

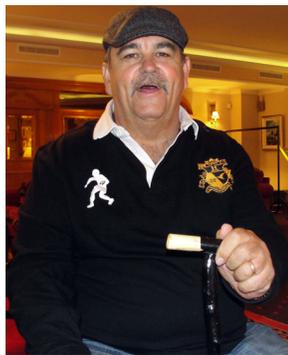
*"Building a Healthier Community through Personal and Professional Example"  
Peer Recovery Art Project is our continuous campaign to end stigma, revitalize downtown areas, while implementing new strategies for an all-inclusive and, therefore, healthier community.*

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER NOTES

Peer Recovery Art Project is growing in ways we would not have imagined a couple of years ago. We now host huge events with many more artists showing each time. With new organizational developments that will ultimately lead to our new Arts for Freedom Gallery, these are exciting times here at Peer Recovery Art Project.



*JB goes Irish!*

There seems to be some confusion. Over the years of our existence there have been many interesting views on the mission and founding ideals that make Peer Recovery Art Project the unique community service arts organization that we are and have always been. PRAP is nothing more than an avenue for people to build relationships with others, serve their community and enjoy the benefits of peer support. Artists are a vital part but our mission is not to build the largest membership arts organization in the area. In fact, we have no membership requirements at all. We simply want folks who have never felt the joy of showing their works to others to come forth and do so in a non judgmental way.

Artists of all skill levels show with us but it's the new people that keep us whole. Highly skilled artists often act as mentors to our fresh crop of talent. PRAP is also for the people who come to join in the pleasure of listening to live music or viewing some eye-catching creations, and for those countless conversations that ensue. PRAP is a mutual aid, peer support network for artists and volunteers who may have felt there was nowhere for them to belong. Thanks to all of you who have taken part in our project. For all those who have not, what are you waiting for?

~John Black, CEO

## SENIOR ACCESS ART GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP

*By Carol Jo Hargreaves*

Terri Palombi (left) and Barbara Fawver (right) proudly display acrylic paintings created in the Senior Access Art Group. A Mental Health Service Act program begun in mid-2006, Senior Access serves people over 60 years of age. A goal of the program - helping people increase social connections - is achieved through the regular art group where artists interact with others and hone their skills.

Senior Access artists love to paint and will paint on any surface! They welcome your donation of art media such as plates, glassware, wooden trays, terra cotta pots, vases, apothecary jars, stemware, particleboard, and any size stretched canvases. We all have these items stuffed away in cupboards, just waiting to be transformed into colorful works of art! Folk Art brand enamel and acrylic paints of all colors are also welcomed as are other craft supplies such as yarn and fabric, and monetary donations with which to purchase art supplies.

You may drop your donations off at 303 Downey Avenue, Modesto, any week day between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. While you're there, browse through the exhibit of beautifully hand painted articles. You'll be impressed! Maybe you'll even take one home with you!

Thank you!





## THE BARGE GALLERY

### Stratford-upon-Avon, England

*By John Black*

My wife and I found this unique floating art gallery while on vacation in the town where William Shakespeare was born. We had a grand time touring this historic village. The Royal Shakespeare Theatre was cool and Trinity Cathedral was amazing. My wife, Linda spotted the gallery and, as we moved closer, this floating Barge Gallery really captured our attention.

The Barge Gallery is situated aboard a traditional narrow boat, permanently moored in the canal basin in Bancroft Gardens, Stratford-upon-Avon.

It was established by local artist Dylan Izaak in 2000 and is thought to be the first of its kind. Dylan had worked as a street artist beside Stratford's picturesque canal basin for many years. It was while watching the canal boats that he first came up with the idea of The Barge Gallery. The concept was to set up a gallery to promote and sell the work of top local artists, as well as provide a unique attraction for locals and visitors to the town. After months of planning, designs for the gallery were drawn up and boat builders set about constructing the 65-foot steel craft. Five months later the completed boat emerged and was craned into the water, ready to be filled with stock and start trading.

Since opening, the stock has expanded to include work by artists from throughout Great Britain, although local artists are still strongly featured. The product range now includes original paintings, etchings, prints, cards, ceramics and jewellery, together with a selection of limited edition prints which are exclusive to the Barge Gallery.

In May 2007, The Barge Gallery passed into the ownership

of Alan and Ingrid Thornton whose aim is to continue with Dylan's original concept of creating a friendly and non-intimidating gallery, where everyone feels welcome to walk onboard, have a browse and enjoy a unique shopping experience.

Information from [www.bargegallery.com](http://www.bargegallery.com)



## OLD JOINT STOCK THEATRE – A FRIENDLY PLACE TO BE!

*By John Black*

On holiday in Birmingham, England, my wife and I had the pleasure of visiting a quaint little art gallery/live performance theatre. The Old Joint Stock Theatre was such a friendly place to be! We ate in the pub then were given a tour of the theatre, perched on the top floor of a grand Victorian building in Birmingham's City Centre District.

“The Old Joint Stock Pub & Theatre Venue's **art gallery** is situated on the theatre floor in the Crush Bar and along one wall of the foyer leading to the theatre. Small works are suited to the Crush Bar whilst larger exhibits sit well on the foyer wall. Work exhibited need not be restricted to painting as photography and flat craft work would go just as well.

There is no charge for exhibiting work in the art gallery. However, if any item is sold, we ask for a commission of 20% of the sale. Hours of opening are usually between 11am and 5pm, which of course are extended when there is a performance on in the theatre.” (from website)

## OUR SINCERE THANKS!

### THANK YOU, CREW! WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

*By Betty Barnes*

Congratulations, everyone for the terrific Modesto Pride Fest held Saturday, September 17! Thirty-eight PRAP artists displayed 183 pieces of art. Our special thanks to the set-up and take down crew members. This tireless group spent a long day Thursday setting up and another long day Saturday taking down. A huge thumbs up from me and Mr. John Black! Without these crew members, Peer Recovery Art Project events cannot happen.

## TASTE OF THE VILLAGE AND THIRD THURSDAY ART WALK

### TWO TERRIFIC EVENTS

*By Betty Barnes*

Hello to all artists, musicians, wine tasting booths, friends and families. Thank you all for participating in the "Taste of the Village" Thursday, September 15. Thirty artists displayed 253 pieces of art. Event Coordinator, Claudia Newcorn said the event was terrific. We agree with her comment about more lights being needed once it got dark, so next year expect great lighting.

On the same evening Peer Recovery Art Project artists participated in the Third Thursday Art Walk in downtown Modesto. Nathan Heselton's work is now exhibited on the walls at the Barkin' Dog Grill. Stop in for the best burger in town and view Nathan's Spray Paint art.

## THANK YOU, BHRS CSOC!

Peer Recovery Art Project extends a huge "thank you" to BHRS Children's System of Care staff and participants. We appreciate your allowing PRAP artists to display their artwork at your Recognition Breakfast at Harvest Hall, Tuesday, August 30.



## TEEN EMOTION EXPRESSED IN ART

*By Betty Barnes, Site Supervisor-Early Childhood Educator*

How do people express ideas through art? What can we learn about people who lived long ago by looking at a picture? Why do people use images to tell stories and to communicate? What

did people use to record important events in their lives or history long ago? How has art been used throughout history to tell stories or to show us what people in other times and places considered important? These questions enter my mind each time I have the opportunity to visit with teenagers.

"Music is important in people's lives and often affects how teenagers look at life and their personalities. Being involved in the arts can aid teens to be more comfortable sharing their talent with others. It helps let out their emotions in a positive form of expressing themselves." Music can help teens find their talent, whether it be instrumental, vocal or writing. Art keeps the mind working in many different ways, and allows each individual to create whatever comes to mind. The end product they create can express what they're feeling, or their thoughts toward something, or how they see something from their point of view.

Use of texture in art expresses one's emotion. A watercolor painting, for example, will usually have a very mellow, placid tone because of the way the paint absorbs into the painting. There are usually no individual brush strokes, but a soft landscape where the edges blend into each other. Color plays a significant role in expressing emotion. Bright colors often express excitement, while duller or darker ones can express relaxation, depression, sleepiness, or other low-key emotions. Contrast can also express emotion. A painting which uses shades of color in the same spectrum will have a different emotional tone than a painting that uses hues from different spectra. A work with sharp, percussive strokes, like a Vincent Van Gogh painting, will portray a different emotional tone altogether. In Van Gogh's art, the brush strokes always give the painting an anxious tone, no matter what the subject matter. Even a starry night can look dizzying and disorienting.

Teens are touched in some way by music and art, whether they are involved in chorus, band or art and music classes in school or within the community in which they live. Some

*Continued on Page 4*

**TEEN EMOTION**, *continued from Page 3*

students may be involved in music at home, or may just enjoy listening to different types of music, while some may love to draw and paint in their spare time. Art and music give teens a creative outlet, to gain long term relationships and definitely encourages them to express their feelings and build self-confidence. Currently, one of Peer Recovery Art Project's teen spray paint artists, Nathan Heselton, is showing at the Barkin Dog Grill. Great job, Nathan! We look forward to you listening to more music, while creating your outstanding art works.



*Above, PRAP's Lead Artist, Keena Wells at 2011 Pride Festival*



**The Painted Brain**

is a project of Community Partners, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Los Angeles. The Painted Brain is a peer-driven media and outreach campaign created by young adults with mental illness. Their mission is to eradicate the stigma of mental illness, foster thriving social relationships and to create a community of young adults. For more information see: [thepaintedbrain.org](http://thepaintedbrain.org)



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