Ink Spawn

Eureka’s New Poets Laureate

“We Are Worthy”: new works by Julie Smiley
The October board meeting brought us one cool new DreamMaker project – Humboldt Kiters. These fun people make and fly kites, just for fun! Maybe you’ve seen them in the Halvorsen Park field below the Samoa Bridge. They want to re-establish the Redwood Coast Kite Festival and Artisan Fair. There used to be one, but it moved to Brookings, Oregon, and now it has ceased. Time for it to come back to Humboldt. They will also be offering kite-making workshops for all ages. If you would like to learn more or to get involved, contact Jimmie Nord at humboldtkiters@inkpeople.org.

I have some sad news. Delightful Clint Rebik has died of esophageal cancer. Redwood Curtain Theatre was started by a small group of passionate thespians, among whom Clint and Peggy Metzger were the leaders. Their radical idea was to ensure that all participants in the playmaking process got paid — maybe not a lot, but something. And they did it. They established their foundational structure as a DreamMaker project for five years. The Project then fledged fully to emerge as a norm-challenging theatre. RCT recently celebrated 20 years. Clint was a bright spirit, and we will miss his charming smile and joyful presence.

You may have recently received an email about our Administrative Assistant, Princess King-Burke, who has suffered a stroke. She is making significant progress in her rehabilitation, I am happy to report. We have started a GoFundMe for her and her family to help them weather the storm: https://gofund.me/2a754dd2. Thank you for donating what you can.

Meanwhile, we are making good progress on our building upgrades. The landlords have fulfilled all their commitments. The Brenda Tuxford Gallery will be ready for December’s Artists’ Challenge. Door handles are ADA friendly and re-keyed, as is the front door, which can now be unlocked for open hours! All the sink fixtures have been updated and made ADA friendly. Cracked windows have been replaced. And more improvements are being planned for the entryway, downstairs bathroom, and staircases. We also have two new tenants: the League of Women Voters, and the Humboldt Period Project, a DreamMaker.
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.
WAITING FOR GODOT

SAMUEL BECKETT

SYNAPSIM. 1675 UNION ST. EUREKA

DECEMBER 3, 4, 10, 11 @ 7:30 PM
DECEMBER 5 @ 2 PM

with sally l’herogen, larry crist, arnold waddell, bernadette cheyne, gabriel cook
directed by john heckel
brought to you by creekside arts
ticket sales benefit synopsis
synapsiseureka@gmail.com
Creekside Arts and the Synapsis Collective are DreamMaker projects of the Ink People
Waiting for Godot is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc, New York
And we spent the whole day finding out the history of that word. And later that day I told her: ‘I’m going to be one.’ That was one of the first times I told anyone at all that I wanted to do this... thing,” Gibson remembered.

Gibson, a poet and educator who seeks “to bring poetry to people who need it,” connects with students and listeners by drawing on his own experience of poetry as a solace that led him out of addiction and homelessness. A community board member of Word Humboldt, Gib-

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Julie Smiley’s exhibition “We Are Worthy” features five new paintings completed in response to art workshops Smiley organized with residents of Harrington House, a resource center for victims of domestic violence. Funded through a 2020 Funds for Artists’ Resilience (FAR) public art grant administered by Ink People Center for the Arts partnering with Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness (DNACA) and made possible by Humboldt Area Foundation, the project also received support from grant funds from the California Arts Council.
through the CARES act. “We were immediately drawn to Julie’s project, said DNACA Executive Director Stephanie La Torre. “The idea of art as therapy workshops for residents at Harrington House, guided by such an accomplished artist, was wonderful. Incorporating the inspiration of what came from those sessions into Julie’s completed original works has created an exhibit that’s not only beautiful, but extremely thought-provoking as well.”

When the call for submissions to the 2020 FAR grants was announced, Smiley felt a link between the theme of “resilience” and the opportunity for connecting people through art. “Initially, the COVID lock-down reminded me of the period after leaving my abusive husband and seeking a restraining order. Because of this, we lived in a surreal, isolated, unsafe limbo for many months. During that time, I learned more about my own strength and resolve, about making the most of my resources and asking for help, and living with great swaths of unknown and unresolvable issues. To have weathered all that with a sense of joy, a renewed sense of identity and strength, signaled what “resilience” is in my mind. When I read about the opportunity to be supported in a project with that theme as its focus, I naturally thought of how I could share the recovery and healing process with others who survive domestic abuse, as well as acknowledging the challenges facing our community because of COVID.”

Smiley reflected, “I hope people walk away (after viewing the exhibit) with a sense of beauty — even in the midst of pain. No one is so broken that they can’t be enriched by seeing and making something beautiful in their lives.”

Born and raised in Crescent City, Smiley completed her master of fine art in visual arts education from Ohio State University, received her teaching credential from Humboldt State University, and has dual degrees in studio arts and communication arts from Gordon College. Her work is influenced by her sensitivity to relationships between people and physical spaces, and ideas of social and personal control. “We Are Worthy” remains on view through November 17 at the Del Norte Courthouse, 450 H Street, Crescent City, through DNACA’s Art in Public Places program. To learn more, visit the artist’s website at www.juliebsmiley.com

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17-year old poet and photographer Jordan Moore is also excited by the possibilities in his new role. He discovered poetry just a couple of years ago, and the excitement of that find is still palpable. “I’ve just recently started finding more people who are interested in reading and poetry and writing,” Moore explained. “I got a little bit from school, obviously. But what actually got me interested in writing is, I found Sylvia Plath.” He said that he looks forward to using his new platform to forge connections within the area poetry community.

Gibson will be offering free poetry workshops on Thursdays and Sundays at Eureka’s Epitome Gallery, 420 2nd St. in Eureka, during his tenure as laureate, and he hopes to soon begin offering poetry workshops to inmates in Eureka’s jail. “I absorb whatever I’m around,” he explained. “And I try to reflect that in the poetry that I write. Whether it be good, bad, or ugly, there’s beauty in all of it, you know? The beauty in that idea is what saved my life. So, all I can do is give back. And the fact that me giving back has ended up giving me this title of Laureate...? That’s epic.”
After coming home early

Wil Gibson

This poem is for the present time.

Not exactly the rain-soaked Sunday evening in December I write. There are still hummingbirds darting from flower to flower.

They drift, these flowers, in the slight breeze... the laws of cause and effect.

This poem is to celebrate you.

Writing it now in this house built by you, next to the birthplace of new gardens, this family found in a schoolhouse courtyard, one by perfect one on West Avenue, brought to bear by a corner plot and a dog.

I bring you greetings from my door across the sun-filled backyard!

This is a place of peace and time that is peaceful. The buzz of small wings, the cats who hide under the biggest branches during the rain that seems so far from us today.

The rush and hum of cars who pass too quickly to stop them as they ignore this conserved patch protected by the fortress of your arms.

These roses and maples safely sway in opposite directions in a light dance only they know the moves to. The apple tree whispers with life nearly all year long.

The blue sky is a formality, whether over our house, the house of the god-flawed folks on one side, or the god on our other.

In all directions we send empathy to those who need, especially those trees that grow on cracked ground or through concrete, or that salted earth lone tree, watered only with tears.

Here, we all strive for the sun.

We are here, in this garden you have built for us, everyday greeting you across this sacred enclosure.
New Art Residency!

Creekside Arts is proud to announce its inaugural Artist in Residency Program.

We welcome artists from a broad range of creative disciplines. Our program provides an inspiring natural setting among the coastal redwoods of Northern California. Creekside Arts provides a unique opportunity to reflect, create and explore away from the hectic demands and constraints of daily life. Applications are available for three-week residencies beginning in May 2022.

Visit creeksidearts.org for complete details.
“WAITING FOR GODOT” Arrives

Two of the Ink People’s DreamMaker Projects are collaborating this December in order to bring Samuel Beckett’s “Waiting for Godot” to the stage. Creekside Arts is presenting the production under the direction of John Heckel, while the Synapsis Collective is providing production support at the new Synapsis performance space on Union Street in Eureka. Actors Sally L’Herogen, Larry Crist, Arnold Waddell, Bernadette Cheyne, and Gabriel Cook will bring the work to life each night of the production.

After almost two years of waiting, this production of “Waiting for Godot” provides a renewed opportunity to reflect on time, presence, and our relationships to one another.

“But at this place, at this moment of time, all mankind is us, whether we like it or not. Let us make the most of it, before it is too late.”

All ticket sales benefit Synapsis Collective and its new arts and cultural center at 1675 Union Street, Eureka. Performances take place on December 3, 4, 10, and 11 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a 2 p.m. matinee on December 5. Seating will be limited in order to allow for social distancing. Shows are expected to sell out, so purchase tickets in advance at https://inkpeople.ticketleap.com/waiting-for-godot

Living All Over You

Jordan Moore

You walked past
You wanted to say something
You didn’t

Tell me about it later
Tell me about it sometime
Tell me

Please
Pity party prom panting
Progress

Thank you
Teeth yellow
Teens yelping

Your across from me
Your across me
Your cross
Your
Me
Workshops and Classes

ARISING HOLISTIC CENTER
Yoga videos and meditations. YouTube: Arising Community. Facebook: Arising

ENGLISH EXPRESS
English Language Classes for Adults / Clases de Inglés para adultos.
ONLINE: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-8 p.m., Saturdays 11:00 a.m-12 p.m. Classes are FREE. Join anytime. For more information/Para más información: englishexpresshumboldt.org. Facebook: English Express. (707) 443-5021

HUMBOLDT UKULELE GROUP
Learn to play in a relaxed group setting. Facebook: Humboldt Ukulele Group

KARUK LANGUAGE CLASSES: Thursdays 5:15-6:15 p.m. ONLINE. Facebook: Karuk Language Project

HUMBOLDT SINGS
Come sing in a relaxed, non-performative group setting — no experience necessary. Facebook: Humboldt SINGS. HumboldtSINGS@gmail.com
