

## CCCRA Press Release – Friday April 21, 2017

Local artist paints old barn to preserve historic courthouse

Preserving buildings seems to be a theme in artist Jayne Robertiello Brechbill's life. Whether on canvas or in real life, many people benefit from her passion. This passion has motivated Brechbill to donate the sale of one of her mixed-media art pieces to the Clay County Communities Revitalization Association's (CCCRA) Historic Courthouse restoration project.

"When I saw the work that was going into preserving this beautiful historic building, I knew I just had to be a part of it. Since I love painting old barns, I thought my piece that features the Grusenmeyer's barn in Tusquittee would be perfect." Brechbill's work has benefitted other area non-profits, such as Habitat for Humanity in the past, and she felt the time was right to help out with the preservation of Clay County's Historic Courthouse.

Brechbill started painting at the age of 11 when her artist grandfather presented her with a blank canvas, a set of paints and an easel, and began teaching the process of capturing what she saw onto canvas. Since then Jayne has perfected this process and uses it to create mixed-media art pieces featuring old barns. Brechbill first paints the background with oils and affixes acrylic-painted balsa wood strips over the background to reproduce the barn and fencing, creating a 3-dimensional effect. The final stage is to paint the foreground. Husband Glenn constructs the frame out of locally found old barn wood.

Working together to create these beautiful works of art comes naturally to the Brechbills, who met during a concert at the John C. Campbell Folk School. "Since Glenn was a farmer with a barn and I enjoy painting barns, our relationship grew from there," remarked Brechbill. As Jayne was a widow and Glen was a widower at the time, joining forces seemed inevitable. Jayne married Glen and moved to his farm where they own cattle and the all-important barn.

Brechbill's mix-media painting, *The Grusenmeyer Barn*, is currently on display at United Community Bank in Hayesville. When asked why the bank would provide space to display the painting, branch president Glenda Cheeks replied, "I feel it's important to be part of the restoration of our Historic Courthouse. As a Clay County native it is important to me personally and I think it's important for the bank to support CCCRA's work." To show that support Cheeks pays her CCCRA membership fee yearly and made a life-time contribution on behalf of the Hayesville branch of United Community Bank. Cheeks finished our conversation with, "I think what's happening with the courthouse is so exciting."

Anyone wanting to view *The Grusenmeyer Barn* should visit the lobby of the United Community Bank on Hwy 64 West in Hayesville, from 9:00 – 5:00 Monday through Thursday and Friday from 9:00 – 6:00. Anyone wanting additional information or to make a purchase offer may reach Jayne Brechbill at 828-389-6790.

To learn more about CCCRA, to become a member or to lend your financial support to the historic courthouse project, visit the website [cccra-nc.org](http://cccra-nc.org). CCCRA is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation, and as such, your donations are tax deductible.



**United Community Bank's president Glenda Cheek (left) admires The Grusenmeyer Barn created by Clay County artist Jayne Robertiello Brechbill. Proceeds from the sale of the painting will be presented to CCCRA for the Clay County Historic Courthouse preservation project.**