

MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE

10th Anniversary Celebration

ART IN THE HILLS

Saturday, July 23, 2011 • 2 ~ 8 pm

Mountain View School, Union, WV

*A Country Art Fair for the Whole Family!
Mark your calendars. Get Involved!*



MAY 2011
ArtsUpdate



ArtsUpdate

VOL II ISSUE 2
MAY 2011

Youth Art Show Celebrates Young Talent

The Arts Alliance's fifth annual Youth Art Show Awards Ceremony was held on Saturday, March 12th, at the Monroe County Public Library. Over 100 pieces were on display from students in Grades 5-12. Judges Ba Rea and Holly Browne for visual arts, and Belinda Anderson and Dr. Craig Mohler for creative writing, awarded a total of 30 prizes, complimenting all on the quality of work. More on pages 4 and 5.



Winners at the Awards Ceremony on March 12th are (L to R) First Row: Cora Frazier, Matthew Noel; Second Row: Abby Mullins, Samantha Hesson, Bailee Jackson, Margaret Rice, Brett Dillon, Dalton Boggs, Elizabeth Wickline; Third Row: Ashton Harvey, Hayleigh Cox, Briana Shires, Jesse Collins, Brian Young.

Writing Contest Inspires Story-Tellers

A total of 29 wonderful stories were received in the Arts Alliance's first-ever Writing Contest. With the tough assignment of writing a short piece in any of five categories, our local writers met the challenge with charm, wit, and talented wordsmithing.

The Best of Show winner is a piece entitled "The Year We Loved the Pear Tree," by Brittney Cassity of Gap Mills. (cont. page 6)



Above, Kelsey Dixon, a 12th grader at JMHS, with the Best of Show pen and ink drawing, "Curiosity."



Dalton Boggs, grade 10, JMHS, received an Emerging Artist award for his original and creative cartooning.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE ARTS

Board Notes

The Board of Directors has been busily planning our 10th Anniversary event, "Art in the Hills," for Saturday, July 23rd. It is our thank you to our members and all of our supporters in the area, and promises to be a wonderful celebration of the arts in a country fair setting.

We have invited over 100 local artists and artisans to participate in the Art and Craft Show and Sale as well as in our workshops, contests and demonstrations. Local food vendors and organizations have been contacted to provide food and refreshments at our Food Court throughout the day. If you know of someone who would be interested either in exhibiting or selling food at the event, please contact the Arts Alliance at 304-772-4568.

If you would like to take an active part in this celebration, there are lots of opportunities to assist in the organization and



Lois and Jay Banks were nominated to the Board of Directors as of March 2011.

execution of this ambitious program. We will need volunteers to greet and guide visitors, to staff our workshops and demonstrations, and to coordinate the free concert and the square dance. Please consider helping out for a part of the day. We will have a more detailed list of needs early next month, and will send that information to members with e-mail addresses.

The Board is pleased to welcome Dr. and Mrs. James Banks of Union, WV, as new members. Dr Banks, a retired physician, has just published his fifth book, "Frontier Surgeon," to be released in early summer.

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
- Erica Thomas, Secretary
- Dale McCutcheon, Treasurer
- Dr. Jay Banks
- Lois Banks
- Nan Bowman

Director: Judith Bair

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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.

Programs and initiatives of the Arts Alliance are partially funded through support from Fidelity Charitable Gifts, WV Culture and History, and the WV Commission on the Arts.

EMERITUS LUNCHEON HONORS HANSBARGER

On April 8th, many current and past Board members gathered at the Vanilla Bean Cafe in Union, WV, for a luncheon to recognize the contributions of all past Board members and a special tribute to Evelyn Hansbarger, who served as Treasurer of the Arts Alliance for most of its 10 years of existence.

Evelyn was presented with a custom-designed plaque and pin created by Susan Robinson. Victoria Cameron, current president of the Board, spoke of Evelyn's dedication to the Arts Alliance and her conscientious work on its behalf.

Evelyn had been with the Arts Alliance since its inception in 2001, with a brief hiatus in 2004. She retired from the Board in June 2010.



Evelyn Hansbarger (left) accepts a plaque and pin from Board president Victoria Cameron at the Emeritus Luncheon.

An excellent luncheon of chicken salad, fruit, chocolate brownies and beverages was provided by Janet Throckmorton, proprietor of the Vanilla Bean Cafe.

Attending were past Board members Addie Morgan, Laurine Yates, Tandy Stone, Kelly Shreve, Barbara Ziegler and Evelyn Hansbarger. Current Board members present were Jay and Lois Banks, Victoria Cameron, Genevieve Gillen, Nan Bowman, Dale McCutcheon, Erica Thomas and director Judith Bair. Other guests included Valerie Hansbarger, Laura Miller and Grant Gillen.

The Arts Alliance is working on the formation of an Emeritus Board of past members to serve in an advisory capacity.

2011 Membership Drive Is Underway

Memberships are an essential part of the Arts Alliance's ability to fund arts activities and events each year. Thanks to all who have renewed or joined as new members. Members receive **ArtsUpdate** three times a year, discounts to paid performances, and timely notification through e-mail about up-coming events. Please consider joining the more than 100 individuals who support the arts in Monroe County.

Annual Giving Levels

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

MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail Address _____

CIRCLE ONE: Individual \$15; Family \$25; Fan \$50; Star \$100; Contributor \$300; Sponsor \$500 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 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS MONTHLY ON
3RD SUNDAYS, 3 PM
MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY HELD AT
MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY , 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.

The Winners Are...

Visual Arts

BEST OF SHOW

Kelsey Dixon, Grade 12, "Curiosity"

Grades 5-6

First: Matthew Noel, Grade 5, "Kiwi"

Second: Cora Frazier, Grade 5, "Tree Frog on a Tree Branch"

Second: Dustin Hersman, Grade 5, "Pigs in Pink"

Third: Hannah Clarkson, Grade 5, "Still Life with Flowers"

HM: Margaret Rice, Grade 6, "Hearts Around the World"

Grades 7-8

First: Bailee Jackson, Grade 7, "Swirl"

Second: Hayleigh Cox, Grade 7, "Nature"

Third: Brett Dillon, Grade 8, "Crisis Core"

HM: Tristan Highlander, Grade 8, "Japanese Name"

Grades 9-12, Pen and Ink

First: Dakota Grimmett, Grade 10, "Barn"

Second: Samantha Hesson, Grade 11, "Midnight Song"

Third: Elizabeth Wickline, Grade 12, "Tree"

HM: Krista Richmond, Grade 11, "The City"

Grades 9-12, Pencil

First: Brian Young, Grade 9, "Football (The Game)"

Second: Sydney Hopkins, Grade 11, "Zebra"

Second: Briana Shires, Grade 10, "Dandelions to Seed"

Third: Jesse Cole, Grade 10, "The Saints of South Boston"

HM: Nichole Crigger, Grade 12, "Emma"

Grades 9-12, Painting

First: Elizabeth Wickline, Grade 12, "(Replica) Red Canna"

Second: Joey Lephew, Grade 10, "Owl in a Tree"

Third: Kirsten Cheyenne Lester, Grade 11, "Pop Art Portrait"

HM: Abby Mullins, Grade 11, "After Van Gogh"

Special Category

HM : Jesse Collins, Grade 12, "Abstract Art"

Emerging Artist Award: Dalton Boggs, Grade 10



MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE

2011

YOUTH ART SHOW



Thanks to...

Lucy Taylor, Art Teacher, JMHS; 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.

Ba Rea and Holly Browne for their thoughtful work as judges of the visual art entries.

Belinda Anderson and Craig Mohler for judging the Creative Writing entries.

Nan Bowman and Joan Menard for assisting with the hanging of the show and donated display racks.

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

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 report with all students who entered the Youth Art Show.

Clockwise from left: Cora Frazier with "Tree Frog on a Tree Branch"; Bailee Jackson with "Swirl"; Elizabeth Wickline with "Red Canna"; Matthew Noel with "Kiwi"; Brett Dillon with "Crisis Core"; Belinda Anderson presenting the Creative Writing awards, Ashton Harvey, first place creative writing for "The Apple Summer; and Brian Young with his pencil drawing, "Football (The Game)."

Creative Writing

Grades 5-6

First: Matthew Meadows, Grade 6, "A Soldier's Best Friend"

Second: Aaron Baker, Grade 5, "I Knew a Man"

Third: Matthew Noel, Grade 5, "Kiwi"

Grades 9-10

BEST OF SHOW: Chris Meadows, Grade 10, "Love for the Mountains"

Grades 11-12

First: Ashton Harvey, Grade 11, "The Apple Summer"

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL!

Writing Contest Inspires Story-Tellers (from page 1)

In the **Life Stories** category, first place went to “My Sandra,” by Merri Morgan of Greenville. Second place was “Retirement in the Country,” by Becky Crabtree of Lindside. Honorable Mention went to “Moving Day,” by Jo Will of Lindside.

In the **Fiction** category, the judges chose “An Ice Cube’s Chance,” by Brittney Cassity. Honorable Mention was given to “A Raindrop Adventure” by Catherine Noel; “Foundation of Stone” by James T. McMahon; and “Christmas 1992” by Ashley Boone.

The **Nature/Our Environment** category was won by “From the Front Lines of Spring” again by Brittney Cassity. Second place went to Shirley Walker of Salt Sulphur Springs for “The Majestic Tree;” Honorable Mention was given to Catherine Noel for “What Does a Dandelion Do?” and “A Five Dog Biscuit Walk” by Marti Minogue of Rock Camp.

A description of “Hoke’s Mill Bridge” written by Catherine Noel topped the **History/Landmarks** category, with Honorable Mention to “Salt Sulphur Springs” by Shirley Walker and “A View of Rehoboth Through New Eyes” by Brittney Cassity.

The **For Seniors Only** category was won by Shirley Walker for her essay “When I Was Young.” Second Place went to “A Day Without Routine” by Virginia Houchins. “My Grandparents’ Dream” by Sheila Truby Johnson received Honorable Mention.

Because of the limited number of entries, prizes were not awarded in all categories. Winners were notified by phone and will be given the opportunity to read their work at the “Art in the Hills” event in July. The Arts Alliance is researching the cost of publishing a collection of these stories under the title “Monroe County Tales.”

By permission, we are printing the winning story below.

...

The Year We Loved the Pear Tree

Brittney Cassity

As far as pear trees went it was big. It was also the one I was not allowed to touch, or pick from, and maybe I shouldn’t even look at it. This of course meant I could usually be found nestled in the big fork just over halfway up, camouflaged in its slender, close-packed leaves, with pear juice dripping from my chin and dribbling down my arm. I was not alone. The

tree was welcoming and my cousins would be ranged along branches and leaning against the trunk from claimed perches all through its mass.

The tree was meant to be climbed. The lowest branch had just the right dip to invite a young body to pull itself up, bark worn smooth on the left side to protect bare knees as the climber stretched for the handhold one branch up. The tree wanted my cousins and me to laze back and giggle around mouthfuls of stolen fruit. Its branches were spaced just close enough that even the youngest of us could scamper up it with ease, while I, as the second oldest, didn’t have to worry about any tattle-tale scrapes and bruises informing our grandmother that we had once again, and very literally, been involved with the age-old business of forbidden fruit.

In summer we danced around its gnarled old trunk, ducking and weaving while we pretended to ignore the heavy golden teardrops that pulled its straining branches in tense arches to the ground. We buried our eyes against arms pressed hard against the tree’s scarred bark and hollered out the magical hide-and-seek count, our voices getting tangled with the hushing sound of wind through thick leaves. The tree dropped fruit at our feet, encouraging us to replenish our overheated, sweating bodies with its secret gift as we rushed back to call “Base!” and tag the curl of exposed root that one of my aunts said was caused by a family of long-dead groundhogs.

Early autumn brought a touch of danger to our juicy binges. Bees hummed loudly, announcing their claim to any pear the tree let fall, and our grandmother made daily trips with her five-gallon bucket to collect the ripe and reachable. The tree stood, surrounded by a shifting wall of angry black bodies, tempting us to brave the danger of stings and tanned backsides to once again shelter in its strong arms. We were cautious, though, and sent only one sacrificial member to run resupply missions, telling them to suck it up if they were stung and leaving them to face punishment alone if Grandma caught them.

Winter sent the tree to sleep; naked branches standing lonely against the cold winds until a blanket of sparkling white hid them. We left snow angels at its feet for protection through the long dark months and then went into Grandma’s warm kitchen to eat bowls of sweet, home-canned pears.

#

ArtsCalendar

MAY - AUGUST

Friday, June 3 “Photograph Monroe County” Exhibit Opening, 6:00 pm, Monroe Motors Showroom, Union, WV.

Judges are Robin Wright and Sunny Carroll. Awards will be presented, and light refreshments served.

Wednesday, June 1 Deadline for Artists, Artisans and Food Vendors to apply to “Art in the Hills.” A great opportunity to showcase your art, craft, organization or business. Call 304-772-4568 for an application form or more information.

Saturday, July 23 “ART in the HILLS” 2:00-8:00 pm, Mountain View School, Union, WV. Workshops, contests, demonstrations. Art and Craft Show and Sale, Food Court featuring local restaurants and organizations. FREE ADMISSION.

4:00 pm: FREE concert with Doc Greenberg’s Patient Jazz Band and the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys.

7:00 pm: Country Square Dance with the Hans Creek String Band and caller Charles Larew. \$5.00 Individual, \$8.00 Couple.

ARTISTS AT THE MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

May	Laurine Yates, paintings & photographs
June	Laurie Ardison, jewelry
July	Jean Cowder, paintings, pottery
August	Dale McCutcheon, photography

Doc Greenberg’s Patient Jazz Band

So what does a neurosurgeon do in his spare time? Dr. Jeffery Greenberg, Princeton neurosurgeon, plays jazz piano and leads his own band, Doc Greenberg’s Patient Jazz. With a repertoire that includes jazz standards, contemporary jazz, blues, and pop tunes by artists like The Beatles, Steely Dan and Sting, Patient Jazz can be heard every Wednesday from 6-7:30 at East River Arts, Bluefield, WV. Web site www.docsjazz.com

The band’s lineup includes Margaret Holtz on flute and vocals, Adrian Williams on drums, Bob McGraw on harmonica and vocals, David Burnside on upright bass and guitar, Ed “Biko” Smith on percussion, and of course Jeffery Greenberg on keyboards and vocals. It may not be brain surgery, but it sure sounds good! Don’t miss them on July 23rd!



Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys Headline Concert

“Art in the Hills”, on July 23rd, will feature a free concert from 4 to 6 pm with Dr. Greenberg’s Patient Jazz Band and the Black Mountain Bluegrass Boys.

This popular regional bluegrass band was formed in 1968 in Pocahontas County by Richard Hefner, Bill Hefner, “Dude” Hefner and the late Harley Carpenter. A favorite in the Greenbrier Valley, the band now consists of Richard Hefner on banjo, Chris Nickell of Monroe County on guitar, Mike Smith, Cabell County, on upright bass and Rick Carpenter, Pocahontas County, on mandolin. Hefner, who currently resides in Greenbrier County, is well-known on the bluegrass circuit for his driving banjo and high, lonesome lead and tenor singing. In his competing days he was frequent banjo champion in Virginia, Maryland and West Virginia.

Chris Nickell learned guitar at an early age and follows in the footsteps of his biggest influence, Tony Rice. Mike Smith on bass has performed with Larry Sparks, the Goins Brothers, Dave Evans and others. Rick Carpenter is the son of Harley Carpenter and started playing bass when he was about 8 years old, helping out the band by standing on a washtub to play. He is featured on mandolin but also fills in on guitar and bass.

The band can be heard in various local venues, street fairs, family reunions, weddings and at local pubs and coffee houses. Don’t miss them on the 23rd!