



# ARTS *Connection*

YOUR LINK TO THE ARTS IN KERN COUNTY

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## Younger Gallery Opening A Success



It truly was “the one show you didn’t want to miss!” An enthusiastic crowd of 500 joined us on July 31, as we celebrated the opening of our latest addition, the “Younger Gallery: Contemporary and Functional Art.” The lobby of the Bank of America Tower showcased fourteen painted umbrellas by local artists that were auctioned off. Inside the gallery, the crowd mingled among the art of our two emerging artists, Andrew Borrego and Nano, as well as our established artists, Mike Barker, Tera Thorton, Betty Younger, and our own executive director, Jeanette Richardson Parks. Throughout both the lobby and the gallery, functional art was showcased as visitors enjoyed the catering of Champ’s BBQ and Catering and Barb’s Lunch and More.

Through the generosity of local art patrons, Milt and Betty Younger, our new gallery is located in the Bank of America Tower at 1430 Truxtun, Suite 105, in downtown Bakersfield. The Younger Gallery has four rooms, with the main gallery visible to walk-by lobby traffic. Two other main rooms can be seen behind glass windows and will serve as both office space for our growing staff as well as gallery space. The fourth room will serve a dual purpose as well, as a conference room and to showcase our “Collector’s Gallery.” This space will give local collectors an opportunity to sell contemporary art from their own collections.

Artists who would like to display their contemporary and/or functional art in the Younger Gallery are encouraged to submit portfolios (including 5-10 examples of their work, artist statement and resume) for consideration. For questions or more information regarding the Younger Gallery, please contact gallery associate Nicole Garvin at 661.324.9000 or nmgarvin@gmail.com.

**At times, it was difficult to navigate through the crowd, but everyone was joyful as they bid on the painted umbrellas and admired the work of local artists.**

*Above left: Some guests look at artwork created by Andrew Borrega.*

*Above: This is one of the fourteen umbrellas that was auctioned off on the opening night.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with the California Arts Council and the County of Kern, the Council promotes and supports the diverse arts needs in the region through advocacy, arts in education and technical assistance to local organizations.

## ACK STAFF

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Executive Director

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Graphic Designer

**Jill Egland**  
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Gallery Associate

**Kari Hunter**  
Office Manager

**Carlin A. Jones**  
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**David Nigel Lloyd**  
Assistant  
Executive Director  
Director of  
Arts Programs

## From The Director

*We are grateful for our many arts partners*

By Jeanette Richardson Parks

This is a very special issue of the *Arts Connection*. As we previously reported, ACK staff are taking turns with the oversight of the newsletter. This time, it was my turn. I asked everyone to interview a partner in the arts or cultural arena. This could be an individual, or an organization that partners with us—for funding, programs—or are involved in the arts in other ways. When we began to identify all of our partners, we discovered we would be writing a book, not a newsletter. We hope you enjoy the articles presented in this issue and will look forward to reading about the others in future issues.

In upcoming issues, you will learn about the joys and challenges facing Sue Benham, Bakersfield City Council Member and community leader, and Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Michael Rubio. You will also learn about two long-time downtown arts retailers, Downtown Antiques and Chris Vanderlei's Gallery. Hear why Bernie Herman, Executive Director of the Bakersfield Museum of Art, Carola Rupert Enriquez of Kern County Museum, and Kathleen White of KCSOS, think that arts, culture, and quality of life issues are important in Kern County. Plus, discover why Dr. Larry Reider is such an exceptional advocate for the arts.

We are happy to report that Sue Deininger is back with her superb sense of style to copy edit the newsletter, and we hope you find the new look designed by Holly Bikakis to be an exciting change.

We invite you attend two upcoming ACK events. On September 5, it's Martini time at the Petroleum Club—a fun night of martini tasting and martini inspired artwork. On October 3, we will be *Up on the Roof* at 18th and Eye Street for dinner, provided by Outback Steakhouse, wine tasting, and the wonderful sound styling's of the Bakersfield Jazz Workshop with solo performances by TV-23 newscaster, Mike Hart, and *Beauty and the Beast* lead singer, Jarrod McNaughton.



Executive Director Jeanette Richardson Parks

Join us at the events, or come by and see us at either of our two galleries. The Younger Gallery in the Truxtun Towers specializes in contemporary and functional art, and the Larry E. Reider Gallery in University Square.

Oh, if you see one of us out and about doing our arts survey, please take the time to fill it out. Your input matters!



Photos by Doug Keelen



Chevron, one of our business partners, sponsored a concert by the Bakersfield Jazz Workshop. They performed for over 1,200 school children at the Historic Fort in Taft, to an enthusiastic crowd.

## Artist Spotlight

### Jen Bowles

By Nicole Garvin

Our recent Spring juried show, “Reigning Cats and Dogs,” attracted several artists who have not participated previously with the Arts Council of Kern. Among these new artists was Jen Bowles. A local Bakersfield artist and graduate of CSUB with a BA in Studio Arts, Jen has been painting prolifically since 2006. Her submission to the Reigning Cats and Dogs exhibit, *Elley Triptych*, was a Warhol-inspired digital work. However, upon reviewing Bowles’ portfolio, we were pleased to discover that she is also an independent contemporary artist working in acrylics with an innovative style.

Bowles has found joy in her artistic talent, saying, “Every time I walk into my studio, I am reminded that I am pursuing my passion and doing what I love.” Her hard work is beginning to capture national attention. One of the most influential journals in the art gallery world, *Art Business News*, recently contacted Bowles for a feature on her as an emerging artist. She will also be exhibiting at ArtExpo in Las Vegas, an event that will be attended by both national and international art gallery owners and patrons. Locally, her art can be viewed at the retail space, Surroundings (3015 Calloway Drive), along with her interior design.



Artist Jen Bowles

When I asked her what she would like to see in Kern County, she responded, “One thing I would love to see happen is a wider appreciation for the arts.” Now that she is expanding outside of the county, she understands that she may face challenges, but welcomes new opportunities.

Through her portfolio, we became fully aware of Jen Bowles’ artistic vision, capability and professionalism. We encourage all artists to submit a portfolio with examples of their work, artists resume, and artist statement. If you are interested in seeing more of Jen Bowles’ work, check out her website: [www.jenbowlesart.com](http://www.jenbowlesart.com). If you would like to review her portfolio and the portfolios of other local artists, or to submit your own portfolio, please contact Nicole Garvin, 661.324.9000, or e-mail [nmgarvin@gmail.com](mailto:nmgarvin@gmail.com).

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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By Nicole Garvin

Shortly after our Arts District banners appeared downtown last spring, Mike and Tammy Niemann opened The Underground Gallery (1525 19<sup>th</sup> Street) in May 2008. We were first introduced to the new gallery through our MySpace page ([www.myspace.com/artcouncilofkern](http://www.myspace.com/artcouncilofkern)), an invaluable tool that we use to discover artists and announce our on-going events. Kari, the ACK office manager, and I explored the gallery during May’s First Friday and found out that the gallery provided a location where any visual artist can rent a space and show their art. Mike, a digital artist himself, found it difficult to find locations in Bakersfield to show his art and suspected

## The Underground Gallery

that other artists were facing the same issue. He also felt that there was a loss in the local art community after the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Gallery closed and hopes that his new gallery will fill this gap. With his wife, Tammy, as gallery manager and Mike as Curator, the Niemann’s have created a member supported gallery with new shows every month.

We often hear that people feel that art is an elitist activity, but The Underground Gallery is open to every visual artist and in any genre. As Tammy explains, “It’s important for everyone to be well rounded, and I want my children to know every aspect of life. I think it’s a common misconception that art is for the rich only. Art is for everyone and anyone who enjoys it.” In visiting The Underground Gallery, one finds a variety of techniques and media, varied artistic skill levels, and genres ranging

*please see UNDERGROUND on Page 5*

HERO  
SPOTLIGHT

Thank you  
for becoming a  
Hero For The Arts,  
Patty and Robert  
Young and  
Phil Fields  
of KCBEX.

Your support will  
help enrich our  
community through  
arts education,  
arts advocacy  
and technical  
support to arts  
organizations  
throughout our  
County.



Engagement with young people using seasonal material (straw bales) when redesigning a local park.

## Jayne Murray and the Art of Social Engagement

### *Trans-Atlantic Communications Are Open*

By David Nigel Lloyd

Artist Jayne Murray from Birmingham England sings karaoke for a living. It's a serious business. And, of course, there's a lot more to it than karaoke.

Jayne Murray is an artist of public engagement. For a decade, she has worked with communities as small and changing as the passengers on a Birmingham City bus and as large and fixed as the English city of Corby.

Photography (in which she received her BA at the University of Derby) was Jayne's first serious art media. However, her MA from the London Institute's highly innovative Design for the Environment program far better states who she is as an artist today. The motto on her business card reads: People Make Places Make People.

She went through a period, she explained to me when visiting her in Birmingham last year, when she held an almost hostile disinterest in formal art with its galleries and academies. She says she has since gotten over that. However, when she was here in Bakersfield last month, I pressed her on what single factor motivated her when all else failed. "Injustice," she answered. The arts are a natural and human way of communicating, Jayne explained, "but it's not for everybody when it could be."

She was engaged in a project earlier this year that involved a single street in the south western English city of Plymouth. Jayne decided music would be a good way to get the street's residents to interact with each other. She began collecting popular songs from them. "The criteria was: the song must reflect their experience

of life on [their] street," said Murray. "The collecting culminated in an event where we parked a mobile recording studio on the street and invited residents to sing their chosen song, a bit like a karaoke. It turned into... a celebration, with lots of people coming out onto the street for the first time in a long time and socializing. I like it so much because karaoke is seen as quite a low down art form. It also takes quite a bit of guts to get up and sing, but once you get started, something changes and confidence increases. And it was a very simple way of being able to get people to express themselves."

What Jayne Murray likes most about this kind of work is "meeting people, getting to know different places and learning how they function; working out where art can play a role, and the fact that no day is ever the same." What she dislikes is "the discussion about whether it's Art or not. Can we just get on with the ideas whatever they are?" she asks.

Jayne has twice been a visiting consultant to the Arts Council of Kern. Most recently, she joined poet/photographer, LisaAnn LoBasso, and painter, Jorge Guillen, in a public art project (with no karaoke) engaging families at the Sunset Labor Camp south of Lamont. Two years ago, Jayne, Jo Dacombe and Heather Connelly (under the name CoLab) conducted a public art project in the tiny community of Weedpatch; this project lasted just under a month and resulted in a community narrative recorded in the three languages of use in Weedpatch.

What she, LoBasso and Guillen quickly discovered at the Sunset Migrant camp was an overwhelming sense of sameness and tedium. Randy Coates, who oversees the camp for Public Housing, invited the three artists to stay a few nights in one of the camp's houses and gave them permission to conduct the project as they liked. As time was at a premium, Jayne and the

*please see JAYNE on Page 10*

There was a cinema  
They used to call it

THE SCRATCH

because it was a bit dirty,  
and you were, you know  
a bit itchy when you came  
out, but it was great.

Lyn Barlow

www.lisaann.com  
UAL History Project

One aspect of 'experience,'  
an artist's residency, was  
to make a former English  
mining community's history  
visible. In England, round  
blue plaques have long  
commemorated places  
where famous people did  
or said famous things.  
Jayne Murray's 'blue  
plaque' inverts the tradition  
slightly by commemorating  
a place all on its own.

grant  
update

Desert Area Resources and Training is a Ridgecrest-based organization whose mission is to provide services and opportunities to people who have developmental disabilities or other special needs, so they and their families can pursue the dreams and lifestyles they choose.

In March, 2007, DART staffer, Marcy Holbrook, visited the Arts Council to discuss how DART might organize a Visual Arts Workshop patterned after the workshops for developmentally disabled artists being run by the ACK. Over the next year, Director of Special Projects, Jill Eglund, worked with Holbrook to come up with a strategy for recruiting both mentor artists and KRC client artists from the Ridgecrest area. The eight-week project, entitled "Artists on the Edge," was launched in June. The following excerpt of a letter from Holbrook describes the workshop:

## Desert Area Resources and Training

*Although only six persons actually enrolled at the outset, each week brought more interest from other clients and workforce members who watched the project. Many persons who initially said, "I can't do that," were found sitting on the edges of the class one week and enrolling in the next. Six weeks into the class, we had 20 participants.*

*For the first two weeks, the class worked with clay. They created a series of masks and 10" cylinders that will be assembled into small totem poles. These items were raku fired at Cerro Coso Community College.*

*During Week Three, Jesse Baker, one of the mentor artists in the program, did a demonstration about how to sketch a face; what proportions to use, and how to create shadows. We have some great faces that project members created in pastel and pencil after this. (Jesse is also part of the Arts Council's Artist in Residence program.)*

*Week Four was watercolor and pastels. Week Five and Seven have been acrylic painting with Jesse. During Week Six we glazed our ceramics and went to Cerro Coso for firing. The next two weeks were acrylics and touch-up.*

*This morning I was on a local radio station discussing upcoming events at DART. I spoke about how great your organization is and how nice Jill Eglund is to work with. We are very appreciative of all the help that you have given us.*

GRANT  
OPPORTUNITIES

ACK grants will be available in the fall. Check our website, [kernarts.org](http://kernarts.org) for updates.

Deadline is December 15. Grant recipients will be announced on January 23, 2009.

## UNDERGROUND from page 3

from the mundane to the graphic. Exhibiting artists know that they are welcome to show their art, free of criticism, and the audience and art buyer are welcome to make their own decisions on what art they like. Mike reiterates that art should be "accessible to the average person so it doesn't seem like art is an unattainable thing." In addition to the gallery space, The Underground is also offering art classes and is involved with local charity events.

While The Underground Gallery has experienced the normal business growing pains, both Mike and Tammy are proud of the work they are doing. Mike explains that since opening the gallery, "I've become a close part of the art community and I'm making a difference." Tammy enjoys the fact that the gallery is "something different every day—meeting new artists, and getting to know them and changing lives."

It is a challenge to find enough artists to fill the gallery space, but Tammy and Mike continue to introduce themselves to the local art community, in addition to bringing in artists from outside the region. Gallery show openings have also provided opportunities for musicians to perform, expanding The Underground Gallery to a space for both visual and performing artists.

The Underground Gallery still has space available to rent and monthly call to artists. For more information on The Underground Gallery and their events, check out their MySpace page: <http://www.myspace.com/theundergroundgallery>. Mike is also an active member of our monthly Artists Forum meetings (every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month) and is open for discussion of the local art scene and environment. Visit The Underground Gallery and the other galleries in the Arts District today and support local art and artists.

Arts Council of Kern

Summer

# CAMP

ARTS  
JAM  
CSUB  
'08

Right and below: ARTS JAM, a two-week after-school arts boot camp at CSUB, culminated in an art show and performance. The teachers, comprised of CSUB arts instructors augmented by Arts Council artists Bob Gardner and Nina Landgraff and retired ceramics teacher Kathy Kalson, gave middle and high school migrant students a sense of insight and accomplishment in the areas of print-making, drawing, painting, sculpture, musical theater, and jazz. "It should have been four weeks long," complained one student.



For the first two weeks of June, 50 students convened at the Industries Building in Downtown Bakersfield for an intensive film experience with veteran filmmaker, Joey Travolta. Students were from the Migrant Ed Project, the Kern High School District Special Education Department, and on the recommendation of high school art teachers.



# Arts '08

'08 FILM CAMP

ARTS JAM AT CSUB

ZOO ARTS AT CALM



Right, top: artist Gita Lloyd leads migrant students in the Procession of the Species at the California Living Museum. Percussion instructor Jonathan Weinman (in black t-shirt) helps stragglers lock into rhythm. Middle: cowbells are not as easy as they look. Bottom: Gita inspects papier maché mallard. Sculptures were based on strict scientific observation directed by CALM's Debbie Kroeger. "This was the best week ever," said one happy camper.



Goodwill  
m making  
re recruited  
cial Ed  
achers.



DID YOU  
KNOW?

ARTini is September 5  
at The Petroleum Club.

Enjoy an evening of swank music, martini inspired original art and several martini bars to choose from.

All proceeds from this event will benefit "Blues in the Schools" and other ACK programs.

You can buy your tickets online at kernarts.org or at our office, 2000 K St., Ste. 110, the Bakersfield Convention and Visitors Bureau, or at The Petroleum Club.

Tickets are \$45 for general public and \$30 for current members of ACK.

# People Who Make A Difference In

## Holley Arbeit

*Holley Arbeit is a speech language pathologist for the Kern High School District (KHSD). This year she served as a resource teacher for the 2008 Summer Film Camp, facilitating the participation of students with Asperger Syndrome.*



**Where and when were you born?** I was born in Rochester, NY, in the 50's.

**How long have you been a speech pathologist with KHSD?** Well, I've been a speech pathologist since 1976. I've worked with the Kern High School District off and on since 1985. My husband is a geologist, so we've left and returned a couple of times!

**What were you doing prior to being in Bakersfield?** I worked in Quito, Ecuador, as a speech therapist. I also volunteered while I was there in various capacities, including consulting with local speech pathologists.

**What is your educational background?** I got my BS at a State University in New York. I got my Masters from Ohio University. I've also completed a mentorship in the field of social cognitive (thinking) behavioral methods of therapy for those with high-functioning autism, or Asperger Syndrome.

**What are the joys of coming to work?** Working with Individual students with communication disabilities and their families, and working with my colleagues. I can impart something significant in their lives, and I am constantly learning so much from their perspective. It keeps one grounded as to what's really important in life. Plus we laugh a lot. I love to laugh with my students. I also really love working with students with language and literacy difficulties.

**What is one thing about Kern County that you would really like to see happen?** I would like to see an increase in adult services for this particular population, in addition to language and literacy disabilities. And more communication and coordination of services between professionals in the Mental Health field, speech pathologists like myself, and families.

*please see HOLLEY on Page 10*

## Joey Travolta

*Joey Travolta is the Creative Director of Inclusion Films, an LA-based organization whose mission it is to teach future filmmakers with developmental disabilities the nuts and bolts of the film industry.*



**Where were you born?** In Englewood, NJ, in 1950.

**How long has Inclusion Films been around?** I started the company just a little over a year and a half ago, but I've been running film camps—which is one of the things Inclusion Films does—for over four years now.

**What about prior to this?** I spent the 15 years prior to what I'm doing now directing. And acting and singing. Actually, I started as a singer. Then I went to writing and producing, then directing.

**What's your educational background?** I received a BA in Special Ed from Patterson State College in NJ.

**What's one of the joys of coming to work for you?** The joy is just seeing the kids, watching them be creative and come alive. They're like sponges. There's so much growth. Especially when a parent comes to you and says, "This has changed my child's life." Every camp, someone says that. It's really powerful.

**What's your favorite accomplishment?** My daughter is number one. Number two, I think, developing these camps. You get to influence so many kids. This is my life. You get to make films, which I love, and you get to pass that love on—get somebody else as excited about it as I am.

**What challenges do you see coming?** My biggest challenge is going to be taking this camp to as many places as possible. I have a great team now, but if I ever want to do more than one at the same time, then it's going to be a real challenge. I have to find the right people to run them. Putting together the right team is a challenge.

*please see TRAVOLTA on Page 11*

# Our Arts Community

## Jarrold McNaughton

San Joaquin Community Hospital's Associate Vice President, Jarrold McNaughton, has a humble spirit as he spoke of his passion to help the Hospital bring God's love to the community.



He believes his organization is truly making a difference and real miracles are being witnessed. Jarrold spent the last 12 years with Adventist Health. During his tenure, he earned a BS Degree from Pacific Union College and a MBA from the University of Laverne.

While working with Adventist Health, he was transferred to Napa where he worked and resided for a few years before coming back to Bakersfield one year ago. Does he like being back in Bakersfield where he was born and raised? Yes. He mentioned that both he and his wife, whom he met in grade school, are happy to be back home with friends and family.

Jarrold has had a successful career with San Joaquin Community Hospital, as well as a notable singing career. He has sung all around the world and made two CD's that are currently for sale. Jarrold also played the "Beast" in *Beauty and the Beast* on Broadway. These are admirable accomplishments, but when asked what he believes to be his favorite or best accomplishment, he says, "my marriage to my wonderful wife."

Part of Jarrold's job is community outreach. He sits on the boards of CASA, Bakersfield Heart Association, American Cancer Society, and he is a member of the East Bakersfield Rotary Club. He is also in the position of funding various non-profit organizations' programs and fundraisers. Among these are the Arts Council of Kern, CASA, Boys and Girls Club, and Houchin Blood Bank.

Jarrold mentioned some of the challenges in health care are the ever increasing costs and the fact that the insured are paying higher co-pays and premiums because of those that cannot pay for medical care. He believes health care should be a right and not a privilege.

When asked about a favorite memory of a Kern happening, he said the Tony Bennett show at the Fox. "Tony, at his age, is still singing strong." When asked about the importance of arts in the community, he said, "The life spirit of each of us is lifted by the arts."

## Joey Johnson

Joey Johnson, 37, has served as the ABLE (Adult Based Life Experience) team leader for nine years. In May, the ABLE campus hosted a two-week arts camp, which included visual, theatre, dance and film experiences.

Upon graduating from high school, students with developmental disabilities have the option to continue under the wing of the Kern High School District for four more years through the ABLE (Adult Based Life Experience) program. The emphasis at ABLE is to provide a bridging experience that will transition students to a "post-school" reality.

**How long have you held this position?** For 9 years.

**Born:** Here in Bakersfield, in 1971. I'm 37 years old.

**How long have you held this position?** For nine years.

**What were you doing previously?** I was in the military for three and a half years, stationed state-side. It made it possible for me to go on and get my education.

**Where were you educated?** I went to Bakersfield College, then went on to CSUB. I have a BA in Physical Education and my Masters in Special Ed.

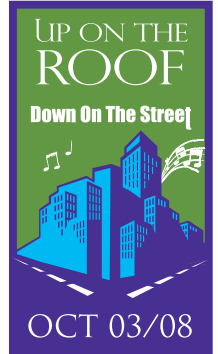
**What are the joys of coming to work?** For me, working with students with developmental disabilities is a joy in itself. Our students appreciate everything and everyone and don't take anything for granted. The staff we've been able to recruit—they're inspiring as well. They're here for all the right reasons: They treat the students with dignity and respect. Running a program in this manner has been our philosophy from the start—we talked about it and talked about it, and it's great to see it actually come to be this way. The staff that don't [buy into this philosophy], they don't last. It's actually a joy to come to work. I'd do it even if the money wasn't there—at least I'd like to think that I would!

**What's your favorite accomplishment?** I would have to say the ABLE program itself... not that it's mine, but as a team, I think we've collectively put this program on the map and we've created something that is bigger than I ever thought it would be. Part of this is the natural growth of the city—it

*please see JOHNSON on Page 11*

SAVE

THE DATE



It's back by popular demand! The "Up on the Roof... Down on the Street" party of the year scheduled for October 3, 2008.

The Arts Council of Kern will be coordinating the rooftop party "Up on the Roof" and the Downtown Business Association will be coordinating the street level event "Corporate Rat Race."

This will be an evening of fine wines from California and Australia, fine food and fine music in a festive atmosphere. Proceeds from the event go to "Blues in the Schools" to return music into our local classrooms.

Summer/Fall 2008

**BECOME  
A MEMBER**


The Arts Council of Kern has two types of membership. For more information or to sign up, go to our website at [kernarts.org](http://kernarts.org).

**HERO MEMBERSHIPS**

We have four levels of Hero Memberships designated for patrons of the arts or business partners who are looking to make a difference in the community.

Your support will help enrich our community through arts education, arts advocacy and technical support to arts organizations throughout our County.

**PATRON OF THE ARTS MEMBERSHIPS**

These memberships are for businesses, families, seniors, individuals and students.

You will receive discounts to Arts Council events and gallery openings and updates about the arts in Kern County.

Summer/Fall 2008

**JAYNE from page 4**

team decided to hold a Saturday Night carne asada for the 12 families then at the camp. Not only did the team learn from where in California, Texas and Arizona each family came, they now found themselves welcome and on an informal basis with everybody.

Jayne and the team's response was temporary, strategic and light-hearted. As all the houses in the camp are the same beige color, they painted one in bright colors. Children from the camp's preschool take the same walk round the camp everyday. The team highlighted items of significance and curiosity on their walk: roses pegged to clotheslines, a tree trunk wrapped in pink Saran Wrap. Wild flower seeds were strewn in a large grassy area between a laundromat and housing. Out of all this, an enormous amount of data was compiled into a report alive with possibilities such as story-writing projects for the children; photography exhibits of the families' highway journeys to the camp; internet access in the camp laundromats; and film and live performance showings on Saturday nights. They also put up shade covering and, most important to the children, hung a rope swing from a tree.

For Kern County, Jayne Murray suggests, as she did with CoLab two years ago, that the residents of Weedpatch get a sign identifying the community. We also asked her to look into the tiny West Kern town of Tupman. Residents there have few computers but plenty of televisions. "Tupman TV," was her immediate suggestion, "Their own TV channel." She has already e-mailed us some ideas that show the idea *just might work*.

One of her main concerns, retaining public space in the



LisaAnn LoBasso and Jayne Murray pose in front of one of the camp houses newly painted front doors.

UK, arose in part from her work here in Weedpatch, a community with no public space, as English people would know it. "Spaces you might think are public [in England]," she realized, "often aren't now, with high streets and shopping areas being owned by private companies. People are desperate to sell land (which we don't have a lot of!), so generally, shared and accessible space is fast disappearing," she said.

Challenges ahead are great. She is concerned, as we are here, about artists practicing "in the current economic climate—people seem less like they want to take risks, or pay for anything 'surplus' such as art. The challenge would be to get people to realize art is integral to a healthy well-rounded society." The most important challenges in her field concern "creating opportunities for participation in decision making processes through art and figuring out how that participation can be listened to and effect change."

**HOLLEY from page 8**

**What's your favorite accomplishment?** This is a hard one. I think—working myself out of a job. When students feel they've got enough skills under their belt that they feel they could function independently, it makes me feel really good.

**What challenges do you see coming?** The significant increase in the numbers of students who have been identified with extensive communication disabilities, for one thing. The challenge in this, of course, is being able to provide appropriate services for them. And the definition of what is "appropriate" has shifted—is shifting. We need to be able to provide services based on the advances that are being currently made in neuroscience, rather than in the behavior methodologies that have been traditionally used.

**Why do you care about the arts and quality of life issues?** Because I think it enriches us personally, and it's a good way to encourage understanding—historically, cross-culturally—and build community. It helps give people a way to express themselves when they might not be able to in more typical ways.

**How do you like to spend your free time?** Wine tasting in Sonoma County! Seriously, I love to travel far and wide off the beaten path. I also love having gourmet meals with family and friends. Baking seven-grain bread. Wandering aimlessly in San Francisco.

**Why do you care about the arts and quality of life issues?** Because I think it enriches ourselves personally, and it's a good way to encourage understanding—historically, cross-culturally—and build community. It helps give people a way to express themselves when they might not be able to in more typical ways.

**Any memory of Kern happenings you want to share?** My memory of the Summer Film Camp... I saw students who usually struggle with communication just be incredibly successful. It was an amazing transformation—in their confidence, in their ability to trust, in their willingness to lead—there were some complete "about-faces" that took place. And this all happened because they were in a situation where they were able to use the performing arts to communicate.

## JOHNSON from page 8

was bound to get bigger—but we’ve taken the growth on. When I started, we had four classes and 40 students. Now we’ve got 140 students and 13 classrooms, and we’re still growing. I take a lot of pride in what it’s become. So many teachers are interested in coming here now, because they’ve heard what it’s like to work here. I also have to say that my other great accomplishment is my seven-year-old son. He has a heart of gold. That takes a lot of time and effort. He’s really amazing.

### What challenges do you see coming?

Our size! The bigger we get, the harder it is to stay innovative. I don’t ever want us to become stagnant or complacent. I don’t ever want us to think that we’ve got it all figured out. I want us always to be pushing the envelope, thinking outside of the box. Take the [Arts Camp and Film Camp] we did with the ACK this past spring—it turned out to be amazing. I want to see us continue doing things like that. We have our yearly golf tournament—this year we made \$25,000 [for the ABLE Foundation]. Every year it gets bigger and better. It’s always a challenge to make sure that we have the right people here. We have a high standard. It’s a full-time job making sure we’re keeping up with the times, making sure we’ve got people who’ve got the right heart, the right mentality. When you’re interviewing new people, you have to make sure you ask all the right questions.

There’s also the issue of space, of best practices, of making sure we’re all doing the right things for the right reasons. It only takes one accident, one tragedy, and it would limit our ability to do the things we do. We want to involve our students in meaningful activities, not just do things for the sake of doing them.

### What’s one thing about Kern County or Bakersfield that you would really like to see happen?

I’d like to see the community open up its arms to people with developmental disabilities; be more willing to accommodate, as far as jobs and job training is concerned. To break through those barriers caused by the fear of the unknown that we have for anything that we don’t understand. Our students are very accomplished—they just need a chance.

### What’s your favorite way to spend “free” time?

I exercise daily—I’m a runner. I like to run marathons, a couple of long ones each year. I also really enjoy mountain biking.

### Why do you care about the arts and quality of life issues?

I just think that there’s too much emphasis on the core subject areas and not enough emphasis on arts and physical and moral being. And it’s equally important.

**I’d like to see the community open up its arms to people with developmental disabilities; be more willing to accommodate, as far as jobs and job training is concerned.**

We’re losing sight of that the more we worry about all kids passing the HS exam. Fortunately, in KHSD there’s a lot of people who understand that it’s important. Just because there are people who are gifted academically, I was gifted in sports – I would never have achieved what I have if it hadn’t been for having access to that. It kept me focused and made me eligible

When it comes to DD, dance, music, theatre – these are things that our students related to. Our students are able to express themselves through these kinds of activities just like any other student. Have you ever met anyone who doesn’t like music? A good movie. But it’s maybe even more important. You’ve got students who have been told a lot in their lives that they can’t do things. And here they are, able to achieve just like anyone else. Arts for DD students is a great motivator, a way to inspire. It’s definitely a means of communication like no other. Even our most reserved, the ones who are most shy and don’t communicate verbally, you turn on certain music or take them to a dance and it really brings out their personality.

## TRAVOLTA from page 9

### What’s one thing about Kern County that you would really like to see happen?

I’d like to see what we’re doing in LA County up here. Especially what we’re doing with adults with disabilities. Longer experiences than just the two-week camp. The arts are so important to all children, to all people... but especially people with disabilities.

### What’s your favorite way to spend your free time?

I like going to the movies—a lot. I also really love watching sports. This is, of course, other than spending time with my family.

### Why do you care about the arts and quality of life issues?

Because art imitates life. And moving art (film) even imitates life more. It’s important in the development of society that we have the arts. I hate to see it being cut back in schools—it encompasses everything that we do. It’s how we make our way through this life.

### Any memory of a Kern happening that you want to share?

There are so many... Each camp I’ve done up here has been its own unique thing. I think the great thing about the ABLE camp [in May of this year] was seeing how supportive everyone was of each other. If people outside could be as supportive as the people in ABLE are of each other, it would be a better world.

## EXPLORE

### YOUR BACKDOOR



**Terra Cotta Warriors exhibit at the Bowers Museum of Cultural Art runs until October 12, 2008.**

This impressive exhibition represents the largest loan of terra cotta figures and significant artifacts to ever travel to the U.S. The show features 100 sets of objects from the First Emperor’s mausoleum in China, including approximately 20 complete life-size terra cotta figures.

*For more information:*  
Call 714-567-3600  
or go to  
<http://www.bowers.org/exhibits>  
2002 N. Main St.  
Santa Ana CA 92706  
Price: \$19-\$27

# QUARTERLY

Summer/Fall 2008

## Arts Council of Kern's Calendar

Please check out our website kernarts.org for what's happening with the arts in Kern County

YOUR CONNECTION TO OUR ARTS EVENTS

### AUGUST

14th ARTini Submissions Due

20th ARTini Artists Notified

26th Linda Osburn Show Closing At KCCU Annex Gallery

27th Deadline for ARTini art delivery

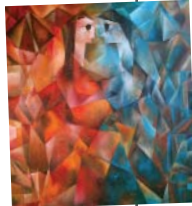
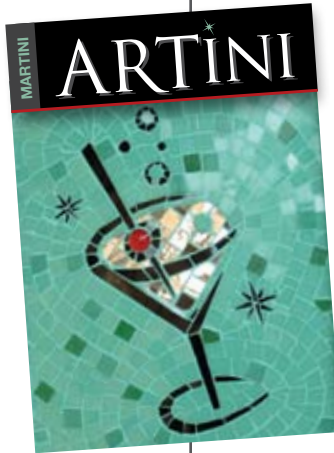
28th Marisela Oropeza opens at KCCU Annex Gallery

### SEPTEMBER

5th ARTini at The Petroleum Club from 7-9PM. Tickets on sale at kernarts.org. General public \$45 and current ACK members, \$30

19th Emerging Artists Show At Younger Gallery Closing

26th Outside In 3 Show Closing



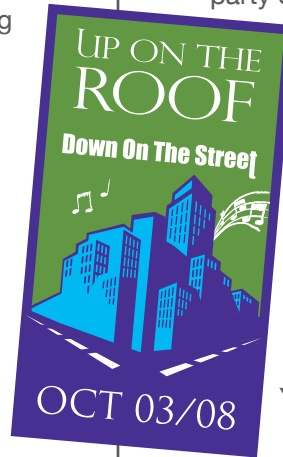
### OCTOBER

2nd Ron & Nancy Show Opens At The Larry E. Reider Gallery

3rd UP ON THE ROOF/ DOWN ON THE STREET. ACK is hosting the Up On The Roof party on the parking garage roof at 18th and Eye. Tickets on sale at kernarts.org. General public \$65 and current ACK members, \$50

15th Last day for The One Show's Functional Art at The Younger Gallery

17th Functional Art Pick-up



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Bakersfield, CA 93301

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