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August 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

Art in the Redwoods A Re-imagined Exhibit and Fundraiser for 2020

The 59th annual Art in the Redwoods returns with new art, new fundraiser dinner plans, and a new experience. And the 2020 event will be reimagined.

Summer wouldn't be summer without Art in the Redwoods. At the same time, a different plan was needed and the people at Gualala Arts have done just that: they're creating an updated event. In short, part of Art in the Redwoods will be held (mostly) online, the dinner will be almost totally 'socially distanced', and the judges will be here to judge the hundreds of works of art. And sponsorships are still available.

This year's opening event takes place on Thursday, August 13: It's the Opening Dinner Fundraiser, and . . .

Cont'd on Page 6



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Dalai Lama (1935-)

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**The Coast Highway Art Collective • Assemblage, Jewelry and Painting
A New Exhibit Featuring Wesley Luster and Deborah Caperton • Opens August 1**

The members of the Coast Highway Art Collective are excited to invite the community to a live opening reception for an exhibit by Wesley Luster, painting and Deborah Caperton, assemblage and jewelry. A reception is scheduled for Saturday, August 1 from noon to 6:00pm. By extending the hours of the opening, guests, the artists and the staff can better adhere to social distancing guidelines. Under the current guidelines, 2 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, facemasks are required.

Deborah Caperton grew up in the Northeast and studied at The Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in jewelry and light metals with a minor in sculpture. In 1989 she moved to San Francisco, then Point Arena, then back to the Bay Area, finally settling in the Bernal Heights neigh-



borhood of San Francisco in 1994. She now lives with her husband, 2 daughters and 2 dogs.

Caperton works with metal, glass, ceramics and wood as a designer and artisan. The mixed media series has been one of her most enjoyable and challenging endeavors.

Deborah Caperton exhibits her jewelry in

stores, galleries and online. She especially enjoys collaborating on custom projects. Please visit her website at deborahcapertonjewelry.com.

"My Mixed Media narratives combine original elements that I create along with objects from my collection. I truly enjoy the process of creating metaphors and sharing ideas with a vocabulary of objects," Caperton says. She had accumulated a diverse assortment of objects, resulting from trolling flea markets, yard sales, discovering flora and fauna as well as receiving oddities from family and friends. Caperton says she likes to image the past lives and histories of these treasures and giving new life to something overlooked and forgotten. She fabricates by hand many of the components in her pieces and designs

them to fill in blanks when needed to drive a concept. She also uses text in her pieces. "The signage provides the observer with instructive hints and directions making the viewer a collaborator, she notes. My hope is that this active participation beckons the viewer to be affected by what they see and feel, thus making these stories their own."

Born in Oklahoma City, Wesley Luster is a multi-ethnic artist whose creative work - much like his ethnic background - is extremely varied in shape, scope, nature, taste, form and function. Luster says his work "is created out of that which also fuels his inspiration... the potential for limitless creation and possibility." When in his creative process, there are no bounds or limits, though he tends to focus on portraits in a variety of styles.

His materials may include pencil, charcoal, paint (acrylics; oils), mosaic tiling, decoupage, objects and/or any number of mediums that inspire working concepts. Luster says "his mind has more in common with a hot wire, sparking to establish a fresh con-



nection with new ideas." Wesley's art is also a service, under @RazeYourVibes. He can schedule initial consults for commissions, murals, signs for store; restaurant, etc.; graphic design such as logos; and wall art.

The Coast Highway Art Collective is now open two shopping days a week, Fridays and Saturdays from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Selected artwork by Collective members and guest artists are on display in the gallery's front courtyard. In July, whimsical and practical face masks by Lauren Sinnott are often available, as well as clothing from the collection of July 5, including short sleeve and long sleeve shirts, sundresses and scarves.

The Coast Highway Art Collective gallery is located at 284 Main Street, Point Arena, the little red building next door to the Redwood Credit Union. More information is available at www.coast-highway-artists.com.

Judith Hughes, Dipl. O.M., L. Ac.

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**Photograph:
"Ned takes
Joel For
A Walk
On Cooks
Beach",
Saturday, July
11, 2020.**

*Credit:
Image by Caitie Steffen*

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

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"It's fortunate that I am a writer, because that has helped me understand the properties of words. They are what have made life complex. In the battle for status in the animal kingdom, power and aggressiveness have been all-important. But among humans, once they acquired speech, all that changed."

Tom Wolff (1931-2018)

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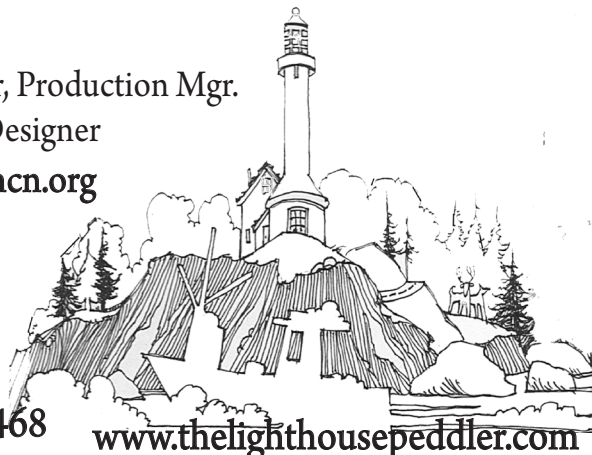
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Three Films at Arena Theater In August: "Rebuilding Paradise", "The Fight", "Out Stealing Horses"
(Not actually in the Theater, But you can Watch at Home and Still Benefit Arena Theater!)

One of the pleasures we've missed for the past few months is the enjoyment of walking into Arena Theater and for some great music, a theater production, a MET Opera performance, National Theatre, Bolshoi Ballet and so many other wonderful events. And, of course, we love the movies. Over the years Arena Theater has been like a security blanket for us. Buy a ticket, walk through the door, get some popcorn and a Coke, grab a seat and settle in for a film escape.

While we still can't sit in those comfortable seats, we can enjoy a film at home and still support the theater. Kino Marquee is a new initiative that creates "virtual cinemas" for temporarily closed independent theaters. It lets audiences see—at home—newly released films that these theaters would otherwise be playing on the big screen, and which are not yet available on other digital platforms. Three films are available in August to stream on demand in your home or on your device.

First up is "Rebuilding Paradise". Early in the morning of November 8, 2018, a spark flies into the parched brush of the Sierra Nevada foothills. With little warning, flames are everywhere. Fierce diablo winds shower burning embers as house after house becomes a violent inferno. Propane tanks explode as desperate citizens grab their most precious possessions and jump into their vehicles hoping to escape.

With unfathomable, harrowing footage, Academy Award-winning filmmaker Ron Howard pulls the viewer into the driver's



seat to experience the terror and the helplessness of devastated refugees from a town with the ironic name of Paradise. Eighty-five lives are lost in what ultimately becomes the most destructive wildfire in California's history.

Over the course of a year, survivors from Paradise cope with shared trauma, displacement, and uncertainty about the future. Yet slowly, with sheer grit and determination, they begin to rebuild their lives and redefine the meaning of home. Rebuilding Paradise is a testament to the power of the human spirit from one of our most gifted filmmakers. "Rebuilding Paradise" was directed by Ron Howard, has a running time of 95 minutes, and is available to stream through Thursday, August 13. Tickets are \$12.00,

half of which goes to Arena Theater.

Next up is "The Fight". Only days after the 2017 inauguration of Donald Trump, furious Americans gathered at airports across the country in protest of the Muslim ban. But it was the efforts of the American Civil Liberties Union, waging the fight in federal court that turned the tide staying the executive order on grounds of unconstitutionality. The ACLU has never granted access to its offices, even as its battles—on the fronts of abortion rights, immigration rights, LGBT rights and voting rights—have become more timely and momentous than ever.

With "The Fight", access has finally been granted to the filmmaking team of Eli B. Despres, Josh Kriegman and Elyse Steinberg, makers of 2016's award-winning "Weiner". Rousing, inspiring and slyly humorous, their latest documentary follows four seismically important cases and a handful of magnetic attorneys. These lawyers may not know how to charge a cell phone or oper-



ate a stand-up desk but have persuaded Supreme Court Justices, beating back serious encroachments upon our freedoms. An antidote to endless news cycles filled with tweet tantrums, "The Fight" inspires with the story of front-line warriors in the battle for the American soul. Through August 13.

Immediately following "The Fight" there will be a pre-recorded discussion between Kerry Washington and the four ACLU lawyers featured in the film (Brigitte Amiri, Lee Gelernt, Dale Ho, and Chase Strangio). This conversation is exclusive to virtual cinema and in-theater engagements. Additionally, patrons will have free access to a live Q&A on Sunday, August 2 with the filmmakers and lawyers, moderated by Ann Hornaday of the Washington Post. This will be also be archived and available after the screening. Magnolia Pictures is proud to introduce a new way of supporting the independent theaters you love, while watching The Fight at home. \$5 from every ticket purchase goes directly to the theater of your choice. The fight has a run time of 96 minutes and is rated PG-13.

The third film is "Out Stealing Horses", available to stream August 7 - 20. It's November 1999: 67-year-old Trond (Stellan Skarsgård), lives in self-imposed isolation and looks forward to welcoming in the

new millennium alone. As winter arrives he meets one of his few neighbors, Lars (Bjørn Floberg), and realizes he knew him back in the summer of 1948. 1948—the year Trond turned 15. The summer Trond grew up. "Out Stealing Horses" is based on the bestselling novel by Norwegian author Per Petterson, which received several important international awards and was included in The New York Times' 10 Best



Books of 2007 (Fiction). Petterson's novels have been translated into more than 50 languages. "Out Stealing Horses" has a run time of 122 minutes.

Magnolia Pictures is proud to introduce a new way of supporting the independent theaters you love, while watching "Out Stealing Horses" at home. \$5 from every ticket purchase goes directly to the theater of your choice—Arena Theater.

MET Opera Launches August Pay-Per-View Music Series
Renee Fleming, Roberto Alagna, Aleksandra Kurzak, Lise Davidson

The Metropolitan Opera is launching a unique pay-per-view series featuring opera's biggest stars performing in striking locations across Europe and the United States. The ground-breaking new series includes live performances featuring the same unmatched production value as the Met's Live in HD transmissions. The series continues with two concerts in August. Tickets for each recital are \$20. Performances will remain available on demand for 12 days.

Please note: All ticket purchases will go to the Met. We hope, as you enjoy this content, you'll consider a donation to Arena Theater! Just click on the donate button at ArenaTheater.org. The full schedule is below. All programs are scheduled to start at 10:00am.

- August 1: **Renée Fleming**, live from Dumbarton Oaks Museum, Washington, D.C.
- August 16 : **Roberto Alagna** and **Aleksandra Kurzak**, live outdoors from the Château de la Chèvre d'Or in Èze, France (sole Sunday performance).
- August 29 : **Lise Davidsen**, live from the Oscarshall Palace in Oslo, Norway

Full Moon



August 3

New Moon



August 19

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Art in the Redwoods Takes On A New Idea in 2020 • August 13 - 30

The 59th Annual Event Will Be Re-imagined! (Continued from cover story)

... it will be different. As usual, Sponsors—those ordering the dinners—will get

- first dibs at seeing art Online!
- first dibs at buying art, and
- they'll be invited to the Zoom Boxed Hat parties Thursday night.

The fundraising dinner will feature familiar options—meat, seafood, and vegetarian, and this year the 4-course dinner will be served 'to go'. And this year the dinners will be prepared under the supervision of Rosemary Campiformio, co-owner of St. Orres.

Hungry supporters can reserve their dinner by calling Gualala Arts—707-884-1138—or by emailing info@gualalaarts.org. After stating your dinner preference, you'll

be given a time for the drive-through pick-up and then enjoy dinner in your home, all the while supporting Gualala Arts and Art in the Redwoods. Dinners will be available to be picked up between 2:00pm and 4:00pm, and your dinner orders will be brought to your car.

Even with the changes, the heart and soul of Art in the Redwoods will continue. And, this fun dinner/fundraising event will provide delicious food, and some of the financial support needed to maintain and build the future of Gualala Arts and the artists, members and visitors who have come to love this jewel on the Mendonoma Coast. Please contact the Art Center and reserve your space for the

dinner. Reservations should be made no later than Friday, August 8. 707-884-1138.

And then, Art in the Redwoods is really about the art. On Friday, August 14, the judges will be making their decisions and announcing the awards beginning at 6:00pm. The announcements will be live-streamed on the Gualala Arts Facebook page.

As previously announced, awards will be given out in a variety of categories, and the awards will total more than \$5,000 this year, all provided by local sponsors. Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Beading Excellence (honoring Jane Reichhold)
- Best Local Work
- Color Photography
- Best of Show
- Collage & Mixed Media
- Clay & Mosaic
- Digital Art
- Emerging Artist (under 18)
- Environmental Award (3)
- Fiber, Textiles & Soft Sculpture
- Figure Drawing Excellence
- Glass Art
- Jacquetta Nisbet Weaving Prize
- Jewelry & Ornamentation
- Mendonoma Sightings
- Monochromatic Photography
- Most Popular Work
- Oil & Acrylics
- Sculpture
- Prints & Graphics
- Quilts
- Pastels & Drawings
- Water Media
- Woodworking
- Video Clips

All of the artwork entered and displayed as part of the 2020 Art in the Redwoods will be on display on the internet. The art will be available for viewing, and art lovers can purchase any and all available works.

All of the art can be viewed on the internet by following the link available at Gualala Arts. There is still room for sponsorships for this year's Art in the Redwoods. Already on board for this year are:

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Words on Wellness • "Caring For Yourself" by Karin Uphoff

There's nothing quite like the mist of cool coastal fog on hot, dry summer skin. Naturally hydrating, ocean air infused with seaweed and minerals also nourishes skin which absorbs it easily. No matter what climate you live in, summer demands extra attention to skincare, especially if you are safely socializing outside. While wearing a hat and facemask keeps the sun off your face, the mask itself can leave skin irritated, sometimes causing rashes.



At the end of the day cleanse your face by opening up the pores with a hot washcloth. For a relaxing moment of facial bliss, soak or run cloth under hot water, wring out and spray with lavender hydrosol then cover your face with it. Take a deep breath and let the day go as you exhale resting your face in your hands. Repeat. With your pores now open, scrub face with a piece of wet grapestone kelp or 'Turkish washcloth' (*Mastocarpus papillatus*). This is a perennial red alga found on rocks in the mid- to high tidal zone, its surface covered with bumpy nobs. One piece can last for many scrubs as you simply let it dry in between. The rough surface of this

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

plant is a perfect mild abrasion for removing dirt and stimulating circulation while softening your skin. A larger piece can be left hanging in the shower for the same scrubbing action.

If you find your skin red and irritated, rose hydrosol followed by a combination of rosehip seed oil and jojoba is especially soothing. You can also make your own dermal relief spray using equal parts lavender or rose hydrosol or rosewater to aloe vera gel, shake together in a spray bottle and keep in the fridge for misting sunburn or inflamed skin. Try making a flower tea using one or more fresh flower petals that disinfect and heal skin; calendula, chamomile, yarrow, rose or lavender. Use 1 part petals to 2 parts boiled water, cover and soak petals until cool, then strain and use as a wash or in a spray bottle with aloe or witchhazel. For sun-damaged skin, castor oil is a helpful anti-inflammatory and reduces keratosis. This viscous oil traps water, so works well blended into lotions, other oils and salves. Enjoy homemade or locally produced natural skin care this season.

Animal Care & Welfare • Leptospirosis By Cathy Sue Riehm

Many of us love to take our dogs to the beach. Rex is happiest swimming after his ball in the water or running after his ball on the sand. Should I be worried that there are always seals and sea lions close by?

Last year, the northern California coast saw another surge of leptospirosis in seals and sea lions. This outbreak is the second largest since starting to track this disease almost fifty years ago.

So what is leptospirosis? Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection. This bacteria, *Leptospira*, can not only be passed from animal to animal, it is zoonotic- which means (my regular readers should know this...) that it can be passed from animals to humans.

How is lepto transmitted? The bacteria is spread by the urine of infected animals, and can live in water or soil for weeks, even months. Through the skin (especially an open wound), the mucous membranes (eyes, nose or mouth) or by ingestion (drinking contaminated water), this bacteria gets into the body and can cause symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, muscle aches and abdominal pain, but it's also possible that an animal can be infected, and be asymptomatic.

One local with firsthand knowledge and experience in this subject is Jennie Henderson. Jennie, and her husband Mike, used to

manage Anchor Bay campground. They were regularly coming across "young and emaciated" stranded seals and sea lions, and then contacting the Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito to drive up here, assess the animal and transport it back to the center for testing. This testing usually resulted in a leptospirosis diagnosis. After over a decade of this routine, Jennie and Mike made a proposal



to the MMC that resulted in a team of volunteers being provided the tools and training to, first, assess a stranded animal- is this a healthy pup whose mother is simply off hunting for food, or is this an animal showing the signs of sickness? The team was also trained to treat an animal with fluids (or stabilize them), and then transport them down to

the Marine Mammal Center for testing and rehabilitation. Jennie says "Lepto is very prevalent in the environment in this area. An infected seal could shed the bacteria by urinating on the beach or in the water, and unprotected dogs are susceptible."

If your dog is a regular at the beach, the yearly vaccine could be a good preventive measure. If you come across a seal or sea lion stranded on the beach, do not let your dog near it. Call the 24 hour hotline at the Marine Mammal Center: 415-289-SEAL (7325).

Sharp-shinned Hawk: "Built For Fast & 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 Spotted Towhee. Each month, the Lighthouse Peddler features another bird regularly seen at or near the Mendocino Coast.

More information is at www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org.

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Scott Chieffo Photography • Joann Cassady-Ceramics
At The Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop • Exhibit Opens August 1

A new exhibit featuring the photography of Scott Chieffo and the ceramics of Joann Cassady opens at the new Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop, Saturday, August 1. The gallery is open from 11:00am to 4:00pm.

In the 15 years that he has been living on the Southern Mendocino County Coast, Scott Chieffo has developed an intimate photographic relationship with its unique landscape. His images capture the subtle



beauty of the coast and forests with a highly unique, "painterly" style that emphasizes the quiet solitude of these landscapes. Chieffo's main photographic goal is to be able to communicate

this unique viewpoint to others, such that they are able to look upon his images, and develop a new and stronger appreciation for life's details. He believes that a fine art photographic image is most powerful if it can be

viewed with increasing pleasure repeatedly for many years, rather than simply have a strong initial impact.

Chieffo gets almost instant feedback as he begins his photographic journey. "When I go into the field, I rarely carry any strongly preconceived ideas about subject matter for my images. I study the light, as it falls on the landscape, and look for ways in which it may bring out the hidden beauty around me. When things are going well, I literally enter a meditative state of mind, which allows me to create images that communicate the subtle emotions aroused by the scene surrounding me."

While the vast majority of his artistry takes place looking through the camera's

viewfinder, Scott's technical mastery in the "digital darkroom" allows him to optimize each image digitally so that the finished print matches his original artistic vision.

For the past several years, Scott has shown his fine art photography prints at galleries and exhibits along the west coast. His work is represented in private collections throughout the United States and beyond. His images taken within the Point Arena-Stornetta Public Lands were used in the public relations effort to eventually have that area added as the first mainland-based unit of the California Coastal National Monument in 2014. Additionally, Scott works as the Operations Manager at the Gualala Arts Center. You can view Scott's work on his website, www.schieffophotography.com. His work can also be found at the Gualala Arts Center, the Artist's Collective in Elk, and in various regional venues.

Joann Cassady reflects on an inspired life. "As an artist, my life has gone full circle. After art school and a career in commercial graphics, I left the industry to follow my heart back to early childhood, playing in the backyard, squishing mud pies through my fingers. This time around, clay has replaced the mud but the pleasure I get from holding the earth in my hands is just the same.

Raku, a firing technique (which, in Japanese means pleasure or enjoyment in) has become a passion for Cassady. "My pieces are all made by hand using coiling & pinching techniques and fired using different fir-



ing processes. I'm drawn to create shapes that are simple yet elegant and in their simplicity, capture your eye's attention. I don't

use molds and there are no short cuts. The clay and the process can be unforgiving, even humbling at times, and not all pieces reach the intended end. But when they do, the magic in that moment is the inspiration that drives the process and fuels my passion to do it again.



The exhibit will be up at the Dolphin Gallery through Sunday, August 30. The Dolphin Gallery and Gift Shop is at 39114 Ocean Drive, Gualala, in Cypress Village.

Procrastinators Take Note:
The Census is NOW!

The Census is here. Each of us must fill out the census form so that our rural areas, town, villages, cities, counties and states are represented. The data gathered from this census will dictate the amount of federal funding that will come to our county for the next ten years.

Every individual that is counted, translates to \$20,000 over ten years. So, if we miss a family of four, that is \$80,000 our county will not receive for critical infrastructure needs including our roads, our schools, senior housing, fire fighters, and more. You can fill out the census online at: www.my-2020census.gov

Complete the census. There are only a few questions: the names of who lives in my home, their birth dates, and our ethnic heritage. Stop thinking about it. Just do it!

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6	5	9	7	2	3	1	4	8
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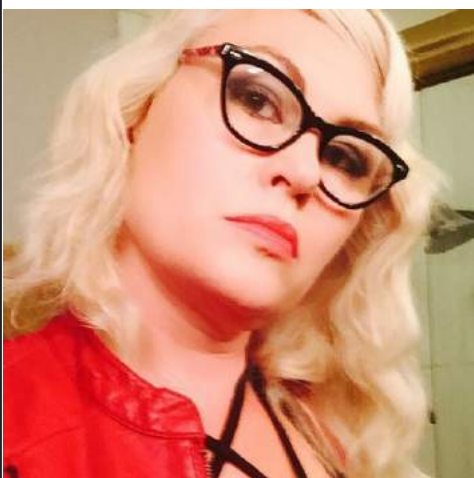
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Oakland Poet Cassandra Dallett
In A Virtual Performance
At Third Thursday Poetry
August 20 • Online

The Arena Theater and Point Arena Third Thursday Poetry present a virtual Third Thursday Zoom Poetry reading at 7:00pm on Thursday, August 20. This month features Oakland poet Cassandra Dallett (aka the badass bookworm), with open mic to follow.

Cassandra Dallett is a five-time Pushcart nominee. She has been published in Sparkle and Blink, Great Weather for Media, Sensitive Skin, The Oakland Review, and The East Bay Review among many others. Cassandra reads often around the Bay Area, and



she hosts the monthly writing workshop On Two Six, is a facilitator at MOWW, (Mills Oakland Writers Workshop) hosts The Badass Bookworm Podcast, and co-hosts and curates the quarterly reading series Moon Drop Productions as well as The Badass Bookworms Lit Loft.

Her first full-length book of poetry "Wet Reckless" (Manic D Press) was released in 2014. In 2015, she authored five chapbooks, one of them, "On Sunday, A Finch" (Nomadic Press) was nominated for a California Book Award, 2018 brought the release of another full-length collection, "Collapse", also on Nomadic Press, also nominated for a CA Book Award.

For links and more check out cassandradallett.me and look for the Forthcoming A Pretty Little Wilderness from Be About It Press.

To watch or participate as an open mic reader, please email blake@snakelyone.com. NOTE: A sample of Cassandra Dallett's poetry is on page 16.

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.

Marine Sanctuary Seeks Applicants
for Advisory Council

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary seeks applicants for the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) for its Education and Community-at-Large Sonoma/Mendocino seats.

The SAC ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent. Candidates are selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regard-



ing the protection and management of marine resources.

The SAC is composed of ten seats including conservation, education, maritime activities, research, commercial fishing, youth, and three community-at-large seats. There are also five governmental seats representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Resources Agency, National Park Service, U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA Fisheries. The council meets quarterly, with special meetings as needed.

Applications are due by 11:59pm on Monday, August 17, 2020. Applications not received by this time will not be considered. For questions contact Alayne Chappell, Advisory Council Coordinator, at alayne.chappell@noaa.gov. More info is at farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac_recruitment.html.

Credit: White shark, like those protected in Greater Farallones NMS. Photo: G. Skomal, Mass. Div. Fisheries

Haiku for August

"near the road
dusty naked ladies lean
on each other"

by mai haiku

The Mendocino Coast Botanical
Gardens Are Open To All.

See What's Going On This Month
(just a short drive to Fort Bragg)

The Botanical Gardens invites you to come see what's in bloom. Get tickets or become a member and receive immediate benefits such as free admission. Below are some of the major updates, and information to help familiarize yourself with the visiting guidelines prior to your trip.

The Gardens are open to the public, but note, **Advanced Tickets Required.** For your safety (and the Garden's), all guests must purchase tickets online prior to visiting. You can find a link to ordering tickets (and the local health order) at their website.

The Gardens are open each Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00am to 4:00pm (closed Mondays and Tuesdays.) The Garden Store and Café are temporarily closed.

Current MCBG members no longer need a reservation and are welcome to visit the Gardens and shop the Nursery any time during visiting hours. (Bring your membership card if possible. "Member Guest" tickets must be purchased in advance.

Mark your calendar for upcoming Workshops, Walks, & Events:

- Birdhouse Auction: Now thru August 28.
- Nature Sketchbook August 22 & 29.
- The 28th Art in the Gardens (AIG) has officially been postponed until Saturday, August 7, 2021.

Check the website for details:

GardenByTheSea.org

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"Ignorance" image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay.

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No food or drinks are allowed on the gaming floor. More information is at TheGarciaRiverCasino.com.



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Marquis de Lafayette, Charles Boyer and Seeing the Light

by David Steffen

America and France have been friends since the days when the Marquis de Lafayette was named a major general in the Continental Army. The subsequent 1778 treaty and military support from France proved decisive in the American victory over Britain in the Revolutionary War.

In my lifetime we were often told (or we assumed) that France was the center of the universe when it comes to fine arts, wine, food, films, music, dance, architecture and more. Let's face it, culture always seems more credible when it has a French accent. It's probably even more basic than that as a simple compare-and-contrast may show. After studying German in college and having traveled extensively through Europe, my anecdotal evidence is that there is a significant difference between being asked "Parlez-vous francais?" or "Sprechen Sie Deutsch?". It's not necessarily scientific but I have it on very good authority that a French accent—at least when it comes to films—will always prevail. Which brings me to Charles Boyer.

Born in Figeac, France in 1899, Charles



Boyer was barely 20 when he began his film career. Although his early roles were during the silent era, with the addition of sound came a steady growth in his film roles, as he began making movies on both sides of the Atlantic. By 1944 he had already made 40 films including two of his most remembered roles: as Pepe le Moko in "Algiers" and as Gregory Anton in "Gaslight". His on screen success in the 1930s and 1940s was not surprising as his good looks and command of English (with a seductive French accent) were perfectly suited to the big screen. "You know, that accent", my friend Frank in Chicago would say, "da womens love it".

"Gaslight", a 1944 psychological thriller, was adapted from a 1938 play by Patrick Hamilton. Director George Cukor ("The

Philadelphia Story", "A Star Is Born", "My Fair Lady") helmed the Hollywood production of "Gaslight" with a terrific cast that included Boyer, Ingrid Bergman, Joseph Cotten and Angela Lansbury (then a teenager). The film garnered 7 Academy Award nominations (it won two), but the movie's impact went beyond good filmmaking. The story centered on a woman (Bergman/Paula Anton) whose husband (Boyer/Gregory Anton) attempts to slowly convince her that she is going insane.

He does this by tinkering with small elements in their relationship. He insists she is mistaken, forgetful, or delusional about many aspects of her life. The plot of "Gaslight" was so believable that the film title and premise added a verb—gaslighting—to the English lexicon. For example, a recent headline from a Los Angeles Times editorial asked "Trump's census order defies the Constitution. Is he gaslighting, or just desperate?". And in July the Washington Post reported that since becoming president Donald Trump has "... crossed the 20,000 mark — an average of 23 claims [lies] a day over a 14-month period, which included the events leading up to Trump's impeachment trial, the worldwide pandemic that crashed the economy and the eruption of protests over the death of George Floyd in police custody." In short, Trump's lies are a form of gaslighting. And these days, gaslighting seems to be everywhere.

The romantic international traveler in me always liked getting my passport stamped at every border. I recall a driving tour in the 1970s where Dolly and I crossed multiple frontiers entering The Netherlands, France, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria and Switzerland, almost always receiving a stamp in our passports as proof. A favorite memory was stopping in the principality of Lichtenstein. We had lunch in Vaduz, the capital, but first paid our 50 Swiss centimes for the (optional) passport stamp. That being said, crossing borders in Europe today is considerably less exotic but infinitely easier with the creation of the E.U.

Gaslighting may very well have played a part in Brexit, the 2016 vote resulting in the UK leaving the European Union. The plebiscite was built on reactionary cries of national sovereignty, isolationism, racism and a general wave of right-wing politics along with a casual complacency by many on the left. The final tally was a narrow 52% to 48%. Two years after the Brexit vote an analysis by The Guardian concluded that "The past two years have felt like a vast exercise in gaslighting." The divorce was not going smoothly and at this writing—four

years after the vote—it's still pretty ugly.

The Brexit vote also caused the then-government of David Cameron to fall, followed by the failure of Theresa May's government,



and ultimately the election of Boris Johnson. Leaving the economics and the politics aside, the much more pressing question I was asking is what is the deal with Boris Johnson's hair? It's my view that Mr. Johnson's hair seems to be a separate gaslighting effort by him, distracting us from the chaos in Britain these days, but I'll save Boris for another day.

Closer to home, gaslighting has lately been taking on a more ominous quality. Convicted felons (friends of the president) are pardoned. The word "hoax" is used to discredit almost any rational, credible or confirmed problem. Inspectors general in the government are being fired for doing their jobs. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Alex Azar, selected one of his top aides to run the day-to-day U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic. It was a perfect choice, given the aide's occupation before being personally selected handle this important duty: he was a Labradoodle breeder. Yes, this administration knows all the best people. And the man responsible for overseeing the child separation policy at the border, had never spent any time resettling refugees before he was put in charge of, ah, oh let's see, refugee resettlement.

Science takes a back seat to magical thinking. The Senate takes vacations and tables needed legislation "while Rome burns". We wait for additional federal monies for the unemployed, additional funding for state governments, readily-available testing for Covid-19, a fast turnaround of test results and so on. At the same time the federal government has found the energy to send in hundreds (and soon to be thousands) of unknown, unidentified para-military forces, waving them in front of us like it's right, rational and, most importantly legal and normal. In addition to BLM and other protesters, groups of moms and military veterans have been gassed, beaten and arrested.

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"Perhaps the most positive street-level effect of the Black Lives Matter movement will be the increased willingness of white people to speak up when they see racial injustice."

Mitch McFarland

It's unlikely that California's north coast will soon be a target for these faux-military displays, yet there are a few things we can do. Complete your census form so that California (and counties like Mendocino and Sonoma) receive a full share of federal monies in the coming decade. Register to vote, and then VOTE. And don't be silent! Reach out regularly to our local, county, state and congressional representatives.

Gaslighting is underway every day. We need to recognize it and "put the gas flame out."

"Galileo and the Science Deniers"

A Book by Mario Livio • Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

A fresh reminder of the wrongheaded outcomes that result when science is thwarted by politics..

It's a shame author Mario Livio couldn't have waited a little longer to finish his latest book. For him to have been able to include the spread-eagled travesty of science denial that's occurring in the face of covid-19 would have been for him to fully underline the dangers of allowing science to be interpreted and legislated by those who dismiss it.

As we're being reminded in real time, a virus — just as much as any of the vast inner workings of the universe — does not require us to believe in it for it to be real.

Livio is an astrophysicist whose books, including *The Golden Ratio* and *Is God a Mathematician?*, serve to make complex subjects accessible to the general public. In *Galileo and the Science Deniers*, he shares a similarity with his subject, who published his own works in Italian rather than Latin to ensure that his words were accessible to a wider populace.

Galileo's life unfolded in an age of religious tumult, cultural change, and resurgence of scientific inquiry and insight as greater Europe fully emerged into the Renaissance. Born the same year as Shakespeare, in 1564, he arrived just as Michelangelo died (and, in a neat hand-off to a successor, died a year before Newton was born).

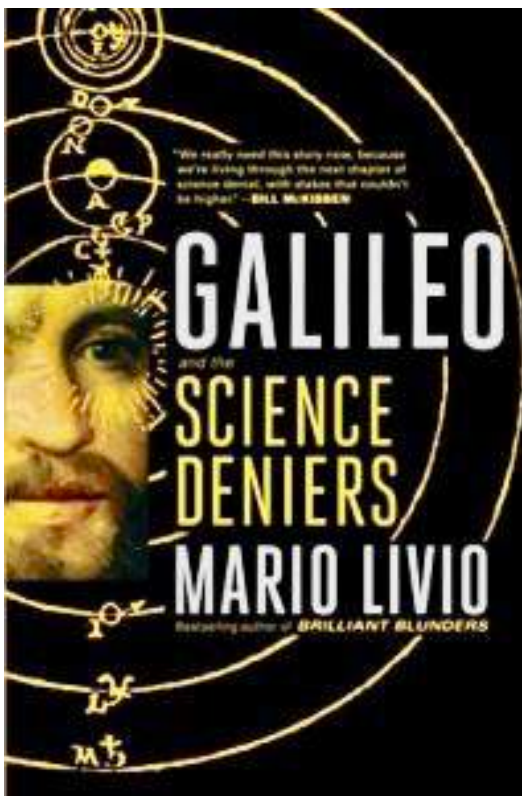
Nicolaus Copernicus' *On the Revolutions of Heavenly Spheres*, which asserted a sun-centric solar system, was published in 1543, the year its author died. Perhaps because Copernicus wasn't available to promote his work, the theory did not get widespread attention — at least not from the Catholic Church — until scientific rock star Galileo put his significant weight behind it.

Son of a musician, and schooled in the arts, Galileo had a keen appreciation and talent for both music and art — his skill as an illustrator proved helpful in conveying his innovative concepts of planetary movement. Early on, he sidestepped a career in medicine when the study of geometry captured his attention.

Galileo's contributions to the advancement of science are without parallel. He is the father of the scientific method, in which experimentation and detailed observation combine to support or disprove a given hypothesis. Among early innovations that made him stand out was his application of mathematics to the study of astronomy; until then, the two were considered to have

no particular relationship.

Most critically, Galileo was responsible for bringing the newly invented telescope into accepted use, personally ensuring that quality instruments made it into the hands of fellow scientists and crucial influencers. His observations made sweeping, material changes to the prevailing beliefs about the universe, and the acknowledgement



by church astronomers that the device represented a true picture of what it focused on was a major victory.

At the same time, Galileo's embrace and promulgation of a Copernican view of the universe clashed with the church's accepted Aristotelian model and came to be seen as a critique of certain religious articles of faith.

The Catholic Church was struggling with unprecedented challenges to its divine authority, which translated into challenges to its earthly political power and control. The combination of the Protestant rebellions and the rise of literacy in more common folk conspired to put the word of God directly into the hands of the people, without the need for priestly translation.

Add to that a growing body of scientific speculation about the universe that contradicted church teachings, and the backlash was often severe: It was mathematician Giordano Bruno's postulation that the universe was infinite and filled with populated worlds that got him burned at the stake.

Ironically, Galileo was a faithful believer who was making no attempt to undermine

or disagree with church teachings. Indeed, he repeatedly conceded that Scripture itself was infallible. His position was that if observation and experience put astronomy in conflict with Scripture, then it was the prevailing interpretation of Scripture that must be in error. He simply asked that science be left to scientists and that matters of faith be left to the church.

The conflict came fully to a head when, in an epic overreach, the church decided that matters of astronomy were, in fact, matters of faith.

Throughout his engaging discussion of Galileo and the forces arrayed against him, Livio highlights the similarities to current political and religious arguments against such science-based positions as the veracity of evolution and human-induced climate change.

One striking element of contrast that the author touches on somewhat obliquely is perhaps the most crucial: The church's stranglehold on scientific inquiry had a chilling effect on free thought and the exchange of ideas, and pointedly hurt certain individuals — such as Bruno — but nothing the church believed, mandated, or proclaimed had any power to change the stasis of the sun or motion of the Earth. As legend has Galileo quietly observing at the end of his trial, "And yet it moves."

The same is true for evolution: One's belief or disbelief has no impact on evolution itself, which continues in real time.

The situation is entirely different with climate-change denial, or with the response to the coronavirus pandemic, where humans' willingness or unwillingness to confront the scientific reality and take appropriate action materially impacts the outcome.

It took until 1992 for the Catholic Church to formally acknowledge that Galileo was right. Given the steady increase in global average temperatures — led by startling jumps upward in the planet's coldest regions — we no longer have that kind of time.

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.

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in breath only, not vertically nor in
depth."

Blaise Pascal (1623 - 1662)

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Michael Jackson (1958-2009)
 From "Man In The Mirror"

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Scuttlebutt

by Mitch McFarland

Lately I have been trying to figure out what a racist is. My years traveling around the world as a merchant seaman made it obvious to me that EVERYONE has some strong feelings about some other group, one that often gets categorized as belonging to another "race".

Science (that pesky thing again) tells us that there is only one race of homo sapiens. This makes me uncomfortable using the word "race" to describe people of a different cultural or ethnic background than me. The idea that Europeans, Asians, and Africans are of a different race is so well accepted in common usage that for the purpose of this piece I guess I have to use the word as it is typically used, despite the fact that I think it sort of misses the whole point of inter-cultural relations.

Race is a political category that humans invented to create some space between themselves and another group that they have decided needs exploiting. This is typical of the English colonial way of thinking- and, of course, Spanish missionaries. Some have even used the concept of race to glorify themselves, thereby denigrating all "others". Read Shogun, for example.

How about the Palestinians and the true Middle-Eastern Israelis? They look a lot alike to me and though they spell it differently, they both use the name Abraham or Ibrahim, yet I am sure many on both sides of that conflict consider themselves of a different race than the others.

Since we all have our preconceived—or programmed—beliefs about other people, you might say that makes all of us racists. I'm OK with that, but it begs the question, what do each of us do once we accept that idea. How we act with that knowledge is where the rubber hits the road.

So maybe it is not our beliefs, but our actions that really defines a racist. I may have some preconceived notions about the culture of Black, or Chinese, or Hispanic people, but do I allow those ideas to guide my behavior toward an individual member of one of those groups when my ethical principles should lead me in another direction? That seems to be what matters.

Another question: If I am put off by someone of another culture (that some would call another "race") is it because of my unchecked bigotry or is it because that individual person happens to be a jerk? If I

am being off-putting to that person because of our cultural differences, am I being a racist or just an asshole?

It is easy enough to define a person as racist if they openly take action to display their bigotry. The white power lunatics make it all too obvious how that goes, but any bank manager still practicing redlining is morally just as racist as the nuts that get on TV.

People often go along with their peer group regarding the negative attributes of another "race" simply to keep from being singled out for scrutiny. They don't want to speak up when they see others repeating racist ideas for fear of being attacked themselves. So are these people racists or just cowards? Does it matter? And is everyone always expected to act heroically? It is not easy to go against dominant thinking. Group thought doesn't tolerate contrary opinions very well.

Perhaps the most positive street-level effect of the Black Lives Matter movement will be the increased willingness of white people to speak up when they see racial injustice. If the BLM rallies are any indication, white people are more than ever deciding to speak out about their own frustration with the lasting effects of America's "original sin".

The targets of racism are, of course, the most seriously affected by racial stereotypes, but racial bigotry affects all of us. Not only does a nation lose out by denying the equal participation of all the talents of its citizenry, but we all individually are denied the intellectual growth that comes with experiencing other cultures.

Most people understand that travel broadens the mind and opens new channels of thought and communication. People who never visit other cultures tend to be more insular and provincial. The same holds true within our country. If our different cultures don't- or can't-mix, then we are all the poorer for not sharing our different strengths.

Things do seem to be changing. Beginning with the boomer generation appreciation of cultural differences began to emerge. White kids went crazy for black musicians. Oddly, Chuck Berry might be one of the most significant motivators of

racial integration in America.

White civil rights workers in the South during the 1960s braved the scorn of their white peers (Viola Gregg Liuzzo was murdered by the Klan), and even Lyndon Johnson, who is reported to have used the n-word in private, felt obliged to sign the Civil Rights Act.

Despite whatever criticism is leveled at millennials, it can happily be said that they seem to be the least racist members of our society. The percentage of interracial marriages has more than doubled since 1980. 22% of blacks ages 15 to 29 are intermarried. Of

all newlyweds in their 30s, 18% are married to someone of a different race or ethnicity. Among all white newlyweds, the rate is around 11%.

Perhaps the best advice for creating racial harmony comes from the Warren Beattie character in the film "Bulworth". I believe it was the concluding line of the movie when he stated, "all we need is a voluntary, free-spirited, open-ended program of procreative racial deconstruction. Everybody has got to just keep f**kin' everybody 'til they're all the same color."

Photographs of Viola Greg Liuzzo. (above)
 and Chuck Berry (left)



"CoronaVirus":
A family of viruses, named for their crown-like spikes, which can cause mild to severe respiratory illness and death.

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Celebrating its 150th Anniversary of lighting the way on the Pacific Coast, the Point Arena Lighthouse stands as an iconic figure on the landscape of the American Pacific Coast. The historic Point Arena Light Station includes the surrounding 23 coastal acres, and the 115 ft. Lighthouse Tower and its 1896 Fog Signal Building continue to provide inspiration, education and enjoyment for all of us and for generations to come.

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. The Light Station is surrounded by water on three sides, and sits adjacent to the Point Arena-Stornetta Unit of the California Coastal National Monument.

Clearly, the Point Arena Light Station 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 and Finback Whales. Happy locals and visitors can catch a view of the spouts, tails and breaches from the bluffs around the Lighthouse peninsula and from the trails and gazebo. The new Outdoor Museum encompasses the entire 23 acres of the Light Station grounds.

The newest feature, which was completed in June, is the Light Station Labyrinth. Located just inside the entry gate on the eastern edge of the Station, this stone labyrinth offers visitors a meditative and contemplative avenue to enjoy the Station grounds and views. Envisioned and funded by the Point Arena Lighthouse Keepers, Inc. (PALKI) Vice President Laura Franklin, the labyrinth was installed by noted stone masons Julien Carmellino of France and Kevin Carman of Riverside, CA.

The labyrinth is an unusual five circuit pattern designed by Marilyn Larson, a founding member of the Labyrinth Society and

Educational Chair of its Board. It is also the westernmost installation in the "Art Line," a series of walkable, interactive outdoor artworks across the heart of America along a 28 mile-wide band, centered on the 39th Latitude. Known as Earth Art, these geometric reflections of Nature's forms and patterns are being created by artists, labyrinth enthusiasts, and local community members in 14 states that stretch from California to New Jersey. Already there are many examples of Earth Art on the Art Line. With art as a conduit, the Art Line fosters a sense of unity and awareness by promoting a series of connections — between the individual and Nature, within the community, and between the communities on the Art Line.



Why the 39th parallel? The 39th parallel closely denotes the north/south centerline of the country — truly the heartline of America. Creating a physical line of walkable Art can be viewed as activating the heart meridian, reminding us to return to this powerful connection point within ourselves.

The line starts in California and runs through Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and the southern tip of New Jersey on

the East Coast.

The outdoor museum at the Point Arena Lighthouse, will also introduce visitors to the Druid's Circle made from 5 locally sourced blue shale pillars. For film lovers, the gazebo is from the film "Forever Young" which was left after the completion of the 1992 filming. There is a Native Plant Garden, Coastal Prairie, Whale Trail interpretive panel, several historical plaques and markers around the property, the unique stone entry fence, various trails and memo-

rial and benches for viewing and more. Visitors are provided an Outdoor Museum map as part of the site visit fee.

At this writing the Outdoor Museum is open daily from 10:00 am to 3:30pm (subject to change during the ongoing shelter-in-place). The facilities are closed on Thanksgiving

and Christmas days. The Lighthouse requests a site visit fee of \$5 for guests 12 and over, which provides you access to the Outdoor Museum and the Light Station Store. Children under 12 years are free. Admis-



sion is always free to Lighthouse members. Summer is a great time to visit all that the Point Arena Light Station and its new Outdoor Museum have to offer. More information is at 707-882-2809 and at PointArenaLighthouse.com.



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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Fair-minded
- 5 Follow as a result
- 10 Q-Tip
- 14 Catch sight of
- 15 Spa feature
- 16 Bear's lair
- 17 Have a hunch
- 18 Checkout device
- 20 Like some chickens
- 22 Prevent, as disaster
- 23 Faucet flaw
- 24 Clear the slate
- 26 Nothing at all
- 28 Cozumel coin
- 30 French household
- 34 Some Japanese films
- 36 Details, briefly
- 38 Like a sad sack
- 39 Farmer's guide
- 41 Religious self-denier
- 43 Genesis son
- 44 Word of assent
- 46 Popped up
- 47 Crushing snake
- 49 For fear that
- 51 "Holy cow!"
- 52 Perpendicular to the keel
- 54 ___ mortals
- 56 Take to the soapbox
- 59 Math function
- 63 California gold seeker
- 65 Indian butter
- 66 Bitty biter
- 67 For all to see

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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66					67						68			
69					70						71			

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- 68 Word on a towel
- 69 Penn of films
- 70 Contract details
- 71 Uno + dos

DOWN

- 1 Bridges in the movies
- 2 End ___
- 3 Highway sign
- 4 Aerosmith frontman
- 5 Break out
- 6 Tandoori bread
- 7 Scalpel wielder
- 8 Below the surface
- 9 Corn serving

- 10 Type of hunt
- 11 Boggs of baseball
- 12 Declare firmly
- 13 Ernie's pal
- 19 Ill at ___
- 21 Turn red, maybe
- 25 "Famous" cookie maker
- 26 Civil rights org.
- 27 Mosaic technique
- 29 Down with something
- 31 Thoroughly
- 32 False front
- 33 Run the show
- 35 UN headquarters locale


- 37 Jack's "Chinatown" costar
- 40 First-rate
- 42 Feed a party
- 45 One who distributes charity
- 48 Follow orders
- 50 Intelligence, slangily
- 53 ___ and well
- 55 One way to turn
- 56 Slays, in slang
- 57 Part, in pictures
- 58 Kind of code
- 60 Bug's beginning?
- 61 Roll-call reply
- 62 State of disorder
- 64 Part of DNR

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"Ol' Blue Eyes Goes A-Courtin'"

by Mary Jane Schramm, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

OL' BLUE EYES was feeling amorous last spring. He'd been a bachelor within his close-knit community, with some of the best ocean-view real estate in the City of San Francisco. The enclave didn't require a fenced and gated compound to keep outsiders at bay; the terrain on which they'd built their homes – steep, rocky cliffside dwellings – provided security. An intruder would literally have to fly in and risk a doughty defense. But amidst all of this companionship, Ol' Blue Eyes was missing romance, a mate, a family. Seeing a comely female near-



by, he drew back his glistening black head, exposing his brilliant electric-blue throat pouch, and bill points skyward, he fluttered his wings. He rapidly thrust his head down and forward, again and again. Fascinated, enchanted, the female indicated she was receptive. (Scene fades to crashing surf and singing violins). Meet Phalacrocorax penicillatus, the Brandt's cormorant.

Brandt's cormorants are large, gregarious seabirds of the California Current, breeding mostly along the California and Oregon coasts. Their Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge rookery, within fish-delicious Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, is one of the world's largest. Brandt's are non-migratory; why travel,

when they've got it all here?

BIG BLUE: With a bulbous head atop a long, thick neck, the Brandt's is the size of a small goose, up to 31 inches long, nearly six pounds, with a wingspan of 3.5 feet. Breeding adults are blackish, with iridescent heads, necks, backs and wings. They have startlingly blue eyes and throat (gular) skin edged with tan, and wispy white feathers around head and shoulders. Nonbreeding adults are uniform black. Younger birds are dark brown, with buff-colored throats and gular pouches.

Their feathers lack oily waterproofing, reducing buoyancy and allowing deep dives. They often perch atop pilings or rocks, wings outstretched, as they dry and preen themselves. Brandt's feathers are outlined in black, giving them a finely-drawn, scale-like appearance. A view through a spotting scope or good binoculars will provide an appreciation of these dark beauties.

SEAFOOD FORAYS: Brandt's are pursuit-divers, darting after anchovies, juvenile rockfish, herring, flatfish, or crustaceans. The menu is driven by availability; the "Chef's Special" is a key factor in diet selection. Going into a dive they may leap upward, to add thrust to their descent, propelled by their large paddle-feet. They snatch prey with long, hooked bills. Large flocks fly low across the water in long streams, headed for foraging hot spots that may also attract other seabirds, sea lions and whales!

COLONIALS: Cormorants maintain large, dense colonies, discouraging predators, although western gulls are serious threats to the rare unattended egg or chick. The cormorants' hard, sharp bills are a suf-

ficient deterrent to most would-be raiders.

COURTSHIP: Unlike Sinatra's melodic ballads, this Blue Eyes' vocal repertoire is a deep, guttural "oink." The male Brandt's



selects the nest site; an isolated flat, if available, but few are, so the steep slopes of the Farallones and mainland headlands provide ledges enough to secure a ground nest. The male gathers seaweed and other materials, and the female creates the nest's feng shui – generally a disorderly pile. Together they incubate up to four eggs. Chicks reach deep into the parental gullet to slurp its nutritious contents.

THE LOCALS: The Farallones population has fluctuated greatly with food avail-



ability, ocean temperatures, and competition by other seabirds. In 1974, Pt. Blue Conservation Science counted 23,800 adults, but in 2009 a mere 1,248 adults.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's Beach Watch program has periodically documented unusual numbers of dead cormorants on area beaches, and our ACCESS research cruises document live sightings, adding to the understanding of this species' population dynamics. They are not threatened or endangered.

Seabirds are excellent indicators of our ocean's health, echoing the fluctuations in its productivity. Marine systems are constantly changing, and we are likely to detect more anomalies as ocean climate changes. This seabird data helps our scientists to gauge the health of these and other marine species and the ecosystem overall, enabling management to take steps to ensure resiliency among wild populations.

For more information on the sanctuary's seabird research, education and resource protection, see <https://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/seabird/>, and <https://farallones.noaa.gov/science/access.html>

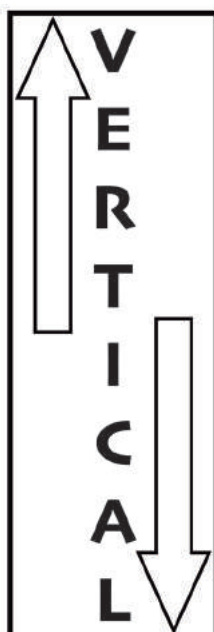
Above: Brandt's cormorants' "whiskers" disappear after courtship; the blue throat patch is inconspicuous until displayed. Credit: NOAA.

Far left: Brandt's Cormorant, Ol' Blue Eyes. Credit: David Ledig/USF&WS

Near left: South Farallon Islands' white guano swaths reveal seabird nesting sites. Credit: Joshua Hull/USF&WS

Mary Jane Schramm
NOAA Greater Farallones - National Marine Sanctuary
Maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov
IMAGE: Far left: Blue Whales Aerial in CINMS. Credit: NOAA. Center: Bright orange whale poop reflects their pink prey, krill. Credit: Peter Winch/GFNMS-NOAA. Above: Blue Whales. Credit: NOAA. Dan Shapiro.

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		8	3				6
	4				6		
7	9	8		2	3		

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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Gualala's Future: Natural Wonderland or 'Sterile Strip Mall'

By Tom Murphy

If you thought the great debate over the Gualala Streetscape ended with the raucous Town Hall last October, think again. Not surprisingly, the 64-foot-wide highway concept that surfaced in that meeting doesn't fit very well into the 60-foot right-of-way. Now Caltrans is again seeking community input on what to do.

The answer to that question will define Gualala for the next half-century as either an idyllic nature-loving community for visitors and residents or what Cypress Village HOA President Will Merget called "a sterile San Jose strip mall." While an earlier plan featured native landscaping alongside three traffic lanes, the newer concept is a barren four-lane plaza of asphalt and concrete stretching from businesses on the east to those on the west.

For the 17 years before last summer, the choice was obvious. It is spelled out in the black letter law of the Gualala Town Plan. The Plan, part of the Mendocino County building code, was developed from input from hundreds of people over a 12-year period before it was finally adopted in 2002 by the Board of Supervisors and the California Coastal Commission.

Despite its age, the document reads like it was written last week by environmentalists discussing global warming. While Sea Ranchers pride themselves for "living lightly on the land," the Town Plan mandates similar standards for Gualala. The primary stated goal of the plan is "to preserve and enhance the rural, coastal character of the town of Gualala, to better integrate future development with the natural surroundings, to protect and restore coast views, and to improve public access to the coast."

By that measure alone, it's easy to understand why many Gualalans fume at a highway proposal that would replace the current 22-foot blacktop roadway with a plaza nearly three times that width for six-tenths of a mile from Old State Highway to Ocean Drive.

Ironically, many environmentally minded residents helped to generate the mall concept in the mistaken belief that the earlier approach would immediately eliminate highway parking near the Surf Market. As we'll explain later, it wouldn't. But unless those people revise their comments now, their earlier positions will help pave over downtown Gualala.

The obvious compromise would be to drop one of the two lanes of parking added during last fall's Town Hall. That would shrink the project's width and restore other elements of the Town Plan, including the landscap-

ing. It would also allow delivery trucks and motorhomes to pull over. Any other solution would require enormous retaining walls or eliminate more Town Plan requirements.



A Long Road

The 2002 Town Plan stated it "shall be required to help make Highway 1 a scenic element of the Gualala townscape" while enhancing safety, decreasing congestion, and encouraging people to walk around. It required native landscaping along a meandering sidewalk on both sides, a separated bike lane that is safe for anyone, one travel lane in each direction, and a center turn lane for safer access to 18 driveways along the road.

It also called for elimination of the roughly four-dozen parking spaces on the highway. Only about a dozen spaces near the Surf Market get much use now; people rarely

Gualala's appearance is critical to the future of eco-tourism in Mendocino County. We can't let it look like a truck stop.'

Una Wirkebau, Move2030

park on the northern two-thirds of the road. Most cars and RVs park in the 600-plus off-highway spaces that are closer to businesses. And approximately 400 additional public and private spaces are likely to be added off-highway in the foreseeable future.

In 2005, the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), which "owns" the project, scaled back the right of way to 60 feet from 80 because of physical obstacles like "existing development," which was allowed in the Town Plan.

In 2007, John Bower, who owns much of the land along and under the highway, started sketching plans to renovate the Surf Center and add about 90 parking spaces for the Surf Market. In 2013, Surf owner Steve May reached agreement with MCOG on an Interim Constrained Plan (ICP) that guaranteed his customers could park along the highway until Bower finished the project.

In 2018, Caltrans held a Town Hall in which residents affirmed the Town Plan's vision, and Caltrans released two versions of the design in June 2019. The Gualala Municipal Advisory Council soon backed the

version more favorable to the Surf.

Then all hell broke loose. May warned he might have to close the much-loved Surf if he lost taxpayer-provided highway parking, but he didn't mention the ICP. Surf customers dutifully wrote comments to Caltrans and signed Surf petitions, though most probably never knew about the ICP.

Hoping to avoid division, GMAC proposed a compromise based on the ICP that allowed the entire Surf Center to continue using highway parking in the interim while Bower completed his project. GMAC also conducted a survey, finding 89% of area residents still supported the Town Plan concept when they understood there was guaranteed parking for the Surf.

Bower and May rejected GMAC's proposal. Bower said he'd rather negotiate with Caltrans, and May publicly expressed doubt Bower would ever complete the work.

Community Leaders

Several other business and civic leaders have publicly supported the Town Plan's vision, including Gualala Hotel owner Jim Pedersen; Breakers Hotel and Vue restaurant owner David Shahriari; and MendoVine owner Ron Das. Chamber of Commerce Chair Robert Juengling, a long-time realtor on Highway 1 who also chairs GMAC, also supports the Town Plan's goals.

Critics of the mall concept worry it will cause irreparable harm to hotels, restaurants, and retail stores in Gualala and beyond. "Gualala's appearance is critical to the future of eco-tourism in Mendocino County. We can't let it look like a truck stop. We need a sense of nature and beauty from Gualala to

Westport," said Una Wirkebau, who leads Move2030, a county program focused on economic resiliency.

The shopping mall approach also draws flak from environmental circles. "Gualala will be the first town you come to in Mendocino County. To have it look simply like a commercial space would be a shame," Charles Ivor, president, Friends of Gualala River, said during a June meeting of the GMAC Housing & Economic Development Committee (HED).

In a series of four round-table discussions, business representatives attending HED meetings agreed by broad consensus that Caltrans should "follow the Town Plan" to enhance the town's aesthetics.

Is this plan even permitted under the Town Plan? Caltrans Project Manager Frank Demling said last year he was told by Chief Planner Julia Acker that there was enough "wiggle room" in the Town Plan to allow changes. However, Acker told me last month she had only a brief conversation about the turn lane and neither saw nor heard any details.

"I have not given any formal approval or authorization to any sort of design at this point," Acker said. "I want to make sure they're not running carte blanche with a conversation when I did not sign off on a final plan or anything."

Ultimately, the decision may rest on what the community says. If you'd like to comment, you can send an email to Bonnie Kuhn@DOT.CA.GOV.

Tom Murphy is Vice Chair of the Gualala Municipal Advisory Committee. He chairs GMAC's Committee on Housing & Economic Development and sits with Juengling on GMAC's Streetscape Committee. He lives in downtown Gualala. He can be reached at GMAC95445@gmail.com.

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Get Out! August 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.

- Saturday 01: **On Demand** film, "Rebuilding Paradise". Streaming at ArenaTheater.org. 1
- Saturday 01: 10:00am, **Virtual** Naturalist Cruise to the Farallon Islands. Link at farallon.org.
- Saturday 01: 11:00am, Chieffo/Cassady Exhibit Opening at Dolphin Gallery (until 7pm).
- Saturday 01: 12:00pm, Coast Hwy Art Collective. Luster/Caperton. Opening reception.
- Saturday 01: 7:00pm, S. F. Mime Troupe on KTDE. "Fear of the Dark: Good Cop". 2
- Sunday 02: **On Demand** film, "The Fight". Streaming at ArenaTheater.org.***
- Sunday 02: 11:00am, **Virtual** Naturalist Cruise to the Farallon Islands. Link at farallon.org.
- Monday 03: 10:00am, Pt. Arena Light Station Opened to visitors. (Open daily).
- Wednesday 05: 10:00am, Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens. See what's in bloom. (Wed-Sun).
- Wednesday 05: 7:00pm, S. F. Mime Troupe on KTDE. "Fear of the Dark: Good Cop". 2
- Friday 07: **On Demand** film, "Out Stealing Horses". Streaming at ArenaTheater.org. 1
- Thursday 13: 2:00pm, Art in the Redwoods Boxed Hat Dinner at Gualala Arts. (until 4:00pm).
- Friday 14: 6:00pm, Art In The Redwoods, **Virtual** Judges Awards. Link at GualalaArts.org.
- Saturday 15: All Day: Art In The Redwoods — View all day **Online** at GualalaArts.org. 2
- Saturday 15: 7:00pm, S.F.Mime Troupe on KTDE. "Dimension 2020: It Came From R&D". 2
- Sunday 16: All Day: Art In The Redwoods — View all day **Online** at GualalaArts.org. 2
- Sunday 16: MET Stars Live in Concert, Alagna/Kurzak. **Streaming** at ArenaTheater.org. 4
- Sunday 17: Applications Due: Greater Farallones NMS (info on page 9).
- Wednesday 19: 7:00pm, S.F.Mime Troupe on KTDE. "Dimension 2020: It Came From R&D". 2
- Thursday 20: 7:00pm, **Virtual** 3rd Thur. Poetry. Cassandra Dallett. Link at cassandradallett.me
- Saturday 29: MET Stars Live in Concert, Lise Davidsen. **Streaming** at ArenaTheater.org. 4
- Saturday 29: 7:00pm, S. F. Mime Troupe on KTDE. "Jade For Hire". 2

Looking ahead to September

- Wednesday 02: 7:00pm, S. F. Mime Troupe on KTDE. "Jade For Hire". 2

1. Note: Streaming of Arena Theater films is available for two weeks. Fees are shared with Arena Theater. Details are on page 4. Links are at ArenaTheater.org.

2. Note: SFMT episodes are broadcast Saturday and repeated the following Wednesday.

3. Note: All entries in 2020 Art in the Redwoods are available for viewing online continuously through August 30.

4. Note: MET performances are \$20. 100% of the proceeds go to MET. Consider a donation to Arena Theater too. Links are at ArenaTheater.org.

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