

ArtsPaper

Winter 2022

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

Celebrating 50 Years of the Arts Council

A Rich Local History of the Arts

Do you remember 1972? That was the year the Watergate scandal broke, the Space Shuttle program began, and the Pioneer 10 spacecraft took the first close-up pictures of Jupiter. Don McLean's *American Pie* was the biggest hit record of the year, MASH premiered on CBS, *The Godfather* was the top-grossing movie, and bell-bottom pants and platform shoes were fashionable. That was also the year the Huntingdon County Arts Council was born.

Our story began with a meeting on June 27, 1972, at the home of attorney Mr. Warren Yocum and his wife. The 11 people in attendance discussed the general state of the arts in Huntingdon County and formed a working group to plan an arts council. Members of the group felt that

the new organization should be non-profit and include the entire county within its scope. The group quickly produced a constitution and a set of by-laws that were adopted at a subsequent meeting on October 18. At a third meeting on November 6, plans were made for a public meeting to announce and formalize the new organization.

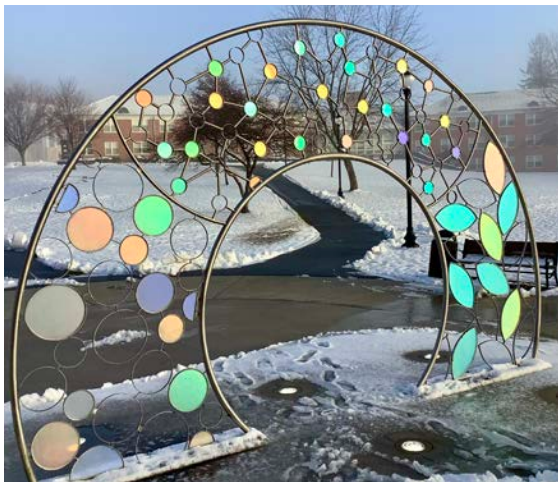


The Arts Council is responsible for the installation of 9 pieces of public art, including the Arch & Pillars by Dave Berger on Penn Street across from the library.

Later that month a *Daily News* article described the plan for a new arts council. The article explained that the purpose of the council was to support existing arts groups, stimulate interest in the arts, and expand artistic and cultural opportunities throughout the county.

The first public meeting of the Arts Council was held at the Huntingdon Area Middle School on May 29, 1973. On that day, members

continued on Page 4



New Public Art Installed

Huntingdon County's latest public art was unveiled recently on the grounds of Juniata College. The *Peace Arch* is a construction of steel and colored glass that creates shifting shadows and patches of color on the ground, depending on the position of the sun

continued on Page 8

Call for Entries Exhibit in March

For the seventh time, The Huntingdon County Arts Council will hold a Call for Entries show. This show will run from March 11 to 27 at The Playhouse at McConnellstown, and the theme will be Equinox. All artists are invited to participate.

March 20, 2022 is the date of the Vernal (or Spring) Equinox. Vernal means "new" or "fresh" and equinox means "equal." This is the day when the direct rays of the sun fall on the equator and day and night are nearly identical in length. Astronomers consider the Vernal Equinox to be the first day of spring. For people around the world, this day represents renewal, new life, and joy. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow captured this spirit when he wrote, "The spring came suddenly, bursting upon the world as a child bursts into a room, with a laugh and a shout and hands full of flowers."

continued on Page 8



Egg Workshop
Page 3



Aboriginal Art
Page 5



Artist Spotlight
Page 6

PLUS

- Executive Director
Page 2
- New Board Members
Page 2
- Spring Thaw Returns
Page 3
- Folk College Coming
Page 3
- Bug to Spider
Page 4
- Arts Calendar
Page 7
- Dance Name Change
Page 7
- Claire Holzner Poetry
Page 8

The *ArtsPaper* is a publication of The Huntingdon County Arts Council. We are funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, local government contributions and *your* membership.

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



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Dear Member:

Despite the difficulties of programing in the Covid-19 era, your Huntingdon County Arts Council was able to offer a variety of events & activities during 2021—and we are gearing up for an even bigger year in 2022.

We held five art exhibitions during the previous year: our annual show of school children's art & writing (Spring Thaw), prints from the Art Council's Permanent Collection, multi-media works from the talented Dietz family, paintings by the late Kay Sullivan Crotsley, and photographs from our Camera Club. We also held three events: a virtual version of Folk College, and a return to "live" events for both Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering and our Fiber ArtsFest. We had a booth at Mayfest, managed the local art at the county fair, offered a creative writing workshop, and participated in monthly Art Walks throughout the year. In addition, our annual Holiday Shoppe was open in November and December to meet your need for arts-related gifts.

This coming year we are planning to both continue and expand our range of offerings. Our first art exhibit (a Call for Entries show) is just around the corner (in March, see page 1) and Folk College is coming up in May (see page 3). We also will offer several musical con-

certs this year, a number of new workshops, and more activities for children. To provide a higher level of service to the public, we expect to move out of The Playhouse at McConnells-town and into a new space later this year. We will notify you as more details become available.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for announcements about upcoming events and activities. Our overarching goals, as always, are to promote the arts and to be your go-to place for information about cultural activities in Huntingdon County.

As always, thank you for your continued support of the arts and I look forward to seeing you at an arts event in the near future.

John Kearns
Executive Director



Event Updates

New Board Members

The Arts Council welcomed three new board members at our December, 2021 annual meeting. Board members serve two-year terms and have multiple committee assignments during this time. We sincerely thank the following individuals for their service to the arts.

Greg Anderson

Greg Anderson originally hails from Port Allegany in northern Pennsylvania. After attending Juniata College, he discovered a true passion for people while serving in campus ministry at Penn State University and Messiah College.



He and his wife Jessie envisioned creating a community gathering space—a vision that eventually took shape as a coffee shop and café in Huntingdon. With a desire for quality and a community focus, they launched the Standing Stone Coffee Company in 2008. Their establishment is a popular meeting place for Huntingdon County residents, features work from local artists on its walls, often hosts live music, and is a regular Art Walk venue.

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Kari Roslund

Recently relocated to Huntingdon County, artist Kari Roslund has been producing award-winning art for over



28 years. Trained as a fine artist, Kari transitioned to working primarily in fiber several years ago after discovering the versatility of wool as a creative medium. Her work ranges from impressionistic style landscapes and tapestries

to sculpted expressionism. In describing her work, Kari states, "As I introduce the viewer to a tactilely enticing juxtaposition of various textures, I invite them to examine subtle yet delicate details found only when we stop and ponder."

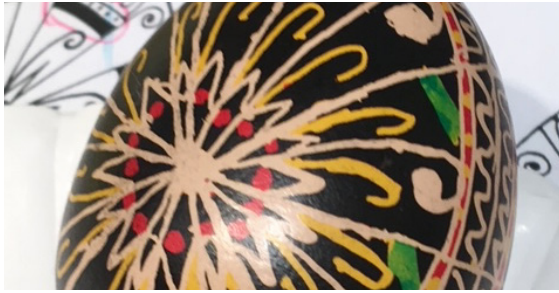
Teri Smith

Teri is a geologist who came to art via a hobby. Gemcutting, or lapidary work, came naturally from collecting rocks and gems while working on hydrogeology jobs and travelling. Two classes in lapidary arts at the University of Pittsburgh in the early 1980's led to teaching those classes in the nineties and a lifelong love of cutting unusual rocks and minerals, with which Huntingdon abounds.

In partial retirement she taught herself wire wrapping and occasionally teaches those unorthodox methods to others. Occasional dabbling in other art forms has proved

continued on Page 3

Event Updates



Pysanky Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop April 4

Arts Council Board member Ginny Mutti will once again lead a workshop on Pysanky Ukrainian Egg Decorating. The workshop will be held on Monday, April 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. at The Playhouse at McConnellstown, 11680 Raystown Road (Rte 26), Huntingdon.

All materials will be supplied. Class size for the workshop is limited to 15, and you must be 16 years or older. Cost is \$15 for current Arts Council members, \$20 for non-members.

To sign up for the workshop, go to the Arts Council's website Events tab and go to the Workshop section.

Spring Thaw

Spring is just around the corner, and soon it will be time for our annual Spring Thaw exhibit. As in previous years, Spring Thaw will feature artistic creations from our talented Huntingdon County school students. The show will run from April 8 to May 1 at The Playhouse at McConnellstown.

Entries typically include paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, poetry, and prose. This is a juried show, and awards will be given in various categories within age groups.

Entries will be accepted at The Playhouse on Monday and Tuesday, April 4 and 5, between 2 and 6 p.m. There

New Board Members continued from page 2

gratifying. After several years of juggling outdoor shows and substitute teaching, she is now renewing an ancient interest in traveling and collecting more cuttable rocks. She hopes to help the Arts Council grow into its new post-pandemic best self. As she said, "Thanks to the Board for welcoming me and doing such a great job supporting local artists' efforts!"



is an entry fee of \$1 per entry, and entries are limited to one per category per person.

Complete details and rules for entering are on our website: www.huntingdoncountyarts.com.

Pablo Picasso once said, "It took me four years to paint like Raphael, but a lifetime to paint like a child." It's true that children's art has a freshness and vitality that is hard for adult artists to recapture. We can't wait to see what remarkable creations our local children have come up with this year.

Folk College Coming Up

Our annual music camp, Folk College, will be held on May 27-29. After being online for the last two years, we are looking forward to hearing live music again!

Our featured artist this year will be John McCutcheon—a world-famous folk singer, songwriter, storyteller, and multi-instrumentalist. A master of the hammered dulcimer, McCutcheon also performs on guitar, banjo, autoharp, and fiddle. Since the 1970s, he has recorded 40 albums and toured extensively in North America as well as Australia and Chile.

Also performing will be two-time Grammy Award winners Cathy Fink and Marcy Marxer. Acclaimed for their superb harmonies and instrumental virtuosity, Cathy and March have performed in concert halls in numerous countries, including Japan, New Zealand, South Africa, Israel, China, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Canada.

Stay tuned for more details on how to participate in Folk College and hear these great performers in concert, or check out the website at www.folkcollege.com.



The arts are alive in all weather: Ice sculpture by Claire Holzner



P.O. Box 216
Huntingdon, PA
16652

814-643-6220

info@huntingdon-countyarts.com

www.huntingdon-countyarts.com

[www.facebook.com/HuntingdonCountyArts Council](https://www.facebook.com/HuntingdonCountyArtsCouncil)



The Huntingdon County Arts Council is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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.

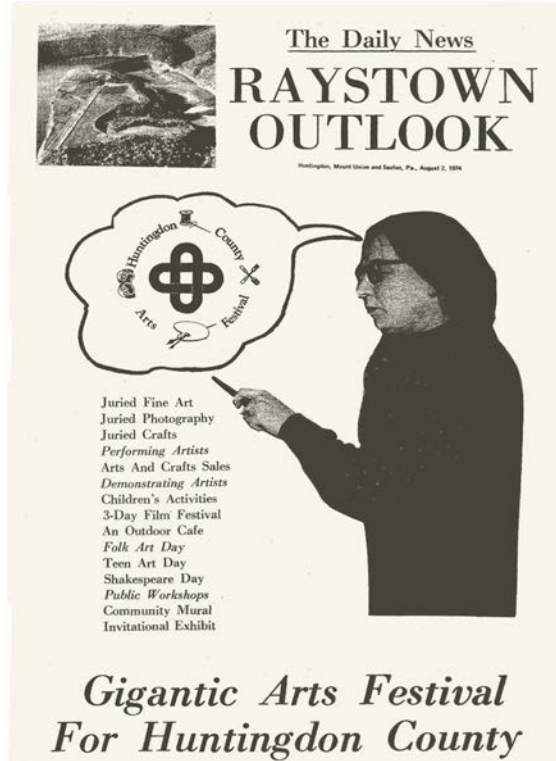


Celebrating 50 Years of the Arts Council

continued from page 1

unanimously adopted the organizing committee's proposed bylaws and elected their first officers, with David Kunz serving as president, Bernard Taylor serving as vice-president, Gerald Bange serving as treasurer, and Alice Heine serving as secretary. An additional seven people constituted the Board of Directors.

The new Arts Council soon produced an arts calendar and a newsletter, and by the end of the year, 123 dues-paying members were signed up. In 1974 a variety of arts-related activities were underway, including the first arts festival, and in 1975, the Arts Council hired its first executive director, Harriet Moyer, who was succeeded one year later by George Mark.



A newspaper ad for the Arts Council's first arts festival in 1974



David Kunz, first Arts Council President, 1973 & Harriet Moyer, first Arts Council Executive Director, 1975



decade. In December 2014, John Kearns took over as the Arts Council's 9th executive director. He was preceded by Ilona Ballreich, who had served as the executive director since 2000.

Due to complications resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, the Arts Council relocated to temporary accommodations at The Playhouse in McConnellstown in 2020. Despite the challenges of operating during a public health crisis, the Arts Council continued to be active. As you read this article, steps are being taken to move into a new home in 2022 and substantially expand our range of services.

Although Huntingdon County has changed in many ways during the last 50 years, the Arts Council has been a constant presence, working hard to enrich our community with a range of cultural and artistic experiences. We could not have persisted for five decades without the public's support, and we trust that you will work with us during the coming years to make Huntingdon County a more vibrant, interesting, and rewarding place to live.

Bug to Spider: An Early History Story

Jack Troy, well-known Huntingdon ceramic artist and poet, was active in the Arts Council during its formative years. He remembers an early, unique event at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds (not the annual fair) in which members of the Arts Council, along with a group of enthusiastic children, transformed a donated Volkswagen Beetle into a giant spider. This was accomplished by covering the car with wet clay and straw. Legs were fashioned from bamboo, with more clay serving as the joints and old shoes providing a suitable foothold for the creature.

This is how Jack described the day.

The event was completely spontaneous, as I recall, though there may have been an announcement beforehand. The instructions were: "This is clay, and here's a VW Bug. Let's cover the car with the clay and make it into a spider." A few parents were appalled and wouldn't let their children "get messy," which of course no one did, though the vehicle took on a new identity.

We used about 700 pounds of clay, most of which I recycled. We used a bale of straw to texture the clay-covered "bug" and the children took over, making eyebrows over the lights (eyes) and bumps where they thought they should go. People rinsed off in buckets of water, and any borders between work and fun had disappeared in the first few minutes.

Children love to smear stuff, and there must have been in them a sense of getting away with something completely forbidden outside the context of an art project. Children don't know that they are waiting to take on an event like that one until the time comes along and they step up, already knowing what to do.

It was a one-day project, and may have been on display the following day, but then it just sat there drying out for a week or so until the clay fell off and Chris Fisher towed the repurposed vehicle away to await its first rainstorm, at which time all evidence of our fun was washed away.

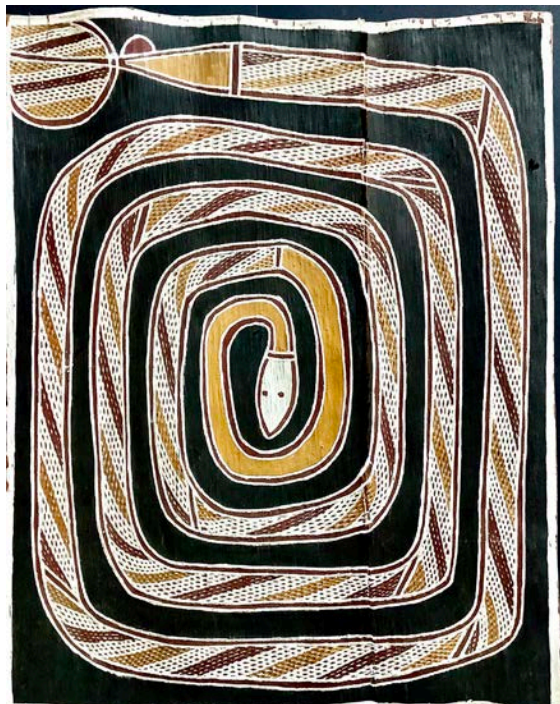
As Jack said after telling the story: "There was a lot of creativity back then!" Jack, we think there still is—50 years worth and counting!

Australian Aboriginal Art

The indigenous people of Australia have produced the world's oldest continuous tradition of art, with some rock paintings being dated to over 17,000 years. The Aboriginal people migrated to Australia between 60,000 and 80,000 years ago, and indirect evidence suggests that they were producing art for most of this time.

Aboriginal artists of the past used natural ochers and charcoal to create images on rocks, tree bark, and wooden objects. Many of these early images were of animals and other features of the natural landscape, such as waterholes and streams. Mythical creatures from the Dreamtime—the ancient period when the world was created—also appeared frequently.

Some contemporary Aboriginal artists continue to paint on bark using natural pigments as their ancestors did. But most now use modern acrylic paints and canvas or high-quality paper to create their works. Some have adopted western styles of landscape painting (often using watercolor), while others continue to work in traditional forms, albeit with an expanded range of colors.



Dhatangu, The Great Rainbow Serpent

Understanding their meaning is useful for a better appreciation of the artist's intentions.

In *Magic Ladies Dreaming* (acrylic on canvas) by Janie Kaapa, the three circles represent waterholes, and the wavy lines connecting them represent watercourses. Waterholes often served as campsites, and the U-shapes represent people sitting on the ground. (Remember that the viewer is looking down on the scene.) The nearby objects represent tools for gathering plants—an indication that all the people depicted in this scene are women. The colored areas represent different types of terrain and vegetation. Presumably, the women are resting at the campsite after a day of gathering food and are waiting for the men to return from a hunting expedition. If the hunt is successful, there will be a big feast in the evening with much singing and dancing!

The Northern Arnhem Land style often portrays animals and Dreamtime entities, such as the Great Rainbow Serpent and Mimi spirits—wispy human-like entities that taught the first people how to obtain food, control fire, and create art. Animals are sometimes painted in an x-ray style with their internal organs revealed. Cross-hatching is another frequent feature of these paintings.



Ross Yulijirri, Barramundi and Mimi Spirits

Ross Yulijirri's energetic painting (acrylic on paper) features a barramundi—a river fish common in Northern Australia—along with two Mimi spirits, a goanna (a type of lizard), a didgeridoo (a musical instrument), a stone axe, four shields, and various water plants. Note the cross-hatching and the inclusion of the fish's digestive tract—distinctive features of this style.

Dhatangu's dramatic bark painting features the Great Rainbow Serpent. In this creation myth from the Dreamtime era, the Serpent spins rapidly in a pool of water, and the resulting energy will form many features of the natural world, including people. Unfortunately, bark paintings do not wear well over time: The bark tends to crack and the paint flakes off. This one (which is over 40 years old) is no exception and shows signs of serious wear and tear. But despite some damage, the power of the image is striking.

Aboriginal artists have attracted the interest of collectors around the world in recent decades, and their paintings often sell for a great deal of money in upscale urban galleries. Travellers to the Australian outback, however, can purchase art from small galleries, or sometimes directly from the artists, for considerably less than one would spend in New York City or London for comparable items. Of course, a collector might have to carry a bark painting on his lap for two days on a bumpy bus ride, as I did. But a little discomfort only heightens one's enjoyment of hard-won art in future years.

Paul Amato



Janie Kaapa, Magic Ladies Dreaming

ArtistSpotlight

Kari Roslund, Fiber Artist

When we hear the word “artist,” we often think of people who work with paint and canvas. But this definition omits many artists who work with other media, such as clay, textiles, or glass. Kari Roslund is an example of an accomplished artist who works primarily with dyed wool.

Kari grew up Woolrich, Pennsylvania, a clothing company town that gave her an early appreciation of wool products and natural fibers. It wasn't until she had her own small flock of sheep, however, that she discovered that wool can be a versatile artistic medium.



Kari Roslund in her New York studio

Kari received a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in studio art in 1998, along with a certification in teaching, from Lycoming College in Williamsport. After graduating, she worked for two years as an elementary school art teacher. Her interests at that time were mainly in sketching and painting with watercolor and acrylic.

She moved with her husband to Wellsboro in 2001, where they operated a 5-acre hobby farm. During this time, she taught art in local schools as a guest artist, held painting sessions at senior centers and nursing homes, and gave private lessons.

One day her daughter came home from a sleepover and cried because a family friend was sending two lambs to auction. Kari and her husband decided to adopt the two lambs. “After all,” she thought, “How hard could it be to raise sheep? Let's try!” But farm animals have a natural tendency to increase, and before long, they had 22 sheep to care for. The farmers in her area were helpful, she said. “They showed us how to shear and how to keep them healthy.”

It was during this time that Kari learned to work with wool, including washing dyeing, spinning, and felting. As she said, “From shearing the animals to hand-dyeing the wool, I learned firsthand the process required to transform raw fleece into one-of-a-kind, hand-felted art.”

Her growing interest in textiles led her to incorporate other natural fibers into her work, including Alpaca, Angora, Llama, and silk. As she said, “I enjoy the process of layering a variety of materials such as wool, silk, wire, wood, and paper to capture a place or moment.” The use of different materials in her work creates a rich pattern of textures that viewers can ponder and enjoy.



Kari Roslund, Daffodils

In 2015 the family moved from Wellsboro to Butler, where she joined the Fiberarts Guild in Pittsburgh. At this point she began to work full-time as an artist with a focus on textiles. In 2018 she moved with her family to New York State, where she joined the Textile Study Group of New York City.

In 2020 and 2021 she was awarded funding from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts for three projects. One project allowed her to spend much of the year creating sculptural pieces in collaboration with her husband, James, who enjoys woodworking. Kari had dabbled in paper sculpting in the past, so this was a renewed interest for her.

James's new job as chief engineer with the East Broad Top Railroad brought them to Saltillo, Pennsylvania, in 2021. Kari's main goal at the moment is to become established in her new location. She taught a class at the Fiber ArtsFest at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds last September. And she recently joined the Art Council's Board of Directors—a great start, from our perspective!

continued on Page 7



Kari Roslund with large wool landscape

February 2022–April 2022

When	What	Where	Details
Wednesday, February 16 to Saturday, April 9	<i>"New Media": Digital Art Works</i>	Juniata College Museum of Art	Digital works created in the early years of the genre
Thursday, February 17	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various location in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Friday, February 18	Juniata Presents <i>Chloe Arnold's Syncopated Ladies LIVE</i>	Rosenberger Auditorium Juniata College	7:30 p.m. Tickets at JuniataPresents.com or at the door
Sunday, February 20	Diving the Dam, Winter Lecture	Historical Society Exhibit Gallery	2 p.m., by Raystown Divers
Thursday, February 24	Camera Club Meeting	TBD	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, March 9 to Saturday, April 16	<i>TBD: Behind the Scenes of an Exhibition</i>	Juniata College Museum of Art	Discover process of developing a theme, choosing objects, research & writing, and more!
Friday, March 11 to Sunday, March 27	Call for Entries Exhibit: Equinox Theme	The Playhouse at McConnellstown	Open reception March 11, 6 to 8; open Thursday thru Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, March 17	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various location in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Thursday, March 24	Camera Club Meeting	The Playhouse at McConnellstown	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 27	Indian Eve, Winter Lecture	Historical Society Exhibit Gallery	2 p.m., by Sellers Family
Saturday, April 2	Juniata Presents <i>Niyaz: The Fourth Light Project Featuring Azam Ali</i>	Rosenberger Auditorium Juniata College	7:30 p.m. Tickets at JuniataPresents.com or at the door
Monday, April 4	Pysanky Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop	The Playhouse at McConnellstown	6 to 8 p.m. Register online (see page 3)
Friday, April 8 to Sunday, May 1	Spring Thaw Youth Art & Writing Exhibition	The Playhouse at McConnellstown	Open reception April 8, 6 to 8; open Thursday thru Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, April 21	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various location in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Thursday, April 21 to Thursday, May 5	<i>Art Student Capstone Show</i>	Juniata College Museum of Art	Studio Art program seniors present their body of work
Wednesday, April 27	A Celebration of Huntingdon County History	Muddy Run Tavern 708 Washington St, Huntingdon	5:30 p.m., live music & local history
Thursday, April 28	Camera Club Meeting	The Playhouse at McConnellstown	Open to all, 7 p.m.

Bold = Huntingdon County Arts Council activity

Kari Roslund, Fiber Artist

continued from page 6

Kari also is planning to teach a year-long, online course in collaboration with the Pittsburgh Botanical Garden and the Society for Contemporary Craft in Pittsburgh. Each session of this once-a-month course will focus on a different flower.

Many of Kari's works represent mountains, forests, water, cliffs, skies, roads, bridges, and other landscape features. She also enjoys creating images of poppies, water lilies, irises, and other flowers. Kari makes many of her own dyes from flowers, tree leaves, mushrooms, onion skins, and other natural sources. In fact, some of her artworks have been inspired by a particularly striking color that emerges from the dyeing process.

Kari's creations have been exhibited in multiple galleries, art centers, and other venues in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York, including four solo shows during the last three years.

For further information on Kari Roslund, including how to purchase her work, visit her website at kariroslund.com.

Shall We Dance?

The Huntingdon Dance Academy will have its 10th anniversary this year. The Academy was established in 2012, and the affiliated Huntingdon Dance Company followed in 2014. Over the past decade, the company's reach has grown beyond Huntingdon to include Blair, Centre, and Mifflin Counties. To reflect this growing regional presence, and to emphasize its focus on classical ballet, the company is changing its name to the *Huntingdon Regional Ballet*. As part of this rebranding, members are working with the Juniata College Integrated Media class to create new promotional materials, a more informative and functional website, and a stronger social media presence. Dancers and audiences alike are looking forward to having live performances in our area again.



PO Box 216
Huntingdon, PA 16652
814-643-6220

info@huntingdoncountyarts.com
www.huntingdoncountyarts.com

March Call for Entries Exhibit Equinox Theme at The Playhouse at McConnellstown



Address Service Requested

New Public Art Installed

continued from page 1
and the viewer.

The sculpture was created by Nicole Beck and was commissioned by College President Emeritus Thomas Kepple and his wife Pat. It was created to honor John Dale and his late wife Irene (Miller) Dale. Strong supporters of Juniata College, the Dales made many important contributions to the campus. A special committee of faculty and students chose the design from a pool of 52 proposals submitted for the project.

Nicole Beck is a Chicago-based artist with a variety of public art installations to her credit. Many of her creations, like the present one, were inspired by the dynamic systems found in nature and science. Nicole's sculptures often rely on special dichroic glass to create unusual and beautiful color effects.

The Peace Arch is located near Kepple Hall on the north end of campus. An official dedication is scheduled on campus for April, 2022.

Call for Entries Exhibit in March

continued from page 1

All types of media are accepted, including 2-D and 3-D artwork, poetry, and prose. All artwork should be based on, inspired by, or related to the Equinox theme. References to springtime, renewal, joy, warmth, and balance are welcome. All 2-D art should be framed and ready for hanging. Entries will be accepted at The Playhouse on Monday, March 7, and Tuesday, March 8, from 2 to 6 p.m., or by appointment.

Previous Call for Entries shows included *Luminosity* in 2019 (inspired by a quote from Galileo Galilei), *Along the Juniata* in 2018, *Latitude, Longitude: Celebrating the 250 years of Huntingdon Borough* in 2017, *Explore, Reclaim, and Conserve: Huntingdon County* in 2016, *Contours* in 2015 (about bicycles and bicycling), and *The Raven* in 2014 (based on the poem by Edgar Allen Poe). Call for entry shows are popular with the public and provide an opportunity for all local artists to show their work.

A WINTER WOODS WALK

Tree skeletons stand
leafless in patchy snow.
My attention lands on things
my mother, dead three years, saw.
She walks the trail with me,
saying, "The only greens now
are hemlocks, moss, and ferns."
Thoreau, dead 160 years, joins us.
Blue jays call like those
he heard in Concord.
He murmurs,
"Here, I dispose of
the superfluous
and see things as they are,
grand and beautiful."
Color and birds' calls
hidden in the still forest
rejuvenate voices of the past.

Claire Holzner