

**ALWAYS
FREE**

November 2020



Mendocino Coast's **Lighthouse Peddler**

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



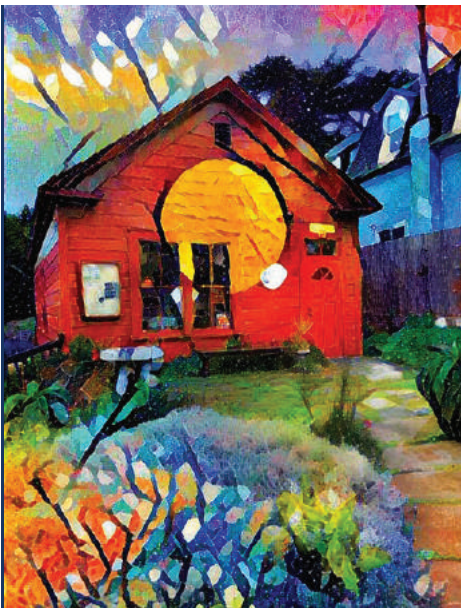
Arena Theater
Presents
**Taj Mahal:
A Live
Concert**
November 17
from the UC
Theatre Stage
in Berkeley

Arena Theater brings Taj Mahal home to you, November 17, 6:00pm, for a live-streamed concert from the UC Theatre Stage in Berkeley, California. Tickets are on sale now for \$20. A portion of each ticket sold will benefit Arena Theater. When you can't get out to a live concert, Arena Theater brings the live concert home to you.

No stranger to the Mendocino Coast, composer, multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and multiple GRAMMY® winner, Taj Mahal comes home. This November 17 concert will be Taj's first ever livestream performance! Tickets purchased prior to the livestream grant you 48-hour access to the stream in case you can't join Taj live.

In addition to his GRAMMY® awards, Taj Mahal is . . .

Cont'd on Page 8



The Coast Highway Art Collective
284 Main Street, Point Arena
Thursday - Sunday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Holiday gift shopping
for
everyone on your list.**

Textiles, wood, jewelry, photography,
painting, ornaments, ceramics & more

 *Holiday gifts*

 *Locally made*

**It's Glass by Cynthia Myers
At The Artists Collective in Elk
In November.**

The Artists Collective in Elk will be featuring Cynthia Myers Glass for the month of November. Although there will be no formal opening, Myers will be at the Gallery on Thursday, November 12.

Myers has decided to have an "Almost the End of 2020 SALE!" at the Gallery. She added, "We are all so ready for this year to be over! Since we can't have our usual Artist's Reception I will be working at the Gallery all day on Thursday November 12; come have a glass of wine with me and some treats and see my glass work"



The Artists Collective in Elk is at 6031 South Highway 1 in Elk. Information is at 707-877-1128. (Just north of Queenies Restaurant in Elk.)

**Sara Costello and Deborah Threlkel Bring Jewelry to Pt. Arena
New Exhibit at Coast Highway Art Collective Opens November 6**

The members of the Coast Highway Art Collective in Point Arena are excited to host the monthly artist reception on Friday, November 6 from 11:00am to 5:00pm for Sara Costello and Deborah Threlkel. Both artists are jewelers and this exhibit highlights the myriad of ways shells, beads, turquoise, silver and other natural elements can create beautiful pieces.

By extending the hours of the opening, guests, the artists and the staff can better adhere to social distancing guidelines. Under current guidelines, 6 guests at a time will be allowed inside to view the exhibit. Guests will be encouraged to social distance on the open-air patio until space opens inside the building. Please note, facemasks are required.



Costello, who now lives in Humboldt, started Costello Rose Designs in 1994, but has been creating jewelry since 1974. Her inspiration goes back to her roots as a New Mexico native taking trips to old town in her hometown, Albuquerque. There the Native Americans displayed their jewelry and wares on the ground spread out on beautiful woven blankets and rugs. She was drawn to the one-on-one transactions, being grounded with real people, the colors

of turquoise, jet, coral, jaspers, shell, and silver.

"This is what I see in my mind's eye as I create my pieces," says Costello. "My fondest early memory is from school when



a father came to share the art of Tufa casting. I was mesmerized by the torch and the molten silver pouring into the mold. These memories and the act of creating art are what keep my heart beating evenly - that is why I continue to create." Costello says continuing to connect with customers online during the pandemic has been challenging, and she is excited to be showing her work at CHAC with her friend of 50 years, Deborah Threlkel.

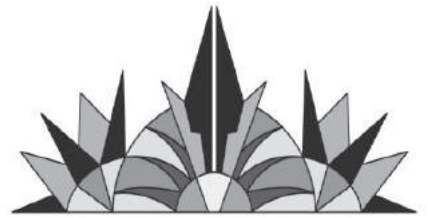
Local artist Threlkel is a beach comber, a rock hound and a collector of interesting things, inspired to create a connection to the delicate balance of the natural world. She moved to Gualala from San Francisco nine years ago and started incorporating shells and beach glass into her necklaces. As a result, Abalone Queen was conceptualized. "I love collecting,

probably my favorite part of the process and then I sort and drill. Tom, my husband has become an expert, drilling sometimes as many as 100 pieces of beach



glass for one necklace. Using a combination of gemstones, shells and beach glass I wire wrap each necklace, creating a chain out of a single piece of precious metal wire," says Threlkel. As a result, the finished product is delicate in appearance but also very strong and durable. Threlkel says she loves every part of the process that completes a necklace or earrings, "knowing that Abalone Queen jewelry will feel as if you are wearing the ocean."

Threlkel and Costello met in Jr. High School in Berkeley in the 1960s and have been friends ever since. Their individual artist careers have flourished over the years, and this show, their first together, highlights their creative journeys.



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November 2020

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Ferris Bueller's Day Off
Saturday Nov. 21

Last movie for the season; title & showtimes to be announced

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Arena Theater Virtual Cinema
11/20 Collective, thriller
11/27 Zappa, music doc
12/4 Crock of Gold: Irish Punk
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Our thanks to November contributors Rozann Grunig, mai haiku, Mitch McFarland, Blake More, Mary Jane Schramm, David Steffen, Karin Uphoff, Hannah Weinberger, and Jennifer Bort Yacovissi.

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"Well, I come from, down around Tennessee
But the people, in California
Are nice to me, America
It don't matter where I may roam
Tell you people that it's home sweet home
America, America."

From "America" by Waylon Jennings (1937-2002)

Issue #229 November 2020

Lighthouse Peddler

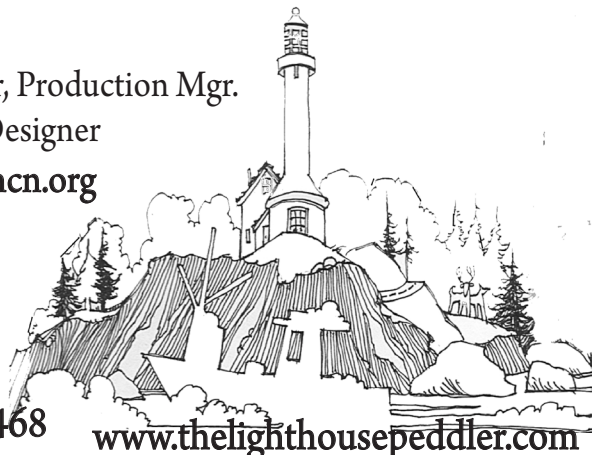
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Berkeley Poet MK Chavez
Featured Virtually At
3rd Thursday Poetry
November 19

The Arena Theater and Point Arena Third Thursday Poetry present a virtual Third Thursday Zoom Poetry reading at 7:00pm on Thursday, November 19, 2020. This month features Berkeley Poet MK Chavez, with open mic to follow. To watch or participate as an open mic reader, please email blake@snakelyone.com.

MK Chavez is the award-winning author of *Mothermorphosis*, *Dear Animal*, and *Virgin Eyes*. She writes poetry, essays, and short fiction about identity, wildness and



wilderness, and the world that we live in.

Chavez has received fellowships from Hedgebrook, CantoMundo, Squaw Valley Writers Workshop, VONA, North Street Collective Residence Program, Real Time & Space Elevate Residency, and Napa Valley Writers Workshop.

Chavez is an activist in the literary community, helping to support emerging writers and writers from marginalized communities. She is co-founder/curator of the reading series *Lyrics & Dirges*, co-director of the Berkeley Poetry Festival, and has been a guest curator of limited reading series at BAMPFA, and LOTERIA in partnership with the Institute of (Advanced) Uncertainty.

Chavez is a passionate educator and leads workshops in community and academic settings. She has been a visiting instructor at Stanford University, San Francisco State University, Mills College, Berkeley City College, San Francisco City College, BAMPFA, and Hedgebrook.

She is the recipient of an Alameda County Arts Leadership Award, the PEN Oakland Josephine Miles Award, and was recognized by the Berkeley Public Library Foundation at their 18th Award Dinner in 2018.

Her most recent publications can be found in bags of coffee from Nomadic Coffee and on the Academy of American Poets website's Poem-A-Day series.

The New White House,
Finding Myself
Among the Ruins*
After Barry Ebner's Monotype
03012416
By MK Chavez

Not color blind but a black & white conundrum of physics.

All the same, some say
object.

Shoot. Invisible.
I'll hide
in this room of manifestation
bending light.

To find me in this starkness
think of the geometry
of flashes and bullets.

The films of murders emerge slow
and if ever they do—
this becomes the purpose
of paint.

Black and white
are special effects.

When they pronounce me
a dead star, I will float
on one of these white walls.

The tale of rendered object
as broken & saturated edifice.

It is possible to be hysterically
& historically blind.

Failed attempts to shield oneself
blossom into deceptions.

Once I was homeless, now
have found a place where I might
appear.

MK Chevez

*Winner of the Cosmonauts Literary Journal 2017 Prize, selected by Eileen Myles.

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

Prescription Take-Back Event Set
For November 4 in Pt. Arena

Mendonoma Health Alliance is partnering with Mendocino County Sheriff for a community Prescription Take-Back Event in Point Arena on Wednesday, November 4th. You can safely drive-thru & drop off all your unused or expired prescriptions and nonprescription medicines from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

It's important that medications don't end up in the trash or flushed down the toilet. Drugs can be very toxic for people and wildlife, even in low doses. Come to the parking lot of Point Arena High School right in front of the gymnasium. For more information, please visit mendonomahhealth.org or call (707) 412-3176 x102. And, please, tell a friend! Information is at MendonomaHealth.org.

Election Day – Polling Locations
Plan Your Vote Tuesday, Nov 3

This election is the kind of election we have never seen before. Polling places will not be what we are use to be.

Voters who plan to vote at the polls this year, should **bring their mail (vote-by-mail) ballot and envelope with them.** If you arrive at the polls without your vote-by-mail ballot and envelope, you will have to vote provisionally, which requires filling out additional forms and placing the ballot in a "Special Pink" (Provisional) envelope that is processed separately from regular ballots. If you are not registered to vote, you can register at the polls on Election Day and



vote provisionally. If you haven't received your ballot in the mail, please call us and we will send you a replacement ballot. Please call 707 234-6819 for a replacement ballot.

Polling Locations are open on Election Day Only. The Drop Box Locations at the City of Willits, City of Fort Bragg, the City of Point Arena and the County Admin Building in Ukiah are available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; the Boonville Fairgrounds Office is open Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

Have you received your mail-in ballot yet? If not, PLEASE call the Elections office at 707 234-6819, we will gladly send you a replacement, or come into our office at 501 Low Gap Rd., Room 1020 Ukiah.

For questions or additional information please contact the Election / County Clerk's Office by calling 707 234-6819.

More than ever your vote counts.

**Christmas Tree Competition
Gualala Arts' 2020
Decorating Challenge
Registrations Due November 13.**

Here's a competition for children, adults, groups, businesses, and anyone who wishes to join in just for the fun of it.

To get in on the fun simply contact the front desk at Gualala Arts, 707.884.1138 to arrange pickup for your Christmas tree. The tree you choose can then be decorated as you see fit. Entry forms are due when you



come to pickup the undecorated trees (no later than November 13.) All trees are available on a first come, first serve basis, or you can provide your own tree.

Your decorated tree should be delivered to Gualala Arts either Monday or Tuesday, November 16 or 17, 11:00am -4:00pm in the Jacob Foyer.

All trees become donations to Gualala Arts and will be made available for sale during the festival as part of their fund raising. The tree designer will receive a donation form for tax purposes.

Most of the trees will be exhibited on white pedestals or set upon tables to be viewed from all sides. You may wish to keep that in mind when deciding how to decorate your tree. 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Award winners will receive a Gualala Arts VIP package and cash valued at \$150, \$75 & \$50. The prizes also, of course, include bragging rights.

**Need To Get Into The Holiday Spirit?
Winter Wonderland Comes To Mendonoma.
Visit Gualala Arts Beginning November 23**

Winter Wonderland arrives in November and with it brings some fun, flavors, colors, and more.

Gualala Arts' Winter Wonderland opens Friday, November 23 and continues daily (except



Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day) through Wednesday, December 30, from 11 am to 4 pm. It is the Kick-off to the Holiday Season on the Mendonoma Coast. Admission is free.

Stepping into Gualala Arts you'll be greeted with recorded carols and holiday classics filling the halls while you explore the ready-to-decorate trees for purchase, or the decorated trees created by adults, children, local businesses and non-profit organizations. The many different tree-decorating ideas will absolutely capture your eye and your imagination. The decorated trees are all part of the competition to see who can create the most desired trees. There is still time to get in on the tree competition, Simply contact the office at Gualala Arts—707.884-1138—and let them know that you're ready to create a masterpiece. The registration form for the competition is also available at GualalaArts.org. (There's a separate article about the competition on this page.)

The days right after Thanksgiving Day will bring additional sights and more. After looking at the trees and decorations you'll probably notice the aroma of freshly-baked goods, including pies—Apple, Pumpkin, and more—all available for purchase to take home to your table.

Expect to see handcrafted ceramics, quilts,

ornaments, clothing, woodworking, art, Gualala Arts Merchandise, See's Candies, homemade jams and the like... wonderful

gift items to choose from just before the holidays! For those thinking about lunch or dinner,

the friends of the Cookhouse will have Chili and Chowder TO GO!

Mrs. Claus will be working overtime to fill her Bake Shoppe with home-baked goodies such as candies, pies and cookies and other sweets, made from family recipes. She'll package all to take home, and all will be a great addition to the holiday weekend dessert tables when family and friends abound! And Sees candies are on sale for that chocolate-loving friend or family member.

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

Gualala Arts will help jump start the good feelings this holiday season. And don't forget to spend some time on the grounds, enjoying the Redwoods, the peace and quiet, and the sculptures placed throughout the walkways and spaces. And one last thought. Still haven't found the perfect gift? Stop by the Dolphin Gallery in Cypress Village. You'll find art, photography, sculptures, jewelry, woodcraft, fabric/textile arts, and of course, Sees candies. The Dolphin Gallery is in Uptown Gualala's Art and Gallery collection in Cypress Village.

Gualala Arts
SINCE 1961
707.884.1138
GualalaArts.org
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Gualala, CA 95445

**GUALALA ARTS
CENTER IS OPEN!**

Pianist Adam Marks
Sunday, Nov. 8, 4 pm
Live Virtual
Chamber Music Concert
Connect at GualalaArts.org

Winter Wonderland!
Trees, Pies, Silent Auction,
Gift Ideas, and more!
November 23 - December 30
11 am to 4 pm everyday*
**except Thanksgiving Day & Christmas Day*

Enter the Christmas Tree
Decorating Competition.
Turn in your registration
by November 13!

"Textiles, Drawings & Clay"
Jennie Henderson
Mike Henderson
At The Dolphin Gallery
Open Thu-Mon, 11 am - 4 pm
Cypress Village.
Gualala's Downtown
Art Destination

While at the Dolphin, pick up some Sees Candies!

Please note: face masks are required and physical distancing will be the norm, with a limited number of people allowed in all public spaces.

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Mendonoma Health Alliance Online Series Continues
"Diabetes Education Series, online"

Mendonoma Health Alliance continues its 5-week Diabetes Education Series. The online series will include cooking demonstrations as well as diabetic health education. Their featured guests include Rebecca Stewart, an executive chef, Jill Nussinow, a registered dietitian & author, as well as Jasper Schmidt, a resident of the coast and the Medical Director of the Emergency Department at Sonoma Valley Hospital. His workshop will be focusing on the physiology of diabetes and how it is affected by weight, diet, and exercise. The cooking sessions will be featuring tasty Thanksgiving meal alternatives. All the workshops are free and no registration is required. Join a Zoom meeting online or by telephone at (669) 900-9128.

Come to one or any of the remaining classes! **Wednesday, November 4 - Physiology of Diabetes**, with instructor Jasper Schmidt, MD. 5:30pm: at <https://zoom.us/j/92663365520>. **Tuesday, November 10 - Cooking Lesson "Vegetarian Thanksgiving Alternatives"** with instructor Jill Nussinow, R.D. 5:30pm at <https://zoom.us/j/95682573417>. **Wednesday, November 18 - Diabetes Nutrition & Gut Health** with instructor Jill Nussinow, R.D. 5:30pm at <https://zoom.us/j/95643171339>.

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Solution to Crossword:

New Moon



November 15

Full Moon



November 30

Arena Theater Presents Three Films For Streaming in November *Collective, Zappa, and Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds With Shane MacGowan*

Arena Theater announces three more films that you can screen online at home (or anywhere, actually) with your ticket purchases you'll know that some that money comes back to Arena Theater to benefit this wonderful organization.

It's time to get comfortable and select one or two or all three movies currently planned to stream this month and know that each film purchased through the Arena Theater website will benefit Arena Theater. The films will stream to your home on your computer or tablet, via Chromecast, through the Kino Now app on Roku, and on AppleTV.

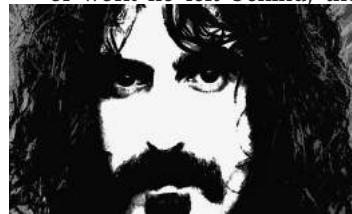
First up on November 20 is the jaw-dropping documentary thriller "Collective". It is considered one of the best-reviewed films of the year.

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

Directed by Alexander Nanau, and written by Nanau and Antoaneta Opris, "Collective" was recognized by 17 festivals, and took home 12 awards (and 9 nominations).

The film is in Romanian and English, and has a running time of 109 minutes.

Anyone who lived through the rise of FM radio, discovering a wider range of music than the dominant Top-40 stations of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s will have, at some point, discovered Frank Zappa. In some ways he was the poster child for pushing the boundaries of music. His death at age 53 some 30 years ago reminds us of the enormous body of work he left behind, the influence he



had on other musicians. "Zappa" is one of the films screening at home this month

by way of Arena Theater's streaming service. It opens November 27.

Billed as an intimate and expansive look into the innovative life of the iconic—and iconoclastic—musician and artist, the film was made with unfettered access to the Zappa family trust and all archival footage. It explores the private life behind the musical career that never shied away from the political turbulence of its time. Directed by Alex Winter (of "Bill & Ted" fame), the film is available for screening beginning November 27. And it should be a fascinating film. One film producer stated that "Alex Winter has created an amazing documentary. 'Zappa' is an incredibly nuanced and compelling look at the visionary iconoclast and the environment that formed him." Zappa fans will already know that when making wardrobe choices during the screening, remember that "Brown Shoes Don't Make It". The film has a running time of 129 minutes.

Not everyone is familiar with The Pogues and Shane MacGowan. But this new documentary by filmmaker Julien Temple

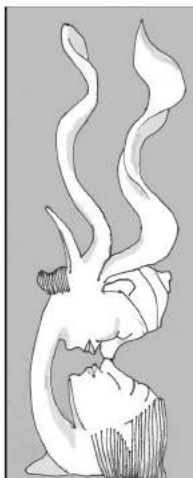
("Earth Girls Are Easy" and "Vigo: A Passion For Life") lays bare much of what fans of The Pogues may have already figured out. And the title of the film, "Crock of Gold: A Few Rounds With Shane MacGowan" should offer some clues for others before screening the film. Joe Strummer of The Clash suggested that MacGowan is "one of the finest writers of this century." Temple's film "Crock of Gold" will be coming to Arena Theater on December 4 and it promises to be entertaining and, perhaps, eye-opening.

It's worth noting that even MacGowan has an ability to lift himself above the fray and tell us that—in reference to himself—that "God looked down on this little cottage in Ireland and said, 'That little boy there, that's the little boy I'm going to use to save Irish music.'" His casual genius, some may recall, was heard and seen in the creation of "Fairytale of New York," a single (in a duet with Kirsty MacColl) that continues to be one of the most played Christmas singles in the last 30 years.

"Crock of Gold - A Few Rounds With Shane MacGowan" deep dives into the life of the tortured Irish vocalist, best known as



the lead singer and songwriter of the Pogues, who famously combined traditional Irish music with the visceral energy of punk rock." The film features unseen archival footage from the band and MacGowan's family, as well as animation from legendary illustrator Ralph Steadman. The film has a running time of 124 minutes.



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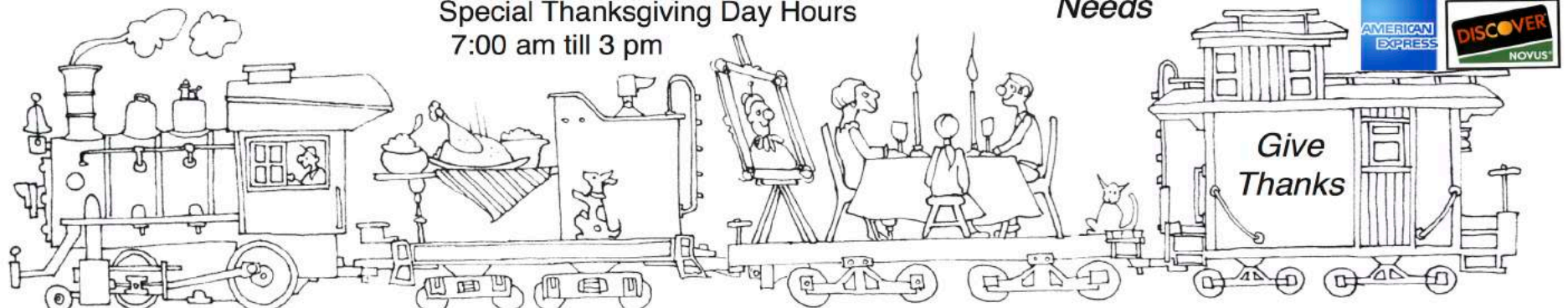
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Words on Wellness • "Turkey Tail Mushroom"

by Karin Uphoff

Our wild forests are precious and need to be preserved as the medicine chests they are. Turkey Tail mushroom (*Trametes versicolor*) grows on trees and fallen logs with distinctive arched bands of brown/red, tan, and white that resemble the tail of a strutting turkey. It is very thin and has barely visible pores on its underside (unlike false turkey tail which is smooth and white), plus a velvet fuzz on the top which glistens in the light, giving them a slight sheen. Inspired by its natural beauty, the Japanese call it "kawaritake," or "cloud mushroom," because of its resemblance to swirling clouds. In many Asian cultures, Turkey Tail symbolizes longevity and health, spiritual attunement and infinity. Known in Chinese culture as Tun Zhi, Turkey Tail has been used for centuries in Traditional Chinese Medicine as an immunomodulator, supporting the health of either an underactive or overactive immune system. Often brewed into a tea or cooked into soup, it helps clear deep phlegm, increase energy, and strengthens lungs, stomach and spleen.



This mushroom has been used to treat cancerous tumors, with recent studies showing it helps with recovery from gastric, bowel,

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

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

breast and lung cancers. It is known in particular for a potent natural complex carbohydrate called polysaccharide K (PSK), one of many polysaccharides that research has shown can support a healthy and robust immune response. PSK works by suppressing the growth of tumor cells, inhibiting the expression of genes that have the potential to cause cancer, and stimulating the immune system to produce more of the body's own cells that attack foreign cells.

Turkey Tail mushroom is packed with antioxidants, including powerful flavonoids and more than thirty-five phenols that serve to protect cells from inflammation. Rich in prebiotics (fibers that gut bacteria feed on to survive and thrive), medicinal mushrooms can help restore the balance of good flora in the gastrointestinal tract, which improves digestion and immune response. If you're able to source your own turkey tails, you can chop and cook them down for an hour to create a tea, as is done traditionally. You can also dry them in a food dehydrator and grind them to a powder that you add to hot drinks, soups, sauces or smoothies. A little used consistently goes a long way for health.

Purple Martin: "From Mendocino to Brazil"

Purple Martins are actually a gorgeous dark blue-black. In our area they are usually heard chortling high over open fields or water, as they fly catching bugs. They are considered to be rare or uncommon breeders here because their population has declined drastically. This is thought to be due to their need for multiple cavities as they are colonial cavity nesters. They formerly nested in dead snags but, due to fire suppression and logging, dead standing trees are hard to come by. Also, the introduced European Starlings and House Sparrows out-compete the Purple Martin for those holes.



At eight inches the Purple Martin is the largest swallow. The male is glossy dark-blue all over. The female and juveniles are sooty-gray underneath. They have a slightly forked tail and broad, pointy wings. They feed mostly in flight, catching bugs such as flies, mosquitoes, butterflies and, one of their favorites, dragonflies. They also drink and bathe on the wing. Historically, Native Americans hung dry gourds and calabash for them to nest in. On the east coast they nest in huge birdhouses with some houses

holding over two hundred pairs. Along our coast, they have adapted to nest in the drain holes under bridges (Caltrans cooperated with a local birder's request that the new drain holes be designed to accommodate the martins. Ed.). They have been found nesting under the bridges over Gualala, Greenwood Creek, Noyo and Juan Creek and even the newly constructed Ten Mile Bridge.

Purple Martins are occasionally polygamous with males having more than one mate. It is thought that males choose and defend a nesting hole and the females later choose the best site and the male goes along with it. They both construct the nest, using grass, feathers, plants and occasionally crayfish legs. Sometimes a mud rim is added to stop the eggs from rolling out. The female incubates four to five eggs for two weeks. The young fledge in about a month.

Before migration, Purple Martins collect in enormous roosts, sometimes numbering up to one hundred thousand, before leaving for places like Bolivia, Venezuela and Brazil for the winter.

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

More information is at www.mendocinocoastaudubon.org. Purple Martin image by JudaM from Pixabay.

Trump Rejection Of Grizzly Plan Won't Deter Bear Advocates

By Hannah Weinberger • hannah.weinberger@crosscut.com

In July, the Trump administration halted a three-decade push to restore grizzly bears to the North Cascades. But advocates say there's still hope.

While the prospect of returning grizzly bears to the North Cascades picked up steam in recent years with support from Ryan Zinke, former secretary of the Department of the Interior, the Trump administration surprised grizzly advocates and researchers this summer with an abrupt termination of the project.

July 13, 2020

Advocates and researchers say the administration's rationale for the move flies in the face of science and public sentiment.

"We have eliminated grizzly bears from 97% of their range in the lower 48 states, and

sive, instead of supporting what was a good and positive project and step forward," adds Andrea Santarsiere, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity who has worked on grizzly issues for nearly a decade.

At a July 7 community meeting in Omak in Okanogan County, current Interior Secretary David L. Bernhardt announced that his department wouldn't continue the reintroduction process, citing local opposition.

Bernhardt claimed in a press release that the Obama administration's environmental review process for an updated restoration plan was conducted "without comprehensive public involvement and engagement," and that later Trump administration briefings and comment periods yielded "overwhelming opposition."

Without the termination, the department



In this May 26, 2020, file photo, a grizzly bear roams an exhibit at the Woodland Park Zoo, closed for nearly three months because of the coronavirus outbreak in Seattle. Grizzly bears once roamed the rugged landscape of the North Cascades in Washington state but few have been sighted in recent decades. The federal government is scrapping plans to reintroduce grizzly bears to the North Cascades ecosystem. (AP Photo/Elaine Thompson, File)

in most of those areas it is impossible for grizzlies to ever live there again because of the impacts of humans," says the University of Montana's Dr. Chris Servheen, who served as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's grizzly bear recovery coordinator for 35 years. "The North Cascades is one of the few places where there is sufficient habitat and space for a healthy grizzly population to return."

Hope isn't lost for these apex predators, which serve critical ecosystem functions and hold an important place in local tribal nations' culture. But what's next for grizzly advocates is up in the air. Chase Gunnell, communications director of Conservation Northwest, says the organization is sorting through what the termination order means under the National Environmental Policy Act, and how that squares with the Endangered Species Act's mandate to recover grizzly bears in ecosystems where they are present and threatened. Given that bears haven't recovered in the North Cascades on their own over the past three decades, the Endangered Species Act provides legal grounds for assistance. But "for now it's essentially a permanent stop-work order, and that's really disappointing to us," Gunnell says.

"It's definitely putting us on the defen-

would have been required to complete an environmental impact statement assessing the best way to reintroduce . . .

Continued on page 13

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**Adam Marks Launches The 2020-2021 Chamber Music Series
 Gualala Arts Presents a Virtual Concert November 8**

Gualala Arts announces the return of the Chamber Music Series for 2020-2021. The first concert, featuring composer and pianist Adam Marks, will be a virtual concert on Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. The concert will be available with a link on this webpage. (The link will be available in early November).

Originally scheduled for an in-person piano recital on November 8, Adam Marks will be coming to us live from New York via Zoom. He will perform a short recital that includes a fantasy based on a Chopin Mazurka, and then engage in a question-and-answer session with the on-line audience. Marjie Van Gunten, who has offered Gualala Chamber Music Series Pre-concert talks, will introduce the session and guide the Q&A. Marks is an engaging conversationalist as well as performer. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the real life of a performing artist in the middle of a pandemic. This event will last approximately 45 minutes.

As the founding co-director of Artists at Albatross Reach, an arts residency/incubator in Gualala, California (with vocalist Jennifer Beattie,) Adam Marks is well known to coastal music lovers. There, he has helped to craft a unique collaborative process to champion the development of new multidisciplinary works and experimentation, as well as a rich environment for curious community members and local artists to explore and participate in the art-making. Marks' other programming ventures include serving as the first non-local curator for the San Francisco Center for New Music, presenting innovative soloists and ensembles from across the country.



Praised as an "excellent pianist" with "titanic force" (New York Times), Adam Marks is an active soloist, collaborator, curator, and educator based in NYC. He has appeared as soloist with the Mission Chamber Orchestra, Manchester Symphony Orchestra, the National Repertory Orchestra, and at notable venues including Salle Cortot, Carnegie Hall, Miller Theatre, Logan Center for the Arts, the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Millennium Park, Ravinia, and Davies Symphony Hall. He was a laureate of the Orleans Competition for contemporary music in Orleans, France, and his premiere of Holly Harrison's "Lobster Tales and Turtle Soup" with Eighth Blackbird won the Australian Art Music Awards Performance of the Year in 2018. Other recent international performances include recitals in Brazil, Singapore, France, and Croatia.

Because Gualala Arts Center remains closed for public events due to COVID-19, the previously announced Chamber Concert Series for 2020-2021 has been cancelled and the artists will be re-scheduled for future dates. The safety of our audience and our performers is paramount. However, that doesn't mean we can't have chamber music performances in another format. Watch for announcements of additional virtual concerts being planned for 2020-21.

TAJ MAHAL Cont'd.

... a multi-Blues Music Award winner, Blues Hall of Fame member and Americana Music Association's Lifetime Achievement award recipient. He plays guitar, piano, banjo, and harmonica. In his 50 years of performing, his work has helped reshape many preconceived ideas of the Blues. Taj Mahal has disregarded any ideas of musical lines or borders by incorporating rhythms and ideas from Africa, the Caribbean, the far East, as well as Hawaii, and the South Pacific.

Get comfortable, sit back and enjoy a legend as he brings his music right into your living room. More information is at ArenaTheater.org. Or at the Arena Theater office: 707.882.3272.

Don't miss this legendary performance. November 17th will be a special evening.

**Humpback Whale
 Song & Seti Soiree**

**November 14, 2020
 A Virtual Event**

NOAA's Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Greater Farallones Association present a virtual "Humpback Whale Song & Seti* Soirée! - A Free Event!"

Join the soiree and lecture, "Humpback Whale Song and the Search for Alien Intelligence" by Dr. Laurance Doyle, SETI Institute; and pre-lecture soiree activities. The study of animal communication challenges our ideas of intelligence and informs the *Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) in the universe.

Among the most fascinating and sophisticated of vocalizations are the songs and sounds of humpback whales. Laurance Doyle, Ph.D, Research Scientist with SETI Institute will share his work studies of humpbacks to understand the communications that exist throughout Planet Earth—and beyond—at the 7:30pm lecture. Soiree activities begin at 7:00pm, followed by the lecture. Surprise gift with optional registration. Recommended for ages 16+. The event is free! Questions, contact Sara Heintzelman at sheintzelman@farallones.org.

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<https://farallones.org/events/>; Tune in at: <https://www.youtube.com/user/FarallonesAssoc/live>

Information is on the web at:
 NOAA Greater Farallones NMS: <http://farallones.noaa.gov>.

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Metropolitan Opera Stars Concert Performances Continue in November

PPV Events Feature Sonya Yoncheva, Renée Fleming, Joyce DiDonato, Diana Damrau and Joseph Calleja

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

Debating on November 21 at 10:00am, is Sonya Yoncheva, one of opera's most



compelling and thrilling stars, showcasing her riveting artistry in a special program live from Berlin. Sonya Yoncheva's fans can expect the same star power she's delivered in recent triumphs on the stage of the Met in Tosca, Otello, Iolanta, and Luisa Miller.

Born in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, soprano Sonya Yoncheva is one of opera's most versatile artists, with a repertoire that includes a long list of title roles including Norma and Cherubini's Médée, Imogene in Bellini's Il Pirata, Poppea in L'Incoronazione di Poppea, Élisabeth in Don Carlos and many

more. Yoncheva is equally at home on the concert and recital stage, and this is expected to be one, wonderful performance.

Each opera concert performance is scheduled to debut on a Saturday at 10:00am local time. Once you've purchased your PPV ticket you can watch each concert again (and again) for 12 days on demand. Just click the link in the confirmation email and enjoy the performance. Again.

In addition to the Sonya Yoncheva concert from Berlin, here are the currently available concerts:

• **Through November 2: Renée Fleming,** America's beloved diva, performs live in an intimate and iconic American venue: the music salon of Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, D.C. The program shows off Fleming's wide repertoire, from favorite arias by Puccini and Massenet to moving selections by Handel and Korngold, in a location that helped change the course of the 20th century.

• **Through November 2. Joyce DiDonato.** American mezzo-soprano, and one of opera's most luminous stars, DiDonato has given innumerable outstanding performances over the course of her Met career. Her inimitable artistry will be on display in this program of alluring and acrobatic arias and songs. DiDonato will be accompanied by Carrie-Ann Matheson on piano and the chamber ensemble Il Pomo d'Oro.

• **Through November 6. Diana Damrau and Joseph Calleja.** Two of opera's greatest artists perform live from the Cappella Palatina of the Royal Palace of Caserta—a spectacular chapel that provides the perfect setting for a program that includes favorite



excerpts from Puccini's Tosca, as well as other popular duets and arias. Soprano Diana Damrau and tenor Joseph Calleja, both long-time Met stars

known for holding nothing back onstage, are sure to pull out all the stops for this performance.

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

Sonya Yoncheva (left) and Diana Damrau and Joseph Calleja (above)

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Arena Theater's Drive-In Movie Presents "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" • November 7

Every time I hear the name of the late director John Hughes, I recall how he used the Windy City as a backdrop for a number of his films. Having lived and worked in Chicago for 5 years in the 1970s, I believe I became secretly jealous of people who had spent their entire lives in the city.

Moving to Los Angeles in 1977 I started to get Chicago out of my bloodstream. Or so I thought. And then, along came "Ferris Bueller's Day Off". The film is the final Drive-In Movie presented by Arena Theater in 2020. Join the fun Saturday evening, November 7. (Check with Arena Theater for exact starting time). The film is a fundraiser for Arena Theater. Running time is 103 minutes.

The film stars Matthew Broderick as Ferris Bueller, Mia Sara as his girlfriend Sloane, and Alan Ruck as his friend Cameron.



Bueller is an individual the other students either quietly admire (if not love) for his antics, or hate for seeming to get away with almost everything. Bueller decides to fake an illness, skip school and invest that time with Sloane. One additional "character" is introduced in the film: a 1961 Ferrari 250 GT. To be fair, the film company ordered 3 replica cars since endangering or trashing the Ferrari (worth millions) was really not an option.

Most of the film is a dream-day for Bueller, as he explores Chicago's Loop, joins a parade, sings the Isley Brothers classic "Twist & Shout" (with the help of a marching band), enjoys lunch at a too-expensive restaurant, and makes stops at Wrigley Field and the Art Institute. Credit Hughes with creating a durable film—for its time—and giving many of us the chance to reminisce on being a lover or hater of guys like Bueller.

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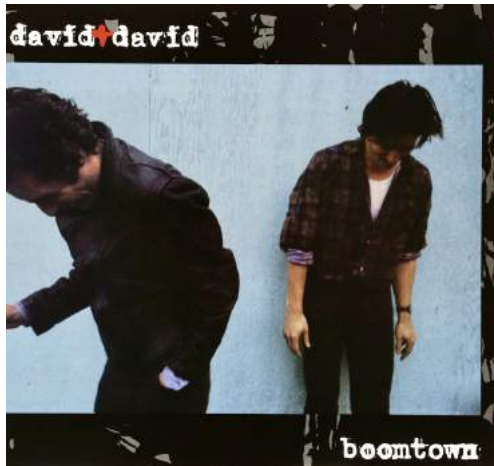
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Hey Stranger, Welcome To The Boomtown. On Music and Memory

by David Steffen

It was a moment. We were at home, sitting and streaming the film “Runaway Jury”. The story for this 2003 release was set in New Orleans. The Big Easy has long been one of my favorite cities for the culture, the music and, of course, the food. My first visit was in 1980, and my work in the music business kept bringing me back. Seeing the transformation of John Grisham’s book, the film’s plot twists, and the performances of the four principal players—John Cusack, Dustin Hoffman, Gene Hackman and Rachel Weisz—kept me thoroughly entertained. About half a dozen pieces of recorded music were dropped into key moments of the film. One of those music tracks brings me to two guys named David.

As was often the case in the second half of the 20th century, talented musicians regularly found each other and made record deals through happenstance, a sharp A&R person, mutual friends, sheer luck, or perhaps divine guidance in the form of a Muse. In the early 1980s, two talented musicians, David Ricketts and David Baerwald, came together, and



one can only assume there was a spark as they became an act.

Early on one could see and hear that their ideas were original, their music refreshing, and that something special was coming. And that’s why they weren’t an unusual signing for A&M Records. The label was a perfect fit for what their music could become. To be clear, this wasn’t really a band, but rather two talented people whose 1984 demo tape made its way to A&M. It took the better part of two years to get their first album out. They branded themselves as David and David (graphically represented as David+David). “Boomtown” was released in 1986 and a tour followed. My recollection is that the tour lasted fewer than a dozen dates. Maybe live performance was not going to be their thing. Nevertheless radio and retail loved the album and the first single “Welcome to the Boomtown”, perhaps because the lyrics provided such great imagery for the real or perceived life in Hollywood or L.A. in the 1980s.

*Miss Christina drives a 9-4-4,
Satisfaction oozes from her pores
She keeps rings on her fingers,
marble on her floor*

*Cocaine in her dresser, bars on her doors
She keeps her back against the wall, So I say,
Welcome, Welcome to the boomtown
Pick a habit we’ve got plenty to go around
Welcome, Welcome to the boomtown
All that money makes such a succulent sound,
Welcome to the boomtown*

The single became a top-40 Billboard hit, and more than 35 years later it is still a great listen. As it turned out, “Boomtown” was David+David’s only album.

About two years later another unusual and wonderful album was released by A&M. Singer-songwriter Toni Childs was in her late 20s and had already spent the better part of a decade writing songs, performing with numerous artists and learning the ropes of studio recording. Signed to A&M she was given a significant enough budget to record her first album in Europe and Swaziland. The diverse locales of the studios and the supporting musicians was reflected in the music, studio production, and lyrics of the songs on the album “Union”, many with a clear African or Afro-caribbean flavor: tracks like “Stop Your Fussin”, “Zimbabwe” and “Let The Rains Come Down”.

The album also showcased the unique, dynamic and rich nature of Childs’ vocal style, and the talents of producer David Ricketts (yes, the same David Ricketts from David+David). Childs could belt a driving vocal in “Dont’ Walk Away”, a rhythmic island tempo in “Stop Your Fussin”, and a measured anthem in “Zimbabwe”. Her voice had a range and power that often surprised first-time listeners. While that 1st album did well, her 2nd, “House of Hope”, was less successful. Perhaps the lead track, “I’ve Got To Go Now”—with a theme about an abusive relationship—was too heavy for a general audience even though the song was well-crafted, credible, and Ricketts’ production was first rate. She’d later also record a cover of Jimmy Cliff’s “Many Rivers To Cross”, and Childs’ version is brilliant.

Meeting Toni and working her “Union” album remains a warm memory, but Toni was not just a talented singer and songwriter. She was a force. Sort of a benevolent hurricane. I keep a dozen of her tracks close so that at anytime I can immerse myself in her music.

Almost two years after Toni’s “Union” album, the other David—David Baerwald—was working on his first solo album. Ultimately titled “Bedtime Stories” the songs had rich, sometimes dark, storylines but I loved every minute of the music. Shortly before I

left A&M in 1990 I attended a company preview meeting which concluded with a brief performance by Baerwald, in an intimate setting, accompanying himself on acoustic guitar. His set seemed to be over, yet he lingered and offered to play one more song. That was, for me, the most powerful moment. The song was titled “Stranger”, and the lyrics brought back imagery that many of us would like to forget. He was singing about the men and women who were shuttled off to war in southeast Asia and returned, often damaged, sometimes broken.

*Brother at this moment
you ain’t feeling any pain,
And your staring out the window
and it looks like rain
Your a veteran and you know
about monkeys on the brain
You watched every dream you had
lie broken in the drain*

*300,000 men all different all the same
Piled up like driftwood in the pouring rain
Hey stranger, ain’t there nothing I can say
Can you think of any way
that you can make it through the day
Hey Stranger is there something I can do
You lost it all for me,
There must be something I can do for you.*

The lyrics continued, thinking about American society in general, not just the veterans:

*A quarter of the country is
one paycheck from the street
A tenth of the country
has never had enough to eat
And one one-hundredth of the country
is strangling all the rest
And every policeman on the street
is wearing a bullet-proof vest
Hey stranger, ain’t there nothing I can say
Can you think of any way
that you can make it through the day*

*Hey Stranger is there something I can do,
You lost it all for me,
There must be something I can do for you.*

I thought to myself, that is one amazing song. It reminded me of the times my friend Al Marks and I stopped at the Vietnam Memorial’s Wall of Names in Washington D.C. A few weeks later my friend Aaron Jacoves from the A&R Department stopped by my office and dropped off an advance cassette of the forthcoming album. That evening I dropped the cassette into the player in my car and drove home. The next day I called Aaron. He asked me what I thought of the album and I told him I loved it, but I was wondering what happened to “Stranger?” which wasn’t on the cassette. He said they weren’t certain it was going to be included and asked why I wanted to know. I reminded him of the performance Baerwald gave at the meeting months earlier, and how the song was just too good to be left on the proverbial “cutting room floor”. Some weeks (or months) later I received a copy of the ‘about-to-be-released’ album and was happy to see “Stranger” on the list of tracks.

Last week while watching “Runaway Jury” a song came quietly out of the film and I knew that voice. It was David Baerwald singing “A Bitter Tree”, a track from his second album “Triage”. I’m some 30 years removed from my days at A&M, and more years than that from “Boomtown” and “Stop Your Fussin”. Nevertheless, music is such an important piece of fabric in our lives, sometimes when we don’t even know it.

When a familiar song or a familiar voice comes surprisingly through the radio or television or movie screen, we tend to perk up, listen more closely. And we are often transported to a an image, a moment, a memory. Or some piece of our personal history. Maybe a thought of one of our friends. And that’s a very good thing.



"Tree Story: The History of the World Written in Rings"

A Book by Valerie Trouet • Reviewed by Jennifer Bort Yacovissi

I told a friend of mine that I had a funny story recently: "I'm reading a book about tree rings — that's not the funny part," and she interrupted me. "Oh, no, you're wrong. That is the funny part."

Yet Valerie Trouet's *Tree Story: The History of the World Written in Rings* is everything I had hoped it would be: intelligent, accessible, witty, and captivating — a global adventure spanning millennia

and embracing a bevy of unexpected topics, all resulting from the study of tree rings. The book brims with globetrotting detective stories involving pirate ships, volcanic eruptions, the jet stream, and a Stradivarius known as the Messiah.

Dendrochronology ("tree time") as a scientific discipline sprang up in the 1930s in, of all places, the deserts of Arizona, as a result of astronomer Andrew Ellicott Douglass' interest in how tree rings

might reflect cycles of sunspot activity. Douglass was drawn to Arizona for its clear skies; serendipitously, the dry Southwest climate also aided in preserving wood.

The astronomer's efforts established the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona (UA), where its continued leadership in the field drew the Belgian Trouet from a spot at the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow, and Landscape Research to her current position at UA.

Tree rings form with metronomic regularity every year, but each year's ring differs based on prevailing conditions. Similar tree types within a geographic region consistently share patterns; experienced dendrochronologists can spot a well-known ring pattern in a core sample even before examining it microscopically.

Sampling live and dead wood within and across geographic regions allows scientists to develop tree ring libraries: overlapping chronologies of established dates that serve as crucial baseline references for additional research.

As Trouet notes, "The longest continuous tree ring record, the German oak pine chronology, covers the past 12,650 years without skipping a single year." When it comes to historical documentation, nothing compares with tree rings for both accuracy and precision.

That precision becomes the one constant

against which so many other events and timelines can be crosschecked and analyzed. Tree ring chronologies allow radio carbon dating to be calibrated against organic material of a precisely known age; they can be used in concert with other natural record keepers — glacial ice, stalagmites, quahogs (a type of clam), fish ear bones — to form a more multifaceted understanding of both Earth and human histories.

Archaeology in particular has benefitted hugely from dendrochronology: One of Douglass' first successes was to accurately date the ruins and cliff dwellings of the Ancestral Puebloans. Archaeologists had compared sites with each other for a relative chronology, but no one had previously been able to date the sites' establishment or abandonment.

The discovery of one wooden beam at an ancient site in Show Low, Arizona, allowed Douglass' team to fix a floating chronology with a definitive date, in one stroke answering a key question about an enduring mystery.

The Americas have the oldest living trees — bristlecone pines hold the record — primarily because they have been populated more lightly and for a shorter period than other temperate parts of the world.

(Anyone who was captivated by Alex Ross' January 20, 2020, article in the *New Yorker*, "The Past and the Future of the Earth's Oldest Trees," will already be familiar with the sad story of Don Currey, the Bill Buckner* of dendrochronology. As a graduate student in 1964, Currey cut down Prometheus, which, at 4,862 years, turned out to be the oldest known living tree on earth. In 2012, a 5,062-year-old bristlecone was found; keeping its location a secret may protect it from future grad students and ancient-tree groupies.)

In comparison, Europe's oldest tree found to date, which Trouet participated in sampling, is Bosnian pine Adonis, which clocks in at a comparatively spry 1,075 years.

Even the remains of trees hold valuable information. Four blocks from the White House, the Walker Interglacial Swamp boasts stumps of bald cypress, roots still attached, which are 130,000 years old. Paleodendrochronologists study the rings of petrified wood to understand the

climates of ancient eras.

Trouet has played a significant part in several discoveries, including the linking of sunspot activity to hurricanes; the increasingly erratic wobbling of the jet stream, which contributes to extreme weather events, in the last 50 years; the mechanisms that caused both the warmth of Europe's Medieval Climate Anomaly — which "allowed agriculture, culture, and population to flourish" — and the subsequent crushing Little Ice Age; and the connection between the introduction of Catholic missions in California and a significant spike in wildfire activity in the Sierra Nevada.

The link? The indigenous population understood the importance of keeping fuel loads low within the forests, regularly setting understory fires to clear out the growth. The Franciscans brought disease along with religion, wiping out approximately 85 percent of the indigenous population in 80 years and leaving no one to continue appropriate forest management.

In mid-May of this year, the entire eastern half of the United States experienced one of the most punishing cold snaps on record, a killing frost that damaged emerging crops. This is but one in a long and accelerating list of weather anomalies that are piling up, not necessarily "global warming" so much as "global weirding."

The work of dendrochronologists helps put our current collective understanding of climate into the perspective of a much longer history of Earth's climate than the human species has directly experienced. *Tree Story* is a true story that Valerie Trouet lays out in engaging and compelling detail. It's worth taking the time to listen.

[*Bill Buckner famously let a groundball roll through his legs in the 10th inning of the sixth game of the 1986 World Series, opening the way for the Mets to take the series from the Red Sox. That error overshadowed the rest of his career.]

Jennifer Bort Yacovissi's debut novel, *Up the Hill to Home*, tells the story of four generations of a family in Washington, DC, from the Civil War to the Great Depression. Jenny writes a bi-monthly column and reviews frequently for the *Washington Independent Review of Books*, and serves on its board of directors. She also writes a bimonthly column for *Late Last Night Books*. Her short fiction has appeared in *Gargoyle* and *Pen-in-Hand*. Jenny is a member of PEN/America and the National Book Critics' Circle. Previously, she served as chair of the Washington Writers Conference and as president of the Annapolis chapter of the Maryland Writers' Association.



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Haiku for November

"on the wooded path
I watch my dog listen
to leaves fall."

by mai haiku

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 Larry Sabato (1952-)

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Scuttlebutt

by Mitch McFarland

Given the recent necessity for the federal government to shore up the economy with massive deficit spending, one may wonder how we will be able to reverse this trend and lower the national debt. This borrowing by the feds is not only necessary, but a good idea since Treasury bonds are paying less than 1%, while the inflation rate is around 1.4%. That is cheap money, but even cheap money has to be paid back. This fiscal year the U.S. will pay out \$393.5 billion in interest payments on our debt. Foreign governments own about one-third of our debt and so about \$120 billion will be paid to them in interest.

The national debt is now larger than the gross domestic product for the first time since the end of World War Two. WW II was a major threat to the well-being of our nation and required an all-out effort to prevail. Some 420,000 Americans died during that conflict and the COVID-19 virus is half way there with plenty more deaths to come. A similar response was obviously necessary.

So how did we pull ourselves out of that to create the huge economic expansion of the 50's and 60's? Let's recall the infamous bank robber Willie Sutton's advice and go where the money is. The super wealthy.

Americans for Tax Fairness and the Institute for Policy Studies found that from March 18 to October 13 the total net worth of America's 644 billionaires climbed from \$2.95 trillion to \$3.88 trillion. This represented a 31.6 percent rise based on Forbes billionaires data.

Elon Musk jumped 277 percent, or \$68.2 billion to \$92.8 billion. Jeff Bezos' wealth jumped 80 percent, or \$90.1 billion, while Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg saw a 20 percent and 85 percent rise respectively.

In contrast, as 98,000 businesses permanently closed across the country, almost 62 million Americans lost work between March 21 and September 19, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. The collective work income of rank-and-file private sector employees fell by 3.5 percent from mid-March to mid-September. In addition to this, a total of 12 million citizens lost employer-sponsored health insurance during the pandemic, while 22 million reported not having enough food to eat in the last week.

This is income inequality on steroids.

The Biden campaign is proposing to raise the top marginal tax rate by a mere 2.6% to 39.6%. Compare this to over 90% rate from 1951 to 1963 under Republican administrations, at which time it was then lowered

to 70% under JFK. Then came the Reagan revolution when the rate fell to 28%.

There are, of course, other proposals in the Biden plan, including taxing capital gains and dividends at ordinary rates for those with annual incomes over \$1 million. His proposals are expected to raise some \$4 trillion over the next decade and has been generally well received even on Wall Street and in academia.

Of course demanding taxes be paid and collecting them can be two different things. Republicans are famously and proudly opposed to taxes and have been on a particularly virulent rampage since 2013 when they attacked the IRS for allegedly singling out conservative groups for greater scrutiny and delays in reviewing their applications for tax-exempt status as "social welfare" organizations when they were actually nakedly political (the IRS was scrutinizing liberal applicants as well).

For five years, congressional Republicans have taken out their anti-tax wrath on the Internal Revenue Service, cutting its budget by nearly \$1 billion, reducing its staff by about 17,000, and even threatening to impeach its chief.

"I'm appalled, that's all I can say," said Lawrence B. Gibbs, a tax lawyer who joined the I.R.S. during the Nixon administration and was President Ronald Reagan's choice for commissioner in 1986.

In the last decade, the I.R.S. budget has fallen (in real terms) by nearly 15 percent. Its enforcement budget has fallen 25 percent over this period, and its work force has been slashed by 20 percent. In fact, as a share of gross tax collections, the I.R.S. budget is down nearly 50 percent from its peak in 1993.

The I.R.S. has 5,000 fewer revenue agents, officers and criminal investigators than five years ago. Tax audits are at the lowest level in a decade, affecting fewer than 1 percent of taxpayers. Reduced efforts to enforce compliance cost an estimated \$6 billion in uncollected revenues in 2014 and \$8 billion in 2015. Based on current trends, in the next decade the I.R.S. will fail to collect an estimated \$7.5 trillion in owed taxes.

So how is it that the wealthy can avoid paying their fair share so easily? Compliance rates for ordinary wage and salary workers are 99 percent because their taxes are automatically withheld. In contrast, richer Americans are more likely to have items like capital gains, rental income and proprietorship income — and the I.R.S. estimates that up to 55 percent of the income from such sources can be unreported, and thus untaxed. Exami-

nation rates for those making \$10 million or more annually have plummeted by nearly 80 percent. Today you are as likely to be audited if you make so little that you qualify for the earned-income tax credit as if you are in the top 1 percent.

Indeed just a few hundred taxpayers deprived the government of \$10 billion from 2014 to 2016 by committing the most blatant form of evasion, failing to file tax returns all together. The I.R.S. lacked the resources to even work these cases. The IRS did not pursue 369,180 high-income non filers, with estimated tax due of \$20.8 billion.

Larry Summers, former Treasury Secretary and past Harvard President and Natasha Sarin, professor at Trump's alma mater, Wharton School, have made suggestions to narrow the gap between taxes owed, but unpaid. Their rough estimate suggests that at least 70 percent of the "tax gap" comes from underpayment by the top 1 percent. Summers and Sarin are the ones who claim that based on current trends, in the next decade the I.R.S. will fail to collect an estimated \$7.5 trillion in owed tax.

They would like to see: **1. increased enforcement** (every \$1 that is spent would generate more than \$11 in greater tax collection); **2. improved technology** (IRS uses programs from the 1960s); **3. third party notifications** (like when your employer reports your earnings). These three proposals would be equivalent to raising the upper tax rate to 70% without touching anyone's tax rate.

Stand-by to see what happens.

"The difference between a democracy and a dictatorship is that in a democracy you vote first and take orders later; in a dictatorship you don't have to waste your time voting."

*Charles Bukowski
 (1920-1994)*

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TRUMP REJECTS GRIZZLY PLAN . . .
(Cont'd from page 7)

. . . out-of-state grizzlies to Washington's 9,800-square-mile North Cascades ecosystem, which scientists say could support 250 to 300 bears. Scientists estimate there are fewer than 10 grizzlies in the North Cascades, and they may be functionally extinct; if any grizzly bears remain, they are both too far removed and genetically isolated from neighboring grizzly populations to recover on their own. Scientific analysis has determined that relocating grizzlies from outside the state is necessary to bring back the population.

"The [environmental impact statement] process is to involve the public in how to restore grizzlies to the North Cascades, not to decide if grizzly bears should be recovered," Servheen says. "The decision made by the secretary of interior is pure politics and is wrong."

Gunnell says there has long been strong statewide support for grizzly reintroduction, including in Central Washington. Conservation Northwest obtained copies of all 143,000 environmental impact statement public comments in 2019 from the National Park Service, which showed at least 90% favored grizzly restoration.

"We understand [...] the need to put a priority on public safety, but would hope that people also see the value of protecting the magnificent creatures in their historical ranges," Scott Schuyler, natural resources director of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, says via email. "The Upper Skagit people have respected and coexisted with all creatures great and small residing in the Upper Skagit Valley, including the grizzly bear and wolf for nearly 10,000 years pre-contact. This cultural value for the landscape and its inhabitants is something we hope people understand and embrace."

While Bernhardt says grizzlies are "not in danger of extinction," they have been listed as endangered in Washington state since 1980,

and the state's most recent review recommended maintaining that status. The North Cascades Ecosystem includes six grizzlies in British Columbia, but none confirmed in Washington. The only confirmed grizzlies in the state are in the Selkirk Recovery Zone on the border of Washington, British Columbia and Idaho. Of an estimated 50 to 60 animals, about 12 reside in Washington. These bears also face threats from humans, as well as low population numbers.



"For the Trump administration to put the ice on this ... and then blatantly lie in their statement that there was not public support ... and to do it under the cover of a global pandemic and social unrest with little notice to even agency scientists who've been leading the process, let alone conservationists like myself, it was really a punch in the gut," Gunnell says.

The North Cascades bears are the last native species still missing from the North Cascades ecosystem.

"Anytime that you have a piece of the system missing, it has cascading effects ... and they have been missing for a while," says Hannah Anderson of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, who serves on the International Grizzly Bear Committee's executive committee.

Opening up the North Cascades to grizzlies would double the existing range of the bear in the lower 48 states. With comparatively few visitors, reintroduction efforts would be

easier than in popular places like Yellowstone or Glacier national parks.

"Federal grizzly bear recovery plans are clear that you can't just put all your eggs in the basket of the northern Rockies," Gunnell says. "[It] doesn't have any bearing on the North Cascades."

This isn't the first grizzly recovery project to stall out. The Selway-Bitterroot recovery plan halted in 2001 after facing local push-back. But there was never a formal termination notice—the interior department simply stopped taking action.

"That process was also stopped by a short-sighted political decision, just like what just happened in the North Cascades," Servheen recalls.

Conservation advocates say they aren't giving up on grizzly reintroduction.

"What the next step is going to be, whether legal, political or otherwise, is not clear at this point, but there's certainly avenues available," Gunnell says.

Many tribal nations have passed resolutions and drafted letters in favor of grizzly restoration — including efforts by the Okanagan Nation Alliance, the Yakama Nation, the Snoqualmie Tribe and others.

Advocates are also focusing on bolstering citizen support. Conservation Northwest says it will continue engaging with recreationists and ranchers around the North Cascades, in tandem with partners in British Columbia, through outreach programs that teach coexistence and safety practices. The coronavirus crisis restricts how much outreach can be done in person.

Regardless, Gunnell is holding out hope. "We don't see this train as being fully stopped but more delayed," Gunnell says. "We're confident that the Endangered Species Act will prevail. But clearly this is a big setback."

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Above Grizzly bear Image by JoeBreuer from Pixabay.

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Crossword

by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Chop finely
- 6 Ballroom move
- 10 Similar (to)
- 14 Squirrel's snack
- 15 Bartlett, for one
- 16 Hard or soft ending
- 17 Sound reasoning
- 18 Among other things
- 20 1992 thriller "Basic _____"
- 22 Deer's home
- 23 Cafeteria item
- 24 Bookkeeper's stamp
- 25 Element
- 28 San Francisco icon
- 32 Phony
- 34 Lunch place
- 35 That girl
- 36 Hyundai model
- 39 Tupperware top
- 40 Seat anagram
- 42 Eyeglasses feature
- 44 Equestrian event
- 47 Very serious
- 48 "My ___!"
- 49 Bit of smoke
- 50 Clothing
- 53 Airplane's wake
- 57 Co-signer, say
- 59 Yorba ____, CA
- 60 Life sentences?
- 61 Directs a weapon
- 62 Script direction
- 63 Hair goops
- 64 Brief quarrel

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65 Place of another

DOWN

- 1 Neighbor of Algeria
- 2 Screen symbol
- 3 Eggy drinks
- 4 Animal
- 5 Completely surround
- 6 Like Thai food
- 7 Revival setting
- 8 Devour
- 9 Kind of house
- 10 Given, as custody
- 11 Cabbage kin
- 12 Bearded bloom
- 13 Shipshape
- 19 Muddy up
- 21 Birth-related
- 24 Part of a suit
- 25 Needed liniment
- 26 Give a buzz
- 27 Spare anagram
- 28 River ride
- 29 "People" person, briefly
- 30 Mel's Diner waitress
- 31 Equestrian
- 33 Argentine dance
- 37 Lacquer ingredient
- 38 Last Supper diners
- 41 Wearable souvenirs
- 43 Publishing brand
- 45 Medical fluids
- 46 Sports venues
- 49 Bottom of the barrel
- 50 Wide-eyed
- 51 London subway
- 52 Peacock's pride
- 53 Unwakable state
- 54 Stud fee?
- 55 Brainchild
- 56 Fat for cooking
- 58 Bellboy's bonus

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"Sea Lion Rebellion!"

by Mary Jane Schramm, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Conditions were ripe for revolution. As property owners stood helplessly by, a mob of large, blubbery marine mammals armed with formidable teeth, attitude, and deafening barks carried out the takeover of San Francisco's prime waterfront real estate: the Pier 39 Marina at Fisherman's Wharf. It was January 1990, and the pier was a thriving tourist mecca known for its shops, seafood restaurants and maritime ambience. Unfazed by human presence, the intruders made their move, having abruptly



abandoned the eponymous Seal Rocks just outside the Golden Gate, overcrowded, and pummeled by Pacific storms. No one knows what triggered the exodus, but herring was plentiful inside the bay that winter; perhaps some enterprising individuals followed a shoal of fish in, noted the marina's invitingly accessible floating docks, and raised the Sea Lion Nation flag; others followed suit. Boat slip owners howled in outrage, but were out-shouted by merchants and restaurateurs hearing the ka-ching! of cash

registers. Suddenly, these smelly squatters were a world-famous attraction. Indeed, the facility built them floating "condos" to restore harmony with the boating community. Win-win. Meet the California sea lion, *Zalophus Californianus*.

The California sea lion is one of the four species of "eared" pinnipeds (fur seals and sea lions) native to the West Coast of North America and the Gulf of California, numbering just over 257,000 in US waters, and increasing. However, periodic warm water events such as El Niños, can suppress ocean productivity, resulting in widespread starvation and fluctuating numbers. Sea lions are bellwethers, excellent indicators of ocean conditions for natural resource managers such as Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

SALTY DOGS: Sea lions are distinguished by large, leathery fore flippers that enable them to "fly" underwater. Their hind flippers are rotatable, allowing them to walk and climb on land. Their doglike faces are appealing, and they have a cheekiness and charm that makes them popular in zoos and aquaria worldwide as ambassadors for



the ocean. Playful and intelligent, they have a sportive disposition, sometimes "porpoising" across the waves, racing to parts unknown—or from sheer exuberance.

They've been known to play Frisbee™ with round, flat ocean sunfish and rays: whether it's to break them into bite-sized pieces, or simply for fun, we can only speculate.

Bulls are much larger than cows (sexual dimorphism): males can exceed eight feet and 800 pounds. Females are more diminutive, at just 240 pounds. Adult males develop a bump on their forehead, the sagittal crest.

PINNIPED PARENTING: In the U.S., California sea lions breed mainly in the Channel Islands, with smaller colonies at Año Nuevo; a few are born at the Farallon Islands. Each summer they form breeding groups, or "leks" of a male and a group of females. The males leave immediately after mating. Females are caring and attentive moms, nursing a pup from nine months to a year while teaching it swimming, foraging and other survival skills.

SEAFOODIES: California sea lions' diet includes anchovy, squid, herring, salmon, dogfish sharks, clams, and lampreys: "Catch of the Day." Clever and opportunistic, they're the bane of fishermen, stealing precious salmon from lines, or jumping into nets to gorge on fish trapped inside. Sea lions are federally protected under the Marine Protection Act, though legal "takes"

can occur under NOAA Fisheries permit, if they interfere substantially with fishery operations.

SEA LION SURVIVAL: Their natural predators are mainly sharks and killer whales. But human-caused threats include entanglement in fishing gear, and shooting. Biotoxins resulting from harmful algal blooms, often caused by farm fertilizer runoff, and diseases such as leptospirosis, periodically take their toll.

The next time you visit the coast, look for dark forms on the rocks, or playing in the surf. Listen for the repetitive barking that marks a sea lion haulout. Know that, due to the Marine Mammal Protection Act, a



once-hunted species can survive and thrive. Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's story map, at <https://farallones.noaa.gov/visit/plan-your-visit.html>, can lead you to some likely spots!

Mary Jane Schramm
 NOAA Greater Farallones - National Marine Sanctuary
 Maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov
 IMAGE: Upper left: "Tom Johnson, the white shark." Credit: Voyage to White Shark Café/MBA-NOAA. Lower left: "Southeast Farallon Island." Credit: Joshua Hull, USFWS. Above: "Tom Johnson, the photographer/naturalist." Credit: Thomas M. Johnson.

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Edited by Margie E. Burke

HOW TO SOLVE:
 Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.
 (Answer appears elsewhere in this issue)



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- Monday 02: All Day. Last chance to see Renée Fleming's PPV MET Opera concert.²
- Monday 02: All Day. Last chance to see Joyce DiDonato's PPV MET Opera concert.²
- Tuesday 03: Election Day
- Wednesday 04: 2:00pm, Prescription Take-back event in Pt. Arena.
- Wednesday 04: 5:30pm, Diabetes. Physiology of Diabetes. Mendonoma Health. (Page 13).⁵
- Friday 06: All Day. Last chance to see Diana Damrau & Joseph Calleja's opera concert.²
- Friday 06: 11:00am, Coast Hwy Art Coll. Opening, with Sara Costello & Deb Threlkel.
- Saturday 07: Time TBD, Arena Theater Drive in: "Ferris Beuller's Day Off".
- Sunday 08: 4:00pm, Chamber Music Virtual Concert with Adam Marks (Gualala Arts).⁴
- Tuesday 10: 5:30pm, Diabetes. Education. Cooking. From Mendonoma Health. (Page 13).⁵
- Wednesday 11: Veterans Day
- Thursday 12: 11:00am, Cynthia Myers brings her glass works to Elk Collective.
- Friday 13: 11:00am, Christmas Tree Competition registration forms due.
- Saturday 14: 7:00pm, "Humpback Whale Soiree" presented by NOAA. Online.⁶
- Tuesday 17: 6:00pm, Arena Theater presents Taj Mahal in a live-streamed performance.¹
- Wednesday 18: 5:30pm, Diabetes. Nutrition&Gut Health. From Mendonoma Health (Page 13).⁵
- Thursday 19: 7:00pm, Third Thursday Poetry featuring MK Chavez.³
- Friday 20: 6:00pm, "Collective". Film screening begins via Arena Theater.¹
- Saturday 21: 10:00am, See Sonya Yoncheva's MET Opera PPV concert.²
- Thursday 26: Thanksgiving Day
- Friday 27: 11:00am, Winter Wonderland at Gualala Arts.
- Friday 27: 6:00pm, "Zappa" film screening opens via Arena Theater.¹
- Saturday 28: 11:00am, Winter Wonderland at Gualala Arts.
- Friday 04: 6:00pm, "Crock of Gold" opens at Arena Theater.¹

1. On Demand cinema and events through Arena Theater (ArenaTheater.Org)

2. MET Opera stars on demand. Access the performances at ArenaTheater.org.

3. To watch or participate as an open mic reader email blake@snakelyone.com

4. Adam Marks concert is ONLY live streamed via GualalaArts.org.

5. Free Diabetes series. This is a virtual series. Check article on Page 13 for internet link.

6. Connect with NOAA at: <https://farallones.org/events>

"White Water • Lighthouse View"

9.46 acres of redwood, fir & pine forest has been in the same family for 50 years. Keyhole through your own forest demonstrates the once and future panoramic views. Building sites on both sides of the road, perfect for residence and Additional Dwelling Unit with privacy for both. Southern site offers potential blue water views. Old well of unknown production connects to ancient travel trailer. Mid-ridge 880' elevation offers "banana belt" micro-climate well above the fog.



\$225,000



www.bananabelt.org

Banana Belt Properties

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