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## Watauga Arts Council Staff

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## Gallery News!

The **Open Door Gallery** is pleased to have the artwork of Jonathan Ryan.

Jonathan grew up moving around the world because his father was in the Navy. He moved to

Boone to attend Appalachian State University and graduated in December of 2008 with a bachelor's degree in fine art. He says that he has always been a drawer and a painter and that art was

his biggest interest.

He has been a member of the Nth Gallery and Studios in downtown Boone since June of 2008, and had his first solo show there in 2009. The show titled, "The Drums are Like the Lettuce" featured over 100 small paintings. Jonathan has also exhibited at the Turchin Center, in Charlotte & Eden, NC, and has work hanging in several local businesses here. There was a second exhibit at the Nth Gallery in May of this year which featured 28 collaborative works with artist, Ryan Batten.

His paintings are nonobjective abstract works, however, the compositions read realistically.

He states that "Using techniques from representational painting, he has rendered a "real" world in the imaginary space of the picture plane". Visually, he is inspired by graffiti, landscapes, and pigment itself. Jonathan says, "The act of painting has become a conversation between the paint and myself. The paint paints the picture—I am only holding the brush".

Jonathan is excited to be exhibiting here at the Arts Council because he wants to further his involvement with and develop an even deeper connection with the arts community here in Boone.

The **Mazie Jones Gallery** is featuring the photography of Carole and Dennis Usdan this month.

**Carole Usdan** is a self taught photographer who has exhibited her work throughout the United States. She divides her time between Boone, NC and Palm Beach, Florida and studied at the Boca Raton Museum School. Her photographic career has been influenced by her lifetime interest in literature, film and two dimensional art.

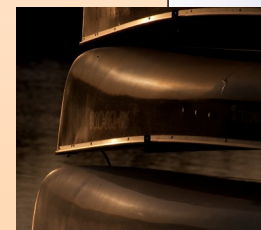
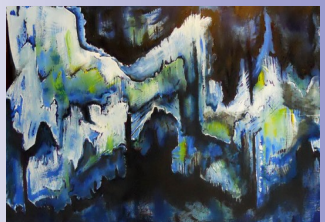
It is through photography that she attempts to comprehend and order her thoughts and to establish connectivity. Her images contain a cohesive visual sensibility and emotional perspective. There is a sense of mystery and a fascination

with visual links between life, identity, misunderstanding and culture.

She has appeared in *B&W Magazine* (a high quality journal for collectors of fine photography) 3 times. Also, her image "Face (Distorted)" was selected from over 10,000 images for the cover of the August 2010 issue. In the current issue of *B&W*, several pieces from her Fractured Female series (many on display currently at the Turchin Center) are featured. Additionally, she has been published in *COLOR Magazine*.

**Dennis Usdan** is a fine art photographer and recovering lawyer. He was born and raised on Long Island, New York. He graduated from the University Of Vermont and Boston University School of Law. He has received instruction in photography at Appalachian State University Craft Enrichment center. He is forever thankful to Jack Wild for his inspiration and instruction at Boca Raton Museum School and Delray Beach Florida Old School Square Art and photography.

His photos have been winning selections in various media juried competitions. His photography was a winning selection by the Watauga Arts Council and was displayed at the Jones House in 2009; and now in July 2011; Boca Raton Museum of Art as part of the juried All Florida competition 2009 and 2011; cover of the All Florida competition invitation to artists 2010; a winning selection for *B&W* and *Color Magazine* 2011 photography competition. His photography is often described as extracts, abstracts, and fragments with significance placed on design, lines, forms, shadows and colors.



Return Service Requested

Nonprofit  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Standard Mail  
Permit #85  
Boone, NC 28607

Office & Galleries located in  
the Jones House  
Community Center  
at 604 West King Street in  
Downtown Boone, Ph. 264-1789

PO Box 366, DTS  
Boone, NC 28607



## Do you have one of these in your wallet yet?

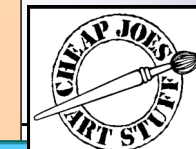
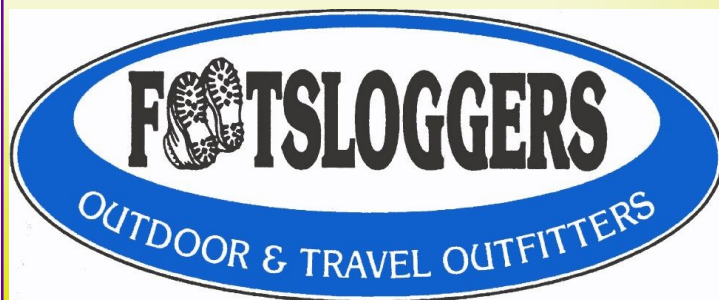
Watch this area of our newsletter each month to learn which local business is helping to "Make the ARTS a Presence in Our Community."



Present your **membership card** during the month of July at **Footsloggers** and receive a special discount just for WCAC members!

A special thank you to Footsloggers for their sponsorship of the Concerts on the Lawn this summer!

*Footsloggers is located at  
139 South Depot St.  
in downtown Boone  
(828) 262-5111*



The WCAC is grateful for the ongoing support of Cheap Joe's Art Stuff for our Monthly Gallery Exhibitions!

The July exhibits will be on display from June 28th through July 29th. Please join us on Friday, July 1st from 6:30—8:00 pm for the gallery reception.

## From the Executive Director's Desk:



Cherry Johnson

A couple of big changes are afoot at the Jones House and therefore at the Arts Council. If you've not been reading the local papers you might not be aware of two very significant modifications which will be taking place immediately.

In response to the wishes of the Boone Town Council, we will be expanding our gallery hours on a trial basis to include Saturdays from 10-2. This trial period will continue through the summer and fall and will end when we close for the Christmas holidays. Your feedback on the new hours would be very helpful to us so please email us at [wcac@watauga-arts.org](mailto:wcac@watauga-arts.org) with your comments or questions.

Also, Mark and Christy are once again going to be sharing the upstairs back office (as they had previously done for about three years) in order to make room for the Downtown Boone Development Association to relocate their business office into the upstairs office located at the top of the stairs and over the front entrance. We have been promised that this move is a temporary situation lasting only until the Historic Downtown Post Office can be renovated so that their office can be relocated there. Their move to the Post Office is expected to take place within two months of the completion of the renovations or by January, 2013 at the latest, according to the unanimous vote of the Town Council at their June 23, 2011 meeting.

This relocation of the DBDA means that you will be seeing some significant changes in student workspaces and in furniture and equipment locations within the building, but we are hoping to make the impacts as minimal as possible. The most important thing is that we are able to preserve all three gallery spaces....which is very, very important not only to our visual artists but also to the Junior Appalachian Musicians Program and the Living Traditions Summer Music Lessons which hold classes in all three of our galleries (plus other areas of the building).

Since the late 1980's the Arts Council has enjoyed a very strong partnership with the Town of Boone. This relationship has had obvious benefits to both parties...the Arts Council has been the manager and tenant of this beautiful building in the heart of downtown Boone and has been able to help the Jones House increase participation numbers by more than eightfold since 1992...and the Town of Boone has been able to ensure that the Jones House Community Center lives up to its mission and mandate of being Boone's community and cultural center through the programming which the Arts Council has offered via its galleries, classes, concerts, and other events. We are hopeful that this partnership will continue to serve our community for many years to come.

## JULY EVENTS

- ◆ Friday, July 1 - Art Crawl & Gallery Reception at the Jones House from 6:30-8:00 pm
- ◆ Monday, July 4th - Parade at 11:00 am followed by The Jones House watermelon feast
- ◆ Every Thursday - Free Acoustic Jams from 7:30—11:00 pm
- ◆ Thursday afternoons—Summer Music Lessons
- ◆ Concerts on the Lawn every Friday at 5:00pm (Bring a chair or blanket)



[www.watauga-arts.org](http://www.watauga-arts.org)

## Thanks to our generous supporters & members for their recent gifts!

### Partners

Peter & Joni Petschauer  
Doyle & Ann Pace  
Mark & Sandy Kadyk  
Ben & Deb Freed

**A VERY special THANK YOU to our Watauga County Commissioners for their recent decision to allocate \$8,800 to the Watauga County Arts Council for 2011-2012!**

### Individuals and Families

Aurel Trembly  
Pegge & Chris Laine  
Jim & Barbara Avant

## A Traditional Note from our Folklorist:



Mark Freed

Greetings friends~

Summer is in full swing here at the Jones House. We have just launched into our second session of **Summer Music Lessons**, the **Thursday Night Jam** session has ventured to the front porch, and the **Concerts on the Lawn** series is a month into the schedule and going full steam ahead through July.

The July 1 concert will feature **High Standards** and **Luck Strikes**, two bands that specialize in completely different jazz styles. High Standards will bring classic big-band songs and tunes, while Lucky Strikes brings a mix of cool jazz, blues, swing, and Motown to the mix. **Swing Guitars** will pick up on the jazz theme with Django Reinhardt-inspired music on July 8, along with songwriter **Kathering Whalen**, formerly of the Squirrel Nut Zippers. July 15 will feature the songwriting of Doris Bazzini with the group **Folk and Dagger**, along with award-winning storyteller and songwriter, **Michael Reno Harrell**. An evening of old-time music with the **Sheets Family** and **Elkville String Band** will take place on July 22, and we will finish the month with a special **Traditional Music Showcase** with **Glenn Bolick, Lonnie Ward, Rick Ward, Charlie Glenn**, and the **Crooked Road Ramblers**. So, get ready for a musical month of July, and plan to get to the Jones House early to get a good seat!

If you get inspired and want to start learning to play yourself, please think about enrolling in our third and final 5-week session of **Summer Music Lessons** at the Jones House, starting the first Thursday in August. This will be the last group session available to all ages for the year. Contact me for more information.

We are also enrolling for our 2011-2012 **Junior Appalachian Musicians Program**, beginning in mid-September. This program is available for rising 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students though high-school students. We expect spaces to fill for this year's program, so please let me know soon if you know a student that would like to learn to play guitar, fiddle, banjo, or mandolin.

## Focusing on Arts in Education:



Christy Chenausky

By the time you read this, Summer Arts Camp 2011 will have come to a close. It's been a great week; we have over fifty children

enrolled, ages 6-14! They have been rehearsing the play, creating new art and learning a variety of songs, dances



and games.

I will spend the month of July planning and preparing for the 2011-2012 school year. As many of you know, the Community Arts Education Partnership of Watauga County has encountered a very steep budgetary cut. We are committed, however, to continue to bring quality artistic experiences to the students of Watauga County. And I am looking forward to helping to coordinate some exciting and creative artistic experiences for our students.

I'm pleased to share the good news that we have been awarded two grants by the North Carolina Arts Council to bring wonderful artistic programs to our students in Watauga County! I will tell you more about those projects as they

approach, but wanted to share the good news that our hard work and dedication to Arts in Education is paying off and continuing on.

Christy Chenausky

Cheers, Mark