

## Focus on the Artists: Charlotte Blake Alston



The Huntingdon County Arts Council is both proud and delighted to work with Storyteller Charlotte Blake Alston through a grant from Pennsylvania Performing Arts on Tour. Inspired by the research of Huntingdon County resident Jerry Zolten, Charlotte is charged with creating a new performance piece that incorporates some of the stories and history of Mount Union's African American music community. The artist visited all of Mount Union School District elementary schools in May and has recently returned to do personal interviews and research. She will return in August for a performance at the Fair and the world premiere of the piece is slated for this fall.

A former teacher, Charlotte breathes life into traditional and contemporary stories from the African and African American oral and cultural traditions. Her solo performances are often enhanced with traditional instruments such as djembe, berimbau, nkoning, mbira, shekere or the 21-stringed kora. Her repertoire is wide and programs are adapted to any grade level or age group. For 9 years Charlotte has hosted the Carnegie Hall Family Performance Series, and the Carnegie Kids Series. She has worked with the Philadelphia Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, radio shows and TV productions. She received the 1997 Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Artist of the Year Award, an honor also held by Bill Cosby and other great artists who call Pennsylvania home.



The Huntingdon County Arts Council is funded by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, County and local government contributions and its membership. Memberships and contributions help us fulfill our mission of providing opportunities to experience the arts in Huntingdon County.



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## Huntingdon County Arts Council Summer 2009

Dear Membership:

School's out and summer programs have started throughout the county. Taking advantage of nice weather and community spirit, we see some festivals maturing, while new events are introduced. Congratulations to Linda DeArmitt and Mayfest for an excellent start and best wishes to the organizers of the new Ragtime Festival in Orbisonia. The Arts Council has been busy, too, with the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Folk College and second annual River Arts Festival at the Trestle just behind us. In this issue, you will find our performance schedule for the Summer of 2009 program at the Raystown Lake Amphitheater as well as a sneak preview for the Huntingdon County Fair. Don't forget to also check out additional programs the Corps of Engineers has planned for the Amphitheater, as well as other county performance venues. And we will post events and items of interest on our blog on the web at [www.huntingdoncountyarts.org](http://www.huntingdoncountyarts.org)

We wish you an enjoyable summer!

Sincerely, *Ilona Ballreich*

## New Mural Taking Shape on Penn Street



Philadelphia Mural Artist Joe Brenman has completed his work on the new mural along Penn Street in Huntingdon. With help from Chris Drobnock, 2008/09 HCAC fellowship recipient, the new mural has a distinctly different look than his colorful previous installation. Muted grey and white glass and tile form a (paper) ribbon with a clay relief plaque at its center. The mural is to introduce "Paper Trail" as the theme

to public art installations in Huntingdon. A brass plaque will provide more details and all related Paper Trail installations throughout the community will be identified by a plaque that resembles a paper tablet in shape.

This project has been funded in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the MeadWestvaco Foundation.

## The Playhouse at McConnellstown The Last Night of Ballyhoo (Comedy/Drama)

July 31, Aug. 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9

Call 814-627-0311 [www.littletheater.co](http://www.littletheater.co)



P.O. Box 216  
Huntingdon, PA 16652

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# Summer of 2009

Free Live performances at the Raystown Lake Amphitheatre adjacent to the Visitor Center at Seven Points. Concerts usually start at 7 pm. In case of bad weather, performances will be inside the visitor center. Some seating is available at the Amphitheatre, or you may bring your own.

**July 3, 2009**

*The Dively-Shawver Bluegrass Family*

Gospel and Bluegrass Music



**July 10, 2009**

*Three Quarter Blues*

Classic Rock, Blues and Jazz

**July 17, 2009**

*Open Timbre*

Traditional tunes and contemporary Bluegrass



**July 24, 2009; 7:30 pm**

*The Big Band Sound*

Music of the Big Band Era



**July 31, 2009**

*Dan & Galla*

Musical Variety Show



**August 21, 2009**

*A Tribute to Christmas Music*

Local talent

This schedule may be subject to change

## Folk College 2009 Very Successful!

Folk College 2009 celebrated the 10th anniversary of the folk music event and was pronounced the most successful Folk College to date. A switch in performance venue to the new Suzanne von Liebig Theater on the Juniata College Campus added greatly to Friday and Saturday concerts. The event was also noticed by WPSU, the NPR affiliate in State College who sent Cynthia Berger to conduct interviews and produce a broadcast. The podcast has been posted on our website's blog.

[www.huntingdoncountyparts.org](http://www.huntingdoncountyparts.org)



**August 9-15, 2009**

All Fair information is also available on the web at [www.huntingdoncountyfair.com](http://www.huntingdoncountyfair.com)

## Midway Stage



**Sunday, Aug. 9**

3 pm; *Charlotte Blake Alston*

**Monday, Aug. 10**

6 & 8 pm; *The Deacons of Dixieland*

**Tuesday, Aug. 11**

6 pm; *The Keystone Rebels*

8 pm; *The Big Band Sound*

**Wednesday, Aug. 12**

5 pm *Dan & Galla*

6 pm *Talent Show*

HCB&I Video Contest Winner

*Dan & Galla*

**Thursday, Aug. 13**

7 pm, *McKenzie Wilson Band*

8 pm; on the Grandstand

*Chris Woodward*

**Friday, Aug. 14**

6pm, *Simple Gifts*

7 & 9 pm *The Spike Drivers*

**Saturday, Aug. 15**

4 pm *Banjo Contest*

6 pm *Dively-Shawver Bluegrass*

8 pm *Open Timbre*



# Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering



**Sept. 11-13, 2009**

a fun and friendly weekend of playing and listening to folk music

Workshops • Concerts

Dancing • Singing • Jams

**Greenwood Furnace State Park in Central Pennsylvania**

*Featuring Simple Gifts with*

Howard Blumenthal • Druckenmiller Family • Paul Fagley

Beth & Stephen Folkemer • Linda Huber • Keystone Rebels

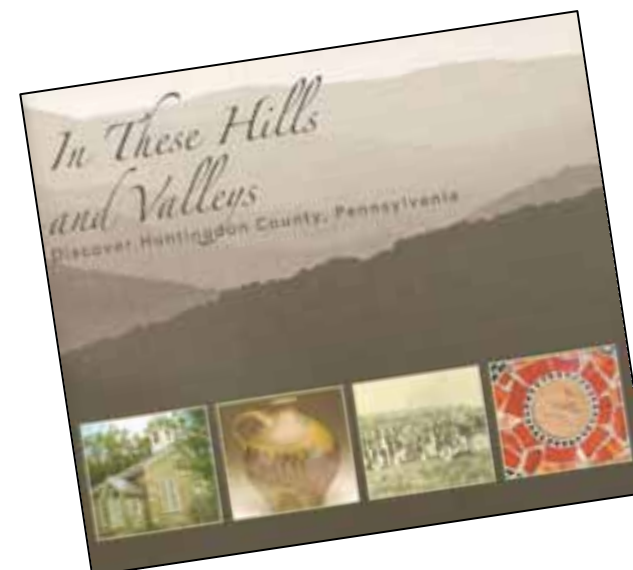
(Carl Rahkonen, Todd Clewell, Mark Tamsula & Henry Koretzky)

Montage (Rachabelle, Jane Knoeck, Tom Santarsiero) • Bob Nicholson

Kelly Parker • Clark Parry & Candy Durkee • Peggy Shutes • Jerry Trusty

Sponsored by the Huntingdon County Arts Council, P.O. Box 116, Huntingdon, PA, 16831  
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[www.folkgathering.com](http://www.folkgathering.com)



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*In These Hills and Valleys*

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\$7.50 for HCAC members,  
\$10 regular price

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