



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE ARTS

Note from the (past) President:

Dear Friends,

Spring is definitely here and new MAA executive officers have been elected. Genevieve Gillen, whom many of you know or have met at our events, is now the President of the Monroe Arts Alliance. Genevieve is an excellent spokesperson for the MAA and a great Board member. She has done much to promote our mission and believes strongly in it. Other new officers are: Ben James, Vice-President and Judith Bair, Secretary. Evelyn Hansbarger will remain as Treasurer.

I am grateful for the opportunity to have served the Monroe Arts Alliance as its president, and look forward to participating in its continuing growth and service in the community.

If you have found the newsletter useful and informative, and have come to believe the MAA deserves your support, then please consider joining if you haven't already.

This newsletter's featured student is one of the winners of the First Annual Monroe Youth Art Show! The Youth Art Show was the direct result of Holly Browne-Mester's passion for our area's youth and art. She came to the Board to ask for our support and we felt providing it was a wonderful way to further our mission in Monroe County. Many thanks to Holly and those who generously assisted her.

We extend a warm welcome to our newest Board Members: Judith Bair, Holly Browne-Mester and Bettye Earley. The Monroe Arts Alliance expresses its heartfelt gratitude to out-going Board Members Susie Henritz, Laurine Yates and Addie Morgan. Susie and Laurine served many years as executive officers and helped shape the Alliance from its beginning. They gave tirelessly of their time and talents. Addie helped initiate the newsletter and took on membership tasks. All three shall be missed!

Best wishes to you for a joyful spring!

Robin Wright, past President

The Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc. is 501C-3 non-profit, membership supported organization committed to community service through the promotion of the arts in Monroe County and the surrounding area. Its purpose is exclusively charitable and for the enrichment of the general public.

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2007 Board Members

Genevieve Gillen, Pres, 772-3305
Ben James, Vice-Pres.
Judith Bair, Sec, 772-4568
Evelyn Hansbarger, Treas., 772-5212
Susan Stidham, Membership, 772-5330
Holly Browne-Mester, Bettye Earley,
Helen Graves, Joan Menard
Leah Sills, Robin Wright
Barbara Ziegler

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The next Board meeting of the Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc. is April 19, 2007 at 4:30 PM at the Monroe Co. Library. Public is welcome.

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Coming Soon --

Programs

June 10, 2007, 3:00 PM
Kati Gleiser & Cherry Kim
Piano/Cello Concert
United Methodist Church, Union
Reception following.

Classes

May 18 & 19, 2007
Jerre Watkins two-day Watercolor Workshop
\$65.00

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June 8 – 10, 2007
Patt Legg, Oil Painting Workshop
(any two days)
\$65.00 per two-day session.

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STUDENT FEATURE

Elijah Garlitz,
a winner from the First Annual Monroe Youth Art Show!

"My name is Elijah Garlitz and I am in fourth grade at Mountainview Elementary School. One of my favorite hobbies is drawing. I painted the "Terrible Serpent of the Sea" one day on a "snow" day. I used watercolors. I chose to do a dragon type painting, because I really like mythological creatures. I really enjoyed being in the Monroe Youth Art show and look forward to doing it again next year!"

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The "**Public's Choice**" winner for the 2007 Monroe Youth Art Show is: **Holly Jackson, 12th grade**
Holly entered a pencil drawing -- "Butterfly"
This category winner was determined by votes cast by show visitors throughout the month of March, at the Monroe County Library.

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WELCOME and THANK YOU to New Members!

Judy Azulay, Judith Bair,
Marianne Brewster & Jerry Laufer,
Virginia Cambell, Fick Family, Jill Fisher,
Rev & Mrs. Dewitt Furrow, Tony Giancola,
Bill & Rae Guy, Merri Morgan,
Sandell/Heritage Family, Nevitt Family,
Laurel Thomas, Cynthia Peel,
Betsy Sales, Fawn Valentine

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Please meet:

**Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc. President,
Genevieve Sowards Gillen**

Genevieve Sowards Gillen lived in Alderson during part of her high school years. Her father's roots go back to Zenith during the 1780s and there have always been descendents of the Sowards family in Monroe County.

Born in Moulmein, Burma (SE Asia), Gillen lived in Kansas, Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia while growing up. She was graduated from Denison University (OH) and attended Yale University, Ohio State, and University of Miami.

Gillen taught fifty years, pre-school through graduate university, including six years Adjunct Professor at the Greenbrier Valley Campus of New River Technical and Community College. One year her Miami Beach High debaters won nationals, making her National Speech Coach of the Year in the U. S. Gillen was awarded three Fulbright Scholarships (India, England, Pakistan) and four National Endowment for the Humanities grants in nineteenth century novels (British, Russian, and American). Gillen was in the Pilot for the National Board Certified Teachers in the United States.

She has four children in OH, FL, CA, and GA and three grandchildren.

Gillen moved here in 1999 after living and teaching in South Florida for 40 years. Since retiring to Swopes Knobs in Monroe County, Gillen has enjoyed learning various arts and crafts, particularly watercolor, pastel, and oil painting.

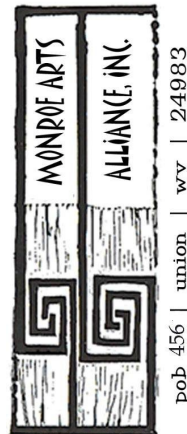
She feels West Virginia is, indeed, "almost heaven."

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Think You're Not an Artist?

Just for fun, visit this website, and paint a field of flowers by clicking anywhere on the black screen! Ahhh, technology!

http://www.procreo.jp/labo/flower_garden.swf



**What has the Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc. accomplished the past two years?
Programs!**

Folklorist/musician Jimmy Costa;
"Ostenaco" – by Doug Wood;
Caroline Johnston Viola/piano Concert;
Fran Belin Piano Concert;
Annual Holiday Concerts;
Greenbrier Valley Chorale;
Hans Creek String Band;
Farmer's Day Mural and Face Painting,
First Annual Monroe Youth Art Show;

Classes!

Jeanne Brenneman Watercolor Workshops;
Mary LePant Art Class;
Donald Earley Figure Drawing Class;
Jerre Watkins Watercolor Workshop;
Patt Legg Oil Painting Classes;

Scholarship Support!

Violin, Dance and
Art Classes for children

Newsletter!

Increased Membership!

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Volunteer Opportunities

Do you like to meet new people?

Do you love music, art or performance?

Are you committed to promoting the arts in Monroe County? The MAA needs your help!

Volunteering for MAA is a fun, great way to meet like-minded people and your efforts will be APPRECIATED!

Give one of our Board Members a call to learn more about MAA volunteer opportunities.

Some of our needs are:

Help with Publicity
Assist with Children's' Activities
Work as Events Greeter
Write for Grants
Serve on a Committee
Help with Mailings & MORE!