

**ALWAYS
FREE**

December 2020



Mendocino Coast's **Lighthouse Peddler**

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



I'm a fan of local. Having lived in six different American cities I don't believe I'm closed-minded or naive about the importance of local businesses. There's no question that 2020 has been a challenging year for everyone, and local, independent businesses have probably taken a bigger hit than most. After all, we've been encouraged (or ordered) to shelter-in-place, and that means we've spent less time getting out and stopping in at local businesses. And those local dollars are important. Which brings me to our headline: Please Shop Local For The Holidays.

Encouraging you to spend more time and money with our local businesses this month will not solve all problems. It may very well, however, help our businesses, and at the same time remind us of our friends and neighbors. . .

Cont'd on Page 13

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**Arena Theater Sets
Virtual Holiday Show Dec. 12
They're Looking For Performers**

Arena Theater's virtual talent show will take place via Zoom on Saturday, December 12, at 7:00pm. The annual show, suited for the whole family, will celebrate the creative spirit that marks our coastal community.

All of us need some fun during this challenging time, and we want to provide a forum where local talents can perform safely and at the same time stay in touch with the community. The show is a fundraiser for Arena Theater, admittance is free but donations are welcome. Plan on visiting the theater's website at www.arenatheater.org for the Zoom link which will be posted on the



day of the show and why not make a donation to Arena Theater while you're there?

The theater is looking for a variety of acts including singers, musicians, dancers, pet tricks and more. The audience can expect the return of comedians presenting favorite repeats from last year as well as new acts. Only videos can be accepted this time and participants are expected to follow social distancing guidelines when producing their videos. Performances must be less than five minutes and while Holiday themes are encouraged they're not required. Deadline for submissions is Friday, December 4. Sign up by email: shauna@arenatheater.org.

The Holiday show on December 12 will also kick off an online auction for a quilt that has been skillfully assembled by Heather Hackett and includes two matching pillows. The auction will run until Monday, December 21, and all proceeds will benefit Arena Theater. A link to the auction site will be posted ArenaTheater.org.

**Annual Holiday Gift Show Returns for the Holidays
Coast Highway Art Collective Opening is December 5**

Each year, the little red building with the big yellow sun in Point Arena transforms into a holiday wonderland, filled with gifts for everyone on your list. The collective members are excited to host an opening reception on Saturday, December 5 from 11:00am to 5:00pm. Everyone in the community is invited.

By extending the hours of the opening, guests, the artists and the staff can better adhere to social distancing guidelines. Under the current guidelines, 4 guests at a time will be allowed inside to view the exhibit. Guests will be encouraged to social distance on the open-air patio until space opens inside the building. Please note, face-masks are required.

Collective members and guests will be displaying unique and locally made items for the holidays. They include Bea Acosta, ceramics, and pine needle baskets; Andrea Allen, Chinese Brush painting; Lena Bullamore, framed painted artworks and more;



Colette Coad, glass, Christmas ornaments; Barbara Fast, multimedia, scarves, bags, and jewelry; Chris Grassano, oil painting; Rozann Grunig, photography and Christmas ornaments; Amanda Hopkins, paintings; Debbe Hull, glass beads; Emma Hurley, ceramics, clothing; Ling-Yen Jones, jewelry; Scott Jones, photos, and some altar like nature things; July 5, clothing; GERALDINE LiaBraaten, photography; Amy McFarland Renegade Botanicals pop up facial, body products; Blake More, altar art; Jack O'Rourke, watercolor; Brenda Philips, ceramics; Siobhan, silk scarves; John Stickney, wood; and Kathryn Weiss, handmade glass bead jewelry.

For many years, the annual holiday celebration at the Coast Highway Art Collective included live music and an abundance of food and drink. However, due to Covid-19

protocols, the Collective has scaled back on many things, but certainly not the good cheer. Members have used the past many months to create and collaborate. Gallery manager Ling-Yen Jones sums up how the members of the Collective feel: "We are just happy to have a place and space to share our artwork and glad to have support from our community."

This show will run from December 3 -27. The Coast Highway Art Collective is regularly open on Thursday through Sunday from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Selected artwork by Collective members and guest artists are on display in the gallery's front courtyard, weather permitting. The gallery is located at 284 Main Street, Point Arena, next door to the Redwood Credit Union. More information is available at www.coast-highway-artists.com.



Colette Coad, glass, Christmas ornaments; Barbara Fast, multimedia, scarves, bags, and jewelry; Chris Grassano, oil painting; Rozann Grunig, photography and Christmas ornaments; Amanda Hopkins, paintings; Debbe Hull, glass beads; Emma Hurley, ceramics, clothing; Ling-Yen Jones, jewelry; Scott Jones, photos, and some altar like nature things; July 5, clothing; Geraldine LiaBraaten, photography; Amy McFarland Renegade Botanicals pop up facial, body products; Blake More, altar art; Jack O'Rourke, watercolor; Brenda Philips, ceramics; Siobhan, silk scarves; John Stickney, wood; and Kathryn Weiss, handmade glass bead jewelry.

**Annual Christmas Show Set for December
Visit the Gallery at the Artists Collective in Elk**

For the month of December, The Artists' Collective in Elk will hold its annual Christmas Gift Show. The gallery will be open everyday from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

The Elk Collective will be featuring less expensive, hand made arts and crafts, all appropriate for Christmas gifts. They also have cards and ornaments. Since all of the artists spend some time at the Gallery each month a visit is



an opportunity to meet some of our artists. There's a different artist in the gallery everyday.

The Artists' Collective in Elk is located at 6031 South Highway 1 in Greater Downtown Elk (between Queenie's Roadhouse Cafe and the Post Office).

Original art makes wonderful holiday gifts! For more information call the gallery at 707-877-1128.



ARENA THEATER
arenatheater.org
December 2020

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**Arena Theater Live via
Zoom**

**Saturday Dec. 12 7 PM
Holiday Talent Show**

**Nightly Met Opera Streams
Encore titles featuring
international stars**

**Virtual Cinema December
11/20-12/10 Collective, thriller
11/27-12/17 Zappa, music doc
12/4-12/17 Crock of Gold:
Shane MacGowan**

**12/4-12/17 76 Days
Visit arenatheater.org for more
All show times are subject to change
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Our thanks to December contributors Rozann Grunig, mai haiku, Mitch McFarland, Blake More, Mary Jane Schramm, Caitie Steffen, David Steffen, Karin Uphoff, Hannah Weinberger, and Jennifer Bort Yacovissi.

Wreath cover image by Elena Chukovskaya from Pixabay

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**Read the Peddler Online-
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"Oh, I've been smilin' lately
Dreamin' about the world as one
And I believe it could be
Some day it's going to come
'Cause out on the edge of darkness
There rides a peace train.
Oh, peace train take this country.
Come take me home again.."

From "Peace Train" by Cat Stevens (1948-)

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Lighthouse Peddler

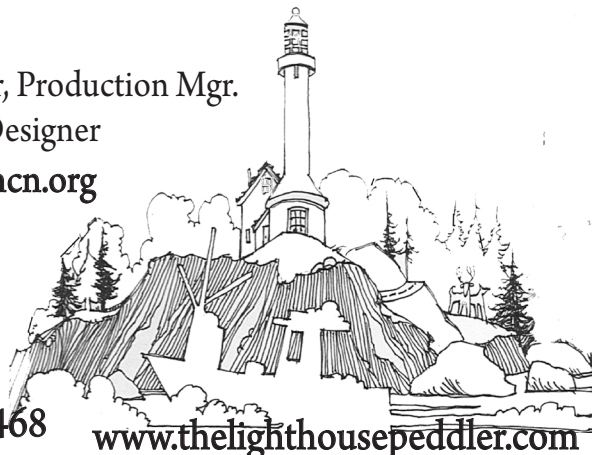
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Arena Theater's Virtual Screening Room Returns In December

76 Days, Collective, Zappa, and Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds With Shane MacGowan

Arena Theater announces December's films that you can screen online at home (or wherever you happen to be logged on). And beyond entertainment when you screen these films your ticket purchases sends some that money back to Arena Theater. Simply purchase the film(s) through the Arena Theater website and some of the proceeds will benefit Arena Theater. The films will stream to your home on your computer or tablet, via Chromecast, through the Kino Now app on Roku, or on AppleTV.

While many of us have looked for a bit of a diversion from the COVID-19 Pandemic, perhaps now is a good time to learn something about the origins of the virus. Along comes a film titled "76 Days" and it may well be worth our time. The film will be available for screening beginning Friday,



December 4, and will continue to be available through December 17.

On January 23rd, 2020, China locked down Wuhan, a city of 11 million, to combat the emerging COVID-19 outbreak. Set deep inside the frontlines of the crisis in four hospitals, "76 Days" tells indelible human stories at the center of this pandemic from a woman begging in vain to bid a final farewell to her father, a grandpa with dementia searching for his way home, a couple anxious to meet their newborn, to a nurse determined to return personal items to families of the deceased.

These raw and intimate stories bear witness to the death and rebirth of a city under a 76-day lockdown, and to the human resilience that persists in times of profound



tragedy. Manohla Dargis of the New York Times wrote "One of the best I saw via Toronto is '76 Days', a tough, very good Chinese documentary about the first months of the pandemic in Wuhan." Ann Hornaday of the Washington Post added "[An] astonishingly candid and deeply wrenching portrait of death, suffering and compassion."

In addition to "76 Days", three films continue to be available for screening through

Arena Theater.

How about the jaw-dropping documentary thriller "Collective". It is considered one of the best-reviewed films of the year.



In 2015, a fire at Bucharest's Colectiv club leaves 27 dead and 180 injured. Soon, more burn victims begin dying in hospitals from wounds that were not life-threatening. Then a doctor blows the whistle to a team of investigative journalists. One revelation leads to another as the journalists start to uncover vast health care fraud. When a new health minister is appointed, he offers unprecedented access to his efforts to reform the corrupt system but also to the obstacles he faces. Following journalists, whistle-blowers, burn victims, and government officials, "Collective" is an uncompromising look at the impact of investigative journalism at its best. The film has a running time of 93 minutes and is available through December 10.

Directed by Alexander Nanau, and written by Nanau and Antoaneta Opris, "Collective" was recognized by 17 festivals, and took home 12 awards (and 9 nominations). The film is in Romanian and English, and has a running time of 109 minutes. Immediately following the film there will be a pre-recorded discussion between filmmaker Alexander Nanau and *Rolling Stone* critic Kameron Austin Collins. This conversation is exclusive to virtual cinema engagements.

Anyone who lived through the rise of FM radio, discovering a wider range of music than the dominant Top-40 stations of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s will have, at some point, discovered Frank Zappa. In some ways he was the poster child for pushing the boundaries of music. His death at age 53 some 30 years ago reminds us of the enormous body of work he left behind, the influence he had on other musicians. "Zappa" is one of the films screening at home this month by way of Arena Theater's streaming service, through December 17.

Billed as an intimate and expansive look into the innovative life of the iconic—and iconoclastic—musician and artist, the film was made with unfettered access to the Zappa family trust and all archival footage. It explores the private life behind the musical career that never shied away from the political turbulence of its time. Directed by Alex Winter (of "Bill & Ted" fame). It should be a fascinating film. One film pro-

ducer stated that "Alex Winter has created an amazing documentary. 'Zappa' is an incredibly nuanced and compelling look at the visionary iconoclast and the environ-



ment that formed him." Zappa fans will already know that when making wardrobe choices during the screening, remember that "Brown Shoes Don't Make It". The film has a running time of 129 minutes.

Not everyone is familiar with The Pogues and Shane MacGowan. But this new documentary by filmmaker Julien Temple ("Earth Girls Are Easy" and "Vigo: A Passion For Life") lays bare much of what fans of The Pogues may have already figured out. And the title of the film, "Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds With Shane MacGowan" should offer some clues for others before screening the film. Joe Strummer of The Clash suggested that MacGowan is "one of the finest writers of this century." Temple's film "Crock of Gold" will be coming to Arena Theater on December 4 and promises to be entertaining and, perhaps, eye-opening.

It's worth noting that even MacGowan has an ability to lift himself above the fray and tell us that—in reference to himself—



that "God looked down on this little cottage in Ireland and said, 'That little boy there, that's the little boy I'm going to use to save Irish music.'" His casual genius, some may recall, was heard and seen in the creation of "Fairytale of New York", a single (in a duet with Kirsty MacColl) that continues to be one of the most played Christmas singles in the last 30 years.

"Crock of Gold - A Few Rounds With Shane MacGowan" deep dives into the life of the tortured Irish vocalist, best known as the lead singer and songwriter of the Pogues, who famously combined traditional Irish music with the visceral energy of punk rock." The film features unseen archival footage from the band and MacGowan's family, as well as animation from legendary illustrator Ralph Steadman. The film has a running time of 124 minutes.

**Need To Get Into The Holiday Spirit?
Winter Wonderland At Gualala Arts Is Ready For You!
And It's Open to Visitors Every Day**

One of the Mendonoma Coast's favorite celebrations is back. Winter Wonderland is here with something for almost everyone. Gualala Arts has been filled with enough holiday spirit to please us every day through December 30. (The Arts Center is closed Christmas Day.) The public is invited to catch that spirit from 11:00am to 4:00pm daily. Admission is free.

Stepping into Gualala Arts, visitors will be greeted with music and the colors of the season. As "Gualala's Favorite Tree Lot",



the Arts Center has trees of all sizes. There are trees large enough to be the centerpiece of your holiday decorating, and smaller trees that will fit on a table-top. And you'll find plenty of choices in between. All of these trees are ready to be taken home and decorated. But that's not all.

As in years past, there are dozens of already-decorated trees to choose from as well. The decorated trees were created by people right here on the coast as part of Gualala Arts' Competition to see who can come up with the most creative decorating ideas. And the dozens of decorated trees are all part of the Winter Wonderland's Silent Drive fundraiser. The trees are on display in Coleman Hall. Whether you're a do-it-yourself-er or not, it's great fun to see the creative way these trees have been decorated. And they've all been donated to Gualala Arts to help with the fundraising. Some with traditional ornaments, some with newly hand-crafted accessories, and all with care and attention, creating a tree that would look perfect in most homes and offices.

In addition to the trees, the silent auction will include other items that will appeal to some of the names on your list. There are wines, ceramics, photography, woodcrafts,

photographs paintings and more.

After looking at the trees, decorations, and silent auction items you'll probably notice the aroma of freshly-baked goods, including Apple and Pumpkin pies, Gingersnap cookies, and more—all available for purchase to take home to your table.

A turn through the Burnett Gallery will open up your eyes to the colors, textures and designs created by area quilters. There are decorative creations that you may take home as a practical investment—perhaps it will keep you warm—or a decorative offering to be hung in your home or office, the quality will be obvious.

There will be a variety of other items to tempt you, on display in the Foyer and Coleman Hall. There are handcrafted ceramics, ornaments, accessories, clothing, woodworking, art, Gualala Arts-branded Merchandise, and boxes of See's Candies for that chocolate-loving friend or family member.

To push your taste buds along, this year you'll find jars of organic gingersnap cookie



mix, complete with a Gingerbread Man cookie cutter so that you can easily bake cookies and fill your home with the tempting aromas.

Throughout the Winter Wonderland, Santa and Mrs. Claus will have their special mailbox to accept childrens' letters to Santa with their wants and wishes. It's cheerful good fun for the family that puts everyone

in the holiday mood!

Gualala Arts will help jump start the good feelings this holiday season. And don't forget to spend some time on the grounds, en-



joying the Redwoods, the peace and quiet, and the sculptures placed throughout the walkways and spaces. Gualala Arts is here for you, and we hope you'll come and get your fill.

Gualala Arts is open every day, from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Come join the holiday fun. Gualala Arts is at 46501 Old State Highway, Gualala, 95445. More information is at GualalaArts.org and at 707.884.1138.

**Third Thursday Poetry's
Annual Open Mic Poetry
Solstice Celebration
December 17**

Third Thursday Poetry returns this month with its Annual Open Mic Poetry Solstice Celebration, Thursday, December 17 at 7:00pm. This is a virtual event.

The Third Thursday Poetry Reading Series will host a virtual "Open Mic Solstice Reading & Party". There's no featured reader, but instead this will have a Zoom party with poetry and conversation.

To watch or participate as an open mic reader, you simply need to Blake More for the details. Blake's email address is:

blake@snakelyone.com.

More information is available on Facebook at facebook.com/thirdthursdaypoetry.

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

"Poetry is the spontaneous
overflow of powerful feelings:
it takes its origin from emotion
recollected in tranquility."

William Wordsworth (1770-1850)



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NEW! "The Winter Exhibit"

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6 Artists: Ornaments,
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Solution to Crossword:

New Moon



December 14

Full Moon

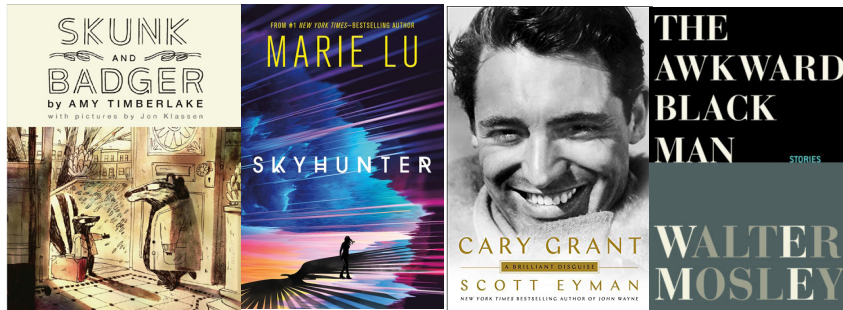


December 30

"In awe, I watched the waxing moon ride across the zenith of the heavens like an ambered chariot towards the ebony void of infinite space wherein the tethered belts of Jupiter and Mars hang, for ever festooned in their orbital majesty. And as I looked at all this I thought... I must put a roof on this toilet."

Les Dawson (1931-1993)

A Casual Guide To Books For Gift Giving
(Stop in at Four-Eyed Frog Books for details on these books!)



Fiction (Alpha by title)

- "The Awkward Black Man" By Walter Mosley
- "The Beadworkers: Stories" by Beth Piatote
- "Come To Light" by by Paul Madonna
- "The End of the Day" By Bill Clegg
- "Reason To Kill: An Amos Parisman Mystery" by Andy Weinberger
- "Imaginary Friends" by Stephen Chbosky
- "The Return" By Nicholas Sparks

Non Fiction (Alpha by title)

- "Carleton Watkins: Making the West American" By Tyler Green
- "Cary Grant: A Brilliant Disguise" by Scott Eyman
- "The Clear Light: Spiritual Reflections and Meditations" by Steve Taylor
- "The Dead Are Arising: The Life of Malcolm X" by Les Payne and Tamara Payne
- "How I Built This: The Unexpected Paths . . ." by Guy Raz
- "Keep Moving: Notes on Loss, Creativity, and Change" By Maggie Smith
- "Moon Southern California Road Trips: Drives . . ." by Ian Anderson
- "A People's Guide to the San Francisco Bay Area" By R. Brahinsky & A. Tarr
- "rough house: a memoir" By Tina Ontiveros
- "San Francisco's Chinatown" by Dick Evans and Kathy Chin Leong
- "Sapiens: A Graphic History: The Birth of Humankind" By Yuval Noah Harari
- "Stakes Is High: Life After the American Dream" By Mychal Denzel Smith
- "Surf Shacks Vol. 2" By Matt Titone and Indoek

Young Adults

- "Apple (Skin to the Core)" By Eric Gansworth
- "Evil Thing (Villains #7)" By Serena Valentino
- "Sky Hunter" by Marie Lu
- "Super Fake Love Song" by David Yoon

Children

- "The Book of Mythical Beasts and Magical Creatures" By Stephen Krensky
- "Kenny and the Book of Beasts" by Tony DiTerlizzi
- "Rise of the Halfling King" By David Bowles and Charlene Bowles (Illustrations)
- "Skunk and Badger" by Amy Timberlake and Jon Klassen (Illustrations)
- "Unicorns are the Worst" by Alex Willan
- "A Whale of the Wild" by Rosanne Parry and Lindsay Moore (Illustrations)

A Virtual Town Hall With
Congressman Jared Huffman

December 3

You are invited to join Congressman Jared Huffman for a virtual town hall on the Presidential transition, with special guests Caroline Fredrickson , a Senior Fellow at Brennan Center for Justice and former President of the American Constitution Society, and Paul Rosenzweig , a Senior Fellow at the R Street Institute who served as a Senior



Counsel in the Office of the Independent Counsel Ken Starr. Rep. Huffman and his special guests will discuss the peaceful transfer of

presidential power, the status of President Trump's many challenges to the election results, and the challenges and importance of holding former President and executive branch officials accountable even during a new administration.

You are encouraged to submit questions in advance to

huffmanQandA@mail.house.gov and may also ask questions in the Facebook video comments section during the event for a chance to have your question read aloud and answered live.

The Town Hall is set for Thursday, December 3 at 4:00pm and is scheduled to last 75 minutes.

Some outlets for listening/viewing:
Online:
[Facebook.com/RepHuffman](https://www.facebook.com/RepHuffman)
Local Radio:
KZYX 90.7FM, 91.5FM, and 88.1FM.



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Words on Wellness • "Wild Mustards"

by Karin Uphoff

Walking through mix coastal scrub one morning, my attention was pulled to a small group of house finches voraciously eating their breakfast. They were cracking open brittle wild mustard pods and gobbling up the seeds, reminding me of the wonderful benefits of these brassicas—another wild medicine we can harvest. These prolific plants originally of Eurasia, produce up to five-hundred seeds each and are considered invasive. But who doesn't enjoy their bright yellow flowers in spring?

All wild mustards are edible, but some are tastier than others. Along the California coast we mostly have *Brassica nigra*, a black mustard seed which

is quit hot in flavor. The green raw leaves can be sharp (like radish) and bitter when cooked. Blanching or boiling them in salted water helps remove the bitterness and they can be used like spinach in any recipe. You can eat the flowering tops just before they open and cook them like broccoli. I like those same cruciferous clusters sniped raw with scissors into food and later collect the open flowers to add a decorative kick to salads. Chickens and rabbits love the dried stalks as a treat.



Mustard seeds are high in selenium, omega-3 fatty acids and magnesium, plus packed with compounds like other brassicas, that prevent the growth of cancer cells and reduce the effect of carcinogens and chemotherapy. Traditional use includes topical mustard plasters. Soak seeds in hot water and as they soften, grind into a paste that can be spread on a cloth. Cover with another cloth and wear it warm for 15-20 minutes. Mustard packs can also be made with equal parts of ground seed, wheat flour and water, which reduces the sting and makes more of a sticky plaster.

Mustard opens up blood vessels, increases blood flow and draws out toxins, reducing swelling and pain. Headaches can also be treated with mustard seed tea or capsules. Clear sinuses by inhaling mustard vapor over a bowl filled with hot water and a small amount of ground mustard. A pouch of mustard seed can be put in a bath or foot soak for arthritis or fighting off colds/flu. Mustard can cause stomach irritation or skin rashes, so always test a small patch of skin first. If nothing else, the condiment is easy to make and you can always enjoy mustard that way.

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

Botanical Body Care: Herbs and Natural Healing for Your Whole Body. Learn more at: www.karinuphoff.com

Sharp-shinned Hawk: "Amazingly Fast and Agile Flight"

The Sharp-shinned Hawk is built for amazingly fast and agile flight in dense forests. These woodland hawks belong to the accipiter genus, whose members have short, rounded wings and long squared-off narrow tails that are used like rudders, allowing them to maneuver through trees and foliage.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are the smallest accipiter. The males are about a foot long. As with most hawks the females are almost a third larger. Both sexes look alike: They have a gray-blue back and fine red bars across the chest and belly. The eye of the adult is scarlet. Immature sharp-shins have yellow eyes and are brown with brown streaking on the breast. They characteristically fly with alternating flaps and glides.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are a common mi-

grant or winter visitor, but are uncommon breeders or year-round residents.

They eat small birds and are masters of the high-speed chase. They are often seen stalking a backyard feeder for their prey.



They take more birds than any other accipiter and rarely go for small mammals, lizards or insects.

Sharpies generally build a new two-foot wide nest each year out of sticks and twigs. Occasionally, they will rebuild an old crow or squirrel nest. The female incubates four to five white eggs marked with brown for a month; the male feeds her for this entire time.

Sharp-shinned Hawks are generally silent except for alarm calls given if intruders come close to the nest. Other names include chicken hawk, sparrow hawk, bullet hawk and little blue darter.

Our thanks to the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society for contributing this article about the Fox Sparrow. Each month, the Lighthouse Peddler features another bird regularly seen at or near the Mendocino Coast.

More information is at www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org. Sharp-shinned hawk image by edbo23 from Pixabay.

How To Protect Your Pets During Wildfires

By Christine Osborne • deq.utah.gov

We know that poor air quality can cause serious health issues for people, but did you know that our furry and feathered friends are also susceptible to the effects of air pollution? Wildfire smoke is particularly harmful to animals, and those living close to a burn area may wonder what they can do to protect their pets.

Fortunately, the same precautions we take for ourselves— including strapping on an N-95 mask, which (surprisingly) is also available for dogs— can prevent our pets from unnecessary exposure to wildfire smoke and air pollution. Pets experience the same ill effects from smoke that we do: burning eyes, respiratory congestion, coughing, and lung damage. And just like us, fine particulates cause the most serious health effects because they get deep into the lungs and can lead to a variety of respiratory problems.

Like humans, certain pets are affected more by wildfire smoke than others. These include:

- Puppies or kittens
- Elderly animals
- Birds
- Brachycephalic breeds (snub-nosed dogs and cats) such as pugs, bulldogs, Boston terriers, Pekingese, and Persian cats. The shape of their heads, muzzles, and throats naturally obstructs their breathing.

The best thing you can do is keep your pets inside. Other safety measures you can take:

- Keep windows closed. Use fans and an air purifier if possible to reduce indoor air pollution.
- Keep your pet hydrated. Have clean water available and use a humidifier to increase moisture in the air.
- Reduce pet activity

Evacuation

Often, the wildfire smoke you see and smell is blown into your area from distant fires. But what if the fire is at your doorstep? During the 2018 Camp Fire in California, many pet owners were separated from their animals. If a wildfire requires you to evacuate your home, you'll want to be prepared so your pets will be safe and sheltered.

Many human shelters DO NOT accept pets for health and safety reasons. Contact friends, relatives, or an animal shelter outside your immediate area to make arrangements for your pets well before you are forced to evacuate. Several websites, such as bringfido.com and hotels.petswelcome.com, can help you find pet-friendly hotels and motels outside your immediate area. You can also check Petfinder Shelter Center or RedRover for information on local animal shelters and rescue

groups.

The AVMA advises you to be prepared for a disaster by assembling a pet evacuation kit well in advance of any emergency. Store your kit in an easy-carry, waterproof container close to an exit in your home. Your kit should include the following emergency supplies:

1. Food and Medicine

- A three to seven-day supply of dry and canned food for each pet
- A two-week supply of medicine
- A seven-day (minimum) supply of bottled water for each pet
- Feeding dish and water bowl
- Pet first-aid kit

2. Important Information

- Up-to-date collars and tags
- Identification papers including proof of ownership



- Medical records & medication instructions
- Emergency contact list, including veterinarian and pharmacy
- Photo of your pet, preferably with you, in case you need to be reunited

3. Sanitation

- Litter, disposable litter trays, and scoop
- Newspaper, paper towels, and trash bags
- Liquid dish soap
- Household chlorine bleach or disinfectant

4. Travel Supplies

- Crate or pet carrier labeled with your contact information
- Extra collar/harness with ID tags and leash
- Flashlight, extra batteries
- Muzzle

5. Comfort Items

- Favorite toys and treats
- Extra blanket or familiar bedding

Whether you're experiencing lung irritation from smoke or facing a full-blown evacuation, preparation and simple health precautions can protect you and your pets in the event of a wildfire.

Originally published at <https://deq.utah.gov/air-quality/how-to-protect-your-pets-during-wildfires>

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"The Winter Exhibit" at Dolphin Gallery Opens December 5 Six Artists Add Color, Dimension, and Texture to the Holidays

A group of artists will be featured at the Dolphin Gallery in December as part of an exhibit that's been simply (and appropriately) titled "The Winter Exhibit". The show opens at the Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop in Cypress Village, Gualala on Saturday, December 5. In addition, the gallery's new location has gifts, jewelry, wood, paintings, prints, photography, textiles and more. Opening day for the "Winter Exhibit" is Saturday, December 5, from 11:00am to 7:00pm.

"The Winter Exhibit" includes the works of Patricia Callegari, Colette Coad, Mark Guthrie, Paula Haymond, Chuck Petersen and Dana Arden Petersen. These six artists will delight us with watercolors, wood sculpture, waterfowl carvings and holiday ornaments, and the variety of art forms will bring even more color and texture to the ongoing offerings at the Dolphin during the holiday season.

Patricia Callegari has been entertaining herself with art since childhood. Originally self-taught, and painting in her spare time for more than a decade, Callegari returned to college and earned a degree studying studio art, art history and gallery management. She worked as an art consultant for a Los Angeles-area gallery from 1990-1995. Returning to northern

California in 1996, she opened a gallery in Sausalito, later expanding to St. Helena and Healdsburg. Callegari now devotes her energies to studio work. Small works are her passion, having developed several quirky, playful lines made from art glass, clay and folk art on wood. "I treat my ornaments and

mond began working full time as a wood turner/sculptor, fulfilling a lifelong love of crafting and woodworking. She continues to be acknowledged for her innovative and unique style of wood sculpture. In late 2017, she and her partner of 35 years moved to the northern coast of California.

Chuck Petersen's hobby has been carving waterfowl and shorebirds off and on for over twenty-five years. For Petersen, an appreciation for wildlife art and the beauty of an individual feather was all it took to motivate him to pursue this art form. That personal appreciation, along with guidance from a number of notable wildlife artists contributed to his winning many blue ribbons at exhibitions from San Diego to Sacramento. Petersen will quickly tell you that "to take a block of wood, draw a pattern, carve and paint a bird is not only a great hobby, it is also good therapy."

San Francisco-based artist Dana Arden Petersen was born in

Monterey, California and grew up in Contra Costa County with summers spent in Gualala and Lake Tahoe's North Shore. Her fondest childhood memories are of exploring the streams, creeks, abandoned barns and heritage apricot orchards that proliferated the hills near her home. She earned a BA in the Practice of Art from UC Berkeley, and after graduation moved to San Francisco to work in the business end of the art world. In 2008 she decided to pursue her passion for painting full-time. Her watercolors have been selected for many juried shows and clearly emanate joy and peace, and reveal admiration for the natural world. She explores native flora and fauna on her morning walks near Glen Canyon.

There will be extended hours for the exhibit's opening, Saturday, December 5 from 11:00am to 7:00pm. The Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop is at 39114 Ocean Drive, Cypress Village, in Gualala's Uptown Art District. Regular hours are Thursday through Monday from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Information is at 707.884.3896 and at GualalaArts.org/Dolphin-Gallery.



other small 3D works as miniature colorful sculptures."

Colette Coad's love is glass. After a very busy and fulfilling career in management consulting, she traveled extensively in North America and Europe while raising a family with her husband. After retiring to the coast she rediscovered glass. "It is not only my medium, it is a source of great joy and sometimes great frustration. I started eight years ago with a class on glass fusing. I fell in love. I bought a kiln and some glass (enough to fill a stand holding eight pieces). I now have two kilns, five stands and two crates of glass. Yes, I do love glass."

Berkeley-based artist Mark Guthrie has been working with glass for about ten years. He firmly believes glass to be one of the most frustrating, as well as beautiful art mediums and that "its magic has everything to do with the light—the way it reflects, the way it shines through." Though stained glass, including kiln-fired stained glass painting, is his "true love", he frequently creates kiln-fired art glass objects, as well. He finds nature to be his greatest inspiration and muse. His beautiful and colorful ornaments will enhance any holiday display, and many of them are suitable for displaying year round.

Paula Haymond grew up in Indiana and earned multiple degrees including a Master's and a Doctorate. Her career included time as an administrator at a Houston children's hospital, and later in private practice, specializing in vocational rehabilitation and neuropsychological testing. In 2010, Hay-

Images (clockwise from top left):

Patricia Callegari

Colette Coad

Chuck Petersen

Mark Guthrie

Dana Arden Petersen

Paula Haymond

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Metropolitan Opera Stars Concert Performances Continue in December
 PPV Events Feature Bryn Terfel, Angel Blue, Matthew Polenzani, Pretty Yende, Javier Camarena

This month the Metropolitan Opera's pay-per-view concert series will once again feature some of opera's biggest stars performing in striking locations around the world. While Arena Theater cannot yet invite you to the theater for these concert performances, they can help bring the performances to your home.

Debuting on Saturday, December 12 at 10:00am, is legendary bass-baritone Bryn Terfel. Sir Bryn Terfel performs a holiday program live from Brecon Cathedral in his native Wales.

Joining Terfel are several special musical guests: harpist **Hannah Stone**, pianist **Jeff Howard**, the Welsh traditional folk group **Calan**, and two rising young Welsh singers—soprano **Natalya Romaniw** and tenor **Trystan Llyr Griffiths**. Though Terfel has a long history of magnificent performances at the Met, circumstances have conspired to prevent him from taking our stage since 2012, making this an un-missable event.

Terfel has established an extraordinary career, performing regularly on the prestigious concert stages and opera houses of



the world. After winning the Song Prize at the 1989 BBC Cardiff Singer of the World competition, he made his professional operatic debut in 1990 as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte* with Welsh National Opera. He made his Met debut in 1994 as Figaro in *Le Nozze di Figaro*.

As we approach New Years, there is much anticipation about leaving 2020 in our rear-view mirror. But let's not leave too quickly.

The MET has plans for New Year's Eve and you'll want to be there—at least as part of this virtual performance.

The Met rings in the new year with a gala performance featuring a dazzling quartet of Met stars—sopranos **Angel Blue** and **Pretty Yende**, and tenors **Javier Camarena** and **Matthew Polenzani**—live from the Parktheater in Kurhaus Göggingen, in Augsburg, Germany, a stunning example of neo-Baroque architecture. Thursday, December 31 at 1:00pm.

The program will include arias, duets, and ensembles from Donizetti to Puccini, as well as arrangements of operetta and Neapolitan songs. The ornate Parktheater, a marvel of glass and cast-iron, opened in 1886 and was designed to evoke the English pleasure gardens of the 18th and 19th centuries.

A graduate of the young artist program at LA Opera, American soprano **Angel Blue** (upper left) has quickly become one of the world's most in-demand opera singers. Most recently at the Met, she starred as Bess in the company's historic production of the Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*, which opened the 2019–20 season.

Since making her professional operatic debut at the Latvian National Theatre in Riga as Micaëla in *Carmen*, South African soprano **Pretty Yende** (lower right) has been seen at nearly all of the major opera houses of the world, including Covent Garden, the Paris Opera, La Scala, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Staatsoper Berlin, and the Bavarian State Opera, among many others.

One of opera's most celebrated bel canto singers, Mexican tenor **Javier Camarena** (lower left) made his Met debut in 2011 as Count Almaviva in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. He has since appeared with the company as Tonio in *La Fille du Régiment*, Nadir in *Les Pêcheurs de Perles*, Idreno in *Semiramide*, Arturo in *I Puritani*, Ernesto in Don



Pasquale, Don Ramiro in *La Cenerentola*, and Elvino in *La Sonnambula*.

An audience favorite at the Met for more than two decades, American tenor **Matthew Polenzani** (upper right) made his debut in 1997 as Boyar Khrushchov in Boris Godunov. Since then, he has sung nearly 400 performances of 40 roles, including the Italian Singer in *Der Rosenkavalier*,

Macduff in *Macbeth*, Rodolfo in *La Bohème*, the Duke in *Rigoletto* and more. He was the 2008 recipient of the Met's Beverly Sills Artist Award and sang Tamino in *The Magic Flute* in the company's first-ever Live in HD transmission, going on to appear in another ten HD simulcasts.

The concert featuring **Sonya Yoncheva**, one of opera's most compelling and thrilling stars, has been rescheduled for Saturday, February 27.

A reminder: Please support Arena Theater. You'll find a link for the MET Opera Stars PPV tickets for the concerts at the theater's website: ArenaTheater.Org. When you sit back and get ready to watch the concert, give some thought to Arena Theater. The MET retains 100% of the money for these MET PPV performances. You can help Arena Theater (and keep opera coming to the Mendonoma Coast) by clicking on the donate button at ArenaTheater.org.

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Haiku for December

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 to the stars"
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Rethinking A Christmas Soundtrack in 2020

by David Steffen

Most Decembers I find myself writing and reflecting on my favorite Christmas and holiday movies. A few new titles are released each year, but most aren't really all that good. To be fair, every now and then something memorable comes along. That being said, this year I opted to leave films alone and think only about holiday music.

In the fall of 1982 I was standing in the Tower Records store on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, taking a look at some new records. In front of me was a collection (four bins wide) of vinyl record albums with eye-grabbing designs, and as I would soon find out, ear-grabbing music. This was my introduction to Windham Hill. To be honest, at that moment I was drawn as much to the graphics, which increased my curiosity about the music. Label co-owner Will

Ackerman's 1981 album "Passage" was in my hands with a typically beautiful photograph on the cover and a simple phrase on the back that stuck with me: Pieces for Guitar. Will's album wasn't Jazz, rock, blues, classical or anything else that's easily labeled. In fact, since no other genre seemed to capture the music of the Windham Hill artists, the label itself was creating a new genre.

Within a few days of my visit to Tower Records, my friend (and fellow A&M Records exec) Harold Childs and I had a conversation about the label. Harold suggested and I agreed that Windham Hill was unique and might fit very well into the A&M Records family, all the while remaining independent. Happily, it was clear why Will Ackerman was interested in making a deal with A&M. As he was quoted in a 2019 interview with the Press Democrat, "I was courted by every major record label. . . . A&M wasn't corporate-owned. All these artists [that Windham Hill] was signing suddenly had access to the world market. There was never a hidden agenda. We didn't have to compromise. A&M facilitated."

Some 10 weeks later we created (what became) a distribution agreement with this amazing label, and I grew to appreciate both Will and Anne Ackerman's vision. During the next almost 8 years I enjoyed meeting and helping market some very talented musicians including Will, Alex DeGrassi, Michael Hedges, Barbara Higbee, Mark Isham, Tuck & Patti and George Winston. On one occasion (in, perhaps, 1986,) I had lunch in San Francisco with Will and Ann. Their label was so successful that some department stores were now interested in carrying Windham Hill. Will's musical philosophy hadn't changed but consumer demand had grown beyond record stores. He was protective of his artists and the label's image, and he liked what we did with

retailers around the world; and yet, department stores were not on his radar. About a year later we created a special five-album box set for the annual Nieman-Marcus Christmas Catalog. It sold out. Twice. Finding creative ways to spread the word about the label was part of the charm.

In some ways, the message of their music was often subliminal. For example, having helped market a variety of Christmas releases by artists like Carpenters and Amy Grant, I knew that good Christmas music is in the ear of the beholder. Like John Fahey 20 years earlier

with the release of his Christmas album "The New Possibility", George Winston brought his unique talent to the holidays with an album simply titled "December". The album tracks included original or adapted works from John Jacob Niles, Johann Sebastian Bach, Mykola Dmytrovych Leontovych, Malcolm Daglish, Johann Pachelbel and Alfred S. Burl. Some familiarity, to be certain, but not a collection of Tin Pan Alley holiday ditties. But that was truly the gift of Windham Hill. Their artists crafted wonderful music as opposed to cloning someone else.

By the mid-eighties, other niche and corporate labels had begun to create what they claimed was "Windham Hill-style music" but those competitors almost always seemed like they were following what Windham Hill was doing instead of carving an identity of their own. The media and the recording industry ultimately applied a name to the music: New Age. It wasn't an identity that either Windham Hill or A&M wanted or endorsed, but newly-created copycat labels embraced the descriptive as a shortcut to explain what they were doing.

Windham Hill was a special home for some talented men and women, and many of their original artists continue to create and record (and tour in non-pandemic times). The Windham Hill label itself was ultimately acquired by BMG, later becoming a part of Sony Music when BMG and Sony merged. It appears that today Windham Hill is simply a brand inside Sony. While the label isn't

releasing new titles, we do have the benefit of all of the great music made during the 20 years between the launch of the label and its inevitable disappearance within a large corporation.

The late Peter Allen included his song "Everything Old is New Again" on the 1974 album "Continental American". While you're preparing your home for the holidays, consider Allen's song title as a guide and give some thought to your personal holiday musical backdrop. There is plenty of seasonal music to choose from, and a look at some classics that may fit this season's music menu perfectly. For folkies, Joan Baez recorded "Noel" in 1966. For those who'd like a Latin-feel to their holiday try Jose Feliciano's "Feliz Navidad", released in 1970. For Jazz fans there's the Ramsey Lewis Trio's album "Sound of Christmas" in 1961. And there's the venerable "Elvis' Christmas Album", released in 1957. For a multi-artist album try "A Christmas Gift from Phil Spector" (1963). It has the Ronettes, Crystals, Darlene Love and much more. There's also the original "A Very Special Christmas", a 1987 release. It has 15 tracks by 15 different artists—Bryan Adams to U2 and plenty of names in between. Or as I suggested earlier, listen to John Fahey or George Winston.

Compared to much of what we hear on radio, TV or in movies each year, something old will likely make your Christmas fresh and yet familiar. Dare to let your ears take a walk into the unknown or at least the lesser-known. Let the music help you create your own film in your mind's eye. After all. It's that kind of year, and focusing on yourself and your memories is not such a bad thing.



DECEMBER



George Winston Piano Solos

And The Best of the Rest. More Holiday Music

If you read through the editor's December column, and you're still not convinced that there are older Christmas albums worth listening to, here are some additional titles to change your mind (in alphabetical order):

Louis Armstrong and Friends:

"The Best of Christmas Songs" (1965)

Beach Boys:

"Beach Boys Christmas Album" (1964)

James Brown:

"Funky Christmas" (1995)

Carpenters:

"Carpenters Christmas Collection" (1984)

Johnny Cash:

Christmas With Johnny Cash (2003)

Bing Crosby:

"White Christmas" (1986)

Bob Dylan:

"Christmas In The Heart" (2009)

Ella Fitzgerald:

"Ella Wishes You A Swinging Christmas" (1960)

Vince Guaraldi Trio:

"A Charlie Brown Christmas" (1965)

Willie Nelson:

"Pretty Paper"

Frank Sinatra:

"A Jolly Christmas From Frank Sinatra" (1957)

Various Artists:

"A Motown Christmas" (1973)

Various Artists:

"Soul Christmas" (1968)

The Ventures:

The Ventures' Christmas Album" (1965)



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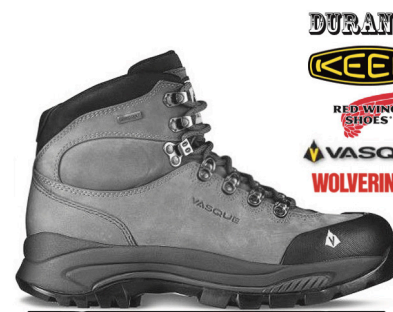
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"The Boy in the Field: A Novel"

A Book by Margo Livesey • Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

It's funny how external factors influence what readers are in the mood for. Especially when times are fraught and uncertain, we tend toward stories that offer a sense of warmth and comfort. In the hellscape that is 2020, Margot Livesey delivers such balm.

Her ninth novel, *The Boy in the Field*, is a quiet, beautifully rendered mystery peopled with kind, decent characters who are sincerely doing their best for those around them. The warmth it offers is reinforced by its pastoral English sensibilities — shown here as continuing in the modern day — which immediately make Americans nostalgic.

As in a Greek drama, the violence, such as it is, takes place offstage; it is the characters' reaction to the violence and its effect upon them that propels the narrative. I was thoroughly captivated, and the story pulled me in and drew me effortlessly along, starting from the very beginning:

"Here is what happened one Monday in the month of September, in the last year of the last century. Matthew, Zoe, and Duncan Lang were on their way home from school."

Their father has neglected to pick them up after class in Oxford; on the walk home to Oxfordshire, Zoe spots something out of the ordinary, and they all go to investigate, whereupon they discover the titular boy, wounded and apparently unconscious.

With economy built of intriguing details, Livesey uses chapter one to set up the action, introduce many of the characters, and give us a solid sense of who these three closely knit siblings are. From there, the chapters alternate among the points of view of each of them as the effects of their discovery play out.

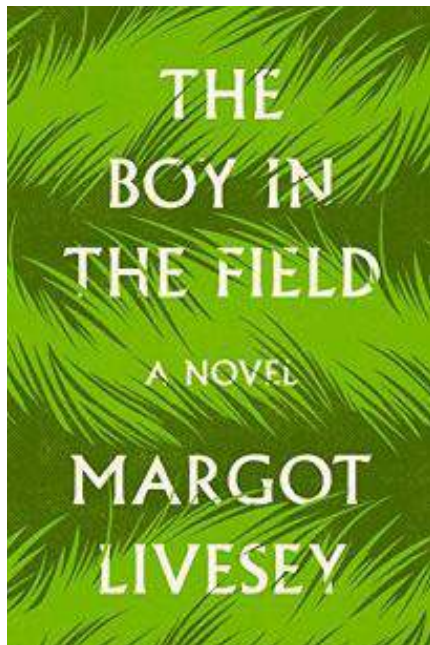
Matthew, the responsible, studious eldest, is drawn to investigate the mystery of what happened to the boy — actually, a young man named Karel — struggling to untangle cause from effect, premeditation from spontaneity, and, perhaps, evil from simple human frailty.

Zoe, who turns 16 during the course of the story, is headstrong, opinionated, and a worry to her parents, Hal, a blacksmith, and Betsy, a solicitor, that she is too eager to get out into the world, too confident that she is equal to any given situation:

"She remembered her mother saying, 'You have the right to change your mind. Right up until the last moment. Beyond. Don't let embarrassment, or fear, stop you if you want to say no.' But I want to say yes, she thought. That was the conundrum: How to say yes."

Finally, adopted son Duncan, almost 14, is young for his age — he has to ask what "raped" means — but has a preternatural sensitivity to the world around him and takes in every detail. Already a talented artist, he is seized by color and form and thinks visually, which causes him problems in school. "I'm following," he had explained to Matthew, "but then the teacher says electrons orbit each other, and suddenly I'm picturing them instead of listening."

For Duncan, the discovery of Karel opens



in him the desire to find his birth mother. He begins to dream of her, hidden in a beautiful room somewhere in their house, and to sleepwalk in his search for her.

Friends who are adopted have heightened my sensitivity to the use of adoption as a plot device or character definition, since it is so often gratuitous. Here, though, I feel that Livesey does right by her characters. She offers no discussion of what led Hal and Betsy to bring 3-day-old Duncan home, instead focusing on the issues of family and belonging and of understanding who you are almost entirely from Duncan's perspective. He has agency over his story.

And make no mistake: Though the novel shifts through the points of view of each sibling, this is Duncan's story. His is the most complex and compelling journey, and his character is where our emotions are firmly invested. Duncan understands that even suggesting that he wants to find his "first mother" causes his family anguish, but also that it is his right to seek answers for himself:

"I'd like to know what I got from her," he said, "and I'd like her to know that she made a good choice"... He could not see his mother's face as she sat beside him,

but he could feel little darts of emotion, flying in all directions."

Duncan's Turkish ancestry also marks him as physically distinct from the Oxfordshire paleness of his family. "He was so used to the hastily concealed double take most people did on meeting him — his dark skin, his dark eyes — that he barely noticed it." But Duncan notices everything.

There are a few jarring spots of tone-deafness here, none more so than a passing observation of a character's suicide, along with the assessment that the character was "no longer afraid." The reductionism of those few sentences is breathtaking in an otherwise sensitive story.

Certainly, some readers will find their patience tried by a novel in which virtually all the characters are open-hearted and generous, even as they keep secrets and do some perilously hurtful things.

Such readers' breaking point may be the introduction of Lily, the dog who chooses Duncan and serves as a wise counselor to all who pass her character test. Not me: I was bought in for the whole journey.

I realize that the daily pummeling of events over the last eight months softened me up for a book like this, which invites the reader in and envelops her in a warm glow. Thanks, Margot Livesey. It was just what I needed.

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 writes a bi-monthly column and reviews frequently for the Washington Independent Review of Books, and serves on its board of directors.

She also writes a bimonthly column for Late Last Night Books. Her short fiction has appeared in Gargoyle and Pen-in-Hand. Jenny is a member of PEN/America and the National Book Critics' Circle. Previously, she served as chair of the Washington Writers Conference and as president of the Annapolis chapter of the Maryland Writers' Association.

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

by Mitch McFarland

Here are some statistics you may have not expected: A larger percentage of every racial minority voted for Trump this year than in 2016. Among Blacks and Hispanics, this percentage grew among both men and women, although men were more likely to vote for Trump than women. Black women voters doubled their support for Trump (still only 8%). 5 percent of Black men voted for John McCain; in 2012, 11 percent voted for Mitt Romney; in 2016, 13 percent voted for Trump; and, this year 18 percent voted for Trump.

The percentage of L.G.B.T. people voting for Trump doubled from 2016, moving from 14 percent to 28 percent. In Georgia the number was 33 percent. In September, the gay social network Hornet published the result of a survey of 10,000 of its users that found that 45 percent of the gay men on it planned to vote for Trump. 10 percent of the American gay men who took Hornet's survey say they 'do not support [Donald Trump] at all' but will vote for him nonetheless.

Nearly three out of every five white voters in America are Trump voters.

Columnists David Brooks points out that Trump won the largest share of the nonwhite vote of any Republican candidate in 60 years.

Political strategist David Shor said in an interview, "the joke is that the G.O.P. is really assembling the multiracial working-class coalition that the left has always dreamed of."

Why these unexpected changes? David Brooks suggests that "the core Biden policies are astoundingly popular. It's that they've built a cultural blue wall that keeps the other half of the country out, no matter the circumstance."

Commentator Jasper Kang suggests, "... as long as they (the Democratic Party) believe Latinos, the second-largest voting demographic in this election, and Asian-Americans, the fastest-growing group in

the country, will continue to vote down the Democratic Party line because they care deeply about racism and bigotry as defined



by the left, they will continue to misdiagnose the complexities within these populations, neither of which primarily think of themselves as "Latino" or "Asian-American" at all. He goes on to state, "Too much of the messaging toward these groups is aimed at the upwardly ascendant second- and third-generation immigrants who worry about questions of representation within elite institutions. They (democrats) must stop believing that an immigrant shows up in America and immediately begins worrying, say, about how many Asian or Latino actors have been cast in the latest comic book movie."

I believe one of the things driving these changes is the national media and our obsession with it. I don't believe it is because they are pushing a particular agenda (though many unabashedly are), but because of the way that most media functions. Whether it is politics, sports, or entertainment, attention is reduced to focus on individuals. Religions have always personified "god" to exemplify their teachings and royalty, as we have been informed by "The Crown" series, exists to

embody the values and traditions of a nation.

Politics has become little more than a popularity contest. Complex issues are rarely dis-

I recall Bernie always mentioning minority groups, but he was not pointing out their uniqueness, but rather what economic issues they all share.

Jay Kang proposes that the democratic party should "disaggregate and then reorganize into an even broader movement . . . that puts less weight on questions of belonging and citizenship for these nebulously and conditionally defined groups — and more on the experiences, as working-class . . ."

Identity politics overwhelmed political discussion in the past few years for a number of reasons. Strident, and largely justifiable complaints arose from every conceivable affinity group, from the MeToo movement, to Black Lives Matter to LGBT movement, yet it didn't seem to move these groups in a rush to support

democrats. Sure, Donald Trump is a sexist pig, but that didn't stop white women from voting for him. For many women, his sexism is not the most important issue in their lives. It comes as no surprise to these women that some men are sexist. LGBT folks apparently were more concerned with the stock market and their IRAs than with how many gays are depicted kissing in movies.

It seems voters have more personal reasons for casting their votes than being part of some minority group. The real affinity group, and it is not a minority, is the group of people who are at the wrong end of the economic inequality in this country.

Image adapted from a photograph by Hulki Okan Tabak from Pixabay

*"Since the enemy which held Washington, D. C. since 2016 has capitulated by virtue of the recent election, America returns to its rightful place in the world. She returns bloody, but entirely resolute. She returns there enlightened by the immense lesson, but more certain than ever of her duties and of her rights. We shall not dwell on the 4 years of darkness. Instead we shall look forward into the light."**

John Davis (1948-)

*Inspired by Charles DeGaulle

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... continued from front cover

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MCRPD Meetings Scheduled for Point Arena.

MCRPD (Mendocino Coast Recreation and Parks District) will be meeting locally in December. Tentative plans call for a Winter Wonders With Santa in the Point Arena area on Saturday, December 12.

They are also planning a "letters to Santa" activity in conjunction with the Coast Highway Art Collective on December 3.

Contact Sonya Shaffer at: sshaffer@mcrpd.us for more information.



Mendonoma Health Alliance Offering Free Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Testing

The local office of the Mendonoma Health Alliance (MHA) will be conducting FREE Cholesterol and Blood Pressure Screenings at the office in Gualala. This is a good opportunity for you to do something good for yourself. And it's free!

MHA will be offering these tests on Tuesday, December 1 and again on Tuesday, November 8, from 9:00am to 3:00pm. Call for information or to make an appointment.

The tests are free and will be available by appointment to fit into your schedule. Contact the Mendonoma Health Alliance office at 707.412.3176 x 102. The office is at 38958 Cypress Way, Gualala, California, 95445. More information is available at:

Mendonomahealth.org.

"Finisterre"

A New Album By Pacific Woods

Reviewed by David Steffen

Before you hear the music, the artwork on the CD package makes you start thinking. Then you see the title, and a fragment of imaginary music may come to mind. By the time you open the CD and get ready to listen you're thinking you know what's coming.

From the first bars, you figure out that the Celts have been here. Sirens (from Greek mythology) have probably spent time here, their songs so compelling they drive sailors to find the rocks, instead of a safe harbor. "Finisterre" is an album for listening at home, or sitting somewhere. Somewhere other than in your car, by the way. You want to be able to enjoy the music thoroughly, without distractions. And enjoy you will.

It's reasonable to conclude that the title of the album "Finisterre", is no accident, and from the first notes you begin to picture the two members of Pacific Woods, standing on those Spanish cliffs above the water. In Galicia, to be precise. And now you know why the sailors were lost. Lost inside the siren's songs.

Actually, the cliffs are thousand of miles west of Galicia. In northern California. The two members of Pacific Woods, Harrison Goldberg and Dave Jordan, are outstanding musicians. Give them a classic Jazz chart and they'll kill it. (That's a good thing.) However, in some respects, it's more important that they are able to intuit the musical journey. With each track of this album you can feel a visceral call-and-response as Goldberg's breath and Jordan's fingers take



us on our journey. You can get lost in the album and happily, there are no rocks below us. No sea to endanger us.

"Finisterre" is a baker's dozen of superb tracks. You get no sense that Goldberg's sax and Jordan's bass are fighting for digital supremacy. Rather they are much like a coin. One flip and the sax seems to take precedence. Flip the coin and the roles are reversed. And the listener wins each time.

I can provide you a list of tracks and say "listen to this track or that track." But I won't. Pick up the CD and listen to it all. Safely.

Weather or Not!

Anytime is a Good Time To Visit the Point Arena Light Station.

The Point Arena Light Station is one of the jewels of the California Coast. Originally built some 150 years ago, a visit to the Light Station will create lasting memories.

With the revision to the Mendocino County Health Department's (MCHD) Health Order this past summer, the Light



Station has been able to resume most operations as long as it adheres to the reopening guidelines.

The Light Station Store and the 23 acres of grounds containing the Outdoor Museum are open from 10:00am to 3:30pm every day. Guests age 12 years and over pay a site visit fee of \$5 per person or \$25 per vehicle carrying up to eight people. Children under 12 are free, as are all Lighthouse members. This site visit fee will help the non-profit Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc. maintain the Light Station during these unprecedented times and for the enjoyment of all generations to come.

Please note that the iconic 115' tall Lighthouse Tower – tallest on the Pacific coast – remains closed due to the Health Order restrictions

The Point Arena Lighthouse stands as an iconic figure on the landscape of the American Pacific Coast. No other lighthouse offers such a fully interactive experience in the exchange between history, science and natural beauty. Sometimes brilliantly sunny, other times fog-shrouded and mysterious, always ruggedly beautiful, the lighthouse is a place to find something different, a place where the romance is real and the experience is profound.

Surrounded by water on three sides, and shouldered adjacent to the Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument, the Point Arena Lighthouse is the premiere visitor destination in Mendocino County. It is also one of the best whale watching spots on the North Coast, with the annual Gray Whale migration from late November through May, Humpbacks throughout the year, the occasional pod of transient Killer Whales and even Blue Whales. Watch for the spouts, tails and breaches from the top of the Tower and from the trails and gazebo.

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Steve Wright (1955-)

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Selma event of 1965
- 6 Old Spice rival
- 10 Annoy
- 14 Flaming
- 15 Husky burden
- 16 Geometric measure
- 17 Mount Vernon, for one
- 18 City on Monterey Bay
- 20 Heated discussions
- 22 Group of lions
- 23 Casino area
- 24 Pekoe vessel
- 26 Think hard
- 30 Ketcham's Dennis, e.g.
- 33 Anagram for "rule"

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
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- 34 Fragrance
- 36 Tartan cap
- 37 Never-ending
- 40 Glacial deposit
- 42 Census statistic
- 43 Verbal white flag
- 45 Welcome benefit
- 46 Like some yogurt
- 48 Sealed
- 51 Kermit's creator
- 53 Request starter
- 54 Unemotional
- 56 Pie chart alternatives
- 61 Rent sharer
- 63 Acquired kin
- 64 Give the boot
- 65 In the thick of
- 66 Integra maker
- 67 Bugs, to Elmer
- 68 Fiesta fare
- 69 Study sorts
- DOWN**
- 1 Cass of 60's music
- 2 Miles away
- 3 Smoke or napkin follower
- 4 Casino dealer
- 5 Solitary sort
- 6 Part of AARP, briefly
- 7 Praise effusively
- 8 On edge
- 9 Big name in home security
- 10 French leader after Hollande
- 11 Annoyance
- 12 Clash of clans
- 13 Unnerve
- 19 Show one's face
- 21 Flight board abbr.
- 25 Bullets and such
- 26 Unarmed, in slang
- 27 Expenditure
- 28 Plant-growing site
- 29 After-bath powder
- 31 Camp craft
- 32 Correct
- 35 Sign of trouble
- 38 Subtlety
- 39 Aardvark's fare
- 41 State of limbo
- 44 Crackpot
- 47 Spirited
- 49 Texter's "Wow!"
- 50 Outcast
- 52 Bush successor
- 54 Go on a spree
- 55 See the sights
- 57 Make over
- 58 Pudding fruit
- 59 Tortoise racer
- 60 White-plumed swimmer
- 62 Welcome ____

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"Garbo of the Oceans: the Minke Whale!" by Mary Jane Schramm, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

The sea was calm off Duxbury Reef, its surface broken only by a few seabirds riding the gentle swell. Nearby, a fisherman bent over a trap alive with Dungeness crabs when suddenly, silently, a dolphin-like dorsal fin broke the surface. Simultaneously, he heard the quiet exhalation of a breath, and glimpsed a bit of black back. The low, inconspicuous blow hung in the cool air as the creature slid silently back into the swell, leaving only silvery chevrons in its wake. No breaching, no tail-fluking; none of the antics that local humpback whales so often displayed. The crabber smiled and resumed work, wondering "What the heck was that?!" This would be considered a good sighting of a northern, or common, minke whale.

BITSY BEHEMOTH: The minke (pronounced "mink-ee") is the smallest of the baleen whales: those that gulp and filter their food through sieve-like baleen plates, vs. using teeth. Although modeled along the lines of giant blue whales nearly three times their size, minkes reach only 35 feet. Their bodies are grayish-black, counter-shading to white on the underside. They sport flashy bright-white "cuffs" on their longish pectoral fins, perhaps to help herd their prey. Their diverse diet includes krill, schooling fish, and larger fish. (See fish fly at <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10155163635006572>).

Minkes are globally cosmopolitan, but generally favor cooler latitudes over continental shelves. Their tapering "needlenose" head reflects their scientific name, *Balaenoptera acutorostrata*, meaning "sharp-snouted winged whale." The snout, or rostrum, is flattened, with a single center ridge and double blowholes above. A second species, the Antarctic minke, and several subspecies, grace our Blue Planet.

GARBO-ESQUE: Svelte and sleekly



sculpted, they are a study in cetacean elegance. Minkes in this region are usually encountered in nearshore waters as solitary individuals. They're so mysteriously elusive, they're considered the "Greta Garbos" among whales.

STRATEGIST: Noted Bay Area whale researcher Jon Stern studied minkes' spatio-temporal movement patterns off North-Central California and in the Pacific Northwest, and found they used surprisingly sophisticated foraging patterns to locate

food. Stern examined their search strategies, identifying Lévy flights or "walks" to optimize their effectiveness in locating prey patches. He also noted their small proportion of body fat stores, and suggested that while feeding, "the diminutive minke plays by a different set of energetics rules" when compared to large, highly migratory whales. This type of information is essential to conservation efforts, as changing ocean conditions can cause disruption of normal prey patterns. Adaptability in foraging strategies is increasingly essential to upper-level predators' survival.

ECO-ENCLAVE: Minkes in our region appear behaviorally distinct from more northern migratory whales, forming discrete resident groups within specific home ranges. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Northeast Pacific "resident" minkes off California, Oregon and Washington comprise a separate stock that numbers around 636 whales, but possibly as few as 369: their secretive habits make them challenging study subjects.

FROM DEATH TO NEW LIFE: In 2019, NOAA's Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries partnered with Ocean Exploration Trust and others aboard the E/V Nautilus to explore the region's deep waters. In the Monterey sanctuary they discovered a "whale fall:" a carcass that had sunk to the sea floor, becoming a lavish banquet for scavenging sea life such as octopuses, fish and invertebrates. It was recently identified as a young minke whale. Revisiting it in October 2020 provided scientists with insights into the spontaneous, opportunistic evolution of

deep sea communities over the course of a year.

SURVIVAL: Threats include ocean noise and other habitat disturbance, pollution, vessel strikes, domoic acid poisoning, and fishing gear entanglement. Minkes remain the primary target of whaling nations.

NOAA's Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary extends into Drakes Bay



in the Pt. Reyes National Seashore, where these enigmatic whales may be sighted. A minke skeleton hangs in the Drake's Bay Visitor Center, and is well worth checking out.

Learn more about minke whales at <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/minke-whale> and about our sanctuary at <https://farallones.noaa.gov/> View fascinating footage of the whale fall at the Nautilus Live website: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fFtcK1cK1ro>

Mary Jane Schramm
NOAA Greater Farallones - National Marine Sanctuary
Maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov
IMAGE: Upper left: "Minke's sleek body and white pectoral fin cuff". Credit: NOAA. Above: "Minke 'whale fall' and octopus scavengers Bay." Credit: Nautilus-OET-NOAA.

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		6			8		2	1
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			4					6

Edited by Margie E. Burke

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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Becoming Ned by Caitie Steffen

My dog, Ned, is the best role model a human could have. Not only do I think that Ned is more enlightened than me, he's so endearing that I can't even envy his beginner's mind and purity. He lives fully in the moment and never stops smiling. When Ned was a puppy, I started compiling what I've labeled, Nedisms. Because, from the moment my boyfriend and I met him, he started teaching us life lessons that I want to share with others.

Ned's backstory is also as unique as he is, and one of my favorite Thanksgiving memories. It was right before Labor Day in 2017, and my boyfriend and I had just made a very adult purchase of a condo in Richmond, in the east Bay. If you are at all familiar with Richmond you will know that there is an interesting part of Richmond riddled with a tumultuous history, and a boring part of Richmond that reminds me of a sleepy East Coast town where the only regular documented crime is jaywalking. We opted for the boring part in a gated community where the HOA enjoys harassing homeowners, for example, when holiday decorations are kept up too long.

I love animals, and dogs in particular. So of course the moment that we moved into our 2 bedroom condo I began leaving very subtle hints for my boyfriend Joel. "Hey honey, look at this cute puppy for sale in Walnut Creek." "Hey do you want to drive into San Francisco this weekend? Oh and coinci-

dentally, Muttville is having a dog adoption day as well." Or dropping a name: "The Milo Foundation is only an 8-minute drive away maybe we should stop in on our way to the grocery store." Joel is stubborn and takes forever to make a decision about something, so he strategically played along with me dragging him to dog adoptions knowing full well that we would not be leaving with a dog. Do



you know how hard it is leave a dog adoption empty handed?! The only reason I didn't lose my mind was because at the time, I was working at a dog friendly office, so I could get my dog-fix at work.

Months went by and still no dog. Now it was Thanksgiving 2017 and we drove out to the Sacramento suburbs to spend the holiday with Joel's family. Did I tell you that I love a good Black Friday deal? There's nothing bet-

ter than buying something really nice for half the cost. I never would have thought that would be a dog.

The day after Thanksgiving we were all recovering from a night of too much food and wine, and we were in no rush to get the day started since we were going to be driving back home later in the afternoon. I was enjoying my coffee and perusing Black Friday deals when my phone went off with a new message alert. It was from Joel (who was sitting 3 feet away from me.) I opened the message and clicked the link. It was a Craigslist ad, "New Pomeranian puppies for sale" in the little town of Weimar. My spirit lifted a little and I gauged his face for sincerity. He was serious, so I called, to see if the cute black and white female puppy was still available. A nice lady answered the phone and said she still had 3 puppies available and that we could come see them in a couple hours. Seeing as how we didn't want to die at the hands of some scary stranger in the middle of nowhere, Joel's parents accompanied us on our journey.

We arrived at a tucked-away house, and as we walked up to the front door we were greeted by a nice lady. She invited us inside and took us straight into the kitchen where what looked like a cross between a chicken coop and a guinea pig cage was holding three little balls of fluff. There was no way I was leaving that house without a dog. As I approached the cage, this one slightly larger puppy was literally bouncing out of the cage jumping all over his 2 younger siblings to greet me. He proceeded to pick up a mouse toy (that you would find a cat playing with) and carried it around by the tail oh so proudly. I asked the lady about the funny, dark, brown puppy. She said that he was the last of his litter and on sale. He was also going to be brindle color, which is rare in Pomeranians. A one of a kind clearance puppy! I had to have him.

We said our goodbyes and piled back into the car with a new puppy. As we drove back, I'm holding him because of course we went in completely unprepared. We stopped at a pet supply store on the way home and picked up everything that a new puppy owner would need. Just as we turn down Joel's parent's street, the puppy now officially known as Ned, started getting a little restless and crying a bit. Of course I'm completely clueless and think that maybe he's a little car sick. Right as we pull up the driveway and park the car I feel warm liquid down the front of my shirt. Yep, my new puppy just peed on me. He looked up at me with these innocent eyes so uncomfortable with what had just happened, and I think I fell even more in love with him at that moment.

Ned has been the best impulse purchase

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that my boyfriend and I have ever made. He has taught us both so much about unconditional love and patience. He looks at life with youthful exuberance and his positivity is infectious. I mentioned earlier that I began writing down Nedisms. Here are some that he lives by everyday:

- Appreciate the little things, like socks!
- If you want to be a cat, be a cat.
- Don't let your size be an inhibitor.
- Never be embarrassed to be yourself.
- Why walk, when you can prance? Or dance?
- Give lots of kisses.
- Greet everyone with a smile.
- Live every second in the moment.
- When you spill food on the floor, just eat it off the floor.
- If you have something to say, just say it.
- Don't discriminate.
- Stop to smell the roses, literally.
- Protect your family.

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Get Out! December Events. Poetry, Theater, Art, Radio, Online and more.

Please be advised that many events currently on the schedule are VIRTUAL events. They will be done remotely with attendees and guests participating through an internet connection. Most virtual events can be accessed from home with a good internet connection. Read footnotes below calendar for details.

- Tuesday 01: 9:00am to 3:00pm. Cholesterol & Blood Pressure Screenings in Gualala.
- Tuesday 01: On Demand, "Collective". Film screening thru Dec. 10 via Arena Theater.¹
- Tuesday 01: On Demand, "Zappa" film screening thru Dec. 17 via Arena Theater.¹
- Tuesday 01: On Demand, "Crock of Gold" screening thru Dec.17 via Arena Theater.¹
- Tuesday 01: 11:00am, Winter Wonderland continues at Gualala Arts (thru 12/30).
- Wednesday 02: 11:00am, Opening for Annual Christmas Show at Artists Collective, Elk.
- Thursday 03: 4:00pm, Virtual Town Hall with Rep. Jared Huffman.
- Friday 04: On Demand, "76 Days" screening thru Dec.17 via Arena Theater.¹
- Saturday 05: 11:00am, Coast Hwy Art Collective, Pt. Arena, Annual Gift Show.
- Saturday 05: 11:00am, Dolphin Gallery opening "The Winter Exhibit".
- Tuesday 08: 9:00am to 3:00pm. Cholesterol & Blood Pressure Screenings in Gualala.
- Saturday 12: 10:00am, MET Opera Stars features Sir Bryn Terfel. ²
- Saturday 12: MCRPD will hold a meeting/event in Pt. Arena.
- Saturday 12: 7:00pm, Arena Theater Virtual Holiday Talent Show. ¹
- Thursday 17: 7:00pm, Third Thursday Poetry, Solstice Celebration, virtual.³
- Monday 21: Winter Solstice Begins
- Friday 25: Christmas Day
- Monday 30: 11:00am, Winter Wonderland at Gualala Arts. (Final Day)
- Tuesday 31: 1:00pm, MET Opera New Years Eve PPV concert.²
- Wednesday 01: New Years Day

1. On Demand cinema and events through Arena Theater (ArenaTheater.Org)
 2. MET Opera stars on demand. Access the performances at ArenaTheater.org.
 3. To watch or participate as an open mic reader email blake@snakelyone.com

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