

BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED FOR 2008

Ben James was unanimously elected Board president at the February meeting of the Arts Alliance. Genevieve Gillen will serve as vice president; Evelyn Hansbarger continues as treasurer, and Judith Bair continues as secretary. The remaining Board members are Joan Menard and Holly Browne-Mester.

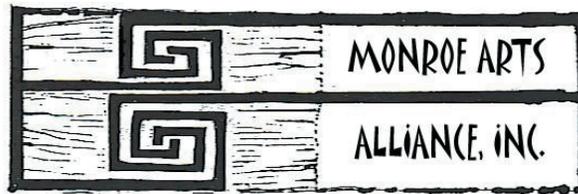
The Arts Alliance is seeking Monroe Countians interested in promoting and supporting cultural activities, including music, dance, performance, visual arts and arts education of all kinds to serve on the Board or spearhead activities that will benefit all citizens, especially our young people.

Bring your ideas and enthusiasm to our Board meetings, held on the third Thursday of each month, at 4:30 p.m. at Episcopal House, _____ Second Street, Union, WV. Contact us by phone at 304-772-4568 or on the Web at

www.monroeartsalliance.org

LOOK FOR

ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT UPCOMING CONCERTS IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER!



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE ARTS

BOARD APPROVES NEW MEMBERSHIP POLICIES

At the March meeting of the Monroe Arts Alliance, the Board of Directors agreed to simplify membership renewals by making all memberships effective for the calendar year January 1 through December 31. All current memberships will be valid through December 31, 2008.

The Alliance will hold an annual membership drive in the fall of the year to encourage new and renewed members. The current levels of giving for membership will be continued. They are:

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Fan	\$26-99
Star	\$100-299
Contributor	\$300-499
Sponsor	\$500-999
Patron	\$1000 and above

All contributors to the Monroe Arts Alliance will be considered members. Those who donate funds without completing the membership application will be listed as anonymous members for purposes of listings in programs and other Alliance materials.

Members at the Star level (\$100) and above will be recognized in programs of performances sponsored by the Alliance. Sponsors of individual events will also be recognized in printed programs.

YOUTH ART SHOW DRAWS A CREATIVE CROWD

With entries in a variety of media and from a wide range of ages, the 2nd Annual Monroe Youth Art Show was a wonderful showcase of young talent. At the reception on March 1st at the Monroe County Public Library, many participants and their families and friends enjoyed the exhibit and celebrated the winners.

Board member Holly Browne-Mester is the principal force behind this event, selecting judges, mounting the art work, creating the displays and overseeing the awards reception. Joan Menard, also a Board member, worked with Holly to make the event a resounding success.

The top four prizes went to :

Christina Fox, Grade 11, for her micrography drawing (a drawing made of words of different sizes and weights)) titled "The Jungle;";

Montana Galvan, Grade 11, for an untitled painting;

Sallie Anne Wittkamper, Grade K, for her painting titled "Splashy;";

Kelsey Coburn, Grade 6, for her short story, "Sunday Drive" Kelsey also won the Peoples Choice vote. Her story was printed in the Monroe Watchman of April 10.

Judges in the visual arts categories were Allen Ritzman, Irene Christian, Ba Rea and Todd Hardy. Creative Writing judges were Clark Hansbarger, Dr. Craig Mohler, and Judith Bair.

Other winners in the visual arts were: Grades K-2: Aurora Wilson, Norton Harrison, and Riley Sparks. *(continued on back)*

MEET KELSEY COBURN

She is only 11 years old, but Kelsey Coburn has a natural way with writing stories. "My Mom is a writer, and she is my inspiration. I feel like I've been writing all my life," says Kelsey. Her next project is a mystery story, maybe even a novel.

Kelsey lives with her mom and dad, Lisa and Danny Coburn, two brothers, Alex and Nehemiah, and sister McKennah near Hollywood. The family moved to Monroe County about eight years ago from Mercer County.

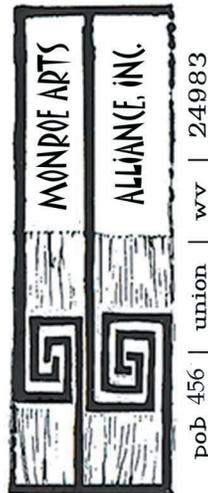


Last year Kelsey won the West Virginia Young Writers county competition with a story about her brother Nehemiah, who was born prematurely. She's also--not surprisingly-- good at spelling, and won the 5th grade spelling bee at Mountain View. She is home-schooled, but that doesn't keep her from her other favorite activities, basketball and softball.

"I love to read, too," Kelsey says. "I like stories that are inspiring--right now I'm reading "Untamed Land" by Lauraine Snelling, about an Irish family that emigrates to the new world and struggles to survive in the Red Oaks Territory in northern New York."

We look forward to more writing from Kelsey in future Youth Art Show competitions. She is a true talent, and one more reason for Monroe County to be proud of its young people.

MAY 2008 NEWSLETTER



UPCOMING EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

May

15 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Episcopal House, Union. Public welcome.

June

13-15 Oil Painting Workshop with Patt Legg, Gillen Gallery, The Knobs
19 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Episcopal House, Union. Public welcome.

July

17 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Episcopal House, Union. Public welcome.

August

15-17 Oil Painting Workshop with Patt Legg, Gillen Gallery, The Knobs
21 Board Meeting, 4:30 PM, Episcopal House, Union. Public welcome.

For more information about workshops, please contact Genevieve Gillen at 772-3305 or the Alliance on the Web at www.monroeartsalliance.org or write to us.

YOUTH ART SHOW (continued)

Grade 3-5: Hunter Mundell, Randon Perkins, Hailey Massey, Eli Garlitz, Nick Norton and Katrin Garlitz.

Grade 6-8: Alex Coburn, Bryanna Cowinn, Nicole Wentz

Grade 9-12: Mirrandia Ward, Austin Hatfield, Ronnie Hale.

Creative Writing: Kendra Howdock and Lauren Barner

We look forward to even greater participation for next year's competition. Please spread the word to your young people that their work is important and deserves recognition. Look for announcements and details in our January 2009 newsletter.