

NEW BOARD INSTATED IN MARCH

At their February meeting, the Board of Directors of the Monroe Arts Alliance voted in a new slate of officers for 2009.

President: Genevieve Gillen, Union
Vice President: Tandy Stoine, Gap Mills
Treasurer: Evelyn Hansbarger, Gap Mills
Secretary: Vacant*

Other Board members are Kelly Shreve of Wait-
eville, Ben James (Past President) of Union,
and new members Sheila Truby Johnson, of
Ballengee, and Renda James of Union..

*Judith Bair of Sinks Grove, formerly secretary
of the Board, resigned to assume the position of
Administrator. As the Arts Alliance has grown,
and programs have expanded, it became clear
that the administrative work of the organiza-
tion was more than a volunteer board could be
expected to maintain. With the creation of this
part-time position, the Board anticipates greater
opportunities for grant-seeking, fund-raising and
new programs. As always, we welcome your in-
put. Please feel free to contact the Arts Alliance
at our Web site, or by calling (304) 772-4568.

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www.monroeartsalliance.org
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IS THIS YOUR LAST ARTS ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER?

Due to rising costs for postage and print-
ing, future issues of this newsletter will only
be mailed to **current members**. If you
wish to continue receiving news about our
programs and events, you may become a
member or download a PDF version from
our Web site. The newsletter is published in
January, May and September.



WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE ARTS MINI-GRANT PROGRAM AIDS LOCAL INITIATIVES

Since its inception last summer, the Monroe
Arts Alliance mini-grant program has awarded
over \$1000 to local organizations interested in
expanding their arts and cultural programming.
Among the programs funded:

After-School Arts Club at James Monroe
High School, for materials and supplies. Robin
Wright of Greenville is heading this effort to give
high school students a broader opportunity to
develop their talents.

Great Courses at the Monroe County Library.
This university-level lecture series is presented
by the Arts Alliance and the library to anyone in-
terested in lively discussion and solid education
al experience. The first course, "Questions of
Value" is in session now and has proven to be
both challenging and stimulating in its treatment
of philosophical and ethical subjects. Upcoming:
"Museum Masterpieces: The Louvre".

"**Photograph Monroe County**" is an initia-
tive of Monroe County Tourism and the Union
Chamber of Commerce. The Arts Alliance pro-
vided funds and sponsorship for awards, public-
ity and equipment for this competition and show
of Monroe County's talented photographers and
scenic beauty. Contact 304-772-3003 for info.

**To apply for a mini-grant, contact
Judith Bair, 304-772-4568, or download
an application at our Web site.**

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Sheila Truby Johnson

The Board of Directors is happy to welcome
Sheila Truby Johnson of Ballengee to the
Monroe Arts Alliance governing body.

Johnson has lived in Monroe County for
10 years, having discovered the area while
traveling for the State Health Department in
Charleston, WV. She and her husband, Char-
lie, raise Appaloosa horses on their farm, the
old Stoney Creek schoolhouse property. They
are members of the Appaloosa Club and the
Cowboy Shooting Club. Johnson currently
works in hospice care out of Lewisburg, WV.

Johnson is a painter who works in oils and
watercolors. She paints with the Wednesday
Painters group and has exhibited in Maryland
as well as locally. She often collaborates with
her son, Patrick Truby, who is a graphic art-
ist with the National Geographic Museum.
Her work has been on exhibit at the Monroe
County Public Library this past April.

Renda James

Renda and her husband, Ben James, have
lived in Union, WV since 2001. A career teach-
er, counselor and school board member, she
worked in the Monroe County Public Schools
as a counselor until August of 2008. She is a
licensed professional counselor and member
of the American Counseling Association. Now
retired, Renda enjoys cooking, reading and
travel as well as music and the visual arts.



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.

YOUTH ART SHOW WRAP-UP

The 2009 Youth Art Show this past March was a great event, with more than 120 entries in the visual arts and creative writing from K-12 students throughout the county.

Though the Awards Ceremony on March 1 was threatened by a winter storm, 9 young people received their prizes and recognition.



First Row: Angela Bauer, First Place, K-3; Braeden Morris, Second Place, K-3; Allison Vandegrift, First Place Collage, Grades 4-8; Joseph Hazelwood, Third Place Collage, Grades 4-8.

Second Row: Allyson Epling, First Place Painting, Grades 9-12; Kylie Ford, Second Place Painting, Grades 9-12; Kelcey O'Neill, Second Place Drawing, Grades 4-8; Sarah Grace McMahan, Second Place Colored Pencil/Marker, Grades 4-8; Hayla Mann, Best of Show, Grades 9-12 Painting.

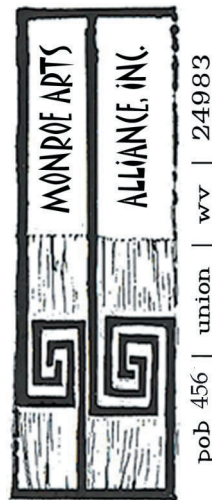
Thirty-six awards in twelve categories were given, with total cash prizes amounting to \$360. Congratulations to all who participated. We'll look for your work next year!

Hayla Mann of Union won "Best of Show" with her painting "Butterfly" and also captured the People's Choice Award.



IS THIS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER?
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MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER



NEW GREAT COURSES SERIES BEGINS MAY 7TH

The next series of Great Courses lectures, "Museum Masterpieces: The Louvre," will begin on Thursday, May 7th at 7:00 pm at the Monroe County Library. Anyone interested in participating should contact Judith Bair at 304-772-4568 to sign up for this six-week program. Each Thursday evening, two lectures will be screened, with time for discussion between each.

"The Louvre" will take us to Paris to explore some of the masterpieces of art history in that museum's collection. Lectures are presented by Professor Richard Brettell, Distinguished Professor of Art and Aesthetics at the University of Texas at Dallas.

These courses are free and are co-sponsored by the Monroe County Library and the Monroe Arts Alliance.

MOUNTAIN MUSIC JAM

Are you a student of old-time mountain music? Join Chance McCoy and area musicians to exchange songs, stories, tunes and techniques—or just to listen—at Old Salt Sulphur resort, Rt 219 below Union, WV on **Sunday, May 3** from 6 to 8 pm. This "jamboree" may become a regular event if the interest is there.

Contact Chance McCoy at 304-832-6486 or oldtimefiddle@gmail.com for more information.

PHOTOGRAPHERS! DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO "PHOTOGRAPH MONROE COUNTY." DEADLINE, FRIDAY, MAY 15TH. Contact: 304-772-3003 or 3094.