



Note from the President:

In this season of giving thanks, the Monroe Arts Alliance has much for which it is grateful. Our first newsletter was a success in helping make the MAA better-known. We are happy to have gained new members as a result. This is an exciting time for the Monroe Arts Alliance as it expands its membership, classes, programs and IDEAS!

Be sure to read about fiddle/violin students Rebecca Campbell and Brynna Strand. Both girls are remarkably accomplished and an inspiration. MAA is thrilled to showcase the talents of young students of the arts.

Recently, I took an MAA-sponsored Watercolor Class with artist and instructor Jeanne Brenneman at Genevieve Gillen's studio on the Knobs. Students were encouraged to try new techniques under Jeanne's expert guidance. It was a fun and educational experience in a beautiful setting. The Monroe Arts Alliance is truly fortunate to find professional artists willing to share their talents by teaching classes for us.

This year's Annual Holiday Concert will be a little different from previous years. Entertainment will be provided by "Joyful Noise" and "The Hans Creek String Band". There is no admission fee, although donations at the door are appreciated.

We are in need of sponsors (\$50 – 199.) and underwriters (\$200. or more) for this concert.

Please help the MAA give the gift of music. Mail checks to: Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc., PO Box 456, Union, WV 24983. Sponsors will be recognized in the concert program. Underwriters will be acknowledged in the concert program and advertising.

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May your Holiday Season and coming New Year be filled with meaning and joy!

Robin Wright

The Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc. is 501C-3 non-profit, membership supported organization committed to community service through the promotion of the arts in Monroe County and the surrounding area. Its purpose is exclusively charitable and for the enrichment of the general public.

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2006 Board Members

Robin Wright, Pres, 832-4101
Suzie Henritz, Vice-Pres., 832-6566
Laurine Yates, Sec, 772-3172
Evelyn Hansbarger, Treas., 772-5212
Susan Stidham, Membership, 832-6090
Genevieve Gillen, Classes, 772-3305
Addie Morgan, Editor
Helen Graves, Ben James, Joan Menard
Leah Sills, Barbara Ziegler

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The next Board meeting of the Monroe Arts Alliance, Inc. is Thursday, November 16, 2006, 4:30 PM at the Monroe Co. Library. Public is welcome.

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Programs and Classes

Coming Soon --

***Annual Holiday Concert**

"Joyful Noise" and
"The Hans Creek String Band"
December 8, 7 - 9 pm
Union Presbyterian Church
Reception following.

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***Portrait Drawing & Illustration**

Internationally acclaimed artist,
Donald Earley - January 2007
Watch the papers or call 832-4101
for more information.

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**NOW FEATURING - STUDENTS!
Talented Young People in the Arts**

Rebekah Campbell, born and raised in Ballard, West Virginia, Monroe County, is the daughter of Gary and Deborah Campbell. She is 13 years old and an 8th grade student at Peterstown Middle School. She has been playing the violin since age 9; studying Suzuki Method for 2 years. In the summer of 2004, her musical interests turned to Old Time and Bluegrass Music. This is where the mountain music turned the violin into a fiddle for this young talent.

Rebekah was the First Place Winner in the Bluegrass Fiddle Competition at the Henry Reed Memorial Fiddler's Convention in June 2006. Her fiddle is handmade by Henry's son, James Reed, of St. Mary's, West Virginia.

Rebekah is currently the youngest member of the recently resurrected and talented HANS CREEK STRING BAND. What a great apprenticeship for a young musician!

Her future plans are to attend Berea College in Kentucky and study music. One day she dreams of playing on the stage of the Grand 'Ol Opry. Keep your eyes and ears on this young lady. Dreams can and do come true. With Rebekah's hard work and determination, the sky is the limit!

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Brynna Strand, has been playing violin for 3 years under the tutelage of Adam DeGraff. From the age of five, she was fascinated by violin, but there was not a teacher with whom she could study. DeGraff's move to the area and his establishment of a violin studio was, for her, a dream come true.

Her musical inspiration is Adam; she is also inspired by a noted female violinist, Hillary Hahn. Brynna hopes to be a professional violinist herself one day, playing solo in a quartet, or in an orchestra.

Please meet --

Barbara Ziegler,

Board Member and former Treasurer

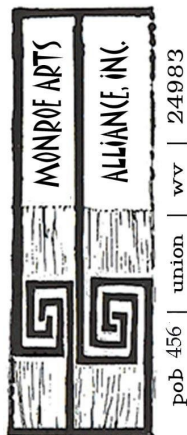
My husband, Fred, and I searched for close to a decade for a water-powered mill for us to restore in retirement. When Fred turned 65 and retired from the Univ. of Chicago, the only mill available was Cook's Old Mill in Greenville, WV. We moved here in April, 2003 and have rejoiced in the ingenuity, creativity, artistic talent and genuine friendliness of the people of Monroe County.

My professional career was in public health administration at Cook County Hospital and the University of Illinois in Chicago – plus many years as a volunteer, consulting and traveling in French-speaking West and North Africa. After Peace Corps, I landed in Chicago where I attended the School of Public Health, majoring in community health and development.

When we arrived in Greenville, and Fred was living his dream of restoring a mill, I was extremely grateful that volunteer opportunities arose for me, such as the Monroe Arts Alliance, the Fiber Network, Monroe Historical Society, Monroe Tourism Advisory Board and Ruritan. Both Fred and I are totally committed to the betterment of our community and Monroe County. We hope to hold juried art fairs on the mill grounds during the summer, perhaps one per month with specific themes: Pottery, Fiber Arts, Antique Tools, Painting and Sculpture, Bluegrass Festival, etc. The mill, with the log house across the mill pond, and the two houses across the street are a perfect place for community gatherings, arts classes and a showplace for local artists and artisans.

We look forward to working with the artistic talents of Monroe County to promote the incredibly capable and accomplished artists and artisans who are our neighbors and friends.

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MEMBERSHIP

**WELCOME and THANK YOU to our
New Members!**

Dr. & Mrs. Jay Banks
Chris Bone Family
Beth Covington & Michael Martin
Bettye & Donald Earley
Marti Goode
Drs. Kevin & Holly Harvey Family
Margie Hensley
Charles & Dorothy Larew
Ana Lusk
McDade Family
Carol Phippen
Richter Family
Annabell Roth
Helen Searle
Dr. Rev. & Mrs. Clarence Sills

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Volunteer Opportunities

Do you like to meet new people? Do you love music, art or performance? Are you committed to promoting the arts in Monroe County? The MAA needs your help! Volunteering for MAA is fun, a great way to meet like-minded people and you will be **SINCERELY APPRECIATED!**

Give one of our Board Members a call to learn more about MAA volunteer opportunities.

Some of our needs are:

Making and Serving Refreshments
Helping with Publicity * Assisting with Children's
Craft Activities * Working as an Events Greeter *
Writing for Grants* Serving on a Committee *
Helping with Mailings & MORE!

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