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Holiday Performances for the Whole Family

Second Saturday on December 9 at The Highland Center will feature two shows for families at 5 and 7 p.m. with comedian and juggler Mark Nizer. The phrase "Nothing Less Than Brilliant" (Performance Magazine) has been used to describe the outrageous comedy antics and expertly crafted juggling feats of Nizer.

Nizer is one of the greatest entertainment comedians and jugglers performing today. His wild exploits have landed him on MTV, HBO's Just for Laughs, Arsenio Hall, Bob Hope and Other Young Comedians, Comic Strip Live and LA Law. He has opened for Jerry Seinfeld, Bob Hope, George Burns, John Byner, Gladys Knight, The Temptations, Johnny Mathis, Ray Charles, and Barry Manilow. The late Bob Hope said, "He just keeps getting better and I didn't think that was possible."

Making the impossible possible and the improbable probable, Nizer has taken his one-man show to a variety of venues around the world, including The Improv, The Comedy Store, Walt Disney World, numerous college campuses, and all major cruise lines. He has also performed in thousands of opera houses, civic centers, festivals and performing arts centers including the Kennedy Center and Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts (three times). Entertainment Magazine states, "Without a doubt the hottest juggler on the entertainment market, Mark Nizer is simply incredible."

Don't miss the combination of original comedy, world class juggling, movement, music and technology that promises a spellbinding evening. Whether juggling laser beams at 1000 rpms, or five ping pong balls being thrown 20 feet in the air using only his mouth; or even juggling a burning propane tank, a running electric carving knife and a 16-pound bowling ball, you'll discover for yourself that Mark Nizer is truly "the juggler your mother warned you about." Or if she didn't, she should have. Thanks to support from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and The National Endowment for the Arts these performances are free, as an Arts Council gift to the community. Donations will be gratefully accepted.

Stay up to date on
Arts Council
events at
[https://www.highland
countyartscouncil.org/](https://www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org/)

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

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Arts Council Plans For 2024

The Board of Directors for the Highland County Arts Council gather together each January for a strategic planning meeting for the upcoming year. These sessions are held outside the normal meeting time for the Board and involve discussions about current and new projects for the year along with voting for the officers and budget. This is an important yearly activity and we invite your comments or suggestions. The meeting will be held on January 13, 2024. If you would like to provide feedback, please send it to www.highlandcoarts@gmail.com by January 2, 2024 so we can include any suggestions in our agenda.



Seeks Executive Director

Part time position of up to 20 hours a week reporting to the HCAC Board of Directors. The Executive Director will execute the organization's strategic plans and nurture effective relationships to promote the arts and provide cultural enrichment to the community. The Executive Director will work collaboratively with the Board to lead and manage the Arts Council operations, finances, programs, logistics, and volunteers. Interested persons should send a cover letter and resume to highlandcoarts@gmail.com.

Fun for Everyone!



Offering access to quality arts for everyone is integral to the mission of the Arts Council. These four girls enjoyed the lively sounds and dancing of Martha Spencer and her Wonderland Country Band at last month's Second Saturday performance.

The Arts Council strives to bring performances featuring many genres from bluegrass music to improv theater to our community. Be sure to mark your calendars for our Second Saturday @ 7 performances at the Highland Center and bring your whole family out for quality entertainment!



Membership Meeting Highlights

The annual membership meeting for the Arts Council kicked off the 2nd Saturday @7 Martha Spencer concert with two items for members in attendance. A short film was prepared by Molly Murphy, instructor of the Musikgarten program at the Highland Children's House. She has led the children in the music education activity for the last three years and compiled images of the participants along with an explanation of what Musikgarten provides our youngest musicians. Murphy plans on using this film to highlight the program in other areas and hopefully inspire other organizations to make Musikgarten available to their populations. The Highland County Arts Council has been a proud sponsor of this program since it began in 2021.

Members then elected Paul Vosteen to the Board of Directors and voted to approve current members Clair Myers, Nancy Mohlmann, and Gretta Sandberg for another three year term. The meeting was then adjourned for the lively performance by Martha Spencer.



Donna Bedwell,
President



Welcome New Board Member: Paul Vosteen

The Arts Council voted and welcomed Paul Vosteen to the Board of Directors at the annual membership meeting in November. Paul and his wife Madge had a few prior connections to Highland County, before moving here in 2021. Their son played violin with the Allegheny Mountain String Project, so they were often in the area for concerts, lessons, and rehearsals, and with Paul's job at Green Bank Observatory as the graphic and web designer, finding their permanent home here made perfect sense. Paul grew up in Williamsburg, Virginia, learned piano at age 5, and at age 10 started playing music professionally as a fifer in the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums. Through that job, he developed a love for traditional music that continues to this day, and he is constantly on the lookout for an Irish session. He has always enjoyed the arts - both the visual and performing arts - and credits his parents with encouraging that enjoyment by taking him to museums and stage and musical productions from an early age. He studied sculpture, bronze-casting, and communication design before obtaining his BFA in Design from the Atlanta College of Art. Attending a college that shared space with the Alliance Theatre and the Atlanta Symphony, and was situated right next to the High Museum of Art was an incredible experience.

Paul has worked as a technical illustrator for NASA, done graphic design work for large corporations such as Andersen Consulting, AT&T Solutions, and Capital One, and has also worked as a photographer and media professional overseas. In his free time, he also enjoys being outdoors - hunting, fishing, hiking, and biking - all things to be found in abundance here in Highland.

As a member of the Arts Council, Paul looks forward to sharing his knowledge and appreciation for the value that arts and arts education can have on a community. Growing up in Williamsburg, he was literally surrounded by music, art, and the performing arts. Even the high school musical and drama productions were exceptional, and he knew that it was because the arts were valued. Many exceptional musicians and performers have come from the area. He appreciates any chance he has to make sure that all people - young and old - have a similar opportunity to watch, learn, and maybe even perform themselves.

Creativity Corner

Lauren Hindman

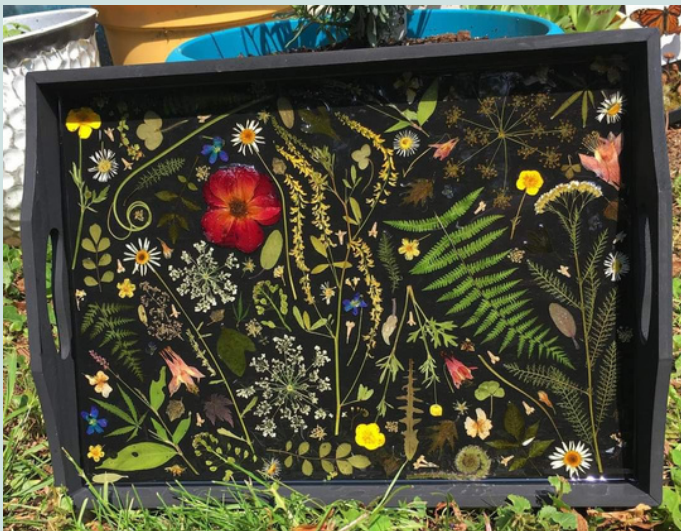


During the summer of 2020 Monterey resident Lauren Hindman wanted to try a new hobby, and decided to try working with resin. She watched some online tutorials, got the materials, and Wild Virginia Crafts was born. She has been learning and creating since then, and enjoys making pretty botanical jewelry inspired by nature.

Her husband's family has land on the Bullpasture River, where Hindman has been visiting since 2006. In the fall of 2020 she moved to Highland County, where she appreciates the abundance of nature. She likes going into the woods to find little flowers and mushrooms to put into what she makes~ both the challenge of finding miniature pieces of nature to share and the time in the woods are enjoyable.

Hindman has two daughters and works at Claire's Cakes and Cafe, so it can be challenging to make time for everything. She spends many evenings in her home studio working with resin to create her beautiful botanical jewelry.

Her work can be found at Jenny Wren Gatherings in Monterey, and local festivals like Wintertide and the Maple Festival. Her work can also be seen on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/wildvirginiacrafts/> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WildVirginiaCrafts/> Hindman's hand-poured resin jewelry and crafts featuring mushrooms, leaves, flowers, insects and more are unique and impressive creations. She has found her niche in Highland County and the world of botanical creations.



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

