

# ArtsPaper

Fall 2023

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

## Full Slate of Classes & Workshops

### Monthly Classes for Beginners

Starting in September, the Arts Council will offer classes designed especially for beginners. These classes, which require no previous experience, will be held between 5 and 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. Classes will involve separate sections for adults, students in middle and high school, and students in elementary school. Each section will have its own space and instructor.

During the classes, you will be able to try out materials (such as making punch greeting cards and working with watercolors), learn the basics, and sign up for future classes.

For Thursday, September 7, the three class sessions are as follows:

Elementary—*Music*

*Games*, with Trisha Johnson. In this class, kids will learn simple folk songs with dances and games. They will hear stories about how music is passed down through generations as a way to share information. Kids will need to be able to follow basic instructions. They will learn to keep a steady beat as well as how to use their voice correctly.



*Card Making, a workshop for adult beginners, is one of the three beginner workshops on Thursday, September 7*

Middle/High School—*Show Me What You're Seeing, Not What You Remember*, with Kelly Cunningham. Students will spend the class training themselves to draw still lifes and portraits more accurately through several entertaining methods. The class will conclude with a vibrant self-portrait with a twist.

Adult—*Card Making*, with Karen DeSante. *continued on Page 7*



*No Filter Jazz at the Art Cat Jazz Club in March*

### Art Cat Jazz Club Returns

Due to popular demand, the Art Cat Jazz Club will return on Saturday, October 21. The Club is in the lower level of the **Arts Center**, recently decorated as a place to enjoy live music, have a beverage or two, meet new friends, and kick back.

*continued on Page 9*



SUSAN SIMPSON

### Family Fun at Fiber ArtsFest

Get hooked on Fiber ArtsFest, where you can unravel the mysteries of fiber art, one stitch at a time. The free event occurs on Saturday, September 30, between 9 and 3 p.m. in Johnson Hall at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds.

Visitors will see demonstrations of fiber arts skills, such as spinning, rug hooking, and wire wrapping. There will be "Make & Takes" for all ages to try their hands at. And vendors will offer a variety of fiber arts *continued on Page 9*



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

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

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**Layout & Design**  
John Kearns



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# Executive Director

## Dear Member:

Fall is a great time of year for the arts! There are festivals like Hartslog Day and the Cassville Octoberfest, with lots of great art and music. Fall is also shaping up to be a great time for the Arts Council, with many offerings and opportunities coming up for you to enjoy.

Thank you for the wonderful response to the Workshop Survey that we sent out on email and Facebook. It has helped to shape our thinking about community needs. One of the results is that we are excited to announce our *Beginners Workshops* series. Details are available on page 1, and we hope you will come out and give something new a try.

Fiber ArtsFest is a family fun day, with demonstrations, make & takes, animals, food, and music. So mark your calendar for Saturday, September 30, at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds (details are on page 1).

One of the great things about the new **Arts Center** is that we have plenty of room for all of the new concerts, exhibits, and workshops coming up in the next several months.

For music lovers, please consider checking out the Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering. There are free concerts on Friday and Saturday nights, as well as the wonderful Heritage Musician session on Saturday afternoon.

And if you are not a musician but always wanted to try a musical instrument, check out the *Beginners Sampler*: four workshops for non-musicians for only \$35.

We appreciate your continuing support for our mail campaign and our separate Capital Campaign. Your annual memberships and general donations throughout the year also help to make the Huntingdon County Arts Council a stronger organization. The stronger we are, the more we can do more for you!

We hope to see you soon at an exhibit, workshop, or other upcoming event.

Celebrate the arts!



John Kearns  
Executive Director



# Council Notes

## Mail Donation Campaign: Thank You and a Reminder

The Arts Council holds a mail donation campaign every summer, when we contact people in the community with a request for financial support. As a nonprofit organization, this is one of our main sources of funding during the year.

If you received our letter and sent a donation, we sincerely **thank you!** If you have not yet sent a donation, it's not too late to participate in our mail campaign. You can donate by mailing a check to the Huntingdon County Arts Council at 313 12th Street, Huntingdon, PA, 16652. Or you can donate by visiting our website at [huntingdoncountryarts.com](http://huntingdoncountryarts.com). All donations, regardless of size, make an important contribution to our mission of bringing art and culture to the people of Huntingdon County.

## Online Arts Calendar

Have you seen our online Arts Calendar yet? It contains useful information about a range of upcoming arts-related events and activities in the Huntingdon County Area. It's easy to use. Just go to our website at [huntingdoncountryarts.com](http://huntingdoncountryarts.com) and click on "Arts Calendar" at the top of the page. Not only will you learn about events of interest to you, but you

also can use it to book tickets to Arts Council concerts and workshops. Now you won't have to kick yourself for missing something that you might have enjoyed. Check it out!

## Thank You, Gardeners

Our Board members are called on to do a variety of tasks, many of which they never dreamed of when they first joined. Among other responsibilities, former board member Ginny Mutti and current board member Teri Smith keep the flowerbeds outside the Art Center looking lovely. Thank you, Ginny and Teri, for your horticultural flourishes.



## From the Editor

We hope you are enjoying our colorful fall newsletter, full of information about upcoming activities, recent events, and items of local interest. The newsletter is an important benefit of your membership in the Arts Council. If you have any thoughts about the newsletter (what you especially enjoy, suggestions for future content) feel free to contact me at [paulamato00@gmail.com](mailto:paulamato00@gmail.com). I would love to hear from you.

Paul Amato



Repainted trestle at Portstown Park with (left to right) Olivia Gennaro, Scarlett Tubbs, Rachele Kurtz, Jordyn Kyper, Leah Metz, and Yudzizza Chavez

## Trestles Repainted at Park

Members of the Juniata Valley Art Club recently repainted the weathered murals on the abandoned railroad trestles at Portstown Park in Huntingdon. The student artists, led by art teacher Olivia Gennaro, included Emily Ketrov, Travara Pheasant, Jordyn Kyper, Rachele Kutz, Scarlett Tubbs, Leah Metz, and Yudzizza Chavez. Huntingdon students Cadence Thompson and Ada Stapleton also helped on the project, as did adult helpers Janice Marie Bailey, Amber Newby, and Heather Ledford.

Matt D'Alberto created the original murals at Portstown Park in 2003 with the assistance of 3rd and 4th grade students from Standing Stone Elementary School. This was the first collaborative art project between Huntingdon Borough and the Huntingdon County Arts Council.

Portstown Park is named for the former neighborhood of Portstown, which met its demise in the flood of 1972 from Hurricane Agnes. The abandoned railroad trestles pay homage to the former H&BT Railroad, whose service area roughly paralleled Route 26 South.

It's great to see old public art getting a facelift. We thank Marsha Kyper for spearheading the project and all of the artists for doing such a great job.



John Kearns presents a check to Alisha Grove to support the creation of a mural in Linear Park in Mount Union

## Mount Union Mural Support

With the completion of the repairs on the retaining wall along Pennsylvania Avenue in Mount Union, part of the space on the wall has been left for a mural.

A committee has been formed and are soliciting ideas for this mural. To support this effort, the Arts Council donation \$500 to kick off the fundraising campaign.

# Thank You!

## Capital Campaign Update

We continue 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**

Anonymous

**Any Gift Up to \$499**

- Anonymous
- Linda Anderson\*
- Artamarie Barclay\*
- Melissa Beidelman\*
- Barbara Brown\*
- Diane Buza\*
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\* from 100+ Women Who Care Donation



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The Huntingdon County Arts Council is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for our 2023 Folk College.

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.

The Art Center  
*Regular Hours*  
Tuesday  
through Saturday  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# RecentEvents

Since the last newsletter, 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.

## Exhibits

### Silver Linings Exhibit

Every year the Arts Council stages a “call for entries” exhibit and invites local artists and community members to submit works on a particular theme. Our theme for 2023 was Silver Linings, and, as in previous years, people interpreted the theme in a variety of interesting ways. The exhibited featured 45 art works from 22 artists. The works included paintings, quilting, weaving, photography, beading, felting, mixed media, and poetry. The show demonstrated that “silver linings” are everywhere, if we just open our eyes to them. The exhibit ran from May 12 to June 3, 2023.



Silver Lining Exhibit, Corvette by Jeannie Gentry



Quilters See the LIGHT exhibit, Lunar Luna by Dianne Curti

### Quilters See the LIGHT Exhibit

This Undercover Quilters group in Brookhaven, PA, recently sent a challenge to quilters across the region to create 24 x 24 inch quilts expressing the theme of “Light.” A variety of quilting groups in Pennsylvania and New York responded to this challenge, and 31 of these quilts were featured at the Arts Center exhibit. The show included four quilts from our very own Redbud Quilt Group in Huntingdon. The show ran from May 12 to August 3, 2023.

### Beyond Realism Exhibit

Our June show featured four Huntingdon County Artists who work in nonrealist styles: Rebecca Reck (Bex), Evgeny Krayushkin (ZheKa), Andrea Darby, and Paul Amato. The artists’ creations definitely livened up our exhibit area with fantastic shapes, vivid colors, and otherworldly images. The opening reception on June 9 was packed with visitors who ate, drank, talked, laughed and didn’t want to go home at closing time! The show ran from June 9 to July 8, 2023.



Beyond Realism Exhibit, Rebecca Reck (Bex), Evgeny Krayushkin (ZheKa), Paul Amato, & Andrea Darby

### Dream & Myth Exhibit

Our July exhibit, Dream & Myth, featured the works of two outstanding artists: Joanne Landis and Jim Bright. Joanne is a painter who focuses on the human figure, whereas Jim is a sculptor who works in wood, bronze, and stone. The two artists have been



Joanne Landis & Jim Bright

exhibiting their work together for the last 20 years, and what ties them together is their shared interest in storytelling. The opening reception was on Friday, July 14, and the exhibit will continue through August 12, 2023.

## Workshops

Evgeny Krayushkin led a *Painting Your Wildest Dreams* workshop on June 12. Six participants created uninhibited images in acrylic paint and had a lot of fun in the process.

## Acoustic Music Jams

Acoustic music jam sessions are held at the Arts Center on the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. Participants enjoy a variety of musical styles, and all types of acoustic instruments are welcome. The sessions provide opportunities for people to sing and play familiar tunes and perhaps learn new ones as well.

## Art Walks

We continue to have Art Walk activities at the Art Center on every third Thursday of the month. On recent evenings, people have made suncatchers, chalked the walk, and painted spring trees with watercolor.

## Concerts



The Rick Hirsch 5 in concert at the Arts Center

### Rick Hirsch 5

The sweet sounds of soul jazz filled the Arts Center on June 4, when the Rick Hirsch 5 performed a concert dedicated to the great jazz composers of the 1950s and 1960s. The audience for jazz in Huntingdon County is enthusiastic, and those in attendance bestowed a rousing standing ovation on the hard-working musicians at the end of the show.



The State College duo Biscuit Jam played on June 10 at our one day Celebration of the Arts

# RecentEvents

## Celebration of the Arts

Our Celebration of the Arts on June 10 allowed visitors to enjoy a wide variety of arts-related activities. Musical performances throughout the day ranged from bluegrass to acoustic rock to jazz. A small army of local artists and volunteers ran demonstrations, workshops, and hands-on activities like rock painting and collage making. Our survey suggested that about one-fourth of people who attended the event had never been to the Arts Center before, so this turned out to be a great way to introduce people to what our new building has to offer.



Make a Windsock was one of the many hands-ons activities enjoyed by young & old at the Celebration of the Arts

## Concerts on the Quad

The first concert in our Concerts on the Quad series was held on June 29. Stone Creek Blues provided the music that evening. Because of poor air quality (due to smoke drifting down from the Canadian fires), the concert was moved from the Juniata College lawn to the Arts Center. The band’s hard rocking, amplified music rattled the stained glass windows and shook the walls, but our sturdy building remained intact.



Jackson Pavlik entertains at Concerts on the Quad

Our second concert also was held at the Arts Center due to bad weather. Jackson Pavlik entertained the audience with his quirky and well-crafted original songs, resonant singing voice, and engaging personality. Jackson graduated from high school in Huntingdon and is currently pursuing a major in theatrical arts from Penn State.



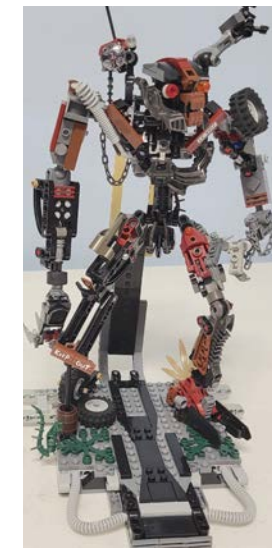
Stone Creek Blues Band

## Yard Sale

The Arts Council held a yard sale in the parking lot of the Arts Center on June 17. Thanks to everyone who donated goods for the sale. The sale provided an opportunity for the Arts Council to “clean house” and free up space in the new Arts Center.

## Lego Contest

On July 6-7 children and adults submitted entries to our Lego Competition at the Arts Center. Their submissions demonstrated that it is possible to produce a wide range of imaginative creations with simple set of



Scrapyard by Zane Reck for the Lego Exhibit

Legos. The Lego constructions will be on exhibit at the Arts Center through July 29.

## Summer Art Camp for Kids

Our summer art experience for kids started on June 19 at the Arts Center and is continuing through early August. Art teachers Olivia Gennaro and Andrea Darby have been introducing a variety of art forms to students ranging in age from 5 to 12. Thanks to Olivia and Andrea for doing a fantastic job!



Our Summer Art Camp for Kids had weekly sessions over 6 weeks, both a morning and afternoon session. We had a total of 72 participants.



Piedmont Blüz performed at Folk College

## Folk College

Our annual folk music event, Folk College, ran from Friday, May 26 to Sunday, May 28 on the Juniata College campus. The gathering included a great lineup of teachers this year, and attendance at classes and workshops was back to pre-Covid levels. The two evening concerts drew good crowds, and the music on both nights was outstanding. The Friday evening concert featured Simple Gifts, Piedmont Blüz, and Resonant Rogues, while the Saturday evening concert featured Appalasia, Rakish, and Buffalo Rose. Thanks to the musicians, participants, and many volunteers who helped to make the weekend a big success.

# Upcoming Events

## Exhibits



### Canvas Photography, Amy Bomboy, August 18–September 9

Amy Bomboy, a member of our Camera Club, will share her photos of nature, scenery, and family. She especially enjoys turning her images into large canvas prints.

### Rural Musings, Jennifer Hartzler, September 15-October 7

Jennifer Hartzler's primary medium is oil painting. A native of Central Pennsylvania, Jennifer is trained in representational art with a



BFA in Fine Art Painting from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Between juggling the roles of wife, mother and full-time art teacher in the Mifflin County Schools, she loves painting narrative figures and still lifes that illustrate the human condition.

### Oh, Shoot!, Camera Club, October 13-November 4

The Huntingdon Camera Club, which meets monthly at the Arts Center, will again showcase the terrific photographs of its members. The Club holds a photo contest on a different theme at every meeting, and one of the highlights of the exhibit will be a display of the monthly winners.

## Concerts

### Allegria String Quartet, August 13, 2 p.m.

The Allegria String Quartet is a chamber music group founded in 2006 by professional musicians from Central Pennsylvania. Their repertoire includes classical music along with some contemporary and popular tunes. Their members have performed with Grammy winning artists like Billy Childs, the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Josh Groban, and Sarah Brightman. The group's members include Sally Williams Minnich (violin), Mark Minnich (violin), Greg Glessner (viola), and Jonathan Dexter (cello). Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for Arts Council members and students. Admission for children 12 and under is free.



### Ragtime & American Music Festival Kick-Off, September 21, 7 p.m.

Musicians from the Central Pennsylvania Ragtime & American Music Festival will perform at the Arts Center on Thursday, September 21 at 7 p.m. The concert will serve as a kick-off to the larger festival in Orbisonia and Rockhill Furnace on September 22-24. The Arts Center concert will feature seven musicians performing individually and in small groups on piano, drums, and tuba.

This is an opportunity to hear some of the top ragtime musicians in the country, right here in li'l ol' Huntingdon. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for Arts Council members and students. Admission for children 12 and under is free. Fans of ragtime and old American music should check out the festival website at [rockhillragtime.com](http://rockhillragtime.com) for details on the full range of musical activities over the weekend.



Brian Holland and Danny Coots perform at the Ragtime Music Festival Kick-Off at the Arts Center in 2022

### Eric Ian Farmer, October 8, 2 p.m.

Born in State College and raised in North Carolina, Eric returned to his birthplace in central Pennsylvania as an adult to share his music with others. Eric writes



songs about relationships, social awareness, and finding one's path in life, while also keeping alive the music of black artists like Marvin Gaye, Otis Redding, and Bob Marley. His guitar playing is inspired by the percussive music of rock legend Bo Diddley. As an educator, he uses music with middle and high school students to facilitate songwriting as well as conversations about identity and social issues.

Eric is an inspirational musician with a soulful voice and a unique, deeply personal style. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$16 for Arts Council members and students. Admission for children 12 and under is free.

Our concert series is underwritten by a generous grant from

# Upcoming Events

## Classes & Workshops

### Beginners Classes, Thursday, September 5

As noted on page 1, we will offer three classes on the first Thursday of each month, starting this September. The first class will feature music games for elementary school students, drawing for middle and high school students, and card making for adults. The cost for a class is \$20 for Arts Council members and \$25 for nonmembers. Additional family members are \$10 each.

### Storytelling with the Figure Workshop, Saturday, October 7

Joanne Landis, one of our artists from the *Dream & Myth* exhibit in July, will teach a drawing workshop on Saturday, October 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. The workshop will focus on *Storytelling with the Human Figure*. No prior experience is necessary. The cost of the workshop is \$30 for Arts Council members and \$35 for nonmembers.

### 3-D via Casting Wax workshop, Saturday, October 7

Jim Bright, our second artist from the *Dream & Myth* exhibit in July, will teach a 3-D Wax Casting workshop on Saturday, October 7, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. This workshop will provide participants with an opportunity to examine sculptural forms using basic practices in modeling with wax. No prior experience is necessary. The cost of the workshop is \$35 for Arts Council members and \$40 for nonmembers.

### Creative Writing Classes

Starting on Wednesday, September 14, 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 10-11:30 a.m. on October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1 and 8. Enrollment is limited to eight adults. The cost for the classes is \$60 for members and \$70 for nonmembers.

### Beginning Guitar Classes

This six week course is for complete beginners who want to learn basic guitar taught by Prudence Ingerman. Familiar folk songs will be used to learn basic chords and strums to accompany your voice. You will need to bring an acoustic guitar. The course starts on Saturday, October 7. Classes run from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4 & 11. Enrollment is limited to eight adults. The cost for the classes is \$60 for members and \$70 for nonmembers.

### Folk Music at Greenwood Furnace

The Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering is coming up on September 8-10. This annual event involves a weekend of playing, singing, jamming, dancing, and listening to folk music.

There will be activities for all skill levels, from non-musician to advanced players, and for all ages, including mature children. A total of 43 workshops in eight time slots



## INDOOR LIFE

Long nights enclosed  
with cookstove  
bread-scent  
cylinders of oatmeal  
rattling regularly  
at the start of day  
barn chores leaning  
to late and early  
after summer hours.

It is a time  
of heavy mugs;  
one needs  
the curl of cats.

Pam Kavanaugh

## Full Slate of Classes & Workshops continued from page 1

Learn how to use a Sizzex machine to make punch greeting cards for all occasions: thank you cards, congratulations, expressions of sympathy, and birthday cards.

The themes and teachers for each class will be posted on our Facebook page, on our website, and in upcoming emails, so stay tuned for more information. Individual classes will cost \$20 (for members, \$25 for nonmembers) for the first person in your family, and \$10 for each additional member. You can register on our website [www.huntingdoncountyarts.com](http://www.huntingdoncountyarts.com) on the *Register, Tickets & Shop* page. If you have any questions, contact John Kearns at 814-643-6220.

In addition, we are announcing four other workshops for the fall. Full details are in the left hand column on this page. If you haven't participated in one of our classes or workshops, this might be a good time to try one.

tures of the Folk Gathering is its small size and friendly atmosphere. Everyone is there to learn, share, and enjoy music. The teachers encourage participants to learn and share in a positive environment, and the small workshop size allows for easy interaction with the faculty and fellow students.

An important goal of the event is to examine the traditional music of rural Pennsylvania and to preserve and perpetuate this musical heritage. In this spirit, several workshops focus specifically on Pennsylvania music. We also honor a Pennsylvania Heritage Musician every year.

In addition to the music, the gathering provides participants with an opportunity to escape and relax in the mountains at historic Greenwood Furnace State Park, a beautiful spot located between State College and Huntingdon. The park features many outdoor recreational opportunities, including a lake with a swimming area, picnic tables, miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, and historical exhibits.

For more information, visit [folksgiving.com](http://folksgiving.com).

## Enhance Your Next Art Gallery or Museum Experience

Visiting an art gallery or museum can be an enjoyable and enriching experience. Research conducted in museums shows, however, that most people spend only a few seconds looking at each piece of art. This is a shame, because it's impossible to appreciate and enjoy art in this way. To have the best possible experience, it's essential to slow down and give the art your full attention. Here are a few suggestions to enhance your next visit.

1. Stand in front of an artwork and observe it carefully. If you are looking at a painting, notice the brushstrokes. Did the artist show the brushstrokes or attempt to hide them? Did the artist use bright or muted colors? Consider the overall composition, and note repetitions (or contrasts) in shape and color in different areas. How are the various parts of the artwork related to the whole? How does the composition achieve a sense of balance?

2. Many artworks contain symbols or implicit meanings. Does the artwork contain a message or tell a story of some sort? Can you guess the artist's intentions in creating this work? The title of the piece may provide clues, but not always.

3. Art has the power to evoke strong emotions. Allow yourself to connect emotionally with it. Notice how it makes you feel, what thoughts it brings to mind, and any personal associations it might trigger.

4. If you are visiting with another person, discuss the artwork. Another person may react to a piece of art quite differently from you, and talking about it may provide new insights and a broader appreciation of the piece.

5. Understanding the historical and cultural context of art can enhance your appreciation. It's useful to know something about the artist, the culture, and the art movements of the time. This knowledge can provide additional insight into the intended meaning of the art.



Pablo Picasso, *The Tragedy*, 1903

6. Feel free to come up with your own interpretation of an artwork. There is never a single "correct" understanding. Art is subjective, so trust your own instincts, emotions, and judgment.

Consider one artwork well worth a long look: *The Tragedy*, painted by Pablo Picasso in 1903. The painting shows three people standing by the sea, presumably a mother, father, and child. With respect to composition, the tallest figure, the father, is in the center, and the mother and child standing on either side create a balanced triad. The horizontal lines of the sea stabilize the strong vertical lines created by the standing figures.

The title immediately tells us the theme, but no-



Max Ernst, *Capricorn*, 1948

tice how the various elements work together to convey the emotion of sadness. The people are barefoot, poorly dressed, and apparently cold. The colors are muted and dark to reflect a somber mood. Consider the facial expressions. The family members are not making eye contact and are unable to console one another, including the child who reaches out. No attempt is made at photographic realism, so irrelevant details do not distract us from the central mood.

At the time he created the painting, Picasso was poor and had recently experienced the death of a close friend (a suicide, in fact). Picasso painted this piece during his "blue period" when he mostly worked in subdued shades of blue and green. Clearly, the painting captures a time when the artist was coming to terms with his own grief.

This painting generates strong emotions in most viewers. We empathize with the family. We feel their sadness and we want to help them. Because their suffering resonates with us, it reminds us of our common humanity. Everyone experiences tragedy at some time, and learning to deal with grief is part of the human condition. We feel an emotional connection to the people in Picasso's painting because we too have experienced pain.

A very different type of family (and a very different type of viewing experience) can be found in Max Ernst's bronze sculpture, *Capricorn*, completed in 1948. The large sculpture (it weighs over 2,000 pounds) shows a family of sorts. The solid figures, which form a lopsided U, are firmly set on a horizontal slab. The figures look like royalty, almost Egyptian in their bearing.

Capricorn is the 10th sign of the Zodiac and is often represented as a goat with a fish tail. In this sculpture, the parts are split across two figures: the father resembles a goat and the mother resembles a mermaid. The child is strangely ambiguous. And there appears to be some sort of weird pet. A fantastic dog, perhaps?

Max Ernst was a surrealist (a popular art form in the

1940s), and his works often were deliberately ambiguous and humorous. This sculpture could have been the product of a dream, a hallucination, or a feverish reverie. Ernst designed it to sit in his garden in Sedona, Arizona, where it stood guard in a regal fashion. Clearly, we shouldn't take it too seriously or look for deep meanings. Sometimes art is just for fun, and if we have a good laugh, the artist is satisfied.

These examples, like all good art, take time to digest and appreciate. The next time you see an exhibit, perhaps at the [Huntingdon County Arts Center](#), remember to slow down. Pause, observe, contemplate, and react. There is no need to rush. The more you invest in the act of looking, the more you will get out of your visit.

## Art Cat Jazz Club Returns continued from page 1

Club goers will enjoy listening to Jordan Canner's group, *No Filter Jazz*, who will be playing jazz standards throughout the evening. This group performed at the Art Cat last March, and everyone agrees that they totally brought down the house.

The evening will serve as a fundraiser for the Arts Council, with tickets going at \$35 a person in advance and \$45 at the door. We strongly advise people to purchase tickets early, because we were SOLD OUT last time.

We have expanded the size of the club, so people will have more "elbow room" this time. We also will have room for a small dance floor. So if you want to get out of your chair and try some swing dancing, a Charleston, or even a Jitterbug or two, this is your chance!

Admission includes nonalcoholic beverages (mineral water, coffee, and tea) along with delicious snacks provided by Standing Stone Coffee Company. For those who desire something stronger, Three Twelve Kitchen and Cocktails will be selling wine, beer, and a special cocktail. Door prizes and a cash raffle will add to the festivities.

If the spirit of the speakeasy and the jazz age moves you, make sure to get your tickets soon. The Art Cat Jazz Club will be open from 7 to 10 p.m. To enter, walk down the [Arts Center](#) steps of Mifflin Street. And don't forget: You will need the password to get in!



www.huntingdoncountyarts.com

## Family Fun at Fiber ArtsFest continued from page 1

items for sale. Plus you can meet some gentle alpacas, whose wool produces some of the world's finest yarn.

For additional interest, live music will be happening all day. A list of performers and times accompanies this article.

After attending the festival, you can take a short walk to the Huntingdon County Fair Farm Museum, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. And if you get hungry or thirsty, the 4-H Club will be selling food and beverages throughout the day.

Best of all: Attendance is free. So weave your way to the Fairgrounds and discover the colorful world of fiber art, where sew much fun awaits you. To paraphrase Forrest Gump, knit happens!

## Classes

In addition to the one day festival, there are two days of full-day and half-day classes on September 29 and 30. Class topics include: Brioche Knitting, Fair Isle Knitting, Blocking, Crochet a Cap, Decorative Knot Tying, Making Cards and Journals with Fabric, Twiddle Muffs, Wire Wrapping, plus Moon Dance Revival Quilt for advanced quilters, and Quilted Rail Fence Table Mat for those who want to learn to quilt. Registration is still open for most classes.

For more information, including classes and registration, visit [www.fiberartsfest.org](http://www.fiberartsfest.org) or call the Huntingdon County Arts Council at 814-643-6220. You also can follow us on Facebook.

If you are interested in knitting, sewing, and quilting, you won't want to miss Fiber ArtsFest, where you can learn new skills and meet people with similar interests. The festival is sponsored by the Arts Council and is held every year at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds.

*Want to learn to quilt? The Quilted Rail Fence Table Mat class is for you*

## Fiber ArtsFest Music Schedule

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

**Steve Dixon**

Plays rock piano covers of everybody's favorite 70's artists, modern takes on classic hits, and a few original songs too.

12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

**Grace Fala**

Performs acoustic versions of popular songs from the 1960's to the present on guitar and harmonica.

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Paul Amato**

Plays music from the classical guitar repertoire, along with original compositions flavored with spices from flamenco, jazz, and the Middle East.

2:00 p.m. to 3 p.m.

**Dylan Miller**

Displays his unique, bluesy take on music drawn from a variety of genres, including some originals.

## DOMESTICATED

Four women meet drawn by pots of dye, and linked by crimped wool, curling locks, or fine angora fiber. Tending cauldrons, stock pots, enameled pans with wooden spoons or peeled-wood sticks enacting the magic of powders and liquids and mysterious salts bringing color into the world of white and tweedy gray.

*Pam Kavanaugh*

# ArtistSpotlight

## Barb Fisher: Artist and Entrepreneur

Although our area is blessed with many talented artists, not many are able to devote themselves to art full time. Barb Fisher, however, is an example of a successful artist and entrepreneur with a lifelong career of making and selling art. Her studio and store, B. Fisher Creations at 729 Mifflin Street, has been a center of artistic activity in downtown Huntingdon since 2010.

Barb Fisher was born in Altoona and moved to Huntingdon when she was 16. Born into an art-loving family, she was surrounded by creative people as she grew up. Barb vividly recalls an early experience when her grandfather taught her how to make a “turkey” out of a handprint. “I thought this was the greatest thing ever,” she said.

She took up drawing and painting at an early age and also learned woodworking skills from her father. She took art classes at a vocational tech school in Altoona, and later attended the York Academy of Art. After she married, Barb left art school to focus on raising a family, but she never stopped creating art. Indeed, she found that art was a useful way to generate extra income for her family.

Barb painted a lot back then, although not in the fine arts tradition. Her focus was more commercial in nature and involved painting signs and decorative designs on boards or woodcraft in a folk art style. She displayed her work at the Hartslog Day Heritage Festival in Alexandria and at other summer shows in our region. House signs turned out to be especially popular items. As she said, “Most people are proud of their families and homes and want to reflect that in some way, letting people know where they live by putting signs outside next to the front door. They remain a good seller for me after all these years.”

During these years, she worked out of a small studio space in the basement of her home, which met her needs for a while. But when she started giving art lessons to children, she was limited in the number of students she could accommodate. The lack of space led her to buy the building she is in now and open B. Fisher Creations.

Establishing a studio in town was a big step, and at first the building seemed enormous. But over time the rooms filled with art for sale, art supplies, packaging, office supplies, and three electric kilns for fusing glass. The studio also has a full kitchen, an office, and tables for art lessons. “At first I thought I’d never fill this space,” she said, “But now I need more room!”

Barb provides art lessons for children most



Decorative glass garden stakes at B Fisher Creations

days, with summer being a particularly busy time. She usually teaches one-on-one, although sometimes two siblings work together. Lessons cover a variety of topics, including drawing, painting, and, for older children, glass fusing. “Boys especially like to draw shipwrecks,” she observed. She also runs workshops for adults, mostly in the evenings or on Saturdays, with a different type of project featured every month.

Her studio is filled with a variety of handmade objects for sale, including plaques and home signs, garden stakes, refrigerator magnets, serving trays made from recycled glass, Christmas ornaments, night lights, and decorative glass tiles. Colorful glass items are prominent. “Glass fusing—this is my niche,” she said. “No one else in our area offers this.” (Glass fusing is the process of fusing pieces of cut glass together at a high temperature in a kiln.)

In addition to selling her creations in the studio, Barb does a lot of custom work for clients, especially signs and glasswork. Although these are two of her main



Glass ornaments at B Fisher Creations

specialties, she occasionally works on a larger scale and has received commissions to paint murals in several local businesses and private homes.

What is the secret to being a successful artist and

# 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).

**Bold = Huntingdon County Arts Council activity**

August–October 2023

When	What	Where	Details
Through Saturday, October 7	Amusing Stories & Cautionary Tales Exhibit	Juniata College Museum of Art	Story-telling based group of objects spanning over 400 years
Thursday, August 17	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Friday, August 18 to Saturday, September 9	<b>Canvas Photography Exhibit</b> Amy Bomboy <b>Blooming Flowers Exhibit</b> Angela Niman	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Opening reception August 18, 6 to 8; open Tuesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, August 24	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Monday, September 4	<b>Acoustic Music Jam</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Thursday, September 7	<b>3 Beginners Classes</b> Elementary: Music Games Middle/HS: Show Me Adult: Card Making	Huntingdon County Arts Center	5 to 7 p.m., see page 1
Friday, September 8 to Sunday, September 10	<b>Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering: Workshops, Concerts, &amp; Dancing</b>	Greenwood Furnace State Park	See page 7 Full details at <a href="http://folkgathering.com">folkgathering.com</a>
Wednesday, September 13 to Thursday, November 16	Souls Shot Portrait Project	Juniata College Museum of Art	Memorialize lives lost & altered due to gun violence
Friday, September 15 to Saturday, October 7	<b>Rural Musings Exhibit</b> Jennifer Hartzler	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Reception Sept 15, 6 to 8 p.m., Tues - Sat, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, September 21	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Thursday, September 21	<b>Ragtime &amp; American Music Festival Kick-Off Concert</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	7 p.m., see page 6
Thursday, September 21	Leyla McCalla in Concert	Juniata College Black Box Theatre	7:30 p.m., <a href="http://juniatapresents.com">juniatapresents.com</a>
Thursday, September 28	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Friday, September 29 to Saturday, September 30	<b>Fiber ArtsFest Classes</b>	Huntingdon County Fairgrounds	10 classes over 2 days see page 1 Full details at <a href="http://fiberartsfest.org">fiberartsfest.org</a>
Saturday, September 30	<b>Fiber ArtsFest Market Place</b>	Huntingdon County Fairgrounds	Free day of family fun, page 1 Full details at <a href="http://fiberartsfest.org">fiberartsfest.org</a>
Monday, October 2	<b>Acoustic Music Jam</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, October 4, 11, 18, 25, November 1 & 8	<b>Creative Writing Class</b> Prudence Ingerman	Huntingdon County Arts Center	10 to 11:30 a.m., see page 7
Thursday, October 5	<b>3 Beginners Classes</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	5 to 7 p.m., see page 1
Saturday, October 7	<b>Storytelling with Figure Workshop</b> , Joanne Landis	Huntingdon County Arts Center	10:30 a.m. to Noon Register online, see page 7
Saturday, October 7	<b>3-D via Casting Wax Workshop</b> , Jim Bright	Huntingdon County Arts Center	1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Register online, see page 7
Saturday, October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4 & 11	<b>Beginning Guitar Class</b> Prudence Ingerman	Huntingdon County Arts Center	10 to 11:30 a.m., see page 7
Sunday, October 8	<b>Eric Ian Farmer Concert</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	2 p.m., see page 6
Friday, October 13 to Saturday, November 4	<b>Oh, Shoot! Exhibit</b> Camera Club	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Reception Oct 13, 6 to 8 p.m., Tues - Sat, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, October 19	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Wednesday, October 25 to Saturday, December 9	Raystown at 50	Juniata College Museum of Art	Marking the 50th anniversary of Raystown Lake completion
Thursday, October 26	<b>Camera Club Meeting</b>	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.



313 12th Street  
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info@huntingdoncountyarts.com  
www.huntingdoncountyarts.com

**SHOP THE ART SHOPPE**  
**OPEN TUES-SAT, 10 AM TO 5 PM**



Address Service Requested

## Barb Fisher: Artist and Entrepreneur

continued from page 10  
entrepreneur in a small town like Huntingdon? It helps to have a variety of skills, to be comfortable working with diverse media, to understand what people like and are willing to pay for, and to supplement sales with lessons—that is, to be a teacher as well as an artist. And, of course, one must work hard and be passionate one's work.

As Barb said, "I've done art in some way all my life." Turning your lifelong passion into a viable profession is difficult but achievable. If you haven't visited before, drop by B Fisher Creations at 729 Mifflin Street to see one artist's model for success. Take a

few moments to enjoy the plethora of glass ornaments, garden stakes, service trays, night lights, and window hangings, along with greeting cards, painted signs, and other items of interest. Say "Hello" to Barb while you are there. And perhaps you will find a beautiful, handmade, reasonably priced object d'art to take home with you.



Glass service trays at B Fisher Creations



Barb Fisher, *Reproduction of an original painted mural in the Huntingdon Christian and Missionary Alliance Church*