



The

VOICE

January 2010

Newsletter of the Arts & Humanities Alliance of Jefferson County, W.V. - www.ahajc.org

Members Exhibit Arts, Crafts

The annual AHA Members Art Show and Sale, held in the gallery of the historic Entler Hotel in Shepherdstown July 15-19, 2009, featured original arts and crafts by 35 members, with sales totaling over \$1,700.

Participating members agreed to volunteer at the show and donated 25 percent of their sales proceeds to AHA to support projects in the arts and humanities.

A public reception was held

at the Entler July 17, allowing artists and crafters to meet each other and interact with guests and potential buyers.

"First rate!" was the feedback written by Myersville, Md., resident Steve Mueller, who attended the show and reception with his wife Diane. "The combination of the quality of the works plus informed access to the artists made for an enjoyable, enlightening and rewarding experience. And

continued on p. 7

AHA Awards \$12K in Grants to 21 Teachers

In December 2009, AHA awarded nearly \$12,000 in grants to art teachers in Jefferson County public schools for 25 classroom arts projects.

Quincy Northrup, chairwoman of AHA's Teaching Arts Creatively Program, said, "These grants permit teachers to carry out specific arts-related projects for their classes that otherwise would not have been possible through normal school funding. In the eight years of the program, AHA has provided teachers in our schools with about \$66,000 in grants to help them teach the arts."

AHA offered up to \$500 per grant and \$1,500 per school year per school to any teacher

continued on p. 2



Artist Ralph Basford discusses his paintings at the 2009 AHA Members Art Show and Sale with aspiring fashion designer Crystal Richardson (left) and Shepherd University English major Caitlin Rausch.

Inside

President's Message, p. 2
Fire Hall Gallery Exhibits, p. 3
Community Grants, p. 4
Creative Summer Camp, p. 6

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The

VOICE

editor and photos, Dane Konop

Teaching Arts Creatively

continued from p. 1
of the arts, music, theater, literature and dance in county public schools. Funding for the grants is provided by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts, the Jefferson County Commission and AHA member contributions.

The following were the AHA grants awarded for the 2009-2010 school year, listed by school and teacher:

Blue Ridge E.S.

Cheryl LaVigne, \$500 to purchase an LCD projector.
Constance Balakoff, \$500 to purchase art supplies to make masks.

Charles Town M.S.

Rachel Barb, \$500 to purchase 16 ukuleles.
Rachel Barb, \$500 for an honorarium for a guest conductor to work with the

band.
Robert Linde, \$500 to complete installation of a kiln

C.W. Shipley E.S.

Nena Stowell, \$500 to purchase art supplies needed for projects in all grades based on the life of John Brown.
Nancy Guiney, \$255 for students in the accelerated readers program to attend a production at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg, Pa.

Harpers Ferry M.S.

Chad Conant, \$500 for an honorarium for a master jazz teacher to facilitate six workshops at Harpers Ferry Middle School and six workshops at Shepherdstown Middle School.

Jefferson H.S.

J.P. Lynch, \$500 for honoraria
continued on p. 7

Board President's Message

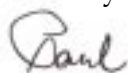
As we begin a new year, I'm happy to report that the Arts and Humanities Alliance is poised to expand and enhance our collective efforts to nurture culture and creativity in Jefferson County. To increase our funding and make our non-profit organization more efficient and accountable, the AHA Board of Directors has drafted a strategic plan, implemented a new accounting system, begun codifying our organizational procedures and set plans for expanded grant fundraising.

We think these steps will go a long way toward revamping AHA into a modern, efficient, more professionally run organization that is better able to serve the county.

We hope this year's *Voice* will give you a glimpse of some of the good work AHA has achieved over the past year.

Please continue your support of the arts and humanities in Jefferson County by renewing your AHA membership today.

Thank you,



Paul Pritchard, president, AHA Board of Directors

Throughout the year and for the past several years AHA has hosted exhibits by member artists at the Fire Hall Gallery in the Charles Town Visitor's Center.

Currently, the AHA Permanent Exhibit, consisting of works of art acquired by AHA over the years, will be displayed through the end of January.

In February, the gallery will exhibit black-and-white film photographs produced by local photographers in the AHA-sponsored Jefferson County Photography Project, led by noted Shepherdstown photographer and teacher Benita Keller. The photographs document life in Jefferson County in the summer of 2009.

In November 2009, AHA sponsored an exhibit of paintings at the gallery by Shepherdstown artist Nan Broadhurst entitled "Compassion." The exhibit included her

Fire Hall Gallery Showcases Artists



2009 Washington High School valedictorian Charlotte "Kate" Kirby-O'Connell exhibited "Geisha" and other pen-and-ink digitized drawings at the Fire Hall Gallery in the Charles Town Visitor's Center July 26 through September 30.

paintings of survivors of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.

"Each painting focuses on the interaction between two people and depicts an emotional response to calamity, including despair, anger, fear, exhaustion and desperation, and the human supportive response, which results in deep connection," Broadhurst said.

From July 26 through September 30, 2009, emerging artist Charlotte "Kate" Kirby-O'Connell exhibited her digitalized pen and marker drawings at the gallery. She sold 21 of 25 pieces on the show's opening night.

Kirby-O'Connell, who is the daughter of Linda Kirby and the late Gregory O'Connell of Charles Town, was the 2009

continued on p. 7



During a Nov. 1 reception at the Fire Hall Gallery, artist Nan Broadhurst (right) discusses her painting "Fractured 4" with Mimi Guerrero-Pinchera of Olney, Md.

AHA Grants Support Local Artists, Community Groups

In 2009, AHA awarded \$16,500 in grants to groups and individuals in Jefferson County to fund projects in the arts or humanities that are intended to preserve or enhance the county's cultural heritage.

AHA Community Grant recipients must be residents of or operate from facilities within Jefferson County. Projects must demonstrate positive community impact through the arts and humanities.

Grant criteria and other details can be found at

www.ahajc.org/CommunityGrant.htm.

Grants in April

At the April 20 AHA Board of Directors meeting at the Charles Town Visitor's Center, then AHA President Peter Corum and AHA Community Grants Chairman Ron Widmyer presented checks totaling \$6,500 for grants to nine Jefferson County community groups.

Organizations that received grants and the purposes of the grants were the American Conservation Film Festival for

a photography class and show for children, the Freedom Run Committee to promote the first annual Freedom Run Marathon, the Friends of Music to create a free orchestra concert for students, Goose Route Arts Collaborative for a summer dance program, Head Start Regional Education Service Agency VIII to place artists with teachers in the Head Start classroom, the Old Opera House Theater Company for a summer children's theater, the Potomac Valley Audubon Society for a summer children's discovery camp, the Shepherdstown Men's Club to improve art display capability in the community, and the Shepherdstown Visitors Center for a monthly art gallery show.

Grants in June

At the annual AHA membership meeting in Shepherdstown June 20, then AHA Vice President Paul Pritchard presented checks totaling \$6,000 for grants to six Jefferson County community groups.

Organizations that received grants and the purposes of the grants were: the Contemporary American Theater Festival to provide supplementary programs of lectures, play readings and art displays for the 2009 film festival; the Harpers Ferry Historical Association

continued on p. 5



Group representatives receive AHA Community Grant checks in April. Pictured from left to right are Celeste Welz, Hillary Reid, April Dockeney and Jody Rawlins (Head Start), Michael Austin (Shepherdstown Men's Club), Lois Turco (Freedom Run), Peter Corum (AHA President), Ellen Murphy (Potomac Valley Audubon), Doug Kinnett (Shepherdstown Visitors Center), Amy Mathews Amos (American Conservation Film Festival), Rob Northrup (the Friends of Music), Quincy Northrup (Goose Route Arts Collaborative), Ron Widmyer (AHA Community Grants Committee Chairman) and Steve Brewer (Old Opera House Theater Company).

Grants

continued from p. 4

for a lockable case to display original, never publicly displayed John Brown artifacts; the Heritage Craft Center of the Eastern Panhandle to provide educational craft classes by local artists to the public; the Historic Shepherdstown Commission Inc. to provide a staff training session for public school teachers on how to use the Historic Shepherdstown Museum as a teaching tool, emphasizing local arts and crafts; student Franco J. Posa to attend the National Jazz Festival at Shenandoah University in the summer of 2009; and the South Jefferson Public Library to expand community outreach through the arts and humanities.

Grants in October

At the monthly meeting of the



Three community groups and one student receive AHA Community Grant checks in June. Pictured from left to right are Richard Raymond, the Harpers Ferry Historical Association; high school student Franco Posa; Vicki Smith and Donna Northouse, Historic Shepherdstown Museum; and Curt Mason, South Jefferson Public Library.

AHA Board of Directors, held at the South Jefferson Public Library in Summit Point on Oct. 19, new AHA President Paul Pritchard and AHA Treasurer Kathryn Skinner presented \$2,000 checks for

grants to the By Golly Theater Troupe organized by artist and musician Lisa Lafferty for the writing, production and performance of original, community-developed children's stage plays, including instruction to children, and to the Friends of Happy Retreat to prepare a business plan to use Happy Retreat as a community cultural center.

The By Golly Theater Troupe, which includes both children and adults in acting and production roles, plans to produce one or two plays for children per year, with some performances possibly in county schools. The troupe's most recent production, "Fish Tales," was staged this past August at The Folly near Shepherdstown.

Happy Retreat is the historic home in Charles Town built by town founder Charles Washington. ###



Two community groups receive AHA Community Grant checks in October. AHA President Paul Pritchard (left) presents a grant check to Nelson Parkinson, acting president of the Friends of Happy Retreat, while AHA Treasurer Kathryn Skinner (far right) presents a grant check to Shepherdstown artist and musician Lisa Lafferty, representing the By Golly Theater Troupe.

Local Musicians, Artists Shine at Summer Camp

This past summer, with AHA support, Shepherdstown Elementary School offered Jefferson County school children a unique way to interact with area artists and musicians to explore the connections between art, music and science.

The half-day "Rise & Shine" summer camp, held for two two-week sessions in June and July at the school, was open to all rising kindergarteners through rising sixth graders in Jefferson County. The campers and their teachers worked with local artists and musicians in small group settings on a variety of projects.

"This was our most successful year yet in our summer camp program," said Shepherdstown Elementary

Principal Suzanne Offutt. "By expanding our curriculum to integrate the arts and using local artists, we provided educational opportunities in a seamless offering of stimulating, engaging activities for our students."

Campers were also given the opportunity to piggyback with an afternoon camp program. "We were fortunate to work out transportation to Jefferson County Parks and Recreation's summer camp program at Morgan Grove Park so that students whose families needed an all-day program could go there in the afternoon," Offutt said. "It was a delight to pull together the resources of AHA, Jefferson County Parks and Jefferson County Schools to provide a

rich educational opportunity for children."

In one session, visiting artists and musicians Terry Tucker and Ardyth Gilbertson explained their philosophy for bringing a love of music to children. "The songs we are sharing have been selected for their beautiful melodies, their poetry and their tradition in our part of the world." Their repertoire also included traditional songs from other countries. The two musicians selected poems for rich language and imagery that would tempt the children to memorize them. The stories, fables, poems and songs were all chosen to enrich and stimulate the imagination and enlarge a young person's vocabulary, they said.

Actor and Shepherd University professor Joe Yates' drama class was a favorite for the youngest campers.

Dancer Christine Cline, a Shepherd University graduate and first grade teacher in Virginia, gave the children an introduction to movement and music.

The collaborative project was the vision of AHA board member and past president Peter Corum, who worked with Offutt and Tim Barr, director of the Jefferson County Parks and Recreation Commission, to expand the program to include the afternoon session at Morgan's Grove Park. Corum said, "Because of the success of this past summer's program, we are looking forward to another successful 'Rise & Shine' summer camp next year!" ###



At the 2009 Shepherdstown Street Fest, Charles Town residents Theresa Eisenman, husband Eric and daughter Ava look over photographs and artwork from the AHA-supported "Rise & Shine" summer camp held at Shepherdstown Elementary School.

Teacher Grants

continued from p. 2

for three jazz musicians to work with Mr. Lynch's jazz band.

North Jefferson E.S.

Mary Marra Watts, \$449.92 to purchase supplies for a 3-D pottery project with both pinch and coil pots.

Page-Jackson E.S.

Lindsey Dove, \$487 to purchase an Orff alto xylophone. Lisa Patterson, \$500 to purchase books and "elements of art" visuals for a wide range of art projects.

Ranson E.S.

Jason Largent, \$500 to purchase scripts and additional instruments for production of a play.

Shepherdstown E.S.

Amanda Townsend, \$394.84 to purchase various supplies

to aid in movement exploration with scarves and scarf canopy.

Shepherdstown M.S.

Cheryl Crawford, \$500 to purchase four African drums. Chad Conant, \$500 for honoraria for two visits by a guest teacher to work with the three bands at the school. Chad Conant, \$500 for honoraria for three jazz teachers to facilitate five jazz workshops.

South Jefferson E.S.

Pam Shearer, \$500 to purchase a digital video camera, several DVDs and some props needed by the students to create "theater pieces" after having viewed several as examples. Judy Chesley, \$500 to purchase art supplies to be used in grades K-5 to create objects reflective of the cultures of the world.

T.A. Lowery E.S.

Alvyce Ane Moore, \$500 to

purchase an alto xylophone and three drums.

Washington H.S.

Laura Miller, \$500 for digital cameras to be used with a unit on digital photography. John Bonner, \$500 to purchase an LCD projector. Roberta Ranelli, \$500 to pay a composer for a commissioned work to be developed in collaboration with and performed by the combined choirs of the high school.

Wildwood M.S.

Susan Carney, \$500 to purchase equipment to support a program called "Go Global" in which the students will explore Islamic design and culture, focusing on Afghanistan.

Wright Denny I.S.

Marie Everman, \$500 to purchase three video cameras, three tripods and one still camera. ###

AHA Show

continued from p. 1

yes, we purchased items as well," he wrote.

Participating artist Mary-Jo Bennett, who sold a photograph to the Muellers, wrote, "It seemed that most of the artists did a wonderful job of making the guests feel welcome and engaging them in conversation."

The show was open to all AHA members at no cost. Each member could hang two pieces. Crafters were given one table to display their creations.

The event was organized and run by then AHA President Peter Corum and AHA Public Relations Chairman Dane Konop. New AHA board member Kathryn Burns hung the show, with the assistance of Konop and AHA member Lynn Adams.

Because of uncertainties about the availability of the Entler, no date or location has yet been set for the 2010 show, although it will likely be held in the summer or early fall. Planned improvements in this year's show include a quicker turnaround time for payment of artists. ###

Gallery

continued from p. 3

valedictorian at Washington High School. She is currently majoring in animation at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah, Ga., and operates her own business, Geomexia Studios. "The whole experience was a lot of fun, from drawing and putting together the art through setting up and having the reception," Kirby-O'Connell said.

In April and May 2009, Shepherd University art major Tim Everson presented his senior show. ###



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Remember, 2010 AHA membership renewals are now due. Please go to www.ahajc.org for details and an application.

Wanted: AHA Webmaster.
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