

COMMON GROUND

on the Hill

2026
TRUE VINE
TRADITIONS

ALICE GERRARD

Robert H. Chambers Award for Excellence
in the Traditional Arts



Tim O'Brien & Jan Fabricius



Reed Stutz



Guy Davis



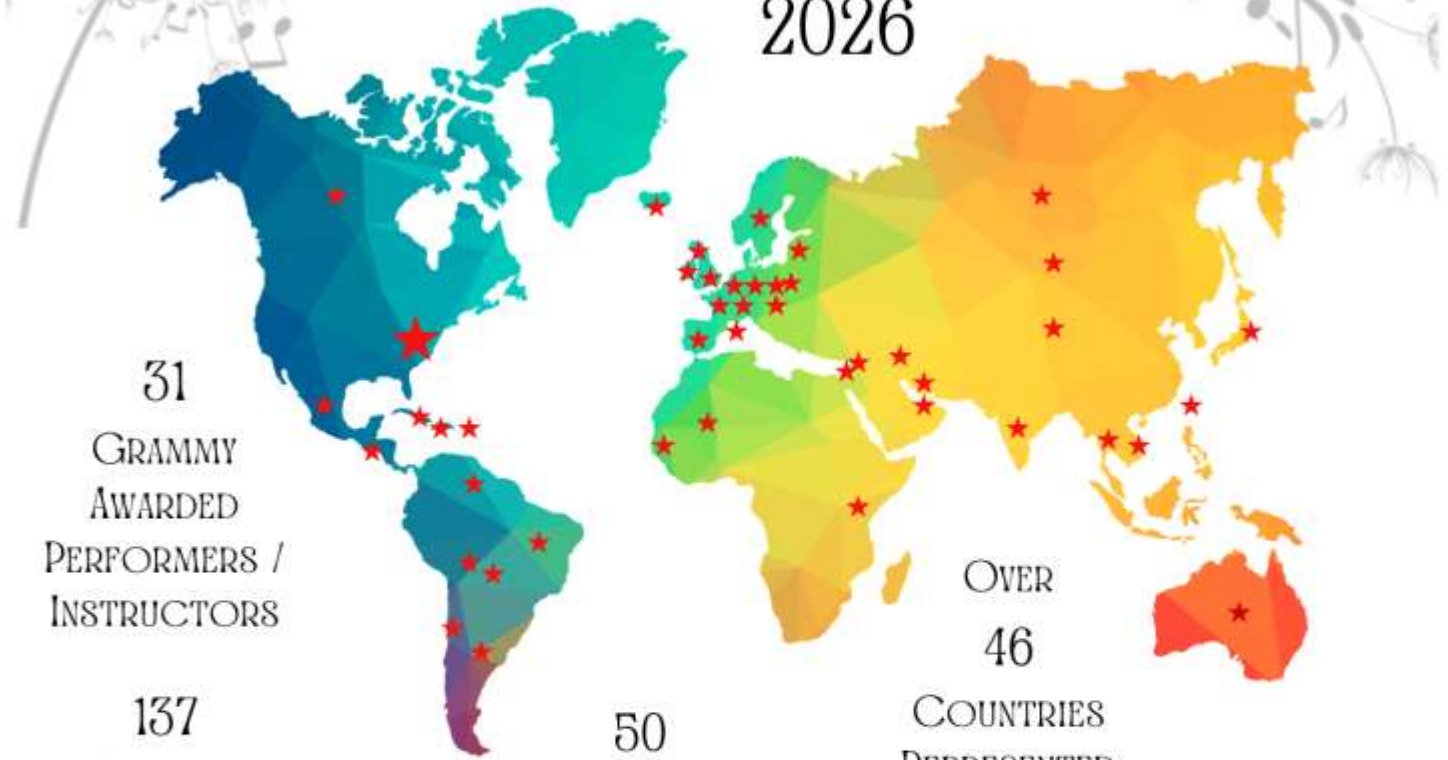
Tatiana Hargreaves

commongroundonthehill.org

COMMON GROUND ON THE HILL

MARYLAND FOLKLIFE CENTER

By the Numbers 2026



31

GRAMMY
AWARDED
PERFORMERS /
INSTRUCTORS

137

GRAMMY
NOMINATIONS TO
PERFORMERS /
INSTRUCTORS

1

FULBRIGHT
SCHOLAR

5

LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT
GRAMMY
WINNERS

50

STATES
REPRESENTED

102

VETS INITIATIVE
SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED

2

MACARTHUR
GENIUS GRANT
RECIPIENTS

OVER
46

COUNTRIES
REPRESENTED

4,471

INSTRUCTORS
OFFERING

6,482

TRADITIONS WEEK
WORKSHOPS

1,413

UNDERGRADUATE
& GRADUATE
STUDENTS

281

CONCERTS

25

ROOTS MUSIC
& ARTS
FESTIVALS

25

DEER CREEK
FIDDLERS
CONVENTIONS

55th



DEER CREEK FIDDLERS' CONVENTION

2024 MSAC HERITAGE AWARD EVENT



The Black Eyed Suzies

SAT.
MAY
30



The Livebox

Carroll County
Farm Museum
500 S. Center St.
Westminster, MD
21157



FEATURING PERFORMANCES BY

The Black Eyed Suzies ~ Bluegrass

The Livebox ~ Celtic

The Carroll County Cloggers

Band & Individual Competition

Cash, Instrument & Performance Prizes

Shade Tree Picking

Craft & Food Vendors

For more information please contact us at

Info: www.commongroundonthehill.org

The program is supported in part by



More Opportunities

Acoustic Roots Songwriting Contest



Scan QR
code for
information

Accepting submissions through April 30, 2026

It's all about the song.

Top prize: \$300! Submit your original lyrics and audio file to be eligible to win. Performance quality will not be judged.

Entrance fee: \$25. Proceeds benefit the Common Ground on the Hill Scholarship Fund.



WWW.COMMONGROUNDONTHEHILL.COM



Free 1st & 3rd Wednesday Jams

1st Wednesdays

Carroll Arts Center

91 W. Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157

3 Jams: Bluegrass/Old-Time, Blues/Folk and Celtic

3rd Wednesdays

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

17 Bond Street, Westminster, MD 21157

Large group Bluegrass, Old-Time, Blues & Folk

All ages, skill levels, instruments, singers & listeners welcome!

WELCOME TO OUR 32ND YEAR!

Common Ground on the Hill is an official Maryland Folklife Center in residence on the campus of McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland, and lives virtually, throughout the world. In this annual catalog you will find a year's worth of events and activities that will enrich your life.

We are a traditional, roots-based, music, arts and humanities organization, offering quality learning experiences with master musicians, artists, dancers, writers, filmmakers and educators. Through the lens of the traditional arts, we search for artistic intersections, common ground, among ethnic, gender, age, and racial groups. In our very first year, The Baltimore Sun compared Common Ground on the Hill to the Chautauqua and Lyceum movements, precursors to this now venerable program.

Our world is one of immense diversity. As we explore and celebrate this diversity, we find that what we have in common with one another far outweighs our differences. If there ever was a time to learn skills and discover pathways to help achieve mutual acceptance and respect, that time is now. Pete Seeger served on our founding Advisory Board, helping us find our way. His quote regarding the survival of our world focuses on collective, small-scale action rather than singular heroism: *"I think the world is going to be saved by millions of small things."* Pete believed that numerous, seemingly insignificant, positive actions by ordinary people would ultimately tip the balance toward a better future.

Our common ground is our humanity, often best expressed by artistic traditions that have enriched human experience through the ages. We invite you to join us at Common Ground on the Hill this year. Become part of this one "small thing" as we enjoy learning the traditional arts. In a world filled with divisive, negative news, we seek to discover, create and celebrate good news. Welcome!

Walt Michael, Founder & Executive Director



Photograph credit: Nelson Widdell

“You owe it to yourself to attend one of the sessions...Common Ground on the Hill is a cornucopia of artistic expression.”

~ The Baltimore Sun

As a student during the 1960s at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College), Walt went to Appalachia with the Student Opportunities Service to participate in community action work and traveled to parts of the Deep South to work in voter registration campaigns. While working with America's poor and disenfranchised, he encountered the beauty and power of traditional music. For over forty-five years, Walt has led a variety of ensembles, performing throughout the United States, Canada and Europe. He returned to his alma mater in 1994 to found Common Ground on the Hill. As Executive Director, Walt leads Common Ground on the Hill toward its stated goal of seeking racial and cultural harmony through the arts.

Catalog photo credits: Sue Ruddick Bloom, Robert Schellhammer, Maria Wong



MARYLAND TRADITIONS

Includes Maryland Folklife Centers, grants to organizations and individuals, festivals and other events, direct outreach to artists, and archival activities to support community-based living cultural traditions handed down by example or word of mouth.



Regional Folklife Centers

Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (Talbot County)
Common Ground on the Hill at McDaniel College (Carroll County)
Creative Alliance at the Patterson (Baltimore City)
Frostburg State University (Allegany County)
Sandy Spring Museum (Montgomery County)
St. Mary's College of Maryland (St. Mary's County)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (Baltimore County)
The Ward Foundation (Wicomico County)

Maryland Folklife Centers

Regional folklife centers support activities that identify, document, support, or present the living cultural traditions of Maryland's diverse communities.

Heritage and Apprenticeship Awards

Here are just some of the many Common Ground on the Hill instructors & performers who have received Heritage or Apprenticeship Awards

Walt Michael	Shelley Ensor	Susan Withnell	Michael Seipp
Linda Van Hart	Ken Kolodner	Karen Ashbrook	Ricki Simpkins
Rob Caswell	Steve Bloom	Louis Campbell	Junious Brickhouse
Harry Orlove	Bob Rychlik	Phil Wiggins	Ryan Webb
Gwen Handler	Rich Smoker	Dede Wyland	The Deer Creek Fiddlers' Convention
Jo Morrison	Katherine Fahey	Marcy Marxer	The Singing & Praying Bands of Maryland
Lydia Martin	Kibibi Ajanku	Cathy Fink	
Peter Brice	Jumoke Ajanku	John Iampieri	

FIND OUT MORE AT WWW.MSAC.ORG

32ND ANNUAL COMMON GROUND ON THE HILL

55TH ANNUAL DEER CREEK FIDDLERS' CONVENTION ~ MAY 30, 2026

The Maryland Folklife Heritage Award-winning **Deer Creek Fiddlers' Convention** takes place at the **Carroll County Farm Museum**, a joint production of Common Ground on the Hill and the Carroll County Arts Council. This unique Maryland tradition brings together bluegrass, old-time and Celtic musicians and dancers who take part in band and individual competitions for cash, instrument and festival performance prizes. Informal shade tree music abounds, as do Maryland crafts and foodways. The Convention will include **concerts by the bluegrass band Black Eyed Suzies and Celtic masters, the Livebox**. *See the color pages at the front of this catalog for details, or visit our website.*

TRADITIONS WEEKS 1 VIRTUAL: JUNE 22-26, 2026

TRADITIONS WEEK 2 IN PERSON AT MCDANIEL COLLEGE: JULY 6-10, 2026

Common Ground on the Hill offers two separate **Traditions Weeks** consisting of courses, performances and other activities. **Week 1 is offered online, virtually. Week 2 is offered in person at McDaniel College** with participants electing either to room on campus or to commute. We encourage **full-time enrollment**, which entitles you to participate in five courses throughout the two weeks, including activities and evening events throughout the week you are attending. Commuters and part-time students may attend individual evening events, which are also open to the public. We encourage families to attend Common Ground on the Hill especially in Week 2 when **Youth World Village** and the **NEW Rising Pickers Bluegrass Kids Academy** is offered. For **Traditions Week 2**, full residential students arrival and registration is on Sunday afternoon (**July 5**) at the McDaniel College campus in Westminster, followed by a 4:30 PM fine arts reception, Sunday supper, a short **orientation meeting/concert** and informal gatherings into the evening. Both residential and commuter students should attend the orientation and enjoy the activities of the evening. Monday (**July 6**) is the first day of classes. **Monday evening at 8 PM features a Keynote presentation. Evening concerts follow from Tuesday – Friday at 8 PM.** On select evenings in Week 2, there are **dances and jams** immediately following the concerts and keynote. **Art Talks are offered at 6:45 PM, Monday – Thursday.** Common Ground filmmakers' award-winning **documentary films** are offered Monday - Thursday at **6:30 PM**. The **Student Art Show** is presented **Friday, July 10 at 6:30 PM**. All participants are encouraged to join in the various activities that will happen spontaneously during the week throughout the campus during Week 2. *See Evening Events page at the back of the catalog (pg. 27) for full schedule.*

2026–2027 CONCERT SERIES: WESTMINSTER, BALTIMORE AND SAVAGE

Common Ground on the Hill produces two concert series from October through April at THREE locations: Occasional Fridays at **The Church of the Redeemer** in Baltimore, MD, occasional Sundays at **Carroll Baldwin Hall** in Savage, MD, and monthly Saturdays, **Common Ground Downtown** produced cooperatively with the **Carroll Arts Center** in Westminster, MD, featuring nationally and internationally renowned traditional roots-based artists. *Join our e-newsletter for updates!*

COMMON GROUND ON THE BORDER & BORDER ISSUES FAIR

Beat the winter blues by attending Common Ground on the Border on **January, 14-16, 2027**. This event in the magnificent Sonoran Desert joins hands with the Border Issue Fair, exploring the sounds and stories, tensions and beauties of the Borderlands of Arizona. Join us for our annual **week-long trip** to the Borderlands, **January 12-19, 2027**. We will walk the desert, visit a migrant shelter, visit the border, meet the members of the Green Valley Samaritans and attend the 3-day event of music, lectures and Sonoran Desert exploration. *Make sure you are on our mailing list and consult our website for the latest information!*

In addition to these events, find Common Ground on the Hill throughout the year as we bring traditional arts and music to our partners, including **McDaniel College**, Westminster's **Art in the Park**, the **Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival** and Govans Presbyterian Church's **Govans Music Mondays**.

Visit and find out more at our website!
www.CommonGroundOnTheHill.org

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Traditions Week 1 ~ VIRTUAL

❖ June 22-26, 2026 ❖

List of Classes and Events by Category

DISTINCTIVE LECTURES

The Banning of the Civil Rights Struggle—C. Collyer, P. Zappardino
 Non-Violence is ... What, Exactly?—C. Collyer, P. Zappardino

LITERARY & PERFORMANCE ARTS, FILM

Build a Strong Story Structure—B. Morrison
 Impact Storytelling: Crafting a Short Screenplay—K. Ali-Coleman
 Poetry as a Ritual & Proof of Life—K. Ali-Coleman
 Transforming Experience into Memoir—B. Morrison

MUSIC: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Music Theory for Bluegrass & Old-Time—C. Giegerich

INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

Guitar

Beginning Guitar—A. Ferebee
 Beginning Resophonic Guitar—C. Giegerich
 Intermediate/Advance Resophonic Guitar—C. Giegerich
 Guitar Beyond the Basics: Now What? C. Giegerich

Mandolin

Chord Basics (and Beyond)—W. Fugate
 Getting Started with the Mandolin—A. Ferebee
 Intermediate Mandolin (Techniques, Tips & Tricks to Advance Your Playing—W. Fugate
 Scales Bootcamp for Mandolin—W. Fugate

Ukulele

Beginning Ukulele—A. Ferebee

Wind & Free Reed

Fujara & Koncovka Overtone Flutes—B. Rychlik

Songwriting

Songwriting with Rod MacDonald

DANCE & MOVEMENT

Qi Gong: Dance of the Phoenix —N. McKenzie

VISUAL ARTS

2-Dimensional Arts

iPhone Photography: Magic Landscape—S. Bloom

~ TRADITIONS WEEK 1 (VIRTUAL) : JUNE 22-26 SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE ~

1 st Period 9:00—10:15 AM	2 nd Period 10:30—11:45 AM	3 rd Period 1:00—2:15 PM	4 th Period 2:30—3:45 PM	5 th Period 4:00—5:30 PM
Beg. Resophonic Guitar—C. Giegerich Getting Started with Mandolin—A. Ferebee Transforming Experience into Memoir—B. Morrison iPhone Photography: Magic Landscape—S. Bloom	Beg. Guitar—A. Ferebee Chord Basics and Beyond for Mandolin—W. Fugate Int./Adv. Resophonic Guitar—C. Giegerich Songwriting with Rod MacDonal Build a Strong Story Structure—B. Morrison Poetry as a Ritual & Proof of Life—K. Ali-Coleman	Beg. Ukulele—A. Ferebee Fujara and Koncovka Overtone Flutes—B. Rychlik Guitar Beyond the Basics: Now What?—C. Giegerich Scales Bootcamp for Mandolin—W. Fugate Impact Storytelling: Crafting a Short Screenplay—K. Ali-Coleman	Intermediate Mandolin—W. Fugate Non-Violence is ... What, Exactly?—C. Collyer, P. Zappardino	Music Theory for Bluegrass & Old-Time—C. Giegerich Qi Gong: Dance of the Phoenix—N. McKenzie Banning of the Civil Rights Struggle—C. Collyer, P. Zappardino
NOTE: Bolded classes are 2-periods, continuing into the NEXT period				

Traditions Week 2 ~ IN PERSON

❖ July 6-10, 2026 ❖

List of Classes and Events by Category

SPECIAL GATHERINGS

Keynote: **An Evening with Alice Gerrard**

The Search for Common Ground—W. Michael
Interracial Gospel Choir (6:45 PM) - R. Demmings

DISTINCTIVE LECTURES

Banning...Civil Rights Struggle—C. Collyer, P. Zappardino
Common Ground on the Hill Vets Initiative—S. Cole
Discovering America and Other Stories—A. McNichols
Icons of the Blues—A. Cohen
Lifeways of Susquehanna and Chesapeake Indigenous Communities—J. McPherson
Non-Violence is...What, Exactly?—C. Collyer, P. Zappardino
Samaritans at the Border, Needed Everywhere—R. Mayer

The Southern Folk Tours—S. & R. Rucker
Susquehanna Indigenous Communities—J. McPherson
Truth is Freedom—D. Collins
Unaccompanied Singing with Alice Gerrard
Women in the Military—E. Fulton, J. Flores

LITERARY & PERFORMING ARTS

Elevate Your Performance Skills—Prof. Louie
Getting Started on Memoir or Personal Essay—J. Bell
Leaping Poetry—B. Morrison
Make a Scene: Building Blocks of Writing—B. Morrison
Sacred Storytelling—S. Arnold
Stories and Music Together—G. Davis
Storytelling 101—S. Arnold
Storytelling with Steafán Hannigan
Truth is Freedom—D. Collins

MUSIC: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Ear Training for All Players—R. Zenkl
Fear Not! Music Skills Made Simple—H. Orlove
Improvisation for All Instruments—R. Zenkl
Music Theory for Bluegrass & Old-Time—C. Giegerich
Practice Lab—W. Fugate
Understanding the Fretboard—C. James

INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES

Guitar & Resophonic Guitar

Art of Old-Time Backup Guitar—G. Furtado
Beginning Guitar—A. Ferebee
Beginning Resophonic Guitar—C. Giegerich
Bluegrass Guitar—C. Luquette
Blues Electric Guitar—H. Orlove
Blues Guitar—S. Rucker
Celtic Guitar—K. Elam
Flatpicking Old-Time Melodies—G. Furtado
Honky Tonk Electric Guitar—C. Luquette
Hot Tuna Tunes—B. Mitterhoff, A. Cohen
Int./Adv. Resophonic Guitar—C. Giegerich
Making Sense of Scales on the Guitar—J. Selly
Rack & Box—G. Davis
Southwestern Guitar—M. Ronstadt

Fiddle

The Art of the Bow—E. Gira, R. Gordon, M. Ronstadt
Beginning Fiddle—T. O'Neill
Irish Fiddle—T. O'Neill
Old-Time and Bluegrass Fiddle—Tatiana Hargreaves
Scottish Fiddle Repertoire—E. Gira

Banjo

Beginning Bluegrass Banjo—R. Barrett
Beginning Old-Time Banjo—L. Martin
Intermediate Bluegrass Banjo—R. Barrett
Intermediate Old-Time Banjo—L. Martin

Mandolins on the Hill

Beginning Mandolin—T. Porter
Beyond Beginning Mandolin—J. Fabricius
Blues Mandolin—C. James

Chord Basics—W. Fugate
Hot Tuna Tunes—B. Mitterhoff, A. Cohen
Jazz Songs Arranged for Mandolin—T. Porter, J. Selly
Mandolin with Reed Stutz
Mandolin with Tim O'Brien
Old-Time Fiddle Tunes for Mandolin—W. Fugate
Practice Lab—W. Fugate
World of Mandolin—R. Zenkl

Ukulele

Beginning Ukulele—A. Ferebee
Beyond Beginning Ukulele—G. Roberts
Ukulele Orchestra—G. Roberts

Bass

Art and Craft of Playing Bass—R. Gordon
The Art of the Bow—E. Gira, R. Gordon, M. Ronstadt
Scottish Fiddle Repertoire—E. Gira

Harp

Fun Music for the Folk Harp—J. Morrison
Learn to Play Celtic/Folk/Lever Harp—J. Morrison
Learn to Play Celtic/Folk/Lever Harp, Pt. 2—J. Morrison

Dulcimers

Beg. Bootcamp: Hamm. Dulc.—K. Kolodner, M.L. Michal
Beginning Mountain Dulcimer—S. Haley
Beyond Beg.: Relaxed Pace HD—K. Kolodner, M.L. Michal
Build a Mountain Dulcimer—K. Koons
Int./Adv. Hammered Dulcimer—K. Kolodner, M.L. Michal

Wind & Free Reed Instruments

Beginning Harmonica—D. Burkitt
Blues Harmonica—R. Rucker
Celtic Whistle—S. Hannigan
Diatonic Button Accordion—P. Brice
Didgeridoo—R. Zenkl
Fujara and Koncovka Overtone Flutes—B. Rychlik
Hot Tuna Tunes—B. Mitterhoff, A. Cohen
Introduction to Highland Bagpipe—W. Morrison
Rack & Box—G. Davis

Piano

Beginning Folk Piano—S. Fisher
Piano with Professor Louie

BAND, JAMS & ENSEMBLES

The Art of the Bow—E. Gira, R. Gordon, M. Ronstadt
Bluegrass Jam/Bluegrass Slow Jam
Celtic Session
Hot Tuna Tunes—B. Mitterhoff, A. Cohen
Improvisation for All Instruments—R. Zenkl
Jug & Skiffle Band—S. Harrison
Juke Joint Blues
Old-Time Jam & Dance
Stories and Music Together—G. Davis

SINGING, SONGWRITING

Ballads & Traditional Songs of Scotland & Ireland—K. Elam
Big Song Swap—S. Haley, A. Ferebee
English Pub Singing Redux—P. Brice
Folk Songs of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia—B. Rychlik
How Can I Keep from Singing? - S. Haley
Interracial Gospel Choir—R. Demmings
Rise Up Singing—B. Lucas
Singing with Alice Gerrard & Friends
Singing with Tim O'Brien & Jan Fabricius
Songwriting with Bob Lucas
Songwriting with Professor Louie
The Southern Folk Tours—S. & R. Rucker
Stories and Music Together—G. Davis
Traditional Songs & Dance Music from Maryland—P. Brice
Unaccompanied Singing with Alice

PERCUSSION

Bodhrán (Frame Drum) for Beginners—B. Troxler
Bodhrán - Next Steps—B. Troxler

Drum Circle Jam—J. MacMillan
Drumming for Joy—J. MacMillan
Session-Ready Bodhrán Patterns—B. Troxler

SOUND & TECH

Gear Gremlins: P. Spiess, M. Ronstadt

DANCE & MOVEMENT

Celtic Dance: A Ceili!—M. Searle
Grounded Warrior Yoga—E. Chesnik
Old-Time Jam and Dance
REB3L Groove Hip Hop Dance—E. Chesnik
So. Appalachian Flatfooting & Clogging—M. Searle

HUMAN ARTS

Acupressure and Self Care—G. Padrick
Alexander Technique for Musicians—M. Naden
Braided—C. Ferguson
Natural Beauty for Everyone—C. Orlove
Qi Gong for Health—G. Padrick
Wine Appreciation—R. Lorber

YOUTH

Rising Pickers Bluegrass Kids Academy—S. Larsen, W. Haycock
World Village: Morning—S. Fisher
World Village: Afternoon—S. Harrison

VISUAL ARTS

2-Dimensional Arts

Chinese Painting and Calligraphy—Q. Fang
Earth Colors—P. Brodowski, K. Koons
Let's Paint Outdoors—P. Brodowski
Pastels: Color, Markmaking, Form—T. Will
Realism to Abstraction—J. Griffin
Up Close & Personal: From Behind the Lens—S. Dahne
Watercolor for All Seasons—E. Elmes
Your iPhone Could Be the Only Camera You Need—C. Wolfson

3-Dimensional Arts

Beautility Upcycled Baskets—C. Washington
Crankie Storytelling—K. Fahey, D. Van Allen
Glass Camp with Ragtime
Nantucket Lightship Baskets—K. Taylor
Native Am. Sculpture & Dream Catchers—J. Wright
SW & Mexican-Influenced Mosaics—L. Carrera
Transform Flowers Into Miniature Bouquets in Glass—D. Griffin
Welding is Fun—T. Sterner
Wheel Good Fun!—N. Corso

Fiber & Wearable Arts

Beautility Upcycled Baskets—C. Washington
Blissful Bobbin Lace—K. La Pletra
Craft a Custom Leather Instrument Strap—T. Pittman
Four-Prong and Bezel Stacking Rings—W. Werner, B. Bayne
Indigo Dye Village—K. Ajanku
Introduction to Hand Painting Silk Scarves—Y. Okano
Introduction to Leathercraft—T. Pittman
Jewelry: Unlock the Key of Time—J. Sosnowsky
Old Textiles Reused for New Treasures—J. Schonebaum
Sawing and Piercing for Jewelry Making—T. Chisena

Art of Making Instruments

Build a Mountain Dulcimer—K. Koons

Indigenous & Nature Arts

Blacksmithing Beginner-Experienced—S. Mankowski
Building the Ice Man's Arrow—G. Neal
Earth Colors—P. Brodowski, K. Koons
Lifeways of Susquehanna and Chesapeake Indigenous Communities—J. McPherson
Native Am. Sculpture & Dream Catchers—J. Wright
Susquehanna Indigenous Communities—J. McPherson

SPECIAL GATHERINGS

WEEK 2 KEYNOTE LECTURE ~ AN EVENING WITH ALICE GERRARD

Monday, July 6 at 8 PM, Alumni Hall. FREE and open to the public.
Presentation of the Robert H. Chambers Award for Excellence in the
Traditional Arts

This evening event will illuminate the fascinating journey of this American roots-music icon through her songs, stories and reflections. Revered by old-time and bluegrass musicians alike, Alice paved the way for countless aspiring women who continue to flourish and shape the music enjoyed by so many. Not just a voice, or singer, songwriter, or publisher or producer, Alice is indeed all of these things. She will be accompanied by two great new old-time/bluegrass talents: Tatiana Hargreaves (fiddle) and Reed Stutz (mandolin and banjo). Don't miss this signature event.

Highly recommended to the entire Common Ground on the Hill community, this lecture is open to the public.

The keynote will be the subject of the Search for Common Ground class on **Tuesday, July 7, 4 PM**. Bring your ideas, perspectives and questions to this open session.

THE SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND: TRADITIONS WEEK 2

July 6-11 In Person, Period 5. Walt Michael, Facilitator

In this, our flagship class, we draw from our experience as artists and individuals to have a dialogue arising from our life together here in community and in larger society. In an atmosphere of trust and safety, and inspired by song, images and story, we will listen to and learn from the voices of our sisters and brothers from communities represented in our circle. We gather at Common Ground on the Hill in our 32nd summer in the midst of a profoundly challenged world stricken by climate disasters, still emerging from a pandemic and in fear of the next, financial and ecological crises, escalating wars, never-ending nuclear threats, racial crises, the continued unveiling of systemic abuse, issues of immigration, deportation and survival, the omnipresent threat of terror both foreign and domestic, and counter-productive divisive politics. Yet, we also find ourselves at a time of potential for great, needed change. We shall discuss and consider what we are doing, as artists and individuals, to bring about the changes and create the communities that we desire. **Monday** will feature **Jess McPherson** discussing the Susquehanna Indigenous Communities of today. **Tuesday** will feature the opportunity to reflect, ask questions and enjoy the music and stories of Monday evening's Keynote Speaker, **Alice Gerrard**. On **Wednesday**, filmmaker **Richard Anderson** will discuss his latest documentary, *Stories From Capon Ridge*. On **Thursday**, **Rev. Randy Mayer** will bring us up to date about the work of the Green Valley Samaritans, who are on the frontlines of the Borderlands in Arizona and Mexico. On **Friday**, Filmmaker, US Army veteran and this year's leader of the **Veterans' Initiative Semmi Cole** will discuss the issues facing veterans in our society and how the arts can help veterans deal with those issues. Come to this class, be inspired by the work of these artists, and perhaps bring new ideas to your community.

INTERRACIAL GOSPEL CHOIR

July 6-10 In Person, After Dinner (6:45–7:45 PM)

Led by Roderick Demmings.

Open to all Traditions Weeks participants.

Make a joyful noise! Join us in this time of celebration as we learn and sing traditional and contemporary gospel songs and spirituals. This community event is what sparked Common Ground on the Hill. It embodies our reason for existing here in this place. **The choir will perform in Friday night's closing concert!**

DISTINCTIVE LECTURES

THE BANNING OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS STRUGGLE

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 5 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 1.

Instructors: Pamela Zappardino and Charlie Collyer

Three generations of Americans have only a rudimentary understanding of the Civil Rights Movement, and many young people even confuse it with the Civil War of a century earlier. How did this happen? In this course we will fill in some of the gaps – the people behind the scenes, the campaigns, the methods, the music, the achievements, and the work left undone. We'll tell stories gathered from over 20 trips to the Deep South to learn about the Civil Rights Struggle in the places where the movement took place.

COMMON GROUND ON THE HILL VETERANS INITIATIVE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Semmi Cole

Now more than ever, it is crucial to advance the work of the Common Ground on the Hill Veterans Initiative, a transformative program that fosters connection between veterans and civilians through shared stories, creative expression, and meaningful dialogue. This initiative not only provides a trusting and supportive space for reflection but also amplifies the voices of veterans in shaping a more inclusive and just society. Explore how creative activism can drive change, promote healing, and build stronger communities. We will continue the vital work of expanding this initiative into a national, year-round arts and advocacy program, ensuring that veterans' experiences and perspectives remain at the forefront of cultural and policy conversations. Join us for an inspiring and action-driven experience. Come ready to learn, connect, and make an impact. **NOTE:** This class is coordinated with the *Women in the Military* class in Pd. 1. Students are encouraged to enroll in both courses.

DISCOVERING AMERICA AND OTHER STORIES: MIGRATIONS, IDENTITIES, AND COLONIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Amy McNichols

What are the colonial roots of what it means to be "Latin American"? We will spend a week in discussion and reflection as we review the ways stories were told and recorded in Europe and this hemisphere, both before the first Spanish migration and during the Colonial and Independence periods. We will talk about the interplay between culture and power and their impact on the preservation of Latin America's indigenous, African, and European cultural heritage.

ICONS OF THE BLUES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Andy Cohen

Andy Cohen has spent a lifetime rubbing elbows and playing music with some of the greatest of the traditional blues artists. He connected and sometimes toured with Jim Brewer, Dan Smith, Daniel Womack, Rev. Gary Davis, John Jackson, Libba Cotten, Etta Baker, John Cephas, Archie Edwards, Honeyboy Edwards, Algia Mae Hinton, Bessie Jones, Ted Bogan, Howard Armstrong, Pigmeat Jarrett, Big Joe Duskin and a couple dozen other blues people. For those of us who think of these roots blues musicians as people from the past, here is a chance to connect with them in an authentic way. This class will feature Andy's stories and archival film and recordings, bringing these remarkable artists back to life.

LIFEWAYS OF SUSQUEHANNA AND CHESAPEAKE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Jess McPherson

In this hands-on workshop, we will explore a sampling of traditional skills, crafts, and knowledge common to eastern woodlands Indigenous communities. Participants will process plant fibers into cordage, and shape wampum from quahog clam shells. Additional methods and mediums including porcupine quillwork and cornhusk basketmaking may be explored as time allows. This course complements *Susquehanna Indigenous Communities Past, Present and Future* in Pd. 1. Participants are encouraged to take both classes, for a deeper experience.

NONVIOLENCE IS ... WHAT, EXACTLY?**June 22-26 Virtual, Period 4 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 4.****Instructors: Pamela Zappardino and Charlie Collyer**

Is it just letting things happen? Is it only protesting and demonstrating? Is it just for cowards? Is it just wishful thinking? Or is it a nefarious scheme whose hidden motives are perpetrated by outside agitators? Guess what? It's none of them. Martin Luther King Jr. used a confrontational but nonviolent strategy to build a broad-based movement for justice and freedom. We examine a modern nonviolence education approach that includes King's principles of nonviolence, mixed with music & art, psychology, contemporary real-world applications, and some surprises.

SAMARITANS AT THE BORDER---NOW NEEDED EVERYWHERE**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Randy Mayer**

The United States has always been known as a country of immigrants. You need only to turn to the revered Statue of Liberty and read the chiseled words, "Give me your tired, your weak, your huddled masses..." to understand that immigration is central to us as a nation. But over the past number of years the issues of immigration have been twisted and turned on its head making it very difficult to know what is true or false. This class will delve deeply in root causes of immigration and the realities along the border, as well as in communities across the United States. In addition, we will delve into the work of the Southern Arizona Humanitarian group called the Samaritans, and how for more than 20 years they have worked to stop migrant deaths in the desert and along the way have helped create a movement of compassion and care.

THE SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND**July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Moderator: Walt Michael**

Our flagship class brings instructors from across the spectrum of offerings to share their work. See details in *Special Offerings*, pg. 8.

THE SOUTHERN FOLK TOURS**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructors: Sparky & Rhonda Rucker**

Join Sparky and Rhonda Rucker for an uplifting class of toe-tapping songs spiced with history, humor, and stories about a truly unique and groundbreaking organization—the Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project. Founded in 1966 by Bernice Johnson Reagon and Anne Romaine, it produced numerous tours with a rotating cast of African American and white musicians who performed throughout the South during the dangerous days of Jim Crow. Artists included Pete Seeger, John D. Loudermilk, Johnny Shines, Ola Belle Reed, Mike Seeger, Hedy West, Dewey Balfa, Steve Young, Alice and Hazel, the Georgia Sea Island Singers and many others. Sparky was privileged to play on several of these tours, and he and Rhonda will discuss the history and play some of the music from this radical initiative that helped bridge racial divisions. Alice Gerrard, who was also involved, plans to join us for one class. Lots of singalongs! Bring your voices and instruments!

SUSQUEHANNA INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE**July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Jess McPherson**

Mixing lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities, we'll examine various historical and contemporary Indigenous cultures living in and in relation to the Lower Susquehanna River Valley. This class aims to disarm long-told extinction narratives. Our discussions will also include the exploration of several contemporary digital resources created in collaboration with local Indigenous peoples. Participants will explore one or more traditional or contemporary craft mediums to be determined by the group. This course complements *Lifeways of Susquehanna Indigenous Communities*, in Pd. 4. Participants are encouraged to take both classes, for a deeper experience.

TRUTH IS FREEDOM**July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructors: Dan Collins**

Americans are stunned to find that studying authoritarian tactics is no longer limited to history lessons from far away countries. It has become part of our daily lives. Controlling the media is a classic authoritarian tactic, but media also provides critical tools for resistance. Engaged citizens who value democracy must learn to responsibly understand, interact with, create, and amplify media. Mis- and disinformation, propaganda, and nefarious actors abound. Artificial intelligence advances at astounding speeds. Truth and fact are sacrificed daily for the sake of spectacle. How can we make sense of it all? Discover how to be better digital citizens by developing media fluency. We will learn to identify inaccurate information, judge the validity of sources from social media to scholarly research, and expand the vocabulary we use to talk about what we have learned. We will learn about how tyrants try to steal our stories, and how we can use digital media to become creators ourselves and confidently enter the digital dialogue that is reshaping our ailing democracy.

UNACCOMPANIED SINGING WITH ALICE GERRARD**July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructors: Alice Gerrard**See *Songs/Songwriting*, pg. 20.**WEEK 2 KEYNOTE LECTURE ~ AN EVENING WITH ALICE GERRARD****Monday, July 6 at 8 PM, Alumni Hall. FREE and open to the public.****Presentation of the Robert H. Chambers Award for Excellence in the Traditional Arts**See details in *Special Offerings*, pg. 8.**WOMEN IN THE MILITARY: WHERE'S MY MIC?****July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructors: Eva Fulton, Jose Flores, US Army Veterans**

Female veterans often struggle to find their identity and voices both during and after military service. Using the radio show platform, participants will learn and explore the ins and outs of podcasting to help find their identities and express their voices. Podcasting validates life experiences. Self-discovery and listening to one another can help overcome a variety of challenges that life throws in our way. This class helps participants own their narratives and share their stories, learning how to find their voices, building self confidence and personal growth.

NOTE: This class is coordinated with the *Common Ground on the Hill Veterans Initiative* class in Pd. 2. Students are encouraged to enroll in both courses.

LITERARY/PERFORMING ARTS**BUILD A STRONG STORY STRUCTURE****June 22-26 Virtual, Period 2. Instructor: Barbara Morrison**

Whether you are writing fiction or nonfiction, whether you are working on short pieces or a book-length manuscript, whether you are an outliner or a pantsier, at some point in the writing/revision process you have to make sure your story has a sound structure. We will look at multiple ways to structure a story to engage and keep the reader's attention, including some experimental structures. We will also practice analyzing the structure of several stories. Appropriate for beginning and experienced writers.

ELEVATE YOUR PERFORMANCE**July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Professor Louie**

Whether you perform for family and friends, play at local open-mic nights, or play professional shows — it's your stage presence that makes the connection with the audience. Overcome your obstacles and fears, learn how to engage an audience, and elevate your performances. Learn how to deal with stage fright, how to work with your bandmates and how to get past any mishap onstage. Create an environment that captures and holds an audience.

GETTING STARTED ON YOUR MEMOIR OR PERSONAL ESSAY**July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Jerri Bell**

This five-session generative workshop will cover what makes memoir and personal essay unique and compelling; how to get started on a memoir or personal essay; some key basics of the craft; and ways to approach writing about traumatic past experiences. *Participants should bring* several family photographs to work with.

IMPACT STORYTELLING: CRAFTING A SHORT SCREENPLAY**June 22-26 Virtual, Period 3. Instructor: Khadijah Ali-Coleman**

"Impact Storytelling" is an intensive one-week course designed to immerse learners in the art of writing short screenplays that captivate audiences and leave a lasting impression. Participants will embark on a fast-paced journey of creativity and collaboration as they develop, write, and film their own short screenplay within a week. Through hands-on exercises, expert guidance, and practical experience, participants will learn the essential skills and techniques needed to craft compelling narratives for the screen. No filmmaking experience necessary. This course is great for learners interested in participating in a short film project or building their writing muscles by writing short pieces in a short amount of time. We will use smartphones to record our work.

LEAPING POETRY**July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Barbara Morrison**

Sometimes we encounter a poem that takes our breath away. Poet Robert Bly proposed that such works contain one or more artistic leaps that invite the reader into the poem. With Bly's insights as a starting place, we'll read a number of poems together, considering what makes them work. Then we'll try these techniques in our own work. Bring to the workshop whatever writing materials you'll need. Appropriate for beginning and experienced poets.

MAKE A SCENE: BUILDING BLOCKS OF WRITING**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Barbara Morrison**

If you're writing fiction, memoir or narrative nonfiction, your building blocks are dramatic scenes. Using examples, exercises, and writing sprints, we'll look at how to differentiate between scenes and exposition and study the elements of a scene: structure, dialogue, inner monologue, action and emotional beats. You will come away with several complete scenes and a solid understanding of scene-making. Bring to the workshop whatever writing materials you'll need. Appropriate for beginning and experienced writers.

POETRY AS RITUAL AND PROOF OF LIFE**June 22-26 Virtual, Period 2. Instructor: Khadijah Ali-Coleman**

We all have stories to tell. In this class, appropriate for both beginning and experienced writers, we'll practice telling ours in journals, memoirs, personal essays, blogs, and other forms of life writing. After looking at examples, we'll discuss how to get started and then begin transforming our experiences into stories that will preserve memories and touch others. Bring whatever materials you'll need to begin writing.

SACRED STORYTELLING**July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Sheila Arnold**

Stories from various faiths have the ability to expand our understanding of cultures, peoples and even ourselves. Hear, learn and discuss these stories with the goal of building bridges, making new friends and opening doors with various communities.

STORIES AND MUSIC TOGETHER**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Guy Davis**

See *Band/Jams*, pg. 18.

STORYTELLING 101**July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Sheila Arnold**

Find the stories that live inside us all. Examine the ingredients to tell a personal story to make it leap off our tongues and into the mind of a listener. Explore various types of storytelling and gain insight into the professional community of storytellers. Join us for this interactive and participatory class. No previous storytelling experience needed. Even if you aren't sure what story to tell, don't worry—we will find it together!

STORYTELLING WITH STEÁFÁN HANNIGAN**July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Steáfán Hannigan**

Everyone has a story to tell. Steáfán is an Irish Storyteller with a passion for helping you craft your storytelling. Steáfán will share some Celtic legends and tunes to get you started.

This will be an easy going and fun workshop to help you share stories, legends and all tales with others. Everybody has that one family story they would love to share. Perhaps you have a traditional folk tale to share.

TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCE INTO MEMOIR**June 22-26 Virtual, Period 1. Instructor: Barbara Morrison**

Transforming your experiences into memoirs that touch others. Delve into the intricacies of illustrating an idea through plot, dialogue, characters, casting choices, and content format. Learn the boundary between funny and inappropriate and understand the history behind cancel culture. Whether you are interested in sharpening your writing skills, creating social media content, or exploring the dramatic arts, this class promises to be a laughter-filled exploration of the intersection between art and social science. For both new and experienced writers. Bring writing materials.

TRUTH IS FREEDOM**July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Dan Collins**

See *Distinctive Lectures*, pg. 9.

MUSIC: GENERAL KNOWLEDGE**EAR TRAINING FOR ALL PLAYERS****July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Radim Zenkl**

The class will be taught using well known songs and tunes. To grow as a musician, it is important to develop your ability to recognize what you hear in live music sessions and recordings, and then translate that to your instrument. This class will teach you to correctly recognize what you hear more quickly, allowing you to interpret and respond to music with greater conviction. We will explore melodic ear training: intervals, scales and modes, as well as harmonic ear training: harmonized scale, six basic types of chords and their extensions, chord progressions, key centers and modulations. The main emphasis will be on practical use of this skill, making you better at your playing, singing, improvising, arranging, transcribing, teaching and composing. Printed materials will be provided and audio recording is encouraged. This class will be taught using the mandolin, guitar, flute and keyboard, though it is open to players of all instruments. *All levels welcome.*

FEAR NOT! BASIC MUSIC SKILLS MADE SIMPLE**July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Harry Orlove**

This is gonna be fun! In this class we'll look at skills that are essential to every musician, and we'll do it in the simplest ways possible. We'll cover topics like ear training, chart writing (including the "number" system), how to come up with arrangement ideas, and how to communicate your musical ideas to others clearly. This is an ideal class for songwriters! Students are encouraged to bring material that they would like to work on that we can use as examples for the entire class. *For all instruments.*

See full course descriptions, Faculty bios, and photos online!

www.CommonGroundOnTheHill.org

IMPROVISATION FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS**July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Radim Zenkl**

Learn the basics of improvising in folk, blues, bluegrass and swing styles. The class will make the difficult task of practicing improvisation simple by breaking it down step by step. In the process we will cover several scales and arpeggios, analyze chord progressions and feature some ear-training ideas. A couple of standard tunes will be taught in the process. Printed materials will be handed out, audio recording is encouraged. For intermediate players though all levels are welcome.

MUSIC THEORY FOR BLUEGRASS AND OLD-TIME**June 22-26 Virtual, Period 5 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 3.****Instructor: Carter Giegerich**

Have you wondered what those numbers people call out in jams mean? Tired of asking your neighbor for the chords to a song, or even the key? A strong foundation in music theory can make a world of difference, and learning the basics is a lot less intimidating than it might seem. Understand the rudiments of music theory as it pertains to traditional music, focusing on the underlying rhythmic, harmonic and melodic structures of bluegrass and old-time. We'll learn about the Nashville number system, the relationship between accompaniment and lead playing and introductory improvisation concepts. *Open to students of all skill levels and instruments.*

PRACTICE LAB: RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS**July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Wayne Fugate**

No matter where you are on your musical path, your creative output hinges on carving out practice time and using it productively. Learn to structure and utilize time in the practice room and leverage the latest research to overcome bad habits and learn music in a deeper, more efficient manner, improving memorization, and performing with confidence. Discover 'Deliberate Practice', and variable practices to dramatically improve playing accuracy and memorization. We'll discuss the importance of goal setting, practice habits and other factors like sleep and taking practice breaks. If you want to learn more efficiently and perform more reliably, with more confidence under pressure, this session is for YOU! *For all instruments. This session is intended for all musicians regardless of level or instrument.*

UNDERSTANDING THE FRETBOARD**July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Christopher James**

Discover a simple method for learning the notes up and down the whole fretboard on most fretted, stringed instruments including guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukulele and fretted bass. We will take the often-overwhelming task of learning all the notes and make it manageable by using scales and simple melodies that are already in your ears and your brain. The class focuses on moving up and down a single string, which lets beginners join in without requiring fluency on the instrument and gives more advanced players a new way to approach playing. For all skill levels.

INSTRUMENTAL CLASSES**Guitar & Resophonic Guitar****BEGINNING GUITAR****June 22-26 Virtual, Period 2 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 1.****Instructor: Amy Ferebee.****Skill Level: A.**

Learn to tune up and play simple melodies and songs while exploring the order of the guitar fret board; discover the simple mystery of rudimentary music theory; try out the five basic, first position chord shapes in standard tuning; use a capo; get started with basic right and left hand mechanics (flat pick & fingerstyle); gain understanding of the different types of notation & diagrams for guitar and learn about the useful resources and practices to keep us afloat on our guitar voyages. For the true beginner.

All of the following guitar classes require that students have taken or acquired the skills of Beginning Guitar, as described above.

Loaner acoustic guitars available.

Contact the Common Ground on the Hill office to reserve.

THE ART OF OLD-TIME BACKUP GUITAR**July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Gabriel Furtado****All Levels**

Old-Time string band music consists of melody instruments (fiddle, banjo) supported by rhythm or "back-up" guitar. Learn the often-overlooked nuances of this skill that "lays track" for the melody instruments. Learn how to connect bass runs on the guitar as well as the basic music theory needed to communicate with the other musicians. Well-played back-up guitar can take a string band to a higher level of play.

BEGINNING RESOPHONIC GUITAR**June 22-26 Virtual, Period 1 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 1.****Instructor: Carter Giegerich****Skill Level: All**

Learn the fundamentals of resophonic guitar and its role in traditional music and beyond. Build a strong foundation in rhythm playing in a variety of styles and ensemble settings, an introductory understanding of lead playing and an accessible, expandable repertoire of improvisational techniques. Examine the playing of early acoustic steel guitar innovators including Brother Oswald and Josh Graves, as well as more modern players. Whether you've never held a steel guitar before or you're looking to push through to a higher level of proficiency, there will be ample material to work through and take out into the "real world" after camp concludes.

NOTE: A small number of loaner instruments and reversible conversion kits for standard flat top guitars are available (July 6-10 only), as well as bars and picks for those new to the instrument. Contact Common Ground on the Hill to reserve: commonground@commongroundonthehill.org.

BLUEGRASS GUITAR WITH CHRIS LUQUETTE**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Chris Luquette****Skill Level: B/C**

Instructor Chris Luquette is the 2013 IBMA Momentum Award winner and considered to be among the most versatile, proficient and exciting guitarists in today's bluegrass scene. This guitar class will focus on bluegrass lead guitar including tunes, soloing, back-up, chord shapes and other nuances of bluegrass guitar. We'll take a look at music and chord theory, methods and concepts for approaching improvisation and expanding your knowledge of the guitar neck.

BLUES ELECTRIC GUITAR**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Harry Orlove****Skill Level: All**

Students will acquire the basic skills to organize the fingerboard and learn to play in the styles of B.B. King and Albert King. It's easier than you think! We'll discuss the techniques of many other Blues greats and examine how they get their sounds. The instructor will look at each student's guitar to make sure it's set up to optimize playability and sound, and offer lots of advice concerning amps, effects pedals, etc.—whatever you want to know! Students are encouraged to bring a small amp to class, along with a tuner, guitar cable, and extension cord. There's LOTS of playing in this class!! *Players at all levels are welcome.*

BLUES GUITAR WITH SPARKY RUCKER**July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Sparky Rucker****Skill Level: B/C**

A class for students who already play some guitar but want to learn to play blues. Sparky Rucker will include a variety of fingerpicking styles, which may include Blind Boy Fuller, Robert Johnson, Johnny Shines, Knoxville blues man Brownie McGhee, and Sam Chatmon. *Bring a slide for your guitar.*



20TH ANNUAL DCBU BLUEGRASS & OLD-TIME MUSIC CAMP

The greater Washington, D.C. area is home to some of the finest musicians and bands in bluegrass and old-time music. The region has been a hotbed of talent and creativity for more than sixty years and has birthed such major acts as the Stonemans, Reno and Smiley, Emmy Lou Harris, Alice Gerrard, Hazel Dickens, Ola Belle Reed, Mike Seeger, the Country Gentlemen, the Johnson Mountain Boys, the Seldom Scene, and many others. Mindful of that tradition, the D.C. Bluegrass Union joins with Common Ground on the Hill to present a week of instrumental, band, and vocal classes taught by some of Washington's best performers and teachers - plus some very special additions. We welcome beginning to advanced players of all ages to an unparalleled week of learning, jamming, singing, concerts, and bluegrass/old-time camaraderie. Students are also encouraged to enroll in any classes found throughout the entire Common Ground on the Hill curriculum. Create your own schedule, including art, music, dance, and lecture classes.

OLD-TIME

Alice Gerrard – Vocals
Tatiana Hargreaves – Fiddle
Ken Kolodner – Hammered Dulcimer
Mary Lynn Michal – Hammered Dulcimer
Ralph Gordon – Bass
Susan Boyer Haley – Mountain Dulcimer, Vocals
Marsha Searle – Percussive Dance
Ellen Gira (Nightjars) – Cello
Gabriel Furtado (Nightjars) – Guitar
Lydia Martin – Clawhammer Banjo
Slim Harrison – Jugband

BLUEGRASS

Tim O'Brien – Mandolin, Vocals
Jan Fabricius – Mandolin
Reed Stutz – Mandolin
Chris Luquette – Guitar
Radim Zenkl – Mandolin
Barry Mitterhoff – Mandolin
Sarah Larsen – Rising Pickers Kids Academy
Carter Giegerich – Resophonic Guitar
Wayne Fugate – Mandolin
Bob Lucas – Songwriting
Randy Barrett – Banjo, Vocals

CELTIC

Steafán Hannigan – Whistle, Lecture
Kevin Elam – Guitar, Vocals
Peter Brice – Vocals
Ellen Gira (Nightjars) – Cello
Terry O'Neill – Fiddle
Bill Troxler – Bodhrán
Jo Morrison – Harp
Wayne Morrison – English Concertina
Marsha Searle – Celtic Dance

ALSO FEATURING

BLUES

Guy Davis – Harmonica, Guitar
Professor Louie – Piano, Songwriting, Horns
Andy Cohen – Vocals, Lecture
Sparky Rucker – Guitar
Rhonda Rucker – Harmonica
Harry Orlove – Electric Guitar
Christopher James – Mandolin
David Burkitt – Harmonica

WORLD / FOLK

Serenity Fisher – Piano, Vocals
Joe Selly – Guitar
Tim Porter – Mandolin
Rod MacDonald – Songwriting
Amy Ferebee – Mandolin, Ukulele, Guitar
Gordon Roberts – Ukulele
Roderick Demmings – Gospel Choir

Erica Chesnik – Hip Hop Dance
Michael G. Ronstadt – Southwestern Guitar, Bowed Instruments Ensemble
Bob Rychlik – Fijara, Koncovka
Radim Zenkl – Mandolin
Jaque MacMillan – Drums

CELTIC GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Kevin Elam
Skill Level: B

Have you heard Celtic guitar and wondered how that sound happens? Do you wish you could do that? This is the class for you. Award-winning multi-instrumentalist Kevin Elam will unlock your guitar playing style, and have you accompany tunes and songs in the great Celtic session tradition. This class is meant for all guitarists, no matter what tuning (regular, DADGAD, Drop D, or others). Folks playing other instruments, as well as singers and listeners are also welcome.

FLATPICKING OLD-TIME MELODIES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Gabriel Furtado
Skill Level: B

Discover how to flatpick old-time melodies on the guitar. Apart from learning repertoire we will cover technique, how to mindfully graft melodies idiomatic of the fiddle onto the guitar, and the merits & colors involved in playing melodies out different shapes.

GUITAR BEYOND THE BASICS: NOW WHAT?

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 3. Instructor: Carter Giegerich
Skill Level: A

If you've learned your basic chord shapes and don't know how to take the next steps in your guitar journey, this course is for you. Dive deeper into rhythm guitar playing, etiquette and technique relating to ensemble playing and basic approaches to melody playing to create a strong foundation for further guitar exploration. Students should have some working knowledge of basic, open guitar chord shapes and basic right hand skills. The course will focus on playing with a pick, with a particular emphasis on accompanying bluegrass, old-time and folk music styles on flattop acoustic guitar.

See full course descriptions, Faculty bios, and photos online!

www.CommonGroundOnTheHill.org

HONKY TONK ELECTRIC GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Chris Luquette
Skill Level: B

We know instructor Chris Luquette as a bluegrass musician, but truth be told, he also plays some mean honkytonk guitar and is ready to teach you how. Delving into the stylings of Don Rich & Buck Owens, Waylon Jennings, Bill Kirchen and Jason Loughlin, Chris will cover the basics of honky guitar including common chord progressions, lead and rhythm techniques and some of the great songs that will make you want to dance. Bring a small amp if you have one. This fun class may culminate in a late-night dance.

HOT TUNA TUNES—MANDOLIN AND GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Barry Mitterhoff, Andy Cohen
Skill Level: B
See *Mandolin*, pg. 14.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED RESOPHONIC GUITAR

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 2 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 2.
Instructor: Carter Giegerich
Skill Level: B

Are you ready to raise the bar? Students with a strong foundation in acoustic lap steel playing will find all the tools necessary to take their playing to the next level in this course designed for intermediate and advanced players. Explore techniques and improvisational concepts based on the playing of the masters of the instrument, drawing inspiration from Andy Hall, Jerry Douglas, Mike Auldridge, Dave Giegerich and many others. Gain a deeper understanding of how to navigate the fretboard, a variety of useful tools for breaking down complex musical ideas and innovative approaches to adapting songs from outside of the bluegrass vernacular for their instrument. The course will also include a strong focus on core concepts in musicality that apply to all instruments and playing styles, taking a closer look at ensemble playing, phrasing and melodic direction.

MAKING SENSE OF SCALES ON THE GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Joe Selly
Skill Level: All

Everything you wanted to know about scales but were afraid to ask! Make sense of the many, and sometimes confusing number of ways to play scales and modes and be able choose the ones that are right for you. Learn easy ways to master them, to use them playing tunes, to use them for improvising, to be able to relate them to chords. Broaden the possibilities of what you can play and develop a better understanding of the fingerboard, and physically, become a better player in the process. We'll look at families of scale fingerings, use them to play melodies on different parts of the neck, and learn easy, practical exercises to get them "under your fingers".

RACK AND BOX WITH GUY DAVIS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Guy Davis
Skill Level: B

Box and rack is the term used for playing guitar and harmonica on a neck brace at the same time. Jimmy Reed did it. Bob Dyland, John Hammond and Paul Jeremiah do it. Bring a regular 10 hole diatonic harmonica in the key of A and a harmonica holder. Some may be available at the Camp store. We will start simple, and move our way up to blues patterns that aren't too hard to do. With a little coordination, we'll get started on doing that and playing the guitar at the same time. The reward will be worth it. If you are a little more advanced, I have more challenging tasks we can accomplish.

RISING PICKERS BLUEGRASS KIDS ACADEMY

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2 & 3. Instructor: Sarah Larsen, Wesley Haycock
Skill Level: A/B Ages 9 - 14
See *Youth*, pg. 22.

SOUTHWESTERN GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Michael G. Ronstadt
Skill Level: B

Michael G. Ronstadt is primarily known for his cello work, but is also an accomplished guitarist going back to his sixth grade when he learned Mariachi guitar. Since then a lot has happened, like earning a Masters degree in Cello Performance, but guitar has always been his second instrument. From mariachi, southwest styles, cowboy/western, blues, finger style, flat picking, jazz styles, and generally being a chameleon, you'll explore guitar playing from the perspective of the musical melting pot that defines the music in Tucson, Arizona, the Great Southwest.

Fiddle**THE ART OF THE BOW: RHYTHM & GROOVES**

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Ellen Gira, Ralph Gordon, Michael G. Ronstadt
Skill Level: All
See *Bass & Cello*, pg. 16.

BEGINNING FIDDLE WITH TERRY O'NEILL

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Terry O'Neill
Skill Level: A

This course will give beginners a solid foundation in the basics of playing the fiddle. Music suitable for beginners will be taught by ear, with sheet music and tablature provided as backups. It is recommended that students have a shoulder stand or pad to free up the left hand, along with a tuner or tuning app. Students are encouraged to bring a recording device to class as well.

IRISH FIDDLE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Terry O'Neill
Skill Level: A/B

Discover the music of County Kerry in the Southwest of Ireland, best known for polkas and slides, as well as great jigs, reels and hornpipes. Explore this rich tradition with tunes taken from the repertoire of legendary fiddlers such as Pdraig O'Keefe, Denis Murphy, Julia Clifford, and Paddy Cronin. Sheet music and recordings will be made available before the start of class. Students are encouraged to bring a recording device with them. This course is open to players of other melody instruments. Advanced beginners on up.

OLD-TIME AND BLUEGRASS FIDDLE WITH TATIANA HARGREAVES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Tatiana Hargreaves
Skill Level: B

Tatiana teaches old time and bluegrass fiddle to students of all ages and levels. Her teaching draws upon her performing experience as well as her academic background, combining history with musical technique and stylistic commentary. She has taught at music camps such as the Swannanoa Old Time Gathering, Augusta Heritage Center and the Rockygrass Academy.

RISING PICKERS BLUEGRASS KIDS ACADEMY

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2 & 3. Instructor: Sarah Larsen, Wesley Haycock
Skill Level: A/B Ages 9 - 14
See *Youth*, pg. 22.

SCOTTISH FIDDLE REPERTOIRE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Ellen Gira
Skill Level: A/B

Explore the unique style of the Scottish fiddle tradition, and its rich history and repertoire. Cellist Ellen Gira will teach Scottish tunes and their accompaniment while diving into the hallmarks of the style, including ornamentation and bowing. In doing so, this class will be a survey of the traditional Scottish repertoire, including tunes drawn from historical collections as well as those composed by contemporary tradition bearers. Come dive into this rich tradition! *All bowed instruments are welcome.*

Banjo

BEGINNING BLUEGRASS BANJO WITH RANDY BARRETT

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Randy Barrett

Skill Level: A-B

Learn to play the banjo in the style of the great Earl Scruggs, the cornerstone of bluegrass music. You will emerge from the class with a few Scruggs tunes under your belt, and a whole new lease on life. *For students who have a grasp of beginning banjo playing.*

BEGINNING OLD-TIME BANJO WITH LYDIA MARTIN FOY

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Lydia Martin Foy

Level A/B

There are many styles of Old-Time banjo playing. This class will focus on teaching you the clawhammer style, a rhythmic, old-time banjo style characterized by a "down-picking" motion, where the back of the fingernail strikes strings and the thumb catches the drone (5th) string, in a "bum-diddy" By the end of the week, you will be comfortable with this rhythmic style and know a few tunes.

INTERMEDIATE BLUEGRASS BANJO WITH RANDY BARRETT

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Randy Barrett

Level A/B

Dig into the things that make bluegrass banjo tick. Key licks, back-up techniques and a helping of standard tunes to expand your repertoire. We'll also be listening to some great performances by Scruggs, Ben Eldridge, Allen Shelton, JD Crowe and others to gain a deeper understanding of their style. For players familiar with the basic mechanics of bluegrass banjo.

INTERMEDIATE OLD-TIME BANJO WITH LYDIA MARTIN FOY

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Lydia Martin Foy

Level A/B

This class will explore the wide world of Old-Time banjo. We will look at a spectrum of open tunings, various right hand techniques including Clawhammer/downstroke, fingerpicking, and up-picking. We will learn repertoire, look at the banjo's role in old time music and where it is found today. Come and play!

RISING PICKERS BLUEGRASS KIDS ACADEMY

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2 & 3. Instructor: Sarah Larsen, Wesley

Haycock

Skill Level: A/B Ages 9 - 14

See *Youth*, pg. 22.

Mandolins on the Hill

BEGINNING MANDOLIN WITH TIM PORTER

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Tim Porter

Skill Level: A

Because of its small size and orderly fingerboard, the mandolin is used in many styles of traditional music and is a great choice for your first stringed instrument. If you already play something else, even better! This course will cover the basics of chords and accompaniment with introduction to tunes and melody. Skills for making music with others will also be emphasized.

BEYOND BEGINNING MANDOLIN

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Jan Fabricius

Skill Level: A

This is a beginner's class for students who already know how to tune the mandolin, who may know a few tunes or songs and who are excited about finding their way on the instrument. Jan will teach you about the fretboard, including some helpful scales and chords that will help in learning tunes and song accompaniment. Students will emerge with new skills and knowledge of the mandolin.

BLUES MANDOLIN WITH CHRIS JAMES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Christopher James

Skill Level: All levels except true beginners

Explore the rich history and exciting sounds of Blues on the mandolin. We will learn a classic Blues song each day. Songs will be taught in layers so that you can learn blues scales, moveable 7th chords, turnarounds, and new rhythms in context and then understand how to use these elements in new Blues songs you learn and create down the road. We'll also learn techniques for improvising solos and accompanying other musicians. *Students should bring* mandolin, tuner, paper and pencil, and a recording device.

CHORD BASICS AND BEYOND FOR MANDOLIN

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 2 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 3.

Instructor: Wayne Fugate

Skill Level: A

Never rely on chord diagrams again! In this class, aimed at beginning mandolin students, we will cover basic harmonic theory intended to wean folks away from a reliance on chord books and diagrams and empower them with the knowledge required to confidentially find multiple ways of playing virtually any chord needed for virtually any tune likely to be encountered in Western music. A lofty goal? Perhaps ... but well within the grasp of anyone who attends this session.

This course includes material that will be new to returning students!

GETTING STARTED WITH THE MANDOLIN

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 1. Instructor: Amy Ferebee

Skill Level: A

This class is for the true beginner. Learn how to get in tune and play some easy two fingered chords to use in some easy two chord songs. And there's more: We'll learn to play a simple fiddle tune, some right and left hand exercises, a little bit of mandolin history and how to decipher tablature and chord diagrams. A good time will be had by all, and students will emerge from this class with a new friend ... the mandolin!

HOT TUNA TUNES—MANDOLIN AND GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Barry Mitterhoff, Andy Cohen

Skill Level: B

Rock & Roll Hall of Famers **Jorma Kaukonen** and **Jack Casady** left Jefferson Airplane in 1973 to found Hot Tuna, a band that allowed them to explore their deep-rooted passion for blues and American roots music. From the acoustic blues of their early years to the electric rock-infused albums of the 1970s and beyond, Hot Tuna has continually pushed the boundaries of their music. Mandolinist **Barry Mitterhoff** played with Hot Tuna for much of the 2000s, officially joining and touring with them for 14 years. Blues guitarist and historian **Andy Cohen**, who shares musical history and influences with Jorma, accompanies Mitterhoff in this rare, true-vine look into roots music. Bring your mandolin, guitar, harmonica, bass, voices and take part in the true vine of roots music in this rare musical opportunity.

INTERMEDIATE MANDOLIN (TECHNIQUES, TIPS & TRICKS TO ADVANCE YOUR PLAYING)

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 4. Instructor: Wayne Fugate

Skill Level: A/B

Intermediate Mandolin is for mandolinists who have learned the basics and are ready to take the next step on their mandolinistic journey. If you're ready for some real, but FUN challenges, we've got you covered! We'll explore topics ranging from right- and left-hand exercises to improve your overall dexterity to deep dives into topics including: tremolo, 'position playing', double stops, chords, and accompaniment, 'closed position' scales and modes – and importantly, how to use them. We'll learn useful tools and strategies to lean on when you're starting to improvise - and much more! Fear not! Recording the classes is encouraged and music/ handouts will be provided. So ... roll up your sleeves and let's get to work!

JAZZ SONGS ARRANGED FOR MANDOLIN (WITH A NOD TO DUKE ELLINGTON)

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructors: Tim Porter, Joe Selly
Skill Level: B

This course will allow students to develop a facility for chord/melody playing in which the chords and the melody are played at the same time. That's actually easier than it sounds! We'll use that approach with several tunes of Duke Ellington who has been called America's greatest composer. And, we will work somewhat differently with melody and chords on some other jazz tunes from The Great American Song Book, touching on the swing, bebop, and other jazz eras.

MANDOLIN WITH REED STUTZ

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Reed Stutz
Skill Level A/B-B

Reed Stutz is a multi-instrumentalist and singer who makes his home in Ringgold, Georgia. He draws heavily on traditional bluegrass from the 1940s and 50s, as well as old time fiddle music, with a particular knack for the mandolin style of Bill Monroe and those who followed in his footsteps. He has worked with Alice Gerrard, Tatiana Hargreaves, the Nokosee Fields Trio, Bronwyn Keith-Hynes, Bruce Molsky and Jason Carter "*I love the fact that Reed deep dives into his music, searching for the secrets that might reveal its soul.*" - Alice Gerrard

MANDOLIN WITH TIM O'BRIEN

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Tim O'Brien
Skill Level A/B to B

Grammy Award winner Tim O'Brien has long been recognized as one of the great mandolin players of his generation, adding to his vocal prowess and mastery of a long list of other stringed instruments. From his early days with the Ophelia Swing Band to his long stint with the still existent bluegrass icons Hot Rize to a storied solo career and now as a duo with Jan Fabricious, O'Brien has taken the mandolin with him all the way on this powerful musical journey through Americana. Don't miss this opportunity to learn O'Brien mandolin stylings, techniques and tunes from the source!

OLD-TIME FIDDLE TUNES FOR MANDOLIN

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Wayne Fugate
Skill Level: A/B

In this class we'll learn about the categorical distinctions which set Old-Time tunes apart from their cousins in Bluegrass, 'claw-grass' and other genres of folk music. We'll learn about the important figures in the music; like John Salyer, Tommy Jarrell and Ed Haley and contemporary keepers of the tradition like Earl White and Bruce Molsky. Most importantly, we'll dive into these tunes on the mandolin! We'll learn both 'straight' and 'crooked' tunes, how to best accompany them and perhaps a harmony line or two along the way. We will learn these tunes by ear one phrase at a time, but sheet music/ TAB will be provided. The goal by the end of the week, is to give you a nice collection of these tunes to enjoy and play with friends!

PRACTICE LAB: RESEARCH-BASED STRATEGIES FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Wayne Fugate
See *General Knowledge*, pg. 11.

RISING PICKERS BLUEGRASS KIDS ACADEMY

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2 & 3. Instructor: Sarah Larsen, Wesley Haycock
Skill Level: A/B Ages 9 - 14
See *Youth*, pg. 22.

SCALES BOOTCAMP FOR MANDOLIN

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 3. Instructor: Wayne Fugate
Skill Level: A

Everyone knows you should practice them, but the truth is, that not many folks enjoy doing so. The disconnect often seems to lie in the gap between knowing a scale and putting a scale to use in tune playing and writing tunes and improvising over chord changes. Bridge that gap by learning scales and putting them to use. Consider the chromatic scale and see why we should practice it every day. Learn the major and various minor scales and how to access them easily. Discover why the Pentatonic scale is the beginning improviser's best friend. Find ways to make the modes more accessible and useful in solos. We'll look at some examples of how different scales and scale patterns pop up in the tunes we love to play. And ... you'll have plenty of opportunities to put your newly acquired knowledge to use each day in class, creating your own solos and jamming along in a variety of musical genres.

WORLD OF MANDOLIN

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Radim Zenkl
Skill Level: B

Join master mandolinist Radim Zenkle and focus on folk, bluegrass, blues and swing, featuring typical aspects of each style such as chord forms, strumming patterns, techniques and traditional tunes. Many of the 'trade secrets' will be revealed, such as mastering the fretboard so you can play in all twelve keys using all seven positions, scales, arpeggios, basic and advanced chord forms organized into 'good voicings', backup rhythms, tremolo, cross-picking, detailed tips on how to practice an improvisation to play better solos, special techniques and tricks and adding some pointers for practicing after the camp.

Ukulele

BEGINNING UKULELE

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 3 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 4.
Instructor: Amy Ferebee
Skill Level: A.

The uke is a very friendly little stringed instrument and quite easy to play. You will have fun learning how to master the basic chords and play some easy songs, as we begin to use our right hands to strum or pick with our fingers. As we lay a foundation for a lifetime of enjoyment playing and singing songs with friends, we will learn how to decipher regular music notation, tablature, and fret-board diagrams, all with a bit of ukulele history sprinkled in for good measure. No music reading skills required. Smiles & Laughter: MANDATORY! ;^)

BEYOND BEGINNING UKULELE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Gordon Roberts
Skill Level: A/B

Can you play some basic uke chords? Can you handle basic strumming? Do you feel comfortable enough to take it to the next level and do you want to learn a bunch of really cool songs? We will explore some of your favorite tunes from the rock and folk eras and dig deep into the Great American Songbook while learning some very cool techniques and tricks. On Thursday and Friday we will devote all our time to hearing and learning some of the funniest songs ever written. What's not to like? - Guitar players note! **If you can play the guitar you can play the uke**, you just don't know it yet. If you are a reasonable guitarist, bring those skills to this class and instantly become a ukulelist! All you need is a cheap uke.

See full course descriptions, Faculty bios, and photos online!

www.CommonGroundOnTheHill.org

UKULELE ORCHESTRA

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructor: Gordon Roberts

Skill Level: A/B

We have been thoroughly inspired by The Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain and we are jealous of the amount of fun they are having. Take a look at their hilarious version of “Shaft” on YouTube and ask yourself if you don’t want to be in a ukulele orchestra. Whatever your ukulele skill level, there is a place for you in this class. **Guitarists please note that you already know how to play the uke!** It will take you ten minutes to become proficient and we will let you solo and show off all your twiddly bits – you will, however, have to purchase a uke to qualify. There will be no standing on ceremony, this class is all about the joy of making music and not worrying how polished it sounds. The best part is we will inflict our musical stylings on the unsuspecting masses as we stage impromptu “pop up” recitals around campus. We are going to have so much fun!

Bass & Cello

*Some loaner instruments available.**Contact the Common Ground on the Hill office to reserve.***THE ART AND CRAFT OF PLAYING BASS**

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Skill Level: All

Learn both the art of playing bass (such as musicality) and the craft (technique, theory and more), including beginning basics on bass, as well as technique, basic theory, and useful information and tips. For players just starting out on bass and those with some playing behind them and ready for an infusion of growth in their playing! The instructor will teach from the perspective of acoustic bass, but electric bass players are welcome. Ralph Gordon is a highly sought-after musician known for his great versatility.

THE ART OF THE BOW: RHYTHM AND GROOVES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Ellen Gira, Ralph Gordon, Michael G. Ronstadt

Skill Level: A/B

Bring your bowed instrument to this class that will explore accompaniment including chords, rhythmic techniques, walking bass lines, bowing long tones, strumming like a guitar, the shuffle, the chop, and how to employ them in Celtic and Old-Time repertoire from Arizona to Appalachia to Scotland and Ireland. By the end of the week this class will be an ensemble! All levels are welcome.

HOT TUNA TUNES—MANDOLIN AND GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Barry Mitterhoff, Andy Cohen

Skill Level: B

Bring your mandolin, guitar, harmonica, bass, voices and take part in the true vine of roots music in this rare musical opportunity. See *Mandolin*, pg. 14.

SCOTTISH FIDDLE REPERTOIRE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Ellen Gira

Skill Level: A/B

See *Fiddle*, pg. 13. All bowed instruments welcome.

Harp

FUN MUSIC FOR THE FOLK HARP

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Jo Morrison

Skill Level: A/B. Max. 10 students.

For advanced beginners and beyond. This class will teach a variety of types of tunes by ear. Sheet music will be provided after the class, or in class if you need it. We will learn tunes that are fun to play and hopefully easy to remember. There will be a variety of styles of music.

LEARN TO PLAY THE CELTIC/FOLK/LEVER HARP

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Jo Morrison

Skill Level: A

This class is for total beginners. Learn the basics of how to play the harp, including helpful techniques that will keep you from hurting or injuring yourself while playing and transporting the harp. This class is for harps of all sizes that have levers (not pedals.). Learn basic technique, posture, and several tunes, moving slowly for easy progress. Find out how to buy a harp, determine the best harp for you and how to take care of your harp. A few harps available for rent at a small fee -- for about \$25. Contact Jo Morrison at harp@triharpkel.com to arrange for a rental harp. Be sure to reach out at least 3 weeks before the class. If you have a harp with no levers please contact me in advance for appropriate planning. All sizes of folk harps with levers or with no pedals are welcome in this class.

LEARN TO PLAY THE CELTIC/FOLK/LEVER HARP, PT.2

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Jo Morrison

Skill Level: A/B

This class is designed for those that are already attending the **Celtic/Folk/Lever Harp** in Pd. 1, or for those who are fairly new to harping but beyond a total beginner class. Gain additional training, short personal lesson time, and time to practice on the rental harps in the room. This class will focus on the lower level of harping unless you take a short private lesson during the time. New tunes may be taught should the students want to learn something new. More advanced students can have short lessons from the instructor as time allows, or just spend time practicing.

Dulcimers

*Mountain and hammered dulcimers available for loan!**Contact the Common Ground on the Hill office to reserve.***BEGINNERS BOOTCAMP: HAMMERED DULCIMER**

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructors: Mary Lynn Michal, Ken Kolodner

Skill Level: A

This two-period course is complete beginners. You don’t even need to own a hammered dulcimer; loaners are available with advance notice. No previous musical experience is required, and you do not need to be able to read music. If you can count to 8, you are good to go. We will PLAY tunes while learning the basic skills needed to improve: mapping of the instrument, hammering techniques, how to tune your instrument, how to locate all the notes on your dulcimer, how to play scales and arpeggios in the keys of D, G and A. Most of all, at the end of the week, you will be hooked on the hammered dulcimer! Expect lots of fun while learning. Please bring a recording device (e.g. cell phone/iPad). With their complementary styles of teaching, Mary Lynn and Ken frequently co-teach and will be trading off as instructors in this class.

BEGINNING MOUNTAIN DULCIMER WITH SUSAN BOYER HALEY

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Susan Boyer Haley

Skill Level: A

The mountain dulcimer is known for its beautiful sound and ease of play, for those who have always wanted to play a stringed instrument. This class will begin in the Ionian mode (tuning) and start with basic strumming to enjoy the drone qualities of the instrument. For dulcimer students returning to Common Ground on the Hill, a new curriculum will be covered this year, building on the foundation established in the past. Discover the joy of singing folk songs and ballads with the mountain dulcimer. The beautiful modal qualities of the mountain dulcimer will be shared along with a brief history of the mountain dulcimer. The class will progress at a relaxed pace while we learn the melodies together.

BEYOND BEGINNER: RELAXED PACE HAMMERED DULCIMER

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructors: Mary Lynn Michal, Ken Kolodner

Skill Level: A/B

For players with a couple years of experience and/or those who want to move at a gentle pace. We will learn some new tunes and a smattering of music theory while having fun and going at a relaxed pace. You do not need to be able to read music as the tunes will be taught using chord shapes and patterns to make them easier to remember. However, written music will be provided. Please bring a recording device (e.g., cell phone/iPad). With their complementary styles of teaching, Mary Lynn and Ken frequently co-teach and will be trading off as instructors in this class.

BUILD A MOUNTAIN DULCIMER

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Ken Koons

See *Art of Instrument Making*, pg. 25.

INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED HAMMER DULCIMER

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructors: Mary Lynn Michal, Ken Kolodner

Skill Level: B

For players with a few years or more of playing experience, we will develop several pieces of music in depth incorporating a variety of arranging techniques (e.g., three note chords, valley rolls, bass lines, tremolos, arpeggio fills, etc.), and accompaniment through the lens of chord theory and chord patterns. Full written arrangements of the tunes will be provided. Please bring a recording device (e.g., cell phone/iPad). With their complementary styles of teaching, Mary Lynn and Ken frequently co-teach and will be trading off as instructors in this class. This is a super opportunity for more experienced students to learn at a higher level without needing to slow down for basic concepts.

Wind & Free Reed

BEGINNING HARMONICA

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: David Burkitt

Skill Level: A

Pick up a diatonic harmonica in the key of A, enroll in this class and enter the world of melodic harmonica. Your instructor, Dave Burkitt, has been playing the harmonica for over 50 years and has launched many fellow harp players. Dave will teach you how to find the melody notes on your "harp" and begin playing easy songs and tunes that you already know. **Harmonicas will be available for purchase at the Common Ground store;** however, consider buying a harmonica right away and begin to get comfortable with this wonderful little fixed-reed instrument, capable of making great music. Carry it with you everywhere you go! If you have additional keys, such as D and G, bring them as well.

BLUES HARMONICA WITH RHONDA RUCKER

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Rhonda Rucker

Skill Level: A/B

Rhonda Rucker will begin with single notes, then progress to 12-bar blues, chugging, bending notes, trills, riffs, and improvisation. Bring a working diatonic harmonica (like a Marine Band) in the key of "A." If you have other keys, bring them for jams.

CELTIC WHISTLE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Steáfán Hannigan

Skill Level: All

Northern Ireland's Steáfán Hannigan, author of the definitive book about the Low D whistle, will teach you everything you need to know about how to play the whistle, including ornamentation, history and fantastic tunes. Whether a true beginner or a seasoned player, you will emerge from this class with a treasure trove of music and new skills. A regular sized whistle (key of D) is required for class.

Recommended whistles: \$15 "Generation" whistle in the key of D.

DIATONIC BUTTON ACCORDION

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Peter Brice

Skill Level: All

This practicum will explore technique and repertoire on the diatonic button accordion. Instruction will be offered on the B/C system and the G/D system (others as needed). We will learn to play and arrange dance music and airs from Irish, Scottish, and American traditions. This course is intended for beginners to the diatonic button accordion, but will be tailored in situ to participants' experience and ability. Bring your own instrument.

DIDGERIDOO

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Radim Zenkl

Skill Level: All

No experience necessary! Students will learn the basic tone production, proper breathing, several different grooves, vocal ornaments, traditional Australian animal sound imitations, fine-tuning with embouchure, contemporary sound effects and a step by step system on learning the circular breathing. **Bring your own didgeridoo in any key.** If you do not have a didgeridoo and cannot borrow one, get a 2" diameter plastic pipe, 47" long, and a 2" to 1.5" coupling (for the mouth piece). Beginner and intermediate students are welcome.

FUJARA AND KONCOVKA OVERTONE FLUTES OF SLOVAKIA

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 3 AND July 6-10 In Person, Period 3.

Instructor: Bob Rychlik

Skill Level: All

The Fujara and Koncovka flutes are traditional Slovak shepherd flutes. While the Koncovka is a pure overtone flute, several overtone scales can be played on the large, bass Fujara. Beginner and intermediate students will learn together. **NOTE:** For those wishing to purchase, contact the instructor for assistance in choosing the right instrument for you online. fujara@gmail.com

HOT TUNA TUNES—MANDOLIN AND GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Barry Mitterhoff, Andy Cohen

Skill Level: B

Bring your mandolin, guitar, harmonica, bass, voices and take part in the true vine of roots music in this rare musical opportunity. See **Mandolin**, pg. 14.

INTRODUCTION TO HIGHLAND BAGPIPES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructor: Wayne Morrison

Skill Level: A

The instructor will introduce students to the rudiments of playing the Great Highland Bagpipe. Basic fingering and embellishments will be taught. The different types of bagpipe music will be discussed and simple tunes will be taught. This is a class for beginners, and as such, there will be no learning done on the bagpipe itself. **Students will learn on the bagpipe's practice instrument, the practice chanter.** It is recommended that you contact the instructor (tewok@portrigh.com) prior to purchasing your own practice chanter.

RACK AND BOX WITH GUY DAVIS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Guy Davis

Skill Level: A/B

See **Guitar**, pg. 13.

FOR ALL 2026 STUDENTS ~ Online Student Show:
To contribute completed projects to the online Student Show, please email photos or video to Maria Wong at maria@commongroundonthehill.org.

Include your name, the name of the course and instructor, the week and period(s) of your class.

Piano

BEGINNING FOLK PIANO

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Serenity Fisher

Skill Level: A/B

I wish I hadn't stopped taking piano lessons when I was a kid! I'm too old to learn how to play the piano now! This course lifts the veil of mystery surrounding the piano by offering simple yet effective ways the piano can be used in folk music. Learn to play chords to “strum” along to your favorite songs, just like a folk guitarist does. Playing chords on the piano is even easier than on the guitar. With its straightforward layout of the notes, it doesn't take long to learn how to develop simple chordal accompaniment that will make you sound like you've been playing the piano for years. Learn to play and sing your favorite songs, accompany a singer, or join in a jam! This course does not require note reading. All experience levels are welcome.

PIANO WITH PROFESSOR LOUIE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Professor Louie

Skill Level: All except true beginners

If you wish to get a basic knowledge of playing the piano and music theory this class is for you. All levels are welcome. Individual attention on what style you would like to start learning or improve on will be explored. Learn how to play or improvise on popular songs, the Blues, Barrelhouse, Boogie-Woogie, Rock & Roll and Jazz styles that will all be covered in the class. No matter what level you are on you will start with fairly simple rhythm patterns and expand to solo playing. You systematically build strength and agility, first in the right hand, then in the left, until you are playing right and left-hand patterns, and you are on your way. Professor Louie gives hints and pointers about playing many styles including how to accompany singers, choirs in the blues, rock, pop and folk styles, perform as a soloist or as a member of a band and learn how to sing along with your piano playing. No reading is required. This class will be great for ear training. Don't play the piano? Now you will!

BAND, JAMS & ENSEMBLES

THE ART OF THE BOW: RHYTHM & GROOVES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructors: Ellen Gira, Ralph Gordon, Michael G. Ronstadt

Bring your bowed instrument to this class that will explore accompaniment including chords, rhythmic techniques, walking bass lines, bowing long tones, strumming like a guitar, the shuffle, the chop, and how to employ them in Celtic and Oldtime repertoire from Arizona to Appalachia to Scotland and Ireland. By the end of the week this class will be an ensemble! All levels are welcome.

BLUEGRASS JAM AND BLUEGRASS SLOW JAM

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructors: Randy Barrett, Jan Fabricius, Wayne Fugate, Carter Giegerich, Bob Lucas, Chris Luquette, Tim O'Brien

Here's where the fun begins! Put into practice the music learned during classes as well as playing material that students bring into the mix. Here we join in a supportive and nonthreatening environment to try your latest licks and play and sing some bluegrass. Class may divide in two for slow and fast jam.

CELTIC SESSION

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructors: Peter Brice, Kevin Elam, Ellen Gira, Steáfán Hannigan, Terry O'Neill, Bill Troxler

This late-afternoon session will be run in the tradition of a free-wheeling Celtic session, encouraging everyone to take part. Session leaders will include all students in this rare opportunity. Come play, sing, listen. Close your eyes and you will swear you are in a pub session in Ireland or the UK.

HOT TUNA TUNES—MANDOLIN AND GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Barry Mitterhoff, Andy Cohen
Skill Level: B

Bring your instruments and voices and take part in the true vine of roots music in this rare musical opportunity. See *Mandolin*, pg. 14.

IMPROVISATION FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Radim Zenkl

See *General Knowledge*, pg. 11.

JUG & SKIFFLE BAND

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Slim Harrison

Get ready to explore a great American musical tradition. Jug band music is the blues, Dixieland jazz, old-time, bluegrass, and traditional country music all rolled up into one. Skiffle is a variation of jug band that often includes sax, clarinet, cornet, and other brass/wind instruments, as well as more contemporary “pop” tunes. Students are encouraged to bring jugs, kazoos, guitars, banjos, and even horns. The only requirement is that you must have a good handle on your instrument (except jug, we'll teach that) and can play a basic three-chord song in G or C at least. Bring an open mind and heart and let's have a good time!

JUKE JOINT BLUES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructors: Dave Burkitt, Andy Cohen, Guy Davis, Chris James, Prof. Louie, Harry Orlove, Sparky & Rhonda Rucker, Joe Selly

The blues were born in the juke joints of the rural South. This class is an opportunity for students to learn and share blues repertoire in a nurturing, freewheeling environment. Beginner to intermediate level players with all instruments are welcome.

OLD-TIME JAM & DANCE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructors: Alice Gerrard, Gabriel Furtado, Tatiana Hargreaves, Ken Kolodner, Lydia Martin, Marsha Searle, Reed Stutz

Here's where the fun begins! Put into practice the music learned during classes as well as playing material that students bring into the mix. Here we join in a supportive environment to play old-time music the way it was meant to be played. Bring your dancing shoes and free-style clog/flatfoot/buckdance with Marsha Searle of Footworks. Class may divide in two for slow and fast jam. All are welcome!

STORIES AND MUSIC TOGETHER WITH GUY DAVIS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Guy Davis

Sometimes songs tell a story. Some songs are preceded by a story. Some stories rub the ear a bit more nicely with music. Bring your instruments if you have them. Is there a song you would like to expand? Maybe you wrote it, or maybe it's not yet written! Come, all of you, composers, writers, storytellers, and musicians. I've got plenty of story songs, but the class isn't just for me. It's for you too. Don't play an instrument? Ask someone in the class to back you up.

SINGING, SONGWRITING

BALLADS AND TRADITIONAL SONGS FROM SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Kevin Elam

Join 2019 All-Ireland Champion in Men's Singing Kevin Elam for the opportunity to learn beautiful traditional songs from both Scotland and Ireland, and explore the innumerable connections between the two Gaelic lands. The histories and song traditions of these two lands are intimately connected - many songs that we think of as purely Irish actually began their life in Scotland, or vice versa! Well versed in both traditions, Kevin took first place in Men's English Singing at the 2019 All-Ireland Fleadh - an award only won by one other American in its 65-year history - but also has cultivated a deep knowledge of Scottish history and a significant repertoire of Scottish songs.

BIG SONG SWAP

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructors: Susan Haley, Amy Ferebee
This late afternoon class will bring students and faculty together in a feast of good songs: traditional, original, old and new. In an era of musical hype and performance overload, this is a rare opportunity to sing, play, and even just listen. Teachable songs with good choruses are highly encouraged! The instructors will facilitate the class, making sure that all those who care to do so will share or lead a song.

ENGLISH PUB SINGING REDUX: WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER ROUND

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Peter Brice
Building on the success of 2023's celebrated English Pub Singing course, this ensemble class will chortle and snort (even more intensely) over a hare's progeny of the most beloved bellows and come-all-ye's ever to grace His Majesty's royal dramshoppes. English Pub Singing Redux will offer an artisanally-crafted, meticulously-curated, just-for-fun sing-song. We'll learn songs and a few new words, celebrating the pleasures of camaraderie and the friendships we forge along the way. This class is intended for anyone with a singing voice and a sense of humor.

FOLK SONGS OF BOHEMIA, MORAVIA AND SLOVAKIA

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Bob Rychlik
Learn to sing a selection of beloved folk songs from the heart of Europe. Each region has distinctive melodies and harmonies that are fun to sing. Bring along a guitar or ukulele (the instructor will help with chords) or just come to sing. Discover the depth of the Slavic soul in joy and in sorrow.

HOT TUNA TUNES—MANDOLIN AND GUITAR

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Barry Mitterhoff, Andy Cohen
Skill Level: B
Bring your instruments and voices and take part in the true vine of roots music in this rare musical opportunity. See *Mandolin*, pg. 14.

HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Susan Boyer Haley
Our voices are our first instrument and are with us at all times. Over generations, singing has the power to communicate our deepest emotions. Whether in challenging times, or the best of times, a song has the power to touch our souls. The song material taught will focus on the diversity of American folk songs, where meaningful, soulful, loving, humorous, and simply fun songs will allow us to join our voices together. The goal of this class is to enjoy the love of singing, whether as an experienced singer or joining in something new that one always wanted to do. A good time will be had by all!

INTERRACIAL GOSPEL CHOIR

July 6-10 In Person, After Dinner (6:45–7:45 PM)
Led by Roderick Demmings. Open to all Traditions Weeks participants.
Make a joyful noise! Join us in this time of celebration as we learn and sing traditional and contemporary gospel songs and spirituals. This community event is what sparked Common Ground on the Hill. It embodies our reason for existing here in this place. **The choir will perform in Friday night's closing concert!**

See *Special Gatherings*, pg. 8.

RISE UP SINGING

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1, Instructors: Bob Lucas
Get a great start to your day with singing! Learn to listen, match pitch and have fun with singing each day while learning some new songs and gaining some vocal warm-up and general singing techniques. Instructor Bob Lucas comes from a family of singers and loves to sing! Singers of every level are welcome!

SINGING WITH ALICE GERRARD AND FRIENDS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructors: Alice Gerrard, Tatiana Hargreaves, Reed Stutz
Alice Gerrard and her bandmates, Tatiana Hargreaves (fiddle) and Reed Stutz (mandolin & banjo) will be demonstrating how we go about arranging a song or tune. What key? Who sings lead, harmony, etc? Bring your voices, instruments, imagination, and try arranging your own song. Maybe the song is a well known standard; maybe it is an original song. What kind of backup, breaks or no breaks, etc. Or maybe you just have questions. All are welcome.

SINGING WITH TIM O'BRIEN & JAN FABRICIUS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Tim O'Brien, Jan Fabricius
Don't miss this chance to sing with one of Bluegrass/Americana's great singers, Tim O'Brien and his vocal partner, Jan Fabricius. Roots harmony singing is intuitive, fun and truly rewarding. In this class you will learn how to sing duets, trios and quartets. You will learn how to "stack" the various parts/voices to attain various effects. Tim O'Brien's seemingly relaxed vocal stylings come as a result of a thorough understanding of how part singing works. You will sing a lot in this class. This is a class to enjoy!

SONGWRITING WITH BOB LUCAS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Bob Lucas
Join Bob Lucas in a songwriting class that will produce some gems. Bob's songs have been recorded by the likes of Alison Krauss and the Newgrass Revival. In Bob's words: "If we write about the things we know, we can use those tools to make a point of view. Every topic is like a gem waiting to be cut. As writers it's our point of view that cuts the gem into something new and wonderful. Let's get together and work on that. No instruments required or refused. The notion of how a chorus can be the answer to questions put forward in the verse as well as song construction will be discussed." Bring some of your songs or song ideas.

SONGWRITING WITH PROFESSOR LOUIE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Professor Louie
Led by Professor Louie, whose songs have been recorded by Levon Helm, Rick Danko, and Commander Cody, this songwriting class will help you express your ideas whether you write poetry or song. Learn how to put your song to music or music to your poem. Bring your songs to class. From the beginner to the experienced writer, making real songs means respecting your inspiration while developing your writing technique. This course will motivate you, provide constructive feedback, teach basic composition skills and improve your writing. Speak your mind in an artistic and convincing way, with humor, anger, poetic and musical artistry, storytelling, character and facts. Learn how to write collaboratively and be understood clearly. Learn the technique of how to express your work to an audience. The class will cover guidance on where to present your writing to build your own meaningful song catalogue. Bring some songs or song ideas.

SONGWRITING WITH ROD MACDONALD

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 2. Instructor: Rod MacDonald
From the beginner to the experienced writer, making real songs means respecting your inspiration and learning some technique. This course will motivate you, provide constructive feedback, teach some basic composition skills, and improve your writing at whatever level you are. Speak your mind in an artistic and convincing way, with humor, anger, poetic and musical artistry, storytelling, character and facts, and be understood clearly. *Sing Out!* calls Rod "A modern day troubadour of the people and for the people."

See full course descriptions, Faculty bios, and photos online!

www.CommonGroundOnTheHill.org

THE SOUTHERN FOLK TOURS**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Sparky & Rhonda Rucker**

Join Sparky and Rhonda Rucker for an uplifting class of toe-tapping songs spiced with history, humor, and stories about a truly unique and groundbreaking organization—the Southern Folk Cultural Revival Project. Founded in 1966 by Bernice Johnson Reagon and Anne Romaine, it produced numerous tours throughout the South with a rotating cast of African American and white musicians who performed during the dangerous days of Jim Crow. Artists included Pete Seeger, John D. Loudermilk, Johnny Shines, Ola Belle Reed, Mike Seeger, Hedy West, Dewey Balfa, Steve Young, Hazel and Alice, the Georgia Sea Island Singers, Sparky Rucker and many others. Sparky and Rhonda Rhonda will discuss the history and play some of the music from this radical initiative that helped bridge racial divisions. Alice Gerrard plans to join us for one day. Lots of singalongs! Bring your voices and instruments!

STORIES AND MUSIC TOGETHER WITH GUY DAVIS**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Guy Davis**See *Band/Jams*, pg. 18.**TRADITIONAL SONGS AND DANCE MUSIC FROM MARYLAND****July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Peter Brice**

In this repertoire class, we will explore field recordings and folkloric collections of Maryland traditional music as well as songsters, broadsides, and dance manuals published in Maryland. Drawing from a range of sources spanning 200 years, we will collate a repertoire that is approachable from contemporary Old-Time, Irish, Scottish, Bluegrass, and Black string music traditions. The music will be made accessible via performance and notation, and will reference source recordings where available.

This class will engage participants with songs and instrumental music, and is intended for musicians who wish to practice in both areas. Listeners are welcome to enroll and enjoy this class!

UNACCOMPANIED SINGING WITH ALICE GERRARD**July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Alice Gerrard**

Unaccompanied or acapella singing is the bedrock of Southern Appalachian song. Existing side-by-side with the great old time instrumental music, this singing most often tells a story, a ballad, or is part of the great hymnody tradition. The classic Child Ballads (of no known authorship) migrated from Scotland, Northern Ireland and England in the early 1700's, finding their way to the secluded hollers of the Southern Appalachians, where they were sung around firesides for 200 years until being "discovered" by academic field scholars. Along with the classics came the popular broadside ballads while new American ballads came into their own. Not a sing-along class, this class will encourage you to be brave (with plenty of moral support) and learn to sing on your own, to become part of the great tradition of handing down songs of antiquity. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear and sing these great songs that have enriched us for centuries. Listeners encouraged to attend.

PERCUSSION**BODHRÁN (FRAME DRUM) FOR BEGINNERS****July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Bill Troxler****Skill Level: A**

The class will demonstrate the basic skills required to master the bodhrán: how to hold the drum and tipper (beater), how to strike the drum, how to play a few essential reel and jig rhythms, how to make a cheap drum sound great, and how to select a bodhrán to purchase. Students will have access to a website with videos that support study of the bodhrán beyond the class. If you can count to 9, turn a doorknob, and shake water off your hands, odds are you can master the bodhrán. Students must bring their own drums and tippers.

BODHRÁN - NEXT STEPS: GATEWAY TO GREAT PLAYING**July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Bill Troxler****Skill Level: A/B**

For bodhrán players who seek to advance their playing skills beyond the basics of simply keeping a beat. Students must be able to comfortably play a few patterns supporting reels and jigs at moderate tempos. The class will cover modern options for gripping the tipper, sticking patterns, internal hand techniques, tipper styles and turn-around patterns. Gain a bank of sticking patterns and internal hand techniques that can be used to "spice up" performances. Because the class will cover so much information during only five class periods, videos explaining and demonstrating each technique will be available on line for viewing after Traditions Weeks. **Students must bring their own drums and tippers.** Students are encouraged to pair this class with *Session-Ready Bodhran Patterns* (see below).

DRUM CIRCLE JAM!**July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructor: Jaqui MacMillan**

Feel the rhythm and join the fun! In this guided, high-energy group experience, we'll co-create music together using hand drums and percussion instruments in a welcoming, judgment-free space. With gentle guidance from the facilitator, the group will build rhythms, play, improvise, and tap into the powerful energy of collective drumming. Drum circles are a joyful way to spark creativity, relieve stress, and bring community together — open to all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. No musical experience is needed — just bring your curiosity and an open heart.

DRUMMING FOR JOY**July 6-10 In Person Period 4. Instructor: Jacqui MacMillan**

"If you can say it, you can play it." Learn the language of the drum, basic hand drum technique, and how to make your drum sing. Jaqui makes rhythms fun and easy to learn, guiding you through full drum compositions—rhythms, breaks, and solos—for a joyful, group music-making experience. All levels are welcome, from absolute beginners to experienced players. While Jaqui specializes in djembe, other hand drums (ashikos, bougaraboos, and congas) are welcome. Bring your drum or borrow one of the many drums available in class. Recording and note-taking are encouraged!

SESSION-READY BODHRÁN PATTERNS**July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Bill Troxler****Skill Level: A/B**

This class is for bodhrán players who want to build an inventory of tipper patterns that support the tune types most frequently heard at Celtic sessions: hornpipes, jigs, slip jigs, reels, polkas and slides. Advanced beginners and intermediate players will find the class helpful. Students may simultaneously register for both this course and the *Bodhrán – Next Steps* course. The two courses complement one another. Students must bring their own drums and tippers. The class will be supported by video and text on a website with free access after the week of live instruction.

SOUND, TECH**GEAR GREMLINS: MAXIMIZE YOUR GEAR****July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Phil Spiess, Michael G. Ronstadt**

Do you have music and audio gear just sitting around or that you have no idea how to use? Gear that you want to learn more about or want to understand how it works and what the pros are doing? Bring your gear and questions to class and get ready to learn the details, tips, tricks, and history of your gear. Topics include: what is your guitar amp EQ doing and how it works; why your microphone doesn't seem to work as well as the pros or in online videos; what order you should put your guitar pedals in and why, and more. We'll focus on your gear and questions and will reveal some of our favorite touring hacks and secrets that we have learned over a combined 50 years of industry experience and national and international tours. Let's have fun and get those gear gremlins out of your closet and back to the stage!

DANCE, MOVEMENT

CELTIC DANCE: A CEILI!

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Marsha Searle

Join us for a Ceili as we learn a step dance, a traditional dance, or a little song from the Celtic nations of Ireland, Scotland, or Wales. There will be something for everyone and all skill levels are welcome. Simple Sean-nós (Old Style Irish), Scottish Highland, or Welsh Clog steps will be taught depending on the interests of class members. No experience is necessary. Instructor Marsha Searle is skilled at breaking down the steps and making them fun and accessible to all, from those who are the earliest beginners to providing a challenge for experienced dancers. No special footwear required. Marsha has been teaching and performing professionally for 17 years, is a champion Scottish Highland Dancer, has a BA in World Dance, and loves sharing part of her heritage and love for Celtic culture. Join us for a fabulous time in this celebration of Celtic traditions!

GROUNDING WARRIOR YOGA

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Erica Chesnik

Come practice with Erica Chesnik, known for her light hearted humor and effective, clear instructions. This class combines yoga postures that are suitable for all levels. Modifications and the use of multiple props make this yoga class very accommodating and certified safe for prenatal and postnatal practitioners. Regular yoga practice is proven to generate internal steadiness and profoundly improve our patience, and of course our strength and flexibility. This class is designed to nourish the nervous system and connect to our inner sanctuary through gentle movement. Perfect for beginners!

OLD-TIME JAM & DANCE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructors: Alice Gerrard, Gabriel Furtado, Tatiana Hargreaves, Ken Kolodner, Lydia Martin, Marsha Searle, Reed Stutz

Here's where the fun begins! Put into practice the music learned during classes as well as playing material that students bring into the mix. Here we join in a supportive and nonthreatening environment to play old-time music the way it was meant to be played. Bring your dancing shoes and free-style clog/flatfoot/buckdance with Marsha Searle of Footworks. All are welcome!

QI GONG FOR HEALTH

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Greg Padrick

See *Human Arts*, pg. 22.

QI GONG: THE DANCE OF THE PHOENIX

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 5. Instructor: Nancy McKenzie

See *Human Arts*, pg. 22.

REB3L GROOVE HIP HOP DANCE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2. Instructor: Erica Chesnik

REB3L Groove fuses fun hip hop music and choreography for a fun dance fitness experience. Erica Chesnik breaks down the steps with absolute clarity, so even total beginners can learn the moves and dance with confidence! No dance experience is needed. Wear sneakers and bring hydration. This class is a ton of fun and is designed for people who "can't dance." If you've been wanting to feel radically alive and radiant joy, this class is for you!

FOR ALL 2026 STUDENTS ~ Online Student Show:

To contribute completed projects to the online Student Show, please email photos or video to Maria Wong at maria@commongroundonthehill.org.

Include your name, the name of the course and instructor, the week and period(s) of your class.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FLATFOOTING AND CLOGGING

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructors: Marsha Searle

Learn how to keep time with your feet in a class that captures the feel of an old-time music and dance party. The beautiful art form of Appalachian flatfooting and clogging developed in the Appalachian Mountains when African American, Scots-Irish, and Native American people met and shared their rhythms, music, and dance. Instructor Marsha Searle will share steps she has learned from over 15 years learning, performing and teaching with master teacher Eileen Carson, as well as teaching improv and new steps from this living tradition. Marsha is skilled at breaking down the steps and making them fun and accessible to all, from those who are the earliest beginners to providing a challenge for experienced dancers. No special footwear required. Yeeehoooo!

HUMAN ARTS

ACUPRESSURE AND SELF CARE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Greg Padrick

Limit 18 students.

The theories and principles of Chinese medicine lead to an astonishing range of treatment methods that are designed to treat the body, mind, and spirit of each individual. Acupressure, the stimulation of energetic points in the body using finger (or suitable substitute) pressure is one of these pillars. Learn several methods of stimulating acupressure points for self-care as well as for the treatment of friends and family. Greg will teach and demonstrate simple acupressure regimens to build immunity, release pain and tension, and address acute conditions such as allergies, colds/sinus problems, menstrual irregularities, pain and trauma, and more. Attendees will receive detailed handouts to help find the points in the future, as well as a deeper understanding of the energetic framework within the body as seen through the eyes of Chinese medicine.

THE ALEXANDER TECHNIQUE FOR MUSICIANS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 2 and Period 3. Instructor: Mary Naden

The Alexander Technique is taught in many music schools and conservatories. It defines how the whole system of a person works, utilizing the central support of the spine to ease up excess effort of the limbs and breathing. This makes for easier playing and performing, and lessens the chance of repetitive stress injuries that plague performers. And - it feels good! **Choose one or both of these one-period workshops.** We will learn the basic principles of the technique, and some self-care that you can take with you into your performing life.

BRAIDED: INTRICATE HAIR DESIGNS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructor: Carly Ferguson

Discover the history and importance of braiding in different cultures as well as the basics of creating different types of French braids. Beginners welcome! Students with experience will learn more advanced styles and variations of basic braids. **Students should bring** hair ties, mirror and a hair mannequin (available on Amazon for about \$25). **Limit 10 students, ages 16 and up.**

GROUNDING WARRIOR YOGA

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Erica Chesnik

See *Dance & Movement*, above.

NATURAL BEAUTY FOR EVERYONE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Charlotte Orlove

This is a makeup course focusing on embracing natural features and deconstructing the societal norms surrounding makeup. Throughout the week we'll be learning different techniques to help you feel like the most confident version of yourself. Students are encouraged to bring their own makeup. All genders welcome!

QI GONG FOR HEALTH

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Greg Padrick

Qi Gong (pronounced Chee Gong) is a branch of traditional Chinese medicine that involves gentle movement and breathing exercises to address a wide range of health concerns. Similar to yoga, Qi Gong (Energy Work) can be performed while standing or sitting and takes about 10 minutes. In this course, Greg will teach three different series of Qi Gong exercises. Day One will focus on back and joint pain, and Day Two will focus on creating and maintaining a robust immune system. Days Three through Five will focus on one of the most famous series of Qi Gong exercises, the Eight Brocades of Silk, created for overall health stimulation and illness prevention, as well as stretching and firming all the muscles in the entire body.

QI GONG: THE DANCE OF THE PHOENIX

June 22-26 Virtual, Period 5. Instructor: Nancy McKenzie

Discover the Dance of the Phoenix form of Qi Gong. The complete form takes about 36 minutes to practice. The movements serve to move energy through the body and to access energy from the earth and sky. The form has 5 sections, all of which will be taught in this class. The Dance of the Phoenix form was developed as a healing form of Qi Gong by Chan Zhang. Chan channeled the form as it was given by her spirit guides for her own healing. The form has been effectively used for fibromyalgia and other conditions. Chan was associated with the University of Maryland Complementary Medicine program (Tai Sophia), the Traditional Acupuncture Institute in Columbia, MD, and the Potomac Massage Training Institute in Washington, DC.

WINE APPRECIATION

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructor: Russ Lorber

Looking for interesting and affordable wines beyond the common grapes? Does wine feel like an uninviting club? For millennia, wine has brought people together and provided a means for celebration. This class provides a light, fun, and celebratory atmosphere to experience different styles and demystify store shelves and restaurant lists. We explain wine tasting terms that you may have wanted to understand but perhaps did not want to ask. We will discuss how to answer the question, "Do I need to spend a lot of money to find good wine?"

NOTE: Students MUST be age 21 or older to participate!

YOUTH

RIISING PICKERS: BLUEGRASS KIDS ACADEMY

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 2 & 3. Instructor: Sarah Larsen, Wesley Haycock

Limit: 25 students, ages 9–14. All instruments.

Rising Pickers is an immersive bluegrass band experience for young musicians with at least two years of experience on their instrument. Students will explore what makes a bluegrass band truly work — locking in rhythm, building harmony vocals, understanding the Nashville Number System, and developing strong ensemble skills. With a focus on listening, collaboration, and stage presence, this class is about more than learning tunes — it's about carrying forward the tradition and learning how to belong in a band. **Audition required for the purpose of determining the student's skill level.** This workshop is open to all traditional string band instruments. See website for more information.

WORLD VILLAGE

July 6-10 In Person

World Village Mornings: Periods 1 & 2: Instructors: Serenity Fisher

World Village Afternoons: Periods 3 & 4: Instructors: Slim Harrison

World Village offers a rich variety of activities for young people from students entering kindergarten to 12 years old, attending with adult participants at Common Ground on the Hill. **Students must have school experience to be enrolled.** The Common Ground on the Hill theme of building community through the arts is embodied in this program. Activities include music, dance, drama, crafts and recreation. Common Ground musicians and artists make scheduled visits to World Village, sharing their music, dance and art with the youths. Refreshments are offered morning and afternoon.

Choose either or both sections (Periods 1 & 2 and/or Periods 3 & 4). Register for Morning or Afternoon sessions separately.

Participants revert to their guardian's care during lunch. World Village ends at 4:00 PM, after which there are a number of elective classes that can be attended with an adult guardian tuition free.

VISUAL ARTS

2-Dimensional Arts

CHINESE PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Qin Fang

Limit: 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Chinese painting and calligraphy is renowned for its use of ink: with just a brush and a pot of ink, artists can depict mountains, waters, and myriad things without the need for color. Learn the fundamentals of ink and brushwork: skills at the heart Chinese calligraphy and painting. Discover Chinese painting and calligraphy not only as art, but as quiet mediation and a gentle way of nourishing the body and spirit. Experience these Chinese art forms, develop elementary skills of Chinese painting and calligraphy, and gain an understanding of Chinese arts, along with a sense of connectedness of mind, body, and myriad cosmos embedded in the practice.

Materials fee: \$30 includes rice paper, ink and brushes.

EARTH COLORS: MAKING PIGMENTS FROM PLANTS AND MINERALS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructors: Pat Brodowski, Ken Koons

Limit: 10 students, ages 16 and up.

Transform pigments extracted from plants and minerals into a variety of artist paints and inks. We will isolate and grind pigments, discuss binders, make paint, and make and print with ink. We will make vine charcoal and paint brushes from plant fibers. Students will be rewarded with various artists materials to take home including a palette of natural paint colors, vine charcoal for drawing, a bottle of ink, and quality paint brushes from twigs.

Materials fee: \$40 includes pigments cases, ink bottles and supplies.

Students should bring a dust mask, work apron, journal, pencil/pen.

IPHONE: MAGIC LANDSCAPE

June 22-26 Virtual, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Susan Ruddick Bloom

Limit: 10 students, ages 16 and up.

Transform your iPhone landscape photos. Bring magic to them by learning the tools needed in the native and curated apps. Develop skills for capturing an interesting landscape composition. Learn how to edit and transform your photos. Bring the "Wow" into your images.

Students should have a device to save digital files (thumb drive/external drive).

See full course descriptions, Faculty bios, and photos online!

www.CommonGroundOnTheHill.org

LET'S PAINT OUTDOORS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Pat Brodowski

Limit: 10 students, ages 16 and up.

Let's paint outdoors! Our exploration of five essential topics and four painting surfaces will guide your decisions in how and what you paint. Share and learn from each other's paintings each day as our work progresses. Painting equipment and wet paintings will be stored on campus. We will work nearby to minimize setup time.

Materials fee: \$45

See website for materials fee information and complete list of supplies.

PASTELS: COLOR, MARKMAKING, FORM

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Tara Will

Limit: 15 students, ages 18 and up.

Working with pastels, learn to use color, markmaking, and form to improve your work. Exercises will focus on directional markmaking, seeing biggest shapes first. We will work through guided exercises and students will complete finished paintings.

See website for complete list of supplies.

REALISM TO ABSTRACTION (AND BACK!)

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: James Griffin

Limit: 16 students, ages 12 and up.

Discover the basics of painting: perspective, color, tone, and composition, all from the instructor's experience as both a realistic and abstract painter. Students may work realistically or try total or semi-abstract. The most interesting abstraction always refers to reality in some way. James introduces tools to add to the variety of marks and brushstrokes that can be incorporated, and he demonstrates their use as he paints along with the students. This class will be inspiring, fun, and liberating!

See website for complete list of supplies.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL: FROM BEHIND THE LENS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Stuart Dahne

Limit: 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Discover the elements necessary to capture the beauty that surrounds us with a focus on lighting, composition, and exposure. The instructor will include "Performance Photography" during an evening concert. Gain knowledge about how cameras and lenses function and become more confident in capturing subjects in the best way.

See website for complete list of supplies.

WATERCOLOR FOR ALL SEASONS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Ellen Elmes

Limit: 16 students, ages 16 and up.

Revel in the transparent quality of watercolor and techniques for employing watercolor basics. Students will be guided through the painting process based on the theme of the changing seasons of the year; advanced painters may choose to create imagery based other cyclical patterns in life. All participants are asked to brainstorm in advance on imagery related to the theme and possible reference materials to use in class. All levels.

Materials Fee: \$30 for those who wish to purchase a materials kit.

See website for materials fee information and complete list of supplies.

YOUR IPHONE COULD BE THE ONLY CAMERA YOU NEED

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Cary Wolfson

Limit: 12 students, ages 18 and up.

Learn not only how to take better photos, but how to edit them and even turn them into fine art — all with just your iPhone/iPad. There are countless apps available to increase your creative opportunities. Starting with a few photography basics, we'll also take a deep dive into the free app, Snapseed, and will then touch on a few others. Depending on class interest, we can include a shooting field trip. **NOTE:** Non-iPhone users are welcome, but the experience will be somewhat limited because some of the apps are iPhone-specific.

Students should bring:

Your iPhone/iPad with an installed copy of the Snapseed (free – available for both iOS and Android) app; iColorama; SuperimposeX, TouchRetouch (all available from the App Store). An open and inquiring mind. Students will need some cash to print photos.

3-Dimensional Arts**BEAUTILITY UPCYCLED BASKETS**

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Torreah "Cookie"

Washington

Max. 12 students, ages 16 and up.

See Fiber & Wearable Arts, pg. 24.

BLACKSMITHING FROM BEGINNERS TO EXPERIENCED

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Steve Mankowski

Limit: 8 students, ages 16 and up.

The course is for both beginners and those with some experience. For beginners, we will provide a list of projects, materials required, and techniques. For students with their own projects in mind, we will discuss approaches and techniques. We will guide students of all levels through their work.

Materials Fee: \$60 includes steel and coal used for projects. Safety glasses will be provided.

Students must wear natural fibers and closed toe shoes. NOTE: NO shorts or synthetic clothing are allowed in the Farm Museum blacksmith shop. Synthetic clothing melts when encountering hot metal and sparks.

CRANKIE STORYTELLING: MAKING MOVING PICTURES

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructors: Katherine Fahey, Dan Van Allen

Max. 20 students, ages 16 and up.

Wind up to the wonders of crankies, making an old cigar box into a storytelling machine! Explore the art of crankie making from concept to creation! Get creative, choosing a subject, storyboarding, and playing to your strengths! Experimenting with timing and transitions as you learn the basics of this unique art form. Learn about its origins and modern-day renaissance. This workshop will feature crankie performances by teachers Katherine Fahey and Dan Van Allen. These crankies are the scale crankies made and used in the home would have been and can be an end in themselves or drafts for larger pieces. Come prepared with a simple story or song to base you crankie on! If you'd like to, there will be time for sharing your crankie at the end of the workshop and during The Student Art Show!

Materials fee: \$20 includes a cigar box crankie kit, matchbox crankie kit and a crankie zine.

FOR ALL 2026 STUDENTS ~ Online Student Show:

To contribute completed projects to the online Student Show, please email photos or video to Maria Wong at maria@commongroundonthehill.org.

Include your name, the name of the course and instructor, the week and period(s) of your class.

GLASS CAMP WITH RAGTIME

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Ragtime

Limit: 10 students, 12 and up with an adult.

Begin a journey into the wonderful world of cutting glass and take the first steps towards creating a small panel. Ragtime served as a marine in Vietnam but he much prefers being with his 10 and 5-year-old grandsons and coming to Common Ground on the Hill to show everyone how to create stained glass sun catchers. He has been creating stained glass for 48 years. Students will learn to cut, grind, and foil glass. Soldering techniques will be taught, and students can expect to leave with a finished piece of their own design. Veronica Wilson assisting. All levels.

Materials fee: \$33 includes glass, chain, lead or copper foil, solder.

Students should bring a design idea, 10 inches round or square.

NANTUCKET LIGHTSHIP BASKETS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Keith Taylor

Max. 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Students in Nantucket Lightship Baskets will explore the history of these cherished heirlooms and learn the steps and techniques to create an eight-inch basket of their own.

Materials fee: \$50 includes wooden base, flat/oval reed, fine/fine cane, common cane, ½ round reed, brass nails, polyurethane and brushes.

Students should bring a bucket, scissors, and an old towel.

NATIVE AMERICAN SCULPTURES AND DREAM CATCHERS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Jeremy Wright

Max. 10 students, ages 16 and up.

See *Indigenous & Nature Arts*, pg. 26.

SOUTHWEST AND MEXICAN-INFLUENCED MOSAICS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Lalo Carrera

Max. 10 students, ages 16 and up.

Learn the art of mosaics by creating a design in the center of a picture frame! Use the vibrant colors of the southwest and Mexico in your work. Learn how to cut and secure tile pieces. If time allows, create an additional small piece of your choosing. Enjoy this class, led by an artist originally from Mexico who is now living and working in the United States!

Materials Fee: \$40 includes frame, grout, glue, tools and a variety of pieces to put into your mosaic.

See website for complete list of supplies.

TRANSFORM FLOWERS INTO MINIATURE BOUQUETS IN GLASS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Debbie Griffin

Max. 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Create decorative suncatchers with pressed flowers and glass. Discover the art and science of flower pressing and preservation while designing and assembling a functional flower press. Learn two distinct suncatcher-making techniques: one using Mod Podge for a clear, resin-like finish, and another employing soldering methods to encase dried flowers between beveled glass panes. Use a soldering iron, learning essential safety practices, and craftsmanship skills. The course concludes with creative embellishment techniques such as the addition of beads and metal accents, to produce a unique, light-catching artwork.

Materials fee: \$55 includes flower press kit, flowers, glass, Mod Podge, and materials for assembling the pieces, additional glass as needed,

See website for complete list of supplies.

WELDING IS FUN

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Thomas Sterner

Max. 12 students, ages 14 and up.

Learn about welding and how to make metal things. Students will use a MIG welder, resistance spot welder, plasma cutter, grinder, saw, shear, planishing hammer, and benders, to make a functional item or sculpture.

Materials fee: \$40 includes metal and consumables.

Students should bring work gloves (welding gloves provided), old clothing (aprons available).

WHEEL GOOD FUN!

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Nick Corso

Limit: 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Experience the wheel good fun of shaping clay on the pottery wheel. We'll use our hands to shape clay on the wheel into unique, creative, and functional works of art. Learn to center the clay and shape it into various forms. We will enhance our forms with textures, handles, and lids, and use our forms to make unique mugs, bowls, or plates. Students are encouraged to make mistakes, try something new, and make their hands happy!

Materials fee: approx. \$30 includes clay, glazes, and firing.

Materials student should bring: Bring an apron to keep your clothes clean, your hands, and an open mind.

Fiber & Wearable Arts

BEAUTILITY UPCYCLED BASKETS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Torreah "Cookie"

Washington

Max. 12 students, ages 16 and up.

Join Cookie Washington for a joyful, soul-soothing week of slow crafting—where old t-shirts, bedsheets, ropes, and scrap fabric are transformed into vibrant, functional baskets. Learn coiling, wrapping, and stitching techniques that can be used to create everything from baskets to rugs, wall hangings, and beyond. Explore the growing problem of textile waste, the beauty of rethinking what we throw away, and the peace that comes from creating something meaningful with your hands. You'll leave not only with a one-of-a-kind basket, but also with the skills, inspiration, and encouragement to keep crafting a more sustainable life.

Materials fee: \$40

Students should bring a favorite pieces of cloth, old clothes, clothing from someone you love, scissors.

BLISSFUL BOBBIN LACE (BEGINNERS & RETURNERS)

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Katherine La Pietra

Max. 10 students, ages 16 and up.

Lace was a sign of wealth for the fashionable elite from the 17th to the 19th century. It looks hard but it really isn't - it is just methodical. Beginners will start with basic techniques and patterns and then move on to making bookmarks and yardage lace. Returning students will learn new techniques such as corner turning and more intricate patterns, cover questions and work on current projects.

See website for complete list of supplies. NOTE: most items can be found at thrift or dollar stores. Instructor will have extra supplies for purchase.

CRAFTING A CUSTOM LEATHER INSTRUMENT STRAP

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Ty Pittman

Max. 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Make a simple and adjustable strap for whatever instrument you have. Cut it from leather, then dye, finish, and tool it to customize it so that it is completely unique! This class is great for anyone that is unfamiliar with leather.

Materials fee: \$50 includes 3 square foot of leather, catchall for dye, oil, daubers, burnishing compound etc.

NOTE: This is a one-period class. All tools will be provided, but see website for list of tool suppliers for those interested in purchasing.

See full course descriptions, Faculty bios, and photos online!

www.CommonGroundOnTheHill.org

FOUR-PRONG AND BEZEL STACKING RINGS

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructor: Wayne Werner, Barbara Bayne
Max. 8 students, ages 15 and up.

Stone setting is an art!! Explore simple four-prong basket settings and round bezels while creating silver stacking rings. Students will make thin silver rings and solder four-prong settings or bezel cups to the top, using burnishers and specialty burs to cut prongs and capture stones. Beginners can concentrate on bezels while more advanced students can explore four-prong settings.

Materials fee: \$30-45

Lab fee: \$10 for use of consumables.

Students should bring an assortment of basic jewelry tools if they have them. Files, saws, sandpaper, pliers etc. The studio will have tools to share, but if you have them, bring them.

THE INDIGO DYE VILLAGE

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Kibibi Ajanku

Limit: 15 students, ages 16 and up.

Indigo was grown in early South Carolina to produce a blue dye that was exported to England for use in the British textile industry. Discover the history and culture of the enslaved people who were shipped to the U.S. from Africa in the 1500s to labor on indigo plantations. The cultural memory of indigo is heightened among members of the African American community along what is now called the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, leading to Baltimore. This year's class features Adire Batik. Participants will design patterns using wax resist in a variety of ways from hand painted to hand stamped. In addition to use of the collection of wax stamps offered by the instructor, participants will design and make their own wax stamps. A limited amount of practice fabric swatches will be supplied.

Materials fee of \$50 includes indigo dye, wax stamps, fabric swatches.

See website for complete list of supplies.

INTRODUCTION TO HAND-PAINTING SILK SCARVES

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Yuh Okano

Max. 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Learn the basics of hand painting patterns on silk organdy material. You will experience the shining colors and material changes created by the beautiful silk fibers. Scarves are specially woven double weave (70" x 13"). You will also learn about scarf design and silk fibers.

Materials fee: \$50 includes a silk scarf, dyes (additional silk scarves are available to purchase for \$40.00).

See website for complete list of supplies.

INTRODUCTION TO LEATHERCRAFT

July 6-10 In Person, Period 3. Instructor: Ty Pittman

Max. 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Leatherworking is a tradition that goes back thousands of years and while most leather today is fast fashion and mass produced, the art of leathercraft is still alive. Craft your own project, with a choice of card holder, memo pad holder, or pencil and pen case. Starting with the basics we'll learn to cut, dye, customize, and stitch your own project. Each student will be able to make their project unique to them, and will have the skills to carry them far into whatever discipline of leathercraft they choose.

Materials fee: \$45 includes 2 square foot of leather, catchall for dye, oil, daubers, thread, burnishing compound, needles, etc.

NOTE: This is a one-period class. All tools will be provided, but see website for list of tool suppliers for those interested in purchasing.

JEWELRY: UNLOCK THE KEY OF TIME

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: John Sosnowsky

Max. 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Have you ever wanted to design jewelry? Discover how by choosing miscellaneous metal pieces, then using techniques like riveting and use of screws and bolts to create small concept necklaces.

Materials fee: \$25 includes antique metal skeleton key, 18 G fine silver wire, small screws and bolts, small metal drill, fine silver wire, miscellaneous small pewter items, blank copper pieces, steel/copper 18" chain

Lab fee: \$10 for use of consumables.

Students should bring any small metal pieces that you think would go together to make an interesting piece. Example: old metal watch gears, foreign coins, etc.

OLD TEXTILES REUSED FOR NEW TREASURES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 5. Instructor: Judy Schonebaum

Max. 8 students, ages 14 and up.

Create beautiful and useful items from "past use" textiles and plastic bags - materials that would otherwise be thrown away. Time-honored handcrafts - such as crochet, cardboard loom weaving, Amish knotting and coiling - will be introduced for your own contemporary interpretation. The possibilities are endless.

Materials fee: \$15 includes recycled textiles, plastic bags, scissors, needles, threads, twine, floss, pins, clips, rotary cutters, cutting boards, iron, thimbles, masking tape.

Students should bring any lightweight fabrics (sheets, old clothes, thin flannel), towels for repurposing, good scissors/sewing kit (if available).

SAWING AND PIERCING FOR JEWELRY MAKING

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Tina Chisena

Max. 8 students, ages 16 and up.

Enhance your jewelry making! Use traditional jeweler's saw frames and blades to saw metal shapes form the outside of shapes, as well as create more complex shapes by removing metal from inside of the shapes (piercing). Students may choose from 2 or 3 jewelry projects.

Materials fee will depend on student choices.

Lab fee: \$10 for use of consumables.

Students should bring: closed toed shoes, work apron, sketch book, cash for supplies, sheet metal you want to use, such as 20-gauge copper, brass, bronze, or sterling.

The Art of Making Instruments

BUILD A MOUNTAIN DULCIMER

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Ken Koons

Max. 6 students, ages 16 and up.

Join us outside in the Grove Studio where students will spend this two-period class making the stringed instrument, a mountain dulcimer using woodworking hand tools: saws, planes, and chisels, etc., with the goal of having the dulcimer ready to play at the end of class. The instructor will also be available during 5th period if students need more time to complete their instrument.

Materials fee: \$100 includes wood, strings, frets, tuners, finish, hitch pins, and glue.

Students should bring safety glasses.

Indigenous & Nature Arts

BLACKSMITHING FROM BEGINNER TO EXPERIENCED

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructor: Steve Mankowski

Max. 8 students, ages 16 and up

See *3-Dimensional Arts*, pg. 23.

BUILDING THE ICE MAN'S ARROW

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Guy Neal

Max. 10 students, ages 12 and up an adult guardian.

The Ice Man, named Otzi for the mountains where he was found, was able to build a lethal arrow using items from nature. We will proceed through those steps to produce an authentic reproduction of the hunting arrow that Otzi would have used while learning about life in the late Stone Age.

Materials fee: \$20 includes natural collected and made ingredients like arrow wood, flint, stone, feathers, sinew, thread, cordage, birch tar.

Students should bring a fixed blade knife.

EARTH COLORS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 1 & 2. Instructors: Pat Brodowski, Ken Koons

Max. 10 students, ages 16 and up.

See *2-Dimensional Arts*, pg. 22.

LIFEWAYS OF SUSQUEHANNA AND CHESAPEAKE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

July 6-10 In Person, Period 4. Instructor: Jess McPherson

Explore a sampling of traditional skills, crafts, and knowledge common to eastern woodlands Indigenous communities. Participants will process plant fibers into cordage, and shape wampum from quahog clam shells.

Additional methods and mediums including porcupine quillwork and cornhusk basketmaking may be explored as time allows. This course complements *Susquehanna Indigenous Communities Past, Present and Future*, below, in Pd. 1. Participants are encouraged to take both classes, for a deeper experience.

NATIVE AMERICAN CERAMICS AND DREAM CATCHERS

July 6-10 In Person, Periods 3 & 4. Instructor: Jeremy Wright

Limit: 10 students, ages 16 and up.

Make a hollow ceramic sculpture or a hand-formed vessel from clay, incising, scribing, and piercing details to it. In addition, make and decorate beads to incorporate into a dream catcher.

Materials Fee: \$40 includes glaze, frame, feathers, cord + 25 pounds of low fire terra cotta clay.

McDaniel Lab Fee: \$5 for kiln firing.

Students should bring: Work aprons, photos of your favorite animals, charms, bones, or feathers for your dreamcatcher. **Optional:** Paint brushes.

SUSQUEHANNA INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

July 6-10 In Person, Period 1. Instructor: Jess McPherson

Mixing lecture, discussion, and hands-on activities, we'll examine various historical and contemporary Indigenous cultures living in and in relation to the Lower Susquehanna River Valley. This class aims to disarm long-told extinction narratives. Our discussions will also include the exploration of several contemporary digital resources created in collaboration with local Indigenous peoples. Participants will explore one or more traditional or contemporary craft mediums to be determined by the group. This course complements *Lifeways of Susquehanna Indigenous Communities*, above, in Pd. 4. Participants are encouraged to take both classes, for a deeper experience.

FOR ALL 2026 STUDENTS

Online Student Show:

To contribute completed projects to the online Student Show, please email photos or video to Maria Wong at maria@commongroundonthehill.org.

Include your name, the name of the course and instructor, the week and period(s) of your class.



Evening Events

Keynote Lectures, Art Talks, Films, Concerts, Dances & Jams

Art Talks and Gallery ~ Rice Gallery in Peterson Hall
Keynote Lecture, Concerts ~ Alumni Hall
Films ~ Acting Studio, Alumni Hall
Dances ~ Baker Memorial Chapel (Big Baker)
Jams ~ McTeer-Zepp Plaza (in front of Big Baker)

Rice Gallery Hours: 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM daily, featuring work by our Visual Arts instructors

TRADITIONS WEEK 2

Sunday, July 5

- 4:30 PM ‡ **Art Opening Reception**, *Rice Gallery*
- 5:30 PM **Dinner**
- 8 PM ‡ **Camp Orientation**, *Alumni Hall*
- 9 PM **Veterans Initiative Reception**, *Alumni Hall Acting Studio*

Monday, July 6

- 6:30 PM ‡ **Gallery Talk: 2-Dimensional Arts**, *Rice Gallery*
‡ **Film: Chesapeake Rhythms**, *Alumni Hall Acting Studio*
- 6:45 PM ‡ **Interracial Gospel Choir**, *Levine Rm 100*
- 8 PM * **Keynote Lecture ~ An Evening with Alice Gerrard**, *Alumni Hall*
* **Presentation of the Robert H. Chambers Award for Excellence in the Traditional Arts**
- 9 PM ‡ **Community Dance**, *Big Baker Chapel*
- 9 PM ‡ **Late Night Jam: Folk**, *McTeer-Zepp Plaza*

Tuesday, July 7

- 6:30 PM ‡ **Gallery Talk: 3-Dimensional Arts**, *Rice Gallery*
‡ **Film: From War to Wisdom**, *Alumni Hall Acting Studio*
- 6:45 PM ‡ **Interracial Gospel Choir**, *Levine Rm 100*
- 8 PM * **Staff Concert: Celtic Night**, *Alumni Hall*
- 10 PM ‡ **Late Night Jam: Blues**, *McTeer-Zepp Plaza*

Wednesday, July 8

- 6:30 PM ‡ **Gallery Talk: Fiber and Woven Arts**, *Rice Gallery*
‡ **Film: Stories from Capon Ridge**, *Alumni Hall Acting Studio*
- 6:45 PM ‡ **Interracial Gospel Choir**, *Levine Rm 100*
- 8 PM * **Staff Concert: Blues Night**, *Alumni Hall*
- 10 PM ‡ **Late Night Jam: Old-Time & Bluegrass**, *McTeer-Zepp Plaza*
- 10 PM ‡ **Community Dance**, *Big Baker Chapel*

Thursday, July 9

- 6:30 PM ‡ **Gallery Talk: Indigenous and Nature Arts**, *Grove Studio*
‡ **Film: Flower & Flame**, *Alumni Hall Acting Studio*
- 6:45 PM ‡ **Interracial Gospel Choir**, *Levine Rm 100*
- 8 PM * **Staff Concert: Old-Time & Bluegrass Night**, *Alumni Hall*
- 10 PM ‡ **Late Night Jam: Celtic**, *McTeer-Zepp Plaza*

Friday, July 10

- 6:30 PM ‡ **Student Art Show**, *Art Studio*
- 6:45 PM ‡ **Interracial Gospel Choir**, *Levine Rm 100*
- 8 PM * **Fine Arts Award: Gwen Handler**, *Alumni Hall*
* **Closing Staff & Classes Concert: Potpourri**
- 10 PM ‡ **Closing Late Night: Honky Tonk Jam & Dance**, *McTeer-Zepp Plaza, Big Baker Chapel*

* *Free and open to the public* ‡ *Open to all Traditions Weeks participants*

GENERAL INFORMATION

COURSE FEES:

Full-time: \$660 per week (includes 5 class periods and all evening events.)

Part-time: 1 class period: \$132

2 class periods: \$264 (**NOTE:** World Village and most Visual Arts classes are 2 periods)

3 class periods: \$396

4 class periods: \$528

World Village: 1st child: \$200 for each World Village workshop; each additional child: \$175 for each World Village workshop.

College Credit Fees: Undergraduate (4 credits) = \$1404: \$186/credit (credit total \$744 *plus* \$660 Traditions Week tuition). Graduate (3 credits) = \$1296: \$212/credit (credit total \$636 *plus* \$660 Traditions Weeks tuition). Max 6 Graduate credits available. See *Earning Academic Credit*, pg. 30. **Carroll County Public School teachers:** please see website for special rate information. **NOTE: Credit fees are subject to change. Contact the Common Ground on the Hill office for credit fee confirmation.**

Notes:

- A \$100 deposit is due with each registration form; \$50 of the deposit fee is non-refundable. Total balances are due by June 1, 2026, to hold your spot in class unless otherwise arranged.
- A fee of \$87.50 per commuting student is due with each registration. This fee is directly assessed by McDaniel College, for in-person commuting students. VIRTUAL-ONLY students applying online—please contact the office for a commuter fee refund.
- No refunds are available within 30 days of the start of the enrolled week.
- All rates quoted are per week/per individual. Classes run Monday—Friday. Camp orientation is on the Sunday beginning the week.
- Some class workshops include an extra materials fee, payable directly to the instructor at the first class.

EARLY REGISTRATION SPECIAL Full-time participants paying in full by April 30, 2026, pay only \$630 for a full week's tuition!

REGISTRATION

Submit one form per week for each person attending. If you are attending multiple weeks, please fill out a separate form for each week. Please PRINT clearly. Class selections are required for registration. Some classes have enrollment limits; registration is on a first come first served basis. We strongly urge you to enroll early before class limits are reached. Class workshops meet for 5 days.

You may register online (www.CommonGroundOnTheHill.org) beginning March 18 at 6 PM or by mail:

Common Ground on the Hill
2 College Hill, Westminster, MD 21157

Questions? Contact us at: Phone: 410-857-2771 Email: CommonGroundOnTheHill@gmail.com

ROOM & BOARD

Residential participants stay in on-campus dormitory housing for an additional \$500 per week. *Cafeteria-style meals are included.* All housing is Level 2: air-conditioned, suite-style housing.

Rented linens (an additional \$30 per week) include 2 towels, washcloth, sheets, blanket, pillow and pillowcase.

Suite rooms are double occupancy, 2 beds to a room as part of a suite. **NOTE:** Participants should bring their own pillow and blanket. A limited number of single rooms are available. **Room placement is first come, first served. Single room: additional \$100.** If single rooms no longer available, payment will be refunded.

Children ages 2 years old and under, not using a college bed are free. Common Ground on the Hill does **NOT** provide child care for those under age five; however, if advised in advance, we will try to help you find care for which you can contract directly.

Dorms must be vacated by 9:00 AM on Saturday. If room keys are lost or not returned, a fee of \$60 will be charged to the payment method on file.

Motor Home electricity hookups: \$150 per week. Call the Common Ground on the Hill office (410-857-2771) to reserve.

MEALS:

- **Residential meals:** 3 meals per day Monday–Friday, plus Sunday dinner and Saturday breakfast. Vegetarian meals are available.
- **Commuter meals** are available on a pay-as-you-go basis in McDaniel College's cafeteria. Monday-Friday Meal bands may also be purchased as follows: 3 meals/day (\$190); lunch and dinner (\$135); lunch only (\$68).

NOTE: There is NO discount for replacement of lost meal bracelets!

COMMON GROUND ON THE HILL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

We encourage families to attend Traditions Weeks! Those under the age of 18 must have an enrolled parent or legal guardian attending.

World Village: For those kindergarten to age 12. There are a number of elective classes held during Period 5 that children may attend with a parent/guardian, included in tuition. **NOTE: Students must have completed kindergarten to be enrolled in World Village.** See **pg. 22.**

Rising Pickers Bluegrass Kids Academy: For youth **ages 9 to 14** with at least 2 years experience on their instrument. All instruments welcome! Students are encouraged to enroll in Period 5 jams, as well as other music classes with a parent. See **pg. 22.**

Courses for Tweens: Those between the **ages of 12 and 15** are encouraged to enroll in workshops **with their parents.** If a student between the ages of 12 and 15 intends to take a workshop **without** a parent present, that young person's parent(s) **MUST** contact the **Common Ground on the Hill** office to obtain permission. **Do not contact the instructor**—permission must be given by our office. See **General Information** page on the website for a list of suggested classes.

Students 16 years of age and older may enroll in the workshops of their choice without any additional required steps.

A WORD ABOUT YOUR SKILL LEVEL Common Ground on the Hill welcomes participants at all skill levels, from beginners to advanced. Please refer to **What's the Right Workshop Skill Level for Me?** (*below*) to help you understand our guidelines for placing students. Instructors adjust his or her presentation accordingly in order to arrive at the most productive and enjoyable instructional experience possible for the entire class.

SAFETY

Common Ground on the Hill does its best to provide for your safe and comfortable participation during events but does not accept responsibility for personal property lost on the McDaniel College campus or elsewhere during this time. Please safeguard your property, including the Participant Badge issued to you at registration and the Wristband. This personal Participant Badge is your passport to events; Resident Wristbands provide entry to the cafeteria for meals and are non-transferable.

WHAT'S THE RIGHT WORKSHOP SKILL LEVEL FOR ME?

Please note that the guidelines below apply to instrumental (and in some cases dance) workshops ONLY

Terms We Use, Explained:	
True Beginner	A total novice; someone completely new to the instrument, dance, etc.
Advancing Beginner	Rudimentary experience; ready to learn and move forward with basic skills (chords and chord changes, playing in time, learning scales, etc)
Beginner/Intermediate	Some facility with basic skills: can play and change chords in time, some facility with playing scales, tunes, etc.)
Intermediate	Competent in basic skills as above, shows some musicality and awareness of stylistic elements of genre(s) etc.
Advanced	Competent in basic and intermediate skills, able to learn new tunes and techniques with relative ease and speed, plays with noticeable musicality

Our Skill Levels, Explained:			
Skill Level	Best for:	Not so good for:	Example Workshop:
A	True Beginner, Advancing Beginner	Beginner/Intermediate, Intermediate, Advanced	Beginning Guitar
B	Advancing Beginner, Beginner/Intermediate, Intermediate	True Beginner, Advanced	Old-Time Guitar 1
C	Beginner/Intermediate, Intermediate, Advanced	True Beginner, Advancing Beginner	Old-Time Guitar 2

To help you understand the nomenclature of our workshop titles:
 If a workshop title includes the word "Beginning," it will correlate to Skill Level A. Workshops titles that include a numeral 1 correlate to Skill Level B. Workshop titles that feature a numeral 2, or include an instructor's name (i.e., Old-Time Guitar with Danny Knically) correlate to Skill Level C. Some workshops will have none of these indicators in title, but the workshop description may still include a Skill Level suggestion. Workshop descriptions that do not indicate a Skill Level are open to students of all Skill Levels.

NOTE: Replacement meal bands are \$190.

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

Common Ground on the Hill supports the purposes and goals of the Americans with Disabilities Act and is committed to providing equal access for all individuals with disabilities. As a program affiliated with McDaniel College, Common Ground on the Hill adheres to that institution’s policy of offering an environment free of discrimination and bias in matters involving and affecting individuals with disabilities. The text of this catalog is printed in Calibri type. The Americans with Disabilities Act applies to the Carroll County Government and its programs, services, activities, and facilities. Anyone requiring an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication or who has a complaint should contact the Americans with Disabilities Coordinator, Carroll County Department of Citizen Services, 410-386-3600, MD Relay 711 or 800-735-2258 or email ADA@carrollcountymd.gov as soon as possible but no later than 3 days before the scheduled event.

More questions? See our online General Information and FAQ pages for more information!

EARNING ACADEMIC CREDIT

Undergraduate Academic Credit: Students can earn a total of 4 undergraduate credits. Contact the Common Ground on the Hill office at commonground@commongroundonthehill.org for information.

ABOUT GRADUATE ACADEMIC CREDIT

Academic Credit Coordinator: Dr. Pamela Zappardino zapinator@aol.com

Procedures for earning Academic Credit for 2026:

Please read all the information in the Common Ground on the Hill online page **Earning Academic Credit** at ***https://rb.gy/wxjmie*** before you proceed with registration to ensure that you will earn the credits desired.

Full participation for graduate students is defined as registering for a total of **5 days of 5 workshop periods to earn 3 Graduate credits. Up to 6 credits can be earned.** Attendance at a specified number of art talks, evening concerts, and keynote addresses is also required.

Participants may elect to earn these academic credits **across** the Traditions Weeks summer program should they choose (e.g. two workshop periods in virtual Week 1 and three workshop periods during in-person Week 2).

Once you have registered for Common Ground workshops and noted a desire to earn credits you will be assigned an Instructor of Record who is a member of the McDaniel College Faculty and who will monitor your work during Traditions Weeks, oversee your work outside of Traditions Weeks, confer with you about your final project, and assign your grade. You will also receive a course syllabus and other helpful materials.

NOTE: Credits are awarded by McDaniel College and are generally transferable to other academic institutions. In addition, many school systems will reimburse employees for earning these credits. Participants should check with their own Institution for questions about transferability/reimbursement. **Participants are responsible for any portion of the payment which their institution declines to pay.**

NOTE: Tuition costs are subject to change. Contact the Common Ground on the Hill office for tuition confirmation.

Please go to the online page “**Earning Academic Credit**” before you register for detailed information, credit fees, deadlines and instructions for proceeding.

Use this QR code OR go to <https://rb.gy/wxjmie>



Meet the Common Ground on the Hill Village!

Common Ground on the Hill, Ltd.

Board of Directors

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Founder & Executive Director
Geordie Mitchell, Jr. *President*
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Tim Porter
Richard Smith, Ph.D.
Linda Van Hart, *Director of the Visual Arts Program*

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Common Ground on the Hill 2026 Registration Form (See instructions on pg. 28.)

Please fill in a separate form for **each individual** registering by copying this blank form, **1 form per week**.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-Mail: _____

I am registering for: **Week 1:** June 22-26 Virtual _____ **Week 2:** July 6-10 In Person _____

I want to register for the following classes: _____ Alternate Class Choice

Period 1: _____ Period 1: _____

Period 2: _____ Period 2: _____

Period 3: _____ Period 3: _____

Period 4: _____ Period 4: _____

Period 5: _____ Period 5: _____

My pronouns are (optional): ___He/Him ___She/Her ___They/Them

For those staying on-campus: I am ___an Early Bird ___a Night Owl My age is _____

Special needs: _____

In case of an emergency please contact (Name & phone) _____

I wish to share a ROOM with _____

I prefer to share a SUITE/FLOOR with _____

REGISTRATION FEES: (*NOTE:* Materials fees are payable directly to instructor at first class)

\$ _____ **Full Time Student** tuition **\$660**; Early Bird Special IF PAID IN FULL by **April 30, 2026** - **\$630**

\$ _____ **Part Time Student**, per individual class periods: (1) **\$132**; (2) **\$264**; (3) **\$396**; (4) **\$528**

\$ _____ **World Village:** **\$200** per 2-period session for the 1st child, **\$175** for each additional child. # children: _____

Select World Village session: ___ Periods 1 & 2 ___ Periods 3 & 4

\$ _____ **Room & Board \$500** per person.

\$ _____ **Linens (\$30** per week)

\$ _____ **Single Occupancy (\$100** extra per week)

\$ _____ **Commuter Meal Band # needed:** ___ *Circle band type:* Full Plan (**\$190**); Lunch & Dinner (**\$135**); Lunch only (**\$68**)

\$ _____ **McDaniel Credit: NOTE: Tuition subject to change. Contact Common Ground office for tuition price confirmation.**

Carroll County Public School Staff? Check here : _____

Undergraduate: ___ **4 credit hours (Credit Fee total: \$744)**

Graduate: ___ **3 credit hours (Credit Fee total: \$636)** ___ **6 credit hours (Credit Fee total: \$1272)**

\$ _____ **Commuter Fee (\$87.50 per commuter, in-person week only)**

\$ _____ **TOTAL DUE** (Must pay in full by **April 30, 2026**, to receive Early Bird Tuition discount)

\$ _____ **AMOUNT PAID TODAY** (*NOTE: a \$100 deposit is required - \$50 of deposit is non-refundable*)

\$ _____ **BALANCE DUE by June 1, 2026**

I am paying for _____ myself and _____
(If paying for someone else, please clip forms together)

Method of Payment: ___ Credit Card ___ Check ___ Other

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____ CVV code _____

Signature _____

Please make checks/money orders payable to Common Ground on the Hill and mail to:

Common Ground on the Hill, 2 College Hill, Westminster, MD 21157

Registration can also be made by telephone: 410-857-2771, or online at www.commongroundonthehill.org

Common Ground on the Hill 2026 Registration Form (See instructions on pg. 28.)

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Please make checks/money orders payable to Common Ground on the Hill and mail to:

Common Ground on the Hill, 2 College Hill, Westminster, MD 21157

Registration can also be made by telephone: 410-857-2771, or online at www.commongroundonthehill.org

Alice Gerrard

Recipient of the 2026 Robert H. Chambers Award for Excellence in the Traditional Arts

to be presented **Monday, July 6, 2026**, at the **Traditions Week 2 Keynote Lecture**

In a career spanning more than 50 years, **Alice Gerrard** has known, learned from and performed with many of the old-time and bluegrass music greats, and in turn has earned worldwide respect for her own important contributions to the music. Singer, songwriter, instrumentalist, music and film producer, publisher—Alice’s storied career is a study in dedication, brilliance and passion.

First known for her groundbreaking collaboration with Appalachian singer Hazel Dickens during the 1960s and ’70s, the duo produced four classic Hazel and Alice LPs on Rounder and Smithsonian Folkways that influenced and continues to influence scores of young women singers. Simply put, Alice and Hazel broke the glass ceiling for women in old-time and bluegrass music, shining a light on those who preceded them and lighting a path forward to successive generations of highly talented women singers, songwriters, instrumentalists, band leaders and producers.



Down through the years, Alice has appeared on more than 20 recordings, including projects with traditional musicians such as Tommy Jarrell, Enoch Rutherford, Otis Burris, Luther Davis and Matokie Slaughter; with Tom Sauber and Brad Leftwich as Tom, Brad & Alice, with the Harmony Sisters, The Piedmont Melody Makers, The Herald Angels, Beverly Smith, Kay Justice, and with Anna R-g and Elizabeth LaPrelle. In 2023, Alice finished her latest recording project, *Sun to Sun*, on Sleepy Cat Records, featuring all original songs with appearances by Reed Stutz and Tatian Hargreaves.



In 1987, Alice founded *The Old-Time Herald*, a quarterly magazine dedicated to the preservation and promotion of traditional old-time music, particularly string band music from Appalachia and beyond. The importance of this publication cannot be overstated as a timeless resource and community-builder among musicians around the globe.

A tireless advocate of traditional music, Alice has won numerous honors, including an International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) Distinguished Achievement Award, a Virginia Arts Commission Award, the North Carolina Folklore Society’s Tommy Jarrell Award, and an Indy Award. In 2017, Alice was inducted into the IBMA Hall of Fame along with Hazel Dickens. Common Ground on the Hill is grateful to Alice for being among us this summer, sharing her music, continuing to inspire us, and accepting the Robert H. Chambers Award for Excellence in the Traditional Arts.

Common Ground on the Hill has presented the **Robert H. Chambers Award for Excellence in the Traditional Arts** every year since 2000. The award is named in honor of Robert H. Chambers III, who, as President of Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) and as a Founding Director of Common Ground on the Hill, understood the innate power and potential of the traditional arts to help foster understanding among people of different cultures. His unwavering support was essential in the early development of Common Ground on the Hill and is remembered gratefully in the naming of this annual award.

Recipients have been **Doc Watson, Pete & Toshi Seeger, Odetta, Etta Baker, Roger McGuinn, Ramblin’ Jack Elliott, Joe Hickerson, Richie Havens, Jean Ritchie, Guy and Candi Carawan, Tom Paxton, Ralph Stanley, Hazel Dickens, Mike Seeger, Buckwheat Zydeco, Jesse McReynolds, John Hammond, Mike Baytop & The Archie Edwards Blues Foundation, Hot Tuna, Professor Louie, Jose Felciano, Guy Davis, the Kruger Brothers, Tim O’Brien and Shelley Ensor, Tony Ellis, Sparky & Rhonda Rucker, Mike Marshall & Caterina Lichtenberg, Tom Chapin, Lea Gilmore and Tony Trischka.**

Gwen Handler

Recipient of the 2026 Common Ground on the Hill Fine Arts and Crafts Award for Excellence in the Traditional Arts

to be presented **Friday, July 10, 2026**, at the **Traditions Week 2 Evening Concert**

Gwen Handler has been a center of the local creative universe for more than half a century. Her creative problem solving skills are used to make connections in her art forms, between people, between cultural communities world-wide.

For over 40 years, this shepherd from the Hill Farm taught weaving, photography and ceramics at Sandy Springs Friends School. She reveled in teaching “the old ways”: the root traditions done with historic, hand-made, often historic, tools. Field trips with young students to experience the sheep-to-shawl lifestyle at her Hill Farm were legendary, as were her trips to the UK to learn more about sheep breeds and wool. Her curiosity about interpreting and expressing what she observed in the world around her served as a living model for her inspired students. One such student was Jeremy Wright, who connected with his indigenous roots at Traditions Weeks and who is now one of our most respected instructors.



Gwen has been the hub of fibre arts at Common Ground on the Hill since the 90s, often filling an entire studio with looms. Whether she taught carding, spinning, warping, weaving or casting, or knitting, stitching or primitive skills cooking, she was fulfilling the goal of the shepherd by twining and herding us all into the weft of her creative world.

From the early years of the Carroll Artists Studio Tour in the 80s, Gwen has been a staunch supporter of local artists, many of whom were inexperienced in doing shows, pricing and selling their work. Gwen has been the fulcrum of our social and educational gatherings for many

decades connecting local artists with the wider arts community. For 50 years, Gwen participated as a vendor and then as Chair and driving force of the renowned Maryland Sheep and Wool Festival since its inception. Her passion for creating artist connections has brought cultural representatives from Scotland, Peru, Mexico and beyond.

Gwen embodies all the characteristics we celebrate and honor with this award. She is a gifted, visionary artist, enriching the lives of children and adults far and wide with her passion for sharing the life of a shepherd and weaver. The fabric of our lives has been made more beautiful by this woman. Thank you Gwen!



Common Ground on the Hill has presented the **Fine Arts and Crafts Award for Excellence in the Traditional Arts** since 2013. Recipients include: **Ellen Elmes, Roy Kady, Joyce J. Scott, Kathy “Wan Povi” Sanchez, Norm Sartorius, Richard Anderson, Sakim, Linda Van Hart, Robin Tillery, Janet Kozachek, Kibibi Ajanku, Anita Fields, Jane Osti and Ken Koons.**

LIST OF INSTRUCTORS AND COURSES

- Kibibi Ajanku (Wk 2:** Indigo Dye Village; Gallery Talks)
- Khadijah Ali-Coleman (Wk 1:** Poetry as Ritual & Proof of Life; Impact Storytelling: Crafting a Short Screenplay)
- Richard Anderson (Wk 2:** Search for Common Ground)
- Sheila Arnold (Wk 2:** Storytelling 101; Sacred Storytelling)
- Randy Barrett (Wk 2:** Beginning Bluegrass Banjo; Intermediate Bluegrass Banjo; Bluegrass Jam & Bluegrass Slow Jam)
- Barbara Bayne (Wk 2:** Four-Prong and Bezel Stacking Rings)
- Jerri Bell (Wk 2:** Getting Started on Memoir or Personal Essay)
- Sue Bloom (Wk 1:** iPhone: Magic Landscape)
- Peter Brice (Wk 2:** English Pub Singing Redux; Traditional Songs and Dance Music from Maryland; Diatonic Button Accordion; Celtic Session)
- Pat Brodowski (Wk 2:** Earth Colors; Let's Paint Outdoors; Gallery Talks)
- David Burkitt (Wk 2:** Beginning Harmonica; Juke Joint Blues)
- Lalo Carrera (Wk 2:** Southwest and Mexican-Influenced Mosaics; Gallery Talks)
- Erica Chesnik (Wk 2:** Grounded Warrior Yoga; REB3L Groove Hip Hop Dance)
- Tina Chisena (Wk 2:** Sawing and Piercing for Jewelry Making; Gallery Talks)
- Andy Cohen (Wk 2:** Icons of the Blues; Hot Tuna Tunes; Juke Joint Blues)
- Semmi Cole (Wk 2:** CGOTH Vets Initiative; Search for Common Ground)
- Dan Collins (Wk 2:** Truth is Freedom)
- Charles Collyer (Wk 1 & Wk 2:** Banning of the Civil Rights Struggle; Non-Violence is ... What Exactly?)
- Nick Corso (Wk 2:** Wheel Good Fun!; Gallery Talks)
- Stuart Dahne (Wk 2:** Up Close & Personal; Gallery Talks)
- Guy Davis (Wk 2:** Storytelling and Music Together; Rack & Box; Juke Joint Blues)
- Roderick Demmings (Wk 2:** Interracial Gospel Choir)
- Kevin Elam (Wk 2:** Celtic Guitar; Ballads & Trad Songs of Scotland & Ireland; Celtic Session)
- Ellen Elmes (Wk 2:** A Watercolor for All Seasons; Gallery Talks)
- Jan Fabricius (Wk 2:** Beyond Beginning. Mandolin; Singing w Tim O'Brien; Bluegrass Jam)
- Katherine Fahey (Wk 2:** Crankie Storytelling; Gallery Talks)
- Qin Fang (Wk 2:** Chinese Painting and Calligraphy; Gallery Talks)
- Amy Ferebee (Wk 1:** Getting Started w Mandolin; Beginning Guitar; Beginning Ukulele. **Wk 2:** Beginning Guitar; Beginning Ukulele; Big Song Swap)
- Carly Ferguson (Wk 2:** Braiding)
- Serenity Fisher (Wk 2:** Beg. Folk Piano; World Village)
- Jose Flores (Wk 2:** Women in the Military)
- Wayne Fugate (Wk 1:** Chord Basics and Beyond for Mandolin; Scales Bootcamp; Int. Mandolin. **Wk 2:** Practice Lab; Chord Basics; Old-Time Fiddle Tunes for Mandolin; Bluegrass Jam)
- Eva Fulton (Wk 2:** Women in the Military)
- Gabriel Furtado (Nightjars) (Wk 2:** Flatpicking Old-Time Melodies; Art of Old-Time Backup Guitar; Old-Time Jam)
- Alice Gerrard (Wk 2:** KEYNOTE; Unaccompanied Singing with Alice Gerrard; Singing with Alice Gerrard and Friends; Search for Common Ground; Old-Time Jam)
- Carter Giegerich (Wk 1:** Beg. Resophonic Guitar; Int./Adv Resophonic Guitar; Music Theory for Bluegrass & Old-Time; Guitar Beyond the Basics: Now What? **Wk 2:** Music Theory for Bluegrass & Old-Time; Beg. Resophonic Guitar; Int/Adv. Resophonic Guitar; Bluegrass Jam)
- Ellen Gira (Nightjars) (Wk 2:** Scottish Fiddle Repertoire; Art of the Bow; Celtic Session)
- Ralph Gordon (Wk 2:** Art and Craft of the Bass; Art of the Bow; Old-Time Jam)
- Debbie Griffin (Wk 2:** Transform Flowers into Miniature Bouquets in Glass; Gallery Talks)
- James Griffin (Wk 2:** Realism to Abstraction; Gallery Talks)
- Susan Haley (Wk 2:** How Can I Keep from Singing; Beginning Mt Dulcimer; Big Song Swap)
- Gwen Handler (Wk 2:** Recipient of the Fine Arts & Crafts Award)
- Steáfán Hannigan (Wk 2:** Celtic Whistle; Storytelling; Celtic Session)
- Tatiana Hargreaves (Wk 2:** Singing with Alice & Friends; Old-Time & Bluegrass Fiddle with Tatiana; Old-Time Jam)
- Slim Harrison (Wk 2:** Jugband; World Village)
- Wesley Haycock (Wk 2:** Rising Pickers Bluegrass Kids Academy)
- Chris James (Wk 2:** Understanding the Fretboard; Blues Mando; Juke Joint Blues)
- Ken Kolodner (Wk 2:** Beginners Bootcamp: Hammered Dulcimer; Int-Adv Hammered Dulcimer; Beyond Beginner: Relaxed Pace Hammered Dulcimer; Old-Time Jam)
- Ken Koons (Wk 2:** Earth Colors; Build a Mt. Dulcimer; Gallery Talks)
- Katherine LaPietra (Wk 2:** Blissful Bobbin Lace; Gallery Talks)
- Sarah Larsen (Wk 2:** Rising Pickers Bluegrass Kids Academy)
- Russ Lorber (Wk2:** Wine Appreciation)
- Prof Louie (Wk 2:** Songwriting w Prof. Louie; Piano w Prof Louie; Elevate Your Performance Skills; Juke Joint Blues)
- Bob Lucas (Wk 2:** Songwriting w Bob; Rise Up Singing; Bluegrass jam)
- Chris Luquette (Wk 2:** Bluegrass Guitar w Chris; Honky Tonk Electric Guitar; Bluegrass Jam)
- Rod MacDonald (Wk 1:** Songwriting with Rod MacDonald)

LIST OF INSTRUCTORS AND COURSES

- Jaqui MacMillan (Wk 2:** Drumming for Joy; Drum Circle Jam)
- Steve Mankowski (Wk 2:** Blacksmithing from Beginner to Experienced; Gallery Talks)
- Lydia Martin (Wk 2:** Beginning Old-Time Banjo; Intermediate Old-Time Banjo; Old-Time Jam)
- Randy Mayer (Wk 2:** Samaritans at the Border - Now Needed Everywhere; Search for Common Ground)
- Nancy McKenzie (Wk 1:** Qi Gong: Dance of the Phoenix)
- Amy McNichols (Wk 2:** Discovering America and Other Stories: Migrations, Identities, and Colonization in Latin America)
- Jess McPherson (Wk 2:** Lifeways of Susquehanna and Chesapeake Indigenous Communities; Susquehanna Indigenous Communities Past, Present, and Future; Search for Common Ground)
- Walt Michael (Wk 2:** Search for Common Ground)
- Mary Lynn Michal (Wk 2:** Beginners Bootcamp: Hammered Dulcimer/Int-Adv Hammered Dulcimer; Beyond Beginner: Relaxed Pace Hammered Dulcimer)
- Barry Mitterhoff (Wk 2:** Hot Tuna Tunes)
- Barbara Morrison (Wk 1:** Transforming Experience into Memoir; Build a Strong Story Structure. **Wk 2:** Leaping Poetry; Make a Scene: Building Blocks of Writing)
- Jo Morrison (Wk 2:** Learn to Play the Celtic/Folk/Lever Harp; Learn to Play the Cetic/Folk/Lever Harp Pt 2; Fun Music for the Folk Harp)
- Wayne Morrison (Wk 2:** Intro to Highland Bagpipe)
- Mary Naden (Wk 2:** Alexander Technique)
- Guy Neal (Wk 2:** Building the Ice Man's Arrow; Gallery Talks)
- Tim O'Brien (Wk 2:** Mandolin w Tim; Singing w Tim & Jan; Bluegrass Jam)
- Terry O'Neill (Wk 2:** Beginning Fiddle; Irish Fiddle; Celtic Session)
- Yuh Okano (Wk 2:** Intro to Hand Painting Silk Scarves; Gallery Talks)
- Char Orlove (Wk 2:** Natural Beauty)
- Harry Orlove (Wk 2:** Blues Electric Guitar; Fear Not! Music Skills Made Simple; Juke Joint Blues)
- Greg Padrick (Wk 2:** Acupressure and Self Care; Qi Gong for Health)
- Ty Pittman (Wk 2:** Introduction to Leathercraft; Crafting a Custom Leather Instrument Strap; Gallery Talks)
- Tim Porter (Wk 2:** Beginning Mandolin; Jazz Songs Arranged for Mandolin)
- Ragtime (Wk 2:** Stained Glass Camp with Ragtime; Gallery Talks)
- Gordon Roberts (Wk 2:** Beyond Beginning Ukulele; Ukulele Orchestra)
- Michael Ronstadt (Wk 2:** Southwestern Guitar; Art of the Bow; Gear Gremlins)
- Rhonda Rucker (Wk 2:** Blues Harmonica; Southern Folk Tours; Juke Joint Blues)
- Sparky Rucker (Wk 2:** Blues Guitar; Southern Folk Tours; Juke Joint Blues)
- Bob Rychlik (Wk 1:** Fujara and Koncovka Overtone Flutes. **Wk 2:** Fujara and Koncovka Overtone Flutes; Folk Songs of Bohemia; Moravia and Slovakia)
- Judith Schonebaum (Wk 2:** Old Textiles Reused for New Treasures; Gallery Talks)
- Marsha Searle (Wk 2:** Southern Appalachian Flatfooting and Clogging; Celtic Dance - A Ceili!)
- Joe Selly (Wk 2:** Jazz Songs Arranged for Mandolin; Making Sense of Scales on the Guitar; Juke Joint Blues)
- John Sosnowsky (Wk 2:** Jewelry: Unlock the Key of Time; Gallery Talks)
- Phil Spiess (Wk 2:** Gear Gremlins)
- Thomas Sterner (Wk 2:** Welding is Fun; Gallery Talks)
- Reed Stutz (Wk 2:** Mando w Reed; Singing with Alice & friends; Old-Time Jam/Bluegrass Jam)
- Keith Taylor (Wk 2:** Nantucket Lightship Baskets; Gallery Talks)
- Bill Troxler (Wk 2:** Bodhrán (Frame Drum) for Beginners; Bodhrán - Next Steps: Gateway to Great Playing; Session-Ready Bodhrán Patterns; Celtic Session)
- Dan Van Allen (Wk 2:** Crankie Storytelling; Gallery Talks)
- Linda Van Hart (Wk 2:** Gallery Talks)
- Cookie Washington (Wk 2:** Beautility Upcycled Baskets; Gallery Talks)
- Wayne Werner (Wk 2:** Four-prong and Bezel Stacking Rings; Gallery Talks)
- Tara Will (Wk 2:** Pastels: Color, Mark Making, Form; Gallery Talks)
- Cary Wolfson (Wk 2:** Your iPhone Could Be the Only Camera You Need; Gallery Talks)
- Jeremy Wright (Wk 2:** Native American Sculpture & Dream Catchers; Gallery Talks)
- Pamela Zappardino (Wk 1 & Wk 2:** Banning of the Civil Rights Struggle; Non-Violence is ... What Exactly?)
- Radim Zenkl (Wk 2:** Didgeidoo; World of Mandolin; Ear Training for All Players; Improvisation for All Instruments)



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May 2 - 3, 2026

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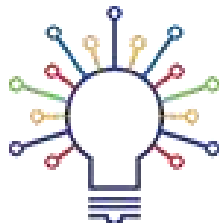
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 Wide Roots, LLC



Notes



Notes





Common Ground ON THE BORDER

January 14-16, 2027

The United States-Mexico borderlands has always been a beautiful mix of culture, language, cuisine, economies, and people. It has also been a place of struggle, high and low temperatures, a fragile environment, and the push and pull of immigration.

This 3-day event is the perfect way to explore the arts, touch the culture, and have deeper conversations about the complicated issues that collide here. Come explore with us and come away transformed.



January 12-19, 2027

Join Common Ground on the Hill for our annual week-long trip to the Borderlands.

We will walk the desert, visit a migrant shelter, visit the border, meet the members of the Green Valley Samaritans and attend the 3-day event of music, lectures and Sonoran Desert exploration.



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Does your company "Match" gifts? If yes, please provide contact information here: Company Phone _____

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**My tax-deductible contribution to the Annual Fund Drive,
via check or credit card:**

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 |
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You may also contribute by phone at 410-857-2771, by QR code or
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Name of Honoree/Scholarship Fund

____ **Yes! Tell me more** about how to make a lasting impact on Common Ground on the Hill through planned giving, including stock, bequests, insurance policies, and naming Common Ground on the Hill as a beneficiary of the proceeds from appreciated equities, real estate, non-Roth IRA charitable rollovers, or other defined contribution plans.

See our website for more ways to support Common Ground on the Hill!



32nd Annual Traditions Weeks 2026

June 22-26: VIRTUAL
July 6-10: IN-PERSON
McDaniel College
Westminster, MD

Deer Creek Fiddlers' Convention

Saturday, May 30, 2026
Carroll County Farm Museum
Westminster, MD

Acoustic Roots Songwriting Contest

Lyrics & MP3 Submissions Accepted
Through April 30, 2026
Winners Announced May 15, 2026

Common Ground on the Border

January 14 - 16, 2027
Sahuarita, AZ

Common Ground Downtown Concerts

Monthly, October - April
Locations:
Westminster, MD
Baltimore, MD
Savage, MD

Common Ground Downtown Free Jams

Monthly in Westminster, MD
1st Wednesdays:
Carroll Arts Center
3rd Wednesdays:
St. Paul's United Church of Christ