

Here's how to help Home Away From Home

On Sunday, March 27 Home Away From Home will once again host a distribution of food and supplies for Cal Poly Humboldt and College of the Redwoods students and we are asking for your support to make it a success.

This distribution, along with another one planned for May, is part of our continuing effort to communicate to students a message of welcome and inclusion. Together with Equity Arcata we seek to become a more welcoming, inclusive and equitable community.

On March 27, we will be offering students a "Take Away" meal prepared by Roman's Kitchen and generously funded by the Humboldt Area Foundation.

❖ LETTER OF THE WEEK

In addition we will again be offering each student a pre-packaged "Free-Stuff" bag. Due to the increase in student food insecurity, the bag contents will be focused largely on food but will also include personal care items.

Here's what we need from you, our wonderful volunteers and supporters:

- Non-perishable packaged food items like mac and cheese or canned soup (highest priority).
- \$5 & \$10 gift cards/certificates to Arcata restaurants and grocery stores (also high priority)
- Personal care items such as

toothbrushes, toothpaste, hand soap and shampoo

Note: ALL donated items must be NEW, UNUSED AND UNOPENED. We can only accept the items listed above.

If you would like to donate money rather than goods to help us to fill up the "Free Stuff" bags, call (707) 825-2174 for instructions on how to do so.

Donations can be delivered to the reception area of the City Managers office from Monday, March 21 through Friday, March 25 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Please call Sergio Berrueta at



Students load up with donated Home Away From Home supplies at the D Street Neighborhood Center last year. **MATT FILAR | UNION**

(707) 825-2174 if you have questions or suggestions.

Thank you so much for helping to make Arcata a more welcoming and inclusive community! Sincerely,
Rebecca Crow, Sergio Berrueta, Ria Espinoza, Gino Grandos, Marylyn Paik Nicely, Gillen Martin, Wesley Chesbro, Jenni Simpson, Anne Hartline and Cati Gallardo
Arcata

'Joy of Spring' auction; Spring Stewardship Days; All Aboard!

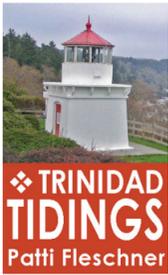
The Trinidad Civic Club presents "The Joy of Spring" Online Auction starting Sunday, March 27 at noon and ending on Saturday, April 9 at 7 p.m.

There are some extraordinarily fine art pieces, jewelry, gift packages, wine, home decor and more, including a 14-foot handcrafted sailing-rowing skiff, a rare Bev Doolittle "Sacred Ground" framed picture, a stunning painting of London's National Art Gallery by Linda Mitchell, and exquisite hand made dolls in an antique perambulator. There is Baroni jewelry featured as well as some stunning amber, amethyst, lapis, labradorite and onyx pieces.

Have a look at the array of items at trinidadcivicclub.org. Click on the auction link, then browse and bid. The winner of each

item will be notified by email or phone and advised where to collect auction pieces.

Proceeds benefit the Memorial Lighthouse at the harbor project. The Coastal Development Permit application (over 900 pages) is in progress with the California Coastal commission. Dozens of volunteer hours have gone into preparing for the auction. Co-Presidents Jan West and Dana Hope are particularly grateful for the assistance of Barbara Cline and Marsha Hughes and for the auction item donations from many generous local residents and businesses. Email tcc@trinidadcivicclub.org for more information.



❖ TRINIDAD TIDINGS
Patti Fleschner

Spring Stewardship with Trinidad Coastal Land Trust

Join new TCLT Coastal Stewardship Zoe

Ziegler for three upcoming Spring Stewardship days on April 2 at Houda and Luffenholtz beach areas for stair repairs; on April 22 for Earth Day Sunset Stewardship at the Little River and on May 7 for Baker Beach stair repairs. The April 2 and May 7 sessions run from 9:30 a.m. to noon and the Earth Day event runs from 5 to 7:30 p.m., co-hosted by Mother Earth Engineering.

Zoe Ziegler is a University of California Berkeley graduate with an environmental biology degree. She is now pursuing her career in sustainable management of natural and working lands. She has worked on organic farms, in environmental education, and she is gaining experience in fisheries research and management. She brings her enthusiasm for uniting communities and nature to Trinidad through stewardship of land trust properties, volunteer coordination and public engagement.

Find out more, and register for the TCLT

Spring Stewardship program by emailing zoe@trinidadcoastallandtrust.org or leave a message at (707) 677-2501.

'All Aboard! Trinidad Trains' at Trinidad Museum

The Trinidad Museum Photography Room exhibit, "All Aboard! Trinidad Trains," curated with the assistance of Scott Baker and Alexandra Cox, is in its last weeks.

A new exhibit of sculpture by internationally known Trinidad artists curated by Bruce Pettit will be installed in April.

Trinidad Museum is open Thursday through Sunday from 12:30 to 4 p.m. at 400 Janis Court next to Trinidad Library. Volunteer docents will welcome you in viewing five rooms of fascinating Trinidad history in the 1899 Sangster-Watkins-Underwood museum building.

Email Patti at baycity@sonic.net

Downtown Arcata's Plaza Point gets the important stuff right

It has become fashionable for a developer to order his architect to design, not a single building on a block, but the whole damn block, then to obscure that fact by making his entire block's façade look like several distinct buildings vaguely resembling, with a nod to post-modernism, what a tourist may find, say, in some European town.

The reason appears to be the idea of "streetscape" which attempts to create an "atmosphere" in the town instead of actually producing that atmosphere in the buildings themselves individually that make up the local culture (there are exceptions, as, e.g. the recently re-purposed auto repair shop on I Street, now the A Slice of Humboldt Pie building, standing there alone on its site with its strong and inviting industrial look.)

The one-block façade can be thought of as an extended "curtain wall" that is, the side of a building which appears towards the public view on the street while having little to do with what is actually going on inside the structure. Apartments? Stores? Offices? Hard to say, unless you already know.

The essential program of the type, as far as I can tell, is to break up the façade into smaller units in order to improve the pedestrian experience. That pedestrian also wants retail shops on the ground floor of the building, front and side, where that building meets the sidewalk.

A stepped-back effect in the façade looks and feels better than a single mass. Projections like balconies on the upper floors are fitting. Also, the use of different siding materials on the different planes is a novel feature as well as the application of distinct colors on each section to set it apart.

There you have it, Plaza Point, a red, yellow, grey and cream-colored multifaceted three-story entity with shed, gable and hip roof forms, with only two identical building fronts out of seven, and the only noticeable repetition of the window designs that are set in the middle of four sections. As a whole, it is quite charming and



on both sides, that is, we could have been in any multi-story hotel in America with no natural light in sight and we had to find our way to our unit by a number. An early sign of replication and not the good kind.

Inside Janice's south-facing apartment, the atmosphere **PLAZA POINT Front and back as seen from the east side.**

LEFT PHOTO VIA CITY OF ARCATÁ GATEWAY AREA PLAN; PHOTO BELOW BY KLH | UNION

even though we are describing the north elevation, it does not feel perpetually dark due to the Arcata Co-op parking lot directly across the street shedding its sunlight 360 degrees on good days.

The back side of Plaza Point faces south with the same broken façade and a generous parking lot, leaving plenty of room for blue sky to hover overhead. At one end of the parking lot is a fenced area containing private outdoor seating with a couple of handsome tables and chairs under a gazebo featuring a vine crawling up the open sides to the roof trestle, a small lawn area, and a couple of rows of raised wood beds for use by the tenants as vegetable gardens.

First impressions

I first visited Plaza Point after it had just been completed in 2017. My friends Walter and Susan and I stood at the entrance of the brand new building and rang the No. 14 bell. Nothing happened. No unlocking door buzzer could be heard. No person wandering about inside in the lobby to see us through the glass doors standing there on the sidewalk and coming to our aid.

Janice was expecting us — it was our reading club/dinner night, and we anticipated that she would appear one way or another, by buzzer or in person. It turned out to be the second. She appeared in a gingham apron as if from her kitchen, emerging into the lobby from the elevator looking somewhat frazzled, but with a big smile on her face. She marched up and opened the entry door ceremoniously.

"Welcome to my very modern apartment building," she said. "Not everything works like it's



supposed to, including this remote entry system, I see. You are my first visitors. I pressed the button in my apartment. Did you hear anything?

We said we didn't.

"I figured when I didn't see you come up. So I came down."

Janice was one of the original tenants of Plaza Point, maybe even the first since she got her choice of apartments. She had been living in a small cottage located on the blacktop of the Iverson property, owned by Danco, the builder of Plaza Point. When it became clear that her eviction from her parking lot domicile was imminent (to make way for Sorrel Place in the future) she was invited to be one of the early applicants to the subsidized senior housing being built across from the Co-op.

"Stairs or elevator?" she asked. Janice's apartment was on the third floor. "It's pretty fancy."

We got on the elevator. One of us — I won't say which one — offered sarcastically, "I hope the elevator works better than the buzzer."

The other elevator-riders, familiar with such humor from the usual suspect, just chuckled.

We exited into a space that was nowhere in particular. A door from here led to a long hallway with identical wood entry doors

changed entirely. This was an inspired space in both layout and execution. On one side was a small, complete kitchen with nice-looking cabinets, a half-wall separating a small dining area (a small table with four chairs), and a decent-sized living room with a raised ceiling that made it feel roomy. A French door led to a small private balcony with a wood railing. Down below at ground level there was the parking lot, a garden space and sitting area. The other side of the apartment contained the bedroom and bathroom, both small but adequate.

Janice's funky eclectic furniture filled up the place nicely and with Walter and Susan's artwork on the walls, one felt cozy and enriched.

"Do you like it?" asked Janice. "I've never had my own brand new apartment. I mean, do I really live here?"

"You've made it feel like home," said Susan, who was not a flatterer.

It was all a great first impression. Janice fed us a terrific, simple dinner as usual — we took turns hosting — and we moved to the living room to begin reading aloud our current book selection. At that time we were nearing the end of *The Autobiography of Frank Lloyd Wright*, the 20th century's most prominent architect who had kept us entertained

for about a year. I know of no other architect who has so much to offer the professional as well as the everyday builder whether that person lived during Wright's time or after.

People tend to end up liking FLW or hating him, but even if you don't like his buildings (I do), you can enjoy his wonderful writing.

The findings

Let us examine Plaza Point using the criteria applied to other developments in Arcata, adding a new one, architecture.

- *Light.* Thanks to being three stories tall and occupying a location across from the Co-op parking lot, Plaza Point enjoys plenty of light.

- *Site.* Plaza Point offers one-half of its lot to open space and gives one-third of that to outdoor activities. The building does not quite cover the whole block due to an early settlement house still sitting there on the west end enjoying its continued existence in the middle of town beside its very big new next door neighbor. All in all, the complex seems to be settling in well to its location.

- *Quality of life.* Let's try dividing this category in half. One half will consider the point of view of the Occupant. The other half the Pedestrian's.

- *Occupant:* Janice was very happy with her new digs, but not without some reservations about the quality of certain details, as the noisy ventilation system.

- *Pedestrian:* Plaza Point is an inviting streetscape to both look at and walk alongside, thanks to the retail shops at the sidewalk.

- *Replication.* The repetition of windows on the front elevation might be considered type of replication that is pleasing. However, the interior high-rise hotel atmosphere in the hallways not so much.

- *Architecture.* Plaza Point, at three stories, was able to use the fourth story of its 45-foot height limitation to feature pleasing roof variations.

In a future article, the other Streetscape-designed building recently completed in Arcata, Sorrel Place, will be reviewed.

Daniel Duncan ran Small World Construction in Arcata from 1986 through 2007. Contact him at dduncan362@gmail.com.



❖ THE FUTURE OF ARCATÁ
Daniel Duncan