

# ArtsPaper

Winter 2023

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

## Concerts Entertain and Inspire

### Announcing Our 2023 Season

When we purchased the Methodist church and transformed it into the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**, one of our main goals

was to use it as a concert venue. Staging concerts is a new activity for the Arts Council, however, and we weren't sure what to expect. Would the new building have suitable acoustics? Would we be able to book high-quality acts? Would people show up? And would the people who show up be pleased? Some trepidation on our part was understandable.

Our early concerns, however, are gradually being laid to rest. The **Arts Center** is proving to be a comfortable concert venue with great acoustics, and we have enticed many outstanding artists



*Callanish will help us celebrate St. Patrick's Day with an Irish music concert on Wednesday, March 15 at 7 p.m.*

into performing here. Moreover, based on the feedback we have received, our concerts have been successful in entertaining and inspiring our audiences. Since the last newsletter in November, we have held four musical shows that received rave reviews from audience members. (See page 4 in this newsletter for a recap.)

We currently are booking acts for the coming year, with the goal of covering a range of musical styles that will appeal to the diverse tastes and interests of people in our area.

These concerts will include folk, jazz, ragtime, Dixieland, and classical

music. We hope there is something on this list that appeals to you. Have a look at page 7 for details on what's coming up in the near future.

## The Art Cat Jazz Club Opens at the Arts Center

Our spring fundraiser this year will occur in a new music venue in Huntingdon: The Art Cat Jazz Club. The Art Cat is the former dining room on the lower level of the Art Center, newly decorated to serve as a place to enjoy live music, have a glass of wine, and kick back.

The Club will be open on Saturday, March 25, between 7 and 10 p.m. Club goers will enjoy listening to Jordan Canner's group, *No Filter Jazz*, who will be performing jazz standards throughout the evening.

Tickets are on sale for \$25 per person and can be purchased online, at the **Arts Center** during exhibition hours, or for \$35 at the door. Admission will include non-alcoholic beverages, coffee, and tea. Delicious snacks from Standing Stone Coffee also are included. (Note that this will be an after-dinner event, so don't expect a full meal.) Three Twelve Kitchen & Cocktails will be selling spirits and wine by the glass, and door prizes will be awarded to several lucky people.

To enter the Art Cat Jazz Club, walk down the steps  
*continued on Page 5*



*A variety of art forms at the February exhibit illustrate the Old Crow Wetland through the seasons*

## Old Crow Wetland Exhibit

An exhibit focused on the Old Crow Wetland is currently showing at the **Arts Center**. The exhibit features paintings, photography, and poetry, all dedicated to the wetland.

Old Crow, located near the intersection of Routes 22  
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Memberships and contributions help us fulfill our mission to provide opportunities to experience the arts.

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Editor & Writer**  
Paul Amato

**Layout & Design**  
John Kearns



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John Thompson

# Executive Director

## Dear Member:

One thing you can say about the Huntingdon County Arts Council is that this past year we have really blossomed. That is a strange thing to say for an organization that had just celebrated its 50th anniversary. But since we purchased the 12th Street Methodist Church last April, our programming has exploded. And we are so pleased that it has met with a very receptive audience.

From our ticketed concerts, classes and workshops, kids' summer art camp, a year-round Art Shoppe, and the huge Holiday Shoppe, the **Arts Center** has allowed us to do so much more. It was always in our vision, but now we have the space AND the wonderful artists, board members, and volunteers that have made this all possible.

In this newsletter, you see that we are continuing that level of activities with all we have planned in the first part of 2023, and we won't stop here. Our mission is to provide arts and cultural opportunities in Huntingdon County, and we plan to give you lots of those opportunities during this whole year.

Our Grand Opening was a big hit last year, so we

are creating a similar event on Saturday, May 13—our *Annual Celebration of the Arts*. Mark your calendars. Details to follow.

Thank you for renewing and/or joining the Arts Council and for the new Capital Campaign donations we have received. Your support, through donations, attendance at our events, and purchases at our Art Shoppe are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, again, for your enthusiasm and your encouraging words about the new **Huntingdon County Arts Center**. See you at an event soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Kearns".

John Kearns  
Executive Director



## Council Notes

### Annual General Meeting

The Arts Council held its Annual General Meeting on December 14, 2022. The meeting began with Executive Director John Kearns testing the audience's knowledge of local arts events during the previous year. Arts Council member Claire Holzner achieved the highest score and won a \$25 gift certificate.

The business part of the meeting involved introducing new board members, re-electing board members to new two-year terms, and nominating officers for 2023.

John Kearns presented a Volunteer of the Year award to incoming Board member, Susan Simpson. Thank you, Susan, for all of your hard work during the last year!

Paul Amato (treasurer) made a report on the Arts Council's finances, which are looking good. Our largest sources of revenue during the previous year were programs (like Folk College), memberships, and donations, whereas our biggest expense involved program delivery. And John Kearns reviewed the major achievements of the past year and pointed to new directions in the coming year. He also thanked the three board members who are stepping down at the end of 2022.

After the business meeting was concluded, people stayed for refreshments and conversation. The Annual General Meeting is a great way for members to meet the Board, ask questions, and stay up to date on Arts Council activities.

New Board Members: Susan Simpson and Sean Wood.

Board Members Re-Elected to a new two-year term:

Paul Amato, Renee Berger, Larry Closz, Larry Mutti, Barbara Sanchez, and Susan Wentzel.

Officers for 2023: Susan Wentzel (President), Teri Smith (Vice President), Susan Simpson (Secretary), Sean Wood (Treasurer), and Larry Mutti (Past President).

Retiring Board Members: Rob Boryk, Judy Hoffman, and Ginny Mutti.

### New Board Members

The Arts Council saw the election of two new board members at the Annual General Meeting in December 2022. Board members serve for two years and have multiple committee assignments during their terms. We sincerely thank these individuals for their service.

#### Susan Simpson

Susan Simpson is a retired Adult Educator, born and raised in Huntingdon, PA. Her hobbies are gardening, bird watching, and nature photography. She spends a good deal of her time at the dog park with her four dogs. Susan is currently a Master Gardener Trainee through the Penn State Extension Office and a member of the Standing Stone Garden Club.

In addition to being a Board member, Susan is taking over from Judy Hoffman as the new Arts Council Secretary.



*continued on Page 3*

## New Board Members

continued from page 2

### Sean Patrick Wood

Sean started in the performing arts at the age of 9, mostly on stage and television, until he joined the Navy at 17. Three years ago, with the encouragement of his late wife Amy, Sean started to paint. Since then, he has become more active with the community and hopes to teach oil painting in the near future.



In addition to being a Board member, Sean Wood is taking over from Paul Amato as the new Arts Council Treasurer.

## 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 the many arts-related events and activities coming up in our area. 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. Check the Arts Calendar regularly so you won't have to kick yourself later for missing an event of interest.

## Capital Campaign Update

We are continuing to solicit contributions for our Capital Campaign to address necessary repairs and renovations to our new building. Thank you to the following people who donated to our Capital Campaign since that last newsletter. We continue to welcome your donations to make capital improvements to the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**.

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

Larry & Ginny Mutti

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

Norm & Cathy Wilson

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

Anonymous  
Paul Amato  
Bob & Artamarie Barclay  
Joan & Steve Engle  
Keith Sutton & Jeanne Nagurny

### Any Gift Up to \$499

James & Kathleen Barlow  
John Kearns & Kathy Tweed  
Donna Marcotte & Bill Gearhart  
Anita Randall



Spring Thaw poster design by Huntingdon High School student & graphic design intern Gracie Hobbs

## Spring Thaw Moved to March

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. This year the show has moved to March (during Arts Education month) and will begin with a reception on Friday, March 10, and continue through April 1, a month earlier than in previous years.

Entries include paintings, drawings, photography, sculpture, poetry, and prose. With the prevalence of artwork created with computers and other electronic devices, we have added a new Digital Art category for students of all ages.

Complete details and rules for entering are on our website: [www.huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://www.huntingdoncountyarts.com). This is a juried show, and awards will be given in each category within age groups.

Entries will be accepted at the **Arts Center** on Monday and Tuesday, March 6 and 7, between 2 and 6 p.m. (or by appointment). There is an entry fee of \$1 per entry, and entries are limited one per person per category.

Last year Spring Thaw was the first exhibit at our new **Arts Center**, and we could not have been more pleased by the turnout. All of the County's schools were represented, and we had a wonderful display with 224 entries and awarded 42 prizes.

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 students will come up with this year.

## Renew Your Membership

If you have been an Arts Council member in the past and have not yet renewed your membership for 2023, this is an excellent time to do it. Your 2023 membership entitles you to discounts at all Arts Council events (including our concerts), Juniata Presents events, and sales at the Art Shoppe and the Holiday Shoppe. Members also receive our quarterly newsletters as well as weekly email alerts about arts-related events in our area.

Keep in mind that memberships are one of the most important sources of income for our organization. So please renew your membership today. It's easy to do this online at [huntingdoncountryarts.com](http://huntingdoncountryarts.com). Remember too that gift memberships make great presents for friends and family members. And if you are not currently a member, please consider joining!



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[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.*



# Recent Events

Since the last newsletter in early November, the Arts Council has been busy with concerts, exhibits, workshops, and other events. Here is a quick recap on what we have been up to during the last three months.

## Concerts

Cantus, an award winning vocal ensemble heard frequently on public radio, performed on November 12. Their pitch-perfect, harmonious renditions of old and new music resulted in a standing ovation from the appreciative audience.



Simple Gifts, a multi-instrumental folk duo, performed on November 13. Their informal style and mastery of many folk genres makes them a popular act in our area. Simple Gifts also partners with the Arts Council every year to run Folk College and the Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering.

To help everyone get in the holiday mood last year, the Huntingdon County Arts Council

held a Holiday Variety Show on December 4. The show included members of the Huntingdon Regional Ballet performing dances from the Nutcracker Ballet, holiday music from Beaus and Beaus (a Huntingdon Area High School choir), poets reading original works, and performances from several local musicians. We thank the many people who contributed their talents and goodwill to make the holiday show possible.



Andrew Greene, one of the top ragtime pianists in the country, entertained our audience on January 22. In addition to being an outstanding pianist, Andrew is one of the country's leading authorities on ragtime music and serves as the Director of the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival. Andrew entertained us for nearly two hours with a program of toe-tapping songs and amusing anecdotes about the composers. The large audience was obviously pleased, judging from the hearty standing ovation they provided at the conclusion.



## Exhibits

In January the Art Center featured an exhibit titled, *History Through the Lens of Blair Shore*. Blair Shore (1926-2002) was a photographer with the *Huntingdon Daily News* (HDN) for four decades, beginning in the late 1940s. His photographs provide a fascinating historical record of newsworthy events, people, and architecture in Huntingdon County.

A large number of his early negatives were developed and printed especially for this unique exhibit. Rebecca Berdar, a staff writer for the HDN, and Sandy (Shore) Kleckner, Blair Shore's daughter, organized the show.

The exhibit opened on Friday, January 6 and ran through Saturday, January 28.

## Taste of Folk College

Taste of Folk College was held this year at the Arts Center on January 7. This annual, one-day event serves as a preview of the larger Folk College weekend coming up in May. It is a reunion for people who regularly attend Folk College and provides an opportunity for people who have never attended to find out what it's all about. This year people could choose from 14 sessions, with topics ranging from "Gospel Favorites" to "Songs of Social Justice" to "Hearing Chord Changes." The day also included a potluck, an open mic, and a short concert featuring Tim & Kim Craven and Simple Gifts. About 90 people were in attendance.

## Workshops

A workshop on Basic Cell Phone Photography was held on Tuesday, January 17. Larry Closz, coordinator of the Huntingdon Camera Club, led the workshop. The evening included topics like cell phone setup, photo features, and photo composition.

## Poetry Reading

Local poets and poetry fans had an opportunity to get together on January 21 at the Arts Center. The afternoon event attracted 22 people, including a group of students from the Juniata College Poetry Club. A total of 12 individuals presented various types of poems, many of which were original. Beverages and snacks were provided, and some time was available afterward for discussion and socializing. This enthusiastic group demanded more poetry in the future! So the next Poetry Reading will happen during National Poetry month, on Sunday, **April 16** at 2 p.m.



Students from the Juniata College Poetry Club at the Poetry Open Mic

# Event Updates

## The Playhouse Announces 2023 Season

The Playhouse at McConnellstown is swinging back into action with four new plays this coming year. The plays involve a girls' getaway weekend that turns into chaos, a zany musical that takes aim at Agatha Christie style murder mysteries, a true story about an unrecognized 19th century woman astronomer who made important contributions to science, and a heart-warming tale of how one family deals with a baby due to arrive during the Christmas season.

Check out their website, [www.littletheater.com](http://www.littletheater.com), for upcoming details. In the meantime, here is a list of performances.

*Girls' Weekend* by Karen Schaeffer, May 5-7 and May 12-13.

*Something's Afoot* by David Vos, James McDonald, and Robert Gerlach, July 21-23 and July 28-30

*Silent Sky* by Laura Gunderson, September 15-17 and September 22-24.

*The 24 Days Before Christmas* by Jason Pizzarello, November 17-19 and November 24-26.



## The Art Shoppe Is Open

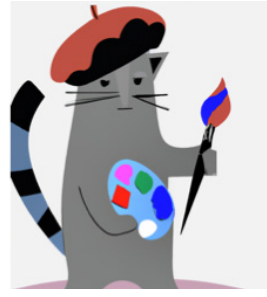
The Holiday Shoppe at the Arts Center has closed after a record-breaking season. But The Art Shoppe, our general arts and crafts store, will be open from now through November during regular exhibition hours. All goods for sale are produced by people in Huntingdon County or with strong ties to our area. So if you are looking for a gift for someone special this year, or a treat for yourself, stop in and see what we have in stock. And remember that Arts Council members receive a discount on all purchases.

[www.huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://www.huntingdoncountyarts.com)

## The Art Cat Jazz Club Opens at the Arts Center

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on Mifflin Street to the lower level of the Arts Center. When you purchase a ticket, you will receive a password that you will need to get inside.



Arthur the Art Cat, the eponymous inspiration for the club, is pictured here. In case you are wondering, Arthur paints mainly in the Impressionist manner (see elsewhere in this newsletter), with occasional forays into surrealism. His fellow artist and frequent companion, the Jazz Cat, also pictured here, will be assisting with Club activities. The Jazz Cat (also known as "Jaz") enjoys all forms of jazz



music, from Dixieland to bebop.

Mark your calendars. Only a limited number of seats are available, so purchase your tickets soon. It should be fun, and it's even rumored that Arthur the Art Cat will make a special guest appearance!

## Old Crow Wetland Exhibit continued from page 1

and 26 in Smithfield township, includes nearly eight acres of wetland and fields. It is a popular spot for observing birds, other wildlife, and native plants.

And as the exhibit demonstrates, Old Crow is also an inspiring setting for local artists.

PennDOT, with assistance from the Huntingdon County Conservation District, purchased the land and created Old Crow Wetland in 1997. PennDOT is required by law to compensate for the loss of wetlands due to new construction projects. If the construction of a road or bridge damages a wetland area, PennDOT establishes a comparable area elsewhere to maintain the total amount of wetland acreage. Thus Old Crow serves as a "bank" wetland to keep the number of acres of wetlands in the state from decreasing. It has been one of the most successful "bank" wetlands in the state in terms of habitat creation.

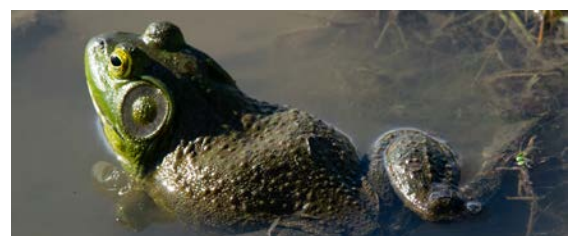
These protective measures are necessary because the amount of wetlands in Pennsylvania and across the U.S. has decreased by about half during the last 200 years, mainly due to urban development. This is problematic because wetlands play a critical role in improving water quality, storing floodwaters, mitigating climate change, and providing habitat for wildlife.

Old Crow is a nesting ground and migration stop for many birds. In fact, over 220 species of birds have been observed at Old Crow, including some on the Pennsylvania threatened and endangered species lists. The diversity of avian life draws bird watchers from across the state to see mergansers, American Bitterns, Great Egrets, Blackpoll Warblers, and other species.

Because of the obvious value of wetlands like Old Crow, many local residents are concerned about a proposal to build a gas station and convenience store with parking spaces for 25 trucks next to it. Much of this controversy has been documented in our newspaper, *The Daily News*, and some articles and letters to the editor are included in the exhibit.

An opening reception was held on Friday, February 3, and the exhibit will continue through Saturday, March 4. The exhibit is open Tuesday through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The exhibit is at the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**, 313 12th Street, Huntingdon.



*Bullfrog photograph by Susan Simpson*

# Upcoming Events

## Annual Celebration of the Arts on May 13

To celebrate the one-year anniversary of the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**, we are planning a special one-day event on Saturday, May 13. The event will feature artists demonstrating their crafts and musicians performing throughout the day. Many hands-on activities for children and adults will be available. *Admission will be free.* We are still in the planning stage and will provide more details as we get closer to the event. In the meantime, mark your calendars!

## Acoustic Music Jam Each Month

An Acoustic Music Jam takes place at the **Arts Center** on every second Thursday of the month, starting at 7 p.m. These sessions provide opportunities for people to sing and play familiar songs and learn new ones. All instruments are welcome, including guitar, keyboard, fiddle, banjo, mandolin, squeezebox, flute, harmonica, and autoharp. Musicians play in a variety of styles: old tunes, bluegrass, blues, world music—whatever strikes people's fancy. So if you enjoy playing music, come and check it out.

## Folk College Memorial Day Weekend

Our annual music event, Folk College, will be held on Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28. Featured artists this year will include Pittsburgh based folk/Americana group Buffalo Rose, country blues duo Piedmont Blüz, new old-fashioned duo Resonant Rogues, Celtic duo Rakish, Asia meets Appalachia group Appalasia, and more.

As in previous years, the event will take place at Juniata College and will be hosted by the folk duo, Simple Gifts. The public is invited to the two evening concerts on Friday and Saturday nights.

For more details on how to participate in Folk College and hear these great performers in concert, go to [www.folkcollege.com](http://www.folkcollege.com).



Country blues duo Piedmont Blüz will perform at this year's Folk College

## Class & Workshop Schedule

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

### Creative Writing

Starting on Wednesday, February 22, Prudence Ingerman will again lead a 6-week course on *Creative Writing*. Each session will feature a new technique and include an in-class exercise done by hand. No computers! Classes run from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29. Enrollment is limited to eight adults.

### Pysanky Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop

Ginny Mutti will once again lead a workshop on *Pysanky Ukrainian Egg Decorating*. There are two times the workshop is available: Monday, March 20 or Tuesday March 21 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the **Arts Center**.

All materials will be supplied. Class size for the workshop is limited to 15, and you must be 16 years or older. Cost is \$25 for current Arts Council members, \$30 for non-members.

## Arts Center 2023 Exhibits

**February 3 - March 4**  
**Old Crow Wetland**  
**Through the Seasons**

**March 10 - April 1**  
**Spring Thaw**  
**Youth Art & Writing Exhibition**

**April 14 - May 6**  
**Tasteful Art**  
**Paintings by Alexander Ramos**

**May 12 - June 3**  
**Call for Entries:**  
**Silver Linings Theme**

**June 9 - July 8**  
**Beyond Realism**  
**Paul Amato, Andrea Darby,**  
**Evgeny Krayushkin, & Rebecca Reck**

## You Are Invited: Call for Entries Exhibit in May

**F**or the eighth time, The Arts Council will hold a Call for Entries show. This show will run from May 12 to June 3 at the **Arts Center**. This year's theme will be *Silver Linings*. All artists are invited to participate.

If every cloud has a *silver lining*, then there is always hope, even when we are sad or discouraged. The arts provide a kind of silver lining, because they help us to retain a positive outlook on life even in the midst of personal difficulties. In stressful times, we need the arts more than ever!

We hope that artists will start thinking now about what they might contribute to the exhibit. 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 *Silver Linings* theme. All 2-D art should be framed and ready for hanging. Entries will be accepted at the **Arts Center** on Tuesday, May 9, and Wednesday, May 10, from 2 to 6 p.m., or by appointment.

We have had great exhibits with these shows in the past. Our previous Call for Entries shows included *Equinox* in 2022, *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 a great opportunity for all of our local artists to show their work. This will be the first Call for Entries show in the new **Arts Center**.

# Upcoming Events

## Don't Miss These Concerts

### Keyboard Fest on Sunday, February 19

This concert will feature multiple organ and piano players from Huntingdon County performing a variety of musical styles. Musicians will include Anthony Bullet, Guy Croyle, William Lamberson, Terry Murray, Loren Rhodes, and Keith Sutton.



*Tickling the black and white keys: Keyboard Fest at the Arts Center on Sunday, February 19 at 2 p.m.*

### Callanish on Wednesday, March 15

Our St. Patrick's Day concert will feature Callanish, a popular musical group that performs regularly in central Pennsylvania. Callanish plays Irish and Scottish music in the traditional style, with plenty of lively jigs, airs, and reels. The group uses a variety of instruments in their shows, including flute, concertina, fiddle, viola, guitar, bouzouki, and banjo. Since forming in 2010, Callanish has recorded four CDs of traditional music. Members include Patty Lambert, Betsy Gamble, Louisa Smith, and Holly Foy.

The evening concert starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for Arts Council members and students with ID. Children 12 and under are free.

### The JANO Duo on Sunday, April 23

This classical music duo consists of Naomi Seidman on flute and Jonathan Dexter on cello. Formed in State College over a decade ago, they have performed at numerous venues, both in our area and across the country. This spring they are headed to Bangkok to play at the 2023 Thailand Flute Festival.

Naomi Seidman has won numerous musical awards and has performed as a soloist with multiple orchestras. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara, a Master of Music degree from Yale University, and a doctoral degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Naomi joined the Penn State faculty in 2012 and is currently an Associate Professor of Flute.



*JANO Duo Naomi Seidman & Jonathan Dexter will perform at the Arts Center on Sunday, April 23 at 2 p.m.*

Tickets are \$12 general admission and \$10 for Arts Council members and students with ID. Children 12 and under are free.



*Rick Hirsch and his band will bring jazz to the Arts Center on Saturday, June 4 at 3 p.m..*

recordings for Penn State music faculty.

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

### Rick Hirsch 5 on Sunday, June 4

Rick Hirsch is an award-winning composer, arranger, and saxophonist who began his career as a personal music copyist for Bob Mintzer and Toshiko Akiyoshi. He has written music for jazz icons Yusef Lateef, Tito Puente, and Eddie Henderson; the Capitol Quartet; and the storied Penn State Blue Band. His album *Pocono Git-Down* is available on all major streaming and download platforms.

The Rick Hirsch 5's performances are an homage to the pioneers of Soul Jazz—a form of jazz that emerged in the 1950s and 1960s with roots in bop, blues, soul, gospel, and rhythm and blues. In addition to Hirsch, the players include Ryan Kauffman (saxophone), Kevin Lowe (drums), Bob Hart (bass), and Clay Wulbrecht (piano).

Please note this concert starts at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 4. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for Arts Council members and students with ID. Children 12 and under are free.

Our concert series  
is underwritten by a  
generous grant from



## Impressionism The First Modern Art Movement

During the second half of the 19th century, as photography became more accessible and popular, painters began to move away from strict realism. With a growing sense of freedom, many artists adopted styles and techniques that allowed for greater expression of subjective feelings and personal interpretations.

Impressionism, which emerged in France, was the first modern art movement. Painters working in this style focused on the fleeting impressions produced by light and color. They often set up their easels outdoors and painted quickly, using expressive brushstrokes to capture the quality of light at different times of the day. As a result, their works often have an atmospheric, shimmering, ephemeral quality.

A key event in art history was the Impressionist exhibition in Paris in 1874, which featured works by many of these young artists. A painting at the exhibit by Claude Monet (1840-1926) of a harbor, *Impression, Sunrise*, gave the emerging style its name. Despite the fact that early critics dismissed Impressionism and even ridiculed it, the movement had a major influence on the subsequent development of modern art.



*Berthe Morisot, The Cradle, 1874*

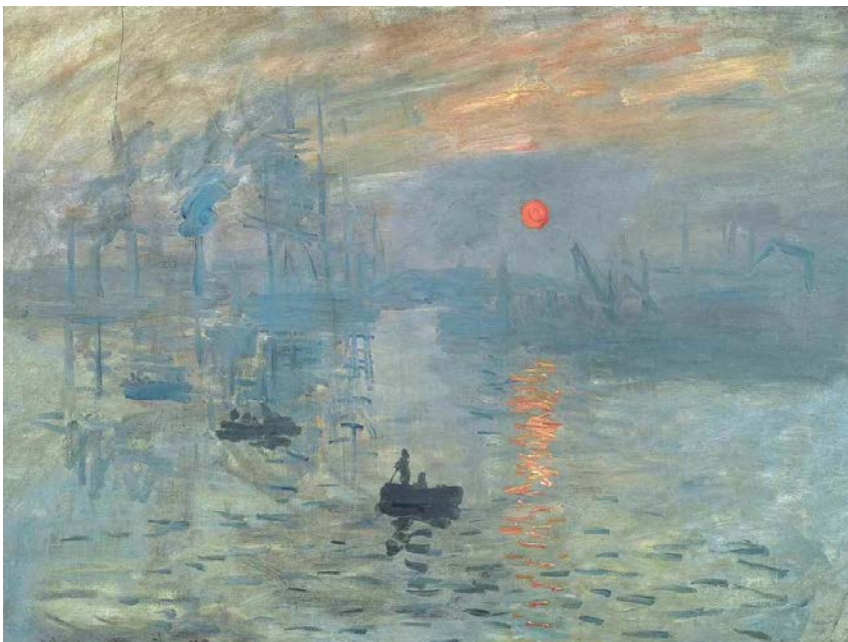
Emma with her infant daughter. The composition links the mother's face and hands, and the infant's head, in one harmonious triangle, with the curtain providing a second triangle for balance. *The Cradle* was shown at the first Impressionist exhibition in 1874 and was acquired by the Louvre in 1930.

In *The Sisters* (1869), Morisot portrays two young women with identical dresses and hairstyles sitting on a sofa. The sisters look pensive, listless, and not particularly happy. Perhaps they were thinking about the status of women at the time: tied to the home with few prospects elsewhere. This painting now resides at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Impressionism waned by the end of the 19th century, but it opened the door to more expressive, subjective, and even outlandish styles of art to follow, including pure abstraction. To this day, Impressionism remains a popular and much loved style of painting, and examples can be seen regularly in books, posters, postcards, and calendars. Anyone who has had the privilege of viewing, in person, Monet's wall-size canvases of luscious water lilies, which he painted frequently during the last two decades of his life, will understand why.



*Berthe Morisot, The Sisters, 1869*



*Claude Monet, Impression, Sunrise, 1872*

Monet was the leader of the Impressionist movement and became its best-known practitioner. A list of other famous Impressionists would include Edgar Degas, Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Édouard Manet, and Camille Pissarro. But Impressionism was not a male-only club. Berthe Morisot and Mary Cassatt were great women artists who painted in this style, although they tend to receive less attention than their male counterparts.

Berthe Morisot (1841-1895) grew up in Paris and studied art intensively from childhood. As a young woman, she worked as a copyist at the Louvre before embarking on a career as a painter. She met many of the young Impressionist painters working in Paris at the time and began exhibiting with them. She later married Édouard Manet's brother, with whom she had one child.

Morisot's best-known works focused on domestic scenes depicting family, children, and young women. Although she was only modestly successful in selling her work during her lifetime, she eventually gained a reputation among critics as one of the most talented of the Impressionists.

*The Cradle* is one of Morisot's most popular paintings. It depicts the artist's sister





Claude Monet, *Water Lilies*, 1910

### Mary Cassatt: A Great Impressionist Painter Who Spent Time In Altoona

Although most of the great impressionist painters were French, Mary Cassatt (1844-1926) was an American. Born to a wealthy family in Pittsburgh, she later studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. (She was the youngest woman ever admitted.) At that time, women were not allowed to draw from live models—a serious drawback for an aspiring artist. Her dissatisfaction with the Academy led her to move to Paris with her mother as chaperone in 1866, where she studied with several prominent art teachers.

She returned to the United States in 1870 and lived for a time in Altoona with her brother, a railroad president. While living in Altoona, she sketched frequently on the hillsides in the northwest part of the city. She was unsuccessful in selling her work, however, and found it difficult to obtain art supplies there. She sailed again to France in 1871, where she lived for the rest of her life.



Mary Cassatt, *Young Women Picking Fruit*, 1891

Cassatt became good friends with Degas, who invited her to exhibit her work with the other Impressionists. Through these exhibitions, she gained increasing recognition as a talented painter. She became financially successful as her work began to sell, not only in Europe, but also in the United States.

Although Cassatt painted landscapes and portraits, her best-known paintings focused on women, children, and

family life. Although she never married (she felt marriage would interfere with her career), her paintings were notable for capturing the warmth and intimacy of family relationships.

*Young Women Picking Fruit* was painted in 1891. The arms of the two women, one picking fruit and the other seated, create an inverted-S that defines the painting. According to Cassatt, the painting shows women picking fruit from the tree of knowledge, which they are doing to express their wish for equality and intellectual recognition. This painting now hangs in the Carnegie Museum of Art in Pittsburgh.

*The Boating Party* was painted in 1893, and it served as the centerpiece of Cassatt's first solo exhibition in the United States in 1895. The painting is notable for the facial expressions of the boaters, who appear to take more interest in one another than in their picturesque surroundings. In 1966 the image was made into a U.S. postage stamp as part of a series commemorating great artists. This painting now resides at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.



Mary Cassatt, *The Boating Party*, 1893

Cassatt always painted from a woman's perspective, and she once said that her goal as a painter was to show women as "subjects, not objects." She was known for being blunt and frequently complained about the low status of women artists and their struggle for recognition. In her later years she became a supporter of women's suffrage and contributed many of her works to exhibitions supporting the movement.

*continued on Page 12*

# ArtistSpotlight

## Andrea Darby: Art as Part of a Healthy Lifestyle

Andrea Camille Darby paints like her life depends on it, which, in a sense, it does. Wellness is a key concept in her life, and Andrea sees art as an essential part of a lifestyle focused on being physically and mentally fit.

Andrea can't remember when she first started to create art, but according to her father, it was at a very young age. When her parents sensed that the house was quieter than usual, they knew Andrea was drawing in the kitchen. Her first specialty as a young artist was drawing people with heart shaped heads and enormous eye lashes.

Her mother is a therapist who also enjoys drawing, and she strongly encouraged Andrea's early efforts along these lines. Andrea said, "There were always markers and crayons around the house." Although drawing was her first interest, she switched to painting during her high school years after a summer art class.

Andrea grew up in Blair Mills, graduated from Southern Huntingdon County High School, and later earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with a minor in psychology from Edinboro University (now PennWest Edinboro). Her goal after graduation was to become a mental health counselor with a specialization in art therapy—a field she worked in for several years.

It was during this time that she opened the A. C. Darby Studio in downtown Huntingdon. The studio featured creations from local artists (including her own work) as well as events like open mic nights. The studio ran for three years but closed during the pandemic era. Although her life has moved on, she still misses "the community of it. I met so many cool people then. And I miss holding events."

For the last three years, Andrea has been an art teacher in the Southern Huntingdon County School District (kindergarten through 5th grade)—a job she enjoys a great deal. Although busy weeks sometimes leave her feeling worn out, she finds the children's excitement and creativity to be amply rewarding. As a reflection of her commitment to teaching, she is currently working on a master's degree in art education from PennWest Edinboro.

With her busy teaching schedule, Andrea doesn't have time to paint every day. But when she has a couple of free hours, she finds that painting is "a special kind of fulfillment." Not surprisingly, given her background in psychology, she describes her art as "therapeutic." As she said, "Sometimes words are hard to get



Andrea Darby, *Two Worlds Becoming One*

out." But art allows for the expression of a feeling or impression "even when there are no words."

Andrea describes her art as "Not quite surrealism, but leaning in that direction." Her work is emotional and expressive—often involving dramatic images. She likes to combine diverse materials, for example, painting over old maps or adding dried flowers to a painted canvas. "Combining materials, images, and colors is like a puzzle. Bringing it together so the parts are related feels good."

Careful observers may notice that the signatures on Andrea's paintings begin with an upside down "A." As she said, "I am dyslexic, and that was a real struggle for me in school growing up. But I feel it helps me see things a little different as an artist and is a strength."

*continued on Page 12*



Andrea Darby

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Andrea Darby, *Thanks I Grew It Myself*

# ArtsCalendar

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).

February–May 2023

**Bold** = Huntingdon County Arts Council activity

| <i>When</i>   | <i>What</i>   | <i>Where</i>                               | <i>Details</i>  |
|---|---|--|---|
| Friday, February 3 to Saturday, March 4                     | <b>Old Crow Wetland Through the Seasons Exhibit</b>     | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Reception February 3, 6 to 8 p.m., exhibit Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. |
| Wednesday, February 8 to Saturday, April 15                 | Shapes & Squiggles Exhibit                              | Juniata College Museum of Art              | Artists who love color, line, and shape more than narrative                         |
| Friday, February 10   | The Queen's Cartoonists (Music from Cartoons)           | Rosenberger Auditorium, Juniata College    | 7:30 p.m., tickets at <a href="http://juniatapresents.com">juniatapresents.com</a>  |
| Thursday, February 16                                       | Art Walk Huntingdon                                     | Various locations in borough               | 5 to 8 p.m. Art activities  |
| Sunday, February 19   | <b>Keyboard Fest Concert</b>                            | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | 2 p.m., see page 7  |
| Wednesday, February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29            | <b>Creative Writing Class</b>                           | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Taught by Prudence Ingerman 10 a.m., see page 6                                     |
| Thursday, February 23                                       | <b>Camera Club Meeting</b>                              | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Open to all, 7 p.m.   |
| Friday, March 10 to Saturday, April 1                       | <b>Spring Thaw Youth Art &amp; Writing Exhibit</b>      | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Reception March 10, 6 to 8 p.m., exhibit Tues thru Sat                              |
| Wednesday, March 8 to Saturday, April 22                    | Your Choice Exhibit                                     | Juniata College Museum of Art              | Students & the community pick favorites in the collection                           |
| Thursday, March 9   | <b>Acoustic Music Jam</b>                               | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Open to all, 7 p.m.   |
| Wednesday, March 15   | <b>Callanish Concert</b>                                | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | 7 p.m., see page 7  |
| Thursday, March 16  | Art Walk Huntingdon                                     | Various locations in borough               | 5 to 8 p.m. Art activities  |
| Monday, March 20 & Tuesday, March 21                        | <b>Pysanky Ukrainian Egg Decorating Workshop</b>        | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | 6 to 8 p.m. Register online, see page 6   |
| Thursday, March 23  | <b>Camera Club Meeting</b>                              | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Open to all, 7 p.m.   |
| Saturday, March 25  | <b>Art Cat Jazz Club</b>                                | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | 7 p.m., see page 1  |
| Thursday, April 13  | <b>Acoustic Music Jam</b>                               | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Open to all, 7 p.m.   |
| Sunday, April 16  | <b>Poetry Open Mic</b>                                  | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Open to all, 2 p.m.   |
| Thursday, April 20  | Art Walk Huntingdon                                     | Various locations in borough               | 5 to 8 p.m. Art activities  |
| Sunday, April 23  | <b>JANO Duo Concert</b>                                 | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | 2 p.m., see page 7  |
| Thursday, April 27  | <b>Camera Club Meeting</b>                              | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Open to all, 7 p.m.   |
| Thursday, April 27 to Wednesday, May 3                      | Capstone & Liberal Arts Symposium Exhibit               | Juniata College Museum of Art              | Student work from beginner studio to senior capstone                                |
| Friday, April 28 & Saturday, April 29                       | A Simple Space (Acrobatics)                             | Juniata College Suzanne von Liebig Theatre | 7:30 p.m., tickets at <a href="http://juniatapresents.com">juniatapresents.com</a>  |
| Friday/Saturday, May 5, 6, 12, & 13; Sunday Matinees 7 & 14 | Girls' Weekend, a comedy                                | The Playhouse at McConnellstown            | 7:30 p.m. Sunday Matinees 2 p.m.  |
| Thursday, May 11  | <b>Acoustic Music Jam</b>                               | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Open to all, 7 p.m.   |
| Friday, May 12 to Saturday, June 3                          | <b>Call for Entries Exhibit Silver Lings theme</b>      | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Reception May 12, 6 to 8 p.m., exhibit Tuesday thru Saturday                        |
| Saturday, May 13  | <b>Celebration of the Arts</b>                          | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., see page 6   |
| Thursday, May 18  | Art Walk Huntingdon                                     | Various locations in borough               | 5 to 8 p.m. Art activities  |
| Thursday, May 25  | <b>Camera Club Meeting</b>                              | Huntingdon County Arts Center              | Open to all, 7 p.m.   |
| Friday, May 26 to Sunday, May 28                            | <b>Folk College: Workshops, Concerts, &amp; Jamming</b> | Juniata College                            | See page 6 Full details at <a href="http://folkcollege.com">folkcollege.com</a>     |
| Friday, May 26  | <b>Folk College Concert</b>                             | Halbritter Center, Juniata College         | 7 p.m., tickets \$20/\$16 Arts Council members                                      |
| Saturday, May 27  | <b>Folk College Concert</b>                             | Halbritter Center, Juniata College         | 7 p.m., tickets \$20/\$16 Arts Council members                                      |



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## Andrea Darby: Art as Part of a Healthy Lifestyle

continued from page 10  
she sometimes wrote upside down A's on her parents' walls, and she continues to use the upside down A in her work to show that "your weakness can be your strength in the right environment."

As noted earlier, wellness is an important theme in Andrea's life. As she said, "The body, spirit, and mind are all connected. I have a holistic outlook. Being physically well helps me to be a better teacher and artist." Her interests include hiking and running, and she recently ran her third half-marathon. She also is an adept yoga practitioner—an activity she teaches on the side.

Andrea Darby: painter, primary school art teacher, yoga instructor, and fitness buff. Like one of her colorful paintings, these facets of Andrea's life come together holistically to define a uniquely creative spirit. Look at her art and you will see many curious images, sometimes humorous and sometimes disturbing, but always reflecting a search for greater self-understanding and wellbeing.

## Folk College Awarded NEA Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has awarded a \$10,000 grant to support this year's Folk College. "These grants show the NEA's support nationwide for strengthening our arts and cultural ecosystems, providing equitable opportunities for arts participation and practice, and contributing to the health of our communities and our economy," said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. "I encourage everyone to explore this project and the ways it helps provide inspiration, understanding, and opportunities for us to live more artful lives."

This was one of 71 grants that the NEA sponsored in Pennsylvania for 2023 and the Arts Council is honored that the quality of the Folk College is acknowledged with this grant.

## THE RIDE

I hitched my wagon to your star  
And it's been quite a ride.

Bumpy at times

But smooth the rest.

You have guided me along the way  
And I hope I have paid you in kind.

We are a good team you and me.

The wheels keep turning

And leading us in new directions

As we wend our way through life.

*Susan Rumpf*

## Mary Cassatt

continued from page 9

Although Mary Cassatt spent most of her adult life in France, her love for art was born and nurtured in Pennsylvania. Her roots in our state, including her year in Altoona, brought a distinctive American sensibility to her work that helped her to stand out from the other Impressionists.