

NEWSLETTER



Playback Theatre: Improv

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Second Saturday at 7 on October 14 will feature Playback Theatre, a performance troupe based in Charlottesville, Va.

Playback is a theatre form where someone in the audience shares a moment or story from their life, chooses the actors to play the different roles, and then all those present watch the enactment as the story comes to life. This acting form uses artistic shape and nuance as well as musical accompaniment. Playback is a beautiful intersection between theatre, storytelling and improv. In addition to being a form of entertainment, playback has been used in educational, therapeutic and business settings.

Co-directed by Larry Goldstein, Tonya Osinkovsky and Boomie Pedersen, players also include Michelle James, Abena Foreman Trice, John Countryman and John Rabasa. Come out to The Highland Center on October 14 at 7 p.m. to laugh, be moved, and to hear and share common stories and experiences. Admission at the door to support the work of the Arts Council in our community.

Upcoming Arts Academy Workshops

Join the Arts Academy for two wonderful October workshops. Talented local photographer Michael Bedwell will teach The Art of Photography October 13-15. The workshop will feature a review of camera and composition basics, and field work in the beautiful fall foliage of Highland County. A show and critique of photographs taken in the field will be the culminating activity. Time and weather permitting, participants can experiment with the advanced techniques of HDR, panoramics, slow shutter, and perhaps even some astrophotography.

The popular Barn Quilt Painting workshop will be offered again October 26 & 28 by Margie Boesch of Highland Barn Quilts Studio. On Thursday morning technique and design will be discussed and participants will then be given Friday to finalize patterns and colors on their own. Participants will also have an opportunity Friday for a "behind the scenes" self-guided tour of Highland Barn Quilts on private properties. Saturday morning will include transferring patterns to boards and painting experience so barn quilts can be finished by students at home.

Visit <https://www.highlandartsacademy.com/2023workshops> to learn more and register for these workshops.



YOUTH THEATER WORKSHOP

Get ready for spooky season by joining us for our next youth workshop - Stage Blood: Chemistry and Creation, on October 14 from 1-3 p.m. at The Highland Center. There's a lot of science that happens behind the scenes to make things realistic - and we'll make sure it's fun too!

This class will be taught by teaching artists from The Wayne Theater and kicks off the 2023/24 season of youth programming.

The class is free and open to all youth 8 and up, parents are welcome to chaperone or drop off. Pre-registration is required for supply materials count. To join us, email britchambers@gmail.com or call 540-468-2474 by October 10.



ARTS ACADEMY MEMBER FAIR WINNERS

The Highland Arts Academy provides unique experiences for participants as they learn new skills. It also supports the Highland County Fair with entries in categories that correspond with this year's workshops. We are proud of workshop participants for sharing their new talents and for their support of the Fair. When we share in our art, we are all winners!

To learn more about Arts Academy workshops visit <https://www.highlandartsacademy.com/2023workshops>



You too can create a best in show. Sign up for the next Barn Quilt Workshop scheduled for Oct. 26 & 28, 2023.

To learn more and register visit <https://www.highlandartsacademy.com/barnquilt>

Tiny Art Show at the Library

The Highland County Public Library is hosting a Tiny Art Show for the entire community. Easels and 3x3" canvases (the same size as a Post It note) were provided throughout the month of September, with several Art Cart activities for toddlers, youth, and adults throughout the month as well. A variety of art was collected from the abstract to tiny realistic still life pieces. The entirety of these works will be on display in the Mountainview Room at the Highland County Public Library during Hands and Harvest Festival (October 6-8). This is also the same time as the annual book sale, which allows you the opportunity to peruse both books and art during the festival.

The idea for this project came from Arts Council President Donna Bedwell's presentation during a Tuesday Talk at The Highland Center that encouraged the use of art to build community.

For more information on the Tiny Art community showcase, or a list of programs offered at the Highland County Public Library, please email programs@highlandlibrary.com.



Members' New Book Release

Arts Council member Ginny Neil has recently published her first children's picture book, "The Glorious Forest That Fire Built." In this nonfiction illustrated story about forest succession, readers will learn that forest fires are critical to forest health, and that the end of a tree's life provides the opportunity for new life.

Ginny is an author, illustrator, award-winning teacher and master naturalist. She lives and works on the family farm. A life full of nature and animals leads to wonderful stories that she shares in articles, art, stories and picture books.

She has won regional prizes for her watercolors. Her prose and poetry have been published in Highlights for Children, Nature Friend, Grit, Country Living, and Shenandoah Living Magazine. Ginny has been honored with the National Education Foundation's Teacher of Excellence Award for her expertise, creativity and innovation as a teacher. Her new picture book can be purchased online at major booksellers.



Save the Date!
Youth Drama Camp
June 11-22, 2024

Stay up to date on
Arts Council events
by visiting
<https://www.highlandcountyartscouncil.org/>

Creativity Corner

Debbi Stephenson

Monterey resident Debbi Stephenson's mother taught her to sew when she was in 7th grade, and she still enjoys making beautiful creations. Her very first project was a jumper and a blouse, with buttons and buttonholes. She got her first sewing machine for Christmas her freshman year in college, and today that machine is still used by Debbi's daughter. Debbi fondly remembers her friends sewing too, and laying out fabric and patterns on the carpeted floor of her college dorm hallway.

Living in Highland County without access to craft stores can make Debbi's hobby tricky. If she runs out of thread or needs a zipper she has to wait until her next trip to the Valley. Materials can be found other ways, as people who no longer sew give or sell her fabric. Debbi also finds material to upcycle at thrift stores, and seeks out fabric stores while traveling, sharing that "I like to bring back fabric as a souvenir!"

Debbi sews clothes for herself, mainly dresses, tops and pajamas. For others she enjoys sewing things like tote bags, accessories, and home decor. "My best sellers are hot/cold rice packs and bowl cozies," said Debbi, "What makes my work unique is the care I take when choosing coordinating fabrics."

Her work can be found locally at farmers markets, the Maple Festival, Hands and Harvest Festival, and any other festivals that happen around the area.



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.

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the **ARTS**
arts.gov

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

