

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Monroe Arts Alliance is working hard to fulfill its distinctive goals to promote the arts in Monroe County and the surrounding area. We have dedicated board members giving time, effort and resources to numerous projects and programs. Others contribute expertise, time and financial support.

We invite any and all interested persons to come to our open board meetings the third Thursday of each month, 4:30 pm. at the Monroe County Public Library in Union.

Thanks to Doris McCurdy and the Library Board for their work on the 2008 calendar. We are especially proud of the calendar paintings of Judith Bair. I wish I had the space to name all the persons who have contributed their talents, baked goods, time, and ideas over the past year. Thank you, everyone,

Genevieve Gillen, President



2ND ANNUAL YOUTH ART SHOW TO INCLUDE CREATIVE WRITING

March is National Youth Art Month, and the Alliance celebrates with an arts competition open to all students in K-12. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded in the categories of painting, drawing, photography, 3-D and mixed media, in three different age classifications. Art work will be on display at the Monroe County Public Library for the month of March. The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday, March 1. at 3:00 pm. Plan on being there to honor our talented students. Refreshments will be served.

This year a creative writing contest has been added to the Art Show. Students in K-12 may enter a typed, one-page writing (short story, essay, poem, etc.). Prizes and a public reading for the winners are planned. Homeschoolers are welcomed!

DEADLINES

Writing: February 1, 2008

Art: Feb. 18, 2008

Details and drop-off sites available at the Monroe County Library, the Studio (Main St., Union), and on our Web site:

www.monroeartsalliance.org

Encourage your young people to be creative!

FEBRUARY CONCERT FEATURES LOCAL VIOLINISTS

On February 20th, 2008, Adam DeGraff will present a concert of chamber music featuring his honors violin students and members of the Ambassadors of Music Program initiated last summer.

This is an opportunity to meet and hear Monroe County violin students Hannah and Peter Soukup, who have been studying with DeGraff for more than three years now. The truly innovative Ambassadors program has introduced these students to the concept of ensemble playing as well as to the organizational side of performance.

DeGraff, a nationally-known concert violinist, teaches more than 30 young people and adults at his studio in Lewisburg. "This concert," he says, "is a tribute to the excellence and hard work of my most advanced students, and a 'thank you' to those who support us through the Monroe Arts Alliance and through appreciation of our performances."

The Arts Alliance is proud to support both the Ambassadors program and scholarships for violin students throughout the area. Please join us after the concert in the basement of the Presbyterian Church to meet the artists and share your thoughts.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

February

- 1 **Deadline for Youth Writing Contest**
- 8-9 **Pastel Workshop with Rose Dobbins**
- 18 **Deadline for Youth Art Show**
- 20 **Winter Concert with Adam DeGraff, 7:30 pm, Union Presbyterian Church, Reception to follow.**

March

- 1 **Youth Art Show Reception, 3:00 pm, MC Public Library. Awards and refreshments.**

April

- 11-13 **Oil Painting with Patt Legg**

For more information about workshops, please contact the Alliance on the Web or write to us.

WINTER CONCERT WEDNESDAY, FEB. 20, 2008

7:30 PM

UNION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FREE TO ALL!

MEET HANNAH SOUKUP

"My brother Peter and I were about to start learning violin from a video course when Adam (DeGraff) intervened," Hannah says. "We had my great-grandfather's violin and wanted to begin lessons." DeGraff, a family friend and widely-known violinist, offered to teach Hannah and Peter "and he opened up the world of classical music to us."



"We've been studying with Adam for three years. I had never played an instrument, so I started late, but Peter was only 7," Hannah says. Now 17, she says being home-schooled makes it possible to devote early mornings and late afternoons to practice--about 4 hours a day after a regular school day and chores.

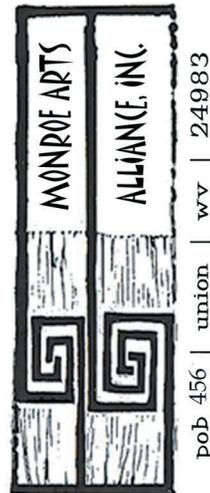
The Ambassadors of Chamber Music program brought Hannah together with two other advanced students and a cellist. "I play first and second violin and viola with the string quartet, which consists of two violins, a viola and a cello." The experience is intense, she says. "You need to know the other parts; you need to listen to each other and respect the music."

Hannah now teaches 8 students of her own as Adam's assistant. Violin is a passion, she says, but just one of many she hopes to pursue. "I love figure-skating, and I wish for an opportunity to follow that path."

MAA ON THE WEB

Our new website, <http://www.monroeartsalliance.org>, came online in late October. We'll be using it to announce future events and help spread the word about our activities, goals, and opportunities. During November the brand-new site received 99 visitors, 88 of them unique--so the word is getting out! If you have photos or artwork for the site email them to artsinfo@monroeartsalliance.org.

JANUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER



MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2007

The past year saw many innovations in Arts Alliance programming, including the Youth Art Show, the Member Reception and Concert in October, and the Monroe County Calendar project. Art workshops in oil and watercolor, and a new writing workshop were fully subscribed and thoroughly enjoyed. Our June Concert, with Kati Gleiser and Cherry Kim, was an especially exciting musical afternoon. These events take an enormous amount of time and effort to organize, and we thank all the members who participated in their success.

For 2008, the Board is preparing a survey to assess community needs and interests, in order to make our programming responsive to all.

FROM THE TREASURER

Happy New Year to all. Here's a brief update on 2007 financial donations:

- \$8,100 Violin scholarships
- 5,590 Ambassadors of Chamber Music
- 1,275 Arts Alliance programs
- 125 Unrestricted

There were 80 paid memberships (new and renewal) in 2007, for a total of \$3,199.00.

Our big production: **The Monroe County Calendar!** Kudos to the MC Public Library Board, who sold advertising to cover the production costs. Receipts from calendar sales will be divided equally between the Library and the Alliance. As of Dec. 31st, 492 calendars had been sold: 176 at pre-production cost of \$8.00, and 316 at \$10.00. If you haven't bought your calendar yet, we still have some. It is more than just a calendar, it is a work of art--a real keeper.