

# ArtsPaper

Fall/Winter 2020

News &  
Information on  
the Arts from the  
Huntingdon County  
Arts Council

## Holiday Shoppe Moves to Playhouse

### Members Save 10%

Are you looking for a unique gift item this holiday season and want to support local artists and the Huntingdon County Arts Council at the same time? As in previous years, we will be selling art at the 2020 Holiday Shoppe—our annual artists' market. This year the Holiday Shoppe will be located at the McConnellstown Playhouse, 11680 Raystown Road (Route 26 South) in McConnellstown.

The Holiday Shoppe will open for the first time on Black Friday, November 27, and will remain open every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11

a.m. to 5 p.m. During Christmas week, the Shoppe will be open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday December 21, 22, 23 & 26, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m.

This year's selection of goods includes paintings,

photography, ceramics, jewelry, and a variety of decorative items. Contributors include Jack Troy, Carolanne Currier, Teri Smith, Betty Walters, Redbud Quilt Guild, Harlan Ritchey, Jeanne Peterson, Nate Wilson, Jennifer Crum, and a host of other talented local artists. A portion of the proceeds from the Shoppe's sales will be used to support Arts Council activities throughout the year.



*The Holiday Shoppe at the McConnellstown Playhouse will start on Black Friday and be open Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

## Local Artists on Display

**H**untingdon Painters: 400 Years Combined Experience is the title of a new exhibit that opened at the Juniata College Museum of Art (JCMA) on October 4. The exhibit is a joint project from the Huntingdon County Arts Council and the JCMA.

Kathryn Blake, the director of the JCMA, is also the president of the Huntingdon County Arts Council board. As John Kearns, Executive Director of the Arts Council said, "We've been thinking about doing something together for awhile. Since we currently don't have a home of our own, it made great sense for us to do this with her." To ensure that this was a learning experience, students from Juniata College helped with the staging of the exhibit.

The eight artists featured in this exhibit were Connie Cannon, Kay Sullivan Crotsley, Ginny Gill, Mimi Isett, Rebecca Mahony, Gail Schaeffer, Chris Shook and Deb Tucker. Most of the artists are former members of the Standing Stone Art League—a group that flourished for many years in our area. Although most of the 74 works on display are oil, acrylic, and watercolor paintings, the show also includes examples of drawing, rug making, collage, and basket weaving.

*continued on Page 6*



*The Huntingdon Painters exhibit is on display at the Juniata College Museum of Art through November 21.*

## Annual Meeting Via Zoom

**M**ark your calendar! The Arts Council will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 9 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. That's right—you can participate in the Annual Meeting without leaving the comfort of your home.

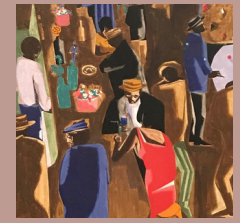
The Annual Meeting is open to all current members of the Huntingdon County Arts Council. The meeting will give an update on the Arts Council, elect new officers and Board members, and highlight plans for the future.

Join us via this Zoom link: <https://juniata.zoom.us/j/3504202019>.



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Memberships and contributions help us fulfill our mission to provide opportunities to experience the arts in Huntingdon County.



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Dear Member:

As I occasionally meet people in town, they ask “where is the Arts Council?” While we still do not have a new permanent location, your Huntingdon County Arts Council has certainly been active these last few months.

First, we have a wonderful joint exhibit at the Juniata College Museum of Art. Please make sure you get a chance to see the Huntingdon Painters exhibit before it closes on November 21 (see page 1).

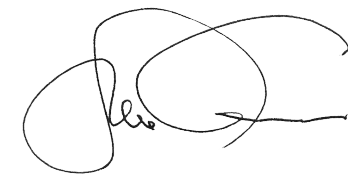
Second, our Plein Air Painting workshops in September with Evgeny Krayushkin attracted and pushed some of the participants to new horizons in painting (see article below).

Third, we were not able to hold our annual Monster Mash Halloween Bash, but we converted the Silent Auction part to a very successful virtual event (see below).

Later this month we are hosting our annual Holiday Shoppe at the McConnellstown Playhouse. We hope you will make the trip to McConnellstown to help support both our local artists and the Arts Council (see page 1), with our assortment of great art and other gift items.

Of course, we cannot do all of this without your support. Your response to our fundraising letter has been positive. Thank you. If you haven't had a chance send in a donation, please consider doing so. We would greatly appreciate the support.

As we look forward to a hopefully better and brighter 2021, know that your Huntingdon County Arts Council is continuing to bring arts and cultural opportunities to Huntingdon County.



John Kearns  
Executive Director



Council Notes

Plein Air Painting Workshops

Evgeny Krayushkin, a teaching artist and graduate of Juniata College, led a series of 10 plein air (outdoor) painting workshops in Huntingdon this September. The Perry County Council for the Arts and the Huntingdon County Arts Council jointly organized the activity. Participation was free, as were all materials, including paints and canvases.

Sessions were held at five locations, with the goal of helping participants explore the ways in which different environments can be perceived and experienced. Participants were encouraged to develop and improve their own styles, rather than learn one “correct” way of painting. An exhibit featuring paintings by the participating artists was held in Portstown Park on October 1.

Claire Holzner, one of the participants, later summed up her experience in this way: “I’m grateful for this program which gave us a free painting with acrylics class. Non-painters like me got a chance to dip our toes in a new form of expression and experienced painters could gather with friends



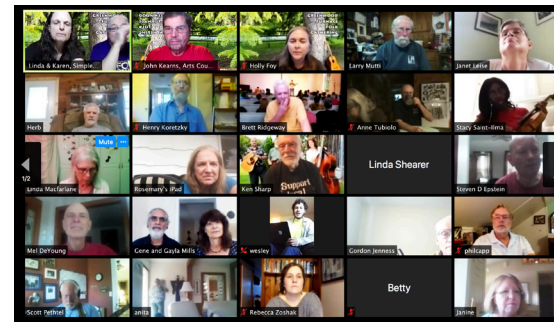
Gail Schaeffer learns from Evgeny Krayushkin at the Plein Air painting workshops.

in artistic camaraderie. Evgeny has a kind way of teaching us about painting with acrylics. He encouraged us to connect with the beautiful landscapes around us and paint them in our own original, unique ways. It was a lot of fun.”

Fundraiser Boosts Morale

The Arts Council is in the midst of fundraising campaign that kicked off in October. Our mail request for donations is ongoing, but early results are positive. Our online Halloween silent auction resulted in the sale of 27 diverse items, including ceramic works, jewelry, paintings, souvenir stamps, candles, fresh produce, horseback rides, and a mountain dulcimer. We would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone who participated for their financial support in these difficult times.

Event Updates



Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering was converted to a virtual event via Zoom. The event featured a social hour, workshops, a concert, and a jam.

Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering Goes Online

The Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering (September 11-12) exceeded everyone’s expectations this year. Holding it online (via Zoom) was a new experience for us, and we wondered how many people would participate in a virtual event. Folk music fans demonstrated, however, that they weren’t going to let the coronavirus stop them from making music and enjoying themselves.

The Gathering started on Friday night with a social hour, followed by a concert featuring Simple Gifts and other faculty performers. Saturday featured five workshops: How to Jam Online (with Linda Littleton), Learn to Play by Ear (with Brett Ridgeway), Pennsylvania History Through Play-Along Songs (with Van Wagner), Understanding Scales, Chords, and Keys (with Henry Koretzky), and Super Cool Easy Tunes (with Simple Gifts). The day ended with a jam session open to everyone.

A total of 60 people participated on Friday evening, and each workshop had between 35 and 40 participants. Overall, about 100 people were involved at some point during the two-day event. An advantage of a virtual event is that several people were able to join from other states, including South Carolina, Vermont, Michigan, and Arizona.

Although the event was free this year, 42 people made voluntary donations to the Arts Council. We thank everyone who participated and contributed, and we look forward to more face-to-face interaction and folk music in 2021.

**Share Your Thoughts With Us**  
Would you like to send a message to the Arts Council or to the newsletter editor? If yes, send your comments to Paul Amato at info@huntingdoncountyarts.com. We may publish comments in future issues of the newsletter, so let us know if you wish your message to be confidential.



Mount Union in Motion

The Mount Union Ton of Bricks Festival was held online this year on October 3. The event included a series of live performances (streamed on Facebook), along with a collection of pre-recorded films made especially for the event. The Mount Union Area Partnership (MUAP) organized the festival, and Jenna Miller from the Huntingdon County Visitors Bureau assisted with the virtual aspects of the event.

The live events (streamed on Facebook) included interviews with members of the community and local historians, poetry, a Black American History quiz, and readings from children’s books. The pre-recorded videos included several musical performances, a film on geometrical abstract art, and even belly dancing!

Although the event did not include large gatherings of people, it encouraged participants to explore and learn about the Mount Union area. Activities included a scavenger hunt and hikes along sections of the Standing Stone Trail with a conservationist.

Cheryl Marino, MUAP member and event facilitator, said before the event, “MUAP is hopeful that offering something engaging in a primarily online format will give folks, young and more mature, an opportunity to enjoy a few hours of local art, heritage, and outdoor activities on an October Saturday.”

Event planners were pleased with the outcome. As Cheryl later said, “The change to mostly virtual was just a blip to the planning committee members, all of whom put great effort into making the event a virtual success. The MUAP vision and mission includes the regional arts, and we had numerous artistic presentations. We initially had over 3000 views on the MUAP Facebook page and consider that a success for a first event done virtually.”

Arts Council Gift Membership

Almost everyone has experienced times in which you need to purchase a gift for someone, but you don’t have a clue what the gift should be. The next time this happens to you, why not give that special person a gift membership in the Huntingdon County Arts Council? Just go online and use the *Get Involved* tab on our website: www.huntingdoncountyarts.com. We will provide you with a certificate that you can hand to the lucky person or include in a greeting card. We also will send a membership card to the recipient that provides discounts to future art-related events. What are you waiting for?



A Gift Certificate for You

- YOUR FRIEND has given A FAVORITE PERSON a gift certificate for a one-year membership for 2020 to the Huntingdon County Arts Council
- This membership entitles you:
- Advanced information on arts exhibits, workshops & concerts
  - Postcards announcing monthly exhibits
  - Newsletter keeping you informed on arts activities
  - Discount on the Arts Council workshops, events & concerts
  - Supports Spring Show student art juried exhibition
  - Help us bring art to our community

Congratulations on your support of the arts in Huntingdon County

The Huntingdon County Arts Council receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.





# HUNTINGDON COUNTY POETS

*Huntingdon County has a thriving community of poets. We asked a few to share their work with us.*

## TIME TO GO

It's early September,  
the birds are anxious.  
The most cedar waxwings  
I've seen all year  
have gathered in the tree tops  
on the back side of our pond,  
taking turns flitting out over the water,  
then back again to snatch  
invisible bugs in the air.  
There must be 20 at least  
when usually there are only 3 or 4,  
their chivalric crested heads  
indistinguishable against this  
thick humid sky.  
I know, they know, that it  
is time to go.

*James Pingry  
2012*



## POND WATCH

If I could ride on the back of a tree swallow  
circling the pond, round and round,  
I'd have to hang on for dear life  
as he cuts the air in hair-pin turns.

He'd take me low, skimming the pale surface,  
close enough to dip a finger or two  
and then shoot me straight up,  
around the birch tree, circling  
again and again, up to the phone line  
for only a moment's rest.

Would I see the midges and mayflies  
snapped up in mid-flight.  
The damsel and dragon flies  
hovering close to water's edge,  
the big bull frogs laying still,  
an eye crooked to the sky.

Would I wave at the squadrons  
of cedar waxwings flying in formation  
as we soar together through  
the same still air.

I know I would because  
we all live in the same place,  
the same time, and I know them  
as surely they know me.

*James Pingry  
2017*

## AND CROWS TO REST



Crows wheel against gray skies,  
their rough caws scraping  
against the ear,  
they fly the light down noisily,  
spiral onto the naked limbs,  
gripe and poke for space,  
and do not settle for the night  
until the dusk has pulled all light  
from the sky, and their silhouettes  
seem merely shaggy encrustations  
on black branches, shapes imagined  
against a charcoal sky.

*Pam Kavanaugh  
2009*

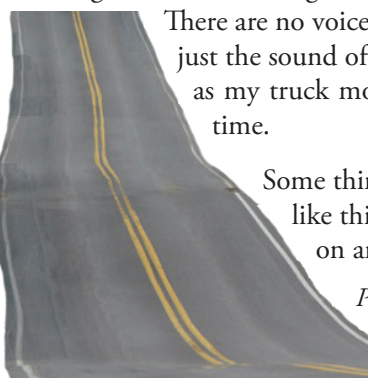
## SOME THINGS YOU NEVER GET OVER

like this drive down 655  
in my Ford Ranger truck  
with my dog in my lap  
on an Indian summer day.  
I don't know how it is  
that this place speaks to me –  
the farms and barns,  
the goats and cows along the road,  
the signs for squash and shoe repair,  
for baked goods and blade sharpening,  
and the billboards filled with scripture  
that remind me that I'm home.  
Without thinking, I signal and pull over  
and allow the worried world to pass;  
patiently I ease up on the accelerator  
and enjoy the clippity clop  
of the horse drawn buggies  
plodding along in front of me –  
I try to catch a glimpse  
of the children in their straw hats.  
Respectfully, I stay back  
to keep the horses from being startled,  
forgetting that their world  
has been turning like this for centuries.  
My little dog (head out the window,  
tongue slapping the breeze)  
looks back at me every now and then,  
and gives me that grateful grin  
that is known to all dog lovers.  
I wonder about this road,  
why I never tire of it –  
the way it curves slightly to the right  
as it moves up and down over  
the hills of this valley,  
the shrinking yellow line that mesmerizes me  
with its peacefulness and predictability,  
the barns and silos to my right,  
The Belgian horses to my left,  
always the same team of four  
grazing leisurely –  
fenced in and free at the same time,  
waiting for their next assignment.

There are no voices, no radio,  
just the sound of velocity,  
as my truck moves through space and  
time.

Some things you never get over,  
like this drive down 655...  
on an Indian summer day.

*Peg James ©  
2017*



## AT THE HUNTINGDON POST OFFICE for Denson Groendhal

Eleven of us wait in line while Cheryl and Tracey  
once again show that nothing exasperates their  
helpfulness. The circular tattoo  
on the nape of the woman before me  
resembles a USDA stamp on a slab of pork.

No one cut corners building this Formica-free place  
dedicated to senders, receivers, and enablers.  
The craft of caring workers does not escape us –  
the green, yellow and white floor tile set  
to a high standard of workmanship,  
the elaborate oak molding fit for a boardroom,  
both stately glass-topped tables  
with art nouveau cast bronze legs,  
and the dozens of private  
boxes, each with its numeral, tiny key-slot, and window.

As always, I listen for voices  
in that mysterious room above the  
marble steps that turn left and disappear upward  
where the high-stakes poker games  
go on between politicians as they  
opine which new stamps to ready for us –  
which dead heroes are worthy  
of having the backs of their faces  
licked by millions of respectful citizens.

“How much longer should we wait  
for the Gay Pride stamp?” one asks.  
“Or one celebrating Marriage Equality?”  
“We haven't enough of us died yet,” an elderly  
power broker replies, “but I'll raise you  
two steps up the list for the Rush Limbaugh  
commemorative we talked about last time.”  
Downstairs, we shuffle ahead, beneath the impasse in the attic.

*Jack Troy  
2018*



## Jacob Lawrence: A Great Painter of African American Life

Jacob Lawrence (1917-2000) was a great 20th century African American painter whose work focused on the experiences and everyday lives of African Americans. Although he described his style as “dynamic cubism,” his work had little in common with European cubism. Most of Lawrence’s paintings contrast bright, vivid colors with primarily brown and black human figures.

Lawrence was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and he later moved with his parents to Easton, Pennsylvania. After his parents divorced, he lived for a time in Philadelphia before moving with his mother to New York City. His mother encouraged him to paint, and she enrolled him in an after-school arts program in Harlem.

He continued to paint after leaving high school and received a scholarship to the American Artists School in New York. By the time he graduated, Lawrence was an accomplished painter. His best-known early work, the Migration Series, depicted the movement of blacks from the south to northern cities.

He served in the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II and spent the war years documenting (through his paintings) the experiences of service men and women. After the war, he settled in Harlem and taught courses on painting at several art institutes and colleges.

Much of Lawrence’s work portrays aspects of everyday life among African Americans. For example, *The Libraries Are Appreciated* (1943) depicts three people quietly reading their books in a library. Another painting, *The Wedding* (1948), presents a couple standing before a stern looking minister and wild profusion of colorful flowers—a subject both solemn and joyous. *The Brown Angel* (1959) shows a group of people socializing and having a good time in a bar.

In 1972 Lawrence became a tenured professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, and he taught there until he retired in 1986. He continued to paint right up to the week of his death at the age of 82.

Lawrence once described his art as “an effort to express the universal beauty of man’s continuous struggle to lift his social position.” By any measure, he was suc-



Jacob Lawrence. *The Libraries Are Appreciated*



Jacob Lawrence. *The Brown Angel*.

cessful in creating beautiful works that appeal to people of all races. For this reason, Lawrence’s paintings can be found in the permanent collections of most of the major art museums in the United States, as well as in the White House.

### Local Artists on Display continued from page 1

The exhibit is described as “a group of artists who have connected over the years by their love of art in many forms, working together and sharing ideas.” The reference to “400 Years” in the title refers to the collective number of years people in the group have been painting.

The exhibit will run through November 21. Museum hours are from 1-8 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. The Museum is located at 17th and Moore Streets in Huntingdon.



Jacob Lawrence. *The Wedding*.

## Artist Spotlight

### Carolanne Currier

#### Pottery, Atmosphere, and the Entire Universe

Carolanne Currier had an epiphany when she saw a soda-fired vase created by Australian ceramic artist Gail Nichols. Carolanne was amazed because she “saw the entire universe in it.” From that moment, she knew the method she wanted to use as a potter.

Before becoming a potter, Carolanne had a 30-year career with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a consumer safety officer, evaluating the validity of data prior to the marketing of new drugs. As she neared retirement, she searched for something else to do with her life. Her Bachelor’s degree had been in art, and over the years she had dabbled in photography, watercolors, and some “crafty things.” But now she needed something more substantial.



She signed up for a class at a community pottery center and found that the tactile, hand-on experience was a welcome change from a career of cerebral work. The pottery cen-

ter used an electric kiln, however, and she wasn’t impressed with the look of the glazes. They seemed too uniform and flat. “I’m an old hippy,” she said, “and things that are natural and earthy appeal to me.” She began taking her pieces to a wood-fired kiln and liked the result better.

A pivotal moment came in 2007 when Carolanne attended a workshop led by Jack Troy, the internationally known Huntingdon potter. After several conversations, Jack invited her to try his wood-fired kiln in Huntingdon. For the next six months she travelled back and forth from her home in Frederick, Maryland to work with Jack. By the end of that time, she had moved to Huntingdon fulltime.

Her later discovery of soda firing (as noted earlier) was critical. As Carolanne explained, “Soda firing is a type of atmospheric firing in which the results depend on the atmosphere inside the kiln. Electric firing produces results that are uniform and predictable. Atmospheric firing is less predictable, and the results are more interesting to me.”



Carolanne’s Merry Kiln



Soda firing requires a special type of kiln, so Carolanne had one constructed in Huntingdon. She dumps baking soda in front of the flame to create a directional pattern in the glaze. With this method, she said, “You can see the story that’s happening in the kiln. The pot tells a story.”

A picture of the kiln is shown above. As she explained, “The sign above my kiln is a heart made up of my two initials, CC, and flames from the fire. I named it The

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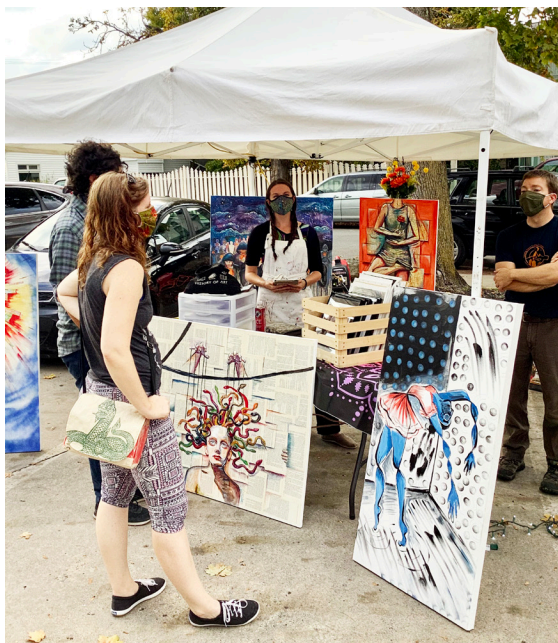
## Shop the Holiday Shoppe at the McConnellstown Playhouse



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### Art Walk Returns

October 15 featured another evening Art Walk in Huntingdon County. Standing Stone Coffee on Mifflin Street hosted live music, while several local artists exhibited their work in the parking lot across the street. The Arts Council also gave away children's Art Walk t-shirts (provided by Huntingdon Landmarks, Inc.)



Andrea Darby displays her recent paintings at the October Art Walk.

and provided a station to decorate them with fabric paint and markers.

The Juniata College Museum of Art hosted two events that evening. The Mud Junkies Ceramics Club invited people to purchase and glaze greenware for firing in an on-site Raku kiln. Visitors also were able to view a blacksmith demonstration.

To ensure everyone's safety, participants were expected to follow social distancing protocols and wear facemasks. If conditions allow for it, more Art Walks will be planned for 2021. We miss these community-friendly events.

### Carolanne Currier continued from page 7

Merry Kiln after my mother, Mary Currier. When she died, she left me enough money to build my kiln. She always told me to follow my dreams. I know she would be extremely pleased I used her money to build the kiln."

Carolanne exhibits and sells her creations, known as Heart of Fire Pottery, at multiple galleries and national shows, and at a "home sale" in Huntingdon every October. Unfortunately, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the home show in Huntingdon was cancelled this year. Nevertheless, several examples of Carolanne's pottery, along with pieces by Jack Troy and other local artists, will be on sale at the Huntingdon County Arts Council's Holiday Shoppe at the McConellstown Playhouse this year. (See the article on page 1 for additional information on the Holiday Shoppe.) The Shoppe opens on Black Friday and will be open on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays.

In a difficult year like 2020, it is easy to get discouraged. Our best hope is that artists like Carolanne will continue to fill the world with beauty. How else can we keep our spirits up? Besides, artists don't have a choice—they must create or die. This is why we know potters and ceramic artists will soon be firing up their kilns and producing more atmospheric pottery, mini-universes, and other curious and wonderful objects to intrigue and delight our senses.