

***“Presents are made for the pleasure of the one who gives them, not the merits of the one who receives them.” ~ Carlos Ruiz Zafón (in other words, there is a lot of joy in giving rather than receiving. A good practice to follow)***

**HOLIDAY PARTY**

The Arc is planning something different for the party this year. We do not want people to become bored with the same programs, so now and then we attempt to 'shake it up' a little.

Since we have done the Santa train, gift wrapping and cookie baking night, holiday Bingo, caroling on the jolly trolley light tour, holiday movie night, and of course, holiday dances, we thought it time to offer an 'out of the world' experience.

The Arc will be taking anyone who wants to go to the 'Season of Light' laser light show at the Altoona High School Planetarium. This program takes us on a journey of senses and into the planets with a beautiful array of lights. After the one-hour show, we will head to the Clay Cup in downtown Altoona for hot chocolate and desserts.

The festivities take place Friday, December 8. We will meet at the Altoona High School. Please do not come to The Arc. Two different show times are available. When reserving your spot, please let us know whether you are interested in the 6 p.m. showing or the 7 p.m. showing.

Once you register we will give more details. This program was selected because of the peacefulness it instills during a very hectic time of year. Take a moment, sit back, and breathe in the spirit of the season.

**LAST CALL - A Fabulous Art Program**

Arts at The Arc is back for another creative year. This year we are really changing up the class to offer a wide variety of choice. We plan to offer pottery and artwork made of clay. We plan to offer techniques that involve upcycling (using materials already found around the house). And we plan on teaching art that allows individuality to shine.

Preference will be given to people who have not participated in the class in the past. Spaces quickly fill for this professional art program, so please call quickly to register by calling The Arc at 946-1011.

This expressive program will run every Monday, beginning January 8 through February 12, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. The class may run longer if we need to have snow make up dates. This is not a craft class but a professional art class. You do not have to have any art experience. Just let your imagination go wild! Students must commit to attending the majority of the classes. Expensive materials are purchased for this class and it is expected students will attend.

Members of The Arc do not need to pay anything to participate except for \$25 to have artwork framed. Anyone not a member of The Arc must pay the art framing cost of \$25 plus an additional \$25 registration fee. It pays to become a member of The Arc where you do not pay for programs and where you show support of an agency who has advocated for disabilities for sixty years!

This class is made possible through the Wolf-Kuhn Foundation. Thank you so much!

We would appreciate your help in ensuring the safety of everyone involved. Please drive slowly as you enter Jackson Avenue off of 7th Street. Too many people rush down the lane and make nerve wracking turns around the building. It is not worth driving too fast if someone becomes injured. Also, please always be sure the person you are dropping off makes it safely inside. We want to see your face. Stop in, say hello, verify what time the class ends, and receive instructions from the lead volunteer. Sometimes we need to end early or discuss something with families or support staff.

Your help in providing a safe environment is very much appreciated.

## Policy Enforcement

We hate to do this, it is not very fun, but it is time to become 'the enforcer' again.

The Arc of Blair County has a program attendance policy that is beginning to be abused and the newsletter provides an opportunity to review it with members.

If the newsletter requests that you call to register for a class or activity, it is because The Arc needs to purchase materials for that particular program.

Once you register for a program, it is expected that you will attend it. However, people are signing up and not coming to the program causing The Arc to lose the money it cost to purchase the materials. Please note that The Arc limits its programs to a certain number. If you do not attend a class you registered for, you denied someone else the joy of participating by not attending.

The Arc will be enforcing its attendance policy. Members and participants will no longer be permitted to register for any future classes without a \$10 deposit if they are registered for a class or activity and do not show more than 2 times in a calendar year. As long as you attend the class, your \$10 will be given back to you.

This rule does not apply if you have not cancelled 2 times. The \$10 deposit rule is only if you register for a program and cancel more than 2 times per year. Our sincere thanks to the people who are respectful of the time and resources it takes to plan a program and do not cancel but rather make every effort to attend a class.

## CLASS SCHEDULE for December 2017

Stay connected for the latest changes by visiting The Arc's homepage at [www.thearcblair.org](http://www.thearcblair.org). If there is a change it is listed on the blog on the home page, in rectangle box to the right. Otherwise, it means the class is still on. Listings are also posted on Face book and Twitter.

**Cooking Class - Monday, December 4. See inside for details.**

**Craft Class – Monday, Monday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. Limited to 20 people!**

**Acting Troupe - Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m. NO CLASS on December 26.**

**Line Dancing – 6:30 pm Wed. nights. Bring water. NO CLASS on December 27**

**Square Dancing – 6:15 pm Thursday Nights. NO CLASS December 28.**

**All are welcome to any activity but must pay \$5 per class if not an Arc member. This includes dance classes.**

## Cooking Class Update

The cooking class for December will be Monday, December 4, in tune with the first Monday of the month. The class starts at 6 p.m. sharp. Please arrive at least 5 minutes early. It is disruptive to the teaching, and disrespectful to the students trying to learn, to be walking in once the program has started.



Please eat dinner before coming to class. The program for December will be centered around baking desserts so we can be prepared for the holiday season. This month we will not be eating a dinner.

Lois and her kitchen crew will be teaching baking with items that can be given as gifts. What a wonderful idea on how to give back!

This class does require reservations since it is popular and we limit the number of

students to 20. Please call The Arc at 946-1011 to secure your spot.

## HELP! HELP! HELP!

We are certainly fortunate at The Arc to be able to offer a variety of activities and programs.

This doesn't happen by coincidence. No, it is because of the wonderful volunteers who give up their time faithfully each week or monthly. This is time spent away from families and personal appointments. These lovely people travel to The Arc so that others can learn or receive joy from a program.

Now it is our turn to give of our time and talent. Discover the beauty of giving during this holiday season. We are making gifts as a way to say 'thank you' for all you do to the many people who make The Arc a valuable community jewel.

We have selected three days in which you can join the fun. We want to allow enough time to be able to complete all the gifts. Feel free to come part of the time or for all three days.

The days selected are:  
Monday, December 11  
Wednesday, December 13  
Thursday, December 14  
The time will be from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. each day.

We have heard time and again how much the volunteers treasure these homemade delights made from the heart.

As is our tradition, we will have carols playing on the radio and holiday treats and drinks to enjoy as we make our gifts.

Please consider assisting one, two, or all three days with this annual Arc tradition of giving back. It will truly lift your spirit and showcase the true meaning of the season. Call the office if you can assist (946-1011).



The Arc was honored to have the Sunrise Rotary pay a visit to our building.

It is hard to believe that the Rotarians who have been conducting the Becky Sheetz Memorial Golf Tournament for over 20 years, and who are very generous in the proceeds to The Arc and to Special Olympics, had never been to our building.

In recognition of all they do, members of The Arc prepared a delicious hot breakfast. A very deep-felt thank you to Garran Burget, Steve Cline, Tina Lamborn, Debbie Kordish, Christina Polito, Betty Polito, Patrick, Sandra Shaw, Emma Shaw, Deb Suder, Colleen Weise and Mike Weise.

These hard-working members gave up an afternoon and woke at the crack of dawn the next day to serve the meal by 7:00 a.m.!



## WINTER FUN

The Arc of Blair County has decided not to let the winter doldrums get the best of us. No siree! We are going to plan activities that get us out socializing and leading productive lives.

In addition to our regular weekly programs, save the dates for:

January 29- Homemade Pillows  
January 26 - Pottery  
February 9 - Winter Dance  
March 16 - Jewelry Making

More details about each program will be in the upcoming issues of Arc Action.

## MORE FUN

The Arc of Blair County would like to take everyone roller skating at the rink in Martinsburg. Of course, we would have food included in this excursion! Perhaps even a visit to Ritchey's Dairy for some of their renowned delicious ice cream!

This would be a new activity that The Arc has never offered. We are attempting to offer opportunities that members may not have had the pleasure of participating in or enjoying.

Please let us know if this is something that interests you. The Arc will be certain to have enough volunteers to guide the trepid, or not so experienced, roller skaters.

Once we know for certain that we have enough interest, we will select a date and deliver more information.

Roller skating can be a lot of fun. Don't let fear stop you from trying something new. How does the saying go - 'You have nothing to fear but fear itself'?



**The Arc of Blair County**  
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*Achieve with us.*

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The Arc of Blair County installed its new directors at the September 2017 Annual Meeting. We welcome first term directors Garran Burget, Harry Greg, Neil Hollander, Kris John, Fred Miller, and Gary Robinson.

Our board - seated left to right: Eileen Roberts, Meghan Farrell Irwin, Katie Fiore, Christina Polito, Kris John, Donna Messner

Back row: Chris Jancula, Fred Miller, Garran Burget, Tom Forr, Brandon Traficante, Michael Eardley, Joe Keller, Becky Good, Tom Weimer, Neil Hollander, and Georgina Sible.

Absent: Harry Greg, Joel Hollander, Colleen Montrella, JoEllen Steinbrunner, Gary Robinson, and Becky Young

Thank you to our exiting members: Sara Fiore Gunnett, Devin Wineland and Marvin Walters

May the spirit of peace and the holiday season. Whether you are Hanukkah, Kwanza, or another we bestow glad tidings. On and the staff at The Arc of bright and prosperous 2018!



joy of love fill your hearts this celebrating Christmas, meaningful holiday this month, behalf of the Board of Directors Blair County we wish you a



We had everyone from Bob Marley to Scooby Doo arrive to The Arc Halloween Dance. Joel and Barbara Hollander graciously provided the financial support for the dance to occur. The chicken provided by Imler's chicken received the most acolytes of any meal provided. Thank you to both the Hollander's and to Imler's Poultry.



Thank you also to the Sunday School Students from St Rose, Emma Shaw and Steve Cline, and our faithful Sible/Ermin/Marasco family for your help.





Janice Moist, left, and Georgina Sible, right, offered a parents fresh perspective at the conference



The Arc of Blair County was one of the co-sponsors of a conference on transition - the age where students and families begin planning for life following high school - titled 'Passages to the Future'. The very large crowd exceeded capacity. Parents and students were able to meet with providers, hear from other parents who have gone through similar experiences, and interact with a panel of experts. Arc member Janice Moist did a very humorous and attention getting presentation. Board member Georgina Sible was on the panel sharing views of a parent. Thank you to PennCrest Bank who provided the financial sponsorship to make this conference a reality.