

# INK NEWS

Volume 43 Issue 01, January 2022



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- The inaugural **40th Prize** spotlights Humboldt journalism
- Talking flash fiction with **Kristi Patterson** of **Trajectory**
- “Stand Up and Be Counted: poetry and art inspired by Muhammad Ali”  
at **Brenda Tuxford Gallery**



As we enter a new year, I hope 2022 brings each of you opportunities for creative participation in the world. For certain, we at The Ink People are here to steward and support your ongoing efforts, as we have for so many people throughout the region for the past 42 years.

I believe that artists have a unique capacity and responsibility to understand the past, in order to bring forth visions for what the future may hold. In my first column for *Ink News*, I want to honor the incredible vision and work of Libby Maynard, who has been compassionately and creatively present at the helm of this organization since she co-founded it with Brenda Tuxford. I am deeply thankful that I have spent 15 years on the Ink People's board and have had the opportunity to serve as a DreamMaker Director.

I have learned much from Libby in the process of working with her to support the Ink People's mission. I have learned about the importance of recognizing other people's visions, and about the importance of facilitating conversations in order to foreground community wellbeing. I have become a better listener while, simultaneously, becoming more skilled at seeing the creative spark that moves throughout societies. In addition, Libby has taught me about advocacy for the arts and culture, about building coalitions, and about remaining flexible and capable of adaptation while finding strength to move important projects and ideas forward. Thank you, Libby Maynard, for your creative leadership and for your impact in the world.

I am excited and honored to have the opportunity to work for all of you as Executive Director. I look forward to tending to the mission and values of The Ink People as we work collaboratively to make our communities beacons of joy, wellbeing, and intelligent adaptation in a rapidly changing world. In the coming months, I will announce new opportunities to come together (with appropriate COVID precautions!) and to share in conversation about arts and culture in the North Coast region. I look forward to meeting with you and working with you in 2022 and beyond.



# JANUARY 2022

## FEATURES

Pat Patterson, Chicago Policeman assigned by Mayor Daly to be Muhammad Ali's bodyguard :

**"Being with him affected the kind of policeman I turned out to be. I hadn't been on the force long. Young police, they're always interested in locking people up. But with Ali, I realized it was more important to be a peace officer, that people needed help. He taught me to take time and listen to people. I learned that power shouldn't be used in a bullying way. He cared so much about people. And after a while, You had to know the way he felt about people was right."**



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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.



# Ink People Center for the Arts presents Stand Up and Be Counted

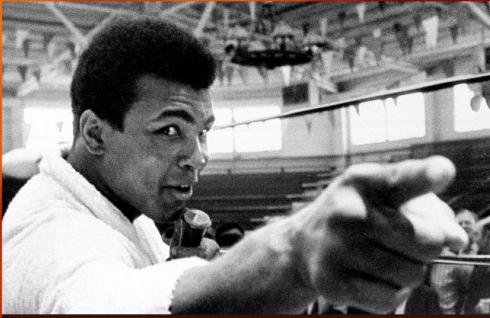


Photo by John Rooney/AP Images

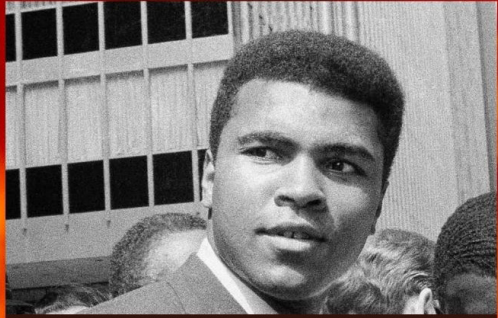


Photo by Anthony Camerano/AP Images

## Art and Poetry *Inspired by Muhammad Ali* Jan. 14-Feb. 21, 2022

Exhibition Open by Appointment

The Brenda Tuxford Gallery

627 3rd Street, Eureka

Contact Us at

(707) 442-8413 or [inkers@inkpeople.org](mailto:inkers@inkpeople.org)



Virtual Gallery at [Inkpeople.org](http://Inkpeople.org)

Partners:



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*The inaugural*  
**40th Prize**  
*spotlights*  
*Humboldt journalism*

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**H**umboldt Journalism Project, a DreamMaker project of the **Ink People Center for the Arts**, celebrates the power of investigative journalism this January with the announcement of the inaugural **40th Award**, which was created to give special recognition to reporting that affects people who are left behind economically. “We chose ‘40th Award’ to represent those who are in the lower 40 percent of the income scale in Humboldt,” said organizer and project founder **Carrie Peyton-Dahlberg**. “That certainly includes very lower-income people, but it also includes lots of people who are struggling in the middle: having a tough time providing housing, child care and other components of a healthy life.”

The 40th Award was created by a group of journalists with strong Humboldt connections. The Humboldt Journalism Project has an advisory panel that includes a Humboldt State University journalism professor, a retired journalist who lives in Humboldt, an author who attended HSU, and a nationally known journalist who attended HSU. “Our work is entirely funded by donors,” Peyton-Dahlberg explained, “who tell us they care about quality, local news, and they want to see more of it. We know how hard it is to cover news basics every day, so we wanted to honor work that goes beyond the basics, digging deeper or looking at ways that our institutions sometimes fall short in how they treat people across the income scale.

“We’ve been lucky as a community to have had lots of reporting that goes beyond the surface and asks hard questions. For example, in the *Eureka Times-Standard*, Shomik Mukherjee in 2018 examined the county’s cost estimates for a proposed sanctuary initiative, and discovered that the numbers were pretty much invented, without being based on past workloads or actual episodes. That reporting shot holes in an argument that the ballot measure would be too costly to enforce. Kym Kemp’s *Redheaded Blackbelt* blog in southern Humboldt helped uncover episodes of marijuana confiscation that eventually led to a police officer’s guilty plea. Writing for the *Lost Coast Outpost*, Ryan Burns unearthed

*Continued on p. 10.*



## “This is the story of how 1979 was a rough year”

A 99-word story by **KRISTI PATTERSON**

I lost two grandparents – one to suicide: one to cirrhosis. We spent Christmas at the Eureka Inn instead of at home. My parents could not dissuade me from ordering Oysters Rockefeller.

I took a horrified bite of green goo.

“How is it?”

My eyes welled up. “Great.”

My dad took a taste. “That’s just awful!”

I burst into tears. “I know!”

The whole table exploded in the laughter of the grieving. This is the story of how my dad and I each ate half a plate of turkey dinner, and how my family survived.



## Kristi Patterson of Trajectory

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This December, **Kristi Patterson** was awarded first place in the *North Coast Journal's* 2021 Flash Fiction contest. Her prizewinning story, "This is the story of how 1979 was a rough year," is reprinted in *Ink News* this month. Patterson is a skilled multitasker, making time to write micro-fiction when she's not busy in her professional role as director of **Trajectory**, a DreamMaker project of the Ink People Center for the Arts that provides career development services for artists and craftspeople with disabilities.

Patterson's story is highly compact but multifaceted, with each of its 99 constituent words poised there for a reason. Its origins, she said, trace back to the misty space between memoir and fiction. "I don't really know where the line is between memoir and fiction," she confessed, laughing. "Some details have been changed, but the main story is actually something that happened. I lost my grandparents when I was really young, to horrible things, and my family had to try and survive through that."

"I've been writing short stories for years, but it was the *North Coast Journal* contest that made me write my first 99-word story. I really like the form." In order to write a 99-word story, Patterson said that she first "writes a longer story." In this case, the story's first draft was quite a bit longer. "I went through and edited, and cut out anything that was unnecessary—even things that I thought might be necessary. It's kind of fun to take something, and distill it down to its

very essence."

The process of revision went right down to the wire, in this instance. "I finished (the story) like, an hour before the contest deadline," Patterson recalled. "I was thinking, 'This is too sparse; I can't get all the emotion in that I want to,' and I thought I'd missed the mark. But it's really nice that so many people have since come forward and said that they could relate to it."

"The story is remarkably complete," contest judge Jennifer McFadden wrote of Patterson's microfiction. "The opening line gives us a heartbreaking backstory, and in just a few more sentences we see the unfolding of dashed expectations and the release that laughter provides for the grieving. This moment pivots a wounded family toward survival."

Contest judge Jennifer Fumiko Cahill concurred: "Reading this in a rough year of our own, peppered with loss and adjusting our celebrations to fit our new reality, this small moment resonates with hope. The failed culinary adventure is funny and the family's first laugh in the daze of grief is rightfully framed as a turning point."

Patterson said that she looks forward to further exploring the short story form. "I think just about anything—any moment in time—can be made into a story," she mused. "A story doesn't always have to have a traditionally defined beginning, middle, and end to be complete."



# STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

visual art and poetry inspired by Muhammad Ali

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The 2022 exhibition season at Brenda Tuxford Gallery kicks off Friday, Jan. 14, with “Stand Up and Be Counted: visual art and poetry inspired by Muhammad Ali.”

Muhammad Ali was known as “The Greatest” — a world champion fighter, humanist, mentor, poet, and activist who changed the world. “Stand Up and Be Counted,” co-sponsored by KEET-TV: PBS of Northern California, Word Humboldt, and Ink People Center for the Arts, has been organized in conjunction with “Muhammad Ali,” a PBS documentary series directed by Ken Burns, Sarah Burns, and David McMahon, which premiered on KEET-TV last fall. Sarah Burns wrote in a statement: “Ali is rightly celebrated for his athleticism in the ring, but he was equally heroic in his willingness to stand up for what he believed was right.”

Showcased paintings, drawings, and poems draw inspiration from Ali’s activism and from the six core principles that guided his life: confidence, conviction, dedication, giving, respect, and spirituality. Featured writers and artists include Tim Ayres, Michael Woods, October Mintey, Rosalie Thomson, Brett Mungo, James F. Woglom, Heather Quarles, Dylan Collins, Mark Heathcote, Tania Fonseca, Traci Neal, Sarah Brooks, and Michael Bickford.

At the Brenda Tuxford Gallery, printed poems line the walls of one exhibition space, while drawings and paintings are displayed next door. “Dedication,” a photorealistic watercolor portrait by Humboldt State University art education professor James F. Woglom, uses hot colors and a tight crop to capture Ali’s intensity in the ring. “Float Like a Butterfly,” a pen and ink drawing by 13-year-old Humboldt artist Octo-

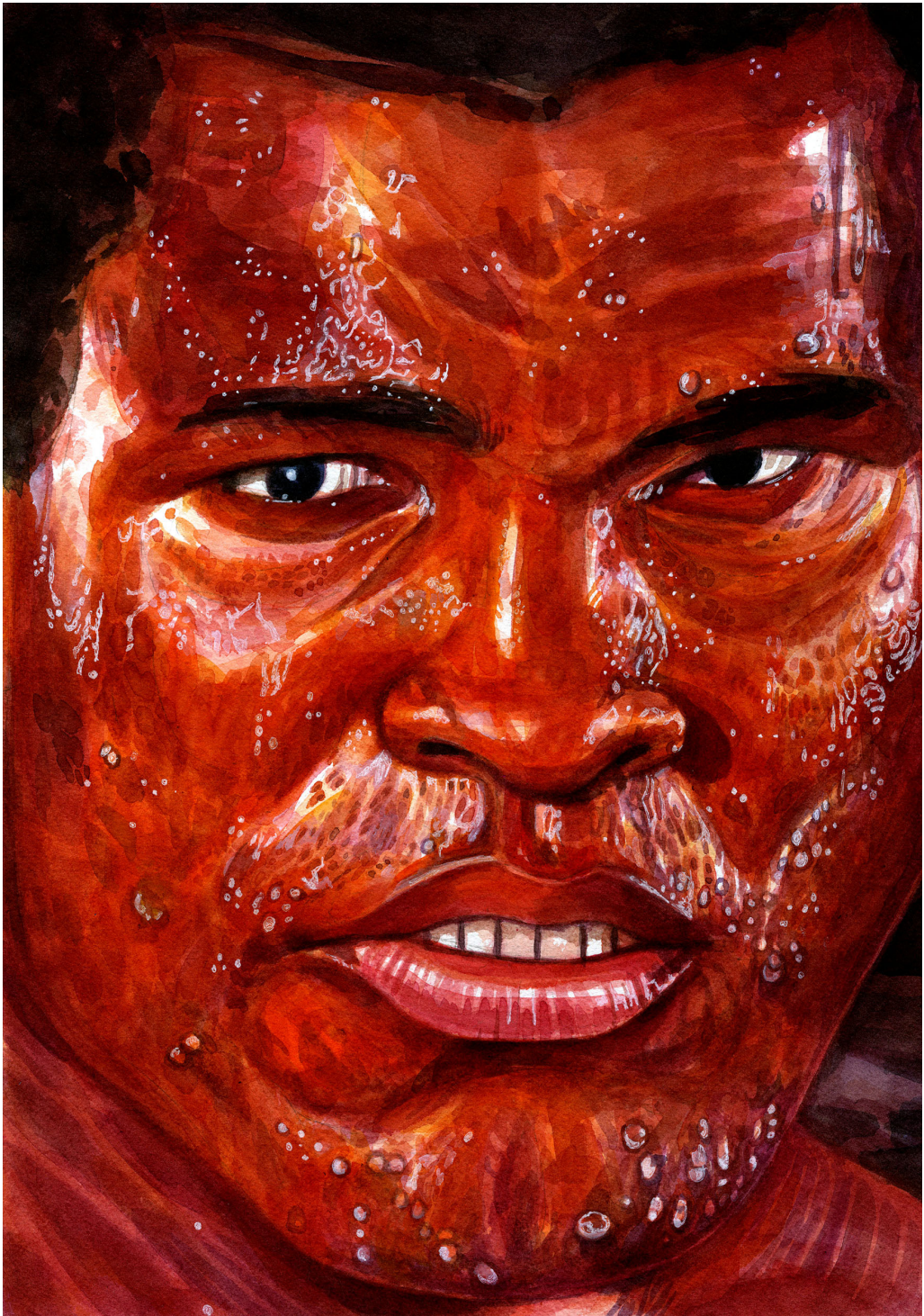
ber Mintey, uses mixed media to emphasize duality in the fighter’s public persona. “Ignoring protocols, Ali moved freely among the people, saying Allah would protect him,” Tim Ayres wrote regarding his surreal digital photomontage, “ALI - A LIVING ROCKWELL.” “Like a Norman Rockwell painting, the faces in the crowds Ali drew told the story of America.”

Several featured writers assess Ali’s cultural significance in terms of identity and personal history. “Muhammed Ali and boxing are integral to my relationship with my father,” said Michael Bickford, who writes with the Lost Coast Writers’ Cooperative. “The Creator’s Hands,” by Heather Quarles — writer, teacher, and founder of the Unbound Writing Center in Arcata — proposes: “Like Clay, / lean into the way / you were formed. / Born to be what you are / but, shaped too.”

“This exhibit reflects personal insights into what Ali has meant to each artist and poet, and the effect his legacy has left on them,” said Katie Whiteside, Director of Community Engagement at KEET-TV, who organized the exhibition. “Ali had to fight for his beliefs, civil rights, and social justice. He challenged white supremacy and the racism he faced in this country.”

*“Stand Up and Be Counted” can be viewed online at [inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery](http://inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery) and in person by appointment at the Brenda Tuxford Gallery, 627 3rd St., Eureka, Jan. 14-Feb. 21. Appointments for individuals and small groups are available Tuesdays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with masking and social distancing restrictions in effect. Give us a call at (707) 442-8413 to schedule your visit.*





## The 40th Prize / cont. from p. 5

public documents showing that Pacific Gas and Electric Company's local power plant was built to be "islanded," running separately from the broader grid, even though the utility was claiming that wasn't true. In different ways, all these stories affected the lives of people who sometimes struggle economically, whether it's people who can't keep their food cold during power outages, or small growers trying to make a modest living, or undocumented immigrants who could be helped by a local ballot measure."

Powerful stories with the capacity to make change, driven by deeply researched investigative reporting, are an endangered species in today's click-driven media environment. Budget cutting, Peyton-Dahlberg said, represents the single biggest threat. "Investigative journalism takes time, and when media outlets cut their budgets, they cut staff, so there are fewer people to do this important work. The handful of people who still have media jobs are sometimes given daily or weekly article quotas, preventing them from going after time-consuming topics."

The creators of the 40th Award hope to use the award to call attention to the value of regionally focused, socially responsible investigative journalism, and celebrate the vital role that this kind of journalism plays in our democracy.

"If we don't understand our region, including the joys and difficulties faced by our neighbors, we can't contribute as successfully to our community," Peyton-Dahlberg summarized. "We should be able to depend on good journalism to understand local government decisions, to make sure our schools are serving all of us, to know which businesses to entrust with our dollars, and so much more."



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*Local artist **Gus Clark** stands in front of the freshly painted front door of Ink People Center for the Arts' new office space at 627 3rd St., Eureka, featuring his vivid hand-painted designs. Thanks, Gus, for helping us stand out in our new Old Town home!*

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## 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: englishexpresempowered.com Facebook: English Express Empowered.

(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



## HELP INK PEOPLE CENTER FOR THE ARTS BY ROUNDING UP AT THE NORTH COAST CO-OP THIS JANUARY!

*The Ink People Center for the Arts is weaving arts into the fabric of our community through public art initiatives, youth programs, and over 100 independent DreamMaker art and culture projects.*

When you round up at the register this January, you'll be supporting the Ink People in our core missions of facilitating public art, generating opportunities for community artists, and creating arts programming for youth and the differently abled.



**CREDITS & CAPTIONS:** Cover: October Mintey, *Float Like a Butterfly*, 2021 (detail). Pen and ink on paper. 5 x 7 in. (12.7 x 17.8 cm). P. 3: Tim Ayres, *ALI - A LIVING ROCKWELL*, 2021. Digital print. 8.5 x 14 in. (21.6 x 35.6 cm). P. 6: Illustration by Jay Tilghman / Ink People Center for the Arts. P. 9: James F. Woglom, *Dedication*, 2021. Watercolor on cold press Arches. 16 x 12 in. (40.6 x 30.5 cm). Cover artwork and artworks on pp. 3 and 9 are on view online and by appointment at Brenda Tuxford Gallery in "Stand Up and Be Counted," through Feb. 21.

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# INK NEWS

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