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Morgan Arts Council – Berkeley Springs, WV

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ART SHOW CELEBRATES YOUTH ART MONTH

BERKELEY SPRINGS, WV--The Morgan Arts Council celebrates National Youth Art Month with the 18th annual exhibit of artwork created by local youth, showing at the Ice House in Berkeley Springs. Also part of the month's activities is a children's painting workshop.

The opening extravaganza on Friday, March 4, features musical and dance performances as well as hundreds of pieces of visual art. The Youth Art exhibit fills the Ice House with two- and three-dimensional works made by students in every Morgan County school and homeschoolers.

Refreshments will be served at the opening reception, which begins at 7 p.m.; the performances start at 7:15 p.m.

Featured entertainment includes a performance of an Eastern Mediterranean line dance by Berkeley Springs High School Dance students, who recently completed MAC's Arts Integration program with Jennifer Carpenter-Peak and Tarab Raqs. Other performances include children from Wind Dance Farm and Earth Education Center and selections from Pat Springer's piano and voice students and violin students of Heather Worley and Erin Leslie.

"The Youth Art Show encourages an appreciation of the arts and reflects the fine quality of art instruction and talent within Morgan County," said Anna Ruggiero, art teacher at Warm Springs Intermediate School and curator of the show.

A wide range of artwork is exhibited, including ceramics, collage, prints, paintings and mosaics. Ruggiero is grateful for the work of the art teachers who helped collect and hang the art. "This show could not happen without them," she said.

Two pieces of youth art are selected to promote the event. A three-dimensional work by Mikaila Ek, a seventh-grader at Warm Springs Middle School, is featured on the poster, and a drawing by Gracie Pearrell, a second-grade student at Greenwood Elementary School, was chosen for the flier.

"Art education is essential to the full development of each child and results in a better quality of life for all of us. We encourage the community to show their support of young artists by taking time to enjoy this exhibit," said Thom Rubel, MAC Interim Executive Director.

The Youth Art Show may be seen every Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., through April 10.

On Saturday, March 5, Ruggiero and Hiroko Rubin hold an art workshop for children ages 6 to 12. Students will paint cherry blossoms and learn about their role in Japanese culture. They will also hear about the history of the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. The one-hour workshop is held at the Ice House, with two sessions available, starting at 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. There is no charge for the class, but parents are asked to preregister their children by calling 304-258-2300.

Grant support for these programs comes in part from the Star Theater, FAST and other individual donors, the National Endowment for the Arts, the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and local hotel/motel taxes. The Ice House is at the corner of Independence and Mercer Streets in downtown Berkeley Springs, WV. For more information on this and other MAC activities, call 304-258-2300 or visit www.macicehouse.org.