

# ArtsPaper

Fall 2022

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

## The Art Shoppe Expands for the Holidays Opens November 9

With the holiday season close at hand, The Art Shoppe at the Arts Center is expanding into “The Holiday Shoppe.” Starting on November 9 and running through December 28, we will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to longer hours, we will have an expanded range of items for sale. These offerings will spill over from the current room to fill the entire exhibit space in the mezzanine level in the Arts Center.

The Holiday Shoppe sells handmade art and craft items designed and created by Huntingdon County artists (or people with close ties to our county). Shop-

pers will find jewelry, pottery, paintings, art prints, small sculptures, quilts, knitted items, woodcarvings, stained glass, music CDs, and other items—all at reasonable prices.

Instead of buying gifts online or from big chain stores that sell products made overseas, consider doing some of your holiday shopping with us. Your purchases not only support local artists and craftspeople, but also help the Arts Council. And it's good to know that your money stays right here in Huntingdon County.

Don't forget that Arts Council members receive discounts on all purchases.

So drop in soon and have a look. The Holiday Shoppe is located in the **Huntingdon County Arts Center** at 313 12th Street in Huntingdon.

## HOLIDAY SHOPPE



A small sample of items available at our expanded Holiday Shoppe. The Shoppe opens November 9.

## Capital Campaign Update

When we decided to purchase the Methodist Church on 12th Street and turn it into an Arts Center, we knew that we wouldn't be able to do it without the support of many people in our community. We initiated a Capital Campaign to help with funding, and thanks to the generosity of many local individuals and families, our long-term dream of having a viable Arts Center is taking shape.

As of the end of August, we have raised over \$136,000—enough not only to purchase the building, but also to take the first steps in transforming it into a valuable community resource.

Our first major task is to make the Arts Center compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. The purpose of the act was to ensure that no discrimination occurs on the basis of disability in public accommodations and commercial facilities. Although this act was passed over three decades ago, many older buildings are not compliant, often because of the high cost of renovations. Despite the expense, we want to make

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## Concerts Bring New Music

Our goal in initiating a concert series was to bring new music to Huntingdon County—music that is rarely performed in our area due to the lack of suitable venues. Our early efforts have been successful, and the new Arts Center is proving to be an excellent venue for musical events. Five concerts have taken place in the Arts Center since mid-summer, and all involved memorable performances.

Our July concert featured *The Curtin Chamber Ensemble*, a unique family of talented classical musicians. John and Hyun Ju Curtin performed on piano, while older son Brian played the violin and younger son Benjamin focused on guitar and bass guitar. The eclectic show included pieces ranging



Brian and Hyun Ju Curtin perform a Beethoven Sonata

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

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**Layout & Design**  
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John Thompson

# Executive Director

## Dear Member:

It has been seven months and counting since we purchased the 12th Street Methodist Church and converted it into the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**. While we have accomplished a lot in such a short amount of time, we aren't done yet.

In that seven months, we have had some fine classes, outstanding concerts, and great exhibits as we work to fulfill our vision for expanding art opportunities in Huntingdon County.

In the meantime, we haven't forgotten some of our traditional projects, like Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering and Fiber ArtsFest. Both festivals went nicely this year and were a positive experience for those involved.

We are super excited about the expanded Holiday Shoppe, which starts on Wednesday, November 9. We hope you will stop in, shop, and support local artists and the Arts Council.

In this issue, you will find a recap of the vast array of recent activities and some of our plans for the year ahead. It is truly exciting to time to be your Executive Director.

As noted in the article below, we are changing our

## Memberships to Change

In previous years, our memberships began on April 1 and expired on March 31 of the following year. Because many people felt that the timing was difficult to remember, we have decided to switch to a calendar year system. This means that starting in 2023, all memberships will begin on January 1 and expire on December 31. These new starting and ending dates are more intuitive and should be easier for everyone to follow.

We also are modestly increasing our membership rates, although current members who renew their memberships can continue at the older rate for another year. Renewing members also will receive a 20% discount voucher that can be used at The Art Shoppe or The Holiday Shoppe (located in the **Arts Center**) and redeemed at any time.

What are the benefits of renewing your membership?

- Discounts on Arts Council concerts
- Discounts at The Art Shoppe and The Holiday Shoppe
- Discounts on Juniata Presents events
- A quarterly 12-page newsletter that keeps you informed about the arts
- Weekly emails (if you like) about upcoming arts-related events in our area
- Pride in supporting the arts and enriching the quality of life in Huntingdon County

We hope that you will continue to support the Arts Council in its efforts to bring art and culture to our community. We encourage you to renew your membership now, either on-line or with the membership forms that were recently mailed to you. And if you are not a member, this is a great time to join!

membership based on the calendar year. We hope it is easier to understand when your membership is due to be renewed.

Thank you for being part of the arts community—whether as a participant (at an exhibit, a concert, or a class), a member, and/or a contributor to our Capital Campaign.

Thank you also for all your encouraging words and help in letting the Huntingdon County community know about the new **Huntingdon County Arts Center**. I look forward to seeing you at an event soon!



John Kearns  
Executive Director

## A Tax-Friendly Way to Donate

Another way to help the Arts Council is to donate stock. When a stock increases in value after it is purchased, you must pay capital gains taxes when the stock is redeemed. But if you have held the stock for at least one year and donate it to a nonprofit organization, you can claim a tax deduction and *avoid paying the capital gains taxes*. Not having to pay capital gains taxes means that you can donate the full value of the stock—more than if you had sold the stock, paid the capital gains, and donated the remaining amount.

To donate stock you can contact us directly or go to the "Get Involved" page on our website and click on the "Donate Stock" button. The website will lead you through the process, and you will get a confirmation as soon as the transaction is processed. Should you decide to give again next year, your information is saved. This is an easy way to help us while also easing your tax burden.

Keep in mind that if a stock has lost value and you want to get rid of it, a better option is to sell the stock and donate the proceeds so you can take the tax loss. Either way, donating stocks is a great way to help nonprofits like the Arts Council while not cutting into your cash assets.



Our Halloween parade float celebrating our 50th year

# Council Notes

## Capital Campaign Update continued from page 1

sure that every member of our community has access to all parts of the **Arts Center**, including the bathrooms.

The next major goal will be to replace the roof. The current roof is over 25 years old, and it's only a matter of time before it starts to show serious signs of aging. The last thing we want is for rainwater to drip onto our current exhibits or onto the heads of our performing musicians!

Both of these goals will be expensive, and for this reason, we will need to continue our Capital Campaign into the foreseeable future. We sincerely thank everyone who has made a donation so far, and we will continue

## Capital Campaign Contributors

Thank you to the following people who donated to our Capital Campaign as of press time. We continue to welcome your donations to our campaign to make capital improvements to the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**.

### \$10,000 and Above

Anonymous  
Sarah & Don Braxton  
Tom & Pat Kepple  
Larry & Ginny Mutti  
Maria Pettinger  
John & Angie Thompson  
Jack Troy

### \$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous  
Community State Bank

### \$2,500 - \$4,999

### \$1,500 - \$2,499

Emmy Gooch  
James & Lorraine Hamilton  
Ed & Judy Hoffman

### \$500 - \$1,499

James & Diane Dixon  
Robert Hatala, in memory of Roddy Hatala  
Claire Holzner  
Janis Jones  
Stewart & Cheryl Kurtz  
Greg Larson  
Mary Ann Lemke  
Lawrence & Rebecca Newton  
Wilfred & Lona Norris  
Wayne Osgood  
Jim Savory  
Richard & Margaret Sprott  
Pam Thompson  
James & Carol Wenner  
Gary, Jada & Kennedy Williams  
Robert & Mary Zimmerer

to list the names of new benefactors in each issue of the newsletter. To make a donation, visit our website at [huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://huntingdoncountyarts.com) and look for the Capital Campaign legend at the top of the screen. Thank you for your help!

Did you know that people in the United States donate about \$20 billion every year to organizations that deal with Arts, Culture, and Humanities? Moreover, this amount has been increasing in recent years. These donations make it possible for adults and children to visit museums, hear musical concerts, see dance and theatrical performances, and enjoy a richer quality of life. Without public support for the arts, the world would be a less colorful, vibrant, and interesting place.

### Any Gift Up to \$499

Ken & Sharon Aldrich  
Chris Balonis  
Dianne Bowser  
Eileen & Cal Butchkoski  
Elizabeth Cherry  
Bill & Pat Croissant  
Barbara Davis  
Jim & Susan Dilling  
Hedda Durnbaugh  
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Kathryn Westcott & Mark McKellop  
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*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.*





# Recent Events

The arts in Huntingdon County are thriving again, and the Arts Council is busier than ever. Just take a look at the events we organized during the last three months!

## Valleys & Vistas: Fiber Landscapes Exhibit



Kari Roslund's exhibit at the **Huntingdon County Arts Center** featured 18 gorgeous works of art made from wool and other dyed natural fibers. The show included many landscapes inspired by places she has lived in or visited. Kari has exhibited her work widely in several states, and we are grateful that she allowed us to showcase her impressive artistry here in Huntingdon.

The show ran from August 19 to October 1.

## Picture This Exhibit

Huntingdon Camera Club members displayed their recent work at a show titled *Picture This*. The exhibit featured photographs from seven club members: Rebecca Berdar, Larry Cloz, Hugh Kepple, Ginny Mutti, Larry Mutti, Susan Simpson, and Debbie Summers. The Camera Club meets once a month at the **Arts Center** to share and discuss their work, and its members range from novices with phone cameras to published photographers with sophisticated cameras.

The show ran from October 7 to November 2.



Susan Wentzel views photos by Camera Club member Debbie Summers

## Huntingdon County Fair



Paxton Graybill, *Acrylic Painting, Huntingdon County Fair*

The Art Station at the Huntingdon County Fair is an annual treat. We received a large number of submissions this year, including paintings, drawing, sculpture, photography, woven art, jewelry, computer art, and found or recycled art. Prizes were awarded within age groups, with artist James Farrah serving as the judge. The Art Station attracts many fair visitors every year, and it is an important way for us to stay in touch with local residents who don't usually attend Arts Council events.

The Fair was held August 7 to 13.

## Fiber ArtsFest

This annual event, which took place on September 25 and 26, featured classes on a variety of topics, such as quilting, dyeing, weaving, rug hooking, needle felting, and decorative knot tying. A total of 45 people registered for one or more classes. The second day featured a vendor's fair, with eight commercial vendors and two nonprofit vendors in attendance, as well as



Janet Dunlap in front of a quilt at the Redbud Quilt Guild booth at the Fiber ArtsFest Marketplace



Grace Fala performs at Fiber ArtsFest

demonstrations, live music, and food from the 4-H Club. The Farm Museum, with an extensive collection of old farm and household items, also was open for people to enjoy. The sunny weather helped to make the day especially pleasant for being outside.

## Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering

The annual gathering went forward without a hitch on September 16-18. As in previous years, the event offered variety of courses on all aspects of folk music, along with public concerts, dances, and opportunities to participate in jam sessions. A total of 55 people registered for the full weekend event. In addition to the music, participants were able to enjoy the beautiful mountain setting of historic Greenwood Furnace State Park.



Saul Broudy was awarded the 2022 Pennsylvania Heritage Musician award

## Classes and Workshops

Workshops and classes are up and running. In September, Brian Ford taught a two-session class on landscape drawing techniques, and Prudence Ingerman initiated a six-week creative writing class. In October, Prudence Ingerman began a six-week course on basic guitar methods to accompany singing, and J. Harlan Ritchey led a *Fall Foliage in Watercolor* workshop. Other courses and workshops are being planned, so keep an eye on the Arts Calendar on our website for further information. If you are an artist and would like to teach one, let us know!



Harlan Ritchey instructing his watercolor class

## Art Walk Huntingdon

Art Walk continues during the third Thursday of each month. In August, Council Board member Rob Boryk and two students from Juniata College introduced people to raku, a Japanese style of pottery characterized by the removal of a piece from the kiln at its peak temperature, followed by rapid cooling. They set up a portable kiln and provided pieces for people to glaze and take home at the end of the night. In September, people learned how to weave and decorate dream catchers. Native American legend states that good dreams pass through the center of the dream catcher to the sleeping person, while bad dreams become entangled



Sam Cloz at the October Art Walk Huntingdon

www.huntingdoncountyarts.com

# Event Updates

## Local Artists in the News

Arts Council members Jack Troy and Carolanne Currier were this year's judges for the 40th annual Strictly Functional Pottery National Exhibition—one of the country's most prestigious ceramic art events. They reviewed 739 digital entries submitted by 282 artists and accepted 132 pieces. The exhibit ran from September 17 to November 5 at the Lancaster Museum of Art in Lancaster, PA.

Jack Troy is also a visiting artist in ceramics and poetry at Messiah College, in Mechanicsburg, PA this fall. An exhibition of his pottery opened at the Messiah College Museum of Art on Friday, October 28 and will continue through November 29. The show, titled *Now and Then*, features retrospective pieces from the 1960s up to his more current work.

This is Jack's 60th year as a potter, and we thank him for the many important contributions he has made over the years to our local arts community and his support of the Huntingdon County Arts Council.



The Arts Calendar tab on our website hosts a rotating list of local arts events, with detailed information on each

## The Arts Calendar is Online

Have a look at our new online Arts Calendar by going to [huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://huntingdoncountyarts.com) and clicking on the "Arts Calendar" tab. Here you will find a listing of many arts-related events and activities.

The calendar includes information on all Arts Council events, including exhibitions, concerts, workshops, classes, and Art Walks. You also will find events sponsored by other organization, such as Juniata Presents, the Huntingdon Regional Ballet, and The Playhouse at McConnellstown.

Each entry includes an image, the time and date, tickets prices (if relevant), and other useful information. Arts Council events also include tabs for purchasing tickets.

You may be pleasantly surprised by how much is going on in our area. Check the Arts Calendar regularly so you won't have to kick yourself later for missing an event of interest.

www.huntingdoncountyarts.com

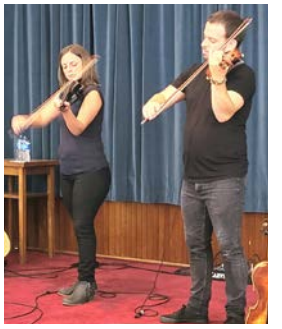
## Concerts Bring New Music

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from Schubert and Beethoven to The Who and Freddie Mercury, and their dazzling finale earned a standing ovation from the audience.

*Revamped with Mark and Sally Minnich*, a husband and wife team of violinists, performed in August. They performed a mixture of classical, folk, and pop tunes, while occasionally demonstrating difficult acrobatic stunts (such as switching instruments in mid-song without skipping a beat) that were surprising and impressive. The audience responded to their energetic efforts with a standing ovation.

*Matt and Shannon Heaton*, a husband and wife duo of folk musicians, also appeared in August. Their show featured traditional and updated Irish music performed on flute, guitar, and bouzaki. Shannon's sweet voice and lyrical flute playing were graceful and soothing, while Matt's solid guitar playing and vocal accompaniments rounded out the rich sound of this talented team.



Revamped with Mark and Sally Minnich



Ragtime Concert with Brian Holland and Danny Coots

could hardly stop herself from jumping out of her seat and dancing! This group definitely will be coming back next year for another performance.

Anne Sullivan brought her impressive harp artistry to the **Arts Center** in October. She performed pieces from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and Modern era, along with several folk songs arranged for harp. Audience members had a small taste of paradise during her enchanted, ethereal performance.

The success of these shows has encouraged us to book new performers and continue to fill our **Arts Center** with outstanding music. If you haven't been to one of our concerts yet, we hope that you will join the many people who already have discovered that Huntingdon is a place where great music can be heard in a convenient location for a reasonable price. See the accompanying article in this newsletter for information on upcoming concerts.



Anne Sullivan at the Arts Center in October.

## Recent Events

continued from page 4

in the web and perish in the dawn light. And in October, people celebrated the season and embraced their artistic spirits by painting pumpkins in any way they liked. Participants took the pumpkins home afterward, of course! We thank Council Board member Susan Wentzel and Bárbara Sánchez for helping to organize these monthly activities.



# Upcoming Events

## Concerts at the Huntingdon County Arts Center

### Cantus on Saturday, November 12 at 1 p.m.

One of the nation's few full-time vocal ensembles, the ensemble Cantus is widely known for its trademark warmth, innovative programming, and riveting performances of music ranging from the Renaissance to the 21st century. Working without a conductor, the members of Cantus rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing to the entirety of the artistic process.



The vocal ensemble Cantus will give a free mini-concert on Saturday, November 12.

Cantus pursues a vigorous schedule of national and international touring. In addition to home concerts in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Cantus has performed at the Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, and at universities and music festivals across the United States. The ensemble is heard frequently on classical public radio stations nationwide and on Sirius XM Satellite Radio.

Cantus is the recipient of three prestigious Chorus America awards, including the 2016 Dale Warland Singers Commission Award, the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence, and the Education Outreach Award. Cantus was also Artist in Residence on Minnesota Public Radio and on American Public Media's Performance Today.

Join us for this free, 45-minute concert.

### Simple Gifts on Sunday, November 13 at 2 p.m.

Two women plus twelve instruments equals one good time when Simple Gifts takes the stage. This award-winning duo performs on an impressive array of instruments, including violin, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, recorder, banjo, guitar, bowed psaltery, baritone fiddle, shruti box, banjolin, guitjo, and doumbek.



Linda Littleton & Karen Hirshon perform as Simple Gifts and will give a concert on Sunday, November 13.

Simple Gifts' concerts feature a variety of musical styles: lively Irish jigs, down-home American reels, hard-driving Klezmer freilachs, haunting Gypsy melodies, and exotic Balkan dance tunes. Throughout their performances, they put their own distinctive stamp on traditional tunes, blending

styles from diverse cultures with their American roots.

Linda Littleton founded the group, and she and Karen Hirshon have performed as Simple Gifts since 1995. They have performed throughout the mid-Atlantic region, including appearances at the Smithsonian, Brooklyn Museum of Art, National Governors' Convention, Longwood Gardens, National Theater, Whitaker Center, Hershey Theatre, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Ontario Center for Performing Arts, and dozens of colleges and universities throughout the region. Simple Gifts has a special relationship with the Huntingdon County Arts Council,

partnering to run both Folk College and Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering music festivals.

Simple Gifts has recorded six albums. Their newest, *Crossing Borders: Music of Many Lands*, received a national award from Indie Acoustic. Their previous album, *Time and Again*, won a bronze star (third place) in the Crossroads Music Awards. Their recordings include traditional music from Romania, Hungary, Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Ireland, Scotland, France, Sweden, Denmark, and America, plus original compositions by each group member.

Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 Arts Council members and students (with ID). Children 12 and under are free. Juniata College students also are free for this special concert.

### Holiday Variety Show on December 4 at 2 p.m.

When winter starts to arrive, most people think of cold winds, grey skies, and plenty of snow and ice. But winter also brings to mind warm fireplaces, comfortable sweaters, and stunning mountains covered in white. And of course, it's the season when a number of popular holidays are celebrated, including Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and New Year's Eve and Day.

To help everyone get in a festive mood this year, we will be offering a free holiday variety show at The Arts Center on December 4 at 2 p.m. The event will feature a mix of local performers and art forms, all with winter holiday themes.

The show will begin with members of the Huntingdon Regional Ballet performing selected dances from the Nutcracker Ballet—a perennial holiday favorite. Also on the bill will be poetry reading, local musicians, and two Huntingdon Area High School choirs, *Belles and Beaus* and *Camarata*.

In addition, people attending the show will have an opportunity to view the diverse art and craft offerings from our Holiday Shoppe, now located on the mezzanine level of The Arts Center. Refreshments will be available too.

If you haven't been to the new Arts Center yet, this will be a good opportunity to check it out. Tickets are not required. So come to the Holiday Show and be entertained, meet up with friends and neighbors, and perhaps do a little holiday shopping while you are there.

### Andrew Greene on Sunday, January 22 at 2 p.m.

Andrew Greene is one of the leading authorities on orchestral ragtime and silent film accompaniment in

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Our concert series is underwritten by a generous grant from



# Upcoming Events

## Winter Class & Workshop Schedule

We are excited to offer a number of classes and a workshop in the upcoming months. Class sizes are limited, so don't delay registering: Click on the Tickets & Shop tab on our website, [www.huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://www.huntingdoncountyarts.com).



### Basic Cell Phone Photography Workshop

Larry Closz, coordinator of the Huntingdon Camera Club, will teach a workshop on how to get the most out of your cell phone camera. The workshop will cover basic cell phone setup, photo features, and photo composition. Bring your cell phone for hands-on instruction.

The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, from 7 to 9 p.m. Seating is limited to 10 students and costs \$20 for members and \$25 for nonmembers. For questions, contact Larry Closz at [lclosz@yahoo.com](mailto:lclosz@yahoo.com).

### Basic Wire Wrapping Class

Teri Smith, of Barron Hill, will teach a two-session class on basic wire wrapping techniques to use on gemstones, pebbles, or beach shells. The class will make pendants, although the same techniques can be applied to earrings.

Students will receive a kit that includes bronze and copper wires, findings to finish pendants, inexpensive neck cord, and metal and stone beads for enhancements, plus stones, shells, and beads sufficient for each participant to make two or three pendants.

Tools will be available for use, and students are welcome to bring their own favorite stones or shells.

The first session will be on Thursday, February 2, and the second session will be on Thursday, February 9. Both classes will run from 6 to 8 p.m. The class is limited to 8 students and costs \$75 for members and \$80 for nonmembers.



### Support Our Silent Auction

Our annual Silent Auction benefiting the Arts Council will open on Wednesday, November 16 and close at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 14 at the Annual Meeting of the Huntingdon County Arts Council (see next column).

Thanks to the generosity of artists, individuals, and businesses, we are already receiving items and will soon have a full set of items available for you to bid on. Stay tuned for more details.

### Taste of Folk College

Taste of Folk College will be held this year on Saturday, January 7 at the Huntingdon County Arts Center. It will run from 5 to 9 p.m., but people are welcome to drop in anytime. The cost is free.

This is an annual one-day event that provides a preview of the larger Folk College weekend in May. It serves as a reunion for people who regularly attend Folk College and provides an opportunity for people who haven't attended before to find out what it's all about.

The evening will include opportunities to jam, an open mike, and a concert from the folk band, Simple Gifts. So bring an instrument, if you like, or just come and listen.

## Arts Center 2023 Exhibits

January 6 - 28  
History Through the Lens of Blair Shore

February 3 - March 4  
Old Crow Wetlands Through the Seasons

March 10 - April 1  
Spring Thaw

## Upcoming Exhibits

In January the Arts Center will feature an exhibit of Blair Shore's photography. Blair Shore was a photographer with the Huntingdon Daily News for over three decades, beginning in the late 1940s. His photographs provide an intriguing historical record of newsworthy happenings, people, and buildings in our area. A large number of Blair Shore's early negatives are being developed and printed especially for this unique exhibit. The exhibit will open on Friday, January 6 and go through Saturday, January 28.

Our next exhibit, *Old Crow Wetlands Through the Seasons*, will feature paintings, photography, and poetry. Old Crow, located in Smithfield Township, is a popular spot for observing birds and native plants. And like other wetlands, Old Crow plays an important role in improving water quality, storing floodwaters, and providing habitat for wildlife. The exhibit will open on Friday, February 3 and go through Saturday, March 4.

We are moving Spring Thaw, our annual exhibition of youth art & writing, to March. This is usually one of our most popular shows. Spring Thaw will open on Friday, March 10 and go through Saturday, April 1.

## Annual General Meeting

The Art's Council's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 14 at 7 p.m. in the Huntingdon County Arts Center. Our executive director and treasurer will give brief presentations about Arts Council activities during the previous year, our current plans, and our future directions. Refreshments will be served as well. This is an opportunity to meet board members and mingle with other Arts Council members. So drop in and find out a little more about what is happening in the arts in Huntingdon County.

## Service Project Knitting Group

The second gathering of a knitting group interested in making service projects, such as chemo-caps and red scarves, is planned for Thursday, November 17 at 3:30 p.m. at the Arts Center.

Learn something new, share what you are working on, and help to make the world a better place.



## The Hudson River School The First American School of Art

The American wilderness was a popular subject for landscape painters in the 1800s. These artists often portrayed the terrain as vast, lush, unspoiled, and strikingly beautiful. As the American frontier was pushed westward by waves of settlers and development, these paintings provided a record of a world that was gradually being subdued and irrevocably changed.

Many of these artists were members of the *Hudson River School*. This artistic tradition had its origins in the Catskill region, which lies along the Hudson River north of New York City. Although many early American painters were trained in Europe, most wished to establish their independence from European art traditions. Their focus on the unique American countryside provided a way to achieve this goal, and together they created the first uniquely American school of art.

Thomas Cole (1801-1848) was the founder of the Hudson River School. He immigrated to the United States from England as an adolescent and lived for a while in Ohio and Pennsylvania before moving to Catskill, New York. From there he hiked deep into the forest and painted directly from nature. *Autumn in the Catskills* (1827), which shows a small human figure surrounded by verdant forests and towering mountains, was typical of his work. As Cole's paintings became popular, other artists began to imitate his naturalistic style.



Thomas Cole, *Autumn in the Catskills*, 1827

After Cole's untimely death, a second generation of landscape artists became prominent, including Frederic Edwin Church (1826-1900). Church, a pupil of Cole's, became well known for his panoramic portrayals of mountains, waterfalls, and sunsets—often with dramatic lighting. In addition to his American work, Church traveled widely and painted in South America, Europe, and the Middle East. By the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Church had become one of the most successful and wealthy painters in America.

Albert Bierstadt (1830-1902), who moved from Germany to the United States as a child, was another prominent member of the Hudson River School. After painting in the Hudson Valley and elsewhere in New England, he traveled west and created large paintings of the Rocky Mountains, the Yellowstone River area, and Yosemite Valley. His dramatic landscapes (such as his painting of Cathedral Rocks) helped to



Frederic Edwin Church, *Scene on the Catskill Creek*, 1847

generate public support for establishing the first National Parks in the United States. Bierstadt also was popular in Europe, where people were fascinated with his images of the pristine, untamed, and sometimes intimidating American wilderness.

Another notable landscape artist from this era was the African American painter, Robert Seldon Duncanson (1821-1872). Duncanson was born to freed slave parents in Fayette, New York, and settled as an adult in Cincinnati, Ohio. Although he had no formal training as an artist, he taught himself to paint by copying the works of Thomas Cole and Frederic Edwin Church. After honing his skills in the studio, he set out to see the American west where he learned to work directly from nature.

One of Duncanson's most famous paintings, *Land of the Lotus Eaters* (1861) was inspired by the Alfred Tennyson poem, which, in turn, was based on a story from Homer's *The Odyssey*. In the poem, islanders give intoxicating lotus flowers to sailors who find themselves drugged and unable to return home. Duncanson's painting changed the setting to the Americas and portrayed indigenous people giving lotus plants to white sailors. When Duncanson visited England, he brought the painting with him and showed it to Tennyson at his home. Proclaimed for a time as America's "greatest landscape painters," Duncanson became the first African American artist to achieve international recognition and popularity.

Although there were few professional women paint-



Albert Bierstadt, *Cathedral Rocks, Yosemite Valley*, 1872



Robert Duncanson, *Land of the Lotus Eaters*, 1861

ers in the United States in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several female artists made important contributions to the Hudson River School. Susie M. Barstow (1836-1923) was an outdoor enthusiast who hiked and climbed mountains throughout New York and elsewhere. She often sketched and painted during these excursions, and she even designed her own unconventional (for a woman) hiking costume, complete with sturdy boots and trousers, to facilitate her explorations. Although women had few opportunities to show their work in those days, Barstow's paintings were exhibited at a number of prestigious venues, including the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. She also taught for several years at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences.



Susie M. Barstow, *Mountain View with Breaking Sun*, 1870

Although realistic in style, the Hudson River School painters idealized the American wilderness to the point of mystical or religious awe. Many were influenced by Romanticism, which was an artistic and literary movement that valued strong emotions, dramatic subject matter, and a deep appreciation of nature. Their works also reflected the philosophy of Transcendentalism, as articulated by writers like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Transcendentalists believed that immersion in the natural world could lead to spiritual experiences and greater self-insight.

One can read different meanings into any school of art. Some critics say that the Hudson River School artists, by focusing the public's interest on the American frontier, helped to popularize the doctrine of "manifest destiny" and paved the way for westward expansion and the eventual destruction of the very wilderness they sought to praise. It's also true, however, that these artists preserved in glorious images what much of America looked like before it was desecrated with highways, billboards, strip malls, gas stations, and fast food outlets. These great works of art remind us how much of the American wilderness has been lost and how important it is to protect our remaining natural areas from further despoilment.



Thomas Moran, *The Juniata, Evening*, 1864

## Thomas Moran Painted in Huntingdon County

The Hudson River School artists traveled widely throughout the United States to capture images of the wild, unspoiled countryside. One member of this group, Thomas Moran (1837-1926), visited our area briefly. Born in England and raised in Philadelphia, Moran is well known for his paintings of the American west, especially the Rocky Mountains and the area that became Yellowstone National Park.

In the summer of 1864, while the Civil War was still in progress, Moran boarded a train in Philadelphia with several other artists and traveled west, up the Juniata Valley, to Johnstown. While in Huntingdon County, he sketched images of local places of interest, including Jacks Narrows, Mill Creek, the railroad tunnel at Spruce Creek, and the sandstone cliffs near Mapleton, Huntingdon, and Warriors Ridge.

Moran's painting, *The Juniata, Evening*, was completed in that year. The painting shows the Juniata River winding through the mountains, with tiny sheep grazing in the foreground and a small figure walking along a path toward a cluster of houses by the river. In the left bottom corner is an artist sitting before an easel, presumably Moran, working on the very same painting! George F. Tyler, a Philadelphia businessman, originally commissioned the work. The painting was held privately until 2010, when the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. acquired it.

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# ArtistSpotlight

## From Geology to Jewelry: Teri Smith Makes Wearable Art

Have you ever picked up an intriguing rock while you were walking along a hiking trail or beach? Perhaps you thought it would make a lovely piece of jewelry, but you probably threw it away because you didn't know what to do with it. Teresa (Teri) Smith often finds intriguing rocks while she is walking, but she knows how to turn her discoveries into valuable gemstones and jewelry.

Teri was born and raised in Huntingdon. As a child, she often picked up rocks and brought them to her grandmother. This early fascination with rocks eventually led her to the University of Pittsburgh, where she majored in geology. After graduation, Teri worked as a geologist specializing in hydrogeology (the study of groundwater), doing jobs that took her from Pennsylvania to Florida.



Teri Smith at work

iron industry that makes beautiful jewelry when cut and polished), chert, and sedimentary rocks with fossils. Beaches and abandoned quarries also are places where she finds useful rocks.

Quartz crystals are her favorite because “they are easy to recognize, quite hard, and brilliant in either their natural form or when cut. They also come in a variety of colors, from clear to pale yellow to brown, and with gas and liquid inclusions that create optical effects like rainbow colors.”

After finding a suitable stone, the next step is cutting. As Teri explained, if you want to cut stones, “you will make a lot of mud and dust and get dirty.” Teri begins by using a horizontally mounted grinding wheel to form the basic shape. She then uses four grades of sandpaper (from coarse to fine) to put a sheen on the stone. The final step



Tiger eye bracelet (copper), Hawn's Peninsula ring (copper), and Potomac River driftwood

requires a polishing wheel to make the stone shine.

The process can be laborious, although this varies with the hardness of the stone. A hard stone can take hours to grind to a common pendant size. Soft stones (like limestone) take less time to grind, but they are more difficult to polish because the grinding process produces scratches that need to be removed. Teri likes to cut shapes that are “not too symmetrical.” She refers to this as Baroque cutting, because it produces irregular shapes rather than uniform squares or rectangles.

When the stone is finished, the next step involves wire wrapping—a skill that Teri taught herself. This requires the use of a miniature diamond drill bit to make small holes in the stone to hold the wire. Teri uses a “minimalist” style of wrapping that does not distract from the beauty of the stone. She prefers to use silver sterling wire for this purpose because of its versatility, although she sometimes works with gold-filled wire too.

Teri started selling her jewelry about 20 years ago. She began by showing her creations at open-air shows in central Pennsylvania, but setting up and taking down booths proved to be too time consuming. These days she prefers to sell her work in galleries and art stores, including the Art Shoppe at the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**. Teri also has a booth every year at the Huntingdon County Fair. She wishes that the fair offered more exhibits from local artists and craftspeople. As she said, “Artists should be supporting the County Fair, and the County Fair should be supporting artists.”

With respect to teaching, Teri regularly offers a course on wire wrapping at Fiber Artsfest, which is organized by the Arts Council every fall. She also plans to teach workshops on wire wrapping at the **Arts Center** in the coming year. A future class on gem cutting also is possible, although this will depend on acquiring the appropriate machines.

Many people prefer to purchase jewelry from big chain stores, as Teri noted, because they like the predictable, standardized look. But hand-made jewelry involves unique, one-of-a-kind adornments that generally are more interesting. Check out some of Teri's beautiful and distinctive creations the next time you are in the Art Shoppe.



Bog iron ore jewelry with a bronze bead enhancement



A simple bronze wire wrap with bronze beads

# ArtsCalendar

November 2022–February 2023

The Huntingdon County Arts Council is the hub for local arts and cultural activities. Check here to see what's coming up. Have an art activity? Send details and we will put it on our website arts calendar. Send to [info@huntingdoncountyarts.com](mailto:info@huntingdoncountyarts.com).

**Bold** = Huntingdon County Arts Council activity

When	What	Where	Details
Through Wednesday, November 23	Mathemalchemy Exhibit	Juniata College Museum of Art	Explores the beauty of mathematics
Through Friday, December 9	The East Broad Top Railroad: Celebrating 150 Years	Juniata College Museum of Art	Celebrates the start of construction of the EBT
Wednesday, November 9 to Wednesday, December 28	<b>Holiday Shoppe</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	10 am to 8 p.m. Mon - Sat 10 am to 4 p.m. Sunday
Friday, November 11	Juniata Presents <i>Cantus</i>	Suzanne von Liebig Black Box Theatre, Halbritter Center Juniata College	7:30 p.m. Tickets at <a href="http://JuniataPresents.com">JuniataPresents.com</a> or at the door
Saturday, November 12	<b>Cantus Mini Concert</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	1 p.m., free, see page 6
Sunday, November 13	<b>Simple Gifts Concert</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	2 p.m., see page 6
Thursday, November 17	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Thursday, November 17	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 17	Juniata College Jazz Band Concert	Juniata College Alumni Hall	7:30 p.m.
Sunday, November 20	Juniata College Wind Symphony Concert	Juniata College Rosenberger Auditorium	3:00 p.m.
Sunday, December 4	<b>Holiday Concert</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	2 p.m., free, see page 6
Tuesday, December 6	Fair is Foul, and Foul is Fair (Shakespeare's Macbeth)	Juniata College Suzanne von Liebig Theatre	7:30 p.m., free
Wednesday, December 7 & Thursday, December 8	Star Wars Stories	Juniata College Suzanne von Liebig Theatre	7:30 p.m., free
Tuesday, December 13	Mount Union Area High School Holiday Concert	High School Auditorium	6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, December 14	Southern Huntingdon County High School Band Concert	High School Auditorium	7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 14	<b>Arts Council Annual Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all members, 7 p.m.
Thursday, December 15	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Friday, December 16 & Saturday, December 17	<i>The Nutcracker</i> , Huntingdon Dance Academy	Rosenberger Auditorium, Juniata College	6:30 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Sat <a href="http://www.huntingdondance.com">www.huntingdondance.com</a>
Wednesday, December 21	Huntingdon Area High School Holiday Concert	High School Auditorium	7 p.m.
Wednesday, December 21	Southern Huntingdon County High School Choral Concert	High School Auditorium	7 p.m.
Friday, January 6 to Saturday, January 28	<b>History Through the Lens of Blair Shore Exhibit</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Reception January 6, 6 to 8 p.m., exhibit Wednesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, January 7	<b>Taste of Folk College</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	2 p.m., see page 7
Tuesday, January 17	<b>Basic Cell Phone Photography Workshop</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	7 p.m., see page 7
Sunday, January 22	<b>Andrew Greene Concert</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	2 p.m., see page 6
Thursday, January 26	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Thursday, February 2 & 9	<b>Basic Wire Wrapping Class</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	6 p.m., see page 7 & 10
Friday, February 3 to Saturday, March 4	<b>Old Crow Wetlands Through the Seasons Exhibit</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Reception February 3, 6 to 8 p.m., exhibit Wednesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.





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## SHOP THE HOLIDAY SHOPPE

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## Concerts at the Huntingdon County Arts Center

continued from page 6

the United States. He is the founder, conductor, and director of the Peacherine Ragtime Society Orchestra (PRSO), which the Washington Post hailed as “the premier American Ragtime ensemble.” Mr. Greene founded the orchestra while a freshman at the University of Maryland, College Park, hoping to draw attention to this neglected but historically important music.



*Andrew Greene will give a concert on Sunday, January 22 at 2 p.m.*

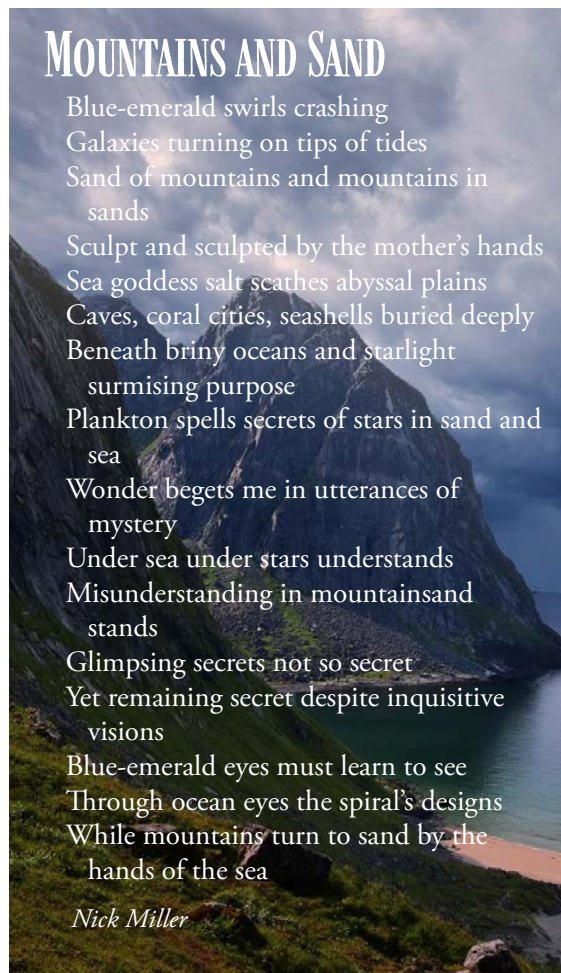
He is the curator of several music collections, along with his own personal collection of orchestrated ragtime, jazz, piano solos, and records. The combined collection totals over 15,000 selections of music from 1862 to 1950, including ragtime, theatre selections, dance music, and silent film scores.

In addition to his work with the PRSO, Mr. Greene maintains an active career as a concert pianist. He has appeared at prestigious venues such as the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Institution, The American Film Institute, and the Library of Congress. He frequently lectures and performs with his orchestra and in solo piano concerts across the United States. Most recently, he

has performed at the West Coast Ragtime Festival and the The Scott Joplin Ragtime Festival. Mr. Greene also has appeared as guest conductor for several symphony and chamber orchestras.

Mr. Greene currently resides in Rockhill Furnace, PA, home of the historic East Broad Top Railroad, where he serves as the Director of the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival.

Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 Arts Council members and students (with ID). Children 12 and under are free.



## MOUNTAINS AND SAND

Blue-emerald swirls crashing  
Galaxies turning on tips of tides  
Sand of mountains and mountains in  
sands  
Sculpt and sculpted by the mother's hands  
Sea goddess salt scathes abyssal plains  
Caves, coral cities, seashells buried deeply  
Beneath briny oceans and starlight  
surmising purpose  
Plankton spells secrets of stars in sand and  
sea  
Wonder begets me in utterances of  
mystery  
Under sea under stars understands  
Misunderstanding in mountainsand  
stands  
Glimpsing secrets not so secret  
Yet remaining secret despite inquisitive  
visions  
Blue-emerald eyes must learn to see  
Through ocean eyes the spiral's designs  
While mountains turn to sand by the  
hands of the sea

*Nick Miller*