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December 2019



# Lighthouse Peddler

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

## **Kitka!** **“Wintersongs”** **Concert** **At Gualala Arts.** **December 21**



Kitka makes a return visit to the Mendocino Coast for a December concert at Gualala Arts. “Wintersongs”, Kitka’s cherished and wildly popular December concert tradition, showcases seasonal music from a wide variety of Eastern European and Eurasian lands, as well as original new works inspired by midwinter mysteries. The concert is Saturday, December 21, 7:00pm. Advance tickets are \$25 (\$30 at the door) and are available at Gualala Arts, Dolphin Gallery, and online at BrownPaperTickets.

“Wintersongs-Weathering The Storm”—is Kitka’s artistic response to urgent environmental concerns that impact us all, and the concert will

feature songs that invoke the powers of the elements in wintertime: blustering winds, storms, avalanches, snow, ice, and floods. Kitka will also sing rain-calling songs as an offering to California landscapes recently consumed by wildfires. The program will be balanced with ritual songs created to bring light, warmth, hope, and good fortune to communities who, generation after generation, have bonded together to survive the ravages of wintertime.

This American women’s vocal arts ensemble was inspired by traditional songs and . . .

*cont’d on page 8*

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## Holidays Come To The Coast Highway Art Collective New Show Opens December 5

Holiday shopping can seem overwhelming, but if you're looking for a one-of-kind, hand crafted and locally made gift, forget online shopping and stop by the CHAC's holiday gift show. The show opens on Thursday, December 5 during the gallery's regular hours, 11:00am to 4:00pm.

On Saturday, December 14, the collective will host an opening reception from 3:00pm to 7:00pm, featuring food, drink, live music and all that art. The evening coincides with the Point

Arena Merchant's Association's Hometown Holidays, when many of the businesses stay open late and create a magical holiday event.

The members of the collective have been creating very special items for this event, including many handcrafted ornaments for the Christmas Tree. They will be displayed in the center of the gallery on the holiday tree.

The opening reception will feature four guest artists, who will exhibit all month. Colette Coad, art glass; Teresa VanHat-

ten-Granath (aka The Bag Lady), glass artist and handmade fabric gift bags; Gretchen Barton, ceramics and Scott Sewell, photography. There is also a one-day pop-up event scheduled from 2:00pm to 7:00pm during the opening reception, featuring the jewelry of Cha Cha Chic Boutique, Charmaine Burrell, entrepreneur.

The collective is home to 24 artisans working in many different mediums. **Painting:** Andrea Allen, Chinese brush painting; Michael Conner, painting; Chris Grassano, oil painting; Arna Means (deceased), oil painting, monotype prints; Jack O'Rourke, watercolor. **Ceramics:** Bea Acosta, ceramics and pine needle baskets; Brenda Phillips, ceramics. **Textiles:** Barbara Fast, felting, basket making and more; Madeline Kibbe, silk, mixed media and sculpture. **Photography:** Rozann Grunig, photography and greeting cards; Geraldine LiaBraaten, photography; Andrea Dana Polk, photography. **Wood:** Bill and Sue Halderman, birdhouses; Louise

and Charles Ross, wood; Vicky and John Llewellyn Stickney, wood; Barry Seme-gran, wood. **Metal:** Kristen Hoard, metal sculpture. **Jewelry and glass:** Debbe D. Hull, glass jewelry beads and more; Jim Hayes, magnets; Ling-Yen Jones, jewelry; Kathryn



Weiss, lampwork glass and jewelry. **Mixed media:** Paula J. Haymond, mixed media sculpture.

Music for the opening reception will be provided by Bards of a Feather, the musical duo of Sharon and Jim

Lieberman. They play acoustic guitar, mandolin, tambourine and fiddle and specialize in old blues tunes from the 1920s to folk tunes from the 60's and 70's. Their repertoire includes music they learned on the streets of Mexico when they lived there in the 1970s, as well as works from some French songwriters the couple fell in love with. Sharon says "We look for songs that have great melodies and lyrics. Spare me the repetition! If the same thing gets said more than twice

in a song, it goes in the garbage." It should make for a memorable evening!

The members of the collective will also be showing their wide range of artistic skills at the White Cap Café in Anchor Bay from December 3-29. All works will be available for purchase.

In January, the Coast Highway Art Collective will close for its annual cleaning, painting and general refresh between January 6-19. The next opening reception will be on Saturday, February 1, 2020, featuring the sculpture and wood workings of John Stickney.

The Coast Highway Art Collective is located at 284 Main Street, Point Arena, the little red building with the big yellow sun, located next to the Redwood Coast Credit Union. Regular hours are Thursday through Sunday, 11:00am to 4:00pm. Visit the website at [www.coast-highway-artists.com](http://www.coast-highway-artists.com) for information about the collective's artists, upcoming events and how to join.

## Great Art on Screen At Arena Theater December 1 "Tintoretto: A Rebel in Venice"

The Arena Theater's series, Great Art on Screen, brings us "Tintoretto: A Rebel in Venice," on Sunday, December 1, at 1:00pm, with doors opening at 12:30pm.

Filmmaker Giuseppe Domingo Romano celebrates the life and works of Italian Renaissance painter Tintoretto, immersing audiences in the life of the last great artist of the Italian Renaissance. With the narrative



voice of two-time Academy Award nominee Helena Bonham Carter, cinema audiences visit places that evoke and preserve the memory of the painter, including the State Archives, the Doge's Palace, St. Mark's Square, the Church of San Rocco, and more, all in celebration of the 500th anniversary of Tintoretto's birth.

The film has a runtime of 90 minutes and is underwritten by the North Coast Artists' Guild. Tickets are \$15, available at the door or online at [arenatheater.org](http://arenatheater.org). The series continues in February with "Gauguin in Tahiti".

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Jiddu Krishnamurti (1895-1986)

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*Cover image of Kitka by Tomas Pacha*

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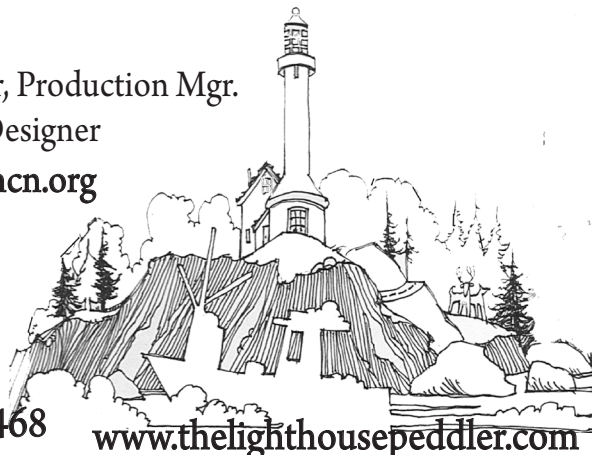
Dolly Steffen: Publisher, Production Mgr.  
David Steffen: Editor, Designer  
[lighthousepeddler@mcn.org](mailto:lighthousepeddler@mcn.org)


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Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

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### Arena Theater Film Club Tampopo • December 2 What They Had • December 9

We have come to expect that the Arena Theater Film Club will continue to find terrific films for Monday evening pleasures. This month they've done it again.

The first film is Tampopo, screening Monday, December 2 at 7:00pm at Arena Theater. Here's the plot: "Two Japanese milk-truck drivers (Tutomu Yamazaki, Ken Watanabe) help a restaurant owner (Nobuko Miyamoto) learn how to cook great noodles.

The tale of an eccentric band of culinary ronin who guide the widow of a noodle-shop owner on her quest for the perfect recipe, this rapturous "ramen western" is an entertaining, genre-bending adventure underpinned by a deft satire of the way social conventions distort the most natural of human urges—our appetites.

Interspersing the efforts of Tampopo (Nobuko Miyamoto) and friends to make her café a success with the erotic exploits of a gastronome gangster and glimpses of food culture both high and low, the sweet, sexy, and surreal Tampopo is a lavishly inclusive paean to the sensual joys of nourishment, and one of the most mouthwatering examples of food on film ever made.

It's been described as, well, indescribable. Once you've seen it you'll understand why some people won't describe it to their friends



but go and see it. One reviewer offered this: "Just say it's Monty Python meets The Good the Bad and the Ugly in Japanese. Random and hilarious, and with some expected misfires, this is a funny satire on Japanese culture that's worth the watch.

Join in the fun. The film was directed by Juzo Itami, is not rated, and has a running time of 114 minutes.

The second film could be introduced as, "now for something completely different". When talking about the film "What They Had", the Roger Ebert review is a good place to start. "There's an inherent longing in Elizabeth Chomko's stunning feature debut. The story will reveal that the phrase refers to the kind of undying love of a man for his wife, even as her memory of their life together cruelly slips away from her because of disease. What they had is not what any of their children have had, both of whom are struggling

### A Winter's Evening of Music with Wind In The Wires A Solstice Concert at Gualalala Arts • December 22

Throughout history, people of the northern hemisphere have celebrated the Winter Solstice as a profound turning point in Earth's journey around the Sun: the moment when light is renewed within a period of deep darkness, of natural quiet, of openness to the night sky. One way to celebrate

the moment of the Solstice is with music. Gualala Arts and Local Eyes present A Winter's Evening of Music with Wind In The Wires, Sunday, December 22 at 4:00pm. Tickets are \$15 advance (\$20 on the day of the concert) and are available at Gualala Arts, Dolphin Gallery, and at Brown Paper Tickets.

This concert presents an opportunity to deepen our experience of this transitional moment and celebrate the Sun's immanent return. The music will be created by three outstanding musicians. Wind in the Wires is: Karl Young, shakuhachi; Janet Debar, didgeridoo and spoken word; Chris Doering, 7 string guitar and gizmos.

The trio's music is grounded in the didgeridoo, developed by Australian aboriginal people about 1500 years ago. Improvised elaborations on the drone draw on traditional forms from Japan, India and Europe as well as modern jazz. The concert will express seasonal themes with the sounds of

wind blowing through bamboo and of nylon strings vibrating in imaginal spaces, as well as poetic verses that speak to the time of this. We hope to surprise everyone, including ourselves.

Young added, "The shakuhachi embraces a different concept that encompasses a



much broader range of timbral characteristics, which opens up greater expressive possibilities for the player who can assert some degree of control over them. Coming from a background in western music, I find improvisation with melodic and harmonic structures important, and the seven-string guitar as the third element of the ensemble perfectly fulfills that mixture, while adding intriguing sonic texture of

its own. So there's lots of sonic character available from these three instruments." And Debar's deeply moving poetry adds an extra-musical dimension that provides an even larger canvas for Wind in the Wires performances

(Note: although Winter officially begins on Saturday December 21 at 8:19 PM, Sunday will be just as short, with 9 hours, 27 minutes and 5 seconds of daylight. The sun will rise at 7:28am and set at 4:56pm, near the midpoint of this concert.

with connection and happiness in various ways. But what they had is also a reference to the old couple's time together—the priceless moments they shared between dates, marriage and children—now coming to an end with memory loss. It was once a deep and vibrant love that has moved into the past tense."

Obviously this is about the debate within a family, as in what to do.

After her ailing mother, with already-diagnosed Alzheimer's, wanders off during a blizzard, Bridget (Hillary Swank) returns to her childhood home in Chicago, accompanied by her rebellious daughter. Forced to referee between her father's stubborn insistence that his wife remain at home and her equally determined brother's efforts to place her in a

"memory care" facility, Bridget struggles to make sense of a lifetime of family conflict. With her mother's decline becoming increasingly obvious, long-simmering resentments



bubble to the surface.

Probably as important as anything else, a well-made film

on this topic helps people consider the possibility and prompt conversations before they questions actually arrive. One way or another, many of us will have to deal with this or a comparable issue. Why not see a wonderfully-crafted film to help start a conversation? What They Had has a runtime of 109 minutes and is rated R for language and a brief sexual reference. The film also stars Michael Shannon and Robert Forster.



**Jazz Saxophonist Goes Visual**  
**"Collage du Jazz:**  
**Living in the Land of Imagination"**  
**New Exhibit Opens December 6 at**  
**Think Visual Gallery •Pt. Arena**

What do jazz musicians and visual artists have in common? Apparently quite a bit, at least that's the opinion of Gualala-based saxophonist, Harrison Goldberg, whose solo multimedia art exhibit, "Collage du Jazz: Living in the Land of Imagination" opens with a reception at Think Visual Gallery, Point Arena, Friday, December 6, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm. The show will run through Monday, January 6, 2020.

Though the means for transmitting personal expression are obviously and radically different—a saxophone versus pen, paper, paints and ink, Goldberg, a self-taught visual artist, finds a shared vocabulary and artistic process in improvising jazz music and creating and fabricating visual art.

"As one who easily transitions from the world of a performing jazz musician to that of a visual artist, my work shares a common creative language featuring improvisational free play, color, tone, tempo, rhythm, dynamics, articulation, phrasing, space, shapes and forms, motifs and storytelling."



A Massachusetts-bred city boy, Goldberg acknowledges yet another strong influence on his work: a lifelong fascination with urban graffiti.

"The ubiquitous detritus of peeling paint on doors and walls, fading torn advertisements on wooden store fronts, and especially the remarkable shapes and patterns that seem to magically emerge on sidewalks and roads—all of these, too, contribute to form a chorus of generous artistic images."

Goldberg is no less enthusiastic for creating visual art than playing the saxophone and concludes: "I am grateful to be plumbing the depths of my artistic creativity, and now invite and welcome you to come and see the new works." Think Visual Gallery is at 240 Main Street, Point Arena, CA, 95468. (707) 882-4042.

**Hometown Holidays Returns to Point Arena December 14**  
**From The Cove, To Main Street, To The Lighthouse**

Point Arena will ring with festivities up and down Main Street and at Arena Cove for our annual Hometown Holidays. On Saturday December 14th come to town with the family and enjoy local shopping, seasonal treats and activities, or perhaps watch friends or family shake a leg: Starting at noon Gualala Dance Studio will present A Winter Forest Tale at Arena Theater. Then take the kids a few doors down to Action Network for family holiday activities



including cookie decorating and ornament making from 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Santa will arrive with a Ho! Ho! Ho! a kindly smile, and open ears starting at 3:00pm.

Shop local in our lovely, little town where many of our cozy shops and galleries will feature special events and holiday sales. There will be an Arts and Crafts Market at 250 Main St next door to the post office, and from up the street at Coast Highway Art Collective to Lisa's Luscious down by the bridge, to Arena Cove, stores will have holiday sales, special events and holiday treats. Carolers will gather at Centennial Plaza at 5 and lift their voices in harmony to bring the joys of the season to our hearts and a flood of fond memories of holidays past. Once again the Point Arena Merchants Association sponsors this magical, festive, town-wide event.

At the Arts and Crafts Market at you will find North Coast Brine's printed clothing as well as hand sewn clothing by Kinara made from handwoven, ikat dyed Ecuadorian fabric. There will be a variety of jewelry, small gifts, local artisan made lotions, potions, and soaps, succulents, ceramic bowls by Justin York, and greeting cards by Eric Wilder. Hand sewn bags and various knitted items

will also be available. You can even munch a tasty treat from the PAHS sophomore class bake sale.

Coast Highway Art Collective's Holiday Gift Show features handmade ornaments and artwork by members. Open from 11 they will host a reception for guest artists Photographer Scott Sewell and Ceramic mushroom artist Gretchen Barton from 3 to 7 with food, drink and live music by Bard of a Feather, and Jim and Sharon Lieberman.

Roots Herbal Apothecary will have 15% storewide savings on creative holiday gifts, necessities and more with hot tea and treats throughout the day. The Zen House will participate from 2 to 5 with a storewide sale and complimentary refreshments. The sale at The Green Room will be 10% off everything, plus 25% off Green Room branded gear. Lisa's Luscious will stay open late with hot spiced chai.

Out at the Point Arena Lighthouse there will be a holiday sale in the Gift Store along with hot cider and cookies. Free Tower Tours for children ages 5 - 11.

Down at the cove by showing a sales receipt from any Point Arena shop or vendor that is dated December 14th for a 10% discount for food or drink at the Chowder House. Cove Coffee will have a sale on merchandise including totes and clothing.

Come to town for the merriment of holiday spirit, local shopping and the smiling faces of friends and neighbors on Saturday, December 14th from 12:00pm to 7:00pm. Stay for the movie at 7:00pm if you like, but either way come enjoy the bustling energy of our Hometown Holidays!

*Credit: Red Bow Image from B\_kowsky from Pixabay*

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**Exhibit continues thru Jan. 5**

**Dolphin Gallery**  
**Paul Brewer: Photography**  
**Exhibit Continues Thru Jan. 5**

**"Holiday Concert for the Coast"**  
**The Ernest Bloch**  
**Bell Ringers & Friends**  
**Saturday, Dec. 14, 3 pm**

**Coastal Singers in Concert**  
**"Christmas Comes**  
**But Once A Year"**  
**Sunday, Dec. 15, 4 pm**

**Kitka in Concert**  
**"Wintersongs:**  
**Weathering The Storm"**  
**Saturday, Dec. 21, 7 pm**

**"A Winter's Evening"**  
**A Concert with Wind in the Wires**  
**Sunday, Dec. 22, 4 pm**

**"Festival of**  
**Nine Lessons and Carols"**  
**A Community Event**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24, 5 pm**

**A Celebration of Christine Bussard**  
**Sunday, Dec. 1, 1 pm - 4 pm**

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 Pablo Picasso (1881-1973)

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**Solution to Crossword:**



Full Moon



December 12

New Moon



December 26

### Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker with the Bolshoi Ballet

#### Bolshoi Ballet in Cinema at Arena Theater • December 22

The holiday classic returns to Arena Theater: The Bolshoi Ballet and Tschaikovsky's Nutcracker. The performance was captured live on stage last year at the Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow, and Arena Theater will screen the event on Sunday, December 22 at 2:00pm, with doors opening at 1:30pm. Tickets are \$18 general and \$5 youth (17 and under), and are available at the box office and online at [www.arenatheater.org](http://www.arenatheater.org).

The performance marks the opening of the Bolshoi Ballet in Cinema series 2019-20 season at Arena Theater.

Showcasing the world-renowned Bolshoi Ballet choreographed by ballet master Yuri Grigorovich, and featuring Tchaikovsky's iconic music, "The Nutcracker," based on a fairytale by E.T.A Hoffmann explores the universal themes of love, power and evil.

"This choreographic version with its enchanting sets and costumes is full of romanticism and philosophical reflections on ideal love. . . Masterfully interpreted by the Bolshoi dancers, it will captivate the whole family for the festive season, proving that one is never too young or too old to be swept away by the Nutcracker."

One of the great classics, the Nutcracker tells the story of Clara, a young girl who is given a nutcracker doll for Christmas. After the toy is broken by her brother, Clara cares for the wounded nutcracker, which later comes to life and saves her from the evil Mouse King. The nutcracker, now transformed into a heroic prince, journeys with Clara to an enchanted island where celebrations, hosted by the Sugar Plum Fairy, are held in their honor. Sponsored by Claudette Dunn-Rainier and John & Christine



Wall and underwritten by Gary Klein and Steve & Carol Chell, the ballet has a runtime of 140 minutes including one intermission.

The Bolshoi in Cinema series will continue at Arena Theater with "Raymonda" on January 22, followed by "Giselle" on March 22, "Swan Lake" on April 26, and conclude with "Jewels" on May 31. All screenings are on Sundays at 2 p.m. and each production includes behind-the-scenes programming and interviews with the cast and creative teams. More series information is available at [www.arenatheater.org](http://www.arenatheater.org).

### 42nd Street —The Musical A Special Telecast Feature

Saturday, December 7

At Arena Theater

One of Broadway's most classic and beloved tales, "42nd Street," comes to cinema screens in the largest-ever production of the breathtaking musical. This special telecast is Saturday, December 7, 1:00pm; doors open at 12:30pm. Tickets for "42nd Street—The Musical" are \$18, \$5 youth (18 and under), and are available online at the door and at [www.arenatheater.org](http://www.arenatheater.org).

The musical, set in 1933, tells the story of Peggy Sawyer, a talented young performer with stars in her eyes who gets her big break on Broadway. Peggy arrives to New York City from her hometown of Allentown, Pennsylvania and her talent catches the eye of legendary Broadway director Julian Marsh. She gets a spot in the chorus of the musical-within-the-musical, Pretty Lady. Dorothy Brock, the classic Broadway diva and star of the show, takes a dislike to the new girl. When Dorothy is injured, Pretty Lady looks like it will have to close, unless a new girl talented enough to lead the show can be found — someone like Peggy Sawyer!

Filed in 2018 at London's Theatre Royal the production is directed by the original author of the show, Mark Bramble. This eye-watering extravaganza is full of crowd-pleasing tap dances, popular musical theatre standards ("Lullaby of Broadway", "We're in the Money (the gold digger's song)", "42nd Street" and more), plus show-stopping ensemble numbers.

<<<<< (Image from 42nd Street—The Musical)

The musical has a runtime of 155 minutes, including one 10 minute intermission. Arena Theater is at 214 Main Street (Highway 1) in Point Arena, CA. 95445. Information is at (707) 882-3272.



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Coastal Singers Concert  
"Christmas Comes  
But Once A Year

December 15 at Gualala Arts

Local Eyes and the Global Harmony Series present the Coastal Singers for a holiday concert, Sunday, December 15, 4:00pm in Coleman Hall. Tickets are \$15 in advance, plus \$5 when purchased the day of. Youth 7-17 are free with adult.

The Coastal Singers, under the direction of Sue Bohlin, present "Christmas Comes But Once a Year". Some snacks along with tea, coffee, and hot chocolate will be served.

The concert will introduce a few new pieces to our coastal audience including "Sure on This Shining Night" by the American composer, Morten Lauridsen, "Breath



of Heaven" by Amy Grant, "Our House" by Graham Nash and "Little Birch Tree", arr. by Sue Bohlin.. As in the past, a variety of musical styles will be performed to appeal to the multi-dimensional tastes of our audience; among them, Irving Berlin's "Steppin' Out with My Baby" and the rollicking Irish piece that provides the title of the concert, as well as the theme song from the movie Avatar.

For information and tickets, please call 884-1138 or visit Gualala Arts, Dolphin Gallery or at BrownPaperTickets.

Mendocino Coast Audubon Presents:  
Winter Birds of the Mendocino Coast • In Gualala and Caspar

Two meetings are scheduled this month by the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society, and both are focused on Winter Birds of the Mendocino Coast.

The two meetings, hosted by David Jenwsen and Tim Bray, are Monday, December 9 at 7:00pm at the Gualala Community Center and Monday, December 16 at 7:00pm at the Caspar Community Center.

Our mild winters and varied habitats mean we get to enjoy a wide variety of birds all winter long. Some of them are familiar and obvious, others are furtive and tricky to identify. David and Tim will present a visual and audio guide to some of the birds they want you to find during the Christmas Bird Counts, focusing on those that can be difficult to distinguish or are easily missed. Learn to identify those mysterious sounds in the tree-tops, how to quickly distinguish which "little brown job" is hopping through the bushes, or what to look for when a raptor flies past you.



Photo by Becky Bowen



Red-tailed Hawk, by Ron LeValley



Song Sparrow, by Ron LeValley

This is always a fun and informative presentation that helps us all get ready for the Count season. This year we will offer a special program in Gualala to highlight the

Manchester Circle, Mendocino County's original Christmas Bird Count. This year will be the 45th survey, and David will share some of the population trends that have occurred in that area since the count began

in 1976. Please join us for either of these programs. Even if you don't participate in the Counts, you are sure to learn something that will help you enjoy the birds around us.

There are three Christmas Bird Counts in the area, December 29 in Fort Bragg, January 4 in the Manchester Area and January 11 at the Sea Ranch. This talk is for everyone from beginners to long time bird watchers.

Want To Vote? Need To Register? Need More Information?  
Stop By Voter Registration • December 7 and 21

Voter registration at Pay n' Take is set for the Gualala Community Center on Saturday, December 7 and Saturday December 21 from 8:30am to 11:30am.

The California Primary Election is just three months away, and the General Election is less than a year away! Let's get ready to vote! If you're already registered bring a friend or family member who is not yet registered and get them ready to vote. After all, voting is a sacred right and the foundation of our democracy. Your vote is your voice!

You may register to vote if you are a U.S. Citizen, a California Resident, and will turn 18 years old by the California Presidential Primary Election—scheduled for March 3, 2020—or by the General Election on November 3, 2020. You may also preregister if you are at least 16 years old; your registration will become active once you become 18.

Please bring your California Driver License, or your California ID card, and *the*

*last four numbers* of your Social Security number. Please note: Voter Registration forms are in English and in Spanish.

You must re-register if you have moved, changed your name, or want to change your political party preference.

Elections are a critical element of our democracy. Casting a ballot can change the course of our nation, our state, and the communities we live in. Your vote helps elect presidents, our representatives in Congress, our state legislature, city council members, judges, and many others whose decisions have a direct impact on our daily lives. By registering to vote and casting a ballot on Election Day, you have the power to strengthen our democracy.

Check your voter registration status at [voterstatus.sos.ca.gov](http://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov) or call your county elections office: Mendocino: 707-234-6819, Sonoma: 707-565-6800. Register at [www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov](http://www.RegisterToVote.ca.gov); [Vote411.org](http://Vote411.org), [www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov](http://www.voterguide.sos.ca.gov).



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### Festival of Lights Continues at Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens in Ft. Bragg

Each winter the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens transforms into a spectacular show of glittering color. The 10th annual Festival of Lights continues in December on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday evening from now through December 22. Adult tickets are just \$10 and children age 16 and under attend for free thanks to the funds raised by our spectacular annual benefit, the Festival of Lights Gala.

All proceeds from this fundraiser event help to support this community event and the Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens.

Tickets for Festival of Lights can be used for any day of the event and do not sell out for any date. This year they will have dedicated Will Call entrances at the main entrance and at the south end of the main parking lot. This way, if you pre-purchase tickets you can get into the Festival of Lights using any entrance! Live music will be in the air most nights.

Avoid the parking lot hustle and bustle... The FREE parking shuttle will be available each night of the Festival of Lights. The shuttle will pick up from the Mendocino Community College parking lot at 1211 Del Mar Dr, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 beginning at 4:45 PM and take you directly to the Gardens' entrance. The last shuttle pick-up from the College parking lot will be at 6:45 PM.

### Cold Moon Night Tour at Point Arena Lighthouse Tour Set For Deember 11.

The Point Arena Lighthouse continues its popular Full Moon Night Tours with a Full Cold Moon Night Tour on Wednesday, December 11. Gates open 5:00pm; tour starts around 5:30pm.

The evening will feature a special presentation about the Light Station's history and technology, sweet and savory snacks accompanied by champagne or sparkling juice, capped off by a guided "Climb to the Top" tour of the tallest lighthouse on the West Coast under the rising full moon – if the weather cooperates, of course! An etched Point Arena Lighthouse souvenir champagne flute is included in the price of admission for each participant, which is \$30 per person or \$25 per person for two or more. The tour is limited to 20 guests, so reservations are recommended in advance of the tour. While the tour is scheduled to coordinate with the full moon, weather conditions may preclude lunar visibility. The tours are conducted regardless of weather conditions, unless the Lighthouse Staff deems them to potentially cause safety issues for the guests. In the event the tour is cancelled, guests will receive a full refund. The Lighthouse is located at 45500 Lighthouse Road in Point Arena.



Hermann Schmider from Pixabay

December's Full Moon is known as the

Cold Moon or Long Nights Moon and is distinctive for its high trajectory across the sky, causing it to sit above the horizon for a longer period of time. During this month the winter cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest. It is also sometimes called the Moon before Yule.

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac full moon names were used by early Colonial Americans who learned the names from the local Native Americans. Indigenous people did not record time by using the months of the Julian or Gregorian calendar. Many tribes kept track of time by observing the seasons and lunar months, although there was much variability.

"Our Full Moon Night Tours often sell out well in advance, and guests always marvel at the moon rising over the hills east of Manchester or Point Arena just as we arrive at the top of the Lighthouse Tower," says Mark Hancock, Pt. Arena Lighthouse Executive Director. "Don't miss out on this unique coastal experience, make reservations early!"

The Lighthouse offers Full Moon and (almost) Full Moon Night Tours throughout the year, see their website PointArenaLighthouse.com for details. Information and reservations are the Lighthouse at 707-882-2809, ext. 1. Call at least 3 days prior to tour.

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Victor Hugo (1802-1885)

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### A Celebration of the Life of Christine Bussard is Set for Gualala Arts December 1

A celebration and remembrance of the life of Christine Bussard is scheduled for Sunday, December 1, from 1:00pm to 4:00pm at Gualala Arts.

Christine Marie Odenweller Bussard of Gualala, California died unexpectedly on Monday, September 16, 2019. She was surrounded by friends and family.

She was born August 31, 1951 in Fairfield, California. She was a professional florist and event planner for 48 years. Christine was known and loved through her work on behalf of numerous organizations on the south coast. Join members of her family, friends and community at Gualala Arts Center, Sunday, December 1.



### KITKA, continued from cover story

... vocal techniques from Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Founded in 1979 as an offshoot of the Westwind International Folk Ensemble, the group has evolved into an award-winning professional touring ensemble known for its artistry, versatility, and mastery of the demanding techniques of regional vocal styling, as well as for its innovative explorations in new music for female voices.

The San Francisco Chronicle opined that "KITKA's songs are hauntingly beautiful, simple, yet otherworldly. The rich sound these women produce resonates as if energized by the universe itself, as if it were calling all live beings and still matter into togetherness and unity."

Experience an evening of music with Kitka. Their voices ripple and pulse like a beacon. Their concert performances offer layers of texture, melody and harmony, along with a sense that they are singing for all of us.

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8	2	3	7	9	1	6	5	4
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## Words on Wellness • "Western Wild Ginger"

by Karin Uphoff

Always appearing lush and evergreen, even in the driest season, western wild ginger is often overlooked in its favorite forest floor habitat near creeks. You have to get down on your knees when you walk through the redwoods to examine the cozy housing this plant provides for little arthropods and salamanders that frequent its mulch. Wild ginger (*Asarum caudatum*) is an understory plant that offers beauty with its deeply veined heart-shaped aromatic leaves that carpet the soil. It is under these leaves that they hide their unusual, flowers. The enchantingly mysterious flowers are tiny burgundy orchid-looking gems with a brownish tinge, that bloom from April to July. The flowers smells of dead carrion to attract flies and beetles which pollinate them, as well as ants that are drawn to a fleshy appendage on its seeds that contains oil. After ants dutifully drag an entire seed back to their nest, they remove the oil to feed their young and discard the remainder of the seed, still viable, onto the soil. Large colonies of wild ginger are developed by ants and maintained by the spreading rhizomes of the plant.



The leaves smell like ginger when

crushed and their aromatic stems and roots resemble the taste of ginger as well. This plant was used by indigenous peoples, and later pioneers, for cooking, medicine and candy. The leaves can be picked and dried for hot tea and its thin roots dried or tinctured for later use. Like commercial ginger (unrelated to wild ginger), wild ginger makes you perspire, so helps drive-out fever while opening sinuses and lungs. It can also treat intestinal ailments like colic, indigestion and stomach aches and cramps. The wild ginger roots contain antimicrobial agents, active against a broad spectrum of bacteria and fungi and likely one of the reasons it was included in cooking. Pioneers used wild ginger to treat open wounds by chopping it up with plantain leaf. It also served as a poultice for inflammations of the skin. Sometimes the root tea was poured into the ear to relieve ear-ache. The heart-shaped leaf is indicative of its indigenous uses; to bring on menstruation (thus contraindicated in pregnancy) and to regulate irregular heartbeat.

'Tis the season for gingery spiced foods and drinks – a great way to stay warm and well, so use liberally!

*Image by Jan Haerer from Pixabay*

*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 about Karin at: [www.karinuphoff.com](http://www.karinuphoff.com)*

## Ruby-crowned Kinglet: "From Guatemala to California!"

The name, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, is a bit misleading since only the male wears the crown and he rarely flashes the ruby-red crest, except during courtship in the mountains. Otherwise, these tiny, four-inch birds could be considered rather drab. They have a small bill, buffy underparts, dark wings and a short, dark tail. They have two white wing-bars and large, dark eyes outlined by a white ring that is broken at the top. A most distinguishing characteristic is its nervous wing flicking.

Some Ruby-crowned Kinglets winter as far south as Guatemala, but from mid-September through May, they are commonly seen in our area, feeding in mixed flocks with chickadees, creepers, nuthatches, Golden-crowned Kinglets and warblers. These mixed flocks are called guilds. Their members feed in similar fashion, but eat different invertebrates with differently



sized bills and foraging techniques. This can be an advantage over a flock of just one species competing for the exact same food.

Kinglets can be recognized by their behavior. They often hover at the tips of branches gleaning insects such as aphids, ants, butterflies, moths, and caterpillars as well as spiders.

In spring, Ruby-crowned Kinglets move to coniferous forests in the mountains above four-thousand feet. Here the males flare their crests into flame to compete for a mate or to defend a territory. The pair makes a semi-hanging nest that is open at the top. It's made of moss, lichen and twigs. The inside is lined with soft bark and feathers.

The female lays seven to nine cream-colored eggs, spotted with brown; she incubates the eggs for about two weeks before the young are hatched.

## Animal Care & Carnivores & Omnivores"

By Cathy Sue Riehm

Rex's favorite treat is munching on a carrot. While he may need to get beta-carotene from his diet, his cat, The Texan, can actually convert vitamin A to beta-carotene. What are some differences in the needs of our cats, as carnivores, and our dogs, as omnivores?

Our kitties are obligate carnivores. A cat's natural diet is high in protein (requiring about twice as much protein as dogs), and low in carbohydrates. Historically, cats were able to get moisture in their diet from their prey. Cats have a lower stimulus for thirst than dogs. This decreased water intake causes cats to form more concentrated urine, which can make them more likely to develop crystals in their urine, and thus urinary tract infections, or even blockage. Many of our older kitties develop renal (kidney) disease- a low moisture diet can make it harder for cats to excrete phosphorous, urea and other metabolic waste by-products. Feeding canned cat food can provide more moisture in your cat's diet. Another possible effect of cats (especially seniors) not ingesting enough water is constipation. Providing fiber by adding psyllium or canned pumpkin can help regulate your kitty's GI tract. Fiber can also help kitties who have trouble with hairballs. One very important requirement of cats is taurine, an essential amino acid. Dogs are able to make



the taurine they need, but cats need to get taurine from a meat source in their diet.

Our dogs are omnivores. Dogs need to meet their amino acid requirements- more protein isn't necessarily better for dogs. Ancestors of our canines would kill an herbivore and eat the intestinal contents, along with the organs and flesh. Like us, dogs get their nutrients from meats, grains and vegetables. If provided a balanced diet, dogs can be vegetarians, but not cats. Supplementing your dog's diet with colorful vegetables can help provide carotenoids that act as provitamins and antioxidants. Some fruits that can be added to your dog's diet include apples, blueberries, cantaloupe and watermelon. Do not feed them cherries, grapes, raisins and citrus fruits. Some veggies your dog might like are carrots, green beans, peas, zucchini and sweet potato. Pumpkin

(canned or baked) is also good for your dog's GI system. Dangerous to give to your dog are onions, garlic, rhubarb, wild mushrooms, and (some say) avocado. Corn is not usually recommended to feed dogs as it is a common allergen. When it comes to water intake,

dogs usually self-regulate based on physiological need.

Ask your veterinarian and educate yourself on the particular nutritional needs of your pet. Pictured:

*(Picture: Rex, the Omnivore.)*

*Our thanks to the Mendocino Coast Audubon Society for contributing this article about the Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Each month, the Lighthouse Peddler features another bird regularly seen at or near the Mendocino Coast. More information is at [www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org](http://www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org). Photo credit: Image by University of Victoria*

"It is in the wild places, where the edge of the earth meets the corners of the sky, the human spirit is fed."

Art Wolfe (1951-)

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**Brandybuck Pottery Studio's Bizarre Bazaar**  
**The 16th Annual Craft Event Returns December 7 and 8**

Like anticipating the return of an old friend, folks on the coast look forward to Brandybuck Pottery Studio's Annual Bizarre Bazaar. And there's more than pottery at this local event. On both Saturday and Sunday, December 7 & 8, the "Bizarre Bazaar" opens to the public at 10:00am.

This year will be the 16th year of the 13th Annual Bizarre Bazaar. (More on the numbers a little later.) Brandybuck's Pottery Studio Holiday Sale "Bizarre Bazaar" has provided coast residents

the opportunity to shop local and support our gifted hometown artisans. Visitors find themselves surrounded by the work of talented locals offering original—and almost always unique—gifts to give and gifts to keep for yourself.

In some ways, all roads lead to the Bizarre Bazaar. Coastal residents know, and visitors soon learn, all of those roads are worth the travel. Enjoy the beauty of the Pacific, take in the magnificence of the trees, our simply enjoy the ride. You can take Old Stage Road from Gualala, or Eureka Hill and Ten Mile Cutoff from Point Arena, or your personal favorite route to Brandybuck. The Bizarre Bazaar is open from 10:00am to 4:00pm both days, giving you ample time to shop.

This is no one-dimensional event. Although Brandybuck Studio is a pottery studio, on this weekend the studio is transformed into a wonderland of gift displays at affordable prices. The selection of items

is unique to our Mendonoma coast. Local handmade items include jewelry by Linda Dawson, Maria Arana, Debbie Hull, clothing by Emma Hurley, culinary delights such as jams, spices, chutneys by Allan and Astrid and Lisa's Luscious, soaps by Joel Kies, magnets by Jim Hayes, mystical images by Carol Williams, Renegade Botanicals by Amy McFarland, and of course ceramics by Bea Acosta, Cyndy McPeak, Gretchen Barton, Brenda Phillips, Cindy Donovan, Justin York, Kevin Hofer, and



Kaye Like. There is always a seconds table where bargains abound.

Whet your appetite at the abundant counter of savor delights from holiday sweets to savory tidbits. Mulled hot apple cider is always a treat.

Follow the signs to the decorated fence on Ten Mile Road across from the ridge entrance to Schooner Gulch Road.

Many of the pottery artists have learned their skills from the owner and teacher of the Brandybuck Studio, Kaye Like. Kaye has been teaching on the coast for over 45 years. She appreciates her life on the coast and gives back in abundance to the local community. She is the epitome of Made Local, Shop Local and Buy Local.

Oh, and as to the question as to why is it's called the 13th Annual Bizarre Bazaar in this, the 16th year? I suggest you stop by the Bizarre Bazaar, Saturday or Sunday, December 7 or 8 and ask Bea. Or Sugar.

**Gualala Salon & Salon des Refusés**  
**The New Exhibit Opens December 6**

The annual Gualala Salon & Salon des Refusés is a juried and judged fine art exhibit showcasing outstanding visual art and artists without regard to the type of media. This year's show opens Friday, December 6 at Gualala Arts, 5:00pm-7:00pm, with comments from the Judges at 6:00pm.

The annual Salon & Salon des Refusés is the largest exhibit at Gualala Arts aside from Art in the Redwoods; it has the largest number of entries of any other open call show and fills both the Burnett Gallery and Elaine Jacob Foyer. The Salon is sponsored by generous donors; not by Gualala Arts or the North Coast Artists' Guild. Many artists save their best new art for this exhibit, as the Salon has gained much notoriety as a judged show by well-qualified people in the arts. This year's judges are Tony Sheets, a renowned Sculpture and Painter who is familiar to many in our Community, and Robert Rhoades, professor emeritus of College of the Redwoods and print/mixed media artist.

submitted into the show will be exhibited at Gualala Arts. Which artists are selected into the Salon is a tightly kept secret until the opening night.

The event is also known for its significant awards. This year's Gualala Salon Awards are: First Place \$1000., Second Place \$750., Third Place is \$500. Multiple Judges awards are also given, however how many will be handed out this year are still to be determined. The Salon des Refusés awards are decided by the public through ballots. Those awards are: First Place \$100, Second Place \$75, Third Place \$50. There is also a "Emerging Artist under 18" award of \$100.



Lauren Stanford • 2018 Winner

As per tradition, the judges decide what artwork is accepted into the Salon exhibited in the Burnett Gallery. The art not juried into the Salon by the judges is displayed in the Salon des Refusés (Rejected) located in the Elaine Jacob Foyer. Thus, all artwork

The original Salon des Refusés was an art exhibition that took place in Paris in 1863, showing works that had been rejected by the official Paris Salon conservative judges. These judges represented the French Academy and were advocates of traditional, orthodox style of painting and sculpture. In 1863, they rejected almost 3,000 pieces of work which resulted in loud protests by the artists. Emperor Napoleon III, ever sensitive to public opinion, ordered a new exhibition to be organized – dubbed the "Salon des Refusés" – in order for the public to judge the merits of the artwork themselves.

In the spirit of the original Paris Salon des Refusés, all visitors will be able to vote for the "People's Choice" awards. In fact, many artists prefer to be selected as a "reject" to receive the public's opinion!

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**Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers  
A Holiday Concert  
At Gualala Arts Center  
December 14**

The Ernest Bloch Bell Ringers will present their annual Holiday Concert for the Coast



on Saturday, December 14 at 3:00pm in the Coleman Auditorium of the Gualala Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 advance, \$5 more if purchased on the day of the concert.

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

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

Another highlight to brighten spirits will be the first-time appearance of the Gualala Dance Studio dancers. Dancers from age 4 to 12 will be dancing to a medley of tunes from the "Nutcracker Suite." The dancers will also join the bells on "Twelve Days of Christmas" with Remi Alexander leading the fun sing along, and "Jingle Bells."

Santa will be at Gualala Arts Center at 2:30pm to greet concert goers, handing out candy canes to youngsters of all ages. For further information, contact Bell Director Jeanne Jackson at 707) 884-1761.

**Photographer Paul Brewer • Dolphin Gallery Exhibit  
Award-Winning Photographer Featured through December**

This month the Dolphin Gallery in Gualala is featuring the works of Award-winning photographer Paul Brewer. Brewer's photographs have won numerous Art In The Redwoods awards, including twice being voted most popular. His most recent award was in 2019 when he received a judges first place in Color Photography award.

Brewer is a pioneer in adopting and showing Dye infused metal prints. He's been exhibiting metal prints



traordinary values starting with \$30 stocking stuffers.

This show will offer a range of sizes and



for over 8 years. For this show at the Dolphin Gallery, 100 percent of this show will feature metal prints.

Although Brewer has been a featured artist with exhibits at the Dolphin on four different occasions, this will be his first one-person show. The show has provided Brewer the opportunity to exhibit a range of sizes, frame options and prices. There will be some ex-

frame options including a couple of frames that have not seen before. The display will include both old favorites and photos that have not previously been displayed and will include several large art pieces.

Brewer plans to be available (volunteering) at the Dolphin Gallery in December on three Saturdays: December 7, 14 and 21 from 1:30pm to 5:00pm. He enjoys working with customers to provide a custom solution to meet their requirements. In addition to photo options Brewer will be there to discuss print finish (gloss or satin) print size and frame options that can significantly impact price. Turn around time is normally 7 to 10 days.

This Dolphin Gallery exhibit continues through Sunday, January 5, 2020. The Dolphin Gallery is located at 39225 Highway 1 between Red Stella and the Sundstrom Mall in downtown Gualala, and can be reached at (707) 884-3896.

"For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere. "Blessed are the merciful" in a courtroom? "Blessed are the peacemakers" in the Pentagon? Give me a break!

Kurt Vonnegut" (1922-2007)

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## My Top 12 Christmas Movies To Watch (or binge) This Month

by David Steffen

One of the things I enjoy in December is reliving Thanksgiving and Christmas memories through films. It's easy to see myself as a child having Turkey dinner with my family, dealing with crazy relatives, seeing Santa, going to church, enjoying the snow (really) and, of course, opening presents. This year I've expanded my list of favorite holiday films to include twelve films that are worth watching. Take any one or all twelve and enjoy them, preferably with someone you love.

**#12 • National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation:** Not all of the films from National Lampoon have been winners but this 1989 spinoff from the original *National Lampoon's Vacation* is a lot of fun. Chevy Chase and Beverly D'Angelo return as the Griswold parents, along with a new cast-members Juliet Lewis (Audrey) and Johnny Galecki). It's also worth watching Julia Louis-Dreyfus and Nicholas Guest—in almost cameo roles— as the way-too-hipster next door neighbors “Margo and Todd Chester”. Fond memories (or not so fond memories) on the horror of sharing Christmas with the entire family. Good fun.

**#11 • A Christmas Carol:** There have been many film versions adapted from Charles Dickens' story, but this 1951 version is my favorite. It features Alastair Sim as Ebenezer Scrooge, Mervyn Johns as Bob Cratchit, and Michael Hordern as Jacob Marley. The story is timeless and worth watching every Christmas. Whether you become tearful or not, it's a century old story, in a half-century old film, shot in glorious black and white, and it still delivers

**#10 • Prancer:** This 1989 film features a midwest farmer/single dad, his 9-year old daughter, and a reindeer named Prancer. It has sentimentality but also a first rate realism and charm. Directed by John Hancock, *Prancer* stars Sam Elliott, Rebecca Harrell, and Cloris Leachman. Roger Ebert's review included this: “[Jessica is] a 9-year-old who still believes in Santa Claus, and uses logic to defend her position: If there isn't a Santa, then maybe there isn't a God, and if there isn't a God, then there isn't a heaven, and, in that case, where did nine-year old Jessica's mother go when she died?” Heavy stuff or heady stuff? Either way, you can handle it and feel good about this unusually good holiday treat.

**#9 • Home Alone:** Few movie stars have the ability to be both charming and annoying on screen and in real life, and all before the age of 12. Forget the annoying part. Macaulay Culkin helps drive this 1990 film as the young child left home by highly distracted parents. Culkin benefits from the direction of Chris Columbus, the writing of

John Hughes, and the comedic performances of Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern. It's been a quarter century since the film was made yet the basic premise holds up. If it seems like too much work, watch it for Pesci and Stern. The film wouldn't work without them as the bumbling thieves.

**#8 • The Santa Clause:** Tim Allen's turn in this 1994 holiday feature film was a surprisingly good idea. In short, Santa dies on the job, Tim Allen's character steps in to save the day and discovers that he is now (and forever?) the new Santa Claus. It's funny with some tugging at the heart. This is the Twinkie of Christmas movies. Enjoy it and don't think about the calories. The Washington Post had it right: “The Santa Clause would be another formulaic Christmas special without Tim Allen.”

**#7 • Elf:** I find Will Ferrell to be an above average performer, but his films rarely rise to become a favorite. However, Ferrell as Buddy, the elf, does make *Elf* succeed as a holiday film worth seeing and, to be honest, to put in your annual Holiday rotation. How the 6' 3" Ferrell becomes one of Santa's little helpers is less important than his holiday visit to New York City to find his birth father, played by James Caan. Suffice to say that the movie works and should become one of your regular holiday treats. *Elf* also stars Bob Newhart, Zooey Deschanel, and Mary Steenburgen.

**#6 • Planes, Trains, and Automobiles:** No holiday season would be complete without this 1987 film. One of Steve Martin's better outings, and John Candy is as perfect as he can be. These two travelmates become mutually dependent as they attempt to travel from New York to Chicago by way of Kansas and Missouri in an effort to get home for Thanksgiving. As with most films written and directed by John Hughes, the music is top notch (including Martin's traumatized rap effort “you're messin' with the wrong guy.”) The film is wonderful and it always reminds me of how much the world misses John Candy.

**#5 • Miracle on 34th Street:** On the surface this is a film about a nice old man who calls himself Kris Kringle and claims to be Santa Claus. Threatened with being de-

clared insane, a young lawyer steps in to defend Kringle, arguing in court that he really is Santa Claus. While Kringle's sanity is the central theme, the real centerpiece of the 1947 film is about a single mom's journey (and ours) to have faith, and to believe in something that may be difficult or impossible to prove. While that sounds like religion, the faith here is far more about life itself. But it works on both levels. The cast is a who's who of post WWII Hollywood faces: Maureen O'Hara, John Payne, Edmund Gwenn, Gene Lockhart, Natalie Wood, Granville Sawyer, William Frawley, and Jerome Cowan.

**#4 • The Bishop's Wife:** This 1947 film is also about Christmas and faith. But relax, this is not a film that looks or feels anything like a tent-revival. It's an intelligent story based on a visiting angel named Dudley (Cary Grant) entering the life of protestant minister Henry Brougham (David Niven), who's marriage to wife Julia (Loretta Young) is tested along the way. There are numerous religious moments but the film is anything but preachy. There are lofty (sometimes heavenly) goals, a couple of sermons, a boys choir, some shopping, lunch at a French restaurant named Michel's (of course), a few snobs, and some solid citizens. Sit back and simply let yourself get lost inside this film. Rounding out the cast are Elsa Lanchester, Regis Toomey, James Gleason, and Monty Woolley.

**#3 • Love Actually:** This is a film that, as happens to many of us, I missed when it was theatrically released in 2003. The casting is superb. Bill Nighy as the aging pop/rock star Billy Mack and Hugh Grant as the newly-elected Prime Minister. Colin Firth loses a cheating British girlfriend and manages to find love in Portugal. *Love Actually* also stars Emma Thompson, Keira Knightley, Liam Neeson, Laura Linney, Billy Bob Thornton and another 20 recognizable faces among the thoughtfully-assembled ensemble cast. There are a dozen criss-crossing relationships that are, surprisingly, a joy to follow. There's magic in the music, humor, love, and politics, and you'll learn about the Christmas lobster. It's worth adding to your holiday viewing.

**#2 • It's A Wonderful Life:** Frank Capra presents the life and times of George Bailey and Mary Hatch (James Stewart and Donna Reed). In just over two hours, we are treated to their lives and ours. Like the old nursery rhyme, this 1946 film features tinkers, tailors, soldiers, sailors, doctors, a rich man and more. As Bailey's life moves forward, he's forced to reflect on how he's helped change things for the better, and with an angel's help, he sees an alternate version of how his absence could change everything and everyone. Like other Capra films, this one is rich in characters and character actors, including Lionel Barrymore, Thomas Mitchell, Henry Travers, Beulah Bondi, Frank Faylen, Ward Bond, Gloria Grahame, and H.B. Warner. And for trivia buffs, there is the perfectly-cast voice of Moroni Olsen as Franklin, the never seen senior angel narrating the film.

**#1 • A Christmas Story:** This 1983 film narrowly edged out the others for #1 simply because it speaks to me on so many levels. Instead of just seeing the enjoyable chaos surrounding the lives of the Parker family, I can clearly see my own family growing up in Milwaukee; our version was all Wisconsin, not Indiana. Yet like ‘old man Parker’, my father did swear at the furnace (and other things). I did want a BB gun for Christmas. We lived in our version of that neighborhood, on that street, in that house and we had our own Bumpus family for neighbors. And there was plenty of innocent “drama” surrounding our lives as Christmas approached, but there was also the sense of family and time together. I love this film. Happily we're taken back to a time when, as Jean Shepherd tells us, “all was right with the world”.



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## "Make It Scream, Make It Burn" • A Book By Leslie Jamison

Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

Leslie Jamison appeals to me for her gift of quiet observation. Her writing is cogent and closely observed, un-showy. Without a trace of irony, I think of her as a sober writer.

Thus, I was somewhat put off by the title of her latest essay collection, *Make It Scream, Make It Burn*, which struck me as overly dramatic and loud, a misrepresentation of the quietly cumulative power of Jamison's work.

I am pleased to report that the title does not reflect the content, though I'm left to wonder who argued for it and won (my money's on Marketing). If it were up to me, the title would have been *Longing, Looking, Dwelling* — the headings of the book's three sections, and far more reflective of Jamison's use of language and more evocative of the themes she explores.

The organization of the collection—the three sections, the order of the essays, the way each essay subtly or overtly connects to others—contributes to a satisfying unity that feels organic, no matter how fully intended.

The section "Longing" explores ways that people seek to connect with or to explain the world around them, perhaps in ways that feel alien to the rest of us (e.g., the committed human followers of a blue whale that sings on a unique frequency, making him invisible to other whales; parents convinced that their children are the reincarnations of other people).

In reporting what she finds, Jamison considers that perhaps she isn't doing justice to the people her stories represent. In "Looking," she dives headlong into this subject. That malaprop title comes from Jamison's essay of the same name, which focuses on James Agee, his book *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*, and the never-published article he originally wrote for *Fortune* magazine that served as the book's origins.

The essay considers the damage possible in capturing and reporting stories that the reporters do not themselves have to live, a thought that dogged Agee throughout *Praise*, which is more about the author's act of documenting than it is about his subjects:

"Imagine a director's cut five times as long as the film itself, with the camera constantly turning to gaze at the face of the director himself."

Jamison wonders about herself, worried she deserves Janet Malcolm's criticism of journalists as "a kind of confidence man, preying on people's vanity, ignorance, or loneliness, gaining their trust and betraying them without remorse."

As with Agee's constant presence throughout *Praise*, one could argue that self-reflec-

tion is the engine that drives all of Jamison's essays. But her empathy is not something she puts on in order to wheedle her way into people's confidence, and it is precisely the insights that she brings from her own experience that make her writing so thoroughly humane. Certainly, it is what draws me to her work.

On the heels of the Agee essay is one called "Maximum Exposure," about a photographer who returns to chronicle the same family in Mexico every year for 26 years. Jamison feels that her own commitment to her subjects evaporates in the comparison:

"The ethical divide between showing up and coming back loomed large; it made me feel accused. This is respect, I thought: to look and keep looking, not to look away as soon as you'd gotten what you needed."

On the other hand — for herself, for Agee, for Annie the photographer — "What does it mean to make art from other people's lives? What distinguishes exploitation from witnessing, and when is that witnessing complete? Is it ever?"

And her empathy has limits. More than once, Jamison mentions a tattoo she has on her arm, Latin that translates as, "I am human: nothing human is alien to me." It reminds her to stay open to possibilities, but she mentions the tattoo in the context of certain experiences that challenge that notion:

"Maybe I wasn't doing anyone favors by pretending that my belief system was tolerant enough to hold everything as equally valid. Maybe there were experiences I couldn't relate to, people I wasn't meant to love, and things I might never believe."

Oddly, I find that quoting from Jamison's essays is something of a disservice to the author: Because each line weaves in meaning from everything that has come before and derives larger meaning from all that comes after, a brief quote loses the nuance that, in context, makes it pop.

Speaking of nuance and accumulated meaning, "Dwellings" represents the most personal of the essays, and tracks a lovely interconnected arc: from the absurdity of attending other people's weddings — with or without a plus one, or as the plus one — to her growing up "in a family thick with divorces and overpopulated by remarriages"; to meeting the man she will marry, a widower with a young daughter; and, finally, to her own pregnancy and the birth of her daughter.

"The Quickening" is the final essay, in which Jamison describes herself ravenously eating her way through her pregnancy, as she recalls each stage, "When you were the size of a..." poppy seed, lentil, blueberry,

lime, avocado, mango, turnip, grapefruit, cauliflower, coconut, pineapple, and, finally, "larger than a honeydew but smaller than a watermelon."

Giving herself over to the caloric demands of pregnancy is her final triumph over her college-era eating disorder, during which she consumed almost nothing. It is also something of a test of her own ability to let go of herself for someone else. She wants to prove that she is, in fact, worthy:

"I wanted to build you from joy: summer rainstorms and fits of laughter; the voices of women in endless conversation...I wanted you to know you were built from medium-rare meat and late-afternoon light."

During labor, the baby's heart rate fluctuates during contractions, until finally it goes into freefall, and the entire birth team crashes through the halls to an operating room for an emergency C-section.

Jamison can't feel or see anything below the blue drape, but she looks to her husband: "I watched his face like a mirror, trying to read your fate. It was only when I heard the doctor's voice say, 'Hey there, cutie pie,' that I knew they had opened me up and found you there, ready to be born."

This essay collection neither screams nor burns. I've already read it twice, and I know that I will read it again when I need an infusion of that signature Jamison observant, open-minded, empathetic humanity.

*Jennifer Bort Yacovissi's debut novel, Up the Hill to Home, tells the story of four generations of a family in Washington, DC, from the Civil War to the Great Depression. Jenny is a member of PEN/America and the National Book Critics' Circle, writes a monthly column and reviews regularly for the Washington Independent Review of Books and the Historical Novel Society. She owns a small project-management and engineering consulting firm, and enjoys gardening and being on the water. Jenny lives in Crownsville, MD*



## Gift Someone or Gift Yourself A Book This Holiday

"No thief, however skillful, can rob one of knowledge, and that is why knowledge is the best and safest treasure to acquire."

— L. Frank Baum (1856-1919)

### • *Stay Sexy & Don't Get Murdered: The Definitive How-To Guide*

by Karen Kilgariff and Georgia Hardstark

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by Meg Waite Clayton

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by Lupita Nyong'o  
Vashti Harrison (Illus.)

### • *Janis: Her Life and Music*

by Holly George-Warren

### • *A Dog's Promise (A Dog's Purpose #3)*

by W. Bruce Cameron

### • *Where Wizards Stay Up Late*

by Katie Hafner

### • *Catch and Kill*

by Ronan Farrow

### • *Blowout*

by Rachel Maddow

### • *Wangari's Trees of Peace*

by Jeanette Winter

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by Madhuri Vijay

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### • *Unsheltered*

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by David Deutsch

### • *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life*

by William Finnegan

### • *Leadership: In Turbulent Times*

by Doris Kearns Goodwin

### • *Strange Planet*

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### • *November Road*


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### Another Book You Might Like\*

### \*. *Make It Scream, Make It Burn*

A Book by Leslie Jamison





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"The problem with the world is that the intelligent people are full of doubts, while the stupid ones are full of confidence."

Charles Bukowski (1920-1994)

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**Monterey Pop**  
The Classic Documentary  
Arena Theater • December 17

On a beautiful June weekend in 1967, at the beginning of the Summer of Love, the first Monterey International Pop Festival roared forward, capturing a decade's spirit and ushering in a new era of rock and roll. Arena Theater is pleased to present this film as part of its Music on Film Nite series. Monterey Pop screens Tuesday, December 17, 7:00pm; doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$10 at the door and online.


The Monterey Pop Festival ran for three days and for most of the five shows, the arena was jammed to bursting with perhaps as many as 10,000 people. The live performances were spectacularly successful. Janis Joplin, who was singing with Big Brother and the Holding Company, pulled



out all the stops with a raw, powerful performance that helped establish her as the pre-eminent female rock singer of her day. The Who climaxed a brilliant set by smashing their equipment at the conclusion of "My Generation". Jimi Hendrix (in the American debut of the Jimi Hendrix Experience) offered an awesome display of his virtuosity as a guitarist and as a showman, humping his Marshall amplifiers and then setting his Stratocaster ablaze. Another highlight was Ravi Shankar's meditative afternoon of Indian ragas. And then there was Otis Redding, the dynamic soul man turned in what many present believe was the festival's best performance. ABC offered \$400,000 for network rights to Pennebaker's film (which was released in theaters after ABC decided it was too far out for the TV audience).

The Music on Film Nite series screens a diverse collection of music documentaries from rock and blues to jazz, punk, hip-hop and more on the third Tuesday of each month.

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**Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols**  
Gualala Arts • December 24

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will again be presented at the Gualala Arts Center Coleman Auditorium on Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24 from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Admission is free.

During this annual community event, the audience will join in singing the nine carols, all old favorites familiar to many. Interspersed with the carols, clergy and readers representing most of the coast faith communities share Bible passages that tell the Christmas story. Don Krieger provides musical accompaniment. Community favorite Sita Milchev returns to sing a special carol.

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AND CAROLS**  
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CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24  
5PM - 6PM  
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The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols follows the format offered since 1918 at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. The Festival was introduced to bring a more imaginative approach to worship, and is accessible and inviting to people of all ages and backgrounds.

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols continues to be offered at King's College Chapel and has been broadcast by the BBC since the 1930's. The service was first held on the Mendocino Coast in 1992, and is now in its 27th year, with programs held at Gualala Arts since 1998. Seating is limited and quickly fills up, so plan to arrive early.

Donations are welcomed, and those received will go to support the South Coast Crisis Aid (also known as South Coast Crisis Line). These donations are the primary source of funding for SCCA, supporting emergency food, fuel, bus transportation and lodging assistance throughout the year via vouchers distributed by local clergy and Action Network in Gualala and Point Arena.

**Annual Open Mic  
Poetry Solstice Celebration**  
At Third Thursday Poetry Night  
December 19 At Arena Market

On Thursday, December 19 at 7:30pm, The Third Thursday Poetry Reading Series will feature the group's annual "Open Mic Solstice Reading & Party". The reading will take place at the Arena Market cafe and will begin with live improv jazz followed by an open mic with jazz improv; the reading will conclude with more live jazz.

Following tradition, there will be no featured poet this month, but instead all mem-



bers of the community are encouraged to bring in extra poems & purchase food from the coop to share if they are inspired to do so.

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

Image by [cromaconceptvisual](http://cromaconceptvisual.com) from Pixabay

"I don't know where I'm going from here, but I promise it won't be boring."

David Bowie (1947-2016)

**The Artists' Collective in Elk  
Christmas Gift Show**  
Opening Reception December 14

For the month of December, The Artists' Collective in Elk will hold its annual Christmas Gift Show, with an art reception on the 2nd Saturday, December 14th, 3:00pm to 5:00pm.

The gallery will be featuring less expensive, hand made arts and crafts, appropriate for Christmas gifts. We also have cards and ornaments. Come enjoy food, drink and art, and meet some of our artists.

The Artists' Collective in Elk is located at 6031 S. Highway 1 in Greater Downtown Elk between Queenie's Roadhouse Cafe and the Post Office. Original art makes wonderful holiday gifts! Open daily, 10:00am to 5:00pm. For more information call (707) 877-1128.





# Scuttlebutt

by Mitch McFarland

It has been a while since I have reminded us all what a terrible idea nuclear power is. In my musings I completely ignore the fact that we are creating dangerous radioactivity that threatens humanity for thousands of years. Our survival instincts are not geared to deal with a threat that lasts thousands of years, so most of us ignore this obvious fact. My arguments are all based on economics. The “too cheap to meter” power source will cost us billions of dollars for as long as your great-great-etc grandchildren are alive.

This month we look at only one of the dozens of remediation projects underway to clean-up our nuclear messes from both bomb making and power production.

There are three major facilities on the reservation at Oak Ridge Tennessee: the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), the Y-12 National Security Complex and the East Tennessee Technology Park (ETTP). Covering over 4000 acres the reservation is on the EPA National Priority List of Superfund sites and is the focus of one of the largest environmental cleanup efforts in the United States (and you thought it was Han-

ford, Washington- another huge mess).

The Y-12 site is of particular concern because of the massive amount of mercury there—a legacy of Cold War work on hydrogen bombs. Y-12 is Oak Ridge’s top environmental priority now that the National Laboratory is close to completing its own multi-billion dollar clean-up.

One near-term initiative for Y-12 is to reduce the concentration of mercury in surface waters, which remains out of compliance with the Clean Water Act. Jay Mullis, the manager of the Oak Ridge clean-up states, “There’s about 700,000 pounds of mercury that was lost to the environment over at Y-12”, contaminating soils, groundwater, and air at the East Fork Polar Creek in June 2018, which resulted in a large fish kill and continued over a multi-month period.

The new Mercury Treatment Facility will prevent contamination released by demolition on the site from entering the waterways. The demolition contract will cost \$2 billion and \$5 billion over 10 years. “There’s decades left of work here at Oak Ridge,” Mullis said.

Also required is a new dump, euphemistically called Environmental Management Disposal Facility, at a cost of \$800 million. It replaces the near-by Environmental Management Waste Management Facility, which is expected to run out of space around 2020. Roger Petrie, a project manager with Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation states, “The landfill is proposed for placement of radioisotopes, mercury and other constituents that will be present through geologic time.” That is longer than humans have existed.

The new dump will be located near ORNL to be able to use the \$20 million special haul road built to prevent trucks from using public highways. This will allow the disposal of

another 2 million pounds of mostly low level radioactive material.

\* The Obama era Recovery Act provided money to supplement the cleanup funding and to pay for special projects. The Oak Ridge office received hundreds of millions of stimulus dollars to demolish old buildings and fund dozens of other cleanup-related projects, such as removing mercury-contaminated sediments from Y-12’s storm-sewer system. That money is gone and Trump, a nuke supporter, has actually reduced funds available for parts of the clean-up.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates it will cost about \$12 billion to finish the Oak Ridge cleanup work by 2046, the completion date DOE negotiated with environmental regulators. Naturally, we shouldn’t expect that figure to increase over the next 26 years.



Don’t get me wrong. I fully, but regretfully, support these expenditures. We have to deal with this mess. It is just unfortunate that we find ourselves in this situation, but still The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has released plans related to permit TVA to build and operate Small Modular Reactors (SMR) at the Clinch River site. What’s that line about finding yourself in a hole?

Meanwhile, I looked at 5 of the largest solar arrays in the world. Averaging their costs and output, I see that 1GW of output cost about \$1.7 billion to install. The 580 MW Topaz solar array near San Luis Obispo will power 160,000 homes, so if it were a 1 GW array, it would power roughly 276,000 homes. Using \$1.7 billion per GW we find that \$12 billion would supply electricity to nearly 2 million

homes in the U.S. Instead that money will not go to produce electricity, but for cleaning up just one of the dozens of nuclear facilities scattered across the U.S.

Even the tiny King Salmon reactor is costing ratepayers a ton of money. Built on Humboldt Bay in 1962 for a mere \$33 million and operating for only 15 years, the original estimate of \$382 million for clean-up has ballooned to \$1 billion. This is not really a “clean-up” in that there has been no significant leaks or problems there requiring it to become something like a Superfund Site. This is just the normal cost of decommissioning a small nuclear power plant.

In 1987 Congress designated the Yucca Mountain Repository as the sole site to receive some 77,000 metric tons of high level waste. It has been a battle ever since. W Bush started the licensing, but Obama stopped it. The fact that Democrat Harry Reid was Senate Majority leader and from Nevada pretty much stuck the knife the Yucca Mountain dream. Apparently no one in Nevada wants a highly radioactive dump in their state. Damn NIMBYs.

Trump actually requested \$130 million to restart the licensing, but neither the House or the Senate would consider it. Warning: Sit down before reading the next sentence: I tend to agree with Trump on this one,

Since Congress refuses to re-consider the Yucca Mountain Repository or any other solution to this problem, nuclear waste sits where it was produced at 121 sites in 39 states at a cost to the government of \$700 million per year. Right now we are on track to have that radioactive waste sit around at those sites for the next 24,000 years.

Photo: MetsikGarden from Pixabay

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**SUDOKU** Edited by Margie E. Burke

Difficulty: Easy

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**HOW TO SOLVE:**  
Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

(Answer appears elsewhere in this issue)

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**NTN Projects Nearing Completion**  
from Warren Galletti, Point Arena Schools Superintendent

Imagine you're a high school student with a full class load. Your school gives you 70 minutes, every afternoon except Wednesday, to explore a topic you're interested in. What would you choose?

That's the opportunity provided by PAHS's project-based learning plan — the core of the NTN model. All 124 PAHS students have chosen a project to work on. For the first time, students can say, "This is what I chose to learn!"

By December 20, at the end of the semester, the first phase of their projects will be complete. All students will have written a multi-page, project description, and all will have given a presentation about their projects to peers and teachers. Principal Marty Wilkes is reserving auditorium time now. Come watch!

"This is their first crack at it, a debut," said Howard Cole, PAHS Computer Science teacher. "Students are learning a process. They're learning how to get there."

"They're working out some of the kinks," said PAHS Principal, Marty Wilkes. They're wrapping up student reports and working on presentations due by December 22. Students don't have to finish their project, as long as they complete the report."

For PAHS seniors, this semester marks the first — and last time — they will be required to work on an NTN project, while freshmen through juniors will complete at least one NTN project every year until the second semester of their senior year. Here are highlights of a few exciting projects.



**Senior, Dylan Freebairn-Smith**

**Project:** Refinish a surfboard. Dylan cut, shaped, painted and glassed his board, including glazing in three fins boxes. "He did all the work. I just showed him what to do," said Mark Mason, Dylan's NTN mentor and his triathlon coach.

**Senior, Loden Haught**

**Project:** Learn conversational French. Loden wanted to learn conversational French because, as a member of the PAHS Triathlon team, he will be heading to Paris in September 2020. In class, he's learning on-line with Babbel.com and Duolingo.com. Twice a month he visits with his mentor, Jill Hunter, of Philo.

**Senior Luis Davila**

**Project:** Create & monitor a walking journal. Luis developed a bar graph to monitor total and average miles walked per day and month. He averages almost five miles daily on his afterschool walks around Point Arena. **Possible next step:** Begin a photo album of the photographs he takes on walks

**Junior, Briana Mondragon, and (freshman) Avery Spangler**

**Project:** Make a plan to revamp the PAHS softball field. Both are on the PAHS softball team, which begins play early next year.

They wanted to improve the gopher-infested softball field, so they researched the costs—approximately \$15,000, but much less with grants and donated labor—and they developed plans to improve the field, including time estimates of two to four months, depending on whether part or all improvements are made. **Possible next step:** Propose the idea to the PAHS sports director.

**Junior, Alexis Mata**

**Project:** Build a tree house. Alexis is working with his neighbor, Jaime Gaona, every other day after school, to build a 5'x10' tree house. "I've learned I'm better at carpentry than I thought." **Next step:** I'd like to try something new.

**Sophomores, Eric Estrada, Brandon Huse**  
**Project:** Make a line of bass fishing lures. Both are members of the Lake County Fishing Club, which holds team tournaments for bass fishermen. They wanted to learn how to make a line of 15 fully assembled lures. Brandon used one of his lures during his last tournament at Clear Lake. It worked, and he got the bite, "but the fish dropped before I could get it in." **Possible next step:** Make a fishing pole.

**Sophomores, Antonio Ramirez Archuleta, Francisco Cabrera**

**Project:** Create and produce a movie. They completed a script and storyboard for a 45-minute movie titled "Shall Not Be Televised". The script is based on a future, apocalyptic American revolution, where the survivors of the revolution hide in the thick woods of Germany. **Next step:** Filming.

**Sophomore, Kato Doughty**

**Project:** Restore a '79 Camero to working condition. Kato has learned to install spark-plugs, a carburetor, and a new motor in his car. His mentor is his uncle, a former mechanic. **Next step:** Paint his '79 Camero.

**Freshmen Australia Okubo, Ava Sexton**

**Project:** Learn to play the ukulele. Australia wanted to learn to play a simple, but potentially challenging instrument. Ava wanted to learn to play the songs she wanted to sing. So far, they've mastered "The Judge" and "Over the Rainbow". Their mentor, Adrian Martin-Anderson, helps them both in person and through Facetime. **Possible next step:** Learn to sing.

**Freshman, Cristo Zamora**

**Project:** Learn to build picture frames. Cristo began the semester planning to build a table, but downsized to learn a few more skills first. He has learned to make frames with router bits, creating a dedicated rabbit for 1/8" glass. **Next step:** Learn tongue and groove to make wood siding.

**Freshman, Elijah Fisher**

**Project:** Learn chess. Born in Chicago, Elijah spent the last ten years in Tennessee. He had never played chess before. His mentor, PAHS Integrated STEM teacher Thomas Cee, has taught him bold attacks, how to build fortresses, and how to lay traps. Elijah's nickname is now Bobby Fisher! **Possible next step:** Teach other students to play.



**Quid Pro Quo**  
**(this for that)**

Bribe. verb.

"To persuade (someone) to act in one's favor, typically illegally or dishonestly, by a gift of money or other inducement.  
i.e., This for that."

Extortion. noun.

"the practice of obtaining something, especially money, through force or threats.  
i.e., This for that."

An advertisement in the public interest  
paid for by a concerned citizen.



## The Truck, Again • From The Book "Are You Still Hip?"

### A Collection of Stories About Life in the Wilds of Wisconsin by Sally Marshall

My truck is approaching its 20th birthday and is still hanging in there. The body has the usual issues of old age so, I now refer to it as the "Parts Missing" model, as it will periodically jettison pieces of rusted metal while the prevailing rust continues to work its way through the finish creating unusual "art forms". The interesting benefit from this phenomenon is that I am actually getting better gas mileage these days, which I attribute to the fact that the body is now slightly lighter in weight than when it was new.

I still use Gorilla tape to patch up the fenders (or what used to be the fenders). It is a losing battle with the rest of the body. The tailgate is rusted through, as well as the front bumpers, and the panel under the doors is simply missing. I've noticed lately that there are large patches of discoloration on the hood and other areas where the finish is displaying odd behaviors. When I wash my truck, I make a mental note of where the rusted parts look ready to fall off; then, I'll remove those parts with my tools – it's better than watching a large piece of metal fly off and tumble to the side of the road while I'm driving – kind of embarrassing.

The good news is that my truck is still running like new – amazing! When I take it in for an oil change and maintenance check, I always have the mechanic examine the undercarriage carefully for any signs of the frame rusting out – good idea. My truck's "technical control center" has the usual odd quirks

of old age, such as the warning lights on the dashboard coming on randomly. It still insists I should "Service Engine Soon", and the brake warning lights will come on occasionally. This only means my anti-lock system is resting for a while – nothing to worry about. Last year, I noticed my air conditioning system appeared to need an occasional rest, too; and this year it decided not to work at all. So, I just open the windows for a breeze – just like in the old days before air conditioning.

My friends will periodically suggest it's time to get rid of it, but I remind them that you don't dismiss something just because it's old. After all, we are old, too, and we are still hanging in there. Most importantly, I still enjoy driving it. I love to shift the gears and hear that whine of the transmission while downshifting into a lower gear; and I love the fact that very few people even know how to operate a five-speed manual transmission any more so, I don't worry about someone trying to steal it. My friends remind me that, if someone actually stole it, they would probably bring it right back – very funny. I also don't worry about it getting dented or scratched by some careless motorist; and people still give me a

wide berth on the road for some reason.

My truck is primarily used to haul my kayak to boat landings. I just drop it into the back, tie on a few lines, and we are off to an adventure on one of the beautiful rivers in our area. My paddling friends and I decided to do a trip on the Kickapoo River the end of July (after a major heat wave passed), so I packed up my paddling gear, put the boat in the back



of the truck, and set off for the Kickapoo. The section of the river we planned on paddling was roughly an hour and a half drive north, so I made sure to leave early enough to have a comfortable margin to get me there on time. I'm a stickler for being on time.

So, my truck and I are happily cruising down the road, the boat nested in the back with the little red flag attached to the end (this is a required attachment when anything sticks out of the back more than three feet), enjoying the scenery and driving with the windows down to catch a breeze. Life was good. I was about one-half hour into my trip when something caught my eye in my side-view mirror. It was a county Sheriff with its lights flashing, so I pulled over to let it pass. It did not pass. It pulled in right behind me. The first thought that entered my mind was some piece of metal flew off the truck in view of the Sheriff; the second thought was perhaps the little red flag had gotten detached; the third thought was that one of my lights was not working. None of the above.

The county Sheriff spent a bit of time in his vehicle while I rested alongside the road, a bit irritated that I might be late getting to the boat landing. After doing whatever Sheriffs do in there, he finally emerged from his patrol car and started approaching my vehicle while I watched him from my side-view mirror. As he got closer he paused a moment, looking at my truck and the little green kayak sticking out of the back and I realized at that moment what an unusual sight my truck probably was to him, with the Gorilla tape fenders, those conspicuous parts missing that may have seemed important to the uninitiated, and a little green kayak with a large patch on the keel. I imagined him saying something like, "Miss, do you really feel this truck is safe to drive?" That's not what he said. First, he asked me if I knew why he had stopped me (is that a trick question?). I said no. He said "You were speeding". Speeding?!!

I did not think my truck could speed. We are always being passed by other vehicles, and my friends know I am the slowest driver

in the county. As I sat there, incredulous, absently staring at the hood of my truck, I could swear for a moment I saw its finish brighten and shimmer in the sunlight. The truck was gloating. I couldn't have been more proud. It made me feel a bit like a rebel – we were speeding! The Sheriff was very kind, probably taking pity on me for having to drive this old relic, and only gave me a warning to slow down.

After giving the Sheriff many thanks for not ticketing me, I pulled out onto the road, now very cognizant of my speedometer, and taking a little pride in my new status as a rebellious senior. I actually got to the boat landing on time, and with a story to tell which I embellished with a bit of dramatic color, of course.

The rest of the day was perfect. The Kickapoo River was beautiful, the day sunny and warm, as we paddled our kayaks on the quiet waters of a river graced with ancient rock outcroppings; and enjoyed natures' gifts, free of charge.

On the drive home, I took the same route, occasionally focusing my gaze on clusters of roadside trees or secluded backroads where Sheriff patrol cars could be covertly hidden waiting for their prey. I noticed that my truck seemed to be taking the bumps in the road a bit heavy at times, but I had a scheduled appointment the next day for the usual oil change and maintenance, and would make sure they checked the undercarriage. So, the next day I dropped off my truck at the service garage and walked home. When I got home there was a phone message waiting for me. It was my service technician, with an "update" on my truck (?). I called him back immediately. The news was not good. When they put the truck on the hoist and began lifting, a large chunk of the frame fell off.

One of the mechanics bought my truck to salvage all the parts that were still good. That was such a sad day for me. Our last trip together was the truck's last hurrah; and I'll always remember that little gleam on the hood when we got pulled over for speeding – way to go, old girl!



Sally Marshall is a writer from rural Wisconsin.

Her latest book is "Are You Still Hip?"

To purchase a copy, contact: Sally Marshall, at Wind & Water Studio, P.O. Box 284, Prairie du Chien, WI 53821. Phone: 608-326-0542, or E-Mail: tigerlilly4434@yahoo.com.

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# Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

## ACROSS

- 1 Type of bag
- 5 Like some cheddar
- 10 Ho-hum
- 14 Throw, as dice
- 15 Coke's bear
- 16 Unsophisticated sort
- 17 Not being used
- 18 Wind instrument
- 20 Trucker in a union
- 22 Linen closet items
- 23 Kind of boom
- 24 Scouting group
- 26 Remote location?
- 29 Consumer
- 33 Part of TKO
- 37 Indonesian island
- 38 "Without further \_\_\_..."

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57	58	59						60	61	62				
63							64					65		
66						67						68		
69						70						71		

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- 39 Boastful person
- 42 Hightailed it
- 43 Small stream
- 45 Day of \_\_\_\_\_
- 47 Armchair companion
- 50 Pitchfork part
- 51 Lightweight wood
- 53 Gentle push
- 57 Seward's state
- 60 College age
- 63 Cold season
- 65 Smallest pup
- 66 Hathaway of Hollywood
- 67 Tablelands
- 68 Something to build on
- 69 Vintage designation

- 70 Appears
- 71 Salacious look

## DOWN

- 1 Southern staple
- 2 Where to see chaps
- 3 Haggard's hero Quartermain
- 4 Flaw
- 5 Squabble
- 6 Fine-tune
- 7 Open-eyed
- 8 Pro-footballer in L.A.
- 9 Part of an atom
- 10 It creates drafts
- 11 Pear-shaped instrument

- 12 Genesis brother
- 13 His partner
- 19 State of mind
- 21 Biscuitlike pastry
- 25 Surviving organism of old
- 27 Pudding fruit
- 28 Squirrel's cache
- 30 Rani's wrap
- 31 Enthusiasm
- 32 Saturn feature
- 33 Edible root
- 34 Anagram for "tide"
- 35 Stable youngster
- 36 Absorbed, as a loss
- 40 Enjoy Aspen
- 41 Heavy metric weight

- 44 Maine entree
- 46 On the fence
- 48 Put together
- 49 Burglar deterrents
- 52 Licoricelike flavor
- 54 Tennis tie
- 55 Horror or sci-fi, e.g.
- 56 Sign above a door
- 57 Not at home
- 58 Pickup shtick
- 59 Oscar winner Paquin
- 61 Mosque leader
- 62 Bitter end?
- 64 Pipe fitting



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## "Grampus: Gray Ghosts of the Sea"

by Mary Jane Schramm, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

The whale watchers had just circled the Farallon Islands off San Francisco, putting in briefly at Fisherman's Bay; and now in Mirounga Bay, where they watched the seabirds and pinnipeds (seals and sea lions) hauled-out on the rocky shore, tucked up into gulches, or plying the dark waters for a meal. It was late fall, and the islands were relatively quiet; the noisy chaos of seabird nesting was over, though many still remained. Occasionally, sea lions erupted into repetitive barking, then losing interest, fell silent. The naturalist had just recounted how she and the captain had witnessed the recent showdown between killer whales and a white shark near this very spot. But this cruise had yielded nothing so spectacular, and whale and dolphin sightings nearshore had proven elusive.

Accelerating, the boat headed west toward the edge of the Continental Shelf, to deeper water. Suddenly, several prominent dorsal fins cut through the waves at a distance, similar to those of the female killer whales that had taken the shark. Excitement mounted; could these be those same killer whales? But soon the captain announced from the wheelhouse, "Risso's dolphins off the starboard bow!" Disappointment was quickly replaced by fascination: ahead was a rag-tag pod of fifteen pale-to-dark gray dolphins, like crudely modeled clay replicas of the sleek creatures the watchers expected. They sported bulbous white heads, but no rostrum, or beak. Most bore white scars on their chunky bodies. Some wore a quizzical, half-amused smile: and the fun was just beginning. The dolphins abruptly launched into a series of breakneck antics: high leaps, somersaults, pirouettes and tail-slaps. These were the grinning Grampus griseus, aka Risso's dolphins.

CITIZENS OF THE WORLD: Risso's dolphins are found throughout the world's temperate and subtropical seas, but prior to the severe 1982-83 El Nino were uncommon in north-central California waters. They can reach 13 feet, second in size among local dolphins only to killer whales (yes, "orcas" are big dolphins!).

GRAY GHOSTS: Risso's are dark gray when born, but lighten to a ghostly gray with age and scarring; testament to their rough-and-tumble socializing, and to the sharp beaks and hooks of the squid they dine on. Up to 14 conical teeth erupt from the lower

are vulnerable to contaminants and ocean noise. NOAA conserves Risso's and other dolphins through fisheries management, marine sanctuary protections, and research including Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS cruises), a cooperative effort of Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries and Pt. Blue Conservation Science. Together we work to help these righteous and rambunctious dolphins live and thrive.



Mary Jane Schramm  
NOAA Greater Farallones  
National Marine Sanctuary  
Maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov  
Photo Credits:  
Top: One of their justly famous acrobatic leaps.  
Credit: NOAA-ONMS  
Left: Highly social, they hunt squid at great depths.  
Credit: NOAA

Watch Risso's hijinks at:  
<https://marinebio.org/species/rissos-dolphins/grampus-griseus/> (Courtesy the Whale and Dolphin Conservation (UK). Visit the ACCESS at <http://www.accessoceans.org/>  
And <http://farallones.noaa.gov>.

jaw, sufficient to grasp and vacuum up the slippery prey. "Grampus" are gregarious, forming groups of a dozen to over a thousand, sometimes joining Pacific white-sided dolphins and whales. Submarine sorties take them to depths over a thousand feet. Their tall dorsal fins often result in misidentification as killer whales, or large sharks. Aerial acrobats, they're notoriously boisterous, exuberant; and worth protecting.

GIVING THEM A BREAK: Like all marine mammals, they are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Neither endangered nor threatened locally, NOAA's latest

(2016) stock assessment for California, Oregon and Washington is 6,336, but can be highly variable. Formerly drowned in large numbers in tropical and offshore waters by the tuna industry's encircling purse-seine nets, they and other dolphins found safety due to international treaties and regulations arising from activist Sam LaBudde's heroic undercover film exposing the fishery's indiscriminate carnage. According to Earth Island Institute, 90% of the tuna industry has now adopted "Dolphin Safe" practices. But threats persist from accidental catch in longline, gillnet and trawl fisheries, and they



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

- Sunday 01: 8:30am, Garcia Guild Annual Craft and Gift Fair and Breakfast.
- Sunday 01: 1:00pm, Celebration of Life for Christine Bussard at Gualala Arts.
- Sunday 01: 1:00pm, Great Art on Screen: "Tintoretto", at Arena Theater
- Monday 02: 7:00pm, ATFC presents "Tampopo" at Arena Theater
- Wednesday 04: 10:00am, Paul Brewer Exhibit continues at Dolphin Gallery
- Thursday 05: 11:00am, Holiday Gift Show Opens at Coast Highway Art Collective in Pt. Arena
- Friday 06: 5:00pm, Opening Reception for Harrison Goldberg at Think Visual in Pt. Arena
- Friday 06: 5:00pm, Gualala Salon & Salon des Refusés, Opening Reception at Gualala Arts
- Friday 06: 6:00pm, Festival of Lights at Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens, Ft. Bragg
- Saturday 07: 8:30am, Voter Registration at Pay n Take at Gualala Community Center
- Saturday 07: 10:00am, Bizarre Bazaar at Brandybuck
- Saturday 07: 12:00pm, Fratello Marionettes "North Pole Review" at Coast Comm. Library
- Saturday 07: 1:00pm, "42nd Street: The Musical". Special Telecast at Arena Theater
- Saturday 07: 5:00pm, Martini Madness Fundraiser for Gualala Comm. Ctr. at Gualala Arts
- Sunday 08: 10:00am, Bizarre Bazaar at Brandybuck
- Sunday 08: 10:00am, Artist Chris Dewees exhibits his art at Community Market, Fort Ross.
- Monday 09: 7:00pm, ATFC presents "What They Had" at Arena Theater
- Monday 09: 7:00pm, Mendocino County Audubon Society at Gualala Community Center
- Wednesday 11: 5:00pm, Full Moon Tour at Pt. Arena Lighthouse
- Saturday 14: 10:00am, Library Book & Bake Sale at Coast Community Library
- Saturday 14: 11:00am, Opening Reception at Coast Highway Art Collective, Pt. Arena
- Saturday 14: 12:00pm, Hometown Holidays Celebration. Various locations in Point Arena
- Saturday 14: 3:00pm, Ernest Bell Ringers Holiday Concert at Gualala Arts
- Sunday 15: 2:00pm, Winter Stories from Around the World at Coast Comm. Library
- Sunday 15: 4:00pm, Coastal Singers: "Christmas Comes But Once A Year" at Gualala Arts
- Monday 16: 7:00pm, Mendocino County Audubon Society at Caspar Community Center
- Monday 16: 7:30pm, Third Monday Music at Arena Theater: "Holiday Jam" Open Mic Night
- Tuesday 17: 7:00pm, Music on Film Nite: "Monterey Pop" at Arena Theater
- Thursday 19: 7:00pm, Third Thursday Poetry at Arena Market
- Saturday 21: 8:30am, Voter Registration at Pay n Take at Gualala Community Center
- Saturday 21: 7:00pm, Kitka in Concert. "Wintersongs: Weathering The Storm" at Gualala Arts
- Sunday 22: 2:00pm, Bolshoi Ballet "Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker" at Arena Theater 4:00pm,
- Sunday 22: 4:00pm, Wind in the Wires concert: "A Winter's Evening" at Gualala Arts
- Tuesday 24: 5:00pm, Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Gualala Arts

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