

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE'S

OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 2010 ~ 4:00 PM

LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

Refreshments • Entertainment • Information

Bring a friend, find out how we can help you or your organization, help us determine what we can do to make the arts thrive in Monroe County.



POB 456 | UNION | WV | 24983

MAY 2010
ArtsUpdate



ArtsUpdate

VOL 1 ISSUE 1
MAY 2010

EZ Arts Grant Funds Scholarships

MAA seeks instructors and students for new program

The Monroe Arts Alliance has been awarded a \$2,000 grant from the EZ-ARTS ACCESS program of the WV Commission on the Arts for the first six months of 2010.

This first-ever grant to the Arts Alliance helps to fund the Youth Art Show (\$500) and a new Arts Scholarship Program (\$1,500). The Arts Scholarship Program will connect instructors and students of music, dance, theater, visual arts, writing and fine crafts. The EZ Arts funds will be matched by donations from the Adam DeGraff concert last February, where more than \$1,850 was raised, as well as additional grants.

The program is open to students of all ages who reside in Monroe County and who demonstrate aptitude, interest and would otherwise find it difficult to afford private or group instruction. The Arts Alliance is in the process of recruiting instructors and students to the program. *Read more on page 6*



The 2010 Youth Art Show received a \$500 grant from WV Commission on the Arts to assist with costs of mounting and displaying more than 100 works of art by students in grades 5-12. The art was shown at the Monroe County Public Library during National Youth Art Month in March. A report on the exhibit will be found on pages 4-5.

Mann/Theissen Concert Draws an Enthusiastic Crowd

Margaret Mann, mezzo soprano, and Paul Theissen, piano, presented a program of classical, contemporary and original works to a large audience at the Union Presbyterian Church on Sunday, April 18th.

Mann is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Mann of Union. She and her husband are visiting Monroe County from their home in Grainau, Germany.

"I'm happy to be back and to be able to share this music with old friends and neighbors," Mann said. "The Monroe Arts Alliance is to be applauded for its encouragement of the arts in our community."



Paul Theissen and Margaret Mann have enjoyed illustrious musical careers in Europe and the United States. Their concert was a rich experience and a great gift to Monroe County and the Arts Alliance.

Mann introduced a variety of songs and vocal works with a brief history of their origin. Theissen, a conductor and composer, played several solo pieces. "The Girls of Old Monroe," an original piece by Theissen, with lyrics by a local woman related to the Keenans, was one of the highlights of the afternoon, as was their encore piece, Bizet's *Habanera*, from *Carmen*.

A reception for the artists followed the concert. Thanks to Betty Dransfield and Lois Banks for their help in arranging the refreshments and to all who donated to the Arts Alliance to support more programs of this kind and quality.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE ARTS

Board Notes

At their regular meeting on Thursday, April 15, the Board of Directors welcomed Mary Leb, Peer Counselor with the PAN (Peer Advisory Network) program of the WV Commission on the Arts. Leb will be assisting the Board with organizational issues and long-range planning goals.

In March, the Board renewed a contract with Judith Bair to serve as director of the Arts Alliance for the coming year. Bair is concentrating on developing the Arts Scholarship Program, seeking grants and donations for new and existing initiatives, and creating committees to work on membership, fund-raising, and programming.

The Board approved an expanded format for the Arts Alliance newsletter in March. This issue of **ArtsUpdate** is the result of that action. Grants are being sought to assist in the costs of printing the newsletter and expanding distribution. We have a goal of using this publication as a community-wide source of information from all arts and cultural groups in our area.

The Board welcomes submissions and calendar items from all arts-related groups and the community at large.

The Monroe Arts Alliance is committed to a policy of equal opportunity/affirmative action for all qualified persons and does not discriminate in any employment practice, education program or cultural activity on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion or any other basis prohibited by West Virginia or federal nondiscrimination laws.



All activities offered by the Monroe Arts Alliance are held in accessible locations. Accommodations for individuals with a disability are available upon request. Please contact the Monroe Arts Alliance at 304-772-4568.

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS MONTHLY ON
3RD THURSDAYS, 4 PM
MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY HELD AT
EPISCOPAL HOUSE, UNION, WV**

The Monroe Arts Alliance is a member-driven 501C3 organization dedicated to the promotion and support of the arts and culture in Monroe County and the surrounding area. Your support is welcome.

ArtsUpdate is published three times each year in January, May and September and is mailed to Arts Alliance members. Additional copies are distributed to local businesses and organizations on request.

Publisher: Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc.

Editor: Judith Bair

Board Members

- Victoria Cameron, President
- Genevieve Gillen, Vice President
- Evelyn Hansbarger, Treasurer
- Sheila Truby Johnson, Secretary
- Ben James
- Renda James

**PO Box 456, Union WV 24983
304-772-4568
info@monroeartsalliance.org
www.monroeartsalliance.org**

Board President Is Old Hand

Victoria Cameron was one of the founding members of the Arts Alliance back in 2001, and has returned to the Board with her old enthusiasm and fresh ideas. In spite of a busy schedule that includes starting a new business, finishing construction on a new house, and heading the newly established High Ridge Equestrian Center, she has pledged to help the Arts Alliance grow to its next phase as a central resource for arts and culture in the community, and to bring all arts groups together to strengthen their impact on both young people and adults.

Cameron, a licensed counselor, has opened a private practice on Main Street in Union. She is also Board president of High Ridge, a therapeutic equestrian program for people with mental or physical disabilities.

Cameron came to Monroe County in 1973. As one of the founders of the Arts Alliance, she has at various times provided a dance studio, an art and pottery studio and gallery space in her building in Union. She has a farm in Greenville. Her daughter, Gaea Sartor, and granddaughter, Magnolia, also live in Greenville.

FEATURED ARTIST: *Hannah Williford*

Hannah Williford is an 11-year-old 5th grade student at Peterstown Middle School. She was the winner of the Arts Alliance's 2010 Youth Art Show, with her Best of Show award for "Dolphins Underwater," an acrylic on canvas that the judges unanimously praised for its realism, composition and technique.

"This is only the third painting I've ever done," Hannah says. "I got interested in dolphins when we lived in Key West and that's why I chose this image to paint for the Youth Art Show."

Hannah and her parents moved to Peterstown last summer. Her father, Sherman, has family in the area, and they fell in love with the



county during a two-week vacation last year. "We never left," mother Cindy says. The Willi-

fords are building a house in Peterstown, "and we couldn't be happier," she adds.

Hannah, who was previously homeschooled, enrolled in Peterstown Middle School last fall. Her art teacher, Donna Spangler, encouraged her to enter the Arts Alliance's Youth Art Show, and the rest, as they say, is history.

"We're anxious to see Hannah's fourth and fifth paintings!," Judith Bair, director of the Arts Alliance, says. "She seems to have a natural gift, and we hope the Arts Alliance can play a role in its development. We certainly look forward to seeing her work in next year's show, which we hope will match the quality of this year's."

Join the Monroe Arts Alliance and Support Our Talented Community

Memberships are an essential part of the Arts Alliance's ability to fund arts activities and events each year. We currently have more than 100 members who contribute both time and money to ensure our success. This year, our members at the Star level and above have increased by over 50 percent, and total giving has increased by 30 percent. New member benefits are in the planning stages. Join us now!

Annual Giving Levels

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Fan	\$50
Star	\$100
Contributor	\$300
Sponsor	\$500
Patron	\$1,000 and above

MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

PLEASE CIRCLE ONE: Individual \$15; Family \$25; Fan \$50; Star \$100; Contributor \$300; Sponsor \$500; Patron \$1,000 and above.

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Donors at the Star level (\$100) and above will have their names included in performance programs. Please indicate how you would like your name(s) to appear: _____

The Monroe Arts Alliance is a 501C-3 non-profit organization. All membership contributions are fully deductible.

The Winners Are...

BEST OF SHOW

Hannah Williford, 5th, "Dolphins Underwater"

PEOPLES CHOICE

First: Erica Daniels, 9th, "Wanted"
 Second: John Buckland, 5th, "The Deer"
 Third: Hannah Williford, 5th, "Dolphins"

Grades 5-6

First: John Buckland, 5th, "The Deer"
 Second: Matt Kuhn, 6th, "Utah Country"
 Third: Devin Johnson, 5th, "Untitled"
 HM: Sarah Mentz, 5th, "Puppy Love"
 HM: Sarah Mentz, 5th, "Lost Boxer"

Grades 7-8

First: Joseph Garcia, 7th, "Civil War Lieut."
 Second: Brett Dillon, 7th, "Bat of Shadows"
 Third: Hayden Miller, 8th, "Snow House"
 Third: Tristen Highlander, 7th, "Demon Slayer"
 HM: Cora Walters, Grade 8, "Untitled"
 HM: Jade Mitchell, Grade 8, "Josh Shaver"

Grades 9-12, Pen and Ink

First: Cody Parker, 12th, "Pheasant"
 Second: Josiah King, 11th, "The Watchful Deer"
 Third: Keith Hunter, 11th, "Spotted Cat"
 Third: Josh Ward, 12th, "Up, Up & Away"
 HM: Anna Ward, 11th, "Two People, One Point"

HM: Cory Bennett, 11th, "Baying Wolf"

Grades 9-12, Pencil

First: Erin Ellison, 12th, "John Lennon Portrait"

Second: Anna Ward, 11th, "Untitled"
 Second: Timmy Grimmert, 12th, "Self Portrait at Tree"

Third: Shannon Maxwell, 12th, "Flower and Fruit Still Life"

HM: Hayla Mann, 12th, "Dancer"

HM: Gage Grey, 12th, "Untitled"

Grades 9-12, Painting

First: Megan Daniels, 9th, "The Rodeo"
 Second: Nichole Crigger, 11th, "Spring Landscape"

Third: Ariel Thomas, 10th, "Set Sail"

Third: Clarence Hunsucker, 12th, "After Van Gogh"

HM: Hayla Mann, 12th, "Twisted Blue"

HM: Gage Grey, 12th, "Untitled"

HM: Kalena Daniels, 9th, "From Dusk 'Til Dawn"

CONGRATULATIONS!



John Buckland, Grade 5, won a blue ribbon with a colorful marker painting titled "The Deer"



Judges Ted Davis, Jeanne Brenneman and Holly Browne discuss the First Place winners before selecting "Best of Show."

MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE 2010 YOUTH ART SHOW



Winners in the Grades 5-6 category (from left) Sarah Mentz, Honorable Mention, Hannah Williford, Best of Show, and John Buckland, First



Best of Show: Hannah Williford's "Dolphins Underwater"



First Place Painting, 9-12: Megan Daniel's "The Rodeo"



Cody Parker won a first prize for his pen and ink drawing, "Pheasant"



Brett Dillon, Grade 7, won Second with his well-executed drawing "The Bat of Shadows"

A Wealth of Talent

Over 100 paintings and drawings were on display at the 4th annual Youth Art Show, at the Monroe County Public Library during the month of March. Art teachers at Peterstown Middle School, Mountain View and James Monroe High School selected work from their classrooms, and homeschooled students were invited to submit their entries through the libraries.

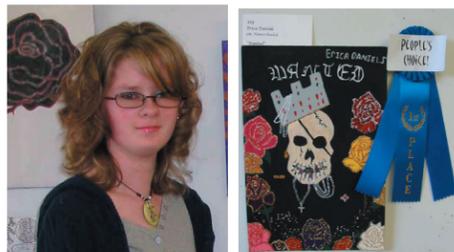
Judging took place on February 27th. Jeanne Brenneman, Ted Davis, and Holly Browne had the tough task of selecting winners in the following categories: Grades 5-6; Grades 7-8; and Grades 9-12 Painting, Pen and Ink, and Pencil. The Best of Show award was selected from all first place entries.

Thirty awards were made, with cash awards for Best of Show and First Place in each category. The Arts Alliance congratulates the winners and all who came very close! The work was outstanding and represented the best of our young talent.

The winning entries were displayed at the Peterstown Public Library during the month of April. Looking forward to next year's show!



Receiving awards on March 14th in grades 9-12 (from left) : Nichole Crigger, Anna Ward, Ariel Thomas, Hayla Mann, Kalena Daniels and Megan Daniels.



Erica Daniels won the People's Choice award with her collage painting "Wanted".



The artwork was on display throughout the library. Refreshments were enjoyed by many at the well-attended Awards Ceremony.

Thanks to...

Lucy Taylor, Art Teacher, JMHS; Holly Browne, Art Teacher, Greenbrier Episcopal School, Sharon Pitzer, Art Teacher, Mountain View, Donna Spangler, Art Teacher, Peterstown Middle, for their work as the Youth Art Show Committee, and especially for their time in helping to prepare the artwork.

Ted Davis, Jeanne Brenneman and Holly Browne for their thoughtful work as judges of the show.

Ted Davis, Judith Bair and Holly Browne for mounting the exhibit, and Joan Menard for donated display racks.

The staffs of Monroe County Public Library and Peterstown Public Library for their cooperation in displaying the work.

All those who contributed to the refreshments at the Awards Ceremony on March 14th.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the WV Commission on the Arts for a grant in support of the 2010 Youth Art Show. Their generosity makes it possible for us to share this full-color report with all students who entered the Youth Art Show.

Quilt Trail Project Underway

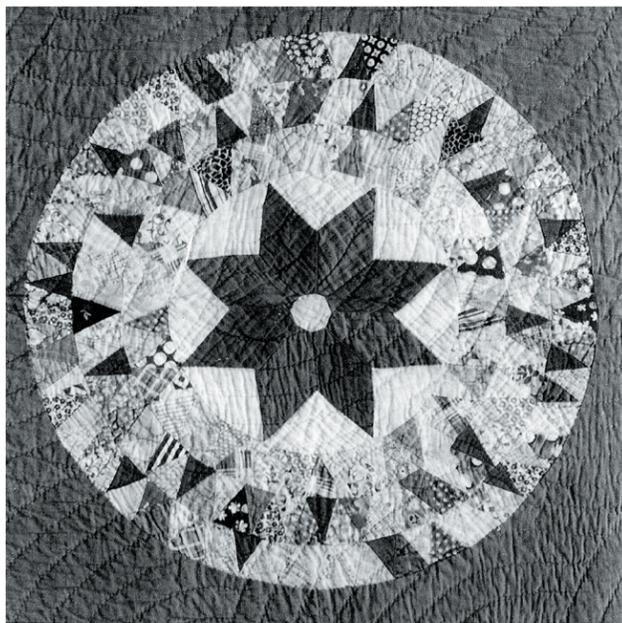
Several local organizations have joined together to create a Quilt Trail in Monroe County. This initiative, made possible by a grant through WVU Extension and USDA Rural Development, will display painted quilt block designs on existing structures around the county, and is part of a state-wide effort to encourage tourism and exploration of our scenic by-ways.

A steering committee that includes representatives of the WVU Extension Service, Monroe Tourism, the Monroe Arts Alliance, local quilters, and Americorps, is arranging to have the first quilt design painted on an 8' by 8' board by Farmers Day, June 5th.

Local quilters will choose additional designs, and several of those will be selected by the public at a "people's choice" competition at the "Photograph Monroe County" exhibit on Friday and Saturday, June 4th and 5th.

The selected patterns will be painted by local artists and volunteers. Several sites have been chosen for display of the quilts, including Brian Wickline's barn near Union, and Don Dransfield's barn on Rte. 3 in Centennial.

If you are interested in volunteering a site or in helping to paint the quilts, please contact Cathy Abernathy at the Board of Education, 304-772-3094.



The first quilt trail design is "Farmer's Fancy," selected by Fawn Valentine of Alderson. This quilt block is from a quilt made by Mae Long of Greenville, after a quilt her mother made. The block will be painted by Joan Menard and volunteers for display at the Photograph Monroe exhibit. The public will have an opportunity to vote for additional designs and participate in completing the painting of this design.



Last year's "Come Visit Monroe" Purchase Award was "Waiteville Landscape" by photographer Robert Wrzoscek. The photo will be featured in a new Monroe County brochure.

"Photograph Monroe County"

The Monroe Arts Alliance has awarded a \$300 mini-grant to Monroe Tourism and the Union Chamber of Commerce to assist in funding the 3rd annual "Photograph Monroe County" competition and show.

The competition is open to professional and amateur photographers. Entry forms and criteria are available at the Monroe County Public Library, the Extension Office, and other local venues. Entry deadline is May 14, and the Opening Reception is Friday June 4 at 5 pm at the Monroe Motors Showroom in Union, WV.

There will be a "Best of Show" award and a Sponsor's Choice, which will be a purchase award for use in Monroe Tourism publications. Additional cash awards will be at the judges' discretion.

Arts Scholarship Program

Do you have a talent you would like to develop? Are you interested in teaching in your area of the arts? The Arts Scholarship Program can provide help in covering the costs of private or group instruction in creative writing, music, theatre, the visual arts, fine crafts or dance.

We have enlisted some of the finest artists and artisans in the area as instructors, including Fran Belin, piano; Adam DeGraff, violin; Chance McCoy, fiddle, banjo, mandolin and guitar; Marianne Deaver, acrylic painting; Michael Christie, oil painting; Jeanne Brenneman, watercolor; Carly Maranek, dance. Other instructors are being recruited in the areas of creative writing, fine crafts (including fiber arts, quilting, woodworking, metal, pottery and more); and theatre arts. The Arts Alliance hopes to partner with Trilium Performing Arts and the Greenbrier Valley Theatre to provide instructional and performing opportunities for Monroe County students.

We are seeking instructors in voice, all musical instruments, and all musical styles. Students of any age or skill level can apply independently or through a registered instructor. Please visit our Web site for forms and information, or call us at 304-772-4568.

This initiative has the potential of bringing together a vital and talented community of artists and artisans. Get involved!

ArtsCalendar

MAY • JUNE • JULY • AUGUST

May 6 - July 1 Great Courses' "Classical Mythology"

Thursday evenings, 7-8:30 pm. Monroe County Public Library. Lectures 7-24 of a fascinating study of the gods and heroes of ancient Greece and Rome. FREE. 304-772-4568 for info.

Friday, May 7 Greenbrier Artists Exhibit Opening Reception

5-7:00 pm, Old Stone Room, Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg. Several Monroe County artists are part of this group. FREE

Friday, May 7 EVOLVER

7:30 pm. Musical "soundscapes" by an emerging group. Suggested donation at door \$5. Call 304-772-4568 for info.

Friday, May 14 ENTRY DEADLINE, "Photograph Monroe County" photography competition and show.

Friday, June 4 "Photograph Monroe County" EXHIBIT

Monroe Motors Showroom. Opening reception 5 pm. Through June 25th. FREE

Saturday, June 5 OPEN HOUSE at the Historical Society Museum

1:30-3:30 pm, Main Street, Union. Meet Pete Ballard and the four dolls in historic costume that he donated to the museum. FREE. Museum hours 9-4 Tues.-Sat. beginning today.

Saturday, June 5 "Union Star" SING OFF

Monroe County's own "American Idols" will compete at Mountain View School. Ages 5-15 at 5:30; 16-up from 6:30-9 pm.

Saturday, June 26 Arts Alliance OPEN HOUSE

4:00-7:00 pm. Location to be announced Refreshments, entertainment and information about the Arts Alliance and its programs. FREE

Saturday, July 17 GVT Annual Art Auction

7:00 pm. Greenbrier Valley Theater, Lewisburg. This fund-raiser features many works by Monroe County artists plus great art bargains! Preview Party at 6:00 pm. Admission \$10.

To list your arts-related event for the period September through December 2010, e-mail info@monroeartsalliance.org, or call 304-772-4568. Listings must be received by August 15. Listings are free on a first-come first-served basis.

ARTISTS AT THE MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

May	Kenny Bostic, Paintings on wood and slate
June	Sunny Carrell, Photography
July	Open
August	Emily Oliver, Paintings and Drawings



"Evolver" Set to Transform Ames Clair Hall

Evolver will perform on Friday, May 7th, at 7:30 pm at Ames Clair Hall in Union, WV. The group, formed in 2006, is a musical collective inspired by a variety of styles including jazz, world, electronica and funk.

The group is comprised of Brian Carr (Lewisburg, WV) on trombone; Birch Graves (Sinks Grove, WV), on saxophone and flute; rhythm section Matthew Patterson and Joshua Adamo on bass and drums. Sitting in with the group for this concert is the talented Diane Proud, offering tender vocals inspired by her folk background.

Evolver performs regularly at the Irish Pub in Lewisburg and the Greenbrier Sporting Club. "We draw in new musicians whenever we can to inspire new sounds and rhythms," says leader Birch Graves. "Each show is unique and full of passion."

Graves is a proud product of Monroe County music education and the Greenbrier East music program. He furthered his talent at Guilford College and UNC Greensboro, and has been a music educator in public and private schools for 13 years.

This concert is a co-presentation of Carnegie Hall's "Carnegie on the Road" project and the Monroe Arts Alliance. Special thanks to Lynn Creamer of Carnegie Hall and WV Culture and History, WV Commission on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts for assistance in funding the project.