

The Shepherdstown CHRONICLE

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Goose Route director honored

Goose Route Arts Collaborative Executive Director Kitty Clark received a 2006 Governor's Arts Award on Monday, April 3, during a ceremony at the Cultural Center in Charleston. She was chosen in the category of "Arts Innovator" for her efforts to involve the Eastern Panhandle community in dance, and was among seven chosen statewide to receive an award this year. She was nominated by Kearneysville potter and arts advocate Pam Parziale, who last year received the "Distinguished Arts Award" for lifetime achievement.

Clark thanked the people of Shepherdstown and the Panhandle who had supported her work by participating in and seeing performances, coming to classes, and generally encouraging arts entrepreneurship. She especially thanked Parziale who, when Clark first located to the area, encouraged her to go out and dance all over the county.

"I am truly honored to

receive this award," Clark says. "I never set out to be innovative, just to do what needed to be done to get dance out to the community. There are so many more things to undertake in this effort."

Kelli Burns, curator of the Museum in the Community in Hurricane, W.Va., told the audience that Clark's "innovative choreographed and improvisational performances range from a corps of dancers greeting train commuters at a rural station to a multi-section dance with children and adults traveling through fields of cows, using the recorded voices of farmers as a way to highlight farmland preservation." Burns also noted Clark's work in producing the annual Goose Route Dance Festival.

The awards are coordinated by the West Virginia Commission on the Arts and chaired by Commission member and Berkeley Springs resident Jeanne Mozier. Larry Groce, host and artistic director of West Virginia



Gov. Manchin, Kitty Clark

Public Radio's "Mountain Stage," was the master of ceremonies. Governor Joe Manchin and First Lady Gayle Manchin were also in attendance.

GRAC's mission is to collaborate with artists to

create and present new performance pieces; to cultivate in audiences an appreciation of dance, music, and other art forms; and to provide communities with meaningful artistic experiences.