



**They're Back!**

## Robin and Linda Williams

There are few if any "local" performers who are nationally and internationally known. But then there are Robin and Linda Williams. Thanks to a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, The Highland County Arts Council is able to bring this inspiring and inspired duo to its audiences. The May 13th Second Saturday @ Seven concert will be at the Highland Center. Admission is \$10 for adults.

Reading the duo's biography, one is impressed with the strength and variety of these performers. Robin and Linda are closing in on a five decade-long career that has included 24 personal recordings, thousands of concerts on three continents, a Robert Altman directed movie, and hundreds of performances on NPR's "A Prairie Home Companion" and other radio and television shows. Their musical Stonewall Country was a staple for Lexington's Lime Kiln Theatre.

As live performers they are second to none and are at home on whatever stage they find themselves, be it a tiny coffee house or bar, or a large, storied concert hall or festival or one might add, the Highland Center. As gifted songwriters, Robin and Linda have earned the respect of their musical peers, their songs having been recorded by such well-known artists as Mary Chapin Carpenter, Tom T. Hall, Tim and Mollie O'Brien, Mary Black, The Seldom Scene, and Emmylou Harris, to name a few.

Their recording successes are wide spread. Their CD, "A Better Day A-Coming," spent the summer and fall of 2021 in the top 10 of the FAI Folk Radio Charts with their single of the same name ending the year as the number 3 Top Song, the album ending the year as the number 11 Top Album, and Robin and Linda ending as number 13 on the list of Top Artists. The success of the second single, "The Old Lovers Waltz," helped spawn a music video which, to date, has generated thousands of views.

While the Highland County Arts Council has brought many great performers to its audiences, none have the reputation of Robin and Linda Williams.

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...and more!

## Take note

Our email:  
[HighlandCoArts@gmail.com](mailto:HighlandCoArts@gmail.com)

# BASKET-CASES

**The Wednesday Morning Basket Group** has been meeting together for the last 10 years and have called a variety of places their home. It started with several basket enthusiasts meeting in the shed/studio at Nettie Johnson's house close to the Highland and Bath County line. The fellowship they enjoyed while spending a few hours each week practicing their skill in weaving and dyeing basket materials became contagious. During the winter months, the group moved to the warmer location of Donna Bedwell's basement in Monterey. In 2017, several of the members belonged to the Highland County Arts Council and asked if they could begin meeting in the classroom at the Highland Center. This convenience of location and access has been enjoyed ever since.

The Basket Group has numbered up to eight participants and many continued to meet during COVID in the outdoor location of the Highland Center pavilion. On average, four to six people gather each week to share their love of basketry. They often work on individual projects but also take on the challenge of a new style of basket to learn together. Interests include new techniques, shapes, and materials. While the group may fluctuate in interest, level of skill and experience, their love of basketry and the fellowship of working together remains constant.

For the purpose of this exhibit, the group decided to learn how to weave on a form. One of the pleasures of working together has been the discovery of individual creations. Even when everyone is working on the same technique, their finished basket reflects the personality or taste of the weaver.

Anyone interested in exploring basket making is invited to come by the Highland Center on Wednesday mornings from 10 am – 12 pm. For those who are interested in immersing themselves in three days of weaving in a workshop setting, the Highland Arts Academy will be offering Basketry with Judith Saunders from July 13 – 15, 2023. To register for this or other Arts Academy workshops, visit [www.highlandartsacademy.com](http://www.highlandartsacademy.com)



*These baskets are on loan for this exhibit by Donna Bedwell, Cheryl Hamburg, Elizabeth Lohr-Myers, Pamm McDowell, Judith Saunders and Callie Smith.*

## Don't Miss the May Highland Arts Academy Workshop

Our May 13th Felting Workshop with instructor Tate Dunn promises to be a wonderful study for a variety of abilities. For more information on the full line-up of workshops and registration, visit [www.highlandartsacademy.com](http://www.highlandartsacademy.com)

## Save the Date

**Highland County Artists' Weekend**

June 23-25, 2023

# Youth Programs

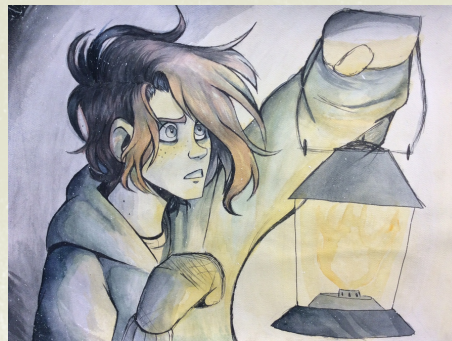
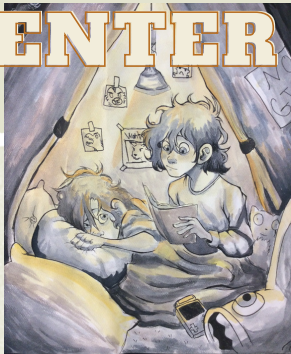
The Highland County Arts Council's most recent youth workshop in collaboration with The Wayne Theatre was an introduction of Rudolf Laban and his eight movements, building the essence of character through stage presence. A variety of age groups and abilities joined us at The Highland Center for the event.



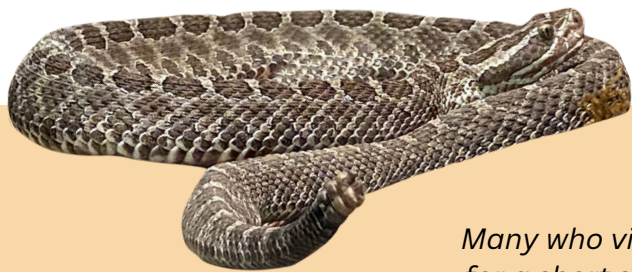
## STAGE COMBAT CHOREOGRAPHY MAY 20

Our last workshop for the school year is a Stage Combat Choreography workshop in the Highland High School Gym on May 20th at 1 p.m. There is no cost for this workshop, but you must register in advance by emailing [britchambers@gmail.com](mailto:britchambers@gmail.com).

## CAMRYN CARPENTER



on display in  
in the  
**Mountain  
View Room**



## RATTLESNAKE : THE PLOT

*Many who viewed John Hardy's one-person performance of RATTLESNAKE asked for a short synopsis of the play to clarify some of their questions about the plot.*

“Sherman Trent, a man of West Texas, longs for fatherhood which is his only ambition. His attempts to realize this ambition are stifled in his romantic life, and his application for the adoption of a child is rejected by the local adoption agency. He retreats to a small patch of prairie left to him by his long gone mother and father. Here, he meets the rattlesnake, and immerses himself in its world finding a comfort and belonging that eludes him in the outside world. He immerses himself in the world of the rattlesnake and uses their skins for crafting hatbands, belt buckles and other items for sale. Recalling the lessons of a boyhood acquaintance, an old black woman, he learns to cook the meat of the rattlesnake and becomes a noted chef. His newfound celebrity takes him as far as Paris where he meets a Parisian woman who opens her heart to him. He gives over to her but cannot release himself from his bond with the rattlesnake. The story ends soon after, but not before one more surprise.

The play encompasses thirty years in flashback and takes place in various locations in West Texas and later, Paris, France.”

# Creativity Corner

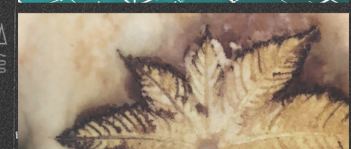
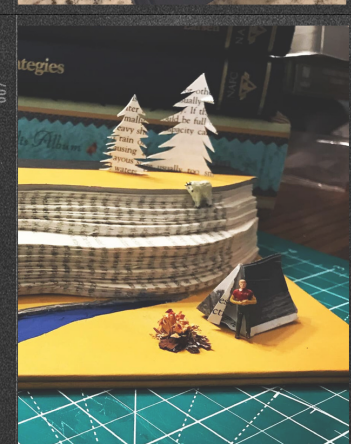
Margie Fullerton

When I think about my enthusiasm and interest in creative arts and crafts, my attention span is akin to when I say “Squirrel!” to my dogs. No matter how immersed I am in my current art form - I’m bound to take off after another one! In that regard, the combination of my recent retirement to Highland County and the onset of the Highland Arts Academy Workshops has been a happy convergence.

I’ve always been interested in creative outlets – learning from my Mom, I’ve always crocheted and knitted. But since my retirement six years ago and my permanent relocation to Highland (after over a decade of weekend trips to the area with my two kids), I have crocheted dozens of intricate period fashion dolls, upcycled and repurposed vintage furniture, and dabbled in watercolors. Through opportunities provided by the Highland Arts Academy, I’ve taken up linocut (block) printing; become adept at ecoprinting on paper, silk fabric, and silk clothing; begun to play with stained glass; and made quite a few respectable pieces of pottery. One thing seems to lead to another – Squirrel! – from ecoprinting on paper, I took off on exposed stitch book binding (I had to find SOMETHING to do with all of those beautiful botanical prints) and from book binding, I stumbled on to my newest experiment – book sculpture.

Coming full circle, it’s about time for the 2023 Highland Arts Academy Workshops and I’m not only planning on delivering the Paper Ecoprinting and Journal Making (Exposed Stitch Bookbinding) workshops in September, but I’m also debating which workshops to take. My, very REAL fear, is that I’ll find yet another medium that I’m attracted to (I took the Stained Glass workshop last year and got a grinder for Christmas – there I go again!). I’m registering again for pottery (I’m NOT installing a kiln on the property) and am dipping my toes into acrylic painting. I know I may not have the skill or, maybe interest, in every creative form I investigate, but I’ll never know until I try. Jumping in has never been my problem!

You’re invited to follow my - erratic – creative exploits on Instagram or Facebook @margiessheshed.



# THANK YOU

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS  
arts.gov

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

