



Above: Multi-instrumentalist, David Blonski performing on one of his didgeridoos.

# WHAT HE CAN DO WITH A DIDGERIDOO!

MORE was host to multi-instrumentalist David Blonski. David has been performing, composing, and recording music for over 35 years. He has spent a considerable amount of that time studying various indigenous cultures' music-making including didgeridoo, flute, and percussion instruments.

The highlight of his presentation was David's performance on his array of didgeridoos that he either had purchased or created himself. Clients and staff at MORE appreciated Mr. Blonski's fascinating, informative, and entertaining performance and thank him for sharing his incomparable talents. ■

# HEALING PARTNERS *Puppy Party*

In January MORE celebrated our long-term relationship with Healing Partners—a group of dog owners and their trained therapy dogs.

The benefits the dogs offer to our clients is clear—they help reduce stress and anxiety, improve physical health, increase socialization, and enhance

emotional well-being. To show our appreciation for their visits we held a 'Puppy Party' in their honor. We had seven dogs visit that day and each dog was given special treats and a toy to take home. Clients and staff alike love it when the dogs come and we always look forward to their visits. ■



Above: Jody W and Tony J with Sadie



Andrea V enjoys meeting Porter.



Don S and Lollipop enjoying some quality time.



Dude and the doodle—Richard C and Willow.

# *The latest news and events at Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises Inc.* **MORE***than* NEWS

Full Inclusion For All People

MARCH 2024

# GREAT TURNOUT FOR ART WINE & MORE

MORE hosted our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Art and Wine with Something MORE event on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it was a Roaring 20's theme with many fun 20's costumes. In addition to a raffle, live and silent auctions, attendees en-

joyed tastings from 30 local wineries, breweries, restaurants, caterers, bakeries and a distillery. The biggest highlight for guests, was enjoying (Continued on page 2)



Above: Mindy and Kelli dressed in their 1920's outfits. Left: Randy R proudly displays one of his works in progress.



# ARTWINE & MORE 2024



(Continued from page 1) all the Something MORE artists creations—many of the art pieces were purchased by the attendees. This was our most successful Art & Wine to date, raising the most money we have since the first Art & Wine event. Fun was had by all in attendance! ■

Top: It was a full house at the Fairgrounds for 2024 Art and Wine. Center: Kasey D's canvas painting demo. Far right: Nello Olivo along with a fellow oenophile.



Above: Charlene in flamboyant musketeer garb.

## INTERACTIVE COSTUME DESIGN

On Wednesday, March 21, MORE played host to a professional costume designer (who happens to be Andrew V's wife), Martina Vonderschmitt for an interactive costume design presentation. The Gallery stage was festooned with various costume pieces, a dress form, and other costuming accouterments. Many clients and staff members filled the Gallery with a sense of anticipation seeing the pieces onstage. Martina started the presentation by talking about the profession of costume design from theatre to film. She then brought clients up to try on multiple costume pieces while talking about how changing one costume piece for another could completely change a character and how an audience might perceive them. Everyone had a great time either dressing-up or seeing their fellow clients onstage in various costume pieces and masks. Martina enjoyed interacting with the clients and staff and she hopes to come back to visit to see how we are incorporating the principles of costume design within our class. ■

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Stand Up  
For MORE  
Comedy Night**

**Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup> 2024  
6pm**

**El Dorado  
County  
Fairgrounds**



Butterflies are self propelled flowers.  
—Robert A. Heinlein

Art by Deane B



In the faint moonlight,  
the grass is singing  
—T. S. Eliot

Art by Josh R.

## NOT SO ORDINARY FOLK



Above: Visiting musicians, Penny on concertina, Joan on guitar, Mel on Banjo and Mandolin, performed along with Eric on conga drum and David on Fiddle.

Local musicians, Mel, Joan and Penny came and shared their musical talents with us in March. Mel brought along his mandolin, fiddle and banjo, while Joan brought her guitar, and Penny brought her English concertina. Staff member David Y accompanied the performance with fiddle and guitar and client Eric L kept the beat on conga drum. The folksters played a collection of American and Irish tunes. ■

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>  
2024 at 4pm**

**MORE Gallery  
Grand Opening**

# LOVIN THE FUN ON VALENTINES DAY



On February 14, MORE celebrated Valentines Day with a fun Wednesday! The day was spent making and exchanging homemade Valentines Day cards, playing games, dancing, and eating special treats. The games included MORE's version of the Dating Game where Bachelor's and Bachelorettes chose their mystery date by asking them a series of questions to determine who was the most compatible. Once they chose their date the new couple sat together and had lunch. Some of the contestants were more pleased than others with this arrangement. We also played a friendship game to figure out which friends knew each other best. Snack time included pink smoothies and the afternoon was completed with a Karaoke dance party. ■