

# INK NEWS

Volume 42 Issue 5, May 2021



- DreamMakers cultivating resilience
- The Edilith Eckart Peace Scholarship
- FAR award funds new audiobook release



**T**RUEntertainment is now part of the DreamMaker family. TRUEntertainment's mission is to inspire community connections through transformative art, film and activism. They have presented documentary screenings, film festivals, Peace Day celebrations, and activist panel events locally. The Peace Pole Project took place at sites around Arcata. The Peace ToolBox is a project created for children now. To participate or to learn more, please contact Andy Sehic at [peaceloveandkindness@outlook.com](mailto:peaceloveandkindness@outlook.com).

In other news, it looks like we are going to be moving sooner than we expected. A buyer has come forward for our building, unsolicited, so our landlord is anxious to take advantage of the opportunity. The buyer's realtor is working with us to find another facility. It may be a blessing in disguise. I am a great fan of challenges and opportunities. Finding the best solution for all parties is the stuff dreams are made of – and not the nightmare kind. More news as it happens. Be sure to watch our social media for updates.

The Funds for Artists' Resilience projects are starting to wrap up. Margaret Kellerman has finished recording her audiobook of "Annie California: Book One." Gary Ronne has been teaching Taiko. Ben Funke is working up designs for basketball courts. James Zeller is faithfully producing The J Street Regulars' Radio Hour. In Del Norte, Jessica Slayton and Leila Moore are working on their community farm stand mural, and Julia Smiley is making art with survivors of domestic violence. In Trinity County, Raina Bolton, Heather Murphy, Karlie Elliott, and Brindi Young are working on the Hayfork Town Square Mural. Check out [inkpeople.org/far](http://inkpeople.org/far). Happy Spring to everyone!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Libby Maynard', is written in a cursive style.



# MAY 2021

## FEATURES



2: Ink Spawn

4: Cultivating Resilience

6: The Edilith Eckart Peace Scholarship

10: Eureka's Artist of the Year

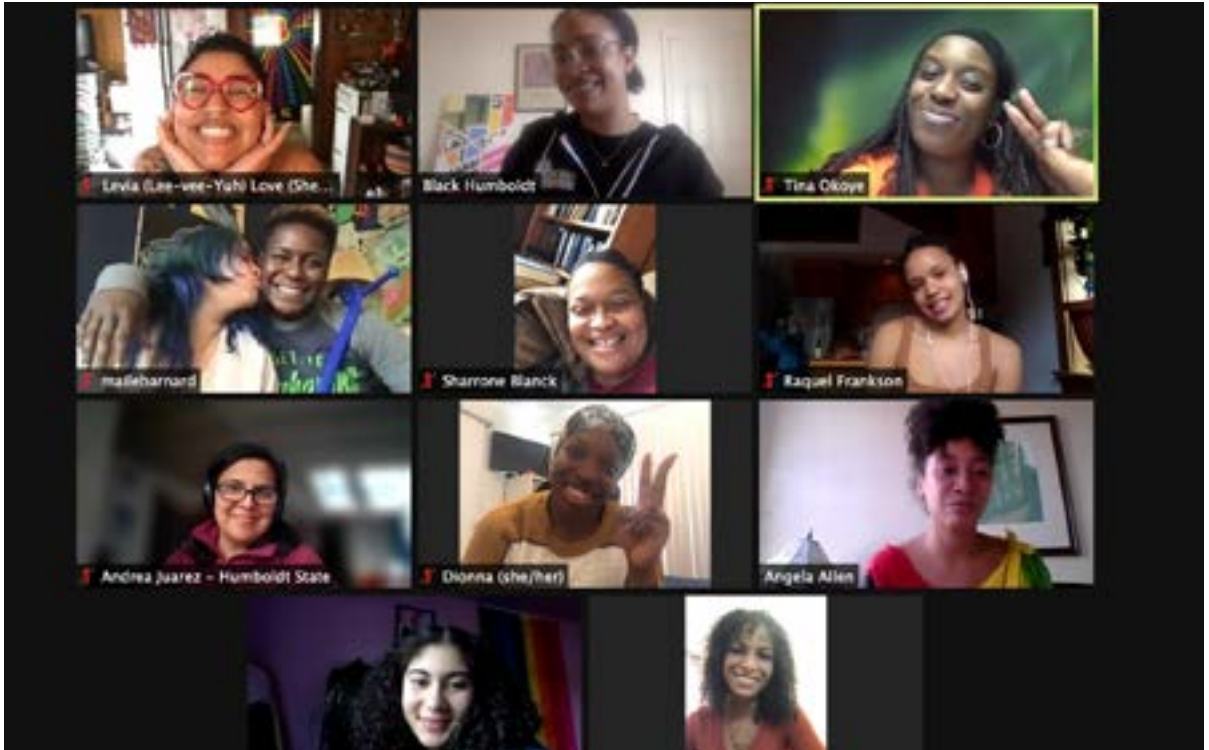
10: Photo credits and captions

11: New audiobook release

### **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.

# DreamMakers cultivating **Resilience**



COVID-19 mandated a collective crash tutorial on Zoom, eliminated many sources of funding in the short term, and made it next to impossible for arts and culture organizations to meet face-to-face. While many DreamMaker projects were forced to go on hiatus when faced with these challenges, some found ways to continue serving the public and expanding their organizational reach. For these projects, the pandemic has been a catalyst for embracing resilience, building new competencies,

and growing to serve new populations. Leaders of active DreamMaker projects cite willingness to adapt, combined with new forms of programming and exceptional levels of commitment on the part of staff and volunteers, as being key to their success.

Educator Mary Ann Hytken is the founder of English Express, a free program for students studying English as a second language. “Our volunteers have been blessings,” she said simply. “Volunteers made it possible for English Express





to continue providing services throughout this time, stepping up to deliver new Chromebooks and get them set up in students' homes."

Kristi Patterson directs Trajectory, a Eureka-based career development program for visual, performing, and literary artists and artisans with disabilities. She also credits her staff and volunteers for making it possible for Trajectory to pivot nimbly in response to frequently shifting public

health directives over the past year. "People with disabilities deal with a staggering amount of loneliness and isolation in their daily lives," Patterson said, "so it was very important to find ways for them to continue to engage. Fortunately I have a wonderful staff, and volunteers who have been incredible, creatively coming up with ways to support people and keep people connected. For a time

*Continued on p. 6*

we were video chatting using Zoom, setting up sketching sessions where there would be three or four people online with one staff member. Eventually we started a bit of one-on-one, but only what people and staff felt comfortable with.”

Mo Harper-Desir is the co-founder of Black Humboldt, a group that seeks to “enlighten, empower, and entertain our Black community in Humboldt County.” She said that “keeping up with the needs of the community and finding ways to stay connected” has been a priority for her organization. “We’ve tried our best to continue to provide the events and opportunities we usually offer. Thankfully, our main goal before COVID was supplying resources and opportunities for connection, and we’ve been able to accomplish that through contactless pick-ups / drop-offs and use of virtual meeting space.” That said, “it can be easy to host virtual events, but it’s not always the easiest to get people to attend. We had to find ways to include our community members who are not as active on social media, or as tech savvy.

“And with Black Humboldt being run by Black volunteers,” Harper-Desir continued, “it was really important for us to be compassionate with ourselves through all the trauma and pain the Black Community has endured this year, on top of the pandemic. We can’t pour from an empty cup, and to take care of our team in the same capacity we try to take care of the whole Black community was something we needed to remind ourselves of often.”

Hytken cited adaptability — her own, that of volunteers, and that of her ESL students — as being key. “I had to learn a lot. I’m not a tech savvy person, and yet I was modeling for my students this whole tech journey! Then the students needed to be willing to come online with me. Fortunately, they were.

“I liken this situation to a tree,” Hytken continued. “A storm has hacked off one of the tree’s



## **THE EDILITH ECKART PEACE SCHOLARSHIP:**

**a new DreamMaker Project**

This spring the Ink People are welcoming a new DreamMaker project: the Edilith Eckart Peace Scholarship, an annual awards program that offers small grants to residents of Humboldt County for projects that support peace and justice at the local level and worldwide.

The scholarship honors Edilith Eckart — a veteran, a Quaker, a teacher, and a long-time peace activist who moved to Humboldt County in 1978, made many “citizen diplomacy” trips to the Soviet Union, Palestine, and Iraq, and helped start the Humboldt branch of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom in 2002. WILPF members award grants each year to carry on her legacy.

“Edilith tried to make peace in a whole lot of

ways,” Sue Hilton of WILPF remembered. “She was arrested while protesting weapons development at Lawrence Livermore Laboratories in the Bay Area, which is where I met her. We created this award in her memory to support people in Humboldt County who are working for peace and justice. And so far, we’ve supported a really large variety of projects.” This year, grants of up to \$500 will be available to Humboldt County residents and groups for projects that support peace and justice locally, or anywhere in the world.

Projects that have received awards in past years include: a Peace in the Middle East Festival sponsored by HSU’s Arabic Peace and Culture Club and the Jewish Student Union; a peace pole at the Redwood Coast Montessori school in Manila; Humboldt Mediation Services; Open Heart Quilters; the Writing Well; the Golden Rule peace boat; the Roshni teen project; intercultural basketball camps for young women; the 02F Women’s Festival at the Arcata Playhouse; Humboldt SURJ (Standing Up for Racial Justice); a food program at the Church of the Joyful Healer in McKinleyville; Centro del Pueblo; People for People Behind Bars; the Kunle Community; Arcata House partnership; AHHA (Affordable Homeless Housing Alternatives); a KMUD youth radio project; and HC Black Music and Art Association.

*More information is available at <https://wilpf-humboldt.wordpress.com/>. To contribute to the scholarship fund, go to <https://www.inkpeople.org/dreammaker-data/edilith-eckart-scholarship>. To get involved with WILPF, contact Sue Hilton at [suejh@humboldt1.com](mailto:suejh@humboldt1.com).*

## Cultivating Resilience

*continued from p. 6*

major limbs, but the tree has sprouted a million trunks where the old one broke off. Not being able to meet with language students face-to-face was a major loss, and it seemed at first like an insurmountable challenge. But new growth has sprouted in the resultant space.”

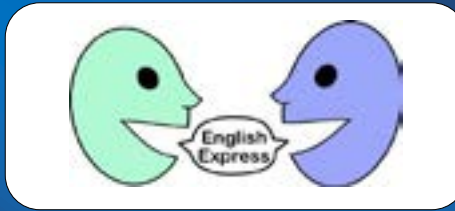
While the shift to online programming was the single biggest hurdle that many organizations faced, many DreamMakers implemented additional programming changes to respond to community members’ changing needs during lockdown.

HC Black Music & Arts Association (HCBMAA), a group which focuses on empowering local youth through Black cultural knowledge and Black support, expanded their programming during lockdown to include activities like Zoom classes on black arts, a Kwanzaa camp, and bilingual theatre workshops. Oscar Nava recently joined the team to offer a bilingual theatre-based workshop for students and youth. “I personally feel a clear sense of purpose and momentum within this core group of community members,” Nava said. “I see an adaptable framework that centers our individual and collective healing through sharing our experience with each other. This has allowed for me to be confident in being vulnerable with HCBMAA, which really resonates for me as a brown-male bodied Mexican-American in a predominately white space.”

English Express has added new classes and forms of media outreach, in addition to collaborating more actively with service organizations in the community. “During COVID, I started an informal English conversation class, led by students,” Hytken explained. Plus, we started a beginner class for people who have no English, or nothing beyond ‘hello.’ I started a YouTube channel and I’ve been posting almost every day,



# ENGLISH EXPRESS



## SUMMER SEMESTER 2021



## WELCOME

Online English Language Classes for Adults  
Levels: Beginning & Intermediate  
Join Anytime-No Registration Required  
**FREE**



Mary Ann Hytken  
Program Leader &  
Teacher

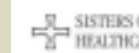
## CLASSES JUNE 1-AUGUST 31

**ENGLISH EXPRESS** Tuesday/Thursday, 7-8pm  
**ENGLISH EXPRESS BEGINNERS** Saturday, 11-12pm  
**POP UP CONVERSATION** Follow us for days/times

**ZOOM MEETING ID 707-443-5021**  
**PASSWORD 464816**



For more information  
707-443-5021  
[englishexpressemPOWERED.com](http://englishexpressemPOWERED.com)  
   
at English Express Empowered





about class, but also about social services that are available. I'm always thinking about ways to make information accessible."

Since English Express has been online, Hytken said, "We've seen more participation, and more diverse forms of participation too. Mothers and babies; more men, extended family members. Once we were able to offer an online program, it just exploded." It makes sense that the convenience of an online program would be an incentive, she observed, given the busy lives and demanding work schedules of many of the immigrant students she teaches. "You can do (online language school) while nursing a baby. You don't have to worry about childcare. I teach some men who work two and three jobs, and they'll join while sitting in their vehicles, outside their jobs, before or after work. Only students who are going to be really motivated come to a class like this." Thanks to a timely grant from the Humboldt Area Foundation, English Express has been able to expand the range of services it offers during the pandemic. What's more, the project is currently poised to make a significant expansion to the geographic area that it serves. "New grant money became available, which was a great blessing because the situation with COVID had greatly curtailed our ability to raise funds," Hytken observed. "The Humboldt Area Foundation generously donated new Chromebooks, so students who didn't have the tech could continue to learn in their homes. Then, they reached out and asked if I wanted to expand English Express to serve people in Curry, Del Norte, and Trinity counties. A major expansion! And I thought: no problem. I can do this. It was a natural expansion of English Express, to be able to provide services to students' family members and connections in adjacent counties."

Trajectory has also been resourceful in finding ways to expand services during lockdown. The organization just received a grant from Helper's Community, which will be used to purchase a



---

new printing press. Patterson anticipates that the future holds more opportunities for expansion. "We're looking to add more services, get bigger, and serve more people. Everyone's looking forward to carrying on with our goals, once we return to normalcy. Because of the pandemic, people are really excited to be together."

*To learn more about the projects featured in this article and/or to make a donation, visit their websites. Black Humboldt: [www.blackhumboldt.com](http://www.blackhumboldt.com); English Express: [www.englishexpressempowered.com](http://www.englishexpressempowered.com); HC Black Music and Arts Association: [www.inkpeople.org/dreammaker-data/hcbmaa](http://www.inkpeople.org/dreammaker-data/hcbmaa); Trajectory: [www.inkpeople.org/dreammaker-data/trajectory](http://www.inkpeople.org/dreammaker-data/trajectory)*



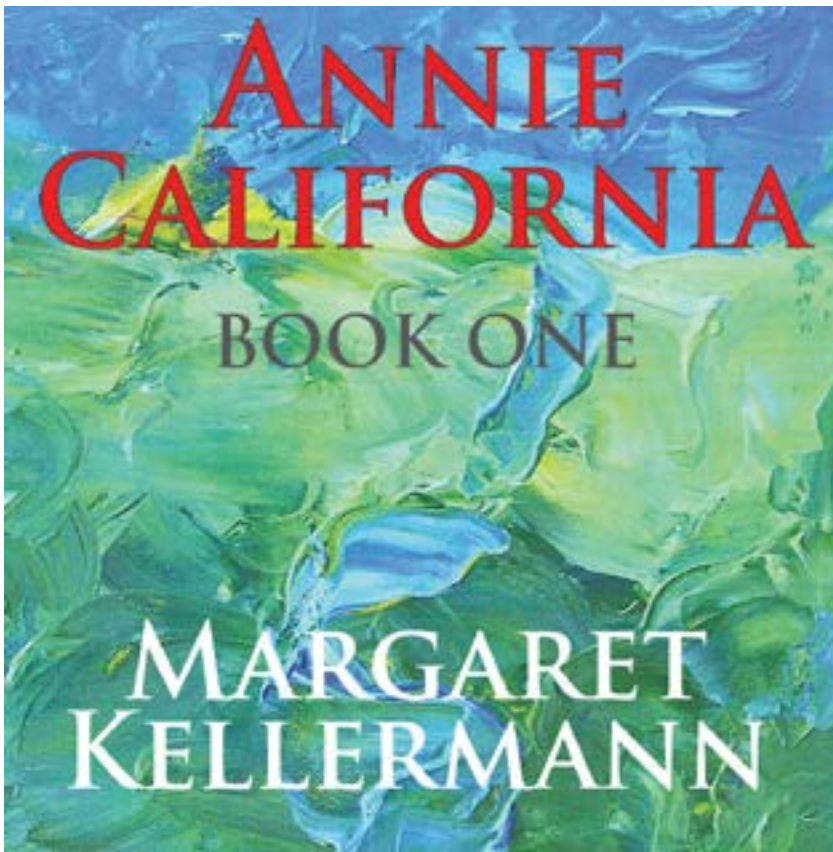
The Ink People's Administrative Director, **Monica Topping**, was recently named the City of Eureka's 2020 Artist of the Year. Recognized by Mayor Susan Seaman for "finding beauty where it may not be as evident to others," Monica recycles glass liquor and soda bottles into glass beads in her Eureka studio.

She can be found on Facebook at Rock Chick Designs and Instagram @rockchickdesigns.

Congratulations, Monica!

#### **CREDITS & CAPTIONS:**

Cover: White Deer, Marlette Grant-Jackson, 2021. Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator; digital print on canvas. Photo courtesy of the artist. P. 3: Water Fall, Albert Hailstone, 2020. Mounted sculpture of beads backed by wood, wire wrapped grape vines, and cloth. Photo courtesy of the artist. P. 9: Karuk Louis Vuitton Drum 1.1, Fox Spears, 2020. Cedar frame, elk rawhide, Louis Vuitton bag parts, and artificial sinew. Photo courtesy of the artist. Artworks on view now in Fixing the Earth 2021, a virtual exhibition at the Brenda Tuxford Gallery. P. 4: Zoom screenshot from a Black Humboldt virtual self-care event held February, 2021. Photo credit Black Humboldt. P. 6: students and teachers at Redwood Coast Montessori celebrate Peace Day with a new Peace Pole, made possible through an Edilith Eckart Peace Scholarship. Photo courtesy of Sue Hilton and WILPF Humboldt. P. 10: Photo courtesy Monica Topping. P. 11: Photo courtesy of Margaret Kellermann.



The audiobook recording of **Margaret Kellermann's** young adult novel, "Annie California: Book One," is out!

Voiced by the author, Kellermann's story narrates the experience of homelessness as seen through the eyes of a 10-year-old girl. The audiobook is now available through Audible and iTunes. Kellermann completed the recording with a 2020 award from Funds for Artists' Resilience (FAR). FAR is a public arts project administered by the Ink People Center for the Arts and funded through the generous support of the Humboldt Area Foundation, the Wild Rivers Foundation, the Rose Perenin Foundation, and private donors.

## Workshops & 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 pm, Saturdays 11:00 am - 12 pm. 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 pm ONLINE. Facebook: Karuk Language Project

### HUMBOLDT SINGS

Come sing in a relaxed, non-performative group setting — no experience necessary. Facebook:

[Humboldt SINGS](#)  
[humbolddtSINGS@gmail.com](mailto:humbolddtSINGS@gmail.com)



The Ink People  
525 7th Street  
Eureka, CA 95501

# INK NEWS

is published monthly by  
Ink People Center for the Arts

Executive Director	Libby Maynard
Administrative Director	Monica Topping
Administrative Assistant	Princess King-Burke
Marketing & Resource Development Director	Gabrielle Gopinath
Alternative Galleries Technology Director	Angie Valetutto
MARZ Project Mentors	Karen Asbury
	Cory Goldman
	J. R. Tilghman
	Gabrielle Gopinath
	Nanette Kelley
<i>Ink News</i> Editor	
California Arts Council Adminstrators of Color Fellow	

