertainment. The Met's production sets the action in 1836, when the Risorgimento, the movement for Italian independence, was beginning to gather momentum.

What separates *L'Elisir d'Amore* from dozens of charming comedies composed around the same time is not only the superiority of its hit numbers, but the overall consistency of its music. It represents the best of

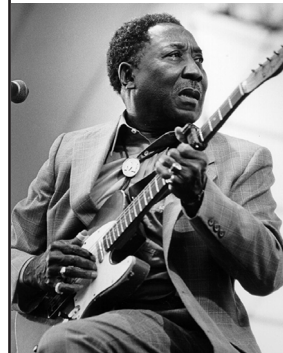


the bel canto tradition that reigned in Italian opera in the early 19th century—from funny patter songs to rich ensembles to wrenching melody in

the solos, most notably the tenor's show stopping aria "Una furtiva lagrima" in Act II. Its variations between major and minor keys in the climaxes are one of opera's savviest depictions of a character's dawning consciousness.

Coast Community Library Celebrates Black History Month

There's always something special going on at the Coast Community Library, and February is no exception. This month the library will commemorate Black History



Month with a display of notable blues musicians by Siochain Deva (fka Kathy Stone). A reception and screening of the film *Can't Be Satisfied: The Life And Times Of*

Muddy Waters, Saturday, February 10,

1:00pm. Artists included in the film are Chuck D, Keith Richards, Bonnie Raitt, BB King, and Muddy Waters. At Coast Community Library, 225 Main Street, Pt. Arena.



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The Traveling Spectacular At Arena Theater A Surrealist Vaudeville Experience February 24

The Traveling Spectacular takes stage at Arena Theater Saturday February 24, helped along with music by the Oddjob Ensemble. But just who or what is the Traveling Spectacular?

Well, welcome to The Traveling Spectacular! A surrealist vaudeville experience inspired by the dreams and dust of a bygone age. Fun for the whole family! Allow your sense of wonder to ignite as we take you on a journey into the imagination. We offer live entertainment



complete with live music by the Oddjob Ensemble, grand illusions, a sword swallowing prestidigitator extraordinaire, vaudevillian comedy, a bevy of dancing beauties, and the fire-breathing Devil himself!

Tobias Weinberger has been performing magic and circus arts since the age of eleven

and was a longtime member of internationally touring rock and roll vaudeville troupe,



The Yard Dogs Road Show. For the past few years Tobias has combined his love of magic, circus and surrealism to build his own show, The Traveling Spectacular.

Live music for the show is provided by Oddjob Ensemble, a Californian consortium of multi-instrumentalists that play a lively, exotic accompaniment to the fantastic acts on stage.

The Traveling Spectacular Show is live on stage at Arena Theater, Saturday, February 24, 7:30pm; doors open at 7:00pm. Tickets are \$15, \$5 youth (18 and under).



MendoViné in Gualala:

Music and More During February

From it's original mission to provide a great place to enjoy a Mendonoma sunset with a glass of wine and some light food, MendoViné has grown into a must stop for locals and visitors.

The sunsets are still great, the food and drinks get better and better, but now there's something more: Music. MendoViné is giving guests music to make the evenings even more memorable. Here's a sampling of who's performing this month:

Friday, February 2, Chris Doering brings his guitar along with Karl Young on Shaku-

hachi. Music starts at 7:00pm.

Duo'Xplore is front and center on Friday, February 16. Harrison Goldberg on Sax and Tim Mueller, guitar get started at 7:00pm.

Harrison Goldberg offers a unique music performance on his own Friday, February 23 starting at 7:30pm.

Pocket Swing with Scott Foster on Guitar and Demetra Markis bringing Jazz vocals will perform Saturday February 24 beginning at 7:00pm.

MendoViné: more than just a wine bar in downtown Gualala. (707) 896-2650.

Four-Eyed Frog Wants To Hear From You. Really! Take Their Survey Now Through February 10

Our wonderful little bookstore is reaching out to its customers and friends to hear their opinions with a simple survey. Some of you may have already taken the survey and for that they are grateful. But they're betting that not everyone took them up on their offer so they're reminding you that you can still participate.

The survey is based on the simple and happy idea that Four Eyed Frog Books is going to be expanding their inventory over the next few months. As a community-owned bookstore, they want to hear from YOU! You're part of the community, and your opinions will help shape your local bookstore.

If you could please take a moment to respond to the six questions below. Wondering how to reply? We've made it simple and painless for you. Simply go to their website—www.foureyedfrog.com—and find the secure link to the survey and provide your responses. Not sure you can find the link? Hint: It looks something like the big blue button you see here:



If you would rather email your responses you can send them to foureyedfrogbooks@gmail.com.

Your responses to this short survey will help them ensure that your community-owned bookstore has the books on hand that are of special interest to locals and visitors alike. Here you go:

1. As a book reader, what are the top 3 genres you read the most? (Examples: mystery, biography, science, fiction, etc.)
2. Who are your favorite authors in those genres?
3. What type of books would you like to see at Four Eyed Frog Books?
4. Do you come to our in-store events? If not, what would you make you want to come to our events?
5. What other types of items would you like to see at Four Eyed Frog that we don't currently have?
6. Share your thoughts on how the Frog can better meet your book buying needs.

Thanks from the Four-Eyed Frog!

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Sat 2/3 **Mystery Theater Matinee** 2 pm

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Matinee \$20 in advance, plus \$5 day of

Sun 2/11 **Zephyros Winds Ensemble** 4 pm

Chamber Music Series Concert

\$25 in advance, plus \$5 day of, Youth 7-17 free
Coleman Hall

Sun 2/25 **BAKU Benefit Concert** 4-6 pm

\$20 in advance
for Global Harmony
Summer Adventure Camp

Sun 2/28 **Hearts for the Arts** 2:15pm

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Adlai E. Stevenson Jr.
(1900-1965)

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Berkeley Poet Carol Denney February 15 Third Thursday Poetry at 215 Main in Pt. Arena

by Blake More

On Thursday, February 15, at 7:30pm The Third Thursday Poetry & Jazz Reading Series at 215 Main in Point Arena will feature Berkeley poet Carol Denney. The reading will begin with live improv jazz and an open mic with jazz improv; the reading will conclude with more live improv jazz.

Carol Denney was one of the Bay Area's most respected songwriters for many years before the year 1991. After 1991 her alma mater, the University of California, announced that she was "the key leader of a violent conspiracy" according to their civil suit against her and four other activists, including respected Ashkenaz founder David Nadel.

"None of us were sure how that happened," she says, reflecting on the matter, which left her legally declared a public figure. She had spoken, along with thousands of others, on behalf of the community-wide effort to save landmarked People's Park from the indignity of being turned into a sports facility. She had also written a ripping song called "See You in Santa Rita" which, she says, "may have turned the crank."

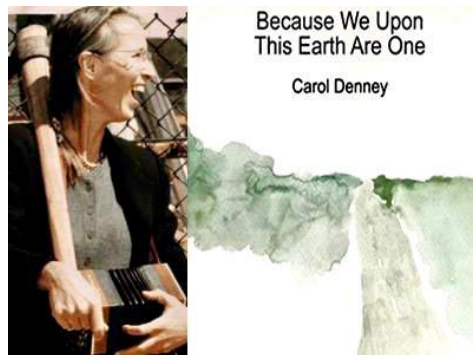
The university finally had to drop its SLAPP-suit against her, but the song is still considered part of the People's Park canon, and joins many other respected songs by the poet/musician as having particular resonance to those who pay attention to local politics, such as "Set Your Radio Free", which tells the story of Free Radio Berkeley, a micro-power station of which she is proud to have been among the original pioneer crew.

"We started newspapers and radio stations," she says of her work with Free Radio Berkeley founder Stephen Dunifer. "We worked with all media as best we could, but it made sense to start our own. Our story was a good one, and we needed to make sure it was told."

Carol Denney's poetry is included in Revolutionary Poets Brigade anthologies and she's

performed as a featured poet and musician throughout the Bay Area at venues such as the Beat Museum, the Emerald Tablet, the Freight and Salvage and festivals nationwide. She's the Human Rights Editor and a regular columnist for Street Spirit newspaper, a columnist and reporter for the Berkeley Daily Planet, Editor and founder of the 26-year-old Pepper Spray Times, a cartoonist for the Berkeley Times, and is a featured artist at the Passages Gallery and the Expressions Gallery in Berkeley, California.

Denney is best known for her political



comedy, which is featured on KPFA's Twit-Wit Radio, but her performance art garnered front page San Francisco Examiner coverage when she threw a bake sale for PG&E at its Market Street headquarters after it declared bankruptcy in 2001, raising \$1.27 for the beleaguered utility. "They deserved every penny," she says.

Denney is an Northern California Songwriters Association award-winning lyricist, an innovative guitarist, an old-time fiddler, a concertina player, Fiddlers for Peace" founder, curator of the Deep Poetry Project", was a 2004 honoree by the City of Berkeley for homeless advocacy, a 2003 honoree for civil liberties activism through music, humor, and art by the Berkeley Commission on the Status of Women, the winner of the East Bay

Express' readers' poll "Best Solo Performer" for 2002, and selected as one of the San Francisco Bay Guardian's 2001 "Best of the Bay" honorees for writing "The PG&E Song; Write the Check and Shut Up."

But her favorite thing to do is support the arts, whether as a volunteer fiddler for the Augusta Music Heritage Festival in West Virginia, or as part of Old Mill Days for the Bothe-Napa State Park, where she missed getting caught in the recent fire by one day. Her Failure to Disperse Acoustic Revolt and Road Show ensemble is a favorite at local street performances and as music for San Francisco's Maritime Labor History tour every year as well as for decades of other Laborfest events. She's proud of having been the spiritual advisor and doing graphic production for the Best of Blasphemy project in Canyon, California with Ann Callicrate and Neil J. Young, and is routinely heard on KQED's Perspectives doing comedic pieces on civil rights and other dangerous subjects. She's been quoted by Alexander Cockburn as well as the Wall Street Journal, and is a proud part of the Folk This! extended family. She was awarded the 2009 Oldtime Spirit award from the Augusta Music Heritage Festival, voted best female artist at PirateCat Radio in SF in 2010, and was nominated to the Revolutionary Poets' Brigade by former poet laureate of San Francisco Jack Hirschman in 2010, where she finally met others as enchanted with the intersection of words and politics as she. And she is perhaps proudest of being the inventor of the chairapillar, a protest parade of moving chairs. More information about Carol can be found at www.caroldenney.com

Third Thursday Poetry & Jazz 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.


Getting Published: Writers Workshop At Four-Eyed Frog Books • Feb 13

The Mendonoma Coast has no shortage of creative people. For writers, getting their book published can sometimes seem daunting. If you're 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, will once again join together to offer their monthly free publishing consultations and the basics of self-publishing your book. Open to all, it's at the Frog on Tuesday, February 13 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm. Drop in to discuss your specific work with Connie, and questions are welcomed!



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 career has included 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.




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Lillian Hellman (1905 - 1984)



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Words on Wellness by Karin Uphoff

The weather along this stretch of California is moist, mild and bright enough for planting tender greens and Southeast Asian ornamentals subject to frost-damage. Gardeners my shudder when frost occurs along the coast, but the first cold snap is a boon for birds who have been waiting for tough-fibered edible berries to finally succumb into softness. Now robins and thrushes are happily flocking to Cotoneaster, toyon and rose bushes to chow down on the more succulent and slightly sweet fruits – what joy!

In herbal circles we wait for the first frost before harvesting rosehips, Oregon grape berries or sloes, especially if you just want to squeeze out the inner mush and eat it on the spot (spit the seeds out though!). Cotoneaster is too concentrated in cyanide for humans but if you still have some juniper berries clinging to your bushes, they've sweeten up as well. Healing herbs like cleavers and chickweed that are growing with the rains are also slightly 'cooked' by the cold and much more digestible.

All these plants are aids to circulation and the effects of winter on our skin. Sharp cold winds or moving in and out of heated buildings to wind-whipped cool air, can burst capillaries in the nose, toes or the skin on top of your cheekbones. Members of the

rose family (rose hips, petals, hawthorn berries) and fruits like blueberries, huckleberries, apples, cranberries, grapeseed extract, grapes, cherries, persimmon, strawberries, citrus peel and chili peppers, are all rich in bioflavonoids. Flavonoids promote elasticity and integrity of capillaries and all blood vessels, plus attack cell-destroying free radicals. Herbs containing large concentrations of flavonoids that work well as tea include chamomile, calendula, ginkgo, gotu kola, hawthorn leaf, green tea, olive leaf and eucalyptus.

Topical applications of witch hazel and horse chestnut extracts easily penetrate skin to heal blood vessels just underneath. Rosehip oil is used to help skin inflammations and rashes from over-exposure to cold, heat and sun. Since all plants that mend and strengthen blood vessels also strengthen the heart, treat your heart to flavonoid-rich meals this month. A nice valentine meal can include flavone-packed foods like red onion, garlic, purple potatoes, sweet potatoes, garbanzo beans, red quinoa, celery, tomatoes and all leafy greens. Oh and of course, dark chocolate covered cherries for dessert!

Karin Uphoff is a Master Herbalist and Iridologist, Massage Therapist, energy healer, Reiki practitioner and Yoga Instructor, and co-founder of Mind Body Medicine for Health, Education & Wellness in Mendocino, California. Karin's website is <http://rainbowconnection.net>.



Living Everywhere, Happily. Brewer's Blackbirds

Everyone has seen Brewer's Blackbirds. They are in parks, fields, and parking lots. They are the birds that peck bugs from your car bumper. In *Birds of Northern California*, David Fix writes, "Our immense network of highways has offered the Brewer's Blackbird a bounty of vehicle-stuck insects. This species exploits the 'road kill resource' niche better than any other songbird."

Brewer's Blackbirds are 8-10 inches long with a slender, straight bill. The male has a glossy greenish back, iridescent purple head, and bright yellow eyes. The female has brown eyes and a medium-brown body with slightly lighter brown underparts.

Brewer's Blackbirds live almost everywhere: wet meadows, grasslands, shores, roadsides, landfills, golf courses, urban and suburban parks and gardens, farmyards,

pastures and marshes. They nest from sea level to 900 ft.

They peck, glean, and chase food, which includes a variety of spiders, crustaceans, and snails. They may also eat grass and seeds.

During courtship displays and when they are threatened, Brewer's Blackbirds call and lift their beaks, fluff their feathers, and spread their wings and tails. A pair may remain together for five years, but some males are polygamous. They nest in loose colonies of three to 100 pairs. The nest is constructed of twigs, cow dung (or mud), grass (or fur), and lined with fine material. Females incubate 4-6 greenish eggs with brown and gray spots. In non-breeding season, Brewer's Blackbirds join other birds like Red-winged Blackbirds, Brown-headed Cowbirds, and European Starlings. They may form huge, cacophonous flocks.



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. Photo credit: Robert David Siegel, M.D., Ph.D., Stanford University

Animal Care & Welfare

By Cathy Riehm

Rex and I both use a common homeopathic treatment called Rescue Remedy when we get stressed out. It helps Rex when his McNab friend harasses and jumps on him, and it helps me when I need to fly on a plane. Essentially a flower essence, Rescue Remedy keeps Rex from going to that manic place of spinning in circles when he can't get away from his doggie friend, and keeps me from crying when the plane goes through a little turbulence.

Is homeopathy an option you consider when it comes to treating your pets?

The philosophy of homeopathy revolves around not just suppressing symptoms, but gently triggering the body's natural ability to heal. The treatment principle is based upon 'like curing like'- nudging the animal (or person) in the direction of the disease so their body will rebound into a state of health. In other words, a substance that can make you ill in large doses can cure you if taken in small doses. First developed over 250 years ago, homeopathic medicines today are regulated by the FDA. Homeopaths prescribe remedies- these are created from animal, plant and mineral substances which are then diluted many times so that a very small amount of the original chemical substance remains. When prescribing a remedy, the homeopath considers every aspect of the patient, from their physical symptoms to their mental and emotional state, thus treating the whole animal, and not just their symptoms.

Dr. Barbara Fishelson is a local licensed veterinarian and certified veterinary homeopath. She has her own practice, Veterinary Homeopathy, and also makes house and farm calls through her business, On The Road Veterinary Care. She is also the veterinarian at the Gualala Humane Society (along with me, as her veterinary technician). Dr.


Fishelson spent many years treating animals allopathically, including owning her own animal hospital in San Francisco. Searching for a different system of medicine, she took her first course (of many to follow) with Dr. Richard Pitcairn, the "guru" of veterinary homeopathy. Dr. Fishelson says "he was my first teacher (and friend) who taught me how to 'take off the blinders and think'. I learned about animal nutrition and behavior in ways that I did not learn in my conventional medical training". You can reach Dr. Fishelson at 707-937-1358

or at veterinaryhomeopathy@mcn.org and ontheroad@mcn.org. If you are looking for over-the-counter homeopathic (or natural and herbal) products, check out Roots Apothecary in Point Arena.



"Cats are intended to teach us that not everything in nature has a function."
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"Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf"

National Theatre Live at Arena Theater February 17

Whether this is your first dip into the Edward Albee pool, or you're revisiting his classic work, this National Theatre Live production of *Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf* will not disappoint.

It's no accident that the lead characters in Albee's play are named George and Martha. We shouldn't bristle at the author's framing of these two people as contemporary examples of their early American namesakes given the power of Albee's imagery. George is a history professor, and Martha is the daughter of the college's long-term, popular president. *The New York Times* suggested that "Mr. Albee wastes no compassion on

brief pause between Acts 2 and 3. Tickets are \$18, \$5 youth (18 and under), and are available online at www.arenatheater.org and on the day of show.

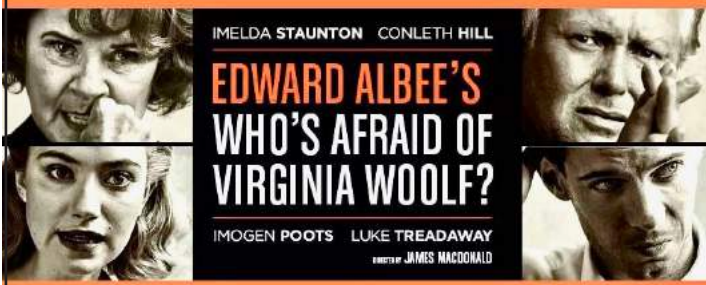
The performers in this Sonia Friedman Production include Imelda Staunton (*Gypsy, Vera Drake*, the Harry Potter films), Conleth Hill (*Game Of Thrones, The Producers*), Luke Treadaway (*The Hollow Crown*) and Imogen Poots (*A Long Way Down*).

In the early hours of the morning on the campus of an American college, Martha, much to her husband George's displeasure, has invited the new professor and his wife

to their home for some after-party drinks. As the alcohol flows and dawn approaches, the young couple are drawn into George and Martha's toxic games until the evening reaches its climax in a moment of devastating truth-telling.

Critics agree that this is a production to see: "Imelda Staunton is at her magnificent best. A first-rate revival of an astonishing play" (*The Guardian*); "Conleth Hill is superb. Exquisite" (*Evening Standard*); "Luke Treadaway and Imogen Poots are terrific" (*Metro*); "Flawless. A superlative production" (*Daily Telegraph*).

James Macdonald's critically acclaimed, 5 star production will be broadcast live to cinemas from the Harold Pinter Theatre, London. Arena Theater is at 214 Main Street, Point Arena.



his characters and their problems. He certainly displays no sympathy for their dreams and fantasies. He goes after the pretensions of American intellectuals, families, marriages and traditions."

Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf appears on screen at Arena Theater in Point Arena Saturday, February 17. Doors open at 12:30pm, and the performance begins at 1:00pm. Running time is approximately 180 minutes, including a 15-min interval and a

A Musical, A Drama, And One Crazy Doctor

Arena Theater Film Club in February

Like many fashions, the movie musical as a film genre has endured an ebb and flow with audiences, and the 1950s was a time of enthusiasm. *Singin' In The Rain* (1952) stars Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor in a masterpiece of the classical Hollywood musical—filled with memorable songs, lavish routines, and Kelly's fabulous song-and-dance number performed in the rain.



A spoof of the turmoil that afflicted the movie industry in the late 1920s when movies went from silent to sound. When two silent movie stars', Don Lockwood and Lina Lamont, latest movie is made into a musical a chorus girl is brought in to dub Lina's speaking and singing. Don is on top of the world until Lina finds out. No need to worry about where the film is going. Just sit back and enjoy the ride. By the way, in addition to the three top-billed stars, the cast includes Jean Hagen, Millard Mitchell, Cyd Charisse, and Rita Moreno. The film screens Monday, February 5, 7:00pm. The film is not rated and has a runtime of 103 minutes.

Switching gears a bit, *Marty* (1955) scheduled for February 12, is a romantic drama with unlikely leading characters. Before being displaced by the rise of the supermarket, the butcher was a familiar ingredient in city living. Having shopped along Arthur Avenue in the Bronx I can see where writer Paddy Chayefsky got his inspiration, and

Marty Piletti (Ernest Borgnine) gives us a glimpse of that time. And Piletti is a character worth knowing. Marty is simple guy from the Bronx who knows that "whatever it is that women like, I don't got it."

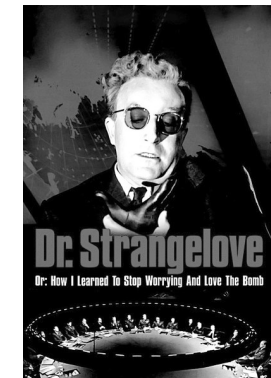
His future is living alone, with his mother, and whatever he finds hanging out with other unmarried friends. As the story unfolds Marty forces himself to attend a dance at the Stardust Ballroom where he meets Clara, a Brooklyn schoolteacher who's been dumped by her date. Though Marty and Clara hit it off, his relatives discourage him from pursuing the relationship. Understandably he must decide between his family's approval or a shot at finding romance. The lonely butcher has a chance to change his life, but only if he can stand up for the woman he loves and not

succumb to family pressure. This slice-of-life Bronx tale about won Best Picture. The cast includes Borgnine, Betsy Blair, Jerry Paris, Jerry Orbach, and Paddy Chayefsky. In glorious Black and White, Showtime is 7:00pm. Running time is 90 minutes.

Not since the 1960s have the newspapers been filled with casual conversations about the use of nuclear weapons. The timing of the Film Club's screening of *Dr. Strangelove, Or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb* (1964) is a scary and hilarious reminder of nuclear war. A fanatical U.S. general launches a nuclear attack on Russia during the Cold War, but the President and his advisors are shocked to learn that the Russians have a 'doomsday weapon' to destroy the world in the event of an attack on them.

Dr. Strangelove is producer/director Kubrick's brilliant, satirical, provocative black comedy/fantasy. Again, this is a half-century old film that is filled with great comic performances, some from unexpected places. This is not a gadget-filled production with special effects to overwhelm us with light and filmmaking magic.

The witty screenplay, co-authored was based on Peter George's novel *Red Alert* (originally *Two Hours To Doom*). *Dr. Strangelove* is worth seeing. And seeing again. Besides, humor is often just



what we need. Screening Monday, February 26 at 7:00pm, the film stars Peter Sellers (in three roles), plus Sterling Hayden; George C. Scott, Kennan Wynn, Slim Pickens, and a 35-year old James Earl Jones. Run time: 103. Arena Theater is at 214 Main Street in Pt. Arena.

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

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February Is A Very Busy Month At An Upgraded Gualala Arts This Month: Three Exhibits, Three Receptions, Three Artists

Steve Oliff: February 2 • Violet Arana: February 9 • Michael Connors: February 16

Gualala Arts is ready to show off its house upgrades when the doors open for three new exhibits in February that will display the works of local artists Steve Oliff, Violet Arana, and Michael Connor.

All three exhibits will be hung and available for viewing at the opening reception for Oliff's work on Friday, February 2, "One Universe of Light, Four Worlds of Color." Arana's opening reception for "What the World Needs Now is Love, Paintings by Violet Arana" will be Friday, February 9, 5:00pm to 7:00pm and Connor's reception for "Mindless Brush" will be Friday, February 16, 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

"All three of these shows are so special that we felt each one deserved a chance to provide a more intimate and tailored evening that matches the mood of the individual exhibit," said Gualala Arts Executive Director, David "Sus" Susalla.

Point Arena's own, Steve Oliff, is well known on the coast for his "Armature" comics and local involvement with teaching and sharing his vast knowledge about color and light. At the opening of his show, Oliff will conduct a light presentation with music and discourse that is meant to educate about light and color. Light shows will happen every Saturday and Sunday (except for Superbowl Sunday) while the show is on exhibit through February 28. Oliff describes his exhibit as part art and part science, utilizing a series of short presentations



designed to help people think about color in new ways, and learn how to "see with better eyes."

"I call color the 'silent soundtrack,'" Oliff says. "Every day it plays all around us, si-

lently shaping our world view and our emotions. And in order to hear it, you first have to learn how to see with better eyes. I know that



sounds like a contradiction, but... It's light. It's weird stuff. It's a particle and a wave at the same time. It is the most amazing thing in the universe." There will be books, prints,

paintings, Armature original art, comics, oddities and other original art by Oliff for sale.

Violet Arana's show, hanging in Coleman Hall, is a collection of her paintings through the years. These include works



in oils, acrylics, and pastels. Arana says she has painted for as long as she can remember and whenever the mood strikes, but has never had a formal showing of her work. Jazz pianist Susan Sutton, of Santa Rosa, will play at the February 9 reception, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm, and appetizers and a no-host bar will be served.

Arana is a San Francisco native, moving to Gualala in 1998. A self-taught artist, she has been drawing and painting most of her life. She says her inspiration comes from studying the Masters, and she has a collection of art books which she refers to and uses for ideas and instruction. Arana paints for the love of

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painting and has never been interested in showing her work until moving to Gualala. She has entered her work in Gualala Arts' Art in The Redwoods exhibits several times and has been very successful, often selling her pieces. This collection shows a mix of subjects as well as mediums. "I hope you enjoy the show," Violet says.

Finally, Michael Connor's work will be displayed in the Elaine Jacob Foyer, also available for viewing on February 2, but with a reception on Friday, February 16, 5:00pm to 7:00pm, that includes blues music by the San Francisco band "Zone of Blue" and he will make a presentation and invite discussion about his near-death experience that is the gift behind his work.

"Never knowing what is going to come out on canvas... I have been painting stuff that I never consciously knew was there. A free brush and an unchecked mind has led to some interesting work," Connor says about this exhibit.

Connor's work examines the relationship between form and fluidity. Following an experience where he had a heart attack and died on the operating room table but was brought back to life, he says the work flows from somewhere inside him in a way that he

almost feels like he can't take credit.

After seeing a hypnotherapist as part of his recovery work following his heart attack, Connor says his body of work began to take on a lucid form of storytelling. His non-linear narratives illustrate his experience navigating what he candidly describes as "going somewhere else."

Enjoy all three shows in Gualala Arts' newly refurbished surroundings that include wood flooring in the Burnett Gallery and brand-new bathrooms from top to bottom. Other improvements include granite flooring in the conference room and new carpeting on the stairs and in the main office.

Far Left Photo: Steve Oliff

Far Left, Bottom: "Rainbow Tree" by Steve Oliff

Top Left: "Triest" by Violet Arana

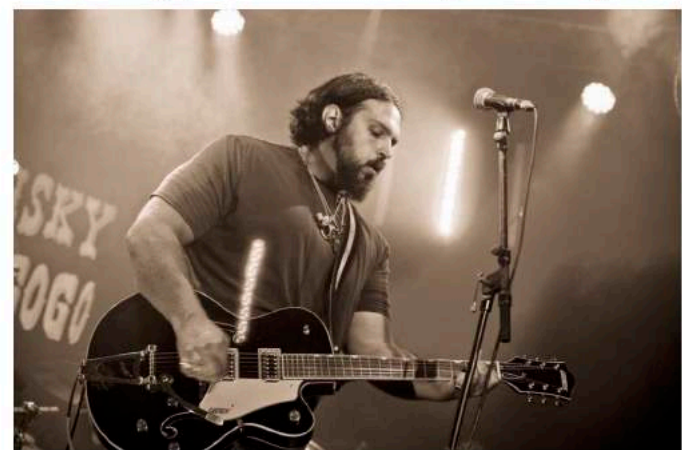
Center Left: "Freddy and Lizzy" by Violet Arana

Top Right: "The Journey Came Into Being" by Michael Connors

Above: "Mindless Brush, Thoughtless Man" by Michael Connors

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Driverless Vehicles. What Could Possibly Go Wrong?

by David Steffen

For virtually all Americans, from Baby Boomers to Millennials to Gen-X to Gen-whatever, driving is a right of passage. Growing up we transitioned from the back seat, to the front seat, to the drivers seat. Most of us learned to drive in our parents' car (taught by them), and at some magic moment began to "borrow" that car for our own use. Eventually we got jobs and began buying our own car, van, or motorcycle.

Those first 3-4 years of driving had their great moments—"hey babe, wanna go out tonight? I'll pick you up in my (mother's) car." Obviously the word "mother's" was lost in a cough or was left unspoken so that we could perpetuate the illusion that it was our car. Spoiler alert: our dates knew whose car we were driving. If not right away, once they sat down on those plastic seat covers, they knew. But it was usually an unspoken truth. After all, if we were going to use our parents' car for all the purposes that God intended, i.e. necking (etc) and lugging my band equipment around town, no one was really fooled (or really cared) about whose name was on the pink slip.

By the time I moved to New York in 1990, I had already gone through 10 pink slips of my own. And I was grateful that I learned to drive in some of the most formidable training grounds on the planet: Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Cleveland, Detroit, Dallas, and San Francisco. And while traveling on business I even tempted fate and rented cars in Dublin, London, Paris, Amsterdam, and Frankfurt. I've always believed it was my ability to navigate the Hollywood Freeway, The Cross-Bronx, and the Kennedy Expressways that prepared me for driving anywhere.

Honestly, I never had an accident driving in Europe. That being said, I'm certain there remains a wheel cover from a 1988 Hertz car lying in the middle of a traffic circle somewhere in Scotland. Traveling as much as I did I became more and more comfortable letting someone else do the driving. In New York City, that included becoming a near expert on the quickest way to go from Point A to Point B.

In the mid-1990s my office was on 57th and West End in Manhattan (near the Hudson River). From that vantage point I learned the best way to get to the Battery, Grand Central, upper west side, or anywhere else in the city based on two factors: the weather and the time of day. Some days taking a cab was fastest, other days the subway, still other days

a city bus, and believe it or not walking was an option. There were also gypsy cabs. These were drivers, usually without a hack license, using a borrowed Lincoln or Cadillac, cruising the streets looking for a fare. (That sort of entrepreneurship was illegal then and probably is still illegal.) If I was wearing a suit and a topcoat while walking, it wasn't unusual for some enthusiastic driver in a Lincoln to make



a u-turn in the middle of 57th Street during rush hour, pull up along side me and ask, "hey, you need a ride?"

Needless to say, I'm far less adventurous now, than I was in those days. Even when we drive to San Francisco, we usually leave the car wherever we're staying and get a Lyft car to carry us from "A" to "B". (I avoid Uber.*) I've grown to like Lyft's service and find that it's actually comparable or preferable to the hassle of driving, parking, and driving back. But we are, once again, moving into uncharted territory.

So now we're being told that driverless vehicles are going to be the rage. Really. Apple, Google, Tesla, Amazon and others are well into development of driverless technology.



I'm not quite certain I'm going there yet. Perhaps there may soon be an application in the city, but sitting in the backseat of a driverless vehicle moving along Van Ness during rush hour is not really appealing.

Driving around Mendocino County should give all of us pause about the reality of driverless vehicles. Think about driving—strike that—riding in a driverless vehicle from Jenner to Gualala; or Gualala to Elk. Hell, given the potholes, the wildlife, and the twisting and turning of our roads and highways, I doubt it's a good idea to go driverless from Sea Ranch to Gualala.

The techies believe that driverless vehicles will be the next big thing. Near term, in rural America it's prob-

ably more likely that driverless vehicles will do for transportation what the 8-track tape did for vinyl. (If you know what an 8-track tape is, you get it. If you don't, ask someone ten years older for an explanation. In short, 8-tracks were awful.)

Google is experimenting and acknowledges at least one accident. Tesla, too, acknowledges at least one serious accident: a fatal encounter. In 2016 the driver of a Tesla Model S car was killed in a road accident after its Autopilot failed to recognize an oncoming truck, as reported in the online edition of DeZeen in July 2016. "According to the Florida Highway Patrol report, the Tesla's windshield hit the bottom of the trailer as it passed underneath, and the car kept going, leaving the road. It continued, striking a fence, crossing a field and passing through another fence before finally hitting a pole about 30 metres south of the road. In a state-



ment on Tesla's website, the company explained that the vehicle's sensors, which help to steer the car by identifying obstructions, had failed to recognize 'the white side of the tractor trailer against a brightly lit sky.' Oops. Sorry about that.

Having thoroughly explored a number of scientifically-based ideas about future transportation—The Jetsons, Lost In Space, Sleeper—I think I'm going to handle the driving for the foreseeable future.

*If you're interested in why I don't use Uber you can search for a blogpost of mine at jazzdavid.wordpress.com.

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BAKU, A Musical Performance To Benefit Global Harmony Summer Adventure Camp

The improvisational ensemble BAKU will perform a benefit concert at Gualala Arts Center in late February that will help raise funds for this year's Global Harmony Summer Adventure Camp.

BAKU is an improvisational ensemble comprised of musicians dedicated to the art of spontaneous composition. The band's music combines contemplative ambient structures and melodies with a strong yet relaxing rhythmic pulse. BAKU will be playing unique and totally improvised Jambient Soundscapes: a synthesis of jazz, Afro beat, Middle Eastern, and other World influences and rhythms.

The concert will be held in the Elaine Jacob Foyer on Sunday, February 25, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Tickets are \$20 in advance, plus \$5 more the day of the event. Youth age 7 to 17 are free with an adult. Seating is limited.

BAKU was selected as the name of the ensemble to honor the capital of Azerbaijan, which marks the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe and its diverse cultural and musical influences. BAKU is made up of musicians Harrison Goldberg, saxophones and percussion; Chris Doering, 7-string guitar and guitar synthesizer; Tim Mueller, 6-string guitar and guitar synthesizer; David French, upright bass and percussion; and Nancy Feehan, cajon and percussion.

BAKU takes you on a surprising and unpredictable creative journey. The proceeds from this Global Harmony Series concert will benefit Gualala Arts' ongoing mission to promote public interest in the Arts by encouraging and mentoring young people during the 2018 Global Harmony Summer Adventure Camp.

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La Boheme • The Second Of Two MET Operas This Month
February 24 at Arena Theater

Arena Theater's second MET Opera offering this month offers an exciting young cast starting in Franco Zeffirelli's classic production of *La Bohème*, the most-performed opera in Met history. It will be on screen at Arena Theater Saturday, February 24 at 9:30am.

Sonya Yoncheva stars as Mimi opposite Michael Fabiano as the passionate writer Rodolfo. Susanna Phillips reprises the role of the flirtatious Musetta and Lucas Meachem sings the role of her lover, the painter Mar-

The libretto sets the action in Paris, circa 1830. This is not a random setting, but rather reflects the issues and concerns of a particular time when, following the upheavals of revolution and war, French artists had lost their traditional support base of aristocracy and church. The story centers on self-conscious youth at odds with mainstream society—a Bohemian ambience that is clearly recognizable in any modern urban center. *La Bohème* captures this ethos in its



cello. The cast also features Alexey Lavrov and Matthew Rose as Rodolfo and Marcello's friends Schaunard and Colline and Paul Plishka as Benoit and Alcindoro in this performance, led by Marco Armiliato.

World premiere: Teatro Regio, Turin, 1896. Met company premiere: Los Angeles (on tour), November 9, 1900. *La Bohème*, the passionate, timeless, and indelible story of love among young artists in Paris, can stake its claim as the world's most popular opera. It has a marvelous ability to make a powerful first impression and to reveal unsuspected treasures after dozens of hearings. At first glance, *La Bohème* is the definitive depiction of the joys and sorrows of love and loss; on closer inspection, it reveals the deep emotional significance hidden in the trivial things—a bonnet, an old overcoat, a chance meeting with a neighbor—that make up our everyday lives.

earliest days.

With more than 1200 performances, *La Bohème* is the most frequently staged opera at the Met. The very first performances, on tour in Los Angeles in 1900, were among the most remarkable the work has had: at the conclusion of Act IV, soprano Nelli Melba—following her onstage death as Mimi—reappeared in front of the curtain to sing the mad scene from Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor*. The role of Lucia was one of Melba's specialties, and her portrayal helped secure that opera's popularity.

Runtime is 175 minutes, with 2 intermissions. Tickets are \$24 general, \$22 senior, \$18 youth (18 and under) available in advance online and at the box office the day of the opera. Arena Theater is at 214 Main Street in Point Arena. More information is at www.arenatheater.org.

The Dolphin Gallery presents "Inspired by the Sea"
Featuring Judy Pfeifer and WaltRush • Opening Reception February 3

The Dolphin Gallery presents "Inspired by the Sea", acrylic and pastel paintings by Judy Pfeifer and fine art jewelry by Walt Rush, opening reception Saturday, February 3, 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

This is Pfeifer's second exhibit at the Dolphin, but she is an active artist on the coast, participating in many shows and serving as secretary of the North Coast Artists Guild for the past three years. She has been the Discovery Gallery Artists Collective Director for three seasons.

Both featured artists take much of their inspiration from what they see along the beaches and trails of the Mendocino-Sonoma coast. It is the people and landscape that Pfeifer is drawn to, while Rush finds what he needs in the undulating waves, ocean creatures and beach debris.

Pfeifer says she is an eclectic artist who likes to explore different media and styles. However, her love of the human figure is apparent and is almost always a key factor within her art. She likes exploring the shapes and shadows that form from the light playing off figures within beach landscapes. A coast native, she often observes her subject matter along the cliffs of the local Northern California coast while hiking with her dog.

Starting with ink or charcoal studies she



later develops her works into drawings or paintings, mostly with the use of acrylics and pastels. Digital paintings have also become a media of choice over the last few years, and she will often mix her original paintings with her photos to make unique digital collage art. Whatever her subject matter or media Pfeif-

er focuses first on the line, which brings out the forms and shapes. In her view, she says it is the lost line — the one not drawn — that often makes the strongest statement of all.

Retirement has allowed her the freedom to explore her artistic interests, she says, coming full circle back to her beginnings.

Walt Rush returns this month for his seventh two-person show at the Dolphin in the last 15 years. Rush is a perennial winner at the Gualala Arts Art in the Redwoods Festival. In 2017, his creation "Look to the Future" captured First Place in the festival's Jewelry and Ornamentation Awards category.

Mother Nature, wave motions, abalone shells or driftwood shapes often inspire his distinctive designs. He starts with an overall concept but finds each original piece evolves depending on the

metals and stones. He may carve wax designs using the lost wax process but often employs straw



cast or water cast techniques as well, which he says is particularly interesting because of the spontaneity and freedom from control that results for these methods. Walt calls his jewelry "wearable works of art".

Although self-taught, Rush says he inherited his talent from artistic parents. For over 30 years he honed his skills in his retail store in Ohio. In 2002, he returned to his Northern California roots where he took up residence in Manchester.

In addition to creating custom jewelry Walt restores family heirlooms and antique silverware. He also repairs jewelry and can often fix broken eyeglass frames. Whether he is making an original commission or restoring a family treasure he takes pride in offering what he calls "old-fashioned customer service." Every Thursday, Walt can be found at the Discovery Gallery from 10:30am to 4:30pm.

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The Local Top-15 Books
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"I would be most content if my children grew up to be the kind of people who think interior decorating consists mostly of building enough bookshelves."

Anna Quindlen (1953 -)

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2. *Mendonoma Sightings Throughout/Year*
by Jeanne Jackson & Craig Tooley
3. *Qh awala.li: "Water running down place"*
by Annette White-Parks
4. *All That The Rain Promises and More: A Hip Pocket Guide To Western Mushrooms*
by David Arora
5. *Shaping the Sonoma-Mendocino Coast*
by Thomas Cochrane
6. *Guide Dog For The Coastally Curious*
by Steve Oliff
7. *Leonardo Da Vinci*
by Walter Isaacson
8. *Hall of Femmes: Barbara Stauffacher Solomon; I Broke All the Rules*
by Barbara Stauffacher Solomon
9. *Devotions: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver*
by Mary Oliver
10. *Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls 2*
by Elena Favilli and Francesca Cavallo
11. *The Nest*
by Cynthia D'Apris Sweeney
12. *H Is for Hawk*
by Helen MacDonald
13. *2018 Old Farmer's Almanac*
by Old Farmer's Almanac Publishers
14. *Ready Player One*
by Ernest Cline
15. *Manhattan Beach*
by Jennifer Egan

Bubbling Just Under the Top-15

- *Tractors, Trains & Shipwrecks: Yesteryear Recollections of Sonoma County*
by Donald R. Richardson *

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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Her Body and Other Parties: Stories

A book by Carmen Maria Machado, Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

It's a scenario aspiring authors can only dream about: Your first book is finally due for publication, the buzz is building, people in the know discuss it a bit breathlessly and say things like "hotly anticipated," and then, the unimaginable happens. The book, your book, is longlisted for the National Book Award — before it's even released. Welcome to the world of Carmen Maria Machado.

Machado's short stories have appeared in a host of big-name venues and garnered numerous awards, including a Pushcart Prize Special Mention, which is why folks have been awaiting this first collection. Her work is brazenly unapologetic, or perhaps unapologetically brazen. Her fearlessness, combined with some spellbinding writing, delivers stories that are at once discomfiting and revelatory.

Included with the advance reading copy of *Her Body and Other Parties* was a bookmark — a short length of green satin ribbon, which matched the ribbon featured on the book's cover, which, in turn, matches the ribbon that features prominently in the first story of Machado's collection, "The Husband Stitch." And what a story it is. A grad student could write her entire thesis on it, unpacking layer after layer and holding each up to the light to understand its composition.

She could start with the "husband stitch" itself, a reference to men wanting doctors to sew an extra stitch or two in closing up their wives' mid-childbirth episiotomy to make things "nice and tight" once again.

From the narrator's recurring suggestions for what to do "if you are reading this story aloud," including, "force a listener to reveal a devastating secret, then open the nearest window to the street and scream it as loudly as you are able"; to her description of her voice as "high-pitched, forgettable" and all other women's voices in the story "interchangeable with my own"; to the mentions of the ribbons — in different colors and placement — worn by other women: There

is much to unpack.

The narrator's own ribbon is around her throat, and it is a source of enduring fascination for the boy who eventually becomes her husband. She only has two rules for him, and after they get married, there is only one rule: He cannot touch her ribbon. Eventually, their beloved son is drawn to the ribbon also, and she has to scare him to keep him from trying

"There is something fantastic in each of these stories, less magical realism than the physical embodiment of an otherworldly dread."

to pull at it. In this happy family, the ribbon is the one consistent source of tension.

Her husband cannot leave it alone, figuratively or literally, and though we understand her position when she asks, "Am I not allowed this one thing?" by now we cannot leave it alone, either. Our fingers itch; we want to know, too, and we are as heedless as he when she says, "You think you want to know, but you don't."

There is something fantastic in each of these stories, less magical realism than the physical embodiment of an otherworldly dread. "Eight Bites," for example, very literally answers the question, "When you lose weight, where does it go?" It's impossible to tell whether the baby in "Mothers" is real or an extended fantasy about the children the narrator wishes she and her lover had brought into the world.

The narrator of "Difficult at Parties" is suddenly able to hear the thoughts of all the people in the porn DVDs she buys for herself and her boyfriend, though that's not the disturbing element at the heart of the story.

And while a mysterious virus is steadily wiping out all of humankind in "Inventory," the wasting affliction in "Real Women Have Bodies" only targets women — and incidentally offers a fine metaphor for any woman who has ever pondered, "I know I'm here; why do I feel as though I'm invisible?"

What to make of "Especially Heinous: 272 Views of Law & Order: SVU," in which the author rewrites 12 seasons of episodes and provides them here with titles and synopses? In this retelling, Detective Benson is haunted by all the women whose murders remain

unsolved, but Machado actually gives us a lovely story arc with a gratifying resolution. (I doubt even she could have done anything redeeming with "Criminal Minds.")

Though Machado's stories have been featured in "Best Women's Erotica," the suggestive elements are matter-of-fact and organic to the stories, never an end in themselves. The narrator in "The Husband Stitch" is not shamed by her desires, whether or not society considers them unseemly.

In relating a story in which a girl asks her lover for an act so perverse, he and her family have her committed, she says, "I don't know what deviant pleasure she asked for, though I desperately wish I did. What magical thing could you want so badly they take you away from the known world for wanting it?"

Except for "Heinous," all the stories are in first-person, and Machado never puts names to her narrators. The closest she comes is in "The Resident," which feels the most autobi-

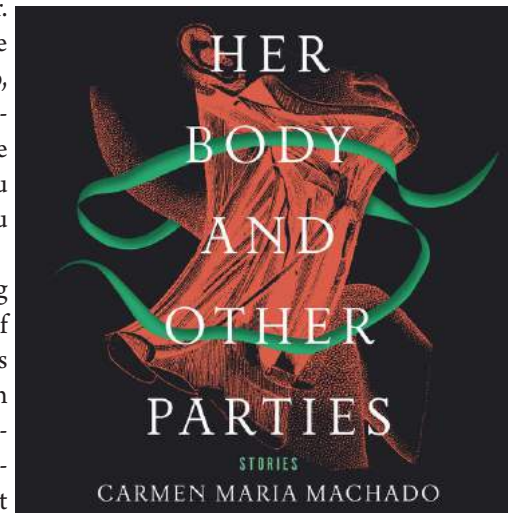
ographical of the stories. That's not only because the narrator's initials are C.M., but because it features a favorite trope of young authors: writing residencies.

Machado appears to pick the subject precisely for the cliché, though, and the dread here is much more grounded in the stuff of everyday.

That includes being thrown in with dreadful people, such as Lydia, whose "feet were bare and filthy, as if she were trying to prove to everyone she was an incorrigible bohemian." When the inevitable smackdown arrives, our heroine delivers the coup de grâce by bellowing, "I have never had less of an obligation to anyone in my life, you aggressively ordinary woman."

C.M. permanently disposes of the notes for her residency novel (along with her laptop, to ensure there is no going back), perhaps signaling that Machado herself is committed to the short story as her literary vehicle of choice. Good. It's the perfect one for her tightly wrapped fiction. Plus, it offers her readers time to come up for air before plunging into the next intense tale.

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

Every month I get a comment or two from someone who has read my previous column. Last month when I wrote about problems getting a building permit I really touched a nerve. People now come up to me with their stories of woe such that I feel like I accidentally began a sort of "Me-Too" moment for frustrated permit seekers. I am still waiting for someone to tell me that things aren't so bad—that they got through the system with minimal difficulty.

The main problem I see is that Point Arena has never had a real interest in local government. Things have gotten done around there by groups of people just getting together. There has never, in my experience, been much expected from city government and for good reason. Because of its tiny size and tax base and part-time council members, Point Arena has a tough time being taken seriously as a city. They farm out services like law enforcement and building inspection to the county. The volunteer fire department has been relieved by a separate fire district. Most studies and project planning is hired out to consultants. Over the years some have even suggested that Point Arena should disincorporate, but fear of Ukiah vastly outweighs any dysfunction in Point Arena.

Where am I going with this? It relates to the problem of permitting and code enforcement. Point Arena has always had a laissez-faire attitude toward what happens in town as there has long been a reliance on the idea that generally people will act in a responsible way. This has largely borne out to be true. Maybe all the rules don't get followed just right, but no harm, no foul. When you are the smallest dog in the pack, you sometimes have to cut some corners to survive.

As the size of the state has grown, so has its regulatory power, for good and evil. Same goes for the county and finally the City of Point Arena. After once sitting through a

lengthy, complex, and mind-numbing report and hearing perpetrated on the folks doing the Wildflower Motel (one of many), the only comment I could think to make to the council was, "boy, Point Arena is all grown up now".

I believe that if Point Arena is serious about solving their housing problem, they need to divorce themselves from county building and planning and take control of their own affairs. The biggest problem I see is with the county plan checkers. These folks are the guardians of the castle. It is not in their job description to make housing easier or cheaper to build. Their main job is to keep the county from being sued. That means everything has to be engineered or otherwise approved by outside experts. The county will not take any responsibility for OK'ing anything without someone else's signature. Anything remotely different or unusual is viewed with great suspicion. Innovations are discouraged or outright banned. When allowed they generally come with restrictions that alter or even nullify their benefit.

If the city wants to take control of their destiny it will mean a good deal more work by the city council. It will also mean take chances and even bucking the system.

Don't hold your breath.

While Donald Trump amuses and horrifies the nation with his wild antics and erratic behavior, there is something far more sinister and threatening happening and it is not filling the judiciary with unqualified political hacks. It is even more threatening than that: global annihilation.

"Because of its tiny size and tax base and part-time council members, Point Arena has a tough time being taken seriously as a city.

We have already heard that Trump wants to know why we have so many nuclear weapons if we don't plan to use them. This is a guy who seems to lack a basic understanding of physics. Apparently he thinks that nuclear weapons are just a bigger version of standard bombs. Nuclear winter and the poisoning of the planet with radioactivity are concepts that are apparently out of his reach.

Unfortunately he is not alone. the *New York Times* reports that "A newly drafted United States nuclear strategy that has been sent to President Trump for approval would permit the use of nuclear weapons to respond to a wide range of devastating but *non-nuclear* (emphasis mine) attacks on American infra-

structure . . ." It also calls for the development of a new generation of small, low-yield nuclear weapons, blurring the distinction between nuclear and conventional weapons, which, of

course, makes them more tempting to use—especially with a mercurial temperament like Trump's. The price tag for the new policy is set at \$1.2 trillion over 30 years, though that does not include inflation or cost over-runs (that happens sometimes in the military-industrial complex). The \$1.2 trillion new expenditures are about equal to all the spending on Medicare and Medicaid combined over a three decade time period.

To be fair, I shouldn't put all this on Trump. Much of the report details plans previously made under the Obama Administration- Trump just added more to the request.

The difference is that Obama wanted a new low-flying cruise missile that would be undetectable by radar. This, he and some in the Pentagon believed, would allow the U.S. to retire it's vulnerable land-based missiles and lead to an overall reduction in nuclear arms. Trump doesn't want to eliminate anything, but rather put these new cruise missiles on submarines as well.

The U.S. is not alone in its drive toward global destruction. We know of Iran's and North Korea's efforts to join the nuclear "club", as it is called. I can't say that I blame them much (besides being totally insane), given the tremendous saber-rattling by the U.S. and Russia. Putin is in a macho match with Trump and is said to be developing a long-range torpedo with a monster warhead that is apparently meant to shower coastal regions with deadly radioactivity, leaving cities uninhabitable. Nice. And you can be sure that that radioactivity will stay exactly where it is released.

What is the matter with these maniacs? Do they think that they can just blow off one or two and that will be it? Once one side has murdered a few million people, who is going to call for restraint? There would likely be a full nuclear exchange. Where do they think they are going to live when they have poisoned the planet? Have they not heard that more Japanese died from radiation than the bomb concussions?

I would like to think that all this is just macho posturing and the real purpose is to throw more trillions at the defense industry, but with an emotional infant like Trump and his "Big Button", you can't take anything for granted.

THE FEBRUARY SUDOKU by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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		5	3	6				
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						4		
5	4			7			3	
7							6	1
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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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DAIMH from cover page.

of the Bagpipes and Fiddle, Angus Mackenzie and Gabe McVarish lead the melodic powerhouse with fellow founder member Ross Martin underpinning the groove on the Guitar. The Band are joined by "new guy" Murdo "Yogi" Cameron on Mandola and Accordion to complete the instrumental line up.

Daimh have always had the renown and notoriety of working with some of the finest Gaelic singers in Scotland and the current line up only serves to cement that distinction with the addition of the Gaelic firmament's most rapidly rising star, Ellen MacDonald on vocals. Recent accolades include last year's award for the "Best Folk Band in Europe" at the prestigious Folkherbst competition in Germany and most recently winner of "Folk Band of the Year" at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards.

As you all know (or will learn on February 27) there is nothing better than seeing a talented musical group in a comfortable, intimate setting like the one at 215 Main. Make plans now. It's not easy to consistently plan a memorable evening. Here's your chance. Come see Daimh Tuesday, February 27. You'll enjoy the evening and you'll be surrounded by friends. 215 Main is at, well, 215 Main Street (Highway One) in Point Arena, across from Arena Theater. Tell 'em the Lighthouse Peddler sent ya.

Naturalist Obi Kaufmann • Lecture & Discussion In Pt. Arena Artist, Naturalist, Adventurer at Sunday@The Library February 25

For many of us, Sundays can be a day of reflection, relaxation, and family. (Some feel that the Superbowl embodies all of that. For me, only if the Packers are playing.) Anyway, the Coast Community Library's "Sunday at the Library" regularly brings us interesting and fascinating people, and Sunday, February 25 is no exception.

This is an afternoon with naturalist Obi Kaufmann. More than a naturalist (which is no small thing,) Kaufmann, is a naturalist, artist, adventurer, and more, and he'll be stopping in Point Arena to discuss his recently published Heyday book, *The California Field Atlas*. This atlas is a masterpiece of Kaufmann's detailed examination of local topography and his beautiful hand painted maps, drawings and paintings. Beyond his presentation, Kaufmann will take time to sign books and have copies available to purchase. He'll also have a selection of his recently-made, original, watercolor trail-paintings. The afternoon presentation begins at 2:00pm at the Coast Community Library, 225 Main Street, Point Arena.

Kaufmann wants us to know how best to read and enjoy this ground-breaking work; and he'll speak on the necessity for geographic literacy and its importance in the fight to defend California's natural world.

For poet, painter and naturalist Obi Kaufmann, California is a magic network of living systems that connect in a grand, quilted array of ecology and beauty. The lavishly illustrated, 550-page *California Field Atlas* takes readers off the beaten path and outside normal conceptions of California, revealing

its myriad ecologies, topographies, and histories with hundreds of exquisite hand-painted maps and trail paintings. Kaufmann blends science and art to illuminate the multifaceted array of living, forming a uniquely elemental narrative based on the shaping forces of earth, air, fire, and water, connecting systems

like no other book has done before.

Kaufmann depicts layer after layer of the natural world, delighting in the grand scale and details alike. The effect is staggeringly beautiful: presented alongside California divided into its fifty-eight counties, for example, we consider California made up of dancing tectonic plates, of watersheds, of wildflower gardens. Maps are enhanced by spirited illustrations of wildlife, keys that explain natural phenomena, and a clear-sighted but reverential text. Full of character and color, the California Field Atlas has quickly become a new classic.

In the few months since the California Field Atlas has hit stores across California and beyond it has enjoyed four weeks at the number one spot for non-fiction paperbacks in Northern California and is beginning to rank in Southern California's top ten. The California Field Atlas is the winner of the 2016 Phelan Award for California literature by the San Francisco Foundation, insuring the Atlas will be included in the California Historical Society's Bancroft Library archives at the University of California at Berkeley.

An avid conservationist, Obi Kaufmann regularly travels around the state, speaking on issues of ecological restoration and preservation to such groups as the Klamath-Siskiyou Wildland center, the Mojave Desert Land Trust, The Anza Borrego Foundation, The Mono Lake Committee, the Peninsula Open Space Trust and Friends of the River in Coloma. He is an illustrator for Bay Nature Magazine, the Berkeley Times and Premium Arts, as well as a long-term collaborator with the men's apparel brand INDIGOFERA. A life-long resident of California, Obi Kaufmann makes his home base in Oakland and is currently working on Field Atlases to come.

You can follow Obi @coyotethunder on instagram and @obikaufmann on twitter.



"Diving for Abalone, A Steven Oakwood Mystery" February 2 and 3 at Gualala Arts

It's another mystery on the coast for retired Los Angeles detective Steven Oakwood to solve with the help of his Arts Center audience in the Arts Center Theater mystery dinner production *Diving for Abalone, A Steven Oakwood Mystery*. The mystery will be presented Friday, February 2 at 7:00pm, and during a matinee on Saturday, February 3 at 2:00pm at Coleman Hall & Elaine Jacob Foyer. Tickets are \$50 in advance, plus \$10 after Friday, January 26. Reservations required by January 26. Matinee \$20 in advance, plus \$5 day of event.

In its third year at Gualala Arts Center, this popular evening of interactive live theater sees the return of some of our favorite



Steven Oakwood characters as well as lots of new people, says writer and creator, local playwright Dennis Carter, of The Sea Ranch. Sea Ranch thespian Karen Serraton is back to direct.

The play happens in four acts. The dinner is in four courses. In between scenes, dinner courses are served and while enjoying a wonderful meal prepared by Gualala Arts' Culinary Guild, each table of diners discusses motives and perpetrators and tries to solve the mystery and win the prize!

Join the fun, the food, and the mystery at Gualala Arts.

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**Another Busy Month
At 215 Main In Pt. Arena
With Plenty of Entertainment**

Point Arena's 215 Main has another list of diverse quality performers scheduled.

Friday February 9 is Karaoke night. Get your voice ready to join locals and visitors alike as they step into the spotlight and perform their favorite songs flawlessly—or at least highly entertaining. 7:00pm.

Third Thursday poetry takes center stage on the 15th. (See full story on page 8.)

On the 16th, 215 will host Ryan McKasison and Eric McDonald. The duo are masters of tradition who purposefully explore the dark corners floating on its edges. The music this duo creates is to share, and live performance is the forte. Their live perfor-



mances are full of organic banter and good humor to go along with the music. Music starts at 8:00pm.

Sharkmouth arrives for a performance on the 17th. Sharkmouth is a jazz punk trio from Santa Rosa. Joshua James Jackson plays bass while telling tales through song, Taylor "Libby" Cuffie creates deep grooves on the drums, sings and brings the smiles, and Nate Dittle plays organ, Rhodes and sings too. 8:00pm.

On the 23rd, Dust In My Coffee takes center stage. This band is based in Auburn, California and all the players have been or



are currently cowboys. There is a Celtic flavor with two bagpipers in the band as well as musicians who have played together for ten years. years as a heavy metal band which gives the songs energy as well as an edgy voice.

Daimh brings their Gaelic music to the coast on the 27th. (See cover story).

215 Main is on Main Street (highway One) in Pt. Arena. (707) 882-3215.

**LOTS OF FIRSTS TO CELEBRATE
AT RCMS' 40TH BIRTHDAY**

Gualala Arts Center will be the site for this year's Be Our Guest, celebrating Redwood Coast Medical Services' 40 years of service to the health needs of the communities ranging from Manchester to Timber Cove. The event will be held March 3, starting at 5:00pm.

It was 1978 when RCMS officially opened its doors to patients. The first building was located across the highway from Stewart's Point General Store, now Twofish Baking Company. Dr. Duane Olson was its first resident doctor in this clinic location.

This year's Be Our Guest gala, the first in nearly 3 years, has gained its first Underwriter with a generous gift from Timber Cove Resort.

Jens Von Gierke, co-owner of Timber Cove Resort said, "We are pleased to make our first gift ever to the medical clinic that means so much to all of us in its service area. And glad to be the first underwriter in the 30-year history of this signature event."

Be Our Guest got its current name when early supporters first decided to host ethnically-themed dinners in their homes for parties of 8. As it grew in popularity over the years it was moved from the Community Center to the Gualala Arts Center.

Sea Rancher Rae Radtkey remembers that the original fundraiser was "called something like Coastal Chefs." Wineries were contacted and a wine tasting took place in Sundstrom Mall during the drawing of raffle tickets for the winners of the 8-12 dinners in private homes, each with a particular ethnic feast. "Four tickets were pulled for each dinner and each of those 4 winners brought a guest," she continued.

This year's event will have many firsts among its auction items. Included are SFJazz membership and concert tickets, equine acupuncture sessions (well behaved horses only), premium scotch, bourbon and gin, salmon-fishing excursion, and other auction items and services to suit every taste.

Lynne and Phil Atkins (photo above) will take the podium as Emcees and Live Auctioneers. While they have often attended over the years as "guests," this is the first time they are acting in an "official" capacity. Phil will do double duty, providing musical entertainment, along with the wonderful vocals of Bryn Harris and the keyboard

mastery of Don Krieger.

Co-chairs Colette Coad and Ginny Rubin have planned a festive evening Saturday, March 3, for the RCMS community, including live and silent auctions, and several special announcements and birthday surprises.

Proceeds will support the work of the RCMS healthcare and dental clinics in Gualala and Point Arena. "RCMS turns no one away and provides more than 25,000 visits a year. A full 35% of our patients are below the federal poverty level, so we want to encourage generous tax-deductible donations of auction items and cash contributions to make this 40th a cause for celebration," said Diane Agee, CEO.



Don't forget: Tickets are on sale now (see box below). Your glass is your ticket; please remember to bring it to the event!

Tickets at \$60 and Tables for 4 at \$400 subject to availability. On sale now at www.rcms-healthcare.org/be-our-guest.html, and Four-Eyed Frog Bookstore, Gualala.

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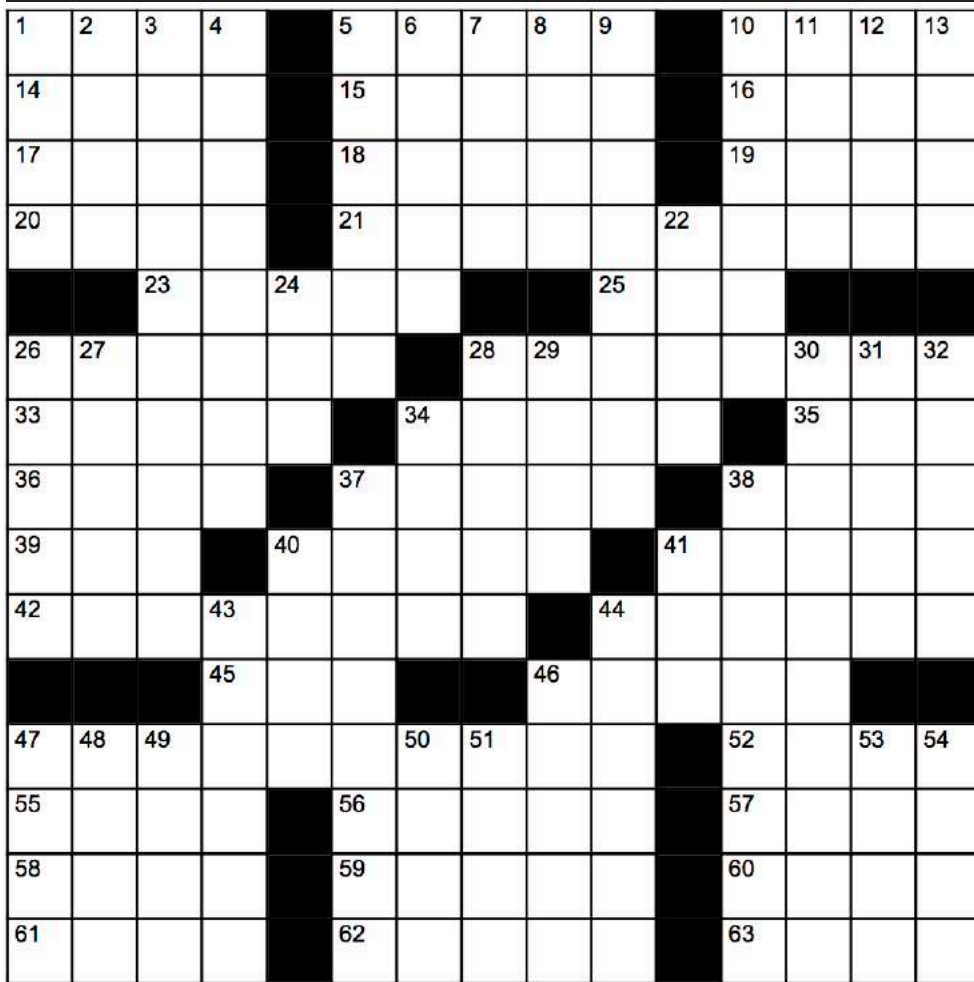
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The February Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

1. Peter I, for one
5. Border plant
10. Call to a mate
14. Altar locale
15. Gibson garnish
16. Ice cream treat
17. Quarterback's option
18. Girder material
19. Comedienne Imogene
20. "Halt!"
21. Verse of four measures
23. Show fear
25. Dead letters?
26. Kind of cord
28. Chill out
33. Unrefined
34. Energize (with "up")
35. Block
36. Hourly charge
37. Stake
38. Look after

39. Chowed down
40. Neglected boy
41. Abstain
42. From the age of chivalry
44. Plow's trail
45. "Gosh! "
46. Heart line
47. Smelly pranks
52. Desire
55. Designer Chanel
56. Circa
57. Showy flower
58. Unpleasant emanation
59. Hangman's knot
60. Air show stunt
61. Strengthen, with "up"
62. Dissuade
63. Kitty starter

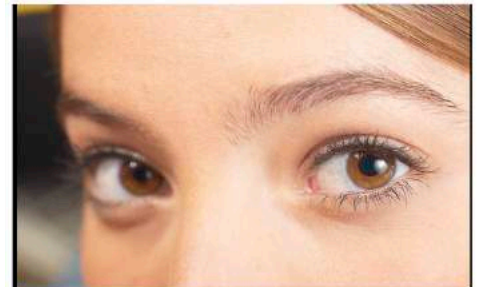
DOWN

1. Last call?
2. Cross words

3. Kind of press
4. Answer
5. Cheap lodging
6. Script direction
7. South Beach, for one
8. Suffix with theater
9. Darkroom apparatus
10. Click the OK button
11. Knee-slapper
12. Enough, for some
13. Academic period
22. Personal air
24. Is no longer
26. "Beat it! "
27. Goonandon
28. Watch
29. Square
30. Mental lapse
31. Ballroom dance
32. Fund
34. Buddhist leader
37. Range of frequencies
38. Tex-Mex staple
40. Nerdy one
41. PETA peeve
43. Slight, in a way
44. Encourage
46. Bullying, e.g.
47. Kilt wearer
48. Type of list
49. Desktop feature
50. Double-reed instrument
51. Kind of court
53. Congeal
54. Hoopla

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Surviving in a Kingdom in Crisis

by Mary Jane Schramm

The cove was a mass of shining fronds of bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*) floating languidly atop the swell. Each plant's long, brown stalk stretched down to a sea floor teeming with myriad creatures. Amid the dim light filtering down from the surface, a leopard shark's dappled form glided slowly, in search of prey. Small fish sheltered beneath the kelp canopy. Abalone grazed on succulent algae that clothed the rocky bottom. A black seabird dove beneath the surface, darting here and there, propelled by strong wings and feet, picking off fish, one by one. Life in the forest – this Kingdom of Kelp – was good, was balanced.

Bull kelp, known scientifically—but somewhat irreverently—as *Nereocys-*



tis luetkeana, or “mermaid’s bladder,” is a world-class marine plant: it grows nearly a foot each day, up to 70 feet high, and is “anchored” to the seafloor by a root-like holdfast. Its long hollow tube, or stipe, on reaching the surface, branches into a bouquet of blades made buoyant by gas-filled bulbs. From these, the fronds fan out to absorb nutrients from the cool, rich water, and photosynthesize mightily: marine algae generates nearly 70% of our planet’s oxygen.

Bull kelp forms a tower of life, from seafloor to



surface: seals, sea lions, seabirds and other marine life find the kelp’s “larder” generous, yielding up a feast rockfish, crabs, urchins, prawns, abalone, and sea stars. It provides habitat for tiny plankton and great whales. Gray whale mothers with newborn calves may hide in kelp to confuse prowling killer whales, whose echolocation is confounded by the acoustic “curtain” of hollow kelp stipes bouncing their signals back. Grays may even slurp a snack of crustaceans or fish eggs from the fronds. In these ideal conditions, marine invertebrates like abalone, sea stars, limpets, and sea urchins, were

thriving. And we land creatures benefitted from sports and commercial fisheries, and income from recreational use of this spectacularly scenic area.

But, despite its majesty and magnificence, kelp is also vulnerable: as an “annual” plant that lives just one or two years, its propagation can be suppressed, perhaps indefinitely, by abrupt and persistent disruptions within the ecosystem. And it was.

Along the Sonoma and Mendocino county coasts, the once-luxuriant kelp kingdom came under siege, in a virtual ecosystem collapse. In 2011, disaster struck when a toxic algae “red tide” occurred, killing a variety of sea life. Sea stars, which had kept the urchin population in check, died en masse from a wasting disease. Urchin numbers skyrocketed, devouring everything available. And from 2014 through 2015, an oceanographic triple-whammy hit: in 2014 a warm water cell called “The Blob” hunkered down off Northern California, suppressing productive, cold-water upwelling. It combined with a strong El Niño warm water phenomenon, and gradual ocean warming. The result was a

deadly cascade of effects. Starvation ensued in parts of the food web, the exception being – at first -- the purple sea urchin. A versatile opportunist, this species denuded its surroundings. Grazing fiercely on the kelp, especially the tender new plants, mowing down both forest and undergrowth, creating “urchin barrens” where virtually nothing else lived. And when kelp density is low, their spores may not settle properly and mature; new kelp plants simply fail to materialize. By devouring the kelp, the urchins have literally eaten

themselves out of house and home.

What can slow or stop this urchin devastation? Disease, storms, an increase in predators. Eliminating fishing pressure can help the abalone recover. Sea star numbers seem to be rebounding. What about kelp recovery? Cool water, at 63 Deg. F. or lower, is essential; successive La Niña coldwater phenomena could help. But that’s beyond resource agencies’ abilities to arrange.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has taken the lead on re-

storing several components of this compromised ecosystem, through closures, and extensive field and laboratory studies to tease



out the intricacies of food web dynamics that might suggest solutions. In January 2018, NOAA’s Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council voted to form a Working Group to address the kelp forest crisis in Mendocino. We will engage in strategic collaborations, but it will be a formidable task.

For more information:

- <https://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/>
- <https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/2016/03/30/perfect-storm-decimates-kelp/>

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

Photos Credits:

Top left: Bull Kelp Head/Steve Lonhart/NOAA
Left: Bull Kelp and Fish / NPS/National Park Service
Above: Urchin Eating Kelp/Steve Lonhart/NOAA 2017 / USFWS

Greater Farallones sanctuary protects seabirds and their habitats through oil drilling prohibition, NOAA’s Marine Debris program, at-sea research, and the Seabird Protection Network: <http://seabirdprotectionnetwork.org>. For information on studies in our sanctuaries, and teaching materials, visit <http://oikonos.org/exploring-albatross-movements/>

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 7:00PM-9:30PM

HARRISON GOLDBERG, SAXOPHONE SOLO
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 7:30PM-9:30PM

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

- Friday 02: 5:00pm, Opening Reception "One Universe of Light" at Gualala Arts
- Friday 02: 7:00pm, Chris Doering, Guitar and Karl Young, Shakuhachi at MendoViné
- Friday 02: 7:00pm, Mystery Dinner Theater at Gualala Arts
- Saturday 03: 8:30am, Voter Registration At Pay N' Take, At Gualala Community Center
- Saturday 03: 2:00pm, Mystery Dinner Theater at Gualala Arts Center
- Saturday 03: 5:00pm, Opening Reception "Inspired By The Sea" at Dolphin Gallery
- Saturday 03: 8:30pm, Blues On The Coast Presents Janes Armstrong Band at Arena Theater
- Monday 05: 7:00pm, ATFC "Singin' In The Rain", Arena Theater
- Friday 09: 5:00pm, Opening Reception "What The World Needs Now Is Love" Gualala Arts
- Friday 09: 7:00pm, Karaoke at 215 Main in Point Arena
- Saturday 10: 9:00am, MET Opera Live, L 'Elisir d' Amore" at Arena Theater
- Saturday 10: 1:00pm, Blues Film "Life & Times of Muddy Waters", Coast Community Library
- Saturday 10: 6:30pm, International Dinner at MendoViné
- Sunday 11: 4:00pm, Zéphyros Winds Ensemble, Chamber Music at Gualala Arts
- Monday 12: 7:00pm, ATFC "Marty", Arena Theater
- Tuesday 13: 3:00pm, Publishing Workshop at Four-Eyed Frog Books
- Thursday, 15 7:30pm, Third Thursday Poetry at 215 Main in Pt. Arena.
- Friday 16: 5:00pm, Opening Reception "Mindless Brush", at Gualala Arts
- Friday 16: 7:00pm, Harrison Goldberg, Sax, Tim Mueller, guitar, Duo'xplore MendoViné
- Saturday 17: 8:30am, Voter Registration At Pay N' Take, At Gualala Community Center
- Saturday 17: 1:00pm, National Theater Live from London, "Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf
- Saturday 17: 5:00pm, Whale Lecture with Jodi C. Smith at Point Arena Lighthouse
- Saturday 17: 8:00pm, SharkMouth performing at 215 Main in Point Arena
- Friday 23: 8:00pm, Dust In My Coffee performing at 215 Main in Point Arena
- Friday 23: 7:00pm, Harrison Goldberg, Saxophone at MendoViné
- Friday 23: 8:30pm, Wayne Garner, Texas Country, at Garcia River Casino
- Saturday 24: 9:30am, MET Opera Live, "La Boheme", at Arena Theater
- Saturday 24: 7:00pm, Pocket Swing w/S. Foster, guitar, D. Markis, Jazz vocals, MendoViné
- Saturday 24: 7:30pm, The Traveling Spectacular With Oddjob Ensemble, at Arena Theater
- Sunday 25: 2:00pm, Author and Naturalist Obi Kaufmann at Coast Community Library
- Sunday 25: 4:00pm, BAKU Benefit Concert for Global Harmony Camp at Gualala Arts
- Monday 26: 7:00pm, ATFC "Dr. Strangelove", at Arena Theater
- Tuesday 27: 7:00pm, Gaelic group Daimh at 215 Main in Point Arena
- Wednesday 28: 2:15pm, Hearts For The Arts, GAC Annual Members Meeting at Gualala Arts
- Thursday 01: 6:00pm, Full Moon Tour at Point Arena Lighthouse.

Gualala Arts Theater presents...

Mar 23-25, and Mar 30 & 31 at 7 pm

Matinees: Mar. 24 and 31 at 2 pm

**TWO
WEEKENDS!**

GAMBLERS



Tickets \$20 in advance, plus \$5 day of
Tapas Opening & Closing Nights, \$30 in advance

Tickets at BrownPaperTickets.com

or 1.800.838.3006 & in person at Gualala Arts Center