



We're Back on Track

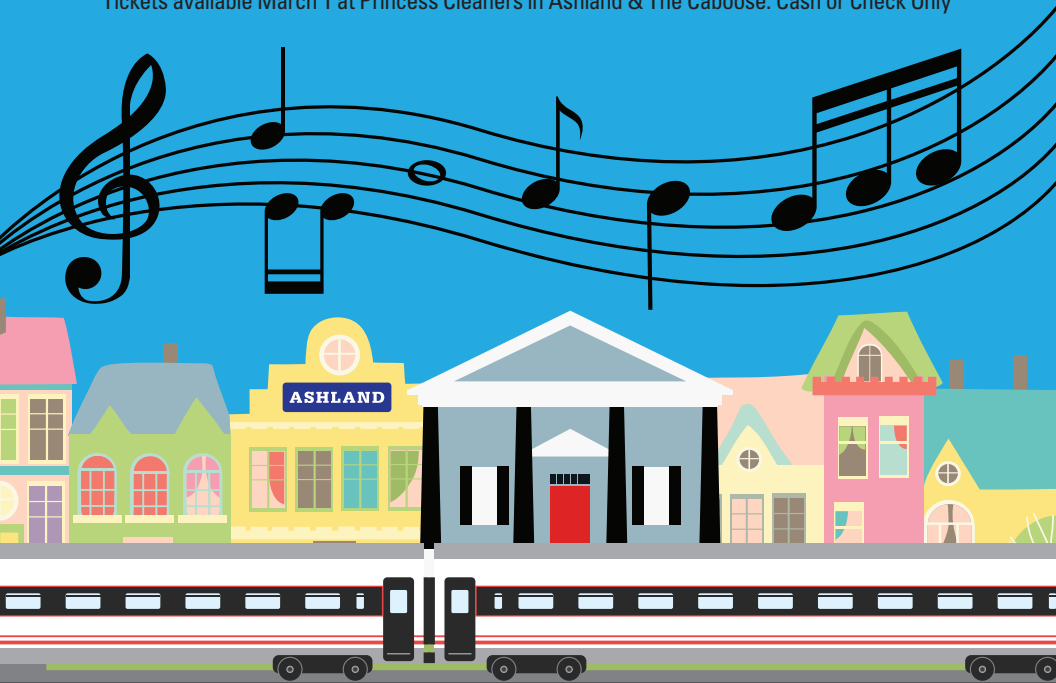
FOR OUR **20TH** ASHLAND MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

MARCH 23, MARCH 24, MARCH 25, 2023
SHOW TIMES: 7:30PM

LOCATION: BLACKWELL AUDITORIUM, RANDOLPH-MACON COLLEGE

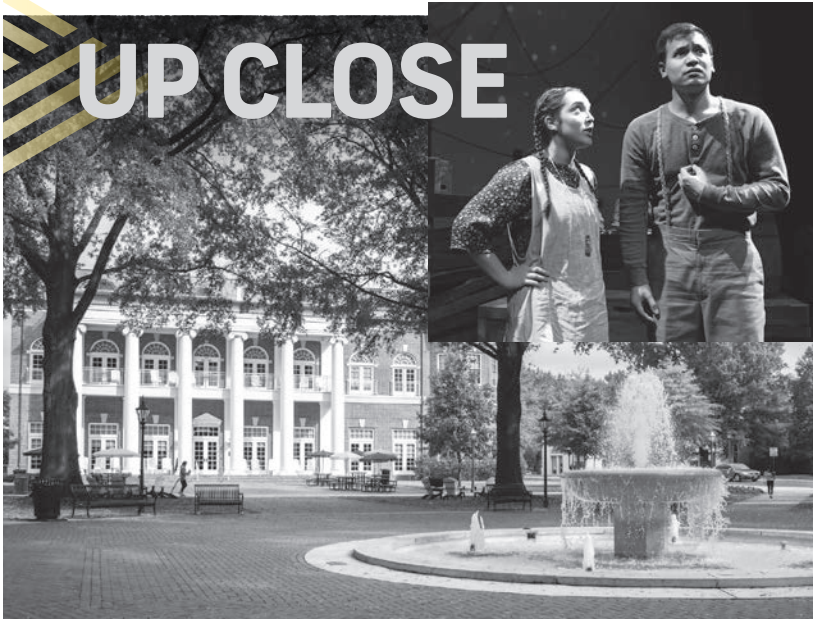
Tickets available March 1 at www.hanoverarts.org

Tickets available March 1 at Princess Cleaners in Ashland & The Caboose: Cash or Check Only



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from Sue Watson ...

As you read this and watch our 20th Ashland Musical Variety Show, I hope you will think of all of the people who have made it happen throughout the past years and shows. When we figured out that a “Variety Show” would be a good, unique fund raiser that could help to support the Hanover Arts and Activities Center, we had no idea how complicated and exciting it would be. What you are seeing on the newly-redone Randolph-Macon College’s Blackwell stage is a smaller version of a show that was created in 1982 and 1983 and every odd year since, until the pandemic hit.

We hope you will enjoy the mixture of music, cast members, talent, and effort that is a part of this show. And we thank everyone who has gone before and thus continued to support the Center and the ability and effort required to make our Ashland Musical Variety Shows possible. We especially thank our family members, like our spouses and children, who have supported our involvement in our shows. It is an enormous project for everyone involved. And we remember and thank everyone who has ever contributed to our now 20 shows.

Look at our program that includes much information about our past and present productions. We hope your memories will remind you of friends, neighbors, music, and shows that enabled many people to sing and dance together every other year for a good cause. And we hope you will agree with us when we sing, “What I did for love.” We thank you for coming to our show and for being a significant part of our greater-Ashland community.

What we did for love,
Sue Forbes Watson

We're Back on Track

Ashland Musical Variety Show • March 23, 24, 25, 2023

Directors/Producers

Sue Forbes Watson and Carolyn Peart

Musical Directors

Carter Flippo and Fred Horn
Jim Jones, Horn Section Leader

Band

Ed Bray - Bass (It's all about the bass)
Carter Flippo - Drums
Jim Foster - Trumpet
Jim Head - Percussion
Ned Henson - Guitar
Fred Horn - Piano
Joe Johnson - Trombone
Jim Jones - Trumpet
Shelly Klinger - Baritone Sax
Bill Ware - Tuba

Directors of Special Numbers

Karen Lynne, Michelle Lightfoot, Jen Chambers

Masters of Ceremonies

Kelly Thomasson and Clark Mercer

Stage Manager

Beth Farris

Script

Sue Forbes Watson

from the Mayor ...

Welcome to the 2023 Ashland Musical Variety Show! Whether this is your first show or your 20th, I am thrilled to have you join us in the Center of the Universe! This year marks the much-anticipated return of the Ashland Musical Variety Show following a three-year hiatus due to various construction projects on the performing arts spaces here in Town and of course, the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given that, I can think of no better way to celebrate our community and 'rising above' by way of an 'everybody counts' and a 'can-do' spirit than with tonight's wonderful showcase of talent, smalltown charm, and good humor that continues to inhabit and inspire our Valentine Town.



After all, strength to overcome and find common ground often begins with a spark of imagination and laughter and the ability to laugh with each other and, most especially, at ourselves.

I hope you'll have a laugh at my expense tonight and will join the cast and neighbors at the end of the show for our Town song, "Ashland Ashland," the lyrics to which are in your program, (for those who don't know them by heart). So sit back, relax, and enjoy the show!

Thank you for coming!

Mayor Steve Trivett

from The Center President...

After much anticipation, I am thrilled to welcome you to the 2023 Ashland Musical Variety Show! Thank you for joining us and being a part of this Ashland Tradition. The AVMS is the longest running fundraiser to support the Hanover Arts and Activities Center. It is a beautiful example of how important the arts are to our community and bridges the gap between cultures, age groups, and various occupations that might not have the opportunity to work together towards one common goal.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Sue Watson and Carolyn Peart, our dedicated Producers/Directors. They have sacrificed their time and energy to bring this beloved tradition back to our wonderful town. To the creative efforts of our Music Directors, Fred Horn and Carter Flippo, we truly appreciate all you do in sharing your skill and passion with our community.

To our Executive Director, Sara Holloway, whose devotion to the HAAC is unmatched, I would like to extend immense praise and gratitude. Every day you go above and beyond to ensure the success of every event, be it big or small, in addition to the day to day business of running The Center. We truly value all you do for the Center.

I would like to thank our cast members for dedicating their time and energy to this production. Thank you also to our Board of Directors, our sponsors, and every volunteer for supporting all we do. As a nonprofit, volunteer-driven organization, your support has and will always be needed and appreciated.

Now sit back, enjoy the show and get ready for a real treat!

Lindsey Finch
President, Board of Directors
The Hanover Arts and Activities Center



from The Center's Executive Director ...

I attended my first Ashland Musical Variety Show shortly after moving to Ashland. I brought my mother and I was stunned at the charming, funny, and irreverent nature of the show. Not to mention that I had landed myself in a town where young and old, people from every walk of life, could come together and celebrate all of the things that make us a community in such a unique way. I knew right away that I had to be a part of the show going forward. I will always be grateful for the years of memories and fun that the show has given me and my family.

The person that deserves so much credit for this opportunity to “community build through the arts” is my friend Sue Watson. As Sue guides us through her last show as director and producer, we cannot begin to quantify the many hours of thought, dedication, perseverance, and love that Sue pours into this community and the show. We celebrate the thousands of ways that Sue steps up and teaches us what living for where you live and loving where you live really means. Sue, no one can do what you do or what you have done and we love you for every minute you have given of yourself to make this a wonderful place to be. Thank you Sue and know that you are forever woven into the very fabric of Ashland and Hanover and we are *ALL* better for it.

Sara Wright-Holloway
Executive Director, Hanover Arts

The Acts

Pre-Show Music

Patrick Henry High School Jazz Band, directed by Amanda Peters, Director of Bands

Act 1

Children's Elementary-Age Choir – *Thursday and Saturday*

Patrick Henry High School Chamber Choir – *Friday*

“Hi, Neighbor” and “Another Opening, Another Show”

Welcome – *Robert Lindgren, President, Randolph-Macon College*

“God Bless America”

“Let's Groove Tonight” – *Kellie Watson, Lead Singer*

“We Are Family” – *Multi-generational families*

“Taking Care of Business” – *Public Officials*

“Mutual Admiration Society” – *Spouses Number*

“Tapping Queens” – *Honoring Queen Elizabeth*

Intermission

Act 2

“9-5”

“That's What Friends Are For” – *Sarah Harper, Kellie Watson, former Hanover Idols*

“Stop in the Name of Love”

“Dancing Queens” – *Jen Chambers, Guest Director*

“Waterloo” – *Mothers and Daughters*

“Shower the People with Love” – *Felix Stevens, Soloist*

Community Gospel Choir – *Michelle Lightfoot, Choral Director*

“If I Could Dream” – *John Gordon, Soloist*

“What I Did for Love”

“Ashland, Ashland” – *Led by Charles Waldrop*



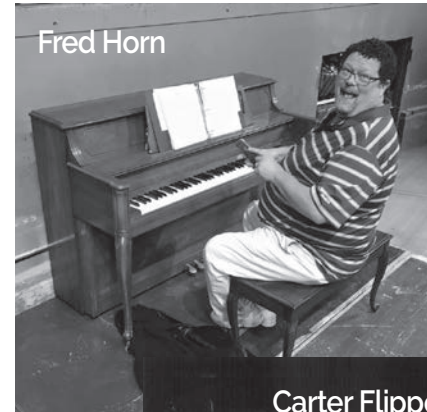
Thank you Tom Wulf of WulfTeam Productions for recording our show!

Producers and Directors

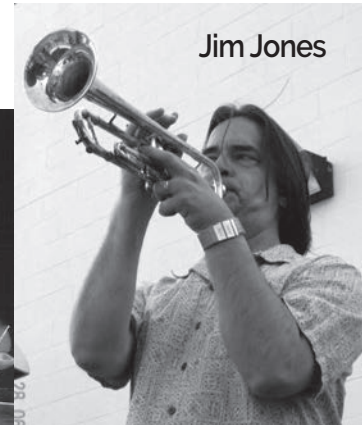
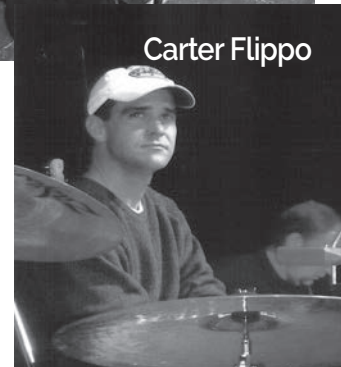


Carolyn Peart

Musical Directors



Karen Lynne
Director
of Special
Numbers



History of the Beginning of the Hanover Arts and Activities Center

by Betty Carol Stevenson

In 1967, the 41 members of the Ashland Junior Woman's Club began work on a community center that is known today as the Hanover Arts and Activities Center. There had been concern for many years about the lack of a library, a museum, children's classes, teen events and a playground. Most of the members had small children and did not work outside the home. The club wrote a letter to the newspaper saying the old Ashland Baptist Church building was for sale and would make a great place for a library and community center. Rumors went around about a funeral home and a restaurant that were considering buying the church.



Can you see the difference in the Center pictures above and to the right?

From the letter came an editorial in support of the library. Ideas flew and a light bulb went off. The church could house not only the library, but our children's theater, The Huckleberry Players, a museum, rooms for classes and civic meetings, teen areas, a playground and a home for civic organizations. We could hardly contain ourselves!

Meredith Stiles, the club President, appointed a Steering Committee to start the community center. The members were Nancy Christian, Sande Hill, Suzanne Flippo, Bonnie Darling, Audrey Reynolds, Elaine Alfano and Betty Lee Miller. We envisioned a living building with things going on all the time. On July 1, 1967, the Baptist Church moved to their new location. When the church was empty, the Steering Committee met, and we had to bring a chair to sit on and a table for the meeting. We ran from room to room envisioning how to make the building come alive.

We had two months to come up with \$28,000. \$27,000 to purchase it and \$1,000 to pay expenses for a few months. I really don't remember anyone saying "Well, it just can't be done." The committee met and brainstormed ideas. The enthusiasm was contagious. We enlisted the help of the other club members. We received donations from businesses and other clubs. We had money-making projects. We visited private individuals who might help us and asked for money. We had a media blitz

with articles and brochures and exhibits. We held an open house with over 1,000 people attending during which we unfolded our vision and held a huge membership drive! We came up with the money for a down payment. By December of 1968 we had raised the \$28,000 and made the final payment on the building and the land.



Members asked for help from everywhere. I remember keeping baby Rob Stiles while his mother Meredith appeared before Richmond City Counsel and asked for the old seats that were being replaced at the Mosque. Husbands went down in trucks to get them and the seats were used for years in the auditorium. The birth of the Center became a full time volunteer job for club members.

So many people helped us in those early years when we were raising money. The projected renovation goal was set at \$150,000 after the purchase. One person I do want to mention is Jim Pollard. There were many times when we couldn't pay the oil bill and for years Jim would say, "Pay me when you can" and we did. It was an uphill financial battle, but the enthusiasm was unmatched.



Landmark Will Be Vacated

The First Baptist Church of Ashland (top photo) will be vacated early next year as the 400-member congregation moves into its new \$500,000 building (bottom photo) on State St. 54, just west of the town limits. The old church, built in 1859, is too small to house the church's growing congregation, according to the Rev. Richard G. Brame, pastor. He said the church was used as a hospital

during the Civil War. After the war, when it again became a house of worship, the congregation found it necessary to cover the original floor in its sanctuary — blockades could not be removed from the original floor. Mr. Brame said the fate of the old building has not yet been determined, but there is some support for a proposal that it be turned into a museum.

A Constitution and By-laws were written, officers elected and the flood gates opened with people to help. A Board of Directors was formed and many more members of the community stepped forward to volunteer. We had lawyers, architects, bankers, a former college president and other professionals to help us. The Board was an eager Blue Ribbon panel. We received help from the Jaycees, the Henry Clay Woman's Club, Kiwanis, Lions, Garden clubs, Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Our husbands made repairs, painted, watched children and went without supper! Our members worked for months scrubbing, cleaning, babysitting and doing any job that needed doing.

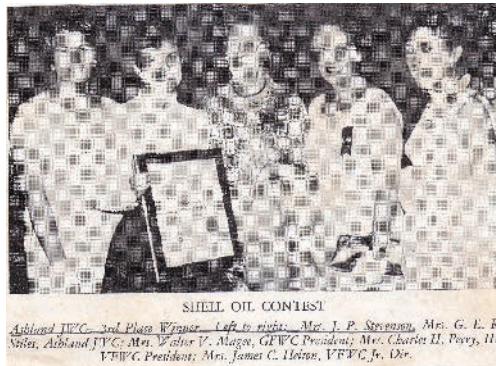
We started out having art shows, art classes, a teen center called "Out," puppet shows, children's plays, story hours, extensive enrichment classes for young and old. We purchased playground equipment with our "Green Stamps."



ANOTHER \$100—R. J. Taylor, club president at the Ashland Community Center, hands a \$100 donation to the Hanover Arts and Activities Center. (left) Mrs. J. J. Taylor, club secretary, and Mrs. J. J. Taylor, club treasurer, stand with the president of the Hanover Arts and Activities Center, Mrs. J. J. Taylor, who is presenting the \$100 donation to the Club.

ANOTHER \$100—Mrs. J. J. Taylor, club president at the Ashland Community Center, hands a \$100 donation to the Hanover Arts and Activities Center. (left) Mrs. J. J. Taylor, club secretary, and Mrs. J. J. Taylor, club treasurer, stand with the president of the Hanover Arts and Activities Center, Mrs. J. J. Taylor, who is presenting the \$100 donation to the Club.

I was Education Chairman for the club, and my job for the new Hanover Arts and Activities Center Steering Committee was the library. Our education projects won us the \$1,500 total in the State and National Shell Oil Contest. Meredith Stiles and Betty Carol Stevenson flew to Boston for the General Federation of Women's Clubs International Convention to get the award. We were the first Junior club to ever receive the award. That money was used to build bookcases, buy materials to catalog books and to make the library come alive. We were always hoping that someday the Pamunkey library system would take over. I attended their meetings for years and our hopes finally did come true. By 1970 we had over 2,000 donated books and a library run by volunteers.



SHELL OIL CONTEST
 Ashland JWC, 3rd Place Winner. Left to right: Mrs. J. P. Spurgeon, Mrs. G. E. R. Niles, Ashland JWC, Mrs. V. Fisher, V. Magon, GEWC President, Mrs. Charles H. Pavy, III, VFWC President, Mrs. James C. Holton, VFWC Jr. Div.



Mayor Meade Jones, Mayor, endorses the project to buy and create the building that would become the Hanover Arts and Activities Center. Women from the Ashland Junior Woman's Club are pictured left to right - Cathy Amburn; Betty Carol Stevenson, (with son Jimmy); Suzanne Flippo, (with son Carter); Nancy Christian, and Meredith Stiles, mother of Rob Stiles. It is significant that these three sons: Jimmy Stevenson, Carter Flippo, and Rob Stiles have all participated in our shows. What a wonderful heritage for the Center and the community!

A year later the Ashland Juniors won \$1,000 in the Community Improvement Award program sponsored by the Sears Company. More renovations! The Club worked at the Camptown races selling programs and handing out awards with the money going to the Center. There were years of hard work in the 70's and 80's. My husband and I both served on the Center Board. Later rooms were rented and activities such as Cotillion brought in money.

It took a village to make our dreams come true. What makes me happy is seeing the kids that were babies and toddlers of our club members are now grown up and are now parents themselves. I see them and this third generation in the Variety Show and the Railroad Run and in the Fourth of July parade. We raised some wonderful citizens and a lot of growing up was done in this wonderful building. The present Board and workers should be proud of what they have accomplished in the past 50 years.

Randolph-Macon College and our Ashland Musical Variety Show

The cast, audience, and sponsors of the Ashland Musical Variety Show would like to express our appreciation for the nearly - four-decades-long history of support and involvement of Randolph-Macon College in our performances.

In 1982, RMC alumni, Harold Wright and Rosanne Shalf, and Nancy Hugo and Sue Watson, faculty wife, asked Dr. Ladell Payne, then President of the College, to have our community show/fundraiser presented on the College campus in Blackwell Auditorium. Not only did he say yes, but he wrote a satirical skit in the form of a mock college cabinet meeting using Gilbert and Sullivan tunes. The parodies poked fun at the Town, the College, and especially the R-MC administration. As President Payne subsequently observed, "Neither music nor satire has been the same since."

Even after the opening of the College's performing arts center with a black-box theater situated on the Blackwell stage, Randolph-Macon continued to allow us to take this structure apart to accommodate our large cast and to re-create an orchestra pit needed for our show. Now the College has completed the renovation of Blackwell Auditorium within the new Center for the Performing Arts. We appreciate the continuing support, cooperation, and patience of the College leadership: President Robert Lindgren; the Fine Arts and Drama Departments and their students; and Campus Safety.

Ashlanders and Hanoverians consider themselves fortunate to live in a place where we can regularly enjoy the cultural and athletic events that RMC brings to our community. We value those who live in the greater Ashland/Hanover area who have Randolph-Macon connections and who either perform on stage or clap enthusiastically from the audience when we present our Ashland Musical Variety Show. Thank you Randolph-Macon for making this possible.



Photo courtesy Randolph-Macon College

The Cast

Act 1

Children's Elementary Chorus –

Thursday and Saturday nights

Directed by Megan E. Standlick, Music Educator, John M. Gandy Elementary School and Fred Horn, Music Teacher, Henry Clay Elementary School

Henry Clay Elementary School Students:

Nora Achempong, Catherine Amos, Fiona Amos, Kayleigh Anderson, Carson Bauserman, Harper Bowles, Aaliyah Brooks, Everley Quinn Bueno, London Burley, Avery Byrd, Everly Carson, Gabe Chandler, Jameson Chapman, Luis Chavez, Malani Cobb, Carly Cousins, David Culbertson, Alexis Davidson, David “Sebastian” Davidson, Arielle DeLapp, Kaylee Dickerson, Daisy Drake, Delilah Drake, Dimas Josué Henriquez Dubon, Raelynn Duke, Hailey Marroquin Garcia, Joyclyn Giddens, Violet Gitchell, Cooper Godsey, Ada Grace Goulet, Kai Greennagel, Ava Hollins, Isaac Jalloh, Everett James, Izzy King, Peyton Kroko, Leo Lacy, Tia Lacy, Palmer Lindgren, Harrley Lopez, Jonah Lumpkin, Didier Blasco Marin, Vincent Matassa, Blake McDaniel, Johan Lopez Mendez, Yessenia Merida, Cesar Morales, MacKenzie Murphey, Emily Abigail de los Santos Nuñez, Paige Obrecht, Javier Orellana, Payton Orpiano, Ryann Orpiano, Brandon Palacios, Inelis Paulino, Helen Perez, Noah Reyes, Kai Simons, Vega Shortridge, Kaleb Simons, Aiden-Thomas Smith, Draison Smith, Isobel-Kate Smith, Liam Smith, Maverick Smith, Breeze Taylor, Dasey West, Jaclyn Working

John M. Gandy Elementary School Schools:

Taylor Blankenship, Ashley Bonilla, Ivy Booth, Lacie Brightbill, Kristian Brown, Hadley Byrd, Evie Cadwallader, Everleigh

Carlyslle, Harper Carson, Ava Criswell, Shailene Dabreo, Kaori Díaz, Simon Ford, Sydney Hannah, Benjamin Hawks, Imani Heny, Chase Huckstep, Princess Jalloh, Ethan Johnson, Isabelle Joseph, Fernando Juarez, Kaliope Karvounis, Amelia LeTourneau, Dawsyn Lewis, Ellie Lynch, Michelle Marin, Rosely Marroquin, Jaxson McDaniel, Fernanda Mejia, Cecilia Mercer, Everett Mercer, Eleanor Mihajlovits, Henry Miller, Lilly Patterson, Emily Thomas, Roman Seay, Connor Sessamen, Nova Shortridge, Kristell Turcios, Phoebe Witt, Grace Working, Charlotte Young, Ricky Young

Patrick Henry High School Chamber Choir – Friday night

Marc Lawson, Director of Patrick Henry High School Choirs

Jesup Chandler, Stella Clark, Justin Clifton, Hope Dennehy, Hannah Ellis, Duke Flanagan, Eman Hicks, Audriana Hudson, Tyler Johnson, Kenzie Johnston, Emma Mask, Hunter Montgomery, Jake Pinkston, Jenna Reisinger, Katelyn Reynolds, Malia Stewart, Alyssa Thompson, April Twum-Barimah, Kai Verrier-Nass

Hi, Neighbor/Another Opening, Another Show

Carolyn Belgrad, Sharon Coleman, Carmen Courtney, Annie Duncan, Bobby Lawrence, Chris Meacham, Jan Meacham, Drew Molloy, Sarah Peck, Carolyn Peart, Rosie Shalf, Devon Shelton, Sue Watson

God Bless America

Terry Alexander, Cathy Booth, Penny Boyd, Karie Brooks, Carmen Courtney, Pat Dunn, Hayes Hanley, Karen Hanley, Sara Harper, Melissa Hoban, Bob Hundley, Anthony Keitt, Maria Koenig, Dan McGraw, Chris Meacham, Jan Meacham, Elizabeth Pezold, Faye Prichard, Jerry Shalf, Rosie Shalf, Devon Shelton, Vivian Vestre, Ritchie Watson, Sue Watson, Angela Will

Let's Groove Tonight

Kristin Booth, Ross Booth, Penny Boyd, Karie Brooks, Sharon Coleman, Garner Hedrick, Antonio Hunt, Lucy Lynne, Chris Meacham, Faye Prichard, Denise Watkins, Kellie Watson

We Are Family

Penny Boyd, Sharon Coleman, Carmen Courtney, Cathy Crews, Jessica Crews, Meriwether Gilmore, Sheri Hedrick, Garner Hedrick, Maris Hedrick, Ariel Koenig, Cheryl Koenig, Maria Koenig, Philip Koenig, Bobby Lawrence, Chris Meacham, Jan Meacham, Ann Millican, Carter Millican, Glenn Millican, Michelle Patterson, Lily Patterson, Sarah Peck, Jon Philhower, Tammy Proffitt, Devon Shelton, Vivian Vestre, Denise Watkins

Taking Care of Business – Public Officials

Troy Arenhalt, Kathy Abbott, Anita Barnhart, Josh Farrar, John Hodges, Bob Hundley, Angela Kelly-Wiecek, Dan McGraw, Faye Prichard, Steve Trivett

Mutual Admiration Society

Ross & Kristin Booth, Pat & Delores Dunn, Hayes & Karen Hanley, Jerry & Rosie Shalf

Tapping Queens

Sharon Coleman, Karen Hanley, Maria Koenig, Betty Lacy LaPlace, Faye Prichard, Sue Watson

Intermission

Act 2

9-5

Terry Alexander, Tracy Brown, Jessica Crews, Kathy Crews, Annie Duncan, Meriwether Meriwether Sr, Mary Kaye Hacker, Lorelei Holloway, Sara Holloway, Ariel Koenig, Cheryl Koenig, Chris Meacham, Meghan Prichard, Tammy Proffitt, Elizabeth Slopey, Jenny Schontag, Katie Thompson, Denise Watkins

That's What Friends Are For

Sarah Harper, Kellie Watson



These “9 to 5” dancing ladies were practicing for the first Ashland Musical Variety Show (1982). L to R – Betty Carol Stevenson, Shearer Luck, Anna Bourne Minich, Barbara Stanitski, Audrey Reynolds, and Stephanie Hesse. Betty Carol, Shearer, and Audrey were part of the Ashland Junior Woman's Club that helped to lead the effort to buy the building from the Ashland Baptist church and to establish the Hanover Arts and Activities Center

Stop in the Name of Love**Back up singers:**

Karie Brooks, Jessica Crews, Melissa Hoban, Sue Randolph, Elizabeth Slopey, Jenny Schontag, Mary Waddy, Angela Will

Purple dress:

Brenda Gilman, Nancy Hugo, Ajena Rogers, Sue Watson

Dancing Queens

Rob Dull, Philip Koenig, Dan McGraw, Drew Molloy, Jerry Shalf, Devon Shelton, Rodd Wilken

Waterloo

Cathy Booth, Madison Brown, Tracy Brown, Chris Dull, Julia Dull, Annie Duncan, Avery Duncan, Meriwether Gilmore Sr., Meriwether Gilmore Jr., Mary Kay Hacker, Maris Hedrick, Sheree Hedrick, Lorelei Holloway, Sara Holloway, Carter Millican, Michelle Patterson, Lily Patterson, Faye Prichard, Meghan Prichard, Tammy Proffitt, Lauren Proffitt, Elizabeth Slopey, Katie Thompson

Shower the People with Love

Cathy Booth, Annie Duncan, Carter Flippo, Fred Horn, Carolyn Peart, Felix Stevens, Ritchie Watson, Sue Watson

Community Gospel Choir

Directed by Michelle Lightfoot, Minister of Music, First African Baptist Church, Richmond

Terry Alexander, Carolyn Belgrad, Cathy Booth, Karie Brooks, Billy Brothers, Cathy Crews, Carmen

Courtney, John Gordon, Melissa Hoban, Lyn Hodnett, Sara Holloway, Antonio Hunt, Anthony Keitt, Bobby Lawrence, Chris Meacham, Carolyn Peart, Sara Peck, Elizabeth Pezold, Sandra Randolph, Sue Randolph, Devon Shelton, Sandra Sopell, Dani Stockwell, Vivian Vestre, Mary Waddy

If I Could Dream

John Gordon, Michelle Lightfoot and the Community Gospel Choir

What I Did for Love

From the first show in 1982 to tonight ...

Carter Flippo, Lorie Foley, Brenda Gilman, John Gordon, Hayes Hanley, Nancy Hugo, Jerry Shalf, Rosie Shalf, Ritchie Watson, Sue Watson, Harold Wright

Choir: Terry Alexander, Carolyn Belgrad, Cathy Booth, Penny Boyd, Karie Brooks, Billy Brothers, Carmen Courtney, Cathy Crews, Annie Duncan, Karen Hanley, Sarah Harper*, Garner Hedrick*, Sheri Hedrick, Melissa Hoban, Lyn Hodnett, Antonio Hunt, Anthony Keitt, Monica Klisz, Bobby Lawrence, Dan McGraw, Chris Meacham, Carolyn Peart, Sarah Peck, Elizabeth Pezold, Meghan Prichard, Sue Randolph, Dani Stockwell, Devon Shelton, Elizabeth Slopey, Vivian Vestre, Mary Waddy, Angela Will – *solo

Ashland, Ashland

Audience led by Charles Waldrop

Ashland, Ashland Lyrics by Marion Herget and Music by Dougee Zeno

Ashland, Ashland, Center of the Universe
Ashland, Virginia. My home town.
Just a whistle on the RF and P
But you'll never find a better place to be.
Where you get more for your money
Than you pay in your tax.
And the best people live
On both sides of the tracks.

It's Ashland, where no one is a stranger long.
Where friends live side by side.
And join hands in song.
Ashland, Ashland, Center of the Universe
Ashland, Virginia, U.S.A.
It's my town (echo: "It's my town!")
It's your town (echo: "It's your town!")
It's our Valentine town!

History of the Ashland Musical Variety Show

In 1982, a small group gathered in Nancy Hugo's kitchen to figure out a fund-raising project for the Hanover Arts and Activities Center. The project became the Ashland Musical Variety Show. First done in 1982, then in 1983, and every odd year since. From the beginning, the decision was made that this show was not a talent show. Anyone from kindergarten age and up can sign up to be in certain numbers that have become standards.

The first show, called "We Are Family," was led by Nancy Hugo as Stage Manager, Rosanne Shalf with props and costumes, Tom Bass, as Master of Ceremonies and Sue Watson and Herald Wright as Producers/Directors. This Ashland area tradition has continued - always sponsored by the Hanover Arts and Activities Center, and in March every other year. In 2003, Lorie Foley has joined Sue Watson as Directors/Producers of this show. This year, Carolyn Peart joined Sue as Show Chair/Co-producer.

From the beginning, each show has been performed at Blackwell Auditorium on the campus of Randolph-Macon College, and Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church has served as our "backstage." The Ashland Musical Variety Show is truly dependent on hundreds of volunteers and the strong leadership of the Executive Director and the Board of the Hanover Arts & Activities Center to come to fruition.

For the 1983 show, Marion Herget wrote lyrics and Dougee Zeno wrote the music for our show's Finale - "Ashland, Ashland." Until his death, Mayor Dick Gillis would come on stage and lead the finale. This special song captures the spirit of the show and our town.

Ashland Musical Variety Shows with Years and Themes

1982-We Are Family ("Working on the Railroad," "Nine to Five")

1983-I Love Ashland (Love Songs, "My Heart Belongs to Daddy")

1985-Growing Up (Michael Jackson)

1987-Ashland Goes to Broadway ("We Go Together," "Big Spender")

1989-From Ragtime to Rock 'n Roll (Vaudeville Medley, Elvis, Beatles, Footloose)

1991-Our Best To You ("Alice Blue Gown," "You've Got a Friend")

1993-A Town for All Seasons ("12 Days of Christmas," "Making Whoopee")

1995-Ashland's Grand American Musical Tour ("We are the World," "Hard-Hearted Hannah")

1997-Ashland's Grand World Musical Tour ("What a Wonderful World," African Dance)

1999-Talks of the Town (Newspaper theme, "Lion Sleeps Tonight")

2001-An Ashland Musical Odyssey ("God Bless America," Grease, Military Medley)

2003-Ashland, Our Center of the Universe (Miss Hanover Tomato Contest, "Those Were the Days")

2005-Growing Up, Ashland Style (Blues Brothers debut, "We are Family")

THANK YOU *Sue*
for 20 shows, 41 years
& MILLIONS of memories!



2007-Ashland, Our Magic Kingdom ("RESPECT," "Ladies Night")

2009-Our Ashland Grand Celebration ("Celebration," "Dancing Queen")

2011-Ashland's Got Talent?! (TV Time, Amy/Dolly)

2013-Ashland Band-stand: Raise the Roof! (Brickhouse, Mame, Synchronized Swimming, One Direction)

2015-Ashland Our Valentine Town ("One"-from Chorus Line, "Who Loves You Pretty Baby," Idols Reunion number, "Tan Shoes and Pink Shoelaces," and "Everytime I Turn Around")

2017-Ashland Loves a Parade

2023-Back on Track

The Hanover Arts & Activities Center

The Hanover Arts & Activities Center
 500 South Center Street • Ashland, Virginia 23005
 804.798.2728 • www.hanoverarts.com

The Hanover Arts & Activities Center has been promoting cultural enrichment in Ashland and Hanover for almost 50 years. We are a non-profit organization in the heart of Ashland dedicated to serving *you* – our community. Are you aware of all the things we do?



For many years, we have sponsored events that our community has come to love such as the Ashland Musical Variety Show, the Fourth of July Parade/Concert and the Ashland Railroad Run and Green Fair. We have also have cultural programming such as Theatre Camp, summer musical theater productions, and Hanover Idols.

Vision Statement: To be a center that empowers and encourages the community to celebrate and grow in cultural enrichment.

Mission Statement: To be a vital center of enrichment for all, through cultural, educational and community events.

We'd like to share with you the Center's goals for the future. We plan to expand our programs and classes to include affordable art, music and educational opportunities for our entire community. We will investigate various creative sources of funding to support our programming and we will be careful stewards of our 164-year-old building, finding ways to maintain and improve our facility for all to use. In order to make this happen, we are putting in place important changes in our administrative structure and policies. We plan to increase our presence throughout the community. Check out our website at www.hanoverarts.org, look us up on Facebook, or just stop by to say hello at 500 South Center Street.

Thank you for your support of the 2023 Ashland Musical Variety Show and your Hanover Arts & Activities Center. We could not plan for our role in the vibrant future of Ashland and Hanover without your help. If you have any questions or ideas about the mission or goals of the Center, please contact us at (804) 798-2728.

Center Presidents

2021-Present	Lindsey Finch	1993-1994	Sylvia Newman
2019-2021	Alexandra Crawford	1991-1993	Patricia Morris
2016-2019	Lawrence Brooks, II	1990-1991	Barbara Sholley
2014-2016	Paul Burch	1987-1990	Susan Tucker
2012-2014	Sara Wright-Holloway	1984-1987	Russell Bourne, Jr.
2010-2012	Sharon Stiles	1983-1984	Larry Gilman
2008-2010	Meriwether Gilmore	1981-1983	Margaret Fincher
2007-2008	Lee Chambers	1980-1981	Pat Pace
2005-2007	Eric Hendrixson	1979-1980	Jim Bishop
2003-2005	Ellen Wulf	1977-1979	Meade Jones
2002-2003	G.E.Robertson Stiles, II	1976-1977	Dennis Wrenn
2000-2002	Barbara Boor	1975-1976	Meredith Stiles
1999-2000	Anthony Keitt	1973-1975	Jean Glave
1997-1999	Carmen Courtney	1972-1973	Ted Owen
1996-1997	Ada Hamner	1970-1972	Tom Bass
1994-1996	Sara Irby	1967-1970	Meredith Stiles



Center Players Youth Theater Program Mission Statement

- The Center Players Youth Theater Program strives to provide authentic experiences in theater for children of all ages.
- The Center Players Youth Theater Program will not discriminate based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender or nationality
- The Center Players Youth Theater Program will educate children in all aspects of theater including, but not limited to, auditioning acting, singing, dancing, etiquette, and behind the scenes jobs.
- The Center Players Youth Theater Program will strive to instill mutual respect amongst its participants and to provide an environment of support.
- The Center Players Youth Theater Program is committed to providing financial aid to any child that demonstrates need.

Special Thanks

Randolph-Macon College – Since 1982, R-MC has been a generous supporter of our Ashland Musical Variety Show. Their donation of rehearsal and performance space makes our show possible. We are fortunate to live in a college town and are proud of the wonderful working relationship between the Town, the County, the community and Randolph-Macon College.

Duncan Memorial United Methodist Church – With a big cast and crew, a large backstage space is crucial for our show to operate smoothly. Duncan Memorial has graciously donated its fellowship hall for our backstage and dressing rooms since 1982. We want to thank Pastor Michael Kendall for supporting our use of the building.

Thanks to everyone who signed up and contributed their valuable time and talent to be in our Ashland Musical Variety Show. The spirit, talent, and dedication to our community show has been inspiring and impressive. To everyone involved for recognizing the value of “community building through the arts,” which happens when we all sing and dance together for a good cause. The positive attitudes and joy that singing and dancing together nurtures is wonderful.

- to Ritchie Watson for being such a good and organized cook when I was busy getting ready to go to and/or absent from meals on a regular basis. And he is good in the show – knowing what audiences like and singing and dancing with talent and charm.
- to Carolyn Peart for communicating with the cast and crew on a regular basis so that people are kept informed and included.
- to Carter Flippo and Fred Horn for being such good music directors. Your talents, leadership, and efforts make our show a joy to rehearse and a joy to watch.
- to Randolph-Macon College and Adam Pulver for sharing the newly redone Blackwell Auditorium for our rehearsals and for our show.
- to R-MC President Robert Lindgren for welcoming our audiences each night.
- to fellow directors Harold Wright, Fred Horn, Carter Flippo, and cast members who come to rehearsals regularly with great energy, enthusiasm, and talent.
- to talented teachers through the years who taught our cast members and show leaders how to sing and dance in ways that entertain and amuse our audiences.
- to Michelle Lightfoot for making choir rehearsals a joy.
- to our cast for sharing their considerable talents with each other and with our community, making our show possible. You were willing to learn and brave enough to perform new dances, songs, and acts that entertain our audiences.
- to people in the greater Ashland area who bought tickets for our shows and, in the process, support the Hanover Arts and Activities Center.
- to our family members who are traveling from some distances to support and enjoy our Ashland show.
- to everyone who believes in and supports community performances and efforts that enrich our lives.

Behind the Scenes

The Ashland Musical Variety Show would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of many volunteers and professionals working behind the scenes. We tried to list everyone who has helped put on the show. Please forgive us if we missed someone special! We thank all of you who have contributed to the show's success.

Usher/Programs: Penny Boyd, Tracy Brown, Sarah Capehart, Sharon Coleman, Whitney Hales, Evelyn Horn, Monica Klisz, Judith McKinney, Chris Meachem, Julie Molloy, Tammy Proffitt, Bettie Shell

Concessions: Penny Boyd, Sarah Capehart, Whitney Hales, Lyn Hodnett, Katelin Nicholas

Program Helper: Whitney Hales

Costumes: Dani Stockwell, Kate McCaffrey

Stage Crew: Paul Burch – *Chair*, Cathy Crew, Whitney Hales, John Hodges,

Vandi Hodges, Drew Molloy, Rosanne Shalf

Show Breakdown & Clean Up: Carolyn Belgrad, Penny Boyd, Dave Gilmore, Daniel McGraw

Props: Cathy Crew, Dave Gilmore, Rosanne Shalf

Ticketing Assistant: Tracy Brown, Monica Klisz

Publicity: Monica Klisz

Cast Party: Judith McKinney

Thank you Duncan Memorial UMC for your years of support and partnership with the Ashland Musical Variety Show!



A Vibrant Worship Community with a Heart for Mission



Hanover Arts thanks YOU for your support of our 20th show! Follow our website and social media for all of our upcoming events & programming!
www.hanoverarts.net



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info@hanoverarts.org



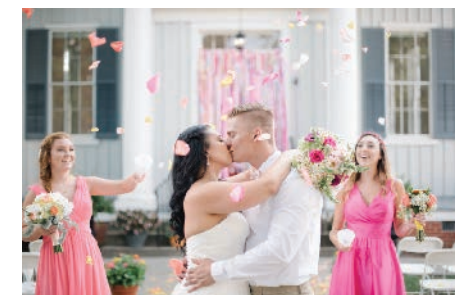
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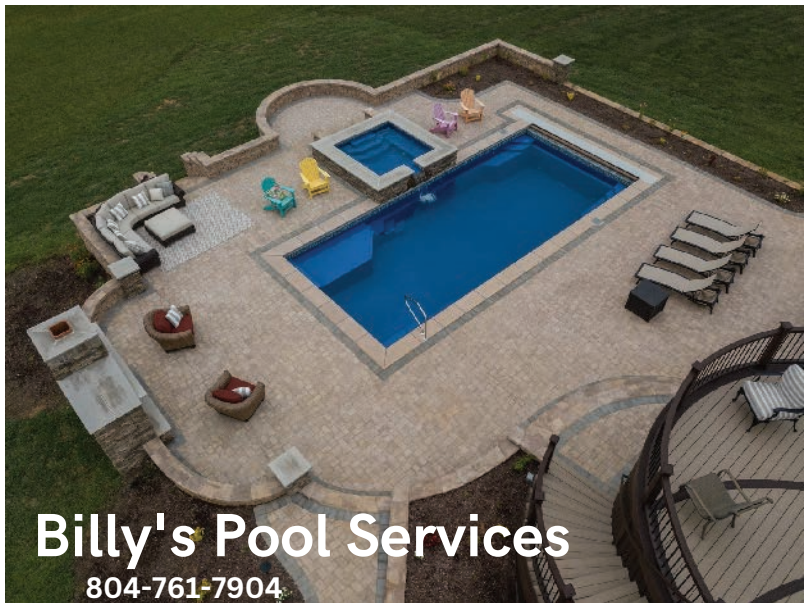
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The Ashland Musical Variety Show Experience

page 28 from 2017 program



Congratulations and thank you to the Hanover Arts and Activities Center, and to the participants in the Variety Show, for all that you do to support the arts in our community!

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Bravo! 20 Shows!

Dear Sue,

Thank you for sharing your gift of song, dance, and humor with our community for such a long run. The *Ashland Musical Variety Show* is our own *A Chorus Line*.

It seems appropriate and special that you started the show with Harold, and Voila! Harold came back to work with you on your last show as our fearless leader. Such is the magic of theatre.

Thank you for all of the time and energy you have spent directing (herding) adults and kids onto the stage for 20 shows! 100s of people in our community can credit you for helping to create lasting memories, including my family.

Most importantly, our community is better because of your efforts to build community through the arts. There is no better way to really get to know someone than by clapping hands in song.

Enjoy the accolades! You deserve to celebrate "what I (you) did for love." I love you! Lorie



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