

# INK NEWS

Volume 42 Issue 11, November 2021



Ink Spawn

Eureka's New Poets Laureate

"We Are Worthy": new works by Julie Smiley



# INK SPAWN

*A note from Executive Director Libby Maynard*

The October board meeting brought us one cool new DreamMaker project – Humboldt Kites. 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](mailto: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.



# NOVEMBER 2021

## FEATURES

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#### 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

**SYNOPSIS. 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](mailto:synapsiseureka@gmail.com)

Creekside Arts and the Synopsis Collective are

DreamMaker projects of the Ink People

Waiting for Godot is presented by special  
arrangement with Dramatists Play

Service, Inc, New York



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*Introducing...*

## Eureka's new Poets Laureate

One thing to know about poet Wil Gibson's recent appointment as Poet Laureate for the city of Eureka: he called his shot in a very serendipitous way.

"I'm ecstatic, I'm absolutely ecstatic," Gibson enthused. "When I was a kid, my mom took me out to little poetry readings around northern Illinois, and we went to see one that featured the poet laureate of Chicago at the time. I don't even remember who it was. But my mom said:

'That's the poet laureate!'

'Nice,' I replied. 'What is that?'

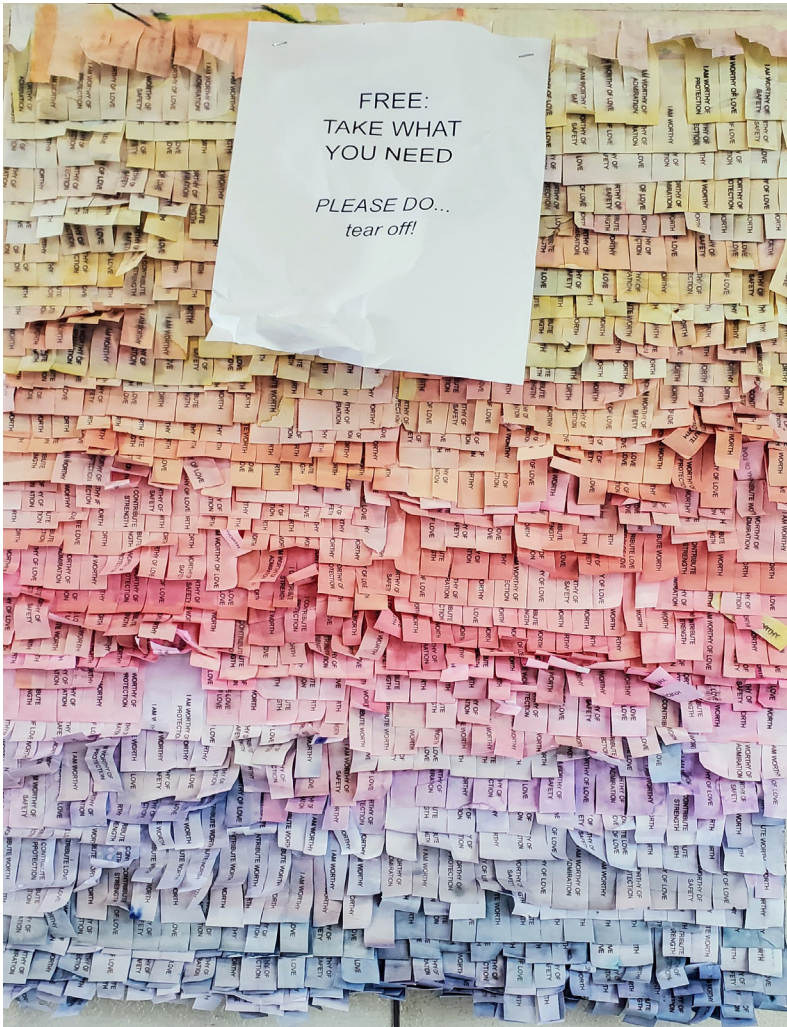
And we spent the whole day finding out the history of that word. And later that day I told her: 'I'm going to be one.' That was one of the first times I told anyone at all that I wanted to do this... *thing*," Gibson remembered.

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-

*Continued on p. 7.*

# “We Are Worthy”

*Julie Smiley shows new work at Del Norte Courthouse*



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

## **Poets Laureate** cont. from p. 5.

son also co-owns the poetry-only bookstore ReWord-ed with his partner, Susanna, and is editor-in-chief of Swimming With Elephants Publications. He and Jordan Moore were recently appointed as the city of Eureka’s Poet and Youth Poet Laureate, respectively, for 2021-23.

“The Poet Laureate program is designed to enmesh poetic presence with civic discourse, while contributing to the cultural well being of Eureka,” program co-founder and Eureka City Council member Leslie Castellano said. “Poet laureates present their work at a city-related event and/or council meeting during their tenure. They will also be completing a project in the community as poetry ambassadors.”

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.”



ideas of social and personal control. “We Are Worth” 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](http://www.juliebsmiley.com)



# After coming home early

Wil Gibson

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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.

# OPPORTUNITIES



## 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.

VOTE FOR  
**INK PEOPLE**  
CENTER FOR THE ARTS  
now through  
**NOVEMBER 17!**

Ballots available at North Coast Co-Op and online at [northcoast.coop/vote](http://northcoast.coop/vote) (one vote per member).

**NORTH COAST CO-OP**  **Seeds FOR CHANGE** Round-up Program

ARTWORK BY TESS YINGER | 2020

**THE GESTATION PROJECT** Oct. 11 - Nov. 30 2021

**A VIRTUAL EXHIBITION**  
about childrearing and the perils of modern life.

**BRENDA TUXFORD GALLERY**  
[www.inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery](http://www.inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery)  
(707) 442-8413

 The Gestation Project is made possible by a 2020 FAR grant, administered by The Ink People Center for the Arts.

Pregnant Ladies Versus Tigers, Taylor Snowberger  
Family Platter, Eva Nebenzahl

# “WAITING FOR GODOT”

## Arrives

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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 **Synopsis Collective** is providing production support at the new Synopsis 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 Synopsis 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>



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## Living All Over You

Jordan Moore

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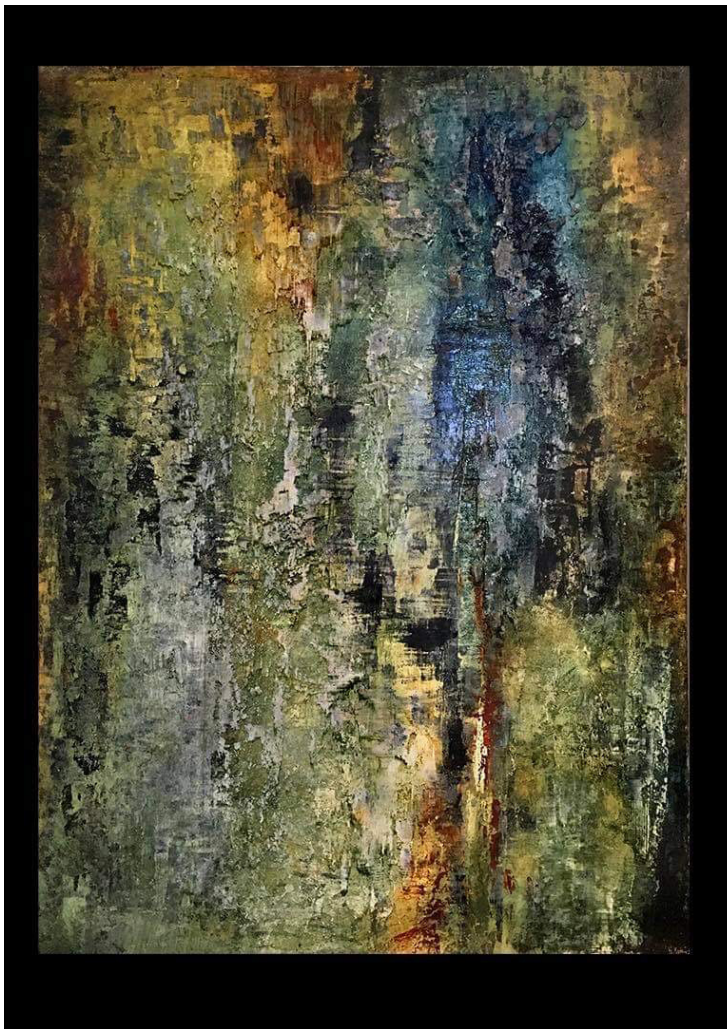
You walked past  
You wanted to say something  
You didn't

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

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### 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

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**CREDITS & CAPTIONS:** Cover: Take What You Need: I Am Worthy Tear-Offs (detail), mixed media artwork by Julie Smiley, 2021. Photo courtesy of the artist. P. 3: Eureka Youth Poet Laureate Jordan Moore, October 17, 2021. Photo credit Sophi Magnatta @whydoyoucare6339 P. 5: Eureka Poet Laureate Wil Gibson reads his work at Northtown Coffee in Arcata. Photo credit Patrick Rutherford. P. 6: Take What You Need: I Am Worthy Tear-Offs, mixed media artwork by Julie Smiley, 20" x 30", 2021. Smiley's work is on view at the Del Norte Courthouse through Nov. 17. P. 11: Paintings by Marceau Verdier will be on view at Synapsis Collective's new performance space during performances of "Waiting for Godot." Contact [synapsiseureka@gmail.com](mailto:synapsiseureka@gmail.com) for details.

**New Address!**

**The Ink People**  
**627 3rd Street**  
**Eureka, CA 95501**

# INK NEWS

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



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