

NEWSLETTER

Join us for Kinnfolk, a Celtic Duo at the Jones House Garden

KINNFOULK – the husband and wife duo of Josh and Julie Kinn – weave octave mandolin, bodhrán (Irish drum), and smooth vocal harmonies into their Celtic folk music from the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains. From sea shanties and working songs, to trad tunes and Old Time favorites, Kinnfolk's fresh take on classics blends seamlessly with their original compositions. They share stories as enduring as tartan, spinning yarns steeped in Appalachian charm, enjoying playful banter with the audience. Their shows feel like a kitchen party, where everyone is family, and there's always room for a dancer.

Since forming Kinnfolk in late 2018, the pair have played at festivals and listening rooms with a quickly growing following across Canada and the United States. In 2023 Kinnfolk won the Robinson Emerging Artist Showcase, earning them a Main Stage appearance at Canada's premiere Celtic event, the Goderich Celtic Roots Festival. They have been featured on the cover of the largest traditional music magazine in the world – Irish Music Magazine – and named one of the top Celtic folk bands of 2025 by The Irish & Celtic Music Podcast. In 2022, Kinnfolk received a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Roanoke to create a body of work exploring the history, geography, and folk legends of their town. The resulting project, "Star Above the Mountain," debuted to a live audience on June 30, 2023.

Kinnfolk's self-titled debut album (2020) received much airplay and launched them into the international Celtic music scene. Their second album, "The Knotted Circle" (2022), was lauded as "authentic...with a subtle contemporary seasoning" by Music Connection Magazine. Now they've released "Star Above the Mountain" (2025), their third album consisting of 8 original tracks and two trad favorites. As WDBJ7 Television said, they "find community" and "love through Celtic music," and look forward to meeting more of their audience.

Once you experience their music, you'll be one of their folk – Kinnfolk!

August 8, 5 pm

Jones House Memorial Garden

144 W. Main St, Monterey

Bring your lawn chair!

Rain location:

The Highland Center



Stay up to date on
Arts Council
events at

highlandcountyartscouncil.org

Email

highlandcoarts@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook
and Instagram
to stay connected!



ART ON MAIN & THE 3RD SPACE BRING YOU

SIP & SEE

Witness a stunning array of works created by our local talent
during extended gallery hours & see the 3rd Space August
Workshops showcase



4:00 -
5:30 PM

Saturday
Aug 8, 2026

132 W Main St.
Monterey VA



Stop in before the
Kinnfolk concert next door
in the Jones House Garden
5:00 pm

FREE
ENTRY

For More Information, follow Art on Main and the 3rd Space on Facebook

Welcome new Board member!



Melody Moats was fortunate to have been born in the local hospital in Bath County. Her mother told her that she broke up a card game that night. She is a native of Highland County who had the privilege of many “favorite” teachers and, therefore, decided to become one herself. She graduated from Highland High School, James Madison University, and taught for 38 years in the Highland County Public School system. She enjoyed teaching fifth grade and then moved to Middle School English. While there, she was a co-sponsor of the Mid-Kids Radio Club, a forensics coach, and the founder of the Drama Club. Since retiring, she has enjoyed life with her husband, Jerry, and their three fur children. She is passionate about home projects, boating, walking, reading, and shared family time. Life in Highland is good!

Welcome back, Kylie!

Kylie Hayslett is excited to return to the Arts Council as Marketing & Communications Coordinator. She is a 2003 graduate of Bridgewater College with a degree in Communication Studies and a concentration in Public Relations. A native of Lancaster County, Pa, she fell in love with the Virginia mountains while in college and is glad to make Virginia her home. Her professional work experience prior to staying home with her two boys was in the non-profit public relations and development field. She currently manages marketing and communications for her family-run wetlands LLC.

The arts are dear to her heart- her mother is a basket weaver and pastel artist, and her extended family are talented musicians and artists. Kylie grew up playing the string bass and dabbles in the fiber arts. She has worked for the Arts Council since February 2023 (with a brief break for family health issues) and enjoys supporting the arts in our community!



New Art Exhibit in Library



The Highland County Library will be hosting a new art show from July 13 through mid-September showcasing work by the Monday afternoon “Art Friends” group. Visitors to the Mountain View Room will discover finished and unfinished art along with descriptions of process and purpose.

The artists in the show have expressed the hope that viewers will come away with a desire to join them on Mondays from 1-3 pm in the Arts Council Room of the Highland Center and experience the joy of art created in the company of friends. All experience levels are welcome each week.

Art exhibits in the library were begun by the Highland County Arts Council to highlight area artists. They are now sponsored by the 3rd Space as part of their mission to provide artists with the opportunity to gather together and share their talent, along with their love of art with the community.



3rd Space Holds Youth Art Camp

How many times have we heard someone say, or even said to ourselves, “I can’t take that workshop because I don’t have that skill”? We are so afraid of not creating a masterpiece on our first attempt, that we deprive ourselves of the opportunity to learn a new skill, or simply allow ourselves to just be creative. Think of the joy we’d miss from the creative process if we all waited until we felt confident or skilled before trying something.

That’s what CreARTivity, the Youth Art Camp for 6th – 10th graders, was all about this summer. Instead of trying to win a blue ribbon at the Fair on a masterpiece, students just worked on the creative process, learning how to make art for fun and to relieve stress. It was harder to do than they thought it would be, but once they let go of creating A+ work and just playfully created works using paints, pastels, and pencils, their skills magically improved.

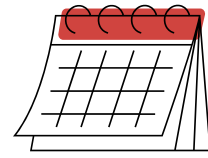
The art camp met in the studio at The 3rd Space for four days divided between two months, giving them the opportunity to sketch next door in The Jones Garden. The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation graciously underwrote the camp, giving students access to supplies.

There will be a display of some of their work in Art on Main on Saturday, August 8 from 4:00 - 5:30 during the Sip & See before the Kinnfolk concert. A number of camp participants will be available during that time and will be happy to talk to you about their creations.

Youth Art Camp is becoming an annual event sponsored by 3rd Space for kids in grades 6-10. Check the website www.3rdspaceva.org/schedule in 2027 for details on the week-long camp next summer. 3rd Space is also planning a Saturday workshop for youth in November for holiday gift making.



Upcoming Events



August 8th at 5pm

Kinnfolk at Jones House Garden

144 W Main St., Monterey

Free admission, donations accepted

Rain location: The Highland Center



Highlands Community Orchestra Concert

Sunday, September 13, 2026

Garth Newel Music Center, 3 pm

The Highland Center, 7 pm

Free admission, donations accepted



Elk River Ramblers at Hands & Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 10, 2026

The Highland Center, TBD



Be sure to sign up for our newsletter and follow our social media pages, so you don't miss the latest news, events and performances!

To donate, simply scan the QR code, or follow the donation link.

We appreciate your generosity!



Donation Link

**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 Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge
The Little Swiss Fund The Charles Pinckney Jones Foundation

