

ARTS / DATES

Publication of the Ashe County Arts Council

CHARLOTTE BLAKE ALSTON **Songs and Stories in the Oral Tradition** September 13th, 7:30pm, Ashe Arts Center Tickets: \$16 adult & \$5 student

"Eloquent storytelling..."
 -The New York Times

Charlotte Blake Alston is a storyteller, narrator, librettist, instrumentalist and singer will be visiting Ashe Arts Center to kick-off the On the Same Page Literary Festival with a public performance, "Songs and Stories in the Oral Tradition," featuring selections from her wide repertoire of stories and songs from the African and African American oral traditions. In addition to her public performance, Charlotte will visit several Ashe County public schools for youth educational performances. Audiences can experience the life Charlotte breathes into traditional and contemporary stories from African and African American oral and cultural traditions. Her solo performances are often enhanced with traditional instruments such as djembe, mbira, shekere or the 21-stringed kora.

In 1999, Charlotte began studying the kora and the West African history-telling traditions of Senegal, Mali, Guinea and Guinea Bissau and has performed in venues throughout North America and abroad including the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, the Kimmel Center, and the Women of the World Festival in Cape Town.

Charlotte's rich career includes becoming the first storyteller to perform with the Philadelphia Orchestra, hosting "Carnegie Kids", and being a featured artist on the Carnegie Hall Family Concert Series in NY since 1996. She has been featured at The National Storytelling Festival and The National Festival of Black Storytelling. Her collaborations include numerous instrumental ensembles



as well the Opera Company of Philadelphia, Opera North and the Carolyn Dorfman Dance Company. She has been a featured narrator for several orchestras and conductors including The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Orchestra of St. Luke's, The Cleveland Orchestra, the Saint Louis Symphony, the Orpheus Chamber Ensemble and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. Currently, she performs as both pre-concert artist and host of Carnegie Hall's Family and Education Concert Series. Come experience the magic of Charlotte's storytelling and performance this fall!



This project was supported by the North Carolina Arts Council, a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

This program was funded in part by a grant from the Ashe County Community Foundation, which is administered by the North Carolina Community Foundation.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Tickets for all events included in ARTS/DATES, are on sale the first month of each issue. For example, this issue covers concerts September through November and you can call NOW to get those favorite seats, 336.846-2787 or visit our website: www.AsheCountyArts.org to purchase tickets online.

LIVE MUSIC

www.AsheCountyArts.org

ALLISON DE GROOT & TATIANA HARGREAVES
Sept. 30, 7:30 pm, Ashe Civic Center
Tickets: \$7.50 Student | \$18.50 Adult



Allison de Groot & Tatiana Hargreaves create a sound that is adventurous, masterful, and original, as they expand on the eccentricities of old songs, while never losing sight of what makes them endure. Individually they are both leaders in the young generation of roots and bluegrass musicians, de Groot being known for intricate clawhammer banjo work, and Hargreaves bringing powerhouse fiddling to the stage. *This concert is co-presented by Joe Shannon's Mountain Home Music.*

ZOE & CLOYD
Oct. 15, 7:30 pm, Ashe Civic Center
Tickets: \$7.50 Student | \$18.50 Adult



The innovative original bluegrass and klezmer music of Zoe & Cloyd springs from a confluence of the rich traditions and complementary styles of fiddler/vocalist Natalya Zoe Weinstein and multi-instrumentalist/vocalist John Cloyd Miller. Zoe & Cloyd are joined by IBMA award-winners Bennett Sullivan on banjo/guitar and Kevin Kehrberg on bass. Together, the band delights audiences with soaring harmonies, heartfelt songwriting and dazzling instrumentals, seamlessly combining original bluegrass, klezmer, and folk stylings with sincerity and zeal.

JEFF LITTLE TRIO
Nov. 5, 7:30 pm, Ashe Civic Center
Tickets: \$7.50 Student | \$20.00 Adult



Jeff Little is an award-winning musician from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. With few exceptions, the piano does not play a prominent part in Appalachian or Americana music, and is rarely the lead instrument. But Jeff Little is an exception – and a remarkable one. Jeff has not only been recognized as a critically acclaimed musician but also a true music innovator. Little and his trio stay busy traveling the country, performing with an energy and dedication to their music that is evident at every show.

CAROLINA BRASS
Nov. 15, 7:30 pm, Ashe Civic Center
Tickets: \$7.50 Student | \$18.50 Adult



Carolina Brass presents “Brass Musings,” an eclectic blend of brass quintet repertoire from various musical periods, styles, and inspirations. The quintet is composed of Alex Wilborn (trumpet), Bill Lawing (trumpet), Byron Jones (horn), John Bartlett (trombone), and Beth Wiese (tuba). The vibrant ensemble was formed by Bill Lawing with members of the Charlotte Symphony in the 1980s and continues to delight audiences as the years go on. This concert is part of the *Ed Perzel Chamber Music Series*.

VISUAL ARTS

336-846-2787

BEST OF THE BLUE RIDGE

Painters from Ashe and surrounding counties are invited to submit works for **BEST OF THE BLUE RIDGE, a juried fine art competition and exhibition.** Visual artists residing in Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga, Wilkes, Grayson and Johnson Counties are eligible to submit original work that has been executed within the last three years. Paintings, drawings, hand pulled prints and mixed media works will be accepted. There is a non-refundable entry fee and delivery dates are October 8 & 10 at the Ashe Arts Center. A Prospectus for the show is available from the Arts Council.



Juror for the Best of the Blue Ridge is Addren Doss, an award winning North Carolina artist who works in oil and pastel. She has been painting professionally over 30 years and teaching for 15 years. Her representational and abstract works are filled with bold strokes of color, texture, light, and movement. Addren is a Master Member of Women Artists of the West, Associate Member of American Women Artists, and Associate Member of the Pastel Society of America. The awards for the show are provided by corporate sponsor, Cheap Joe's Art Stuff.



The exhibit is open October 12 - November 17. The public is invited to the opening reception for the artists and awards ceremony during the Gallery Crawl on October 14 from 5 - 7 pm.

KEEPING UP WITH HAPPENINGS IN THE ARTS

Are you receiving the weekly Arts Council emails? Do you want an easy way to keep up with what's going on in the arts? While our quarterly newsletter is a great overview of programs being presented, weekly emails alert you to any changes, updates, and new information about upcoming programs. Give us a call or email us to have your information added to our growing list of contacts. Follow the Ashe County Arts Council on Facebook for quick updates.

GALLERY EXHIBITS

Visit Ashe Arts Center to see monthly exhibits featuring regional artists! Interested in exhibiting? Contact us to find out more!

AGRICULTURE

September 6 - October 10
Works highlighting Ashe County farms and farm products.

BEST OF THE BLUE RIDGE

October 12 - November 17
Our annual juried exhibit featuring High Country artists that create paintings, hand pulled prints, and drawings.

TREE FEST AND MINIATURES

November 21 - December 31
Decorated trees, ornaments, and miniature paintings and photography. Perfect gifts!

GALLERY CRAWL



PROMOTING WEST JEFFERSON'S ARTS DISTRICT!

Music • Refreshments • Maps • Free!
5pm - 7 pm • Downtown West Jefferson

GALLERY CRAWL continues on the second Friday of the month! Mark your calendar for September 9, October 14, and a special Holiday Crawl on December 2 for opportunities to see new, creative, innovative works by Ashe County's leading artists. Extended gallery hours are from 5-7 pm at galleries, studios and craft shops in downtown West Jefferson.

PARTICIPATING GALLERIES

Ashe Arts Center
Ashe Custom Framing & Gallery
Catch Light Gallery
Florence Thomas Art School
Great Southern Gothic
Originals Only Gallery
WSL Originals

SCHOOL ARTS IN ASHE 2022-2023

The Arts Council's sponsorship of cultural programs in Ashe County Schools continues to enhance students' education through the arts. Concerts, programs and residencies are offered throughout the year in music, dance, theatre, visual arts and literature.

The Junior Appalachian Musicians (JAM) Program offers instruction in guitar, banjo and fiddle to the county's third through sixth grade students. The visual arts are well represented in the Council's annual Young at Art exhibit in The Gallery of the Ashe Arts Center. Spring Fest and A Very Special Arts Festival offer a day-long celebrations of the arts for Ashe County's young people.

The Arts in Education programs are sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council and local schools with funding support from a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, a North Carolina Arts Council Folklife Grant for the JAM Program, a Grassroots Arts Program Grant. The North Carolina Arts Council is a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

During the 2022-2023 school year students will experience:

- Mask and Mime artist Doug Berky
- Stories and Songs by Roger Day
- Theatre performances by the Atlantic Coast Theatre
- Science is Fun with Zak Morgan
- Missoula Children's Theatre
- Stories and Songs from the Underground Railroad with Reggie Harris
- Residency with artist collective Corn Bread and Tortillas
- Storytelling with Charlotte Blake Alston



ASHE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL SPONSORS JAM - JUNIOR APPALACHIAN MUSICIANS!

The JAM program has been sponsored by Ashe County Arts Council since 2002 in support of traditional music in our community and passing along that tradition to the next generation. **Classes open to grades 3 - 6 in banjo, fiddle and guitar are held after school at the Ashe Civic Center during the semester.**

- **Sign ups: September 12 & 13, 4-6pm, Ashe Civic Center**
- Classes begin September 19
- Beginning and Intermediate levels available
- \$3 per class fee charged
- Classes end December 9
- Spring Semester to be announced

This program is funded, in part, by a Folklife Initiatives Grant from the North Carolina Arts Council, a state agency, a Wayne Henderson Festival Grant, and is sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council. For more information about JAM please call 336-846-ARTS or email Rebecca Williams: programs@ashecountyarts.org.

Missoula Children's Theatre Residency Returns October 17 -22

This is a week-long residency that engages local children in the theatre experience. Auditions will be held for the Missoula Children's Theatre



(MCT) production of *The Frog Prince* on Monday, October 17, from 3:30 - 5:30 pm at Ashe Civic Center in the auditorium. Those auditioning should arrive by 3:15 pm and plan to stay the full two hours.

MCT productions are complete with costumes, scenery, and props. MCT Tour Directors will conduct rehearsals throughout the week from 3:30 to 8 pm each day. There is a \$35 fee per cast member to help fund the cost of this learning experience.

Performances will be held Saturday, October 22 at 3:00 and 7:30. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. Information is available on the Ashe County Arts Council website.



ON THE SAME PAGE: ASHE COUNTY'S LITERARY FESTIVAL

Ashe County's 13th annual On the Same Page Literary Festival, back after a two-year pandemic hiatus, promises a clarion call to get "Back to Books," with a stellar lineup of authors. Whether our authors are familiar faces in Ashe County or first-timers, they'll each bring something special for everyone to enjoy.

PAGE TURNERS *The Arts Council and Library gratefully acknowledge the financial contributions from the PAGE TURNERS, individuals and businesses committed to supporting ON THE SAME PAGE and reading and writing in Ashe County.*

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|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Anonymous | Gerhard Kalmus |
| Jack Apple | Sharon Kasel |
| Chris Arvidson & Henry Doss | Nita Langer |
| Alice Atwood | Lifestore Bank & Insurance |
| Pete & Judy Benda | Jane Lonon |
| Jenny Bezingue | John MacConnell |
| Sarah Bledsoe | Becky Marsten |
| Karen Bobbitt | McFarland & Co. |
| Alan Briggs | Tom & Linda McLintock |
| Gil & Karen Brock | Susan Meredith |
| Becky Burgess | Belva Miller |
| Cathy Buttler | Judy & Charles Mitchell |
| Kathy Chefas | Janet Montgomery |
| Diana Clarkson | Carol Morris |
| Joan Croteau | Vaughn & Beth Morrison |
| Linda Dreyer | Deborah Motto |
| Dave & Lynn Eastburn | Gay Murrill |
| Rose Farrington | Nanci Newton |
| Christine Franklin | Anita Pangle |
| Max & Kay Fryar | Ellie Perzel |
| Jerry Gambill | Cathy Pfeil |
| Eddie & Betsy Gant | Janet Pittard |
| Evelyn Gerdes | Lewis & Pat Poag |
| Lucinda Glover | Ray Podd & Linda Stanley |
| Charles & Elaine Graham | Scot Pope |
| James & Laura Green | Burt & Sandra Prange |
| Kyle & Susan Hall | Betty Rembert |
| Connie Hardison | Diana Renfro |
| Loftin & Linda Hargrave | Chuck & Ann Rice |
| Donna Hines | Ridgeline Properties |
| Libby & Jim Hoffman, | Chilton Rogers |
| <i>in memory of Melinda Hamrick</i> | Barbara Sears |
| Glenn & Ann Hood | Steve Stutts & Karen Hall |
| Kathy Howell | United Chemi-Con |
| David Hoyle/Julie Smith | Guyla Vardell |
| Jayne Inman | Della Vodenicker |
| Clint Johnson | June Weaver |
| Mary Jones | Carolyn Weckstrom |
| Henry Jordan, | Jay & Hollis Wild |
| <i>in honor of Ruth J. Ashe</i> | Page Worthington |

FEATURING

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| CHRIS ARVISON | STACY MCANULTY |
| GEORGANN EUBANKS | MARK POWELL |
| DONNA EVERHART | TERRY ROBERTS |
| JUDY GOLDMAN | ANNE SHELBY |
| PAUL JONES | ED SOUTHERN |
| KELLY KAZAK | JAMIE SOUTHERN |
| CHARLIE LOVETT | SHEILA TURNAGE |

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

All Festival events are open to the public. Most are free; some require reservations and/or tickets due to limited seating.

INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION
Full festival schedule of twenty events and registration can be found at www.OnTheSamePageFestival.org or by calling the Ashe County Arts Council.

TYPES OF EVENTS

Participants can attend workshops, author readings, and author panel discussions.

2022 FESTIVAL READ

This year's Festival Read is *Ed Southern's Fight Songs: A Story of Love and Sports in a Complicated South*. Ed, a lifelong Wake Forest Demon Deacons fan, explores the connections and contradictions between the teams we root for and the places we plant our roots. Pick up a copy of the book at the Ashe Arts Center and join us for the wrap up discussion on Sept. 13th at 1 pm.

On the Same Page is sponsored by Ashe County Public Library and Ashe County Arts Council. Festival authors' books may be checked out at the library and will be on sale at all events and the Ashe Arts Center.

Thank you to our 2022 Sponsors:

- American Library Association**
- National Endowment for the Humanities**
- Skyline/Skybest • Caddell Phillips Marketing**

SPECIAL EVENTS

www.AsheCountyArts.org



Ashe County Arts Council is excited to announce **ART ON THE MOUNTAIN** featuring fine art and crafts Saturday, September 24th!

It's a day filled with an array of arts and crafts from some of the best artists in the region. Join in the fun from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Saturday, September 24 on the grounds of the Ashe Arts Center. The street and adjacent parking lots will be filled with vendors including potters, painters, writers, wood workers, quilters, rug hookers, fiber artists, jewelers, basket makers, and more.

If you're looking for something handmade this is the perfect time to support local artisans. Get holiday shopping done early and enjoy some live music in scenic downtown West Jefferson!

You can find more information on our website:

www.ashecounyarts.org or call the Ashe Arts Center: 336-846-2787.



Wordkeepers Salon returns to the Ashe Arts Center on October 15 beginning at 4pm with writers sharing their latest prose and poetry works in five-minute open microphone time slots.

Wordkeepers is free and open to the public; refreshments are provided. Writers interested in reading from their work should email Scot Pope at scotpope@hotmail.com to secure their first-come, first-served spot on the bill, and to receive guidelines for reading.

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ARTIST SUPPORT PROJECT GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR ARTISTS IN ANY DISCIPLINE

This program, funded by the N.C. Arts Council, provides the opportunity for regional consortia of local arts councils to award project grants to artists in their regions. These grants support professional artists in any discipline and at any stage in their careers to pursue projects that further their artistic and professional development. Types of fundable projects include: creation of new work, purchase of equipment and materials, professional development workshops, and more. Grant amounts vary; most grants are between \$500 and \$2,000. Application deadline for the 2022-2023 award cycle is September 9, 2022. Application and guidelines may be obtained by calling 336.846-2787 or at www.ashecounyarts.org.

NEWS & UPDATES



Fiddlers Convention Photos Courtesy of Martin Seelig

Thanks to All who Made the 2022 Ashe County Bluegrass and Old Time Fiddlers Convention a Success!

The Ashe County Bluegrass and Old Time Fiddlers Convention returned to Ashe Park for the first time since 2019 with a kick-off night on Friday featuring regional bands in concert followed by a hot but gorgeous July summer day full of youth and adult competitors from around the region. WSKS started Saturday with a live radio show program broadcasted right from the Ashe Park. With over 80 competitors and \$4,000 in cash prizes, enthusiasm was strong as the competitors warmed up behind the stage. Local luthiers showed off their beautifully crafted instruments and invited attendees to sit down and try them out.

Ashe County Arts Council heartily thanks all those who helped make this 50 year tradition a success including the 2022 Sponsors, Scott Harris Guitar Shop for sponsoring the stage, our donors, volunteers, the Fiddlers Convention Committee, the Ashe Post & Times, Heather Barker and the Ashe County Park Staff, Andrew Cole, GLAD, John Maddocks, Tim Varner, and 580 WSKS The Farm.



The Summer Contemporary Dance Festival Facilitated by Makayla Rosenberger Delights Audiences and Participants Alike

2022 Jane Lonon Legacy Grant recipient Makayla Rosenberger treated Ashe County dancers of all ages to two weeks of free contemporary dance workshops and performance experience. The Dance Festival culminated with a free public performance at the Ashe Civic Center which showcased local dance groups in performance as well as professional contemporary dancers. Local youth participants auditioned to learn and perform contemporary dance piece, *Across the Blue Ridge Mountains*, which was choreographed by Makayla and highlighted the culture and landscapes of Ashe County.

IT'S FUND DRIVE TIME FOR THE ARTS!

September is always a banner month for the Arts Council, as we announce the new programming season and celebrate our 43rd year as an organization serving the arts needs of Ashe County. We'll kick off our annual fund drive in September to raise funds for the arts.

As we begin another year of community concerts at the Ashe Civic Center and Ashe Arts Center, gallery exhibits, school arts assembly programs, the Junior Appalachian Musicians Project (JAM), downtown murals, the Gallery Crawl, Spring Fest, On The Same Page Literary Festival, the Fiddlers Convention, and the Studio Tours we realize that you who have shared in the Arts Council's vision all these years play a dual role in its success. You provide both intangible gifts of time, energy and enthusiasm and the financial support we need to continue our mission of promoting the arts in all forms in Ashe County.

Information about the 2022-2023 Fund Drive and schedules for the year will be in the mail soon. The Arts Council expresses its gratitude for the past contributions and thanks you in advance for your future support. Contributions may be mailed to 303 School Avenue, West Jefferson, NC 28694 or made online at www.ashecounyarts.org.