

THE MONROE ARTS ALLIANCE PRESENTS A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

MAY 5

DENNIS OTT and JAKE MAYNARD
Traditional Stringed Instruments
"Appalachian Story and Song"

MAY 12

FRAN BELIN, Piano
"The Great Russian Composers"

MAY 19

LEAH AND RODGER TRENT
*Celtic and Classical Music for Harp
and Concertina*

MAY 26

DOC GREENBERG'S PATIENT
JAZZ BAND
"American Jazz Classics"

Concerts are at 3:00 PM, Ames Clair Hall, Donations Requested, except
May 26th, 4:00 pm at Korner Kafe, Tickets Required (see page 6 inside).



poB 456 | union | WV | 24983

MAY 2013
ArtsUpdate



ArtsUpdate
VOL III ISSUE 2
MAY 2013

"A Month of Sundays" Fills May Calendar

New Initiative Brings Music to Monroe County

The Monroe Arts Alliance is pleased to announce a new concert series that, depending on its success this year, will become an annual event on the cultural calendar of the area.

Four concerts on the four Sundays in May will feature a variety of music and performers. "We want to bring classical music back to our program schedule," says Judith Bair, director of the Arts Alliance, "and we want to continue to showcase local talent. We also want to attract audiences of all musical preferences, and we think this year's line-up is a perfect introduction to our "Month of Sundays" project.

Three concerts will be held at Ames Clair Hall in cooperation with the Monroe County Historical Society on Sundays, May 5, May 12, and May 19. The fourth concert will be a jazz cabaret at the Korner Kafe in Union on Sunday, May 26. Read more about the performers and their programs on page 6 inside.

*From the top:
Fran Belin offers a rare combination of brilliant piano and historical context in her concerts; Leah Trent and her husband will perform Celtic music on May 19; Doc Greenberg (far right), Margie Holz, Adrian Williams and David Burnside swing the jazz classics May 26.*



See Highlights
from the 2013
Youth Art Show
on
pages 4 and 5.

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE THE ARTS

Board Notes

You will see from the contents of this newsletter that the Monroe Arts Alliance Board has been busily planning events for your entertainment and education throughout the year. We have just about filled our annual calendar with the addition of "A Month of Sundays," although we are still looking for a way to bring theatre and dance to the county in a fall program, yet to be determined.

One thing for sure, we have stretched our budget to the max, and need help from every quarter to fund these initiatives. Members can help by encouraging friends and family to join us, or by suggesting to teachers, local officials, local industry and professionals that the Arts Alliance is a worthy beneficiary of their charitable dollars. We realize that resources are scarce, but we are also aware that the arts, especially when provided free or at very little cost, are an important and vital part of this community's culture and education.

Help us succeed by using your influence with family, neighbors, fellow workers, to add their financial support to our programs, and also to participate in the many activities we make available to county residents. We welcome your ideas about who to contact, what would best appeal to the community, and how to grow our organization.

Meanwhile, we continue to pursue grant funds and corporate sponsorships that will strengthen our financial position. We also work to partner with other organizations, like the Monroe County Historical Society and the local libraries, to take full benefit of the resources we each have available. On April 17 we will hold our third annual Emeritus Luncheon, for past Board members. We look to these seasoned experts for advice and in-

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Publisher: Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc.

Editor: Judith Bair

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Don "Happy" Fick

Director: Judith Bair

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formation that will make our programs and purposes more responsive to your needs.

An organization is only as strong as its constituency. We hope you all will become more active in your advocacy 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 Present Their Spring Show

If you missed the Monroe Fine Artist Spring Exhibit, you missed over 80 new paintings and sculpture by eleven of Monroe County's exceptionally talented visual artists. The show was held from April 6 through the 14th at the Monroe Motors Showroom in Union, WV.

An opening reception was held on Friday, April 5th, from 4 to 7 pm. More than 100 visitors admired artwork by Marianne Deaver, Brenja Doane, Melissa Foster, Kenny Bostic, Judith Bair, Genevieve Sowards Gillen, David Wagner, Patrick Fetty, Sheila Truby Johnson, Anabell Rothe and Sunny Williams.

The next MFA show will coincide with the Arts Alliance's "Art in the Hills," August 31, and will be displayed through most of September. Look for details in local media during the summer. If you would like to become a member of this group, please con-



Marianne Deaver puts the finishing touches on the exhibit of Monroe Fine Artists' Spring Show at Monroe Motors Showroom, Union, WV.

tact Marianne Deaver at deaverart@gmail.com or call Judith Bair at 304-772-4568.

Thank You to All Who Renewed

Our 2013 membership appeal has garnered 51 renewals and a total of \$ 3,376.00 to date, Special thanks to those donors who contributed \$100 or more to sustain our arts programming! Every gift is important, and we hope to increase our membership this year through sponsorships and donations to our annual "Art in the Hills" festival. Join us!

Annual Giving Levels

Individual	\$15
Family	\$25
Fan	\$50
Star	\$100
Contributor	\$250
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.

*3:00 PM during winter months

The Winners Are...

VISUAL ARTS

Grades 5 and 6

First: Emily Wilcox, Mountain View, for "Home Sweet Home"
 Second: Jasmine Hoke, Peterstown Middle, for "Fruit on Table"
 Third: Wesley Rookstool, Mountain View, for "Down on the Farm"
 Honorable Mention: Abigail Baker, Homeschool, for "Ballerina in Blue"
 Honorable Mention: Melvin Rhiel, Mountain View, for "Art"

Grades 7 and 8

First: Emily Cassady, Peterstown Middle, for "The Emily Spectacular City"
 Second: Brittany Dunbar, Mountain View, for "The Matrix"
 Third: Billy Joe Adams, Peterstown Middle, for "Winter Cabin"
 Award of Excellence: Rhonda Moore, Peterstown Middle, for "Gotta Rock"

Grades 9-12 Drawing

First: Jasmine Ogle, JMHS, for "Ready or Not, Here We Go..."
 Second: Jared Conner, JMHS, for "Create"
 Third: Haileah Pickles, JMHS, for "Black and White"

Grades 9-12 Painting

First: Jacob Carden, JMHS, for "Snowed In"
 Second: Sofie Wyatt, JMHS, for "After Wier"
 Third: Rebecca Young, JMHS, for "Johnny Depp"
 Award of Excellence: Elijah Boggs, JMHS, for "Ferret in Suit"

Grades 9-12 Mixed Media

First: Sofie Wyat6t, JMHS, for "School Daze"
 Second: Desiree Wilkins, JMHS, for "Koi Fish"
 Third: Hayleigh Cox, JMHS, for "Penguin on Ice"
 Honorable Mention: Emma Baker, JMHS, for "Misfit Queen"

BEST OF SHOW – Visual Arts

Jacob Carden, JMHS, for "Old Mansion"

CREATIVE WRITING

The Monroe Arts Alliance wishes to recognize the efforts of
 Abigail Baker, Grade 5, Homeschool, for her poem "Christmas"
 Sheldon Reece, Grade 6, Homeschool, for his essay, "A Honey Bee's Life"
 Matthew Meadows, Grade 8, Peterstown Middle School, for his essay "The United States of America"

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE:

Chris Meadows, Grade 12, JMHS, for his essay, "Roots"

Thanks to...

Lucy Taylor, Art Teacher, JMHS; Sharon Pitzer, Art Teacher, Mountain View, Christen Porterfield, Art Teacher, Peterstown Middle, for their work as the Youth Art Show Committee, and especially for their time in helping to prepare the artwork.

Ba Rea and Robin Wright for their thoughtful work as judges of the visual art entries.

Velinda Anderson and Craig Mohler for judging the Creative Writing entries.

Joan Menard for curating and hanging of the show, and the Shiflet family for use of the Monroe Motors Showroom for the exhibit. Also to Jim Clewell for the frame that held the Youth Art Show sign, which was created by Lucy Taylor's students at JMHS, and to the staffs of Monroe County Public Library and Peterstown Public Library for their cooperation in receiving and displaying the work.

The West Virginia Division of Culture and History and the WV Commission on the Arts for a grant in support of the 2012 Youth Art Show. Their generosity makes it possible for us to share this report with all students who entered the Youth Art Show.



2013 YOUTH ART SHOW



Clockwise from top: Wesley Rookstool and Emily Wilcox; Jared Conner's "Create;" Sofie Wyatt and Desiree Wilkins; Holly Browne presenting an award to Jasmine Ogle; the winners present at the Awards Ceremony; Jacob Carden's "Snowed In;" and "Old Mansion, which won Best of Show, also by Jacob Carden.



Receiving their awards at the reception on March 10 were (1st row, from left) Wesley Rookstool, Emily Wilcox, Brittany Dunbar, Billy Adams, Emily Cassady, Jasmine Ogle, Rebecca Young (2nd row, from left) Sofie Wyatt, Desiree Williams.

Variety and Spice for “A Month of Sundays”

Our May concert series kicks off on **Sunday, May 5th** at 3:00 pm at Ames Clair Hall, Union, with traditional musicians Dennis Ott and Jake Maynard performing tunes from around the state of West Virginia that have helped shape the sound of the mountains. Combined with a little story-telling for the whole family, the duo explores selections with a variety of instruments, including fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar and lap dulcimer.

Expect to hear local tunes that are connected to our waterways, civil war battles and even Prohibition. “We are committed to celebrating and keeping alive the verbal traditions, history, culture and arts of West Virginia,” Ott says.

Dennis Ott is a native of the Mountain State who has learned and played with some of the most respected contemporary old-time musicians in the region. Jake Maynard, originally from Pennsylvania, has performed a variety of traditional musical styles while living and traveling everywhere from Alaska to Europe and back again. “Appalachian Story and Song” promises to be a winning afternoon at Ames Clair for the whole family.

On Mother’s Day, May 12th, Ames Clair will resound with the drama and romance of “The Great Russian Composers,” as played and interpreted by Fran Belin. Fran is a resident of Greenville, WV, and a brilliant pianist who has developed several concert series around the Russian and French composers. She plays regularly at Carnegie Hall in “Tuesdays With Fran,” a free lunchtime performance/lecture, and teaches piano at her Lewisburg studio. She enjoys talking with her audiences about the music she plays, offering insight and personal touches to her playing. Don’t miss this rare Monroe County appearance by one of our most talented residents. Treat your mother on her special day!

Leah and Rodger Trent will perform on Sunday, May 19th, also at Ames Clair. Leah gave a very popular harp concert for the Arts Alliance in 2010 and, in this performance with her husband, will once again bring a beautiful combination of Celtic and classical music to our audience.

Leah has played harp with many orchestras, choirs, and chamber groups. Leah plays the large concert pedal harp and a variety of smaller harps, including a 38-

string celtic harp and a 22-string lap harp. She currently maintains a private harp studio in Lewisburg, WV, and she performs regularly with Rodger, who plays harp, harpsichord and concertina.

Our final concert will celebrate Memorial day weekend with “American Jazz Classics” by Doc Greenberg’s Patient Jazz Band. This popular and talented group, led by neurosurgeon Jeffrey Greenberg on keyboard, includes Monroe County’s own Margie Holz on vocals and flute and Bob McGraw on harmonica, as well as Adrian Williams on drums and David Burnside on upright bass. If you have not have the opportunity hear this swinging combo, don’t miss Sunday afternoon, May 26, 4:00 pm, at the Korner Kafe, with a special menu by Betty Lemons, a wine and beer cash bar, and some sweet and soulful jazz.

The first three concerts are free to all, with a suggested donation at the door of \$10. The jazz cabaret will be a ticket-only admission, with advanced tickets at \$5.00 for Arts Alliance members and \$7.00 for the general public. Seating is limited. If there are still tickets available on Sunday, May 26, they will be \$10 at the door. Tickets will be on sale at the previous concerts or by calling Judith Bair at 304-772-4568 or by e-mailing artsinfo@monroeartsalliance.org.

Let us know what you think of our “Month of Sundays,” and come out to support your local performers.

Quilt Show Planned for July

The quilters of Monroe County are sponsoring a juried quilt exhibit in honor of West Virginia’s 150th Anniversary celebration this year. “Quilt History Lives in West Virginia” will take place the weekend of July 19 and 20 at the New Hope Tabernacle Activity Building on Route 219 south of Union.

If you would like to participate in the exhibit, registration forms will be available at the local libraries. Call Doris McCurdy at the Monroe County Public Library, 304-772-3038, for more information

ArtsCalendar

MAY - SEPTEMBER 2013

Sunday, May 5 “A Month of Sundays” with Dennis Ott and Jake Maynard

“Appalachian Story and Song”, 3:00 PM, Ames Clair Hall, Union, WV. FREE with suggested donations of \$10 at the door.

Friday, May 10 **Announcement of winners in the 2013 Writing Contest**

Articles will be prepared for local media and winners will be notified by phone and letter.

Sunday, May 12 “A Month of Sundays” with Fran Belin, piano

“Great Russian Composers” 3:00 pm, Ames Clair Hall, Union, WV. FREE with suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

Saturday, May 18 “Poetry Playshop” with Sharon Ginsberg

Monroe County Public Library, 10 am to 3 pm. Registration in advance. \$20 per participant with a maximum of 15. Register early to secure a space in this workshop designed for writers of all skills and styles. (See article at right.)

Sunday, May 19 “A Month of Sundays” with Rodger and Leah Trent

Celtic and classical music for harp and concertina.. 3:00 pm, Ames Clair Hall, Union, WV. FREE with a suggested donation of \$10 at the door.

Sunday, May 26 “A Month of Sundays” with Doc Greenberg’s Patient Jazz Band

American jazz classics in a cabaret setting at the Korner Kafe, Union, WV. Refreshments, wine and beer cash bar, and great jazz to kick off your Memorial Day holiday. Advance tickets: \$5.00 for Arts Alliance members; \$7:00 general public; \$10.00 at the door.

Friday, July 19 and 20: “Quilt History Lives in West Virginia”

Quilt Show to honor West Virginia’s Sesquicentennial; New Hope Tabernacle Activity Building, Rte 219 south of Union. Judging and prizes. Entry forms at MC libraries.

Saturday, August 31 “ART IN THE HILLS”

Downtown Union, WV, Music, workshops, art exhibit and craft show. A day of celebration of all the arts. Mark your calendar for this kick off to the Labor Day Weekend.

Friday, August 30 through September 21: Juried Art and Photography Exhibit, Monroe Motors Showroom, Union, WV. Call for En tries available online or by calling 304-772-4568.

Poetry “Playshop” Scheduled for May 18

Sharon Ginsberg of Ronceverte, WV, will present a creative writing workshop on Saturday, May 18 from 10 am to 3 pm at the Monroe County Public Library, Union, WV.

“The purpose of the workshop is to experience creative inspiration for writing poetry, stories, essays, and all forms of verbal and written expression,” Ginsberg says. “We will do various poetry exercises including acrostic, visual and haiku forms to loosen the brain cells and gain confidence in our writing skills as well as enjoyment of poetry as an art form.”

“Playshop “registration is \$20.00, and the deadline is May 10th. Registration forms are available at the Monroe County Public Library or on line at www.monroeartsalliance.org. Call Judith Bair at 304-772-4568 for additional information.

“Throw your judgemental mind in the trash and try these exercises guaranteed to discover that writing genius inside yourself,” Ginsburg adds.

Participants should bring writing materials and lunch (a kitchen is available). There will be a break for those who wish to lunch at a local restaurant.

ARTISTS AT THE MONROE COUNTY
PUBLIC LIBRARY

May: Shari O’Day Mann, painting

June: Annabell Rothe, painting

July: Open

August: Open

Contact the library at 304-772-3038 if you’d like to exhibit your art or crafts.