Huntingdon County ARTS COUNCIL

Fall 2026



Arts Paper

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



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Holiday Shoppe Offers Unique Gifts

Original Works by Local Artists

Looking for some unique gift items for this holiday season? Want to support both local artists and the Huntingdon County Arts Council?

Then make sure to stop and visit our annual Holiday Shoppe at the Arts Center that will be open starting Wednesday, November 11, through Tuesday, December 29. Explore our wide selection of unique art and hand crafted items from local artists as we fill four rooms with their works. Unique and one-of-a-kind items include jewelry, ceramics, fabric items, stained glass, paintings, photography, wood-made items, sculptures, cards, books, CD's, honey, and much more!



The Holiday Shoppe offers a wide assortment of unique, one-of-a-kind items by local artists.

The Huntingdon County Arts Center is located at 313 12th Street in Huntingdon, with a convenient parking lot in the back. The Shoppe hours are extended to accommodate holiday shoppers. The Holiday Shoppe is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., beginning on November 11.

Last year we had over 60 local and regional artists offering a very wide assortment of unique and one-of-a-kind items.

A portion of the proceeds from the Holiday Shoppe's sales is used to support Arts Council activities throughout the year and also helps support your local artists.

We hope you will stop in and view the amazing assortment.



Kelly Cunningham led the Kids Summer Art Camps' Kindness Lives Here classes that created a model of Huntingdon.

A Legacy for Huntingdon

Thursday, July 30, was a truly memorable day for the Arts Council. We celebrated our official rebranding and the beginning of an exciting new era—an occasion graciously recognized by the *Altoona Mirror* and *Huntingdon Daily News*. Just as meaningful, however, was the unveiling of the 2026 Kids Arts Camp project,

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Taking Art to the Community

The Huntingdon County Arts Council and Juniata College are teaming up for an ambitious Art on The Go art program. The plan is to take a mobile art van out into the community to provide art instruction.

The model for the program was the Mud Mobile that Bethany Benson ran in 2017 and 2018. Juniata College has acquired a van and will provide the van and a driver for the program. The Arts Council will solicit program sites, set up the registrations, find the teachers, and execute the program.

While the program will cover all types of art, the first set of classes are for clay classes. The plan is for six weeks of once-a-week classes.

Scholarships will be available, but we are keeping the program fee low so that we can encourage great participation.

While we plan to offer the program for after school, will be available to local adult locations, too. Stay tuned for details.

Large photo on top is the new Mount Union mural, a community art project led by Regina Reeder.

Executive Director

Dear Member:

What an exciting year it has been at the Huntingdon County Arts Council! We launched our rebranding with a new logo and look, with lots of new signage, both inside and outside the Arts Center. And all the while we continued our programs of arts exhibits, concerts, summer art camps, classes and workshops, Art Shoppe, and hosted both Folk College and the Pennsylvania Folk Gathering.

We continue to make improvements on this wonderful building (see article on page 3) to both preserve and enhance the Arts Center for the whole community to enjoy. We offer the Arts Center as a community resource, being a regular hosting spot for a Girl Scout Troop, the Redbud Quilt Guild, and the Stories & Stitches Knitting Group, and for periodically for other groups like the Area Office on Aging that recently held a dementia training session here.

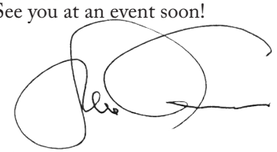
We are excited about the new mural recently created in Mount Union, led by artist Regina Reeder, where nearly 100 people help paint. What a great community project.

And we are gearing up for our big Holiday Shoppe, which opens on Wednesday, November 11, and runs through Tuesday, December 29. The Holiday Shoppe will be full of a wonderful variety of work from local and regional artists just in time for the holidays.

We have a number of streams of income, including program fees. But we depend on memberships as a critical part of our overall financial picture. You should be receiving a renewal email soon and we hope you will continue your support with a 2027 membership. And don't forget the membership gives you discounts, including 10% discount of all purchases at the Art & Holiday Shoppe.

As always, we cannot do this without you. Your support, through donations, attendance at our events, participation in our classes, and purchases at our Art and Holiday Shoppe is greatly appreciated!

See you at an event soon!



John Kearns
Executive Director

Council Notes



Time to Renew Memberships

Arts Council memberships run on a calendar-year basis, beginning on January 1 of each year, and continuing through the end of December. So now is the time to renew your membership for 2027. If you are not a member, this is an excellent time to join.

Your membership helps support our many activities and one of the benefits are discounts on tickets and purchases at the Art Shoppe.

Thanks to all who have already renewed.

Annual Meeting Dec 16

The Huntingdon County Arts Council will hold its Annual Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, at 5:30 p.m. at the Huntingdon County Arts Center. The Annual meeting is open to all members of the Huntingdon County Arts Council

Per our Bylaws, "During the Annual Meeting, the general membership will receive annual reports, elect new officers and board members, and give direction for the future."

After the elections, Treasurer Larry Mutti will present the financial summary for the year and Executive Director John Kearns will give a presentation of activities in 2026 and look ahead to activities in 2027. At the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, a community potluck will be held in the social room.



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

Memberships and contributions help us fulfill our mission to enrich Huntingdon County through the encouragement, support and promotion of the arts.

Huntingdon County ARTS COUNCIL

Executive Director
John Kearns

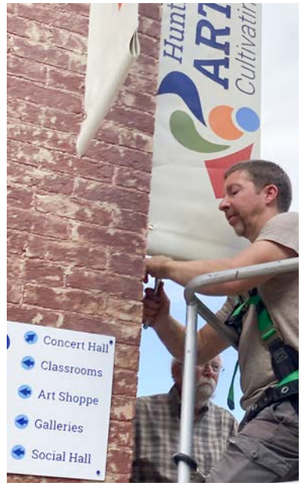
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Building Updates Continue

Our efforts to improve the Arts Center over the last three months have been successful with some notable progress. The most noticeable is the installation of two large outdoor banners on the Mifflin Street side of the building, plus two small banners at the corner of the building at 12th and Mifflin Streets. Passersbys will now have a clear understanding that this is the Huntingdon County Arts Center.



Greg Anderson & Larry Mutti installing the new outdoor banners

The installation of new HVAC throughout the building has continued, with a new mini-split in the social hall, new mini-splits in the classrooms, and three new heat pumps with auxiliary heat pack systems in our gallery and concert hall. This provides not only cooling in the summer, but also a fully integrated heat system that can serve as a backup as our boiler reaches its end of life.

A big upgrade was the lighting in the long gallery, going from two florescent bulb units to track lighting that can be changed to correctly highlight the artwork. We also installed more J-channel to hang artwork in the long gallery, concert hall, and the classroom areas.

These capital improvements are made possible by donations to our Capital Campaign fund. We only embark on new projects as we get the monies to fund the project. We will be making a request for Capital Campaign funds in the very near future and appreciate your support.

As we continue to get the donation funding, we have a long list of additional improvements that we plan to work on, including downstairs handicap accessibility, new bathrooms, and kitchen updates.

Greg Anderson



Capital Campaign Update

Thank you to the following people who donated to our Capital Campaign since our last newsletter. Our continuing efforts to improve the Huntingdon County Arts Center are fueled by your contributions to this special fund.

Online donations can be made at huntingdoncountyarts.com/get-involved/support-our-capital-campaign/

Any Gift Up to $499
Suzi Norris
Ron & Dehra Shafer

Holiday Shoppe Artists Wanted

The Huntingdon County Arts Council is seeking artists who would like to sell their artwork in our annual Holiday Shoppe.

How the Holiday Shoppe works: Price your items with the understanding that the Arts Council will take a 30% commission on each work sold. We handle the 6% sales tax. At the Shoppe's conclusion, the Arts Council will write a check to each artist reflecting the amount of their sales.

Let us know if you want to participate by sending an email to John Kearns at johnk@huntingdoncountyarts.com. Full details are on our website, www.huntingdoncountyarts.com.

The Holiday Shoppe will accept items on Monday, and Tuesday, November 9 & 10, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m . The 2026 Holiday Shoppe will open on Wednesday, November 11 and be open through December 29.

Huntingdon County Arts Center
Regular Hours
Tuesday through Saturday
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Holiday Shoppe Hours
November 11 to December 29
Monday through Saturday
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Huntingdon County ARTS COUNCIL
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www.instagram.com/huntingdon_county_arts/

Fall Classes & Workshops

Intermediate Tie-Dye with Ms Sherri

With Sherri Serbin



3 sessions
Saturdays
1:00-4:00 p.m.
November 7, 14, 21
Class Description:
Ready to take your tie-dye to the next level? Building on the folds and ties from the beginner class, you'll expand your technique with new processes including inclined ice dye, hot water irrigation, and painting with thickened dye. A great next step for anyone looking to deepen their craft and create more complex, dynamic results.

The total cost for the workshop is $100 for members and $110 for nonmembers; all materials included.



Expressionist Style Portrait Oil Painting

With Lynn Stewart and Keppy Arnoldsen
Saturday, November 28
1:00-4:00 p.m.
Class Description:
In this workshop, you'll create your own portrait—of a human, animal, or even an alien!—using classic Expressionist techniques: bold colors, and emotional expression. Bring a photo, sketch, or clipping of something you'd love to paint. This is a fun, approachable project for all skill levels, so come join us for a creative afternoon!

What is Expressionism?

Expressionism began in the early 20th century and was a reaction to the changing world for artists. They wanted to depart from past standard techniques and styles. This new process allowed the artists to communicate their inner thoughts, emotions, ideas, and personal experiences through their art.

Instead of just copying the real physical world, Expressionism focuses on capturing feelings and psychological states. The expressionist artist used strong, intense colors, distorted forms, and exaggerated lines to represent the emotions and perspective of the artist.

In this workshop the student will create a portrait painting using the methods that the Expressionists used: bright colors and emotional feelings. Bring a photo, sketch, or clipping of something you'd love to work on. This should be an easy and fun project. Come join us for our creative gathering.

A canvas will be supplied and is included in the cost, as well as a small jar of Terpenoid to clean your brushes and a little bit of Liquin to hasten the drying of your applied paint. The student will need to bring oil paints (the three primary colors and white will work) and brushes. If you need help with the oil paints or other supplies, please contact Keppy Arnoldsen, 814-777-6896. We are willing to share.

The total cost for the class is $45 for members and $50 for nonmembers.

Concerts/Performances



Aaron Patterson & Cecily DeMarco will play four historic Huntingdon church organs on Saturday, November 7.

Progressive Concert Features Historic Organs

Saturday, November 7, starting at 12:30 p.m. at St John's Episcopal Church

Two organists trained at the Julliard School in New York will play four historic organs in downtown Huntingdon churches in a progressive concert on Saturday, November 7, after the Veteran's Day parade. The performers, Aaron Patterson and Cecily DeMarco, will present a varied program of sacred, secular, and patriotic music selected to show off each instrument's capabilities.

Patterson, who has offered concerts here before, has family ties to Saxton. He recently earned a master's degree in organ performance from Julliard, and has since become the organist and music associate at the First Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Miss. He has also been a regular performer on Philadelphia's famous Wanamaker organ.

DeMarco is still a Julliard student in the Artist Diploma program, and, like Patterson, has an active performing career. She is currently the organ scholar at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church in Scarsdale, N.Y.

"When I performed here a few years back," Patterson says,

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Upcoming Events: Concerts/Performances

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"I was so impressed with how engaged the audience was throughout the whole event. Even with more challenging music to listen to, they followed me wholeheartedly through every musical journey. Such experiences are an organist's dream."

Says DeMarco: "I am so looking forward to taking part in this performance. Aaron has said nothing but wonderful things about his last performance here, and I cannot wait to share some of my favorite works with you all!"

Introducing the performers and the instruments will be Father Gene Tucker, former pastor of St. John's and former dean of a chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Of the four venues, St. John's Episcopal Church and the First Baptist Church have organs from the same manufacturer, A.B. Felgemaker of Erie, PA. The instruments are from 1911 and 1903, respectively. The Presbyterian Church has a 1922 organ by Hook & Hastings of Boston, while the Abbey Church has a 1929 M.P. Moller organ built in Hagerstown.

The two Felgemakers are tracker instruments, meaning their keys are physically connected to their ranks of pipes. The two later organs have electro-pneumatic actions that allow their consoles to be physically separate from the pipes. All four instruments are largely original.

"It's rare that a community will have this many wonderful and historic organs in its midst," Father Tucker says. "Huntingdon is blessed in that way. This concert offers an opportunity to hear all four instruments in one event."

The concert is sponsored by the four churches as well as Huntingdon Landmarks and the Huntingdon County Arts Council. It will begin at 12:30 p.m. at St. John's and proceed to First Baptist, the Abbey Church, and the Presbyterian Church. The performers will offer about 25 minutes of music at each church, then allow concertgoers sufficient time to walk to the next. The Presbyterian Church will offer a light reception following the final performance.

Tickets cost $25 each and are available from the Arts Council. Seating is limited, so tickets may not be available at the door on the day of the concert.



Sugarplum Sneak Peek

Saturday, November 7, 7:00 p.m., Huntingdon County Arts Center

Step into the magic of the holiday season with the Huntingdon Dance Academy's free *Sugarplum Sneak Peek!* Enjoy a special preview featuring highlights from this beloved holiday classic as the dancers bring the enchanting story of Clara, the Nutcracker, and the Land of Sweets to life. This festive performance offers a delightful taste of the magic, music, and dancing that make *The Nutcracker* a treasured holiday tradition for audiences of all ages.

Then don't miss their outstanding performance of *The Nutcracker* on December 18 & 19 at the Halbritter Center for the Performing Arts on the Juniata College campus.

Sponsors

A huge Thank You to our sponsors.

Art on the Go

Silver
UPMC Altoona
Bronze
Advanced Fixed Solutions, LLC
Friend
Bert & Cramer Dietrich

General Sponsorship

Bronze
Andy & Paula Cipar
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Kids Summer Art Camps

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UPMC Altoona
Bronze
Becky & Larry Newton
Friend
Frank P Hommon American Legion Post 24
Loyal Order of Moose Huntingdon Lodge No. 223
Standing Stone VFW Post 1754

Gallery Exhibits

Silver
Tom & Pat Kepple–September exhibit
Bronze
Sally Kepple & Dom Cua–August exhibit

Dinner at 8, Death by 9

Friday & Saturday, November 20 & 21, 7:00 p.m.

State College Community Theater presents this deliciously clever comedy mystery is written specifically for a dinner theatre setting, though it can also be presented traditionally. The action takes place around the head table of a banquet room where guests—and of course your audience members—are expecting a dinner theatre show. But when the guest of honor, Eleanor Van Heusen, falls face first into her plate of spaghetti, the guests are suddenly witnesses to a murder! Luckily, Inspector Bungles is there to help solve this whodunit. To say the least, Eleanor wasn't loved by all. In fact, all her family members and even the chef have reasons to kill her. Hilarity ensues as they each reveal their own murder

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Upcoming Events

Upcoming Events: Concerts
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plans, yet all claim innocence.

Tickets are $20 general admission, $16 for Arts Council members.



Urban Fusion will perform on the Art Cat stage December 5

Art Cat Jazz Club with Urban Fusion

Saturday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.

Known as the "Funk Brother of Central PA", this dynamic ensemble, featuring Gary Abdullah, Chip Lovett, Andrew Jackson, EC Byrne, Duane Bullock, and DJ Vactor, masterfully blends jazz, funk, soul, blues, and Latin rhythms. Their high energy performance is a captivating mix of original compositions and electrifying arrangements of classics by legends like Herbie Hancock, Grover Washington, and George Duke.

Tickets includes appetizers and non-alcoholic drinks. A cash bar is available. Tickets are $35 for members, $40 for nonmembers.

Silent Film Night: Sherlock Jr. with Live Piano

Saturday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.

Step back in time for an evening of laughter and wonder at our Silent Film Night on Saturday, January 23, at 7:00 p.m. The featured film is *Sherlock Jr.,* the beloved comedy starring Buster Keaton.

Keaton plays a kindly movie projectionist who dreams of becoming a great detective. When his fiancée (Kathryn McGuire) is robbed and he is framed for the crime by a local thief (Ward Crane), he sets out to clear his name using his amateur sleuthing skills.



After a chase to the train station leaves him stuck, he returns to his theater, falls asleep, and dreams that he is the legendary Sherlock Holmes.

Adding to the magic, Andrew Greene will accompany the film live on piano, bringing the story to life just as audiences experienced it a century ago.

Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Tickets are $20 general admission, $16 for Arts Council members.

A Year in a Day

At sunrise today a phoebe said its name
and at seven daffodils said, yellow.
I felt the morning of spring
and the spring of morning.
At eight the first wood thrush sang ee-o-lay.
The sun rose higher until
noon and summer solstice merged
and the day and year began their descent.
In mid-summer heat I paused my work
and ate blackberries.
When the heat faded at sunset
I watched goldenrod wave
by purple asters in clear, crisp air.
The sun dropped behind red maples,
leading a cool evening towards winter.
I get dizzy: is it evening or fall?
Did the earth spin only once
while circling the sun?
Well, when snowflakes fall
this evening I'll hibernate for the winter
until a red-winged blackbird wakes me.

Claire Holzner

Exhibit
A Lifetime in Thread: The Embroidery of Sandy Isett

January 7 to 30

Join us for an exhibit celebrating the extraordinary work of Sandy Isett, a gifted embroiderer whose needle and thread turned fabric into art. Spanning a lifetime of creativity, the collection brings together an array of her pieces, from early projects to later masterworks, revealing the patience, skill, and imagination that defined her craft.

There will be an opening reception on Thursday, January 7, from 6 to 8 p.m.

A Legacy for Huntingdon
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Kindness Lives Here.

Children ages five through twelve worked together to create a replica of our town of Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. Their goal was not simply to reproduce familiar streets and landmarks, but also to highlight the places that held special meaning for them—especially the places where they saw kindness at work. With phones and games set aside, they used their own hands, ideas, and imaginations to bring our community to life in miniature.

The result was extraordinary. The children even wrote a book to commemorate the project, creating a lasting record of what Kindness Lives Here meant to them. None of this would have been possible without the guidance and mentorship of local artist Kelly Cunningham, who spearheaded the project with creativity, patience, and care. We are deeply grateful for the way

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Kelly Cunningham (left) with Mary Louise Dietrich with the time capsule

A Legacy for Huntingdon
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she encouraged each child to contribute. Still, we felt there was one more chapter to add: a time capsule. What began as a hopeful idea quickly gathered momentum, and on Thursday, September 17, 2026, members of the community and council, the children and their parents, and the Board came together once again. We revisited the tiny-town display, reflected on the children's efforts, and shared the moments that had made the project so meaningful.

Those involved were invited to write about what the experience meant to them, and a few people brought small tokens to place inside the capsule. We also included copies of the *Altoona Mirror* and the *Daily News*, whose thoughtful coverage helped tell the story of our July 30 celebration; two photo albums, one documenting the art project and the other our rebranding; and, most importantly, the children's *Kindness Lives Here* book.

Why did this small project inspire so many people? For those who took part, the answer was clear. Through their creativity and care, our children reminded us to value the present while holding hope for the future of our town. As one visitor to the display observed, "this is a story of optimism and hope—and we could not agree more."

We plan to open the time capsule in July 2051, when the children who created this remarkable project will be the same age their parents are today. To every child, parent, artist, community member, council member, Board member, visitor, our sponsors, and local news organizations who joined us on this journey: thank you. Your enthusiasm, generosity, and belief in the power of art and kindness made this possible.

Here's to kindness, community, and the unveiling in 2051!

Mary Louise Dietrich

An Overlook, A Chasm

When I was 8 or 9
my dad used to take me to this overlook.
We had to walk through the woods.
I carried my slingshot and a pocket full of acorns
to launch out over the valley.

I haven't gotten that high in so long.
Even though it seemed so easy then,
and the memory is so easy to see now.

He taught me so many of the things I knew, then.
If he didn't say it out loud,
I could read it in the way he walked.
That's how wisdom works;
one walks where others have cut trails,
showing the next one where to go.

By now, I've forgotten where to find the trail to get back to that overlook.
If I could just ask him where it is,
then wisdom would bear its fruit.
That's how death works;
One passes away as others have done,
cutting the next generation off from their memory of trails.

Ghosts, and dreams, and memories
have a way of converging
in a living man's mind.
And not too long ago, I slept solidly enough
that I drifted up to that overlook.
The sky was still overcast, gray,
but the air was crisp and lively.
The place was more peaceful than I remembered.
As sometimes happens when I dream, his ghost found me where I stood.
We stood there for a minute, and neither of us had much to say.
His face, as always in these encounters, showed he was crestfallen, ashamed.
I just stood firmly, and observed everything,
but came up empty.
I wondered why now I couldn't gain any glimmer of wisdom from him.
For the first half of my life
He was my axis of wisdom.
He knew more about me than
I knew about myself.
He knew every crack in the walls of the houses we lived.
He knew my mother's deep secrets and wishes.

But now as we sat silent, I recognized a yawning chasm had grown between us,
and that axis of wisdom had shifted violently.
He never knew my ex-wife's first name.
He never knew his grandsons even though they look the same.
He never saw me graduate three times, or helped me plan my career.

I balked as that cold, familiar feeling settled in.
That feeling of wishing but hurting when you need someone that close to you
to understand you better than yourself, but they can't.
Because you've gone on living,
and learning,
and growing
well beyond the year when they died.
And you've become an axis of wisdom
to which they can't compare.

Devin Sherman

Recent Events

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

Exhibits

The last several months brought three wonderful exhibits to our gallery, each offering a different way to see the world. Thank you to Darryl, Michiel, and the Camera Club for a memorable season!

Both Can Be True, Darryl Audia Jr.

Western Pennsylvania artist Darryl Audia Jr. opened the season with paintings built from layered patterns and emerging figures, exploring how connection and separation, memory and the present, can all exist at once. Audia's two decades of teaching and mentoring came through in the work's patient, open spirit.



The exhibit ran from August 6 to September 5.

The Human Form in Bronze, Michiel VanderSommen

September featured the figurative sculpture of Michiel VanderSommen, whose career began with the first U.S. Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1983 and a National Ballet of Canada commission. Known for pieces like *Elvis at 13* and *Becoming* at the Elvis Presley Birthplace in Tupelo, VanderSommen now focuses on intimate commissioned busts and smaller sculptures.



The exhibit ran from September 8 to October 3.

Capture the Moment, Camera Club

We closed the season with the Camera Club's 12th annual showcase, themed *Capturing the Moment*. The free, member-run club has exhibited since 2014, and this year's show featured winning images from each monthly contest alongside standout member work.

The exhibit ran October 8 through November 7.



Camera Club members at the opening reception: (left to right) front row: Judy Mele, Margaret Sprott, back row: Susan Simpson, Larry Mutti, Richard Sprott, Ginny Mutti, Larry Closz, & Bob Mele.

Events

Huntingdon County Fair

The Art & Photography Department at the Huntingdon County Fair is run by the Huntingdon County Arts Council and is located in the Art Station, the old light green train station building next to the Midway Stage on the fairgrounds.



Parker Martin with his Brook Trout, which won the Best in Show Award.

This year we were overwhelmed with 334 entries, a 22% increase over last year. It was a great collection of art from throughout Huntingdon County.

Best in Show was awarded to 13-year-old Parker Martin for his stunning creation of a Brook Trout in the Department 11, Section 19.1, Class 11: 3-D Art, for grades 6-9 category (photo).

Judge's Choice was awarded to Larry Laird for his colored photo of Whipple Dam in the Class 10: Photograph, Colored category.

2026 Art Station Winners

Dept 19, Section 1: 2-D Art

Class 1: Pen & Ink
1st Joyce Jones, 2nd Blake Frye, 3rd Amelia Dilbert
Class 2: Charcoal
1st Blake Frye, 2nd Judy Frye, 3rd Tammy Ash
Class 3: Pastels
1st Ruth Wyland, 2nd Sue Galloway, 3rd Judy Frye
Class 4: Pencil
1st Parker Martin, 2nd Eli Thompson, 3rd Judy Frye
Class 5: Colored Pencil
1st Blake Frye, 2nd Joyce Jones, 3rd Delene Foster
Class 6: Mixed Media & Collage
1st Mattie Suchan, 2nd Cecilia Elder, 3rd Dawn Keithley
Class 7: Prints, Etchings, Stamp Art
1st Blake Frye, 2nd Tristin Croyle, 3rd Dawn Keithley
Class 8: Computer Art
1st Lauri Wilson, 2nd Mattie Suchan, 3rd Amelia Dilbert
Class 9: Photography, Black & White
1st Larry Laird, 2nd Carson Riley, 3rd Frances Whitesel
Class 10: Photograph, Colored
1st Larry Laird, 2nd Rick Hamilton, 3rd Mikara Price
Class 11: Oil
1st Mattie Suchan, 2nd Tammy Ash, 3rd Kade Wilson
Class 12: Watercolor
1st Gloria Carbaugh, 2nd Sue Galloway, 3rd Blake Frye
Class 13: Acrylic
1st Paxton Graybill, 2nd Ruth Wyland, 3rd Tammy Ash

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Huntingdon County Fair

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Dept 19, Section 2: 3-D Art

Class 1: Stained Glass
1st Parker Martin, 2nd Heather Bair, 3rd Madeline Bair
Class 2: Art Glass
1st Maria Hershey, 2nd Mikara Price, 3rd Elliot Wetzel
Class 3: Beadwork
1st Ryan Wertz, 2nd Dawn Keithley, 3rd Ladora Newkirk
Class 4: Hand Woven Pieces
1st Ladora Newkirk, 2nd Dawn Keithley, 3rd Jessica Wertz
Class 5: Hand Wrought Jewelry
1st Terry Bontrager
Class 6: Fabric Art
1st Marsha Hartman, 2nd Janet Dunlap, 3rd Mikara Price
Class 7: Found Art
1st Hartley Zook, 2nd Dawn Keithley,
3rd Mary Beatty Sharisky
Class 8: Hand-Built or Thrown Pottery or Stoneware
1st Ryan Wertz, 2nd Owen Wetzel,
3rd Lacey Brownawell
Class 9: Paper Art (Not Scrapbooking)
1st Tammy Ash, 2nd Cecilia Elder, 3rd Dawn Keithley
Class 10: Origami
1st Dawn Keithley

Dept 11, Section 1: Youth Open Art

Class 1: 2-D Art, Grades Pre-K to 2
1st Isaac Marter, 2nd Andrew Thompson,
3rd Madison Peachey
Class 2: 2-D Art, Grades 3-5
1st Adalynn Smith, 2nd Keira Fishel, 3rd Declan Price
Class 3: 2-D Art, Grades 6-9
1st Nora Catterton, 2nd Parker Martin,
3rd Remington Locke
Class 4: 2-D Art, Grades 10-12
1st Cassidy Fleck, 2nd Carson Riley, 3rd Hailey Zook
Class 5: Photography, Grades Pre-K to 2
1st Jesse Pettenger, 2nd Brynlee Bender,
3rd Gracelynn Herzberg
Class 6: Photography, Grades 3-5
1st Emmalynn Felmlee, 2nd John McCracken,
3rd Saylor Duvall
Class 7: Photography, Grades 6-9
1st Lydia Thompson, 2nd Liam Catterton,
3rd Katherine Stewart
Class 8: Photography, Grades 10-12
1st Charlotte Heffner, 2nd Lily Bell, 3rd Levi Dysard
Class 9: 3-D Art, Grades Pre-K to 2
1st Angelica Trimp, 2nd Brynlee Bender,
3rd Madison Peachey
Class 10: 3-D Art, Grades 3-5
1st Sadie Cressman, 2nd Declan Peachey,
3rd Maria Hershey
Class 11: 3-D Art, Grades 6-9
1st Parker Martin, 2nd Skyla Smith,
3rd Trinity Grissinger
Class 12: 3-D Art, Grades 10-12
1st Maximus Thompson



After the evening concert, the always popular contradancing with music by the student band.

Folk Gathering Reverberates!

Over the weekend of September 11-13 the Arts Council partnered once again with the State College-based folk duo *Simple Gifts* to explore and celebrate traditional music at the Pennsylvania Folk Gathering.

In its third year at Camp Blue Diamond, since migrating from Greenwood Furnace State Park in 2024, the Folk Gathering brought together close to a hundred musicians, musical staff, and volunteers in a joyous exploration of a multitude of musical genres. Playing a diverse array of acoustic instruments, the assembled gathering-goers went to workshops and joined in jam sessions to simply learn and play a good tune, try out a new instrument, accompany a good song or support an energetic crowd of dancers. As many as seven concurrent hour-long workshops were held throughout the day during the 3-day event, with staff concerts and dances both Friday and Saturday evenings. Old-timers and newcomers alike reveled in the camaraderie of joining together to make music and share meals that were lovingly prepared by Camp Blue Diamond staff.

As has been the tradition throughout the history of Folk Gatherings, the crowd recognized and honored a heritage musician—someone who has given a life to music, bringing a lot of others along for the ride and into the folk music community. This year's honoree was John Krumm, a veteran of folk music circles with close connections to folk music legend Pete Seeger and to Jay Unger (composer of the haunting tune *Ashokan Farewell* that was the backdrop to the beloved Civil War television series by Ken Burns). John became especially well-known for the many play-party songs and rounds he wrote and brought to generations of school age children, as well as for his conviction that EVERYONE can make music. Both he and instructors Bill Quern and Sarah Gowan served as callers for circle and contra dances, leading both seasoned dancers and absolute beginners through an evening of group dance all to the enthusiastic music served up by the Folk



Sarah Gowan tells a story and song with her "crankie"—a storytelling art form that uses a long, hand-illustrated paper or fabric scroll wound onto two spools inside a box with a viewing window .

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Recent Events

Artist Spotlight

Rick Hamilton—Versatile Artist

From an early age, Rick Hamilton was always drawing. Growing up in Hares Valley near Mapleton, he was on the Southern Huntingdon side of the school district line and was fortunate to have a couple of great art teachers, Dick Cumming and Marcia States, encouraged and fostered his talent throughout his school years.

He graduated from the Art Institute in Pittsburgh, although it took him two tries, once right out of high school, and a second time after he matured and had some work experience.

Rick's career path has had lots of twists and turns, including being a roadie/sound tech for the rock group *Bashful*, a popular radio DJ on a couple of local radio stations including Magic 99, WHUN, and Big Foot, a billboard printer, an Art Director, a freelance photographer, and a freelance DJ.



Rick Hamilton

In April 2025, he was hired as the Director of Marketing for the East Broad Top Railroad, putting all of his artistic talents to great use promoting the historic narrow gauge railroad. In his role he directs the EBT's advertising and promotion, including all of their social media (60,000+ followers!), creates videos, ad placements, and the monthly newsletters.

Rick built a home studio behind his house on Stone Creek Ridge. He creates caricatures in Adobe Photoshop, and is both an excellent photographer and videographer. He was captured by the idea of caricatures while a high school student when he visited the Art Institute and saw an artist doing them. He has even attended a caricature convention in North Carolina and made friends with some of the attendees, some of whom have become very notable in the field.



A painting made on the iPad

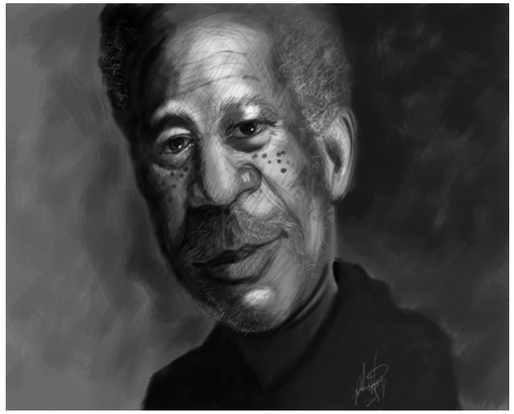
Rick has a keen eye for photography, and says that he treats photos as a composition, just like a painting.

You can follow Rick on Facebook at facebook.com/rickh, and Instagram at instagram.com/rick_hamilton_photography/. And watch for his work at the EBT.

more photos on Page 12



Chevelle: Pencil drawing



Morgan Freeman caricature



A watercolor painting



A fall scene at the East Broad Top Railroad

ArtsCalendar

November 2026 – January 2027

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.
Bold = Huntingdon County Arts Council activity

When	*What*	*Where*	*Details*
Thursday, September 24, to Thursday, December 10	Serving 20 Years of Empty Bowls	Juniata College Museum of Art	20th anniversary of the Empty Bowls at Juniata College
Saturday, November 7, 12:30 p.m.	Progressive Organ Concert	Starts at St. John's Episcopal	Tickets $25
Saturday, November 7, 1-4 p.m.	**Intermediate Tie Dye Class**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	First of 3 classes, $110/$100 Arts Council members
Saturday, November 7, 7 p.m.	**Sugarplum Sneak Peek Huntingdon Dance Academy**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Free chance to view a part of the Nutcracker
Wednesday, November 11, to Tuesday, December 29	**Holiday Shoppe Our Annual Artist Market**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Original art & crafts for sale from local artists
Thursday, November 19, 5-8 p.m.	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in the borough	Art activities for all ages
Thursday, November 19, 5-6 p.m.	Line Dancing	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all
Thursday, November 19, 7 p.m.	**Camera Club Meeting**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all
Friday, November 20, & Saturday, November 21, 7 p.m.	**Dinner at 8, Dead by 9,** State College Community Theatre	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Tickets $20, $16 Arts Council members
Friday/Saturday, November 20, 21, 27, 28; Matinees November 21, 22, 28 & 29	A Christmas Carol	Playhouse at McConnellstown	Ebenezer Scrooge classic, 7:30 p.m. Sunday Matinees 2 p.m.
Saturday, November 28, 1 to 4 p.m.	**Expressionist Style Portrait Oil Painting Workshop**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	$50/$45 Arts Council members
Saturday, December 5, 7 p.m.	**Art Cat Jazz Club: Urban Fusion**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Tickets $40, $35 Arts Council members
Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.	A Christmas Carol, a Juniata College student theater	Suzanne von Liebig Black Box Theatre, Juniata College	Admission is free, first come-first served, limited seating
Friday, December 11, to Sunday, December 13, times vary.	Festival of Wreaths & Trees	Mount Union Presbyterian Church	32nd Year, Free FestWreathsTreesMU.com
Wednesday, December 16, 5:30 p.m.	**Arts Council Annual Meeting**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to public, hear updates, potluck supper afterwards
Thursday, December 17, 5-8 p.m.	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in the borough	Art activities for all ages
Thursday, December 17, 5-6 p.m.	Line Dancing	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all
Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m.	**Camera Club Meeting**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all
Friday, December 18, 7 p.m. & Saturday, December 19, 2 p.m.	The Nutcracker, by the Huntingdon Dance Academy	Halbritter Center for the Performing Arts Juniata College	$20 for adults, $15 for children 12 and under
Thursday, January 7, to Saturday, January 30	**A Lifetime in Thread: The Embroidery of Sandy Isett**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Opening reception Thursday, January 7, from 6 to 8 p.m.
Saturday, January 23, 7 p.m.	**Silent Film Night: Sherlock Jr with Live Piano**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Tickets $20, $16 Arts Council members
Thursday, January 21, 5-6 p.m.	Line Dancing	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all
Thursday, January 28, 7 p.m.	**Camera Club Meeting**	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all

Folk Gathering Reverberates!

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Gathering pick up dance band.

With all of the chairs, tents, stage pieces, audio gear and song sheets now put away, the organizers can now take a breather before diving into preparation for the next gatherings—Taste of Folk College in January, Folk College on the Juniata College campus over Memorial Day weekend, and of course the next PA Folk Gathering (Sept 10-12, 2027 @ Camp Blue Diamond).

The Folk Gathering is an annual production for the Arts Council and its ongoing success depends on a collective of able, resourceful volunteers who give generously of their time to pull off this huge undertaking. Perhaps YOU would be interested in being part of this team. If so, please communicate your interest to Arts Council Executive Director John Kearns.

Larry Mutti

Huntingdon County
ARTS COUNCIL
cultivating creativity since 1972

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More Recent Events





Top: The September 26 Triple Threat Guitar Show with (left to right) Bill Ferrell, Devin Sherman, & Dylan Miller.

Above bottom: The Dirty Beets performed at an Art Cat Jazz Club on October 17, with great audience engagement.



The Ragtime Kickoff Concert on Thursday, September 10, featured six performers, including Martin Spitznagel on piano and Danny Coots on drum. The kickoff was part of the Ragtime & American Music Festival that continued in Rockhill/Orbisonia over the weekend.





Left & above: Rick Hamilton's photographic eye creates these captivating photos for these high school students for their senior photos.