

ARTISTS IN THE SCHOOLS PLANNING GRANT RECEIVED

The Arts Council collaborated with Sacred Heart Parish School and Gabilan Hills Elementary School in writing a grant for funds (\$2,500) to plan an *Artists in the Schools Program* in San Benito County through the California Arts Council. The grant was awarded and plans are in place to begin meeting on a monthly basis in order to develop a curriculum for all Art disciplines based on the needs of the students.

The goal is to create a standards-based arts program (K-12) that will enhance arts programs that may already be in place and to provide a more rounded arts education for students in San Benito County through dance, music, theatre, and visual works of art. Through partnership with librarians, artists, art organizations, parents, and volunteers, the program will address specific needs of all levels of school and provide access to all students by utilizing a variety of teaching strategies.

The Arts Council is charged to establish a dialog with the local schools about current programming and challenges, identify gaps and opportunities, and then search for stakeholders, supporters, and possible funders. Attention to detail during this initial stage of planning will produce a pilot program that will enable schools to provide an Arts curriculum aligned with the Visual and Performing Arts Standards, complimenting existing activities that may already be in place at individual schools.

A key component to this program will be gathering names of artists who are interested in participating and compiling a directory that will be available to teachers to help prepare their curriculum. Artists who would like more information, are encouraged to contact the Arts Council at 831.636.2787.

This grant is made possible by the California Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. ✍



LOVETT ART RENEWED AT THE LOCAL LIBRARY

A discovery in the California Room of the San Benito County Library—a loosely bound collection of illustrations entitled *Pressed Flowers* by Louise Lovett—has lead to another discovery—a beautifully restored and re-revised collection of original poems entitled *A Happy Day* by the same author. Who was this artist and how did her work end up in our county library?

A little investigation into the California death records provided the first clue—Louise died in Santa Cruz in 1974 and her middle name was Sheppa. With a little more detective work, Louise Sheppa Lovett turned out to be a twentieth century artist, educator, and mother.

She lovingly made the original single book *A Happy Day* for her small daughter Mary Louise, including poems, illustrations, and hand calligraphy. Today her

granddaughter Ellen Anne Chong is also an artist, and she has carefully restored her grandmother's original book for publication on August 13, 2008.

Ellen was thrilled to learn of her grandmother's book, *Pressed Flowers*, discovered in our library—a book Louise and her husband Roy gave as a gift at Christmas—probably to a resident of San Benito

County. In exchange, Ellen has agreed to send the library an advanced copy of *A Happy Day* for patrons to enjoy—the book is a wonderfully restored piece of art with a stitched binding, gold-stamped and embossed cover, and attached ribbon marker.

By the way, Little Mary Louise is now in her eighties and living in California, and she is delighted that her story is available to you! ✍

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