



6th Annual!!!

PRIZES

DEADLINE FEB 17

More on page 3 inside! Give your kids an opportunity to shine!

March 3 - 26, 2012  
 Monroe Motors Showroom  
 Awards Ceremony Sunday,  
 March 11, 3 pm



Our 2011 Holiday Concert Sparkled with Young Talent

The Monroe Arts Alliance's annual Holiday Concert on December 4th welcomed in the Christmas season with the blossoming talents of our young Arts Scholarship students, and performances by their instructors and other of their students. New Board member and music director at James Monroe High School, Greg Morgan, entertained with nostalgic songs of the season on piano, and introduced an impressive new talent, Allison Ferguson. Thanks to the Union United Methodist Church, the atmosphere was festive and welcoming, and a record audience joined in the carol singing at the end of the program. Thanks also to Callie McMunigal for providing many of the photos to be found on pages 4 and 5.



In the lovely setting of the Union United Methodist Church, Dr. Craig Mohler prepares his students to take a bow.



poB 456 | union | wv | 24983

WV Culture & History Awards New Grants in Support of Arts Programs

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History, with approval from the West Virginia Commission for the Arts, has recognized three Arts Alliance programs with grants for their support.



The **Youth Art Show** (see page 3) received \$500 to provide materials, equipment and publicity for this annual project that highlights the talents of Monroe County young people. This grant requires a 50% match from the Arts Alliance general fund.

The **2012 Writing Contest** (see page 6) also received \$500, which will apply to costs of publicity, prizes, and a writing workshop prior to the contest deadline. This award must also be matched equally from Arts Alliance funds.

Our **Mini-Grant program**, which assists groups and individuals in presenting arts-related activities such as the Photograph Monroe County exhibit and last November's Monroe Fine Artists exhibit (see page 7), was awarded \$500 toward our total budget of \$1,500 for this program.

The EZ Arts Access Grant program is designed specifically for small arts organizations with budgets under \$30,000. This innovative grant has given the Arts Alliance a unique opportunity to expand its programming goals; we are truly grateful for the vision and initiative of the Division of Culture and History in assisting small rural efforts like ours.

# Board Notes

Many are glad to see 2011 pass into history, but for the Arts Alliance it was a year of growth and innovation. We introduced three brand-new initiatives last year that we hope will continue to inspire and engage not only artists and performers but all Monroe Countians.

Our first-ever Writing Contest was initiated by Board member Dale McCutcheon, who saw this project as an antidote to long winter days when scheduled concerts or exhibits were too often stymied by the weather. We were excited to see the response to this contest, and feel we have introduced some rare talent to the county that might otherwise have gone unheard, unread, or even unwritten.

Second was our wonderful 10th Anniversary Celebration, "Art in the Hills," a one-day country art fair that featured workshops, concerts, performances and an art and craft show that highlighted all of the arts and offered creative opportunities for all ages. Plans are underway to make this an annual event, unique to the area. A date of Saturday, June 16th has been tentatively earmarked for the next "Art in the Hills".

Last but not least was the publication of "Monroe County Tales," a slender volume of stories by the winners of our Writing Contest. and, as a bonus, the inclusion of two winning stories from our Youth Art Show competition. It was great fun for us and the authors to put this book together, hold book signings, and see the enthusiasm of our friends and neighbors for this effort. We are looking forward to this year's writing contest and the potential for a second volume of "Monroe County Tales."

In 2012, we hope to present at least two concerts in addition to our Holoiday Concert. We also look forward to expanding activities to the southern end of the county, especially at James

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Publisher: Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc.

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**304-772-4568**  
**info@monroeartsalliance.org**

Monroe High School.

We are always anxious to hear from our members and we welcome nominations to the Board. Please consider joining us in creating a calendar of cultural events and programs that will strengthen our community and discover its many talents.

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.

# November Exhibit Leads to Opportunities for Monroe Artists

When a group of visual artists got together to plan a local exhibit of their work last November, the goal was to show the abundant artistic talent in Monroe County and the ways our beautiful area has inspired it. Assisted with a mini-grant from the Monroe Arts Alliance, the exhibit was a huge success and has led to several exciting opportunities to showcase the county's artists.

The original group of 11, plus the Wednesday Artists, displayed over 100 artworks in the Monroe Motors Showroom on Main Street, Union. The preview reception was catered by Vips Alpizar of Willow Bend Bed and Breakfast, and over 100 attended the Friday night event by invitation. The show was on exhibit from November 5 through 12, and during that period more than 200 additional visitors were recorded, 15 paintings were sold, and several commissions were requested.

A visit from Carnegie Hall's artistic director, Lynn



Creamer, led to an invitation to the group to exhibit at the Old Stone Room in Lewisburg during November and December 2012. The group also received an invitation to exhibit at The Greenbrier Resort in April 2012.

A Spring show in Union, featuring all new work and additional artists, is scheduled for the month of April 2012. Look for additional information in local media and in your mailboxes.

## 2012 Membership Drive is Underway

Our goal this year is to welcome 20 new members to our rolls, and to launch a corporate sponsorship program that will provide much needed support for our programming. Help us make 2012 a banner year for the arts in Monroe County. For as little as \$15.00 you can show your support for our concerts, exhibits, workshops and contests throughout the year.

If you are already a member, be an advocate; talk to friends and family about joining our enthusiastic supporters.

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

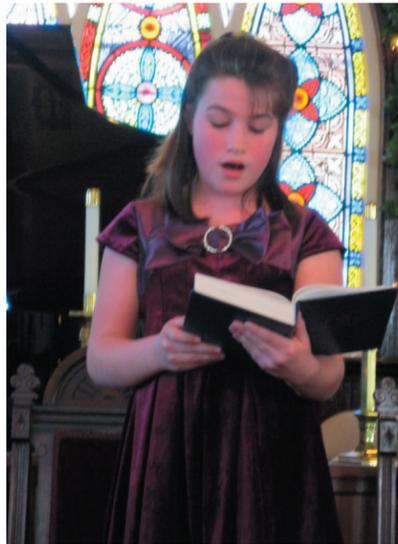
*The Monroe Arts Alliance is a 501C-3 non-profit organization. All membership contributions are fully deductible.*

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS MONTHLY ON  
**3RD THURSDAYS, 4:00 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.

# Highlights from our 2011 Holiday Concert

This year's concert was full of surprises. In addition to the steady improvement of our scholarship students, both in playing and presentation, we had vocal performances from several participants, a lively boogie-woogie session, both classical and jazz piano from our instructors Craig Mohler and Greg Morgan, and the introduction of two adult students, Kay Glover, who studies piano with Dr. Mohler along with her granddaughter, Abigail Hughes, and Toby Garlitz, who has joined her children in their study of Appalachian music with Anna Roberts Gevalt. Thanks to all who made our Holiday Concert a special experience.



Maddie Mohler delighted the audience with her beautiful vocal rendition of "In the Bleak Midwinter".



Elli Wright dedicated her performance of Beethoven's "Moonlight Sonata" to her grandmother.



Top: Megan Ridgeway played and sang a favorite, Taylor Swift's "Mean". Above, Allison Ferguson sings Kenny Rogers' Christmas classic "Mary, Did You Know?;" Left: Abigail Hughes, a first year piano student, played "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing." Far left: Anna Roberts Gevalt tunes up with Katrina and Elijah Garlitz.



Anna Roberts Gevalt and her group got together for a performance of "Little Drummer Boy." From left, Megan Ridgeway, Anna, Cade McMunigal, Elijah Garlitz and Toby Garlitz. Missing from photo, Katrina Garlitz.



Harry Mohler and Cade McMunigal hammed it up as the "Boogie Brothers", giving rousing performances of "Choo Choo Boogie," and "Barbecue Boogie" respectively.



The performers gathered on stage for the community carol sing. From the left: Harry Mohler, Greg Morgan, Cade McMunigal, Dr. Craig Mohler at the piano, Allison Ferguson, Anna Roberts Gevalt, Maddie Mohler, Megan Ridgeway, Elli Wright, Kay Glover and Abigail Hughes.

# Second Annual Writing Contest for Monroe Countians

## NEW THIS YEAR:

- \* Up to 1500 words
- \* Limit of two entries per author (in different categories)
- \* A new FOR SENIORS ONLY challenge

## Beat the Winter Chill by Firing Up Your Creativity. Deadline Friday, April 6, 2012

The Monroe Arts Alliance Writing Contest invites all citizens of the county 18 or older to submit a writing in the following categories:

**Fiction:** A short story, funny, serious, or fantastic, in any genre (literary, science fiction, mystery, etc.)

**History/Landmarks:** A non-fiction story or description of a local place or event.

**Nature/Our Environment:** This category could include gardening, farming, hunting, or a simple description of an animal, a hillside, a tree or flower.

**Life Stories:** Biographical or autobiographical stories about a person or family, social event or milestone.

### FOR SENIORS ONLY

A special category for those over 60 who wish to expand on the introductory line *"I remember the gift I was given when...."*

\* \* \*

Everyone has a story to tell. We'd like to hear yours and reward you for your efforts. Awards will be made in each category (dependent on quality and number of submissions) and will be determined by independent judges who have professional experience in writing, publishing and/or instruction. Winners will have an opportunity to read their works at the Arts Alliance "Art in

the Hills" event in June 2012.

If participants and judges agree, the Arts Alliance will publish a second "Monroe County Tales" volume with the winning entries.

If this sounds like your way to beat the winter blues, turn off the TV, sharpen that pencil or boot up the computer, and start the imagination purring.

\* \* \*

Here are the rules:

Monroe Countians 18-years or older are eligible.

1.Length: **1500** words or less. Length is not as important as content; All submissions must be original; the judges will have the right to disqualify inappropriately vulgar material. Limit of two entries per author.

2. Format: The final piece must be typed, double-spaced, with numbered pages. The Arts Alliance will provide assistance to anyone who does not have access to a computer or typewriter. Just call.

3. Attach an entry form (below) that includes name, address, telephone/e-mail, title of piece, category in which it is entered. Entry forms are also available at our Web site, [www.monroeartsalliance.org](http://www.monroeartsalliance.org), at the local libraries, or by calling 304-772-4568.

4. Mail submissions (limit: 2 per author) to Monroe Arts Alliance, PO Box 456, Union, WV 24976, or e-mail a copy to [info@monroeartsalliance.org](mailto:info@monroeartsalliance.org) by Friday, **April 6, 2012.**

## ENTRY FORM

### 2012 MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE WRITING CONTEST

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Category (Circle one): Fiction • History/Landmarks • Nature/Our Environment • Life Stories

• For Seniors Only

# ArtsCalendar

## JANUARY - APRIL 2012

### Friday, February 17 Deadline for Youth Art Show entries

All Monroe County Students in grades 5 -12 are eligible to enter the Youth Art Show in both Visual Art and Creative Writing categories. See article at left for details.

Monday, February 20 Writing Workshop with Belinda Anderson, 10 am to 3 pm. Alderson Presbyterian Church, Alderson, WV (see article at right)

Workshop fee \$20 per person.; limit 15 students. Register by March 6 to reserve a space. Resgistration forms available at the libraries or online at [www.monroeartsalliance.org](http://www.monroeartsalliance.org).

### Saturday, March 3 - 24 Youth Art Show Exhibit, Monroe Motors Showroom, Union, WV. Open 9-4 Monday through Saturday

### Sunday, March 11, Youth Art Show Awards Ceremony and Reception, Monroe Motors Showroom, Union, WV, 3 to 5 pm.

Prizes will be awarded in 10 categories and winners of the Creative Writing contest will have the opportunity to read their winning work. Light refreshments will be served.

### Saturday, March 30, Opening Reception Monroe Fine Artists Spring Show, Monroe Motors Showroom, Union, WV, 5 - 8 pm. All Welcome

The group that debuted in November returns with new members and all new work. The show will close on Saturday, April 14.

### Monday, April 2 Youth Art Show Exhibit moves to Peterstown Public Library. Winning entries will be displayed at the library for the month of April.

### Friday, April 6 - Sunday April 7, Weekend Exhibit at The Greenbrier.

Monroe Fine Artists show their work in the solarium at the Greenbrier Resort. Exhibit open 10 - 6 daily.

### Friday, April 6 Deadline for the 2012 Writing Contest. See article on page 6.

*If you would like to post an arts-related activity to the ArtsCalendar, please contact Judith Bair at 304-772-4568 two weeks before month of publication (January, May, September).*

### ARTISTS AT THE MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

January:	Joan Menard, painting/collage
February:	Harley Canterbury, photography
March:	Melissa Foster, painting
April:	Marianne Deaver, painting

## Youth Art Show Has a February 17 Deadline!

The Sixth Annual Youth Art Show sponsored by the Arts Alliance will be held this year at Monroe Motors Showroom in Union, WV. All Monroe County students in grades 5 - 12, including home-schooled and private school students, are eligible to submit original artwork or creative writing, through their teachers or independently.

Entry forms and instructions are available at Peterstown and Union libraries or online at [www.monroeartsalliance.org](http://www.monroeartsalliance.org). Call 304-772-4568 for more information.

The Awards Ceremony will take place at Monroe Motors on Sunday, March 11 at 3:00 pm. Come vote for the People's Choice award between March 3 and 11.

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## Writing Workshop Planned

Want a jump start on your writing career? Wonder how to begin that story about your Aunt Mary? Belinda Anderson is a local author with the skill and inspiration to fuel your storytelling desires.

The Monroe Arts Alliance will sponsor a writing workshop on Monday, February 20 from 10 am to 3 pm, at the Alderson Presbyterian Church in Alderson, WV. The workshop is a great preparation for our 2012 Writing Contest (see page 6).

The five-hour workshop costs only \$20 per person. Class size is limited to 15.

Registrants should bring a notebook and writing materials to the workshop. They may purchase a soup and sandwich lunch for \$5.00 or bring their own. Registration forms are available at the county libraries or online at [www.monroeartsalliance.org](http://www.monroeartsalliance.org), or call 304-772-4568. This workshop is presented with financial assistance from the WV Division of Culture and History.