Well, summer is here! And we have two new DreamMaker projects: A Spark in Nothing and Nature & Oceans of the Americas.

A Spark in Nothing is led by Griffin Loch, who created the films Calling the Shots and The Adventures of T.P. Man and Flusher. His latest project is A Spark in Nothing, now proudly a DreamMaker project. He will be shooting and editing this summer, and is looking for financial and in kind support. If you would like to find out more or get involved, contact Griffin Loch at asparkinnothingfilm@gmail.com.

Nature & Oceans of the Americas’ mission is to raise awareness about the conservation of marine and terrestrial biodiversity by reinforcing connections between people and nature through art projects, community engagement, environmental education, and sustainable living experiences. If you would like to find out more or get involved, contact Marta Fabregas at marta.vilassar@googlemail.com.

I had a wonderful trip to Santa Fe to visit my sister, and then she came to visit me with her partner and two dogs. A fabulous time was had by all.

In between, I attended the Americans for the Arts convention in Minneapolis. I had a great time visiting with old friends and making new ones. The panel sessions I attended were great and the featured speakers and plenaries were amazing. Americans for the Arts has a YouTube channel where you can view videos of this and past convention speakers and performances, as well as Arts Advocacy Day and Nancy Hanks Lectures (Rita Moreno spoke this year).

Get ready to party for the arts this August 3 for the culmination of the 2019 Eureka Street Art festival. Over 20 new murals will be created on buildings on 6th and 7th streets. There will be 3 beer gardens, including one in the parking lot right next door to our offices/gallery/MARZ Project. See you there!
Curator and featured artist Grethe Von Frausing-Borch explores the fantasy of adulthood, created from the television, movies, books, and magazines she absorbed as a child.

“The magic land where sophisticated people ride from gleaming office buildings to glittering parties in sleek town cars, where everyone is always impeccably and tastefully dressed, where all the men wear suits and all the women have long nails and dark secrets.”

Featuring a variety of works from community artists, “Floating Worlds” opens during Arts Alive! July 6 with an artists’ reception from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. then continues until July 27th.
Ed Note: This letter is reprinted from Ink News Volume 39 Issue 07, July 2018.

Dear Friends,

In 2004, I was working at the RAVEN Project, running different groups for at risk youth including an art workshop. There was a youth educator there who was planning on working as a camp counselor for the camp she had attended in middle school called North Star Quest. They needed an art teacher, so she recommended I apply.

Well, I did, and my life hasn’t been the same since. You see, North Star Quest isn’t any ordinary camp. Yes there are most things you might expect at a Summer camp; swim time in the river, campfire sing-alongs, nature hikes, and games. In addition though, there are enlightening and informative workshops put on by the all female staff which focus on building self confidence, empathy, media literacy, women’s health, communication, and healthy relationships. There is a deliberate culture established with the camp rules where girls build each other up instead of tearing each other down. (Yes, really.) At NSQ Camp, people seek out each other’s strengths, and bravely step outside their social and creative comfort zones on a daily basis. Add in the fact that NSQ Camp never turns away a camper because they can’t pay, and I realized I had found a really special place.

I planned to do my part in the North Star mission that year, establishing an Art Lodge where campers could participate in a variety of low risk / high reward projects which helped them explore themselves, their relationships, and their place in the world. It took months of thoughtful preparation, planning projects, soliciting donations of tools and supplies, talking with middle school girls to gauge what they were interested in. I wanted everyone who visited the Art Lodge to find inspiration in one of the stations I’d be building, whether it was making jewelry, throwing paint, or just spending some quiet time meditatively knotting a friendship bracelet.

Something else happened right in the middle of all that prep work that summer: my father passed away. It was two days before camp started when I got the call from my mom in Texas. Dad’s chronic
illness had taken a sudden turn for the worse, and he was gone. It would be a few weeks until the funeral, so I had a choice to make: Go to camp, a strange new place with people I didn’t know while nursing a broken heart from a huge personal loss, or turn over all my careful work and preparation to someone else, then stay home alone with my grief.

The thought of suffering alone seemed miserable to me, so I went ahead and did the job I had been preparing for ... was so excited for. Turns out, I could not have possibly chosen a better place to be at that moment in my life. I thought I would tough it out. I thought camp would be a good distraction. What I didn’t know was that NSQ Camp would be the most loving, supportive, empowering place I could imagine. Among these women I barely knew, I found a group of sisters ready to listen, to hug, or to sit quietly by the river letting the sounds of wind, water and birds soothe our souls. I found an engaging and challenging group of young women campers, so full of enthusiasm, so ready to explore, so eager to be themselves in the sacred safe space we had created for them.

North Star Quest Camp changed me. The campers inspired me. The staff impressed me. The river carried my troubled heart out to the ocean, and washed it clean.

I’ve been going back every year since. This Summer will be my 15th year at North Star. There have been many changes. I’ve gone from Arts Organizer to Planning Committee Member to Camp Director. We joined the Ink People’s family of DreamMaker Projects. One year when there were over 40 kids on the waiting list, we took the enormous leap of expanding from one camp to two. While the curriculum and logistics change with the times, the core principles are still there. The Magic that happens when people set out to do something unexpected and amazing together is still there. North Star Quest is still changing lives. Thousands of lives now.

In this world, this post-post-post feminist world, where social media is a platform for movements like #metoo along side strong female role models explaining why they “don’t need feminism,” we need girls who will think for themselves. In this world where young people have more ability to create and share their own stories in their own voice, while also being inundated with misogynist messages from sexists utilizing the same bullhorn available to anyone with a twitter account, we need strong young female voices. In this world, where our loftiest aspirations of equality, dignity and freedom are extending inch by inch to uplift every aspect of our truly diverse human family, while people are still in danger of attack for simply existing the way they were born, we need leaders of every shape, size, ability, gender, age, class, race, and culture. We need North Star Quest Camp.

... I need North Star Quest Camp. It gives me hope. And in this world, hope is a rare and beautiful thing.

With Love & Respect,
Kati Texas
North Star Quest Camp Director
**English Express Summer 2019**
English Language Classes for Adults
Clases de Inglés para adultos

**Jefferson Community Center**
1000 B Street, Room 2, Eureka
T/TH Ma/Ju from 6:00-7:30pm

**Multi-Generational Center**
2280 Newburg Road, Fortuna
W/F from 1:00pm-2:30pm

Free childcare  Join anytime
Cuidado de niños gratis
Únase en cualquier momento

For more information/Para más información
englishexpresshumboldt.org
English Express Humboldt
707-443-5021

**Karuk Language Classes**
with Julian Lang
Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
United Indian Health Services
1600 Wiyot Way, Arcata

**Writers’ Critique Group**
Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Ink People Offices
525 7th Street, Eureka

**Life Drawing Group**
with Clinton Alley
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Cheri Blackerby Gallery
3rd & C streets, Eureka
Call 707-442-0309 to join.
$5 fee
Models needed.

**Humboldt Ukulele Group**
Learn to play in a relaxed group setting
The first Monday
The second Tuesday
The third Thursday
All at 5:30pm in the Arts and Crafts room of the Arcata Community Center
PLUS the 4th Thursday from 11:30-1:30 (The Nooner HUG)
Contact: Deanna Sanders, dsander1@arcatanet.com

To find more learning opportunities, subscribe to the Ink News online, and as a bonus, receive *Ink Blotter* our “weekly” listings of artist calls, job and grant opportunities, classes, and more.

*Inkpeople.org*
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