INSPIRING GIRLS
in the Brenda Tuxford Gallery

“I’ve Got Something To Tell You But I Don’t Think That I Can,” Risography by Laura Krueger
The February Board meeting did not have any DreamMaker presentations.

The big news was that our beloved Kati Texas has accepted the position of Director of Scrap Humboldt! We are thrilled for her and sad that she will not be with us every day. We don’t expect her to be a stranger and will continue working with Scrap Humboldt, so we’ll get to continue working with her. Congratulations, Kati!

So, we continue our organizational shuffling and changing. Our Board is working diligently on planning and strategizing for the future of the Ink People. There are some exciting projects on the horizon, but they’re not ready for publication, just yet.

In the meantime, we are setting up some Pints for Nonprofits events, looking for people willing to host house parties, and starting the planning to resurrect the Black and White Masquerade Beaux Arts Ball. And of course, you can send us monetary support through our website, the postal service (no cash, please), or bring in cash or credit cards to our office. We’re open Tuesday-Friday 9-5 and Saturdays 12-6.

We are also pleased to announce that we have been awarded $20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts in support of our DreamMaker Program. This is a big deal and we are most grateful for this very competitive funding.

I hope this year is off to a good start for you. It feels like it’s going to be a great year.

MISSION STATEMENT: The Ink People changes lives by connecting our communities with resources for cultural development. We encourage people to exercise their humanity, build civic discourse, and engage their creative potential.
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CHILDREN’S THEATRE HUMBOLDT
PRESENTS

THE SECRET GARDEN

March 27 7pm
March 28 1pm & 7pm
March 29 1pm

707.267.7774
www.arkleycenter.com

Sponsored by DANCO

Book & Lyrics by MARSHA NORMAN
Music by LUCY SIMON
based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett
The Secret Garden is presented in special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc., a Concord Theatricals Company
The Eureka Poet Laureate isn’t actually a DreamMaker in and of itself — it’s actually a collaborative effort of the Trajectory, Synapsis, and Public Art Eureka DreamMakers, in partnership with the City of Eureka’s Art and Culture Commission, working together to promote and administer public art in our community.

Project directors Kristi Patterson and Leslie Castellano tell us more about it.

What is the name of your organization?  
Eureka Poet Laureate Project

Please describe your project in a few short sentences.
The Eureka Poet Laureate Project will play a vital part of enriching the “story” of Eureka. It will bring new people and perspectives into civic life and offer powerful language for expressing the experience of “being here.” There will be one adult and one youth poet laureate each year.

Tell us your creation story.
We believe that poetry is an integral facet of the language of arts and humanity. Poetry invites us to open up our senses in the experience of place, self, and other. Many communities throughout California have local poet laureate programs. In addition, the state has its own poet laureate.

How would you like for your project to grow?
We would like for the project to continue with more people getting involved and more community projects to engage with.

How has the Ink People helped your project?
Great technical assistance and promotion

How does your project connect with the community?
Poetry readings and community projects.

How can people find out more, or get involved?
Email for info.  
eurekapoet@inkpeople.org

inkpeople.org/eureka-poets
**Workshops & Classes**

**Singing with Humboldt SINGS**
Come sing in a relaxed, non-performative group setting—no experience necessary. The final (fourth or fifth) Friday at SPACE. All at 7:30-9:00 p.m.
facebook.com/humboldtSINGS

**English Express Spring 2020**
English Language Classes for Adults
Clases de Inglés para adultos
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.
UIHS, 1600 Weeot 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 St, Eureka
Call (707) 442-0309 to join.
$5 fee, Models needed (especially male models).

**Humboldt Ukulele Group**
Learn to play in a relaxed group setting
The first Monday, The second Tuesday, The third Thursday, All at 5:30 p.m. in the Arts & Crafts room of the Arcata Comm. Center
Contact Deanna dsander1@arcatanet.com
Dépaysement

After the plane lands
or the ship docks
or the train has carried you
over a border
in the dead of night,
you may find yourself
waking early, strolling along
a strange avenue, noticing

how the light settles
differently here than the angle
you never noticed at home. Or perhaps
the coffee tastes like memory. Or just
maybe,
when the sycamore leaves fall, they drift
earthwards as if the earth

called them by their true name.

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Dépaysement (French, noun): the feeling one gets of
not being in one's own country, of being a foreigner.

Originally published in Toyon, 2019
This month’s *Ink News* is a little more poetic than it has been in a while. This is thanks, in part, to Eureka’s first Poet Laureate, David Holper, who has agreed to share one of his pieces in each issue, through the end of the year.

**What is your favorite art medium to work in, and why?**

Poetry and fiction. I have been drawn to creative writing as a means to express my inner self since I was about 11 years old. I grew up in a dysfunctional household, and words and stories became a way for me to find some escape from that outer turmoil.

**When did you first figure out that art was important to you?**

In sixth grade, I had an older teacher by the name of Mrs. Hayes. I don’t recall liking her very much. She seemed not to be all that interested in teaching. However, about midway through the year, we were lucky enough to have a student teacher come in named Ms. Merrill. She was young and beautiful, and I fell head over heels in love with her. She took us out to a stand of redwood trees near our classroom and had us write poetry. To be honest, I don’t know that I really knew what a poem was at that point. I just wrote intuitively. The next day she read the poem to the class, and I remember thinking, this is what I want to do with my life—be a writer. Yes, part of it was to impress Ms. Merrill, but a good deal of it was just the enjoyment I experienced in the writing and the sharing of the poem with others.

**Who is your art mentor?**

I have had so many of them it’s hard to count. I am indebted to my high school creative writing teachers: Gloria Markoff, Jim Bacchus, and Ray Schellbred. I am deeply thankful that I got to study with Jim Galvin and Jorie Graham at HSU. I worked with several writing teachers in graduate school, including John Wideman, Valerie Martin, and Jay Neugeboren. I never had one central mentor to guide my poetry. I would say that it was a process of continuing to grow under a variety of teachers.

**Finish this sentence: My art is my...**

My art is the fire that lights my soul. It is what clears away the darkness and helps to waken me out of the mundane workaday world that so often wants to treat us as mere drones, mere consumers. My writing reminds me that we are all so much more than that.

**What advice would you offer someone just beginning their exploration of their own artistic self?**

For writers I would say read a lot. Write a lot. Develop a discipline about your work and don’t let your other obligations—be they work, school, a relationship, children—interfere with that creative work. It’s far too easy to let those day-to-day obligations prevent you from creating. I think of Tillie Olsen’s marvelous book “Silences,” about how marriage and family have silenced so many women in the world. I could relate to those women writers, having myself been silenced for about a decade due to the economic pressures of supporting my wife and family. If I could go back to the start of that period and give myself some advice, I’d say: don’t stop writing. Write every day. That discipline will change your life.

Find out more about David’s work on his website: davidholper.com