



## Holiday Community Concert

Come out to the Highland Center on Sunday, December 15 at 3 p.m. to get in the spirit of the season with the Highlands Community Orchestra, Highland Community Choir, and Glory Bells handbell choir. Join us for a great afternoon of music and merriment!

The Highlands Community Orchestra, sponsored by the Highland County Arts Council, is directed by Gretta Sandberg. Gretta is an experienced conductor and string teacher with more than 40 years of public school teaching and conducting high school orchestra programs. A Highland County resident, she is the former president of the Virginia String Teachers Association and a recipient of that organization's annual Outstanding Conductor Award.

The Highland Community Chorus was started around 2012 by Gerald Waggoner. Debbi Stephenson, Richard Simmons, and Jason Canze were also instrumental in getting the choir established. Nancy Vance joined as an alto the first couple of years. When Gerald found out she had directed a local church choir, he invited her to direct some pieces for the community choir. As the years went by, she directed more, and when Gerald's health prevented him from directing, she stepped into the role full time. The choir forms every fall for the purpose of presenting a Christmas concert for the community.

The Glory Bells, directed by Richard Simmons, is a three-octave handbell choir that started as a combined group of the Beulah, Monterey, and Pisgah Presbyterian Churches in 2010. Today the group is sponsored by Beulah and Monterey Presbyterian Churches and the majority of the ringers are members of these churches. However, the group includes guest ringers from the Monterey United Methodist Church, Asbury United Methodist Church and The Church of the Good Shepherd. This group of talented musicians work well together to perform beautiful music.



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

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

Like us on Facebook  
and Instagram  
to stay connected!



# Thank you retiring board members!

**THANK YOU**

To our amazing  
Board of Directors!

The Board of Directors for the Highland County Arts Council serve three year terms beginning in January and ending in December. We bid a fond farewell to three very important members from our 2024 leadership. Our board is a working board and this is exemplified in the contributions of Paul Vosteen, Brit Chambers, and Jim Sherman.

Paul Vosteen brought his love of music and the performing arts to his commitment on the board. He is a talented graphic designer and came to the attention of the Arts Council when he designed our new logo several years ago. He has served as Vice President for the last year and provided leadership in our 2nd Saturday performances and newsletter production.

Brit Chambers has been an active chair of the education committee. Through collaboration with the Wayne Theatre over the past two years and educational grants with the Virginia Commission for the Arts, she developed successful drama workshops that culminated in the return of Drama Camp for our youth this summer. Her enthusiasm for art education for our youth was evident at every meeting.

Jim Sherman obviously has an appreciation and love for the arts. Prior to joining the board, he supported the Arts Council by attending performances and participated in storytelling events. While music was a strong part of his background, he volunteered to serve on committees where needed. In his role as chair of fundraising and marketing, he wrote and implemented a marketing assistance grant and developed several successful fundraising activities.

These members of our board leave big shoes to fill and the Arts Council is a better organization due to their involvement. On behalf of the current members of the Board – thank you!

## Save the Date...

**February 22**

The Judy Chops

After the Maple Queen Pageant



Join us after the Maple Queen Pageant for a party co-hosted with the Highland County Recreation Commission!

Dust off your party pants for light refreshments, and a live performance by the genre-defying Judy Chops, who will rock your socks off with a blend from blues & swing to funk & rockabilly.



Highland County  
*Winter Tide*  
 Saturday, December 7th  
 at The Highland Center  
 Monterey, VA

10 am - 4 pm: Wintertide Market and Kid's Activities  
 11 am - 1 pm: Visit from Santa  
 5 pm: Parade Through Downtown Monterey

Shop local & support local artists

ART ON MAIN  
 the 3rd  
 Space

Open Fridays 11-4 &  
 Saturdays 10-4  
 132 W. Main St., Monterey VA

## Student Library Exhibit

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, grid drawings and pottery. The classes have also contributed to many school wide activities including literacy week. The students painted a large bat-themed mural and constructed a giant, interactive bat cave for the elementary students to crawl through. The classes also created art in early November to honor our county's Veterans.

Student artwork will be featured starting mid-December in the Mountain View Room in the Highland County Library. For the art show, each student chose two or three pieces which best reflected their style, skill and understanding of the art-making process. Art teacher Renee Vandevander shared "Each student has demonstrated exceptional growth over the course of the semester, come see their work at the library exhibit this month!"



Still Life by Peyton Neil

**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

