

MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE  
*Arts  
Scholarship  
Program*

BEGIN YOUR ADVENTURE IN  
CREATIVITY TODAY

Would you like to explore your  
interest in **ART**, or **MUSIC**,  
or **THEATER**, **DANCE** or  
**CREATIVE WRITING** with  
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●  
Have you ever wanted to attend a workshop or  
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●  
Will you be pursuing your talent in college  
or university?

*We have funds available NOW to support the development of your talent.  
See full details on page 6.*



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SEPTEMBER 2012  
**ArtsUpdate**



**ArtsUpdate**  
VOL III ISSUE 3  
SEPTEMBER 2012

### “Art in the Hills” Was a Perfect Day

The second annual “Art in the Hills” Festival wads held on June 16th at Mountain View School. On a beautiful day with lots of sunshine and gentle breezes, folks and families from around the county gathered to enjoy the Art and Craft Show and Sale, music and story-telling, workshops and demonstrations, good food and good company.

“We couldn’t have asked for a better day to celebrate the arts,” said Nan Bowman, president of the Arts Alliance Board. “Everyone, from the exhibitors and performers to visitors of all ages had a terrific tme.”

Highlights of the day can be found on pages 4 and 5. We hope to see you at next year’s festival, scheduled for August 24, 2013.



*Mountain View School was host to more than 35 exhibitors and workshops on a brilliant June day.*

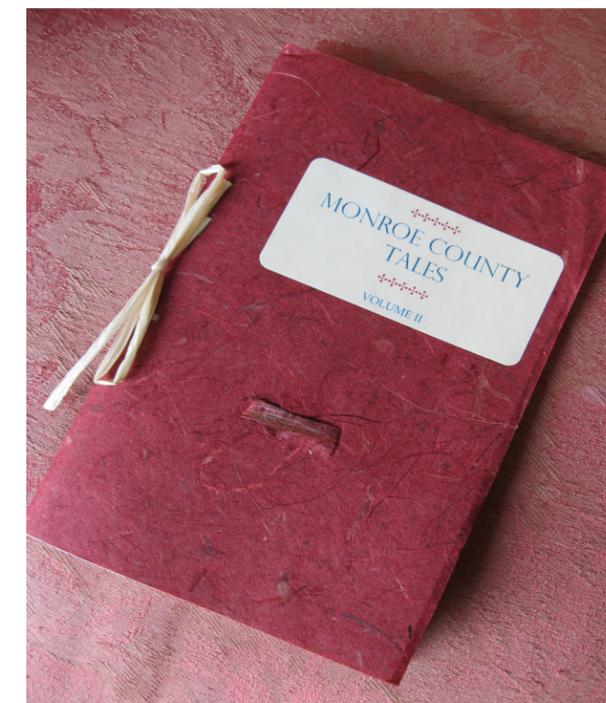
### “Monroe County Tales, Volume II” is now available

The Monroe Arts Alliance has once again published the winning entries of their annual Writing Contest in “Monroe County Tales, Vol. 2.” This slim, hand-crafted volume of stories by local authors showcases some of the county’s talented writers. Authors and volunteers came together at the recent “Art in the Hills” festival to assemble the book, which features a cover of Thai banana paper in a rich red tone, with a raffia tie as accent.

“This collection offers some interesting and often charming glimpses into Monroe County history and culture,” says Judith Bair, director of the Arts Alliance. “With only 200 copies printed, it is sure to be a collector’s item, and in demand as a perfect holiday gift.” The Best of Show story, entitled “Jane’s Legacy,” by Lisa Miller Coburn of Sinks Grove, WV, tells the story of Lisa’s great-great-great grandmother, a Cherokee/Shawnee child adopted by the Bland family of Gap Mills.

The book is on sale for \$5.00 while supplies last. Proceeds will benefit the Monroe Arts Alliance and fund

*(continued on page 3)*



*The second volume of “Monroe County Tales” is a collection of award-winning stories by Monroe County authors. The book can be purchased locally at several venues or by calling 304-772-4568.*

**WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE ARTS**

# Board Notes

The Board of Directors has been meeting monthly since May, first to plan another wonderful "Art in the Hills" event, and then to tackle our fall schedule.

We welcomed Don "Happy" Fick, who now resides in Alderson, to the Board in August. Happy is well-known by many Monroe Countians, and has recently established a career as a jewelry craftsman. We hope to see more of his work at the next "Art in the Hills" festival.

As the Board discussed the success of "Art in the Hills," we began to consider some alternative venues and dates that might draw a larger audience to what is truly a wonderful showcase for local artists and performers. We have set a tentative date of Saturday, August 24, 2013, for our next festival, and are investigating the possibility of moving it to Main Street, Union. We would welcome comments and suggestions from you, our members, as to how we might increase attendance and make the festival better for all.

We are also interested in revitalizing our fall and spring concerts, bringing performers to the county or calling upon local musicians. We emphasize Appalachian and blue grass music at "Art in the Hills," so would like to present some more classical and jazz performance at these more formal affairs. We are hoping to identify a classical guitarist or group, a string quartet, a jazz combo and others to appear at Ames Clair Hall or other venues in the county. Again, we invite our members to give us ideas and suggestions. If you are willing to volunteer some time in organizing these concerts, your help would be most welcome.

Meanwhile, we are once again planning our Holiday Concert, with a tentative date of Sunday, December 9. The location has not yet been confirmed. This is an opportunity to hear the

**ArtsUpdate** is published three times each year in January, May and September and is mailed to Arts Alliance members. Additional copies are distributed to local businesses and organizations on request.

Publisher: Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc.

Editor: Judith Bair

Board Members

- Nan Bowman, President
- Genevieve Gillen, Vice President
- Dale McCutcheon, Treasurer
- Mark Taylor
- Albert Gelderman
- Sheila Truby Johnson
- Don Fick

**Director:** Judith Bair

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**www.monroeartsalliance.org**

progress of our Arts Scholarship students and to welcome in the holiday season with story and song.

Our 2013 Membership Drive will get underway with a mailing the week of November 26th. We look forward to your on-going generosity and support.

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.

## Monroe Fine Artists To Exhibit at Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg

A growing group of talented painters and sculptors from Monroe County have been invited to exhibit at the Old Stone Room at Carnegie Hall for the months of November and December 2012.

The opening reception will take place on November 2, from 5 to 8 pm, to coincide with Lewisburg's First Fridays.

The exhibit will feature work from up to 18 artists from Monroe, and follows on the heels of a two-month exhibit by Joan Menard and Marianne Deaver, in June and July, as well as Carnegie's "Season of Colors," September 7 through October 25th. This juried show will feature 18 works on the theme "Turbulence."

A work by Judith Bair, from Sinks Grove, WV, entitled "Gaia/Uranos" has been accepted for the "Seasons of Colors" exhibit. The Awards Ceremony will take place at the Opening Reception, Friday, September 7th from 5 to 8 pm.

Come out to support your talented neighbors and enjoy the art, music and food that Lewisburg's First Fridays offer.

The Monroe Arts Alliance is seeking a volunteer (or several) to help organize concerts for our fall and spring schedule. We would like to present a variety of music, with the emphasis on classical, jazz or singer-songwriter performances. If you are interested in helping to bring some unique entertainment to Monroe County, contact us through the Web site or call **304-772-4568**

## Join Us Today

Memberships are an essential part of the Arts Alliance's ability to fund arts activities and events each year. Thanks to all who have renewed or joined as new members. Members receive **ArtsUpdate** three times a year, discounts to paid performances, and timely notification through e-mail about up-coming events. Please consider joining the more than 100 individuals who support the arts in Monroe County.

### 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 tax-deductible.*

The Board of Directors meets monthly on  
**3RD THURSDAYS, 4 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 input and support are welcome.



Authors and their assistants helped to assemble "Monroe County Tales, Volume II", at a morning workshop. Over 60 books were autographed and sold during the day. The authors also read from their work over the school intercom, entertaining all in attendance. L to R: Major Walker, Shirley Walker, Brittney Cassity, Marti Minogue, Linda and Steve Weir.

# ART IN THE HILLS

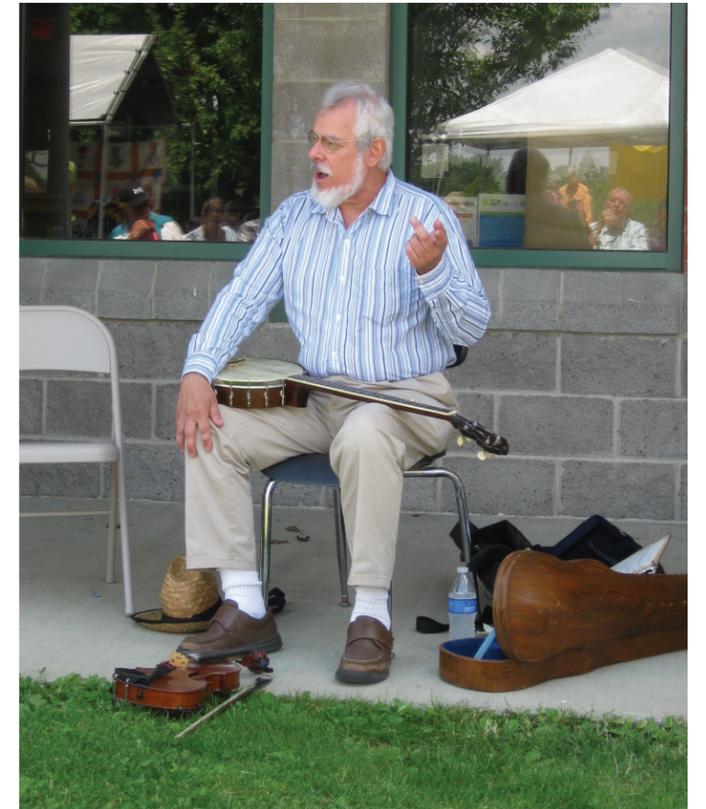
SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2012



Laurie Ardison, right, received the most votes from the public for her fused glass jewelry booth. She was awarded the "Best of Monroe" seal of approval to display at her booth next year.



Jake Krack, above, played his old-time fiddle faster than the camera could follow. This award-winning musician, from Orma, WV, was a real crowd pleaser.



Jimmy Costa regaled the crowd with stories, songs and fiddle tunes. Though slated to perform in the school cafeteria, the day was so inviting that many performers opted for an alfresco appearance.



Mike Reed of White Sulphur Springs demonstrates one of his hand-made dulcimers to an interested crowd. Mike also appeared with the group "Strum Sum," playing the mandolin.



The ever-popular Hans Creek String Band, left, wound up the day with good ole country music, including a few square dance tunes called by Charles Larew. Jimmy Costa, fourth from left, couldn't resist sitting in for a few songs. Others in the band are Steve and Vicki Mann, Stanley Asbury, and Bert Ellison.



Ba Rea's Monarch Magic workshop was well-attended by all ages, as kids made butterfly puppets and learned about Monarch migration and life cycle.

# Arts Scholarship Program Enters Third Year

## Expanded Outreach, New Instructors and an Active Recruitment Campaign Are Planned

Thanks to our generous members and donors, and to grants from the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, the Arts Alliance's Arts Scholarship Program is well-funded and ready to kick off a major recruitment campaign for scholarship students.

This program is unique in the state of West Virginia in offering all of its county citizens, regardless of age or level of skill the opportunity to pursue their interests and talents through subsidized instruction in any of the arts—music, dance, theater, visual arts and creative writing.

The program pairs qualified professional instructors with interested students to develop talents and skills through training, practice, and performance. The Arts Alliance grants scholarships to individuals who demonstrate commitment and ability to help cover the cost of individual or group lessons. Scholarships are awarded for a period of one year, renewable quarterly on the basis of a report from the student and instructor.

In a new initiative, we will also subsidize the costs of workshops or camps for individuals who need financial assistance in meeting tuition. These workshops can be weekend, week-long or two-week sessions, as long as they are within the state and the applicant is a Monroe County resident and applies in a timely manner.

Our third initiative is the Senior Arts Scholarship, available to graduating high school seniors from the county who will be majoring or minoring in their area of the arts in college or university. This \$500 award is competitive and based on an application and recommendations from the student's arts teacher.

The Arts Alliance provides opportunities throughout the year for scholarship students to perform or exhibit when they and their instructors agree on preparedness. This exposure strengthens confidence and encourages a professional attitude toward their discipline.

If you are interested as a parent, student or instructor, please contact us at [www.monroeartsalliance.org](http://www.monroeartsalliance.org) or call 304-772-4568 for our new brochure or an application.

## New Instructors, New Programs Available

Our most recent scholarship award was given to Emmaline Mester, 6, to study violin with Russell Fallstad at his new HeartStrings Academy in Lewisburg, WV. Fallstad has an ambitious schedule of exciting classes and teaching concepts to offer. The violin program is based on the Suzuki Method, a highly successful training for both very young students and adults. Fallstad is introducing a "pod" teaching concept whereby each student in a group receives individual attention for a portion of the class to work on his or her specific needs and devotes the remainder of the class to practice.

HeartStrings is also accepting applications for the fall for its new GLEE! project, with instructor Gretchen McDonough, who will be teaching voice, dance and performance in a format seen on the TV program of the same name. There will be classes for 9 to 12 year olds, and for ages 13 - 18.

Another innovation will be the group "Jams" in stringband and rock music for both children and adults, with instructor Thomas Ball teaching guitar, mandolin and other plucked strings.

Fallstad, a professional viola and violin performer, who has partnered with Adam DeGraff in their "Duelling Fiddlers" act, has restored an historic log building on Feamster St. in Lewisburg for his studio and classes. He can be reached at 1-435-232-2860.

*Fallstad demonstrates a fingering exercise to Emmaline and her mother, Holly Browne, so that she can assist with practice at home. HeartStrings does provide rental instruments for beginning students.*



# ArtsCalendar

## SEPTEMBER ~ DECEMBER

### Friday, September 7 "Season of Colors", Old Stone Room, Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg

Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony, 5-8 pm. The exhibit runs from September 4 through October 27. This year's theme, "Tumultuous" will be represented by 18 works out of a total 78 works submitted.

### Saturday, September 22 Wilson Mill Trout Farm Wine Festival

2 ~ 9 pm, Wilson Mill Trout Farm, Lindside, WV. Wine tasting, gourmet food, fine art show and sale, music all day. Admission is free. Event sponsored by Monroe Arts Alliance.

### Saturday-Sunday, September 29-30 Autumn Harvest Festival, Willow Bend Extension Farm, Union, WV.

Monroe County's fall fair features arts and crafts, music, tractor pulls, judging of agricultural products, flower arranging and much more. Look for "Monroe County Tales, Vol II" on sale.

### Friday, November 2 Monroe Fine Artists Exhibit Opens

Reception 5-8 pm, Old Stone Room, Carnegie Hall, Lewisburg, WV. Part of the First Fridays in Lewisburg. Come celebrate with your friends and neighbors at this first exhibit of Monroe Fine Artists at Carnegie Hall. From Nov. 2 to Dec. 23.

### Sunday, December 9 Holiday Concert, 3 - 5 pm

Location to be announced.

### ARTISTS AT THE MONROE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

September	Brook Shires, photography
October	Open*
November	Judith Bair, painting
December	Open*

\* Contact Doris McCurdy, 304-772-3038 if you are interested in exhibiting your work.

future creative writing projects. Books may be purchased at the Monroe County Public Library, the Union Senior Center, and the Monroe Farmers Market. Plans are underway to have copies for sale at the Autumn Harvest Festival, September 29-30, and at similar events throughout the fall. It may also be ordered at 304-772-4568 or [www.monroeartsalliance.org](http://www.monroeartsalliance.org).

For more information, or to reserve a copy of "Monroe County Tales," call 304-772-4568.

## Wine Festival Kicks Off Fall Season

On Saturday, September 22nd, the Wilson Mill Trout Farm in Lindside, WV, will host an event sure to attract food and wine lovers, art and music fans, and, of course, fly-fishermen of all ages.

The festivities begin at 2 pm and close at 9 pm, rain or shine. Throughout the day, three local wineries will provide samples of their vintages, and local restaurants and caterers, including the Stardust Cafe, Bella of Lewisburg, the Korner Kafe and many more, will provide gourmet delights for sale. Members of Monroe Fine Artists will display their work and have items for sale, including the 2013 Monroe County Calendar, a collection of seasonal paintings by Judith Bair.

"Monroe County Tales" will also be on sale at the festival while supplies last.

Music will be provided by The Carpenter Ants, Bob McGraw, and Doc Greenberg's Patient Jazz Band.

The event has been organized by Bettye Earley of Greenville, WV, with the purpose of revitalizing the Wilson Mill Fly-Fishing Club, a membership organization that currently boasts 1500 sportsmen. The Monroe Arts Alliance is a sponsor of the event and will share in the proceeds as a fund-raiser for their programs, so plan to attend, enjoy, and support your local businesses, artists and organizations.

Wilson Mill Trout Farm is located on Wilson Mill Road, off 219 in Lindside, WV. Follow the signs to the festival, and look for more details in local media. More information at 304-832-6268.