

ARTS / DATES

Publication of the Ashe County Arts Council

SCHOOL ARTS HAPPENINGS

The Arts Council's sponsorship of cultural programs in Ashe County schools continues to enhance students' education through the arts. Concerts and residencies will be offered during December, January, and February sponsored jointly by the Ashe County Arts Council and local schools. Funding comes from Grants from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, South Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and are sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council.

Mike Wiley Productions

A Game Apart and One Noble Journey
January 17, Ashe County Middle School

David Burgess

Classical Latin Guitar
January 27, Ashe County High School

Bill Harley

Traditional Music, Stories, Songwriting, and more!
February 22-24, Blue Ridge, Mountain View,
Westwood Elementary Schools

BILL HARLEY IN CONCERT

Grammy award winning recording and performing artist Bill Harley will appear at the Ashe Civic Center at 7:30 p.m. Friday, February 24. The concert is sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council and will also feature chorus students from Westwood Elementary School.



A nationally recognized family entertainer, Bill Harley is known for his ability to entertain children and adults alike with a unique song and story. Bringing insight and humor to his observations about growing up and parenting like no other performer, Harley's concerts feature original material about today's world. Harley has been heralded as "the Mark Twain of kids' music" and TV Guide describes him as "a real find...humorous, canny and supremely tuneful!"

Reserved seating tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and are available in advance at the Ashe Arts Center or by calling 336.846-2787 (ARTS). Mastercard, Visa, and Discover accepted. The concert is funded by a Regional Touring Grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council.

REGIONAL ARTIST PROJECT GRANT AWARDS

Regional Artist Project Grant Awards for 2011-12 were announced recently. Nine grants were given to artists in Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga, and Wilkes counties. The program is funded, in part, by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, and has served local artists for fourteen years.



Pictured are this year's winners.

From Left to Right:

Dan Abernathy (Alleghany, Visual Arts, Wood Carving)

Jon Moretz (Ashe, Visual Arts, Blacksmithing)

Richard Prisco (Watauga, Visual Arts, Furniture Making)

Pat Morrison (Ashe, Visual Arts, Pottery)

Susan McLaurin (Watauga, Visual Arts, Photography)

Rosa Dargen-Powers (Watauga, Visual Arts, Bookmaking and Basketry)

Teresa Cerda (Watauga, Visual Arts, Painting)

Not pictured: Lynn Duryea (Watauga, Visual Arts, Sculpture) and Tyler Deal (Watauga, Visual Arts, Collage)

Does your mailing label above have a red dot beside it? If so, it means this may be your last issue of ARTS/DATES. Because of increased printing and postage costs, we need to announce the following: If you live outside the immediate Ashe County region, if you've been receiving our newsletter for a year or more, and if we have not received a fund drive contribution from you, we must assume you are no longer interested in keeping up with the arts in Ashe County. Please let us hear from you by December 31 if you'd like to continue receiving ARTS/DATES. If you prefer, we can send you the newsletter electronically. And next time you're in West Jefferson, please stop by the Ashe Arts Center. We'd love to renew our acquaintance with you!

CHRISTMAS MINIATURES

Good things come in small packages! And that definitely applies to art! Following last year's successful Christmas Miniatures Exhibit, artists have been challenged to once again create new works of art no larger than twelve inches square. The miniature works in oil, watercolor, acrylics and photography are from artists Joanie Bell; Henry Bowers; Doug Butler, Kelly Clampitt, Evalynn Halsey, Ed Kline, Diane LaBonte, Lib McRimmon, Judy Mitchell, Pat Morrison, Ed Perzel; Scot Pope; Cheryl Roberts, Annette



"Tradition"
by Judy Mitchell

Rogers, Stephen Shoemaker, Holly Soukup, Susan Van Wyk, and Loretta Weaver. Christmas Miniatures will be on display through December 30. Celebrate the season with a new work of art – they make great gifts, too!

TWELVE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

"On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me!" The TWELVE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS raffle returns to the Ashe Arts Center as a fund-raiser for community and school arts programming. Artists have generously donated original, handcrafted items that will be a terrific addition under someone's tree! Pottery, quilted items, paintings, ornaments, jewelry, wooden goblets, and unique, one of a kind Christmas crafts are included in the 2011 fundraiser. The following artists have generously donated items: Susan Dahlin Bashford, Michael Clayton, Theresa Early Curd, Karen Hall, Diane LaBonte, Gil Millsaps, Ed Perzel, Priscilla Popper, Judith Reese, Cheryl Roberts, Nancy Shoemaker, Stephen Shoemaker, Hollis Wild, and Jennifer Wilson.

See the display in The Gallery Shop! Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and are available at the Arts Center or from Arts Council volunteers. The drawing will be held on December 4 after the Choral Society Concert.



HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Ashe Arts Center

11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Saturday, December 3

2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Artist Reception

Refreshments will be served!

THE GALLERY

Tree Fest includes eight artfully-decorated theme Christmas trees. "Christmas Miniatures," new works by area artists.

THE GALLERY SHOP

Christmas Marketplace brings you the finest in handmade holiday crafts and gifts. Complete your holiday shopping locally with the finest in jewelry...pottery...baskets...paintings and photography...books...wooden bowls...ornaments... stained glass...silk scarves...quilted goods... CDs... floral arrangements... note cards and much more!

ASHE COUNTY CHORAL SOCIETY HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Ashe County Choral Society's annual Holiday Concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, December 4, at the Ashe Civic Center in West Jefferson. Formed in 1985 through the sponsorship of the Ashe County Arts Council, the Choral Society is under the direction of Grady Lonon. Accompanist is Michael Bell.

The concert will offer something for everyone! Sacred and secular works of the season will be included. A cappella pieces will be performed as well as accompaniments on the Civic Center's Steinway Grand piano. The audience will participate in singing the favorite carol, "Angels We Have Heard on High," and your favorite soloists from the Choral Society will be featured.

The 2011 program includes "Gloria In Excelsis Deo" from Mozart's Mass in C, a selection from The Messiah, spirituals, and special arrangements of favorite holiday carols of the season. Michael Bell and Ashe County High School senior, Joseph Pennington, will provide a four-hand piano accompaniment to "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day." The secular portion of the program features an arrangement for "There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays" and the contemporary "Slow Rockin' Christmas" arranged by Jay Althouse.

The concert is sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council and is partially funded by a Grassroots Arts Program Grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$5 for students to help defray the costs of the performance. Reserved seating tickets are available in advance at the Ashe Arts Center in West Jefferson. Visa, Mastercard, and Discover are accepted. For more information, call 846-ARTS.



SATURDAY WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 3rd
Entry at 8:30, 9:15 and 10:00 a.m.
Ashe Arts Center

Free picture with Santa!
Story time with Mrs. Claus! Christmas Crafts!
Milk and cookies with Santa!
Each child will receive a bag of goodies
and a Christmas book!

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE -
call 846-ARTS(2787) to make
reservations - \$3.00 per child

Sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council



~ SAVE THE DATE ~

FEAST FOR THE ARTS!

Ashe County's favorite evening of great dining, a gourmet dessert buffet, and a surprise silent auction returns to the Arts Center on May 19, 2012.

Mark your calendars!
Deadline for host homes to sign up is March 1st. Start planning your menu and guest list now.

For more information and to find out how you can get involved, call the Arts Council at 336.846-ARTS.

CHRISTMAS Crawl

Promoting West Jefferson's Arts District

Mark your calendars for **Friday, December 2** when galleries, studios, and craft shops in downtown West Jefferson will be open for extended hours from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. for the first Christmas Crawl. Patterned after the popular seasonal gallery crawls, enjoy new artwork, music, refreshments, and an opportunity to jumpstart your holiday gift giving by finding original, handcrafted works of art.

Participating galleries:

Acorn Gallery, Ashe Arts Center, Ashe Custom Framing & Gallery
Backstreet Beads, BC Photography, Bohemia Gallery,
Broomfields Gallery, Originals Only Gallery, Ripples Gallery
RT Morgan Art Gallery, Stephen Shoemaker Studio and Gallery
The Artists' Theatre, Tin Roof Gallery

The Crawl is sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council in cooperation with the West Jefferson Business Association, the West Jefferson TDA and is funded, in part, through a Grassroots Arts Program Grant of the North Carolina Arts Council. For more information, call the participating galleries or the Arts Center at 336.846-ARTS.

Thank you! Thank you! To a great group of volunteers! Thank you to ticket takers, movers and haulers, bakers, mailers and hard working committee members.

Doc Adams, Mary Allen, Lisa Ashley, Elaine Bentley, Tab and Eileen Bell, Joan Bell, Sara Benfield, Susanne Black, Joanne Boman, Linda Bruce, Jennie and Fowler Bush, Deb Caine, Nancy and Ron Carter, Kelly Clampett, Rudy and Theresa Curd, Judy Current, Judy Dancy, Jane and Walt Davis, Joy Dollar, Jeff Dreyer, Gary Gonyea, Connie Hardison, Kelly and Jody Holleman, Kathy Howell, Charna Howson, Tom Truxal, Carolyn Johnson, Dana and Donnie Johnson, Diane and Wayne Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Sharon Kasel, Matthew Lonon, John MacConnell, Becky and Kent Marsten, Mary McIntyre, Caroline Mickalitis, Bette Mitchell, Judy Mitchell, Carolyn Mock, Joe Montanarella, Judi Mullen, Tammy Parunak, Ed and Ellie Perzel, Scot Pope, Burt and Sandra Prange, Nancy Shoemaker, Crystal Spencer, Becky and Peter Stragand, Pam Tapp, Susan Van Wyk, Janet Warner, June Weaver, Jim Williams, Lisa Willingham

Tree Fest

November 21 through
December 28, 2011

The Ashe Arts Center celebrates the holiday season and Ashe County Christmas trees with beautifully decorated trees.

This winter wonderland has been created with something for everyone and represents community involvement with the arts.

It Takes a Village:

Jeanette Herman has created a thought provoking tree that features twenty-eight years of collectible Hallmark Nostalgic House and Shop ornaments. The ornaments represent the village, and hands encircle the tree reflecting the helpers and those helped. The village survives because people help each other, the cycle continues, and we pass it on. The tree is dedicated to sister, Rebecca, and is in memory of their parents, James and Jean Herman.

A Child's Advent Tree: Three generations have come together making handcrafted ornaments to reflect the nostalgia and anticipation of the advent season. Sharon Kasel, daughter Dayna Gury, and granddaughter, Grace Gury have created multi-colored decorations with numbered pockets for children's treasures to be revealed daily until Christmas morning.

Orange You Glad It's Christmas?: A tree to make you smile is decorated with handmade ornaments by Molly Gambill and Helen Sexton. These creative gals have decorated a one of a kind tree in colors of orange – what else! Christmas is in our hearts ... Warm loving feelings of thanks ... Tasty treats and silly gifts ... Colors of every hue. Their whimsical tree will put a different twist on Christmas and will have you saying, "orange you glad it's Christmas?"

A Christmas Tea: David Van Hoy and Michelle Lyle bring a sense of nostalgia in a tree decorated with a collection of antique china teacups and saucers. Linen tea napkins and a color theme of blues and silver invite the viewer to take it easy, sit down and enjoy a cup of holiday Christmas tea.

The Peacock Tree: *The Peacock Tree* is presented by Stacey Dillard to honor her late father, Bill Colvard, an avid bird watcher. Bill found the peacock to be one of the most beautiful and extraordinary birds around, bursting with vibrant hues. Trips to specialty bird farms was a shared time with father and daughter, Stacey selecting the brightly colored feathers she found on the ground. The tree features beautiful teals, purples and greens, using real peacock feathers which have been admired by humans and used in decorations for thousands of years. Stacey has created a magical tree of flight and fantasy.

A Candy Cane Christmas: A collection of glass ornaments in red and white along with red and white-stripped ribbons inspired John Shepherd to use candy canes as the theme for his tree. White lights and silver are interspersed throughout the tree creating a fun holiday theme.

Out of the Box: The tree contains boxes covered with fabric, painted or embellished with beads, ribbons, laces, and paper flowers. Red and gold ribbons drape the tree, and the top of the tree displays an angel coming out of a box. Created by the Out of the Box Fiber Artists, Gail Brandt, Joyce Cain, Catherine Finch, Peg Hoffstetter, Marion Houck, Claudette Jacobs, Rheta Kirk, Adrienne Sherron, Judy Thew, and Gillian Winterton.

Trees donated by Hudler Carolina Tree Farms

Wreath donated by Omni Farms



THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

Look!!! Up in the sky!!!
It's a bird, it's a plane,
it's... it's... ART!

Ashe artists have created new works focusing on the theme of the sky and all the space above us: a sunrise, gorgeous sunsets, rainbows, the moon, birds and fowl that grace our skies, celestial planets and stars, clouds. You get the idea!

Painters and photographers exhibiting in **The Sky's The Limit** include Joanie Bell, Ed Booth, Doug Butler, Kelly Clampitt, Marion Cloaninger, Gerald Conken, Pat Considine, Barbara Evans, Pat Grant, Evalynn Halsey, Alan Huston, Susan Jespersen, Scot Pope, Betty Powell, Betty Rembert, Carol Whitmore-Herring, and others.

The opening reception for *The Sky's The Limit* will be from 5 – 7 p.m. Thursday, January 5. The exhibit runs through February 3.

DAVID BURGESS

An evening of classical and Latin guitar music will be presented at the Ashe Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, January 28 by David Burgess. Praised by musicians and critics worldwide, David Burgess is recognized as one of today's outstanding guitarists.

His international appearances as soloist and chamber musician have taken him to concert halls throughout North and South America, Europe and the Far East. First prize winner in the Andrés Segovia Fellowship Competition in New York City, he has also won top honors in the Ponce International Competition in Mexico City, the Guitar '81 Competition in Toronto and the 31st International Music Competition in Munich.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students; tickets are available at the Ashe Arts Center in advance or at the door. Credit cards are accepted. Call 336.846-ARTS for more information.

ADVANCE TICKETS

Advance tickets for Arts Council sponsored events go on sale **one month** prior to the event and may be purchased at the Ashe Arts Center or by calling 336.846-ARTS during regular business hours. Cash, checks, and Visa/Mastercard/Discover are accepted.

MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY CELEBRATION

The Ashe County Arts Council will sponsor a community celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King at 7 p.m., on Monday January 16th at the Ashe Arts Center in West Jefferson. Included in the evening's activities will be readings and tributes from local leaders with special music presented under the direction of Diane Bryan-Leeper.



Mike Wiley will be the featured performer for the celebration performing excerpts from several programs relating to civil rights leaders and reflecting Dr. King's life long commitment to non-violent principles and peace. *A Game Apart*, the story of Jackie Robinson's life, and *One Noble Journey* will be presented by Mike Wiley at Ashe County Middle School.

The evening program is free and open to the public. For more information, call 336.846-ARTS.

FEBRUARY *Arts*

FIBER, ANYONE?



"Poppies"
by Linda Smith

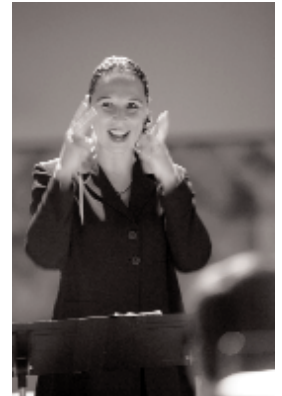
Artists are taking a creative approach to the fiber medium, considering both traditional expressions of fiber art and the fringes of the medium, where concepts of art and craft come together. The Ashe Arts Center Gallery's winter exhibit, *Fiber, Anyone?* recognizes the innovative and extraordinary work being produced by the region's fiber artists, and celebrates the distinctive character of all things fiber.

Artists from Ashe and the surrounding counties will showcase the textile arts with basketry, felting, knitting, needle arts, dyeing, mixed media, surface design, quilting, sculptural work, wearable art, weaving, collage, mixed media and more. Exhibiting artists include Catherine Altice, Joanie Bell, Jane Campbell, Theresa Early Curd, Martha Deal, Martha Enzmann, Shirley Frierson, Rebecca Herman, Linda Hurd, Alan Huston, Rheta Kirk, Cheryl Roberts, Annette Rogers, Linda Smith, Hollis Wild, and others.

Fiber, Anyone? runs from February 8 through March 9, 2012. The community is invited to join us for the opening reception from 5 - 7 p.m. Thursday, February 9.

APPALACHIAN PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA **DR. CORNELIA LAEMMLI ORTH,** **MUSIC DIRECTOR AND** **CONDUCTOR**

The Appalachian State University Hayes School of Music Appalachian Philharmonia Orchestra will be presented in concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 11 at the Ashe Civic Center. Under the direction of Dr. Cornelia Laemml Orth, the faculty/student ensemble will perform literature from the standard orchestral repertoire spanning the baroque to the contemporary periods.



Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$5 for students and reserved seats are available in advance at the Ashe Arts Center. Credit cards are accepted. Call 336.846-ARTS for tickets or further information.

COMMUNITY BARN QUILT

Ashe County's first Community Barn Quilt was dedicated October 1st. Located on Parson's Supply on the Backstreet, the sixteen quilt blocks were painted and inscribed with the name of a business or organization or dedicated in honor or memory of someone. The "signature" quilt is the newest work of public art in West Jefferson.

Participating in the project:

- Ashe County Arts Council Board of Directors in memory of Jean Herman
- Ashe High Country Real Estate
- Badger Funeral Home
- Fowler Bush in honor of Ashe County Democratic Party
- Rudy Curd in memory of Ruth Shell Curd
- Farmer's Market
- Friends of the Library
- Hart-T-Tree Farms - the John Chefas Family
- Hudler Tree Farms in memory of Ron And Fred Hudler
- Becky Marsten in honor of Bart Bartholomew
- Allison Moise and family of B.J. and Dareleen Bare in honor of B.J. and Dareleen Bare
- Parson's Farm Supply
- Roten Insurance Agency
- Jennifer Treski in memory of Wade E. Vannoy, Jr.
- WKSX 580 AM
- West Jefferson Community Partnership



E-NEWS INFORMATION AVAILABLE!

Would you like to receive timely reminders about special arts happenings in Ashe County? Would you like to get an electronic version of ARTS/DATES? We'd be glad to add you to the growing list of folks who receive regular email blasts about upcoming concerts, exhibits, opportunities for artists, and special arts events. Send us a message with your email address and we'll put you on the list! Stay in touch electronically and don't miss out on arts happenings!

And remember to check our website, www.ashecountyarts.org for updated information about the arts.

Respond to Rebecca at Rebecca@ashecountyarts.org.

The Ashe County Arts Council exists to enrich the cultural life of Ashe County by nurturing and supporting the arts. Your contribution is an investment in the future of your community. Our 2011-2012 Fund Drive continues with lots of community support. The Ashe County Arts Council is grateful to the following business and individual contributors who make our program possible. These donations were made between July 1 and November 15, 2011:

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Bart Bartholomew's 95th B-Day
John & Audrey Wasner
Fay Weaver
Max & Cathy Yates

Please take this opportunity to contribute to the Ashe County Arts Council.

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Amount Pledged _____ Payment Enclosed _____

Send your tax-deductible contribution to 303 School Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694.

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- Patron \$200-299
- Benefactor \$300-599
- Sponsor \$600-999
- Special \$1000-2499
- Angel \$2500-4999
- Archangel \$5000-up!

DECEMBER

- 1-30... "Tree Fest" exhibit, Ashe Arts Center
1-23... *A Christmas Carol*, Barter Theatre, Abingdon, VA
1-23... *Wooden Snowflakes*, Barter Stage II, Abingdon, VA
1-31... *A Wolfahrt Holiday Spectacular*, Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre, Wytheville, VA
2... Holiday Scholarship Concert, 7:30 pm, Farthing Auditorium, ASU
3... Saturday With Santa, 8:30-10:45 am, Ashe Arts Center
3... Holiday Open House and reception for "Tree Fest" artists, 11 am -4 pm, Ashe Arts Center
3... Mountainhome Music: An Appalachian Christmas, 8 pm, Grace Lutheran Church, Boone
4... Ashe County Choral Society Concert, 7:30 pm, Ashe Civic Center
6... Appalachian Chorale, 8 pm, Rosen Concert Hall, ASU
8... Shapenotes Singers meet, 7 pm, Ashe Arts Center
8... Leahy Family Christmas, 8 pm, Walker Center, Wilkesboro
8... Appalachian Symphony Orchestra, 8 pm, ASU
11... Messiah Sing-A-Long, 6 pm, Rosen Hall, ASU
17... Wordkeepers Salon, 4 pm, Ashe Arts Center

JANUARY

- 4-31... "The Sky's the Limit" exhibit, Ashe Arts Center
5... Artists' reception for "The Sky's the Limit" exhibit, 5-7 pm, Ashe Arts Center
10... Ashe County Arts Council meets, 6:30 pm, Ashe Arts Center
12... Shapenotes Singers meet, 7 pm, Ashe Arts Center
12-31... *Always...Patsy Cline*, Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre, Wytheville, VA
16... Martin Luther King Holiday Celebration with Mike Wiley, 7 pm, Ashe Arts Center
17... Auditions for Ashe County Little Theatre's *Harvey*, 7 pm, Arts Center
28... David Burgess, 7:30 pm, Ashe Arts Center
31... Harmonia Baroque, 8 pm, Rosen Concert Hall, ASU



The Gallery & Gallery Shop

303 School Avenue

Downtown West Jefferson

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. December only
We will resume Saturday hours in the spring!

FEBRUARY

- 1-28.. *Always...Patsy Cline*, Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre, Wytheville, VA
4-28... *Alfred Hitchcock's The 39 Steps*, Barter Theatre, Abingdon, VA
8-28... "Fiber, Anyone?" exhibit, Ashe Arts Center exhibit, Ashe Arts Center
9... Shapenotes Singers meet, 7 pm, Ashe Arts Center
9.. Artists' reception for "Fiber, Anyone?" exhibit, 5-7 pm, Ashe Arts Center
11... Appalachian Philharmonia, 7:30 pm, Ashe Civic Center
14... Ashe County Arts Council meets, 6:30 pm, Ashe Arts Center
14... Valentine's Evening with Todd Wright & Friends, 8 pm, Rosen Concert Hall, ASU
17... Firefall, 8 pm, Walker Center, Wilkesboro
23-28... 9 to 5: *The Musical*, Barter Theatre, Abingdon, VA
24... Bill Harley, 7:30 pm, Ashe Civic Center



STAFF: Jane Lonon, Executive Director
Linda Dreyer, Director of Operations
Rebecca Herman, Program Director
Zaneeta, Santa's Little Helper

Web site: www.ashecounyarts.org E-mail: jlsharts@skybest.com
303 School Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694
336.846-ARTS



Happy Holidays to you
and yours from the
Ashe County Arts
Council. To celebrate
the upcoming holidays,
the Ashe Arts Center
will close at noon on
December 23 and will
be closed December 26
and January 2.