



DreamMakers Make a Difference

INK SPAWN



What's Hatching at the Ink People

by Executive Director Libby Maynard. One more DreamMaker project made it in in 2019: LibraryBikes. They have been around for 20+ years, but needed some insurance and website support. We are happy to help support bike culture. They dedicate time, bicycle parts, and expertise at LibraryBikes year-round on weather-friendly Saturdays from noon to 4 PM. For more info or to get involved, contact Daniel Franks at onebicyclist@gmail.com.

In 2020, you will see some changes in our gallery. We will be having fewer and longer shows, and will not be staffed for Arts Alive! It's all part of the "rethinking the Ink People" our Strategic Planning Task Force has been doing. A big part of that was renegotiating our lease. Our landlords have been very generous and we are securely here for about two more years. Change is the only constant.

I am really looking forward to 2020. I think it's going to be an amazing year.



DREAMMAKER

Mother to Mother Helps Local Moms

One of the Ink People's newest DreamMakers is Mother2Mother Support Circle. Under the leadership of Star Siegfried, it is the longest running free prenatal and postpartum mother/baby breastfeeding support group in Humboldt County. They began around 18 years ago and continue to provide a weekly facilitated meeting for pregnant women and mothers with young infants and children. M2M joined the DreamMakers in order to gain the nonprofit structure needed to accept donations, and expand the ways they support new moms.

Mother2Mother offers a safe, supportive, and educational space for new mothers to navigate the first years of motherhood and to make lifelong friends. The group provides a weekly opportunity for mothers to "check in" about the beauty, struggles, and fears of being a new parent. Mothers are able to tell their stories, write about their experiences through journaling, weigh their babies, and explore the first years of motherhood in a sacred and non-judgmental space.

Each new member of the group is

gifted a *Mommy Diary* in the hopes that they will write, draw, and share the moments of motherhood that inspire, frustrate, sadden, and awaken them. Journaling is a therapeutic and creative way to clarify thoughts and feelings about the transition into motherhood. Future projects include diary



Star Siegfried, RN, BA, IBCLC and Babies

making classes, *Mommy Night Art*, diary reading events, and more.

The Mother2Mother group helps women step forward physically, emotionally, and spiritually into motherhood. They believe that mothers are not meant to "bounce back" after babies are born, but to evolve into more attuned and more powerful versions of themselves.

According to Siegfried, "The world needs the transformation motherhood brings us: the softening, the tenderness, the vulnerably, the shift in priorities, and the depth of love - these are some of the qualities our hurting world needs.

"Mother2Mother group opens the door to this transformation. All are welcome." ♦

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ART EXHIBITS

Brenda Tuxford Gallery Evolution

Through the years, the Ink People's gallery has had many forms. The first collective shows were in coffee shops, restaurants, and empty storefronts.

For years, in Eureka's Municipal Auditorium Building, the Ink People was a school, gallery, and studio, all in one. A person could take a class on the weekend, use the studio all week, and put their art in the next gallery show. The long hallway was named the "Tuxford Gallery," and the intimate, light-filled smaller space was the "Brenda Gallery," both for co-founder Brenda Tuxford after her passing in 2004.

Ten years ago this month, a 6.5 magnitude earthquake shook the beloved art space to its foundation. The usual Saturday afternoon crowd of artists, students, teachers, and staff rushed through the Tuxford Gallery to safety, while dust and plaster rained down on them. After everything settled, it seemed one of the slab walls of the building had shifted, and the City slapped alarming red "Danger" tags on the doors. No one would be allowed back in.

Though the walls of the Ink People's space were shaken loose, the foundation of the Ink People organization proved much stronger.

All through the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, Ink People staff, led by co-founder Libby Maynard were putting to work one of the most powerful tools in an artist's kit: collaboration. Maynard's passion project, the DreamMaker Program, was and is a technical support network for small arts nonprofit projects.

The community began to realize that the Ink People was not just a place to go, but an idea to share. The grassroots arts and culture network underpinning this valuable community resource reached well beyond the seismically damaged walls of their clubhouse. The DreamMakers are out there, through the county, and

state the state, busily weaving the arts into the fabric of our communities.

A DreamMaker project works like this: Anyone with an idea for an arts, cultural or educational project that aligns with the Ink People's mission can present to the board of directors, and ask to become part of the family. Project leaders benefit from the Ink People's 40 years of experience as

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well as nonprofit status, bookkeeping and other financial services, and lots of general support specific to the needs of each project.

Since its inception, there have been literally hundreds of DreamMakers. They are working all over the community, teaching, performing, creating connections, and engaging people in a hundred different empowering, creative ways.

In 2020, the Ink People will dedicate the Tuxford Gallery to highlighting and supporting the DreamMakers, and all the ways they make Humboldt County a better, more interesting, healthier place to live.

Tuxford Gallery 2020 shows will run longer, and rather than being open consistently for Arts Alive!, DreamMakers will offer special events, classes, and fun surprises at different points through the month and year. The gallery will remain open and staffed Tuesday through Friday from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturdays from noon to 6:00pm.

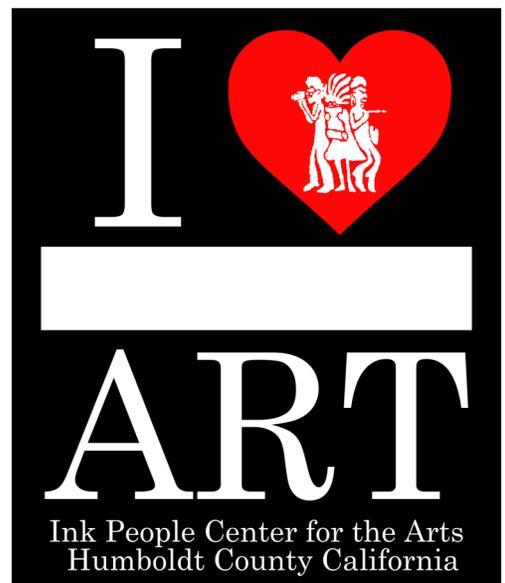
To kick things off, the Tuxford Gallery will open "All Inkers," a showcase of works from Ink People staff and board of directors. Beginning Thursday,

January 16th, and running through Saturday, February 25th.

Later this spring, the North Star Quest Camp for Girls will host "Inspiring Girls," a show all about the women and girls who inspire us, opening March 7th. northstarquestcamp.org

The North Coast Open Studios will hold a month-long preview of their county-wide art crawl, May 2nd to 30th. The main event, North Coast Open Studios happens in artists' studios, close and far flung, during the first two weekends in June, the 6th/7th, and 13th/14th. Some artists will even be opening their studios a day early for a special kick off night, Friday, June 5th. northcoastopenstudios.com

Over the summer, expect DreamMaker project Trajectory to show off some of the artists they work with, and the services they offer. Then, there will be more DreamMaker project showcases to come later in the year. Keep an eye on Ink News, or catch the Ink People on social media to find out about special events, and what's showing now. inkpeople.org ♦   



Why are the new stickers fill-in-the-blank?

There's so much going on at the Ink People these days, that we couldn't capture it all in one word, so you can choose your own!

Find the new stickers* and more great Inker merch at inkpeople.org/store

*Sharpie marker not included. ;-)