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## Traditional American Music Concert

The Highland County Arts Council is excited to announce that the Critton Hollow Band will be performing for our Second Saturday event in May! Join us on Saturday, May 11th at 7 p.m. at The Highland Center for an evening filled with amazing traditional American music.

Since 1975, the Critton Hollow Band has been sharing their love for traditional American music with audiences all over the world, from the United States to places like Canada, Japan, Ireland, and Scotland. They have quite the lineup of instruments including the fiddle, hammer dulcimer, banjo, and guitar, bringing to life tunes from the earliest settlements of Appalachia to the latest in American folk music.

Their songs cover all the emotions, from making you laugh to bringing a tear to your eye, sometimes both at once! You'll hear ballads telling tales of outlaws and love gone wrong, and instrumentals that'll have you tapping your feet or just sitting back and enjoying the melodies. The band members, Joe Herrmann, Sam Herrmann, and Joe Fallon, bring together their skills to create a warm and captivating sound that'll make you feel like you're part of the performance. As Mitch Podolak, the artistic director of the Winnipeg Folk Festival, commented, they have a "unique ability to make their audience feel a part of their performance."

The Critton Hollow Band has performed at numerous folk venues and events, like the Birchmere Music Club, the Kennedy Center, the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the Carter Family Fold, the Vancouver Folk Festival, Clearwater's Hudson River Revival, and the Upper Potomac Dulcimer Festival. You may have heard them on Mountain Stage or even seen them on the Today Show. They've released seven CDs over the years: Gather 'round (2009), The Dulcimer Collection (2000), Cowboys and Indians (1995), Great Dreams (1988), By and By (1985), Sweet Home (1983), and Poor Boy (1979) - each recording showcasing their talent and love for music.

Don't miss out on this chance to experience the magic of the Critton Hollow Band live!

Stay up to date on  
Arts Council  
events at  
[highlandcountyartscouncil.org](http://highlandcountyartscouncil.org)

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

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# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIRED

The Arts Council is thrilled to announce that Karen Milnes has been hired for the new position of Executive Director.

Karen graduated from the University of Virginia with degrees in biology and studio art, with a concentration in printmaking. She is a practicing artist, owns her own business (Cabin Critter Designs) and is an avid consumer of live music and the arts. Karen and her family of three moved to the area in 2016. She ran the Pendleton County Farmers Market for four years and sat on their board until 2023, and was involved in a few other Pendleton County-based non-profits. They now live in Monterey, and her non-profit work continues as she remains very active on the boards of the West Virginia Mushroom Club, and The 3rd Space. Those who know her know that her passions are music, gardening, foraging (mainly mushrooms), basket weaving, and just about any art form she can get her hands on.

Karen is very excited for her new role with the Highland County Arts Council. She sees the Arts Council as a culmination of everything she loves and shares with this community. In her opinion, the Arts tend to serve as a wonderful space to put aside divisive differences and find commonalities—the foundation for a thriving community. She is thrilled to be the point of contact and ambassador for the Arts Council. Please reach out to her through [highlandcoarts@gmail.com](mailto:highlandcoarts@gmail.com)!



## CRISTIN DORGELO JOINS BOARD

Cristin Dorgelo, a Head Waters resident with years of senior executive experience in non-profit organizations, will be joining the Arts Council Board. Cristin loves Highland County for its beautiful nature and its talented community. She discovered the craft of basket weaving through a Highland Arts Academy workshop, and soon after joined the Arts Council. Basket weaving has become a hobby that she treasures; she now shares her work at Art on Main at The 3rd Space in Monterey.

Cristin believes the events and learning opportunities offered through the Arts Council enrich our community, attract visitors to our county, and form an important pillar for economic development, to help ensure Highland County and its residents thrive. Cristin has experience in senior executive roles leading and advising successful nonprofit organizations. She brings a wealth of knowledge in areas such as grant writing and board governance to the Arts Council.

Professionally, Cristin is an independent management consultant with more than 25 years of executive leadership and public policy experience. She is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Federation of American Scientists, a Visiting Fellow at the Burnes Center for Social Change at Northeastern University, and President Emerita at the Association of Science and Technology Centers (ASTC). Her work at ASTC has supported expansion of community science programs at science centers and museums across the country.

She previously served as a senior policy official for the Office of Management and Budget and for the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President, driving Federal government initiatives and partnerships to address national challenges.

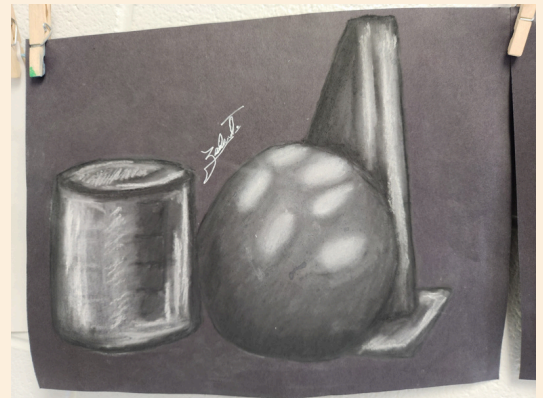
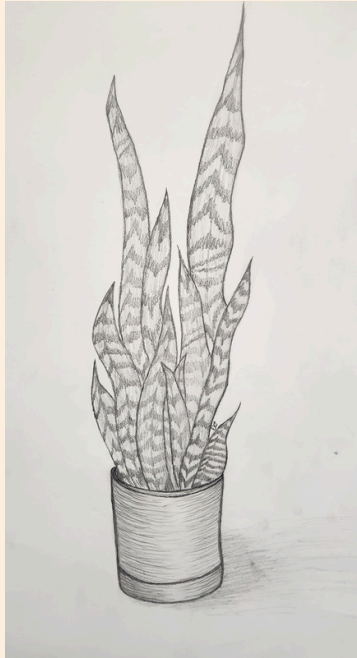
She holds a BA in history with a minor in anthropology from UCLA and is a certified Virginia Master Naturalist.



# Student Library Exhibit

The May 8 - June 3 exhibit in the Mountain View Room in the Highland County Library will feature the artwork of Highland High School students. 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, pottery, drawing, painting and a Pysanky Egg workshop with Terri Hevener.

Art Teacher Renee Vandevander shares "Spring Semester always brings unique challenges. After the December holidays the winter months often feel dark, and unmotivating. It can be difficult to push through with warm weather and sunshine feeling like a distant dream. Thankfully, creativity can bloom no matter the weather and the Art I, Art II and Art III students proved this time and again, creating beauty and meaning through their artwork." The students have grown in their artistic skills and dedication to a creative spirit.



HIGHLAND ARTS ACADEMY

**YOUTH DRAMA CAMP**

FREE FOR YOUTH AGES 8-18

*Register  
Now*

JUNE 17-21  
10AM-1PM

[Click here to register!](#)

PERFORMANCE  
SATURDAY JUNE 22



**ARTISTS' WEEKEND**

*In tranquil Highland County, VA*

JUNE 28-30, 2024



**WET PAINT SHOW**

SUNDAY, JUNE 30  
2-4PM AT THE HIGHLAND CENTER

[Click here to register!](#)

# Creativity Corner

Kristen Donnelly

Kristen Donnelly started drawing and painting as a child, and continued to create through high school. She returned to her passion for art after visiting the Sirril Art Gallery in Texas, where the owner/artist there encouraged her to paint again. She picked up the paint brush, and remembered her love of painting with acrylics and oils.

Donnelly said "I love creating a painting that makes someone think or wonder. There is something very satisfying about putting the brush to canvas and watching it go from flat and blank to having depth and feeling." It can be challenging to create the vision in her head on canvas. "There are elements of almost every painting I've done that I tinker with for hours to try and achieve my vision, but other elements that come together in a few brush strokes." She also finds satisfaction in creating pieces that makes the viewer wonder how the story ends.

Saying she enjoys a challenge, Donnelly cites one of her favorite paintings, "Old Ironsides," which she worked on just to see if she could achieve her vision on canvas. The work of art is four feet tall, and was inspired by the image on her passport. Living in Highland County also influences her artwork. Animals are one of her favorite subjects to paint, and the wildlife in Highland provides plenty of inspiration. Nature, rural life, and her travels fuel her creativity. Donnelly has lived in Highland since 2019, when she met her significant other. She has always lived in rural areas, so Highland County is a perfect fit.

Her artwork is currently on display and for sale at Art on Main at The 3rd Space. Her website, [kristendonnely.com](http://kristendonnely.com) shows her work, and she can be contacted directly to purchase a piece.



# THANK YOU



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

