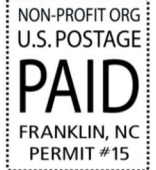




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Calendar Essentials

Tret Fure in Concert Saturday 9, 3:00, Holly Springs Comm. Club
Teen Poetry Night Monday 18, 7:00, The Rat
Student Talent Showcase Saturday 23, 7:00, Franklin High School
The Magical Lamp of Aladdin Fri. 29-Sat. 30, times below, SMCPA
Arts Scholarship application deadline May 15

ARTicles April 2022
It's National Poetry Month. Immerse yourself in verse!

Apr. 3-9

We ♥ our Libraries!

Celebrate National Library Week by visiting our excellent public libraries to take advantage of their wide range of services, and check out the user-friendly calendar at fontanalib.org for news of ongoing programs and special events such as Macon County Public Library's "Walking with Spring" series of programs on three April Wednesdays at 6:00 P.M. (6th, 13th [Storyteller/AT Hiker Nancy Reeder's *Grandma Gatewood Returns*], and 20th). This year's National Library Week theme, "Connect with Your Library," reminds us that libraries help keep communities connected by expanding resources and embracing inclusion in programming, resources, and collections. Today's public libraries are so much more than books. Stop in and say "THANKS!"

9 Saturday 3:00



Singer-Songwriter Tret Fure in Concert, Holly Springs Comm. Club, 2720 Cat Creek Rd. "Exceptionally crafted songs delivered with passion, conviction, and, yes, soul," is just one of scores of rave reviews this multi award-winning contemporary folk artist has garnered. Over her 51-year career, Fure has recorded 17 albums and CDs; learn more about her and hear her music at tretfure.com, and buy \$16 advance tickets (\$20 at the door). Desserts and drinks will be sold. The venue is a short distance beyond Holly Springs Baptist Church.

18 Monday 7 P.M.

Teen Poetry Night, Rathskeller Coffee Haus, 58 Stewart Street, Franklin
We resume our annual immersed-in-verse event for high school-age poets and poetry lovers to read and discuss poetry, and earn **Rat Bucks** to spend on Rat-fare. Come hear our youth reflect on their world, and applaud their creativity and courage. Free; doors open at 6:30.

23 Saturday 7 P.M.



Annual Student Talent Showcase, Franklin High Fine Arts Building, Georgia Road
Our student stars shine in this annual non-competitive showcase, with talented third to twelfth graders chosen from Macon County public schools performing a variety of entertaining acts – comedy, dance, mime, music, and more. *Academics + Arts + Athletics = A+ Education* is our theme; Macon Middle School is our 2022 spotlight school. Admission at the door is \$5 adult, \$2 youth under age 16, \$15 family; proceeds support our Artists-in-the-Schools program.

29-30 Friday 7:00 Saturday 2:00, 7:00

The Magical Lamp of Aladdin, Smoky Mountain Center for the Performing Arts, Georgia Rd.
Scotty Corbin directs Overlook Theatre Company's encore production of this musical comedy, set in the mythical magical lands of the ancient Middle East and featuring bee-boppin' tunes, high-kickin' dance numbers, and a heapin' helpin' of WOW! \$13 general admission; tickets at the Center box office, smokymountainarts.com, or 828-524-1598.



Scholarship Applicants Sought – The Arts Council will accept applications through May 15 for our annual \$1000 Arts Scholarship. Get guidelines and application forms from Macon County high school guidance offices, our newly-remastered website artscouncilofmacon.org (Thanks, Merritt Shaw!), or the Arts Council office. Maconians of all ages pursuing a college degree in the performing, literary, or visual/graphic arts or arts education may apply.

The Arts Council serves Macon County as a presenter, promoter, and resource for artists, cultural organizations, and schools working to meet their goals.



Macon County Art Association's Uptown Gallery at 30 E. Main, uptown Franklin, hosts classes, workshops, and other activities. Visit the Gallery for details, to wish them a happy 60th year, and to view and buy high quality works of art, from paintings and photographs to jewelry, pottery, sculptures and so much more. Winter hours, artist bios, program details and more at mcaauptowngallery.org or 828-349-4067.



Franklin's Singer-Songwriters Collective has resumed in-person meetings at Lazy Hiker Brewery on West Main Street, where members perform their original songs and get peer feedback and support. Contact Project Director Dave Stewart, davestewartsongs@gmail.com, for meeting dates and details.



Arts News from Western Carolina University The Mountain Heritage Center's new exhibit, "Quilts: The Stories They Tell," is on view in the Hunter Library exhibit gallery through August 26, free and open to the public Monday-Friday, 10:00-4:00. Free guided tours and gallery activities for K-12 classes and community groups are available by appointment; contact Museum Educator Peter Koch at (pkoch@email.wcu.edu) or 828-227-7129.



WCU will accept applications until June 1 for arts & crafts, food, and nonprofit community organization vendors to pARTicipate in Mountain Heritage Day 2022, scheduled for Saturday, September 24 on WCU's Cullowhee campus. Get festival details and online applications at <https://www.wcu.edu/engage/mountain-heritage-day/index.aspx>

Our heARTy thanks to everyone who contributed to our recent stellar programs: Storyteller Elizabeth Ellis, Storyteller Nancy Reeder, Blue Jazz (Delphine, Dave, and Scott), Tom Tyre and The Ubuntu Choir, Andy LaTorre, Maryellen Tully and Macon County Art Assoc. Uptown Gallery artists, Macon County Public Library staff, Jerry Blaydes, Pastor Tempe Fussell and First Presbyterian Church, Betsey Gooder and Macon County News, many media friends, and our super filled-to-capacity audiences!

(Alice speaks)

"Cheshire Puss," she began, rather timidly... "Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to walk from here?"

That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat.

"I don't much care where..." said Alice.

"Then it doesn't matter which way you walk," said the Cat.

-from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by LEWIS CARROLL



Please help us map which way we ought to walk from here. As your Arts Council joins other local organizations and presenters in jumpstARTing the arts after the long COVID drought, we're developing a two-year plan for our community programs, Artists-in-the-Schools, and stronger connections with, and services to, local artists, arts organizations, and arts presenters. We welcome your input on how we can do a better job of serving all segments of our community with diverse, accessible, high quality arts programs and services. Please speak with any Arts Council Board of Directors member or contact the Council office to share your ideas. While we're on the subject, if you're passionate about community arts programs and want to work with like-minded people to help make exciting things happen right here at home, we'll be happy to talk to you about joining our all-volunteer Board or serving on a project team.

Bobbie Contino, Executive Director and Board President

2021 Arts Council Board of Directors

**Bobbie Contino Betsey Gooder Emilee Higdon
 Laura Lansford Josh Lynch Pam Meister
 Shirley Parks Merritt Shaw Dave Stewart Tom Tyre**

To be an artist is not the privilege of the few but the necessity of us all. –ROBERT SHAW