

The



LINK

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The Mountain Empire Community College official
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EWABO

February 21- 12:15 - Goodloe Center

Ewabo is committed to performing the highest caliber of music to the delight and satisfaction of all music lovers. With a particular emphasis on the steel drum, better known as “pan” to the people of its native land (Trinidad & Tobago), Ewabo is recognized as one of the preeminent steel bands in the United States. Ewabo’s skill and dedication to the playing of this instrument (the predominant

art form in the Caribbean) has propelled them to prominence in the mainstream of international contemporary music. With the benefit of a variety of backgrounds in the arts, the musicians utilize their experiences to entertain, astound and educate audiences on the potpourri of Caribbean culture. The success of Ewabo is attributable to the strong belief shared by its members in the positive ideals

that they are committed to uphold. Their motto, “ONE LOVE,” is demonstrated by Ewabo as they perform a variety of exceptional musical arrangements.



“SIGNS IN GRAVITY”

“Signs in Gravity,” a showing of sixteen monotypes by artist Mary Barton Nees, will be on display in the Slemple Gallery at MECC from February 18 through March 28.

Nees received her Master’s in Fine Arts at East Tennessee State University. She previously learned the magic of monotypes at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia.

A monotype is a painting done on an un-incised plate (usually Plexiglas) that is then transferred onto paper through the use of an etching press. The pull is one of a kind, with no edition possible, hence the term mono= one + type= impression. The plate is worked up with ink, much like a traditional painting, but the pull of the press and the reverse image brings a surprise element in the process that serves Nees’ conceptual purpose.

Much of her life has been captivated by a conviction that art is visual language, as well as a code into culture. While raising her own four children, she volunteered art history lectures in the schools, challenging students to read the work before they were told anything about it.

Nees’ inspirations come from the prophetic Hebrew writings, the Apocalypse of John, and her own poetry. She teaches foundation classes at East Tennessee University and has had international experience teaching a collograph workshop at the Luxun Academy of Fine Arts in Shenyang, China. Her work is in private and public collections nationally and internationally.

Referring to this showing, entitled “Signs in Gravity,” Nees states, “Our feet are grounded here for a time. Gravity holds us and weights us to terra firma. What compels me is a surprising intervention of hope. I look for ways to communicate these ideas visually.”

For more information, contact Alice Harrington at ext. 247.



INTERPRETIVE WORKSHOP

The Daniel Boone Wilderness Trail Association is having an Interpretive Workshop on April 5 to train volunteers as interpreters for their Saturday and Sunday openings of the Wilderness Road Blockhouse at Natural Tunnel State Park. If interested, contact Jean Brown at 276-431-2139 or visit their web site at www.naturaltunnel.info.

JOHN FOX, JR FESTIVAL

The MECC Foundation announces the 32nd Annual John Fox, Jr. Literary Festival to be held on Wednesday, April 2nd from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the Goodloe Center. This year's event will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Fox's novel, *The Trail of the Lonesome Pine*. The Festival will feature readings by featured authors Gwyn Hyman Rubio and Kathy Shearer, as well as the announcement of the winners of the John Fox, Jr. Festival poetry and short story contests in the middle school, high school, and adult categories.

Rubio is the award-winning author of the New York



Gwyn Hyman Rubio
Photo by David Stephenson

Times best seller and Oprah's Book Club selection *Icy Sparks*. Her second novel, *The Woodman's Daughter*, has also received critical praise. Rubio's collection of short stories, *Sharing Power*, was nominated for a Pushcart Press Editor's Book Award, and her short story "Little Saint" received the Cecil Hackney Literary Award

for first prize in the National Short Story Competition. The author lives in Versailles, KY, with her husband of 30 years, Angel.

Shearer has lived in southwest Virginia for more than

30 years, and is the author and publisher of a number of books focusing on the coalfield region. She operates the Clinch Mountain Press from her home in Emory, specializing in oral histories, memoirs, poetry, and vintage photography from the Appalachian region of Virginia. She is the author of *Wilder Days: Coal Town Life on Dumps Creek* and *Memories from*



Kathy Shearer

Dante: The Life of a Coal Town, and is currently working on a community history of Cleveland, VA.

Festival attendees are invited to join the authors for lunch, following the festival, at the John Fox, Jr. Museum. The museum was Fox's actual home, and has been maintained as it was when he lived there. The cost of this year's luncheon is \$20 per person and seating is limited. Reservations can be made by calling Nikki Morrison at 523-2400, ext. 416.

REQUEST FOR PRESENTERS

On Thursday, April 10, from 9-2:30, the Educational Talent Search and Tech Prep programs will host a career fair for area middle and high schools in the Goodloe Center.

Every 45 minutes approximately 150 -200 students will circulate to 25-30 different occupations to speak with representatives about their respective career. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase your divisions or programs with potential students. If you would be interested in staffing a table to talk to students about career opportunities in your program, please contact Lisa Woliver at ext. 333 no later than March 25 to reserve your space. We will provide you with a light breakfast and lunch.

SAFETY AT WORK



OSHA Requirements

OSHA SAYS that several groups of people are responsible for fulfilling the requirements of the HazCom standard.

➤ **Manufacturers** are required to analyze the physical and health hazards of every substance they produce. They are also responsible for filling out comprehensive MSDSs and sending them along with products to every customer who purchases their chemicals. Manufacturers must also clearly mark their chemical containers with informative labels that identify the substance inside.



➤ **Employers** are required to develop a written hazard communication program. OSHA requires written HazCom programs to be customized for each workplace and to be updated regularly.

Employers are also responsible for training employees on chemical hazards and safety procedures. Training must be thorough, effective, and ongoing.



➤ **Employees** are required to attend training, read labels and MSDSs, follow safety procedures, and use their right to know to work safely with and around chemicals.