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Coast VIEWS

MAGAZINE

The Coastside Community Online

Welcome to the December 2000 Issue of CoastViews Magazine!

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From the Editor... *Christiann Keith*

"Business," cried the Ghost. "Mankind was my business! The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance, and benevolence, were, all, my business.... Why did I walk through crowds of fellow-beings with my eyes turned down, and never raise them to that blessed Star which led the Wise Men to a poor abode? Were there no poor homes to which its light would have conducted me?" (The ghost of Jacob Marley in Dickens' A Christmas Carol)

Few businesses are open Christmas Day. A handful of gas stations and convenience stores and even fewer restaurants hold the fort for the American economy. This is not a place and time that keeps the Sabbath, and if you want to buy a VCR at midnight on Sunday, you almost certainly will find a place to sell it to you. In this secular age, when a minority of Americans ever attends a Christian church service and science, technology, and materialism seem more the religion of America than its economy, why does Christmas Day hold this unique place in our culture? Why is this the one day out of 365 that we finally manage to close down the marketplace?

Whatever our religious faith, or none, there's a compelling power in laying aside greed and mistrust and fear for even one day. To not feel that terrible tug of guilt and doubt when confronted by a person begging for money, but just reach inside your pocket and give. To turn the sign on the shop door to "Closed" and spend the day with family or friends, without guilt, knowing that no one else is getting the jump on us this day. To feeling for a brief moment the bonds that link us to each other.

It's been twenty-four years since I believed in the faith of my childhood, but every December, like Dickens' Tiny Tim I long to keep Christmas in my heart all year long. And that's powerful magic.

We have two additional new voices to introduce to you this month. Gwen and I are delighted to welcome them to CoastViews!

Leah Lubin



Since July my column Personal View in CoastViews Magazine has given me a wonderful chance to reach local readers. Previously my written work has been published by Detail Art Magazine and Leonardo Electronic Almanac published by M.I.T. Press. In 1999 I completed my first novel, Between Two Worlds. I am currently finishing my fourth poetry book Everyday Secrets. My writing goal is to be able to form a bond with my readers through the stories I tell, using art and words as my medium of connection.

Janet Periat

After graduating with a BA degree in Theatre Arts from UC Santa Cruz in 1989, I started teaching drama at Pescadero High School. Soon, my interests shifted from acting and teaching to writing. I quit teaching in 1993 to devote my full attention to writing and have written thirteen novels, short stories, four screenplays and several plays as well as the columns for CoastViews Magazine. I live in a cabin in a redwood forest with my husband and four cats. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, biking, gardening, and pulling stuffed animals out of amusement-type claw machines.

