



The Judy Chops in February

2nd Saturday @ Seven returns on Feb 11 with the Judy Chops. “The band,” according DC Music Review, “seamlessly blends a wide variety of genres, from swing, to country, to jazz, to rock, and so much more. All with a collective swagger and breadth of talent that will get you out of your seat.”

The band has been wowing audiences since 2008 with their high energy shows, and undeniable stage presence. the genre-defying Americana Jam band has evolved from a Shenandoah Valley sensation into one of Virginia's premiere live acts. The Judy Chops have amassed an ever-growing legion of fans with festival appearances at Red Wing Roots Music Festival, FloydFest, Front Porch Fest, Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion, LOCKN' & Devil's Backbone Hoopla. The band is set to release their 6th album 'The Good Days' in June of 2023.

The fee for the evening with the Judy Chops will be \$10. Donations to help to cover the event are gratefully accepted. The event is supported in part by a grant from the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge.



Last month, the Second Saturdays at Seven Series took a short hiatus, but the community was still treated to an exceptional performance. Here, local talent David Musick provides a break for Cappellesso's hour long classical guitar performance by playing a piano prelude by Rachmaninoff.

photo by Michael Bedwell

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Our email:
HighlandCoArts@gmail.com

Happy New Year!

For many the New Year starts on January 1st but the Highland County Arts Council began their year on January 14th. The Board gathers together annually for a retreat held on a Saturday morning in early January instead of their usual 1st Tuesday monthly meeting. We welcome new members to the Board, discuss and approve our budget, and establish goals for the coming year.

Our membership voted on three new members in November 2022 and the January meeting was an introduction for Jim Sherman, Duane Hylton, and Ashlyn Senger. The Arts Council is fortunate to have these talented people join our remarkable, hardworking team. It will be a pleasure working with this Board throughout 2023.

One other piece of business was the election officers, and I was honored to be asked again to serve as President. I will be joined by Vice President Brit Chambers, Secretary Gretta Sandberg, and Treasurer Nancy Mohlmann. Our budget will enable the Arts Council to continue programs such as our 2nd Saturday at 7 pm monthly concert series, Highland Arts Academy workshops, Artists' Weekend outdoor painting event, and the support of Musikgarten for Highland Children's House.

One initiative that has roots in the Arts Council's history and was revisited in 2022, was programs for the youth of Highland County. Several successful workshops were held last year and a partnership with the Wayne Theatre in Waynesboro will enable the Arts Council to hold new ones this year. We are excited to not only work with the Wayne on these projects but also with the Highland County Public Schools.

We seek to reach out to the community, as we make Highland a destination for the arts, with all our programs. We will continue our support of the Highland Center as both tenants of several rooms and assisting with improving the facility as a world class venue for the arts. The addition of movie entertainment in the Center is an unrealized goal for the Arts Council in 2022 due to the unavailability of necessary equipment from the supplier. This effort will be renewed. While our home is in the Highland Center, we also plan to hold concerts and workshops in other locations in the county as well.

My wish for 2023 is simple. That the Highland County Arts Council continues to be a provider of the arts in our area and to serve our membership with valuable programs. The coming year has the promise of both fun and success. I could not be more proud to be part of this organization.

Donna Bedwell

President

What a Treat in January!

Close to 80 people sat spellbound during the January 6th concert by Margherita Cappellesso. This quickly arranged event was made possible due to her holiday visit to the family of Mary and Boyd Musick and Highland County found themselves in for a very special performance. As she explored the sound of the classical guitar, Margherita played pieces by composers Bach, Arcus, Villa-Lobos, Ponce, and Piazzola – all while using a borrowed guitar.

In an email to Donna Bedwell from Mary Musick following the evening, she said "First of all, congratulations on putting Meg's concert together so beautifully! We made some wonderful memories that night, and I'm very grateful to you and the Arts Council".

And the Arts Council is very grateful to be notified of talented, visiting artists to our area and host such a unique event.



photo by Michael Bedwell

Youth Programs

Fantasy Workshop

Embrace your imagination and delight your friends in 2023 with special effects tricks! Students will learn special FX makeup to create realistic looking textures, aging, colorations, wounds, fantastical monsters, and other creatures of Fae. Class price is covered, but a \$7 per student supply fee is required.

When: February 18, 2023 – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Where: The Arts Council Room at The Highland Center

Class is limited to 20 students. 3rd grade and up welcome.
Please bring a water bottle and wear comfortable, closed-toed shoes.

To register, email britchambers@gmail.com



This Month in the Mountain View Room

The art class of Highland High School has learned about a wide variety of art making techniques this semester; including the elements and principles of art and design, printmaking, paper mache, grid drawings and pottery. Art doesn't always come naturally, but the need to express yourself is common to everyone. Learning that art is just another means of self expression, the same as writing or speaking or social media, helps students to open up to new and sometimes intimidating mediums and projects.

The biggest, and most difficult step to the art making process is to simply begin. "Make a mark and see where it takes you," as Peter Reynolds says in his book, *The Dot*. *The Dot* has been the theme of my art classes this year, in both elementary and high school. The story is about a little girl who is frustrated because she can't draw. Her art teacher tells her to "just make a mark." The one simple mark opens a whole world of creativity and self expression to the main character and I hope that if my students took anything away from art class this semester it was to simply make a mark and see what happens.

Renee Vandevander
HCPS Art Teacher



Monday Art Friends

Each Monday, a small group of creative companions gathers in the Arts Council room at the Highland Center to make art. Everyone works at their own pace and in their own way. It's a time to share inspirations, ideas, materials, techniques, to learn from and help each other create art in a non-competitive environment. We can always count on encouragement and we laugh a lot as well.

Sometimes we have a still life, photograph or a human model to work from. Many times, we simply work from our imaginations. We even make art from what our hands, not our eyes, tell us. We have also made collaborative pieces that involve everyone on one finished piece. We always learn something to continue our progress/evolution in our personal art journey.

The pieces on display at the Highland Center this month were created and chosen by participants in our group for the showing. Just as art is a form of self-expression and we are all unique individuals, there is a variety of style and medium on display.



Without the support of the following organizations, the Highland County Arts Council would not be able to provide the programming that is its hallmark.

The Virginia Commission for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts

The Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge

The Little Swiss Fund

The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation

Creativity Corner

C. William Rich

Jewelry & Metalwork



"Perhaps the reason I choose architecture as a profession, is because I have always loved to design and build things. Buildings, from concept to completion, can take years. Craft projects can be fabricated rather quickly. I enjoy working with wood and later expanded my skills to fine metal work.



My grandfather was a machinist, able to work to very exacting dimensions. In many ways I followed in his footsteps. Precious metal is unique, it can be formed, forged and joined with heat. It can be melted and cast.

It is a pleasure to sit at the jewelry bench and simply get lost in the art and craft of working with metal."