

**ALWAYS
FREE**

December 2018



Lighthouse Peddler

The Guide To Music, Events,
Theater, Film, Art, Poetry, and
Life on the Mendocino Coast



*The Bolshoi's
"The Nutcracker"
Arena Theater
December 23.
Make It A
Tradition For The
Whole Family.*

Whether you're a world traveler or an armchair traveler, when there's an opportunity to see the Bolshoi, the answer is "Yes!"

Captured live on stage in a same-day recording at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, Arena Theater will screen Tchaikovsky's holiday classic, "Nutcracker," on Sunday, December 23, at 2:00pm with doors opening at 1:30pm. The performance marks the opening of the 2018-2019 Bolshoi Ballet season at Arena Theater.

Showcasing the world-renowned Bolshoi Ballet choreographed by ballet master Yuri Grigorovich, and featuring Tchaikovsky's iconic music, the "Nutcracker," based on a fairytale by

E.T.A Hoffmann explores the universal themes of love, power and evil. This choreographic version with its enchanting sets and costumes is full of romanticism and philosophical reflections on ideal love," said a Bolshoi Theatre spokesperson. "Masterfully interpreted by the Bolshoi dancers, it will captivate the whole family for the festive season, proving that one is never too young or too old to be swept away by the Nutcracker."

One of the great classics, the Nutcracker tells the story of Clara a young girl who is given a nutcracker doll for Christmas.

cont'd on page 10

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**Celebrate The Holidays With The Coast Highway Art Collective
Opening Reception Saturday December 1**

New shows, special events and Hometown Holidays are all coming the Coast Highway Art Collective in Point Arena this December. This is a wonderful opportunity to select one-of-a-kind, locally sourced and crafted gifts for everyone on your holiday list.

A new exhibit opens on Saturday, December 1 featuring works by Lena Bullamore, painting and words, ceramic mushrooms by Gretchen Barton and Astral gems by Peri Ness DeFay. The opening reception will be from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. The public is invited to meet the artists, enjoy the art work and have a glass of wine and some snacks. The show runs from December 1 thru 30.

Lena Bullamore, who goes by the artist name of Olena, calls her show "Art by Accident." She creates unique art pieces using paint and recycled materials. Ask Bullamore about her process and she'll tell you



"I give no thought to any of my pieces. I simply grab the recycled materials at hand, and something flows out onto the paper or matte board. Most all of my supplies have been given to me or purchased at a thrift shop. All of the backgrounds for my aphorisms (my original written words) are cre-

ated from the paint left on my brush from a previous "work," frequently using fingers to smear it around. You can't imagine the joy I get from just going crazy in my studio."

Ceramic mushrooms are popping up all over the gallery thanks to Gretchen Barton, whose lovingly hand crafted, ceramic mushrooms celebrate the "whimsically physical manifestations of the presence of my favorite fungal entities."

Astral Gems by Peri Ness DeFay are Rudraksha beads, seeds from the Eliocarpus granitrus tree, which grows in the

Himalayan mountain region. According to Defay, "All Rudraksha beads can emit positive energies that deal with specific aspects of our life such as health, happiness, spiritual fulfilment, prosperity, creativity, intuitive ability, material fulfilment, family harmony, attraction, self-empowerment and fearless life." They are believed to have healing benefits and are conducive to energetic Chakra

healing.

The Collective is proud to host a pop-up fashion show on Saturday, December 8 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm showcasing the artistic hats created by milliner, Mary Thomas. Thomas has designed hats for many years and her creations have been used in



several productions at Gualala Arts Center. From practical to practically amazing, come and enjoy a chance to try on hats and talk to Mary about her work.

Hometown Holidays is coming to Point Arena on Saturday, December 15 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm and the Collective is happy to participate. Holiday shoppers are encouraged to walk up the hill, past the Redwood Credit Union, to the little red house with the big yellow sun and come in for some warmth, refreshments and special activities. There are several events

planned all over Point Arena by the Point Arena Merchants Association for this event, including a visit from Santa, kids activities at Action Network, strolling carolers and merchants offering great gift options. The gallery will open at its regular time of 11:00am and stay open until 7:00pm for this special event.

The Coast Highway Art Collective is located at 284 Main Street, Point Arena, next door to the Redwood Credit Union. Regular hours are Thursday through Sunday from 11:00am to 5:00pm. For further information, visit the website at www.coast-highway-artists.com/home.

*Left: Art by Lena Bullamore (Olena);
Above: Hat by Mary Thomas*

**"King Lear"
by William Shakespeare
National Theatre Live
from London
At Arena Theater December 1**

Recorded live from London's West End as part of the National Theatre Live series, Arena Theater will screen Shakespeare's "King



Lear" on Saturday, December 1, at 1:00pm, with doors opening at 12:30pm.

Considered by many to be the greatest tragedy ever written, "King Lear" sees two ageing fathers – one a King, one his courtier – reject the children who truly love them. Their blindness unleashes a tornado of pitiless ambition and treachery, as family and state are plunged into a violent power struggle with bitter ends.

The Times wrote, "Jonathan Munby's contemporary retelling of Shakespeare's classic play is 'nuanced and powerful,' while the Independent called Ian McKellen's portrayal of King Lear "extraordinarily moving."

The play has a runtime of 222 minutes including one intermission and tickets are \$18, \$5 youth (18 and under), available online at www.arenatheater.org.

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**Santa's Mailbox At
Gualala Arts Center and
The Dolphin Gallery**

Sometimes getting a letter to Santa Claus can be a confusing prospect. Happily, there are two new special mailboxes in place during the holidays, one each at Gualala Arts Center and the Dolphin Gallery.

Children of all ages can drop off letters for Santa at either location. Both Santa and Mrs. Claus will be receiving and reading the letters during. Look for the beautiful red mailboxes, donated by Mrs. Claus, and drop your letter to Santa at either location.



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Our thanks to December contributors Rozann Grunig, Mitch McFarland, Blake More, Cathy Sue Riehm, Mary Jane Schramm, David Steffen, Karin Uphoff, and Jennifer Bort Yacovissi.

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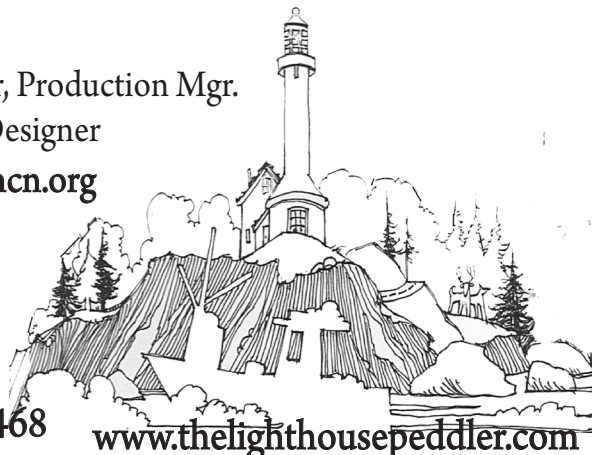
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Gualala Arts Presents Artists at Albatross Reach Holiday Salon Set For December 16

This will be the second annual Artists at Albatross Reach Holiday Salon hosted by hard-working duo Albatross—Jennifer Beattie, mezzo-soprano and Adam Marks, piano—alongside AaAR alumni Zach Pulse (oboe) and Jennifer Woodrum (clarinet), and it promises to be a rollicking good time. Performance will be Sunday, December 16, 4:00pm at Gualala Arts. Tickets are \$15 advance (plus \$5 day of). In their signature style, they'll blend timeless classics with lesser-known treasures. They'll also be joined by the beloved members of the local community for a variety of pieces and songs. This performance will include George Crumb's A Little Suite for Christmas, A.D. 1979, featuring Adam Marks on this intricate work for the piano (including on the strings). Attendees will also hear Jhula Juhle by Rena Esmail showcasing oboe and piano in traditional Hindustani melodies. Throw in some Brahms, some familiar Noels, and join them for their signature Holiday Kazoo-Along. Proceeds from this concert will support Artists at Albatross Reach (artistsatalbatrossreach.com), the collaborative

arts residency series.

Albatross is a voice/piano duo exploring and expanding art song as a corner of the chamber music world and beyond. As soloists in their own right, Adam has been called "an excellent pianist" with "titanic force" by The New York Times, and Jennifer's performance of Mahler's das Lied von der Erde with Argento Chamber Ensemble was called one of the top 10 performances in New York City (NY Classical Review) in 2015. Together they concertize (the San Francisco Examiner called them a "smashing success") and co-direct Artists at Albatross Reach, an artists' colony that fosters collaborations, experiments, and boundary-breaking new works alongside active community engagement, in Gualala. Advance tickets are at BrownPaperTickets.com or in person, at the Gualala Arts Center or Dolphin Gallery in Gualala.

Gualala Arts is a 501C3 non-profit organization. You can become a member by donating online at www.gualalaarts.org. Even better, stop in at Gualala Arts Center this holiday season and become a member in person.



Audience Favorite SambaDa

Returns to Arena Theater Friday December 7

Afro-Brazilian Funk dance band SambaDa returns to the theater for a fourth time to perform their brand of Santa Cruz Samba. The show is set for Arena Theater Friday, December 7 at 8:00pm. Doors open at 7:30pm. Tickets are \$20, at local outlets and online at www.arenatheater.org.

Strongly influenced by the rich musical traditions of Brazil, the band blends South American salsa and cumbia with funk and reggae beats.

Dubbed the West Coast's hottest Brazilian band, SambaDa musically unites the Americas by drawing from the percussion based styles of South and Central America and blending them playfully with funk and reggae beats so familiar to crowds in North America.

Formed in 1998 in Santa Cruz, California by capoeira master Papiba Godinho, saxophonist Anne Stafford, and drummer Gary Kehoe, the band is known for its high-energy percussion, danceable grooves and its explosive Carnival-like performances.

Steeped in the rich musical traditions of Brazil, band members and Brazilian natives Papiba Godinho and Dandha da Hora contribute profound knowledge of Brazilian music and together with the entire band they present a unique musical sound with a universal appeal. The other members of SambaDa come from a wide range of styles, generations and sensibilities.

In 2015, SambaDa released their third album, "Ritual," Celebrating the sacred ritual of making music together, and honoring the Afro-Brazilian roots of their music, "Ritual" is a joyful exploration of Brazilian rhythm

and melody, while referencing a myriad of other musical influences such as reggae, funk and cumbia.

"When we play music, we are asking for the blessing of our ancestors," says lead singer Da Hora. "Music is our ritual to bring messages of hope, love, equality, and freedom." Guitarist and vocalist Godinho adds that "playing music is more than a jam for us, it is a sacred space where we can express ourselves, and hopefully share this freedom with our audiences and listeners.

The songs on the album highlight the soulful vocals of Papiba and Dandha, whose voices combine beautifully together and are supported by the rich instrumental textures of the rest of the band. The rhythm section is led by tight grooves and the expertise of longtime drum set player Gary Kehoe. "Ritual" features the current touring line-up of SambaDa and is SambaDa's first album featuring bass player Etienne Franc. Franc adds his nimble touch to the samba tracks and hits a deep groove on the funk, reggae and cumbia lines, connecting easily with Kehoe's drumset. Saxophone/flute player Anne Stafford contributes dynamic horn writing and arrangements and expressive solos, which reflect her passion for Brazilian music and jazz.

What unites this band from such diverse backgrounds is a magic that can be felt by both the band and the audience. SambaDa brings joy to each performance, and keeps their fans asking for more! Visit www.sambada.com/ for more about the band.

The Arena Theater bar and snack stand will be open



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★ Lighthouse Lecture Series
Saturday, December 15th at 4 p.m.
Hank Birnbaum on Fort Ross: Then & Now. Learn about the hidden stories, enduring legacy and ongoing activities of Metini Ranch - Fort Ross and the Fort Ross Conservancy.

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The Point Arena Lighthouse Take Another Look At It (or From It)

Some of the wonderful things about the Mendocino coast are a little bit hidden away. For example, you've got to hear about, seek out (along Highway One), and do a bit of climbing to enjoy the amazing views at Bowling Ball Beach. Or take a turn on Riverside Drive in Pt. Arena and "discover" B Bryan Preserve and say hello to a giraffe (by reservation only). Or enjoy a glass of wine while taking in Pacific Ocean views at various points in Gualala. One of the most obvious ocean viewing spots is along Lighthouse Road where you'll find, well, a lighthouse. The Point Arena Lighthouse is not just a highly visible landmark; it's also a destination to experience an afternoon or early evening tour.



Yes, you can visit the lighthouse and step back in time while embracing the views. You can climb 115 feet up the 145 steps from the ground, up the spiral staircase with four landings to the top of the tallest Lighthouse on the West Coast that is open to the public to climb.* At the top guests are greeted by breathtaking 360 degree views as well as a Tour Guide who leads an interactive session about the geography surrounding the lighthouse, the ocean topography, sea life and more. Tours of the Lighthouse are offered daily. Lighthouse Tour Admission is \$7.50 for adults, \$1 for children 5-11 years, under 5 free and includes admission to the Museum, a Tower Tour and access to their 23 acres of trails and grounds. (PLEASE NOTE: The last daytime Tower Tour is at 3:15pm (4:15pm Memorial Day through Labor Day). The grounds, Museum and Gift Store are open until 3:30pm.

Those beautiful daytime views not enough? Come experience a spectacular night time view from atop the Point Arena Lighthouse. Enjoy a panoramic view of the sea and coast from the lantern room at the top of the Tower, and if the weather cooperates it will be illuminated by the full moon! The docents and guides will help you experience what it was like to be a Lighthouse Keeper and climb the Tower at night. They will guide you on your journey into the past and explain the unique history of this historic landmark, the tallest lighthouse on the West Coast. They usually also serve champagne, sparkling juice and snacks as part of the tour; and you even get to take

home an etched Point Arena Lighthouse champagne flute as a souvenir of this unique experience! Gates usually open a half-hour before sunset with the evening tour beginning around sunset. (Some months there are tours on two evenings).

While each night 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. These Night Tours have been extremely popular, often selling out well in advance. They do limit the number of guests to 20 so make 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. The Lighthouse is located at 45500 Lighthouse Road in Point Arena.

Beyond the beautiful views, the lighthouse offers a 3rd Saturday lecture series, with lectures starting at 4:00pm, 5:00pm June through August.

* *The Pigeon Point Lighthouse equals the height of the Point Arena Lighthouse, but is not open to the public for a "climb to the top."*

*Photograph from Wiki Commons.
Photography By Frank Schulenburg - Own work,
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Point Arena Lighthouse 2019 Nighttime Tour Schedule

- **Sunday, January 20, 2019**
- **Tuesday, February 19, 2019**
- **Wednesday, March 20, 2019**
- **Friday, April 19, 2019**
- **Saturday, May 18, 2019**
- **Saturday, June 15, 2019**
- **Monday, June 17, 2019**
- **Saturday, July 13, 2019**
- **Tuesday, July 16, 2019**
- **Thursday, August 15, 2019**
- **Saturday, August 17, 2019**
- **Friday, September 13, 2019**
- **Saturday, September 14, 2019**
- **Saturday, October 12, 2019**
- **Sunday, October 13, 2019**
- **Tuesday, November 12, 2019**
- **Wednesday, December 11, 2019**

Coastal Singers Concert "Christmas Solstice" Friday, December 21 At Gualala Arts

Under the direction of Sue Bohlin, the Coastal Singers will welcome the winter Solstice and prepare for the season with a program called Solstice Christmas on Friday, December 21, 7:00pm at the Gualala Arts Center.

Twenty-five coastal devotees of music and poetry will present a palate of Seasonal melodies – with passports from Palestrina, Italy (Sicut Cervus), and from the pagan heritage of Estonia comes the spell casting music of Urmas Sisask (Heliseb Väljadel) who bases most of his compositions on astronomy. From the Republic of Georgia (Racha region) comes an ancient call to Christmas; and from Chile – what has become the national song in times of tri-

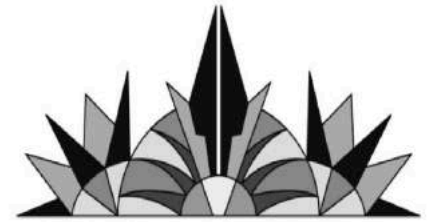


umph and grief: Gracias a la Vida. From 1982 England comes a song by Howard Blake, who says that Walking in the Air is about opportunities and childhood innocence, and was selected by NASA to be the soundtrack for time-lapse sequences by the Expedition 30 crew aboard the International Space Station.

Then, with a new take on Tradition, the Coastal Singers will give you a taste of Chanukah (in Santa Monica) by Jewish American political satirist, Tom Lehrer, who turned 90 this year; a White Christmas (though we'll settle for lots of rain!) by the Russian-born American-Populist-Musical genius, Irving Berlin; and sung poetry by English poet, Sally Hawkins on the theme of astronomy should compliment the evening sky.

As a special guest, the internationally recognized Bay Area choral conductor, Robert Geary, will conduct Magnificat Anima Mea, (1st movement from the larger work, Magnificat, by John Rutter) with Sue Bohlin on piano.

With instrumental artists Mary Mackie and Don Kreiger on piano; Eric Kritz, clarinet; Marsha Lotter, violin; and the Appalachian Duo, Pam Powell & Richard Custer joining, a Solstice Christmas will measure up to anyone's high standards.



ARENA THEATER

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December 2018

SambaDa

Friday Dec. 7 8 PM

Happy Holidays

See you in 2019!

National Theatre Live
from London

Saturday Dec. 1 1 PM

King Lear

Met Opera Live in HD
Saturday Dec. 15 9:55 AM

La Traviata

Bolshoi Ballet in Cinema
Sunday Dec. 23 2 PM

The Nutcracker

Arena Theater Film Club
Mondays 7 PM

Dec. 3 How I Won The War

Dec. 10 Beyond Rangoon

214 Main Street Point Arena

"Dance is the hidden language
of the soul."

Martha Graham (1894 - 1991)

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Solution to Crossword:

New Moon



December 7

Full Moon



December 22

"How I Won The War", "Beyond Rangoon" • Classic Films at Arena Theater Two Films With Doubtful Perspectives on War and Brutality

This month the Arena Theater Film Club brings us two films that make us think about the realities of war. They take two different routes to make us at least consider the inevitable stupidity of war.

On Monday, December 3 the Film Club presents "How I Won The War" (1967) at 7:00pm.

Perhaps surprising—then again, perhaps not—Richard Lester was selected to direct "How I Won The War". His first dozen or so assignments were in films and television, most of which were not seen in the United States. However, in 1964 he was selected to direct the first film by these four guys working together as The Beatles. "A Hard Days Night" became a surprise to many filmgoers, but in reality shouldn't have been. The creative output of the Fab-four is on display throughout the film, and of course pre-teens and teenagers flocked to see the film. In short order Lester then directed "Help" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way To The Forum" before directing "How I Won the War".

Among the first of the late '60s anti-war films that reflected growing concern over the Vietnam War, "How I Won the War" takes a cold, dark look at the Good War, World War II. The black comedy, adapted from Patrick Ryan's 1963 novel, stars Michael Crawford as bungling British Army Officer Lieutenant Earnest Goodbody, with John Lennon (in his only non-musical role, as Musketeer Gripweed), Jack MacGowran (Musketeer Juniper), Roy Kinnear (Musketeer Clapper) and Lee

Montague (Sergeant Transom) as soldiers under his command.

The film uses a variety of styles—vignette, straight-to-camera, and, extensively, parody of the war film genre, docu-drama, and popular war literature—to tell the story of 3rd Troop, the 4th Musketeers (a fictional regiment reminiscent of the Royal Fusiliers) and their misadventures in the Second World War. This is told in the comic/absurdist vein throughout, a central plot being the setting-up of an "Advanced Area Cricket Pitch" behind enemy lines in North Africa, but it is all broadly based on the Western Desert Campaign in mid-late 1942 and the crossing of the last intact bridge on the Rhine at Remagen in early 1945. The film is not rated. It has a runtime 109 minutes.

For the month's second film we might suggest the introduction "and now for something completely different". The growing civil war in "Beyond Rangoon" is not in Europe but instead in southeast Asia. Burma. And it takes on all of the attributes of a civil war, and a brutal one at that.

In a role originally intended for Meg Ryan, Patricia Arquette plays Dr. Laura Bowman, an American abroad in a strange country. It's 1988 and Laura is desperate to flee the United States and the memory of her husband and son's murders. Accompanied by her sister, Andy (Frances McDormand), she heads for Burma just as the peaceful protests against the country's military government take a more violent turn. Andy and the rest of their party flee in a hurry,


but Laura is forced to stay behind when she loses her passport. A former professor (Aung Ko) offers her guidance to the border of Thailand, where they both hope to make their escape.



I might add that on first seeing this film I wasn't expecting to see the performances that are brought forth in this film. Patricia Arquette delivers a performance that is worth every minute of her on screen time. And I must add that the on screen time of U Aung Ko as Arquettes/Borman's guide to the Thai border is worth the price of admission. The film was mostly filmed in Malaysia, and, though a work of fiction, was inspired by real people and real events.

Depending on one's point of view Bowman's "luck", albeit initially unintentionally, to be filming as political rallies with university students protesting for democracy helps the film's authenticity. The journey from Burma to the Thai border is lush, rich, gritty. On the journey to escape to Thailand they see the brutality of the military dictators of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), and attempt to escape to Thailand.

Beyond Rangoon screens Monday, December 10 at 7:00pm. It's rated R and has a runtime of 100 minutes.

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**Brad Wilson
and The Rollin' Blues
Thunder Band
Dec 7 At Garcia River Casino**

No strangers to the coast, Brad Wilson and The Rollin' Blues Thunder Band return to Garcia River Casino Friday December 7 for one evening, with music starting at 8:30pm.

Wilson and the band have a soulful Americana sound with Brad tapping into all his sources of inspiration. His energetic shows and entertaining appeal have made him a repeat performer at many of the West Coast's biggest festivals. Considered more than a talented guitarist by his audience, Wilson is an exciting entertainer. The new Power Blues Guitar LIVE album has creat-

ed a lot of anticipation to see Brad and his band, The Rollin' Blues Thunder Band, on their 2018 Tour!



Photo: Laurie Calef

According to Susie Salva of All Access Magazine, Brad Wilson's "attack on the lead guitar is nothing but sheer excellence. Rockin' the Blues/Ripping the Guitar is his motto."

Garcia River Casno is at 22215 Windy Hollow Road in Point Arena. Information is at (707) 467-5300.

**December At 215 Main
Music and More in Point Arena**

Another full schedule of music and more at 215 Main in Pt. Arena.

It's about mushrooms on December 1 (5:30pm) as Eric Schramm comes to 215



Main to talk mushrooms. There's no cover and mushroom appetizers will be available.

Music includes the Luddites on December 6 at 8:00pm, it's Tango on December 7 (8:00pm). Anthum makes a return visit to Pt. Arena on Saturday December 8 at 8:00pm. On Friday the 14th it's Karaoke



Night. Stephen Kent (above) brings his Didgeridoo for a musical performance on the 22nd. The Cosmic Family Band (below) plays at 9:00pm on the December 31 (New Year's Eve).

Third Thursday Poetry and Jazz is an open mic night. (see story on page 20).



On December 16 a fabulous dinner is set for 215 Main with the next Franny's Farmhouse Dinner. On the menu will be a Winter Citrus Salad with Fennel, radicchio and Little Gem Lettuces; the main course will be—yummmmmmmmy—Lobster Mac & Cheese. Dessert is Egnog Cream Puffs with Cranberry Coulis. By reservation, beginning at 5:00pm. (707) 882-2500. \$32 per person, 21 and over only.

215 Main will be closed December 24 and 25 for the Christmas holiday.

**Fort Ross: Then & Now
A Lecture with Hank Birnbaum
At Pt. Arena Lighthouse
December 15**

On Saturday, December 15 at 4:00pm, Hank Birnbaum will present "Fort Ross: Then & Now" as part of the Lighthouse Lecture Series. Admission is \$5 and the lecture will be presented in the Fog Signal



Building at 45500 Lighthouse Road, Point Arena.

Our North Coast's Fort Ross served and continues to serve as a very unique crossroads between our native Pomo, the Russians with Alaska Native hunters, and the Spanish/Mexican empire to the south. Learn about the hidden stories, enduring legacy and ongoing activities of Metini-Fort Ross and Fort Ross Conservancy.

Hank is a bilingual guide, educator & historical specialist with the Fort Ross Conservancy. With a Graduate Degree in Resource Recreation and Tourism Hank lived for 15 years at Lake Baikal in Siberia, where he worked as a National Park Ranger. Since returning to California he has spent 11 years at Fort Ross.

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

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Holiday Concert plus
young dancers from Gualala Dance Studio
\$15 in advance, plus \$5 day of

Sun 12/16 Artists at Albatross Reach 4 pm
Holiday Salon
Timeless Classics and Lesser Known Treasures
\$15 in advance, plus \$5 day of

Fri. 12/21 Coastal Singers Christmas Solstice Concert 7 pm
\$15 in advance, plus \$5 day of event

Sat. 12/22 Sita & Friends A Rollicking and Joyful Holiday Concert 7 pm
\$15 in advance, plus \$5 day of event

Mon. 12/24 A Festival of Nine Carols and Lessons 5 pm
A Holiday Tradition

Mon. 12/31 Celebrate One More Time! A New York New Year's Eve. 6 pm
Ball Drops at 9 PM
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Festival of Lights Continues in Ft. Bragg At Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens

Glittering Lights ~ Sweet Treats ~ Live Music. Each winter the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens transforms into a spectacular show of glittering color. The 9th Annual Festival of Lights will run rain or shine each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening from now through December 16. Adult tickets are just \$10 and children age 16 and under are free. Doors open at 5:00pm. Last entry is at 7:00pm; lights out 7:30pm.

The Gardens invites guests to create a holiday tradition and take a stroll along twinkling pathways lined with inventive displays. After dark, the Succulent Garden morphs into a fantastic underwater scene of seaweed and floating jellyfish. A sailing brig that struck nearby reefs back in 1850 is reanimated with dazzling lights amidst the Gardens' nationally recognized Heath and Heather Collection.

Visitors can warm up and wind down in a beautifully decorated tent complete with live music, local craft brews, and some of the best wine Mendocino County has to



offer. The Holiday Sweets Café offers hot cocoa, cider, and homemade goodies baked by members of Friends of the Gardens.

Performers scheduled during the Festival of lights include: Pura Vida, Dec 1 (salsa); Mendocino Women's Choir, Dec 2; Butch Kwan & Friends, Dec 7; Chuck Tourtillott (classic rock, country, folk, and blues), Dec 8; Mendocino High School Choir, Dec 9; Tony Roach (pop and jazz), Dec 14; Small Hat Band (southern rock), Dec 15; Business Casual (acapella pop), Dec 16.

Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens is well-known for its pet-friendly nature, however the Gardens apologizes but no dogs are allowed at the Festival of Lights. No outside food or beverages allowed. No smoking anywhere in the Gardens. Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens is at 18220 North Highway 1, Fort Bragg, CA 95437. Information is at 707-964-4352 ext 16, and at www.gardenbythesea.org

Photo by Brendan Mcguigan

The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers A Holiday Concert for the Coast Saturday December 8

The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers will present their annual Holiday Concert for the Coast on Saturday, December 8 at 3:00pm at Gualala Arts Center.

This concert is sure to get you in the holiday spirit. A favorite perennial is "Carol of the Bells." A hauntingly beautiful arrangement of "A Midnight Clear" will be performed. Talented local musicians will join the bell ringers. Dan Laux will play the hammered dulcimer on "What Child is This?" Cyndy Solomon and Mary Visher will play a recorder duet on "Rejoicing at the Manger," and Karl Young joins the bell ringers with his shakuhachi on "Still, Still, Still."

Singing is always a part of our bell ringers' concerts. You won't want to miss hearing Remi Alexander singing "Mary, Did You Know?" and Sita Milchev joined by Cassy Grossman performing Cohen's "Hallelujah". Sita Milchev will sing the glorious "Ave Maria" with the trio. The audience will be invited to join the bells in singing "Winter Wonderland" led by Cinnamon Rippey and Linda Bostwick, "Angels We Have Heard on High," and closing with "Silent Night."

Another highlight is the first-time appearance of the Gualala Dance Studio dancers. Dancers from age 4 to 12 will be dancing to a medley of tunes from the "Nutcracker Suite." The dancers will also join the bells on "Twelve Days of Christmas" with Remi Alexander leading the fun sing along, and "Jingle Bells." Santa will be at GAC at 2:30pm to greet concert goers, handing out candy canes to youngsters of all ages.

Tickets are \$15.00 in advance and \$20.00 the day of the concert. For further information, contact Gualala Arts: (707) 884-1138.

Third Thursday Poetry's Solstice Celebration Open Mic Night December 20 • At 215 Main by Blake More

On Thursday, December 20 at 7:30pm, The Third Thursday Poetry Reading Series at 215 Main in Point Arena will feature the group's annual "Open Mic Solstice Reading & Party".

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

Third Thursday Poetry & 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.



"Seeing death as the end of life is like seeing the horizon as the end of the ocean."
David Searls (1947 -)

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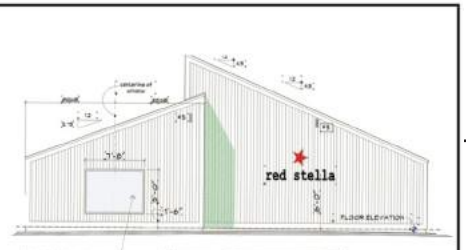
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1	9	5	4	6	8	3	7	2
7	4	2	5	9	3	8	6	1
8	9	3	7	2	1	5	4	6

Solution to Sudoku

Words on Wellness • More Than Beauty by Karin Uphoff

As we enter the dark of winter with its sleepy nights and stay-cozy days, I scan for plants appearing unperturbed, even radiant no matter what the weather. One of these plants is rock rose or *Cistus* spp. This common landscape plant is an aromatic evergreen shrub with grey-green leaves and papery pink, white or nearly purple, open rose-like flowers.

Originally introduced from the Mediterranean, rock rose feels quite at home here and has naturalized amongst our native scrub in some areas. It tolerates poor soil and drought conditions, and fires only serve to open their seeds. For centuries the oil from

wild *Cistus ladaniferus* or *Labdanum* oil has been collected for perfumery and its wound-healing properties. Now studies show that at least nine species of this plant exhibit antimicrobial, anti-inflammatory, astringent and tissue-healing properties good for chronic skin conditions. The leaves are easy to collect and use as a tea to calm histamine response, to reduce the side effects of Lyme disease and its coinfections, address leaky gut and generally boost immunity. As a Bach flower remedy, rock rose is taken to treat panic, stress, ex-

Karin C. Uphoff, is a Master Herbalist, Iridologist, Bodyworker and author of

Botanical Body Care: Herbs and Natural Healing for Your Whole Body.

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treme fright and to promote general calm and relaxation.

Another garden plant gone wild is rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), which can be found in almost every urban area around the world. Like rock rose, it is highly antioxidant and aromatic telling of its strong immune-protective properties. It makes a savory tea that lifts spirits, clears the mind, opens lungs and boosts circulation. Rosemary is easily integrated into your meals, but for protecting your throat from infection while you are out and about, simply pinch off a fresh green tip of the plant and chew it as you go.

Conifers are the largest plant presence in these parts, especially in winter when they green-up with all the rain. Redwood, pine and fir needles make excellent medicinal teas that address bronchial and sinus infections. High in volatile oils that support the tree's own immunity, use the needles to make a cup of fragrant tea and receive that same support. If you have a wood burning stove, try a pot of water on top with sprigs of rosemary and conifer needles. This moistening aromatherapy treatment can help reduce the spread of molds and viruses that burgeon during wet weather.

Western Screech Owl. A Bouncing Ball Whistle.

Western Screech-Owls don't screech. Instead they produce a series of evenly pitched notes that accelerate at the end. These calls can be heard in the fall and are frequent during spring courtship. In the evening, their calls drift through both natural and suburban habitats, revealing the owl's otherwise hidden presence. Their bouncing ball whistle is easily imitated and can be used to draw an owl into flashlight range. (Not recommended as a frequent practice in spring and summer.)

Western Screech-Owls are year-round residents in open or broken woodlands, often in riparian areas. They are also found in parklands, suburbs, towns, farms and ranches.

The Western Screech-Owl is seven to eleven inches tall with a wingspan of two feet. Those in our area are light gray with prominent vertical breast streaks. They have yellow eyes and a dark bill. The two tufts of feathers on the top of their head are called ear-tufts.



Screech-Owls hunt from a perch, eating mainly insects, mice and amphibians. They dive into streams for fish or crayfish. They are also known to hunt small birds and have been known to take another Screech-Owl and have the ability to tackle prey larger than themselves. There is a report of a Screech-Owl flying down a chimney and killing a canary inside its cage.

In spring, the male performs his courtship display from a perch, where he bows, raises its wings, snaps his bill and blinks at the female as she approaches.

He will also bring food for her, presented with much hopping and bowing. Once established as a pair, they mutually preens and sings duets.

Western Screech-Owls make their nests in abandoned woodpecker holes, old magpie nests and nest boxes. They add no nesting material. The female incubates two to five white eggs for twenty-six days. The male feeds her and roosts with her during the day. Both feed the young. The downy hatchlings leave the nest after another month.

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: Audubon

Animal Care & Welfare • Large Animal Evacuation

By Cathy Sue Riehm

As we head into our season of unpredictable and detrimental weather, we are surrounded by stories of fires and evacuations... and awful heart-wrenching stories of abandoned animals left to fend for themselves.

If we had to evacuate in a hurry, would you be able to take all of your animals? Do you have horses, sheep, goats, llamas, pigs...? Do you have a plan to get them to safety in an emergency? But what exactly can we DO... like, right now?

If possible, evacuate early. If our incredible and experienced safety professionals suggest we leave, we should leave. Map it out- have several routes planned. Call your family up north or your friend down south and have this conversation.

Identification is crucial. Micro-chips, tattoos or halters/collars with information on them can all be tools that reunite you with your surviving animals. If you have only minutes to identify 20 goats before opening the gate, use spray paint. One knowledgeable and experienced local vet tech said you can use a Sharpie to write your phone number on your horse's hooves. Take pictures because you will be relying heavily upon local communication, such as the radio and local social media platforms.

Prepare 'evacuation kits' for your animals- one carrier/kennel per animal (if possible), water, food and medications. Dr. Karen Novak of Village Veterinary says that "It's a good idea to have an extra supply of any crucial medications". One large animal tip is to store

your kit in a heavy duty trash can that you can later use to haul water.

Make sure vehicles and trailers are ready to go- tires are inflated, battery is charged, gas tank is full... Yes, your friend said you could use his horse trailer, but have you made sure your ball matches his hitch?

Practice your plan!! Familiarize your animals with trailers and carriers- don't wait until it's an emergency to train your horse to load.

At the very least, familiarize yourself with your obvious options. Fairgrounds are usually open to housing large animals in evacuation circumstances. Call these facilities and learn their protocols. We have the Mendocino County Fairgrounds in Boonville (707-895-3011) and the Redwood Empire Fair in Ukiah (707-462-3884). Down south we have the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa (707-545-4200), and up north we have the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale (707-786-9511). Understand that you need to leave food, water and identification (among other things) if you leave your animals. Taking time now could save your animals later.



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A Favorite Christmas Memory.

by David Steffen

I got the travel bug early in life. It may have been my parents, taking the family vacation each summer to visit some part of the extended family. One year we'd drive from Milwaukee to New York to see my father's side of the family, the next year to Texas to see my mother's family. Occasionally there was a trip to Florida to see Uncle Bob, a family member without any clear explanation as to which branch of the family he could be found.

I remember our last family vacation, the one before my parents separated, and before my older brother graduated from high school and joined the U.S. Navy. For a variety of reasons I recall some aspects of the trip very clearly. There was the 1958 Chevy wagon. I now think back to that steel and aluminum dash board and wonder why none of us were killed as a result of a sudden stop while riding in this pre-seatbelt car.

I can't forget my first stay at a Holiday Inn. This was in Pryor, Oklahoma, on our way to Dallas. It had a swimming pool. And I recall that Chevy wagon pulling into the Parkmoor Drive-in Restaurant in St. Louis for lunch. The Parkmoor could have been the inspiration for Al's drive-in on television's Happy Days. I might add that 1958 was also the year

my brother closed my grandfather's garage door with a complete lack of concern about the force, weight, and speed of the hand-lift door. He managed to break his own foot that day when the door landed on it. In any case, travel-

ing—for a 10-year old boy—was an adventure. Years later I began traveling for business and found myself on a plane at least once or twice each week. For the next thirty years. I could list the airlines I flew and the cities I visited but [a] that would boring and [b] there'd be little space left.

There was the Thanksgiving my wife and I decided to take the train from L.A. to Chicago. Inspired, predictably, by seeing Gene Wilder and Jill Clayburgh in the film Silver Streak. Spoiler alert: Amtrak wasn't at all like Hollywood. When it came time for dinner we walked to the dining car. After a glass of wine we were handed menus and told we had a choice of soup or salad. We asked the server what was today's soup. He didn't know so he casually walked back to the staging area in the middle of the dining car and yelled down the dumbwaiter to the kitchen: "What's the soup tonight?". A voice came thundering back:

"Macaroni and cheese soup." We both had the salad. It took us three days to get to Chicago, and I don't think either of us slept. But a cross-country train trip in America was scratched off our list of great ideas never to be repeated.

We saved money for a few years to afford a dream trip. We went to Kenya for Christmas. Unlike Amtrak this was one of those dream trips as almost everything went right. After the train trip to Chicago I guess we had earned some good luck.

It was 1986 and legendary airline Pan Am was still an option. We flew to New York, changed planes and got a direct 747 flight to Kenya. Direct doesn't mean non-stop. We made "visits" to Dakar (Senegal), Monrovia (Liberia), Lagos (Nigeria) and then east-bound across Africa to Nairobi. An almost 25 hour journey. After a couple of nights at the Norfolk Hotel in Nairobi (supposedly a Hemingway hangout) we began our bush trip around Kenya; traveling South, north, west, and south again. One night we camped at the base of Kilimanjaro, a week (and a couple of camps later) we were near Mt. Kenya. Our last

4-5 days there included Christmas, staying on the Masai Mara, near the Rift Valley, not too far from the border with Tanzania. We asked our guide if there was a local church that would be having Christmas services, to which he replied "yes, about 3-4 miles from here." Christmas Eve morning we drove to a spot where we watched a crew get three hot air balloons ready for flight, and before we knew it we were drifting toward the Tanzanian border. We followed the wind and saw virtually every animal you go to Africa to see. Hippos. Plenty of hippos. Lions. Plenty of them too. Giraffe, elephants, buffalo. After a couple of hours in the air—an amazing experience—we finished our trip about mile from the Tanzanian border, and had brunch at a make-shift camp. A crew drove us to do a little cross border shopping and that afternoon we were back at our camp. Big rains that night and when we awoke the next morning

we were told that church was out of the question. The roads were washed out.



Our last day in the bush we packed and got ready for our flight back to Nairobi. That plane was a 40-50 year-old twin engine DC-3, which was a whole other experience. One night in Nairobi and we were back

on a Pan Am flight and a slightly longer trip home. Of all the Christmases before and since, I always remember Christmas 1986.

People talk about life as a journey, and so it is. In 40 years of traveling we've been to many cities, and many countries on four continents. We have, as another film title suggested, taken planes, trains, and automobiles. Family reunions, visiting friends. But in all of our holiday journeys, one stays with me to this day.



We never got to church but it was still Christmas in Africa. Maybe we'll go back.



BOLSHOI from cover

... After the toy is broken by her brother, Clara cares for the wounded nutcracker, which later comes to life and saves her from the evil Mouse King. The nutcracker, now transformed into a heroic prince, journeys with Clara to an enchanted island where celebrations, hosted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, are held in their honor. The ballet has a runtime of 140 minutes including one intermission.

All screenings of the Bolshoi are on Sundays at 2:00pm and tickets are \$18 general and \$5 youth (17 and under), available at the box office and online at www.arenatheater.org.



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A New York New Year's Eve Dinner Party
At Gualala Arts Center, December 31

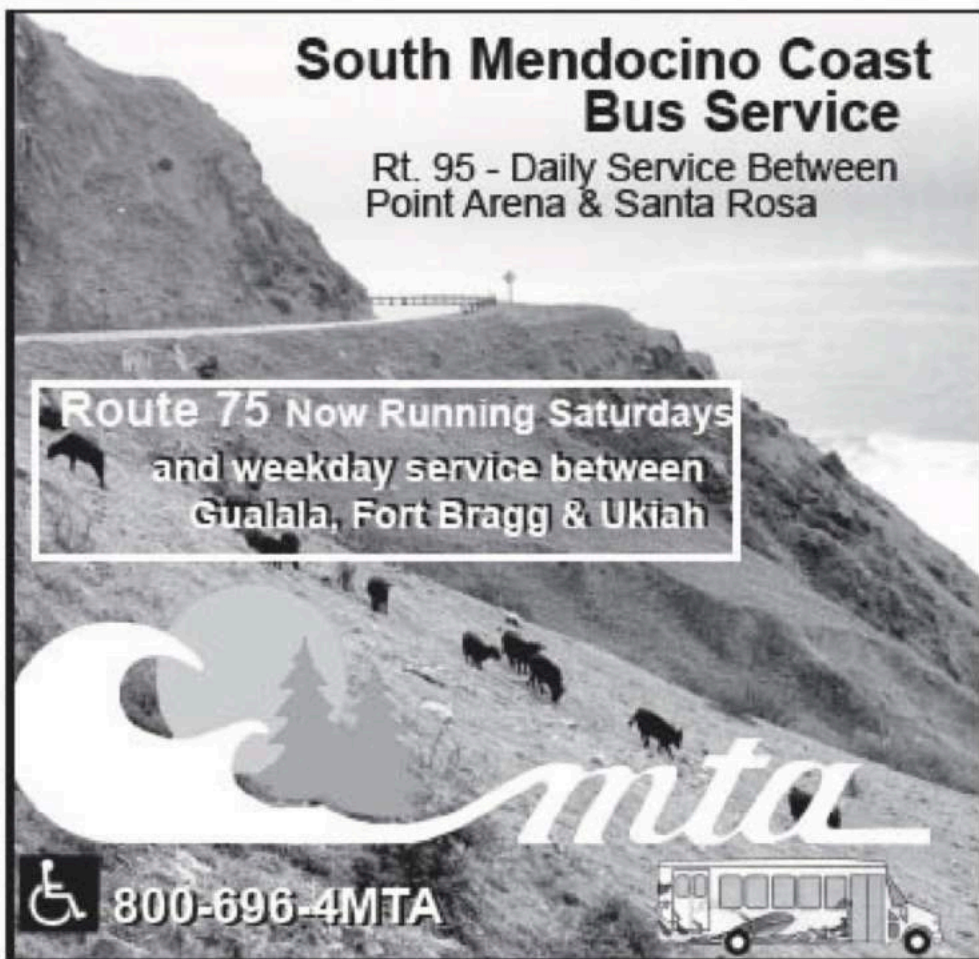
Welcome in 2019 with friends and neighbors, new and old. Gualala Arts will host a New Year's Eve Dinner Party Monday, December 31. Doors open at 6:00pm with food, music, and more beginning at 7:00pm. The ball drops at 9:00pm.

There will be a no-host bar with beer, wine, mocktails, and more. The \$50 ticket price includes appetizers, buffet, a champagne toast at 9:00pm, and dessert. Plus there will be music selected by KTDE's Fred Adler to celebrate the evening. One of the truly enjoyable ways to plan the evening is purchasing a table of six or eight, and then sharing the costs with everyone.

Bringing in the New Year among friends is one of the joys of living in a small close-knit community. If you are more adventurous and like to meet new people, buy single or couple of tickets and be seated with others who enjoy our beautiful coastal lifestyle. As small as our community is, there is always someone new to meet or get to know better. When the ball drops at Times Square, it will be midnight in New York, and 9:00pm here, getting us home in plenty of time to relax or to anticipate the ringing in of 2019 once again at midnight here on the coast. Tickets are available at BrownPaperTickets.



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Night-Gaunts and Other Tales of Suspense

A Book By Joyce Carol Oates,

Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

"These stories work better separately than in the aggregate, but they're still appropriately disturbing." JBY

Each of the stories in this most recent collection from Joyce Carol Oates originally appeared in other publications. It may be that reading them separate from each other would have allowed each one to stand on its own, thereby heightening the reader's appreciation. In putting them together, neither the whole nor the parts benefit. How so?

The author's repetitive narrative tics — such as her intentional overuse of parenthetical phrases — nag to the point of intrusiveness. She also uses the avoidance of names to make a point: the cruel Sunday school teacher in "Sign of the Beast" is too evil to be named; the obedient Asian lab technician in "The Experimental Subject" is a useful but obscure functionary. Unfortunately, the constant use of "Mrs. S___" for the one and "N___" for the other is simply aggravating. (In "Walking Wounded," the device spirals out of control.)

It seems that facial birthmarks are particularly malign, as evidenced by descriptions in two different stories. In "Sign of the Beast," the narrator states, "The birthmark on my (left) cheek like a pustule was shameful to me." And in the titular "Night-Gaunts," the protagonist's abusive, syphilitic father sports one. "The birthmark has become an inflamed-looking boil that no amount of make-up and powder could disguise."

Nonetheless, the stories here are appropriately disturbing. The nightmares that Oates conjures are generally grounded in the ugliness of daily life, of the situations beyond our volition that drive us to the edge of reason. In particular, "The Experimental Subject," which is the longest of the tales, is most effective precisely for its groundedness, its observance of the quotidian details that make its horror plausible.

In it, our unnamed protagonist — about whom Oates gives us all possible clues to understand that he's called Nguyen, so why bother being so coy? — pretends to be another student in order to cull out a chunky, awkward, friendless undergraduate as the experimental subject needed for the next phase of his revered professor's "research" project.

The unsuspecting mark, Mary Frances, is described in terms usually reserved for apes ("an unusually low simian brow...

large splayed feet and a center of gravity in the pelvic region") and cattle ("tentative manner like that of a creature that is being herded blindly along a chute"). Certainly, it helps the researchers to dehumanize a person before performing inhuman experiments on her without her knowledge or consent.

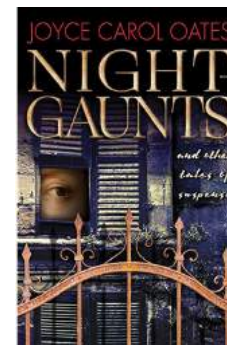
Interesting in concept is "The Woman in the Window," in which Oates imagines the story captured in Edward Hopper's painting "Eleven A.M., 1926." We spend time in the head of the woman sitting in the chair by the window, wearing only shoes, and in that of her abusive, married lover, who is tardy and still taking his own good time to get to their tryst.

Whenever she finally decides to employ them, I, for one, am rooting that her sewing shears get the job done.

Abuse — psychological, emotional, physical, sexual, often in combination — forms the common theme in almost all of these stories, which then capture the catastrophic results. Sometimes the abuse is practically invisible, as in "The Long-Legged Girl," in which the long-term effects on Elinor of Victor's constant affairs — or possibly unconsummated obsessions — with his beautiful, adoring undergrads finally leak out in an equally almost-invisible retaliation.

A little disconcerting, though, is the amount of attentive detail given to cataloging the physical defects of characters like Elinor and Mary Frances to the point that it feels like the author's personal disdain speaking. And yet, I might not have noted that if I hadn't read these stories in collection.

Jennifer Bort Yacovissi's debut novel, Up the Hill to Home, tells the story of four generations of a family in Washington, DC, from the Civil War to the Great Depression. Jenny is a member of PEN/America and the National Book Critics' Circle and writes a monthly column and reviews regularly for the Independent. She is chair of the 2018 Washington Writers Conference and is president of the Annapolis chapter of the Maryland Writers Association.




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Scuttlebutt

by Mitch McFarland

Many of you are probably already aware of the fact that China is no longer receiving most of our recyclable waste. They are producing plenty of their own, plus shipments from the U.S. are often too contaminated to have value as most Americans have yet to take recycling seriously.

So, what is there to do? Go back to land-filling all our waste? That would be 254 million tons per year. We currently recycle about one-third of that and the need is for that percentage to significantly increase, not decrease.

The obvious answer is to start taking care of our own waste. After all, it is only waste when it is wasted. When properly handled it becomes a resource. That's why we recycle. It is not just to save landfill space. We are consuming the earth's resources at an unprecedented rate and one which is unsustainable in the not-very-long run. The population of the earth has more than doubled in our lifetimes and according to a new UN report the amount of the planet's natural resources extracted for human use has tripled in 40 years.

Fortunately, California is doing something about it, both privately and publicly. The state has awarded grants to several companies that are collecting recyclable material and creating high quality feed stock and retail products.

One such company is rPanetEarth. The state agency, CalRecycles, recently awarded them a \$2 million grant to build a 302,000 sq. ft. facility in Southern California. They will be taking in baled post-consumer PET [PET, polyethylene terephthalate)], including material from curbside collections, then sort, wash, decontaminate and convert it into food and drink packaging. It will be capable of producing about 80 million pounds of finished product per year. An rPanetEarth spokesperson states that in reading sustainability reports from major companies, he often hears them say they'd use more RPET (recycled PET) if it were available, competitively priced and of high quality. He noted that China's ban on recovered plastic imports is "a big positive for us." Coca-Cola has already given scientific approval to their bottle-grade flake production technologies.

Revolution Plastics is another company that has received a grant for CalRecycles. They provide free pickup of agricultural plastics – most low-density polyethylene (LDPE) film or irrigation tubing – to more than 400 dairies, growers, almond hullers and other agriculture-related processors in California and is the largest agricultural plastic collection operation in the state.

Currently, Revolution Plastics' collected

plastic is shipped from its consolidation yards in Central California to Delta Plastics' facility in Arkansas, where it is washed and converted to resin and used in manufacturing processes to produce can liners, irrigation tubing, agricultural cover films, plastic lumber and other construction and agricultural films. Since its inception 18 months ago, Revolution Plastics is responsible for the collection of over 30 million pounds of used plastic in California. The grant will help Revolution Plastics establish a recycling and manufacturing plant in Central California. The plant is expected to begin production this year and to employ more than 100 California workers in disadvantaged communities within the next three years. This is in addition to the recycling benefits, which include an annual reduction of 39,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents and an annual 20,000 net tons of newly diverted material from landfills.

Command Packaging is another company that collects and processes some of the 150 million pounds of agricultural plastic used and disposed of EVERY YEAR in California. They have engineered resin for use in dozens of applications, such as new agricultural plastics, composite lumber, retail carry out bags, and even their own line of reusable bags they call Smart bags. Their facility houses their own state-of-the-art water treatment system, where they treat approximately 1,000,000 gallons per day of their own process water and re-use it to wash plastic over and over again.

Peninsula Plastics Recycling is another recipient of CalRecycles grants. They specialize in processing redemption, curbside, and industrial scrap plastics into clean, ready-to-use recycled plastic in the form of pellets or flakes. They have a current annual production capacity of over 50 million pounds.



A company called Sioneer has also been favored by CaRecycles. Their equipment grinds glass into a multitude of sizes, allowing their materials to have a variety of applications in virtually any industry from beach sand replenishment, blasting abrasives, and water filtration media, to pozzolan, a necessary ingredient in concrete production.

75% of the national total glass supply is landfilled each year, because traditional processing relies on technology and markets that can't effectively recycle all the glass. Due to their new and innovative process, all glass can now be recycled and repurposed, and kept out of landfills.

Cement is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions on the planet. By replacing a substantial portion with Sioneer's pozzolan alternative in concrete mixtures, they dramatically decrease emissions. For every ton of cement replaced with glass powder, we save 1 ton of GHG. Furthermore their product contains none of the dangerous crystalline silica.

Finally, there is Reliance Carpet Cushion. They divert 5 billion pounds of pull-up carpet from being disposed in our landfills annually. Their carpet liner is made from 100% recycled material and is 100% recyclable as well as having no chemical additives, the off-gassing of which is frequently noted as being a problem for many people.

This is all good news.

They may have been a time when natural resources seemed so plentiful that they could never run out. Waste was rarely a big issue.

Many resources seemed so cheap and available that recycling to acquire new feedstock seemed more like a bother than a necessity.

Things have changed, despite our collective desire to ignore that fact.

A study by the World Wildlife Fund, based on scientific data from across the world, reveals that more than a third of the natural world has been destroyed by humans over the past three decades. At our current rate of consumption, the report concludes that the natural resources of the earth will be depleted by 2050.

That is some serious stuff. We can't just hope that Jesus will show up and transport us all (or at least some of us) to heaven. Plants and animals are becoming extinct every day and we don't seem to mind much, but how many of us have actually considered the fact that humans are also threatened with extinction?

At least California is trying to do something about it.

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SUDOKU

Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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	8							4

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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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 "The Alienist"
author
5 Hang down
10 Box-office bomb
14 Orchestral reed
15 North Carolina's
____ Banks
16 Greet the judge
17 Paper purchase
18 City served by
The Daily Planet
20 Classic Cadillac
22 Pig's innards
23 Floral necklace
24 Date-night hirees
25 Hollywood
Foreign Press
awards
30 Bay window
31 Maid Marian's
man
32 Barbecue bit
35 Actress
Tuesday

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- 36 Question
37 Foal's mother
38 "____ a chance!"
39 Lethal loop
40 Kind of roll
41 Bright side
43 Mayor in Madrid
46 Irish rebel group
47 "Death of a
Salesman" writer
48 Texas nickname
53 Modest
55 Bit of filming
56 Blood fluids
57 Chop finely
58 Rainbow
goddess
59 Paleozoic and
Mesozoic
- 60 Look of disdain
61 Small price to
pay
- DOWN**
- 1 Reactor part
2 Biblical brother
3 Trucker's milieu
4 Shaped anew
5 It may be
eminent
6 Felt bad about
7 "Beetle Bailey"
pooch
8 Atop, in verse
9 Forbid
10 Tops a cake
11 Charles de
Gaulle birthplace
- 12 Basket willow
13 Annoyances
19 Communion plate
21 Casting need
24 Lamenting one
25 Prom purchase
26 Cookie with
Peeps and Pep-
permint varieties
27 Cheerful tune
28 Disco favorite,
"Shake Your
____ Thing"
29 No-good sort
32 Indian princess
33 Hotel amenity
34 Floating ice
mass
36 Low spirits
- 37 Like some reli-
gious orders
39 Frasier's brother
40 Bring on board
41 Cantina dips
42 Hang around
43 Give the giggles
44 Eyelid cosmetic
45 Red Cross
founder Barton
48 Cash biopic
"Walk the ____"
49 Grimm beginning
50 Scale deduction
51 Comparable (to)
52 Medical advice,
often
54 Time div.



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Diane Ackerman, (1948-)

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Hometown Holidays Returns To Point Arena A Fun-Filled Day • Saturday, December 15

Point Arena is the place to celebrate the season! Join Hometown Holidays festivities on Saturday, December 15, from 3:00pm to 7:00pm. Sponsored by the Point Arena Merchants Association.

Shops, galleries and an Arts & Crafts Pop-Up Market will offer unique holiday gifts, special discounts and festive foods.

Restaurants will offer holiday specials to diners with a purchase receipt from the event.

Inside 250 Main (the old Casari Mercantile building just

north of Roots), the **Arts & Crafts Pop-Up Market** will offer an array of handcrafted jewelry, leather goods, pottery, artwork, wreaths, fiber arts and clothing.

At their Main Street location, **Action Network** will host children's activities and provide snacks, allowing parents to shop child free. Santa is expected to drop in for the fun!

Arena Theater offers events throughout the day. At 9:55am, a new production of **La Traviata** will keep viewers spellbound. At 3:30pm Gualala Dance Studio's 'Winter Showcase' is featured. At 7:00pm the new movie version of Dr. Seuss' classic, **The Grinch**, is sure to delight all ages.

Outside, on Main Street, **PawPawrazzi Pet Photography** will snap the perfect holiday 'pawtrait' of you and your pet, between 4:00-5:00pm.

At 5:00 there will be a tree lighting ceremony at **Centennial Plaza**, just north of Arena Theater. Join in the fun and sing "Oh Christmas Tree" with the Hometown Holiday Carolers. The caroling will continue along Main Street until 6:00pm.

Merchants on Main Street and Arena Cove, along with The River Grill at Garcia River Casino will offer special discounts as well as complimentary appetizers and beverages.

The **Coast Highway Artists Collective** will feature an artists' holiday gift show.

Get a sneak peek at **Treasures**, Point Arena's new antiques, vintage and collectibles shop, which will be open for the event.

Step in to **Roots Herbal Apothecary** for tea tasting, treats and a 15% holiday discount on luxurious organic bath and body products, tea blends, apparel and gifts.

The coffee lover on your list will be delighted by the offerings at **Little Green Bean**, our local roastery. Enjoy hot chocolate or an eggnog cold brew while you shop with a 10% discount, storewide.

For the motorcyclist on your list, **The Zen**

House, located in the Point Arena Garage, is offering 30% off tires, 20% off protective gear and apparel, and 10% off all other merchandise. Shop while enjoying holiday hors d'oeuvres with spiced mulled wine (Danish Glogg) to add to your holiday spirit!

The 'foodie' on your list will want you to visit **Lisa's Luscious Kitchen**, located

on the south end of town. Lisa will offer tastings of her delectable jams and marmalades, chutneys, cooking oils, infused fruit vinegars and fruit sauces.

Arena Market and Café will offer samplings of tasty holiday treats and gift certificates for a free 12 oz. hot drink of choice with every purchase of \$25 or above. **Point Arena General Store** will offer samplings of tasty holiday treats and one free pizza giveaway every half hour during the event (must be present to win).

To pamper that 'special someone' on your list, visit **Skinluv** to purchase a gift certificate. Skinluv is now a full-service salon for hair, skin, tattoo and massage.

Franny's Cup & Saucer will stay open late for the event, offering holiday treats to shoppers of their unique gifts and baked goods.

215 Main will offer holiday hors d'oeuvres during the event.

Feeling hungry after all the fun? For diners with a receipt from a local merchant dated 12/15, restaurants will offer a special **Hometown Holidays 20%** discount on meals. Participating restaurants are the **Pier Chowder House and Tap Room** and **Uneda Eat Pizza** (both restaurants at Arena Cove), **The River Grill (at Garcia River Casino)** and **Rollerville Café** (on Hwy 1). The newly open **Point Arena Café** will join in the offer, extending their hours with a special dinner menu for the event.

Unbeaten Path Tours & Yoga is offering an Unbeaten Holiday discount on Tour & Yoga Gift Certificates. Reference "Hometown Holidays 2018" and receive 10% off your Unbeaten Gift Certificate purchase from December 15th through December 25th, 2018. Purchasers receive the added bonus of 1 Free Pass to any Unbeaten Yoga Wednesday Class trial at **Gualala Dance Studio** (1 Free Pass per gift certificate). Buy online at www.unbeatenpathtours.com.

Have fun, get festive, eat well and finish your holiday shopping locally, at Hometown Holidays! More info at pointarena.net.

POINT ARENA MERCHANTS PRESENT
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The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve tradition Gualala Arts • December 24

The community is invited to a local Christmas Eve tradition, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, to be held Monday, December 24th at the Gualala Arts Center in the Coleman Auditorium, from 5 pm to 6 pm. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols has been offered in the area since 1992, and generously hosted by Gualala Arts since 1998.

The auditorium is decorated with Christmas greenery, candles, and a Christmas star. Luminaries guide you in from the parking lot.

Nine readings by members of our diverse local faith community tell the Christmas story. The readings alternate with nine familiar carols for all to sing. The event lasts one hour, and is free. If you would like to give a donation as you leave, all proceeds go to support the work of South Coast Crisis Aid, which distributes vouchers for emergency food, transportation, and lodging assistance throughout the year via local clergy and the Action Network in Gualala and Point Arena. This Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols originated at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, in 1918. The Cambridge service is still broadcast worldwide each year. Shepherd by the Sea Episcopal-Lutheran church coordinates with other local churches and spiritual groups to sponsor the event. Everyone is welcome.



Sita & Friends Gualala Arts • December 22 A Rollicking & Joyful Holiday Concert

Sita Milcev returns with her singing friends on Saturday December 22 to Gualala Arts. "Sita & Friends", an exuberant, amusing and joyful concert to fill you with holiday spirit. She will be joined by some of our favorite local singers/actors including Teo Ariola, Kim Ghezzi, Jodi Smith and Patricia Wilson with surprise cameo performances from some of Sita's other friends. Don Krieger will be musical director and keyboard accompanist.

"Sita & Friends" will be singing and entertaining you with an eclectic blend of classic holiday songs made famous by such performers as Eartha Kitt, Judy Garland and Nat King Cole. Other songs in will include novelty holiday songs from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas". Rounding out the music will be some non-holiday songs from film and stage musicals.

Sita has been thrilling audiences for 60 years, singing all over the world and directing musical shows for over 35 years, including several Broadway Cabaret style shows at Gualala Arts over the past decade. The show begins at 7:00pm with doors opening at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$20; \$5 more the day of the show. Kids under 17 are free. Tickets are available at Gualala Arts Center, The Dolphin Gallery and www.brownpapertickets.com. Proceeds benefit Gualala Arts Center and The Coastal Seniors "Meals on Wheels" program.

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"Harboring Hopes" or "Conservation isn't just a fluke"

by Mary Jane Schramm

The days were waxing shorter. Until recently, the seas were full of the clamor of many humpback whales emitting feeding calls, of their clash and splash when lunging upward to engulf shoals of anchovies, or launching their great bodies skyward and landing with a thundering roar. Now the nearshore waters were quieter. These noisy neighbors had succumbed to an irre-



sistible siren-song: the instinct to mate and give birth. They were moving south, to the breeding grounds of Mexico and Central America. But another type of whale – for even porpoises and dolphins are considered whales – a cetacean one-ninth the humpbacks' size, remained: the shy, diminutive harbor porpoise, *Phocoena phocoena*. They live year-round in coastal waters, often venturing into inlets and, yes, harbors. Our small whale "homies."

PUFFING PIGS: Harbor porpoises live

in Northern Hemisphere sub-arctic and temperate shallow waters. They measure up to 5.5 feet, with dark gray backs and pale undersides. Usually traveling in twos or threes, they may form larger groups when working a patch of baitfish like anchovy, herring, or sardines. Fisherfolk often see them surface suddenly, inhaling and exhaling sharply, their "chocolate-chip" -shaped dorsal fins piercing the surface, then abruptly disappearing. Thus, they earned the moniker, "puffing pig," an unflattering but apt description of their behavior, sound and form.

THE "WHALES IN THE 'HOOD": Our local subpopulation, the San Francisco-Russian River stock, ranges from the Bay Area north to Point Arena. NOAA's latest population estimate is 9,886, and appears stable. They were hit hard by fisheries entanglements in the 1970s and 1980s until restriction of gill nets to deeper offshore waters significantly reduced drownings.

Dating back to when Ohlone peoples fished for them inside the San Francisco Estuary, these shy, diminutive porpoises were

likely common. The bay was clean, and prey was plentiful. The Ohlones took just what they needed. But much later, the entrance to the estuary was discovered, and exploit-



ative new "landlords" from colonial Mexico and New England sailed in. Gradually at first, then, with the Gold Rush, a tidal wave of humanity engulfed San Francisco Bay and its environs.

The estuary's health suffered, from placer mining, urbanization and industrialization. Some porpoises remained, but their numbers probably declined as bay productivity declined. In a final coup de grace, World War II triggered a surge in bay-based shipbuilding, associated industry and vessel traffic, discharges and noise pollution. A barricade of explosive mines and submarine nets across the Golden Gate forced porpoises into outer coast waters, where they remained. Any relicts inside the bay seem to have disappeared.

RETURN OF THE NATIVE: The effects of military activities lingered for approximately 65 years. Around 2008, reports trickled in of porpoises east of the Golden Gate Bridge – unheard of! They had suddenly rediscovered the bay, now a bountiful and thriving ecosystem, thanks to the agen-



cies and grassroots efforts that helped restore its impaired health. A volunteer non-profit, Golden Gate Cetacean Research, began working with NOAA Fisheries, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, San Francisco State Univer-

sity and others to launch a formal study, and has now photo-identified over 700 individuals using the bay.

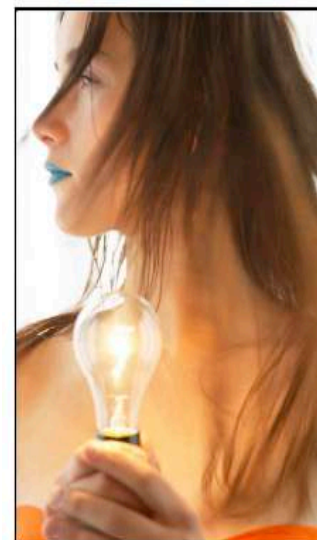
These porpoises remain vulnerable to nets and fishing traps, to water and noise pollution. However, it seems that harbor porpoises are back in our estuary to stay. "The past decade has seen a remarkable influx of cetaceans into San Francisco Bay," said Bill Keener, a marine biologist with Golden Gate Cetacean Research. "It began with the return of harbor porpoises, but now we also have resident bottlenose dolphins and humpback whales coming here to feed each spring and summer." Greater Farallones, Cordell Bank and the other West Coast national marine sanctuaries have had a hand in these happy developments, working with scientists, other agencies, and caring individuals. We are witnesses to these positive changes. We know that recovery can be achieved, even with seriously impacted marinelife, especially when we all take part.

Mary Jane Schramm

• NOAA Greater Farallones • Nat'l Marine Sanctuary
Maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov

Photo Credits: Near Left: Harbor porpoise "chocolate chip" dorsal fin. Cr: NOAA; Far left: Harbor porpoise. Photo by Ari Friedlaender. Lower left: Harbor porpoise 'spying' Cr: Dann, Wikimedia Commons.

Editor's Note: Can't get enough? Find more at their Facebook and Twitter accounts, which have featured southern Beach Watch sites for the past months. They'll now feature, in a northward progression, monitored beaches in Sonoma and Mendocino counties. These shore segments are regularly monitored by Mendonoman Beach Watch volunteers who document their sites' condition monthly or bi-weekly, noting seasonal and incident-related changes in wildlife, shoreline patterns, and other data that we use for better management of the coastal ecosystem. These surveys sometimes discover signs, like an early warning system, when things go awry in the ocean, such as the warm water related seabird/fur seal die offs in 2014-15. We'll continue into early 2019, till we run out of beaches! *search Facebook and Twitter at GFNMS.*



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The MET Opera Presents Verdi's "La Traviata" On Screen in HD at Arena Theater, December 15

The arrival of another production of the MET Opera live is always an event. And the presentation of Verdi's "La Traviata" is no exception. This production will be screened in HD at Arena Theater on Saturday, December 15 beginning at 9:55am. Tickets are \$24 general admission, \$22 senior, \$18 student, and are available online at www.arenatheater.org.

Yannick Nézet-Séguin conducts Michael Mayer's richly textured new production, featuring a dazzling

19th-century setting that changes with the seasons. Soprano Diana Damrau plays the tragic heroine, Violetta, and tenor Juan Diego Flórez returns to the Met for the first time since 2015 to sing the role of Alfredo, Violetta's hapless lover. Baritone Quinn Kelsey is Alfredo's father, Germont, who destroys their love.

The opera saw its world premiere in Venice, at the Teatro la Fenice, in 1853 and survived a notoriously unsuccessful opening night to become one of the best-loved operas in the repertoire. Following the larger-scale dramas of Rigoletto and Il Tro-

vatore, its intimate scope and subject matter inspired the composer to create some of his most profound and heartfelt music. The title role of the "fallen woman" has captured the imaginations of audiences and performers alike with its inexhaustible vocal and dramatic possibilities—and challenges. Violetta is considered a pinnacle of the soprano repertoire.

With La Traviata, Verdi and librettist Francesco Maria Piave fashioned an opera from a play set in contempo-

rary times—an exception in the composer's long career. Dumas's La Dame aux Camélias was a meditation on the author's youthful affair with the celebrated prostitute Marie Duplessis, known as a sophisticated and well-read woman whose charms and tact far surpassed her station. The play is still staged today in its original form and exists in several film incarnations, most notably Greta Garbo's Camille (1936).

The opera has a runtime of 212 minutes with 2 intermissions. Arena Theater is at 214 Main Street in Pt. Arena. (707) 882-3272.



Gualala Salon & Salon des Refusés The Annual Art Exhibit and Juried Competition Continues Thru Dec 29

The Gualala Salon & Salon des Refusés is the second largest exhibit at Gualala Arts; (Art in the Redwoods is the largest.) The Salon is sponsored by the North Coast Artists' Guild with generous donors providing award monies. The Gualala Salon has the largest awards offered to participants anywhere on our coastal and inland area. Yes, participants anywhere – this exhibit is open to any artist and any type of art. And this year it's even better and bigger!

First Prize is \$1000, Second Prize is \$750, but this year we've got TWO Third Prizes, each at \$500, and five Judges Awards each at \$100 and two Special Awards, also at \$100 each. Then there's the Peoples' Choice Awards, selected by the public, \$100 for First Prize, \$75 for Second Prize, \$50 for Third Prize. And there's prize for the best work by an Emerging Artist under 18 Years of Age, also \$100.



But there's more to the Gualala Salon than prizes. This is the Premiere Fine Art Competition on the North Coast. Artists save their best work each year for this event. And, in turn, their work is up against the best work of every artist in the competition. Winning here not only gives an artist bragging rights galore, it also brings with it the respect and admiration of your fellow artists.

The opening reception was last night (Friday, Nov. 30) but the art will be on display all month.



Stop me if you've heard this. So a bear wearing a leather vest rides a Harley into a local business, and apparently crashes through a stack of Christmas presents wreaking havoc. He may have been lost. After all, a bear coming into the big city of Gualala could be disoriented. But what's with the bird on the handlebars? In any case, if you'd like to have a conversation with the bear, the bird, or Jane (who owns the business,) stop by Arff and say hello

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

- Saturday 01: 10:00am, Bizarre Bazaar at Brandybuck Studio. (Continues on the 2nd).
- Saturday 01: 1:00pm, "King Lear", National Theatre Live from London at Arena Theater
- Saturday 01: 5:00pm, Artist Opening at Coast Highway Art Collective in Pt. Arena.
- Saturday 01: 5:00pm, Festival of Lights at Coast Botanical Garden, Ft. Bragg (thru 12/16)
- Saturday 01: 5:30pm, Eric Schramm is at 215 Main for a mushroom talk.
- Saturday 01: 7:30pm, Mendocino English Country Dance at Caspar Community Center
- Sunday 02: 8:30am, Garcia Guild Annual Holiday Craft & Gift Fair, and Breakfast
- Sunday 02: 2:00pm, Origami Winter Workshop at Coast Community Library.
- Monday 03: 7:00pm, Arena Theater Film Club presents "How I Won The War"
- Thursday 06: 8:00pm, the Luddites at 215 Main.
- Friday 07: 8:00pm, Tango at 215 Main.
- Friday 07: 8:00pm, Santa Cruz's SambaDa Returns to Arena Theater.
- Friday 07: 8:30pm, Brad Wilson's Rollin' Blues Thunder Band at Garcia River Casino
- Saturday 08: 3:00pm, Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers perform at Gualala Arts.
- Saturday 08: 3:00pm, Bell Ringers Concert with Gualala Dance Studio at Gualala Arts.
- Saturday 08: 8:00pm, Anthum at 215 Main in Pt. Arena.
- Monday 10: 7:00pm, Arena Theater Film Club presents "Beyond Rangoon"
- Friday 14: 7:00pm, Karaoke night at 215 Main in Pt. Arena.
- Saturday 15: 4:00pm, Lecture by Hank Birnbaum on the Ofert Ross Settlement.
- Saturday 15: All Day. HomeTown Holidays in Pt. Arena (Main St., the Cove, Casino).
- Saturday 15: 9:55am, "La Traviata" from MET Opera Live at Arena Theater.
- Sunday 16: 4:00pm, Artists At Albatross Reach Holiday Salon at Gualala Arts.
- Sunday 16: 5:00pm, Franny's Farmhouse Dinner At 215 Main. (seating every 30 min.)
- Thursday 20: 7:30pm, Third Thursday hosts an Open Mic night plus improv Jazz at 215 Main
- Friday 21: 7:00pm, Coastal Singers present a Christmas Solstice concert at Gualala Arts.
- Saturday 22: 2:00pm, In The Shadows: Magic of Shadow Puppets at Coast Community Library.
- Saturday 22: 7:00pm, Sita & Friends perform a Rollicking & Joyful concert at Gualala Arts.
- Saturday 22: 7:00pm, Stephen Kent performs his Digidideroo at 215 Main.
- Saturday 23: 2:00pm, Bolshoi Ballet performs The Nutcracker at Arena Theater..
- Monday 24: 5:00pm, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Gualala Arts
- Monday 31: 6:00pm, New York New Year's Eve celebration at Gualala Arts
- Monday 31: 9:00pm, Funkacillin's Funk, Pop & Soul at Garcia River Casino
- Monday 31: 9:00pm, the Cosmic Family Band plays New Years Eve at 215 Main.

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