

# Laurel Arts

*Arts for everyone*

**ArtLink** • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • August 2019

Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL

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DANCE

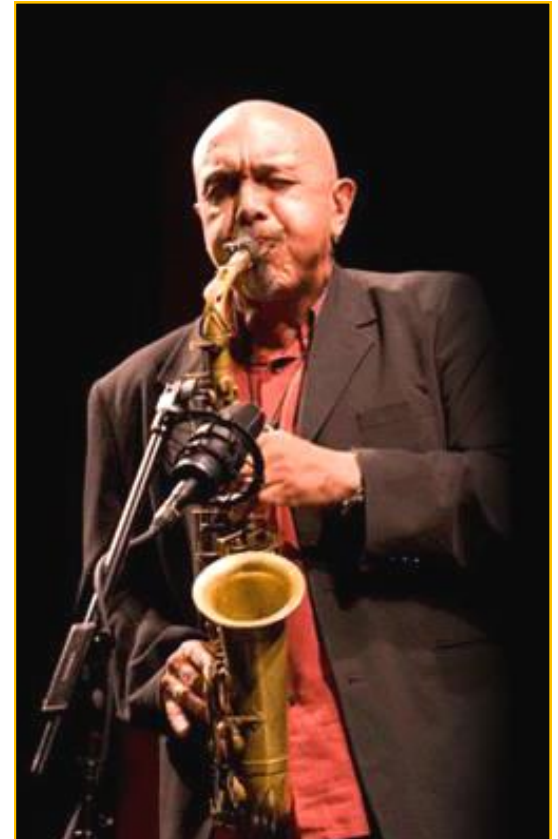
## *Jazz saxophonist Kenny Blake to perform August 23 at SCC*

Don't miss your chance to see Kenny Blake in Somerset. This legendary jazz artist will be performing outdoors at 7:30 p.m. Friday, August 23 at Somerset Country Club. Because the event is outdoors, concert-goers are asked to bring a chair. If it rains, the concert will move indoors.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the Country Club or at Laurel Arts. The concert is open to the public (you do not need to be a member of the Club to attend.) If you would like to have dinner first, call the Country Club, 443-5200, to make reservations.

Jazz saxophonist and composer Kenny Blake earned critical acclaim and reached the top of the jazz charts with his four releases on Heads Up Records. His sound is "soul hybrid" a combination of traditional jazz with modern rhythm and blues. Kenny has performed throughout the United States, Europe, and South Africa as a solo artist and sideman. And, he has performed in Somerset at our Jazz Festivals and at an exhibit opening in the galleries.

Our thanks to sponsors Hauger-Zeigler Funeral Home & Cremation Services and Knepper Insurance Group. Proceeds from the event will benefit Laurel Arts.



*Steeltown Sax Sensation*  
**Kenny Blake**

## *LA Nights returns Thursday, August 15 on the lawn stage*

Laurel Arts, Mary S. Biesecker Public Library, and Somerset, Inc. are pleased to present another *Music on the Town* event / *LA Nights* from 7 to 10 p.m. Thursday, August 15 on the lawn stage at the Dressler Center.

Bring a lawn chair and sit under the stars while you enjoy the sounds of summer! We are excited to have My Girls Deli & Catering and Vin De Matrix Winery LLC on hand for the event! It is sure to be an awesome evening, with performances from No Limits at 7 p.m.; JD & Cindy at 7:30 p.m. and Blind Liver at 9:30 p.m.

This event and future events are made possible through the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Forging Unity Grant. Look for more FREE music and film events. Follow Laurel Arts, the library and Somerset Inc. on Facebook for up-to-date information.



### Upcoming exhibits ...

Through September 6

#### **Dan Helsel**

Dan paints on oil primed linen canvas and prepares his own panels. He enjoys painting in the Old Master Style.

September 10–October 18

#### **Judy Emerick and William Panos**

Judy paints in oil, ink, pastels and pencil. A story is expressed in each piece and speaks to the viewer.

William's illustrations are characterized by an emphasis on design and symbolism.

**Open House 6-8 p.m.**

**Friday, September 13**



Located upstairs at  
The Philip Dressler Center  
for the Arts

#### **MUSEUM & GALLERY HOURS:**

Monday-Thursday

11 am to 6 pm

Saturday

noon to 4 pm

closed Friday & Sunday (except  
for exhibit openings)

## Helsel exhibits still-life, landscapes in galleries

The galleries at the Dressler Center are filled with paintings created in the style of Old Masters.

Laurel Arts welcomes you to visit the exhibit, which showcases the beautiful works of artist Dan Helsel.

Dan lives in Davidsville and produces extraordinary still-life and landscape oil paintings. Dan is a member of many art groups and organizations including Allied Artists of Johnstown and the Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance. His works have been exhibited locally and nationally, and he has received numerous awards.

The show will be on exhibit through September 6. Gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday. The galleries will be open the evening of August 15 during the concert on the lawn stage.



A black and white reproduction doesn't do justice to Dan Helsel's oil paintings. You must visit the galleries to see the deep, rich colors in the artist's still-life paintings and landscapes.

## Festival of Books comes to Somerset

This year's Festival of Books in the Alleghenies will be held in Somerset and will begin with a Keynote Author Reception Friday, September 20. The main festival will be held on Saturday, September 21.

Tom McMillan, author of *Flight 93: The Story, The Aftermath and The Legacy of American Courage on 9/11*, will be the keynote speaker at the Friday evening Keynote Author Reception. The reception will be held at the Somerset Historical Center, 10649 Somerset Pike. Tickets are available at Laurel Arts.

This is the second annual Festival which brings together local and regional authors under a main and a children's tent, while storytellers, poets, and walking guides deliver live presentations around town.

The 2019 Festival will feature a full day of children's activities at Trinity Park in the heart of Somerset. Meet authors of children's books and enjoy story-related activities.

The Festival of Books will also feature select local and regional authors of fiction and non-fiction books for adults. Plan to spend Saturday, September 21 in uptown Somerset for a unique opportunity to chat with authors, attend readings, and have your books signed.



## ***What does Somerfest mean to Laurel Arts?***

### ***What does Somerfest mean to the community?***

In last month's newsletter, I wrote about all the great things we had planned for Somerfest. And, they were great ... the music was fabulous, the children's area was enchanting, the vendors had lovely products and scrumptious food for sale.

Our staff and volunteers did an extraordinary job of pulling off this community festival. Honestly, I can't find words to express what a great job they did.

Unfortunately, it was approaching 90 degrees every day of Somerfest, and the news media (even Gov. Wolf) were advising people to stay home. And, it would seem that a lot of them did just that ... they stayed home.

Truth be told, our numbers were down from 2018, and it means we, as an organization, need to evaluate what Somerfest means to Laurel Arts and what it means to the community.

For Laurel Arts, Somerfest has been an opportunity to bring people to our beautiful grounds, it has given local bands an opportunity to perform in a festival atmosphere, it has introduced festival-goers to bands they might not get to hear otherwise (the jazz group *Channel Cats* from Cumberland, MD, for example), it has showcased artists and craftspeople, and it has introduced families to everything Laurel Arts has to offer (not just at Somerfest, but throughout the year.) And, yes, there was a time when it was also our major fundraiser.

For the community, Somerfest has been a reunion, a party, a place to bring the entire family to spend the day. Somerfest has been a summer tradition. By my count, four generations have attended.

In this age of instant communication, do we need to venture out and reunite? In this age of streaming entertainment 24/7, do we need to listen to live music? In this age when even children need a daily planner, do we need a place where they can come and chase giant bubbles?

Of course we do.

It takes a phenomenal amount of work on the part of our staff to make Somerfest happen; it takes a large financial commitment from our sponsors; it takes many, many volunteer hours. When our numbers are down it is both disappointing and discouraging. It would be easy to quit. But, we will regroup and do it all again next year.

Somerfest is our ... is your ... community festival. If you would like to help ensure its future, please share your thoughts, volunteer your time, sponsor a band, and most important, plan to attend!

Cindy Breen, president / Laurel Arts Board of Directors

## ***Our Dressler staff ...***

**Jaclyn McCusker**  
Director of Development

**April Davis**  
Business Manager

**Mike Baker**  
Maintenance Director

**Senda Harvey**  
Administrative Assistant

**Alison Leer**  
Administrative Assistant

**Linda Harrill Peck**  
Gallery Assistant / Curator

**Marsha Schmuck**  
Classes / Programs Coordinator

This newsletter is published by Laurel Arts for its members and friends.

### **Laurel Arts Board of Directors**

Cindy Breen, president  
Brooke Sheeler, vice president  
Mark Addleman, treasurer  
Jeff Johnson, secretary  
Verna Carberry  
Sharon Clapper  
Allison Finui  
William Hoffman  
Mike Mitchell  
Fred Rosemeyer  
Mark Spiker

**Legal Counsel**  
Lois Caton

### **The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts**

214 S. Harrison Avenue  
Somerset, PA 15501  
814-443-2433

[jmccusker@laurelarts.org](mailto:jmccusker@laurelarts.org)

The official registration and financial information of Laurel Arts may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.



**SOMERFEST SCENES:** (Clockwise), The Barber National Institute in Somerset enables adults with intellectual disabilities to become more involved in their community through activities such as volunteering to help make decorations; tiptoeing through the tulips; CreArivity workshops under the tent; working toward 1,000 origami cranes, and following the yellow brick road to the Land of Oz.

## ***Thank you to these Somerfest Sponsors and Friends***

Ameriserv Financial  
 Angelitto's Hair Co.  
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 Community Foundation for the Alleghenies  
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 Jane Metzgar  
 Jason Kaplitz  
 Phyllis Ickes  
 Ray & Pat Rizzo  
 Robert & Kathy Reed  
 Sean & Annette Isgan

A special thank you to Somerset Borough and Somerset Borough Police Department for going above and beyond to assist us with Somerfest, and to Joel Landis, Somerset County Emergency Management Director, for the use of light towers and barricades.

## News from our affiliates ...

### ROOF GARDEN BARBERSHOP CHORUS

The Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus was invited to sing *The Star Spangled Banner* to open the AAABA baseball game the evening of August 6 at Johnstown. They also sang *God Bless America* during the seventh inning stretch.

On August 13 the chorus participated in The Hemlock Harmony Brigade at the Hemlock lodge near Altoona. This is an annual gathering of all the barbershop singing groups from a large part of Pennsylvania.

The chorus is preparing for its annual show which is scheduled for 2 p.m. Sunday, October 27 at Somerset High School. Mark it on your calendar and expect a hootin' and hollerin' good time!

### LAUREL HIGHLANDS CHORALE

Laurel Highlands Chorale Ambassadors have been chosen to sing the *Star Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America* at the Altoona Curve game Monday, August 19. Early in the summer, the entire Chorale sang at Meyersdale Fourth of July celebration the end of June, and provided music for a joint Calvary United Methodist Church and Grace United Methodist Church special Sunday service, featuring guest speaker Don Piper.

The Chorale has also been asked to provide special music for the annual Berlin Historical Society Dinner in September.

Rehearsals for the upcoming Christmas concert will begin at 7 p.m. Monday, September 9, Somerset Church of the Brethren. This year's concerts will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, December 8 and at 7 p.m. Monday, December 9.

For more information on the chorale and/or its events, contact Jan Burkett at 443-3085 or Dorene Friedline at 926-3610 (evenings) or 444-3446 (daytime).

### SOMERSET AUXILIARY OF THE JSO

The Somerset Auxiliary of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra will presents the 8th annual ***Taste of the Laurel Highlands*** from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 15 at Green Gables Restaurant. Tickets are \$30 per person and are available from SAJSO members or by contacting Gay Reed, 814-279-7134. All proceeds benefit Johnstown Symphony Orchestra.

### SOMERSET COUNTY COMMUNITY BAND

Somerset County Community Band closes out its summer season with two more concerts. The band will perform on the diamond in Ligonier at 7 p.m. Sunday, August 25 and at the Kingwood Picnic at noon Saturday, August 31.

Rehearsals for the Christmas season will begin in October. The band will join Laurel Arts Dancers for the 13th annual Rhythms of Christmas at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 14 at Somerset Area High School.

Thank you to our affiliates for helping us achieve our mission of  
***Making the Arts Accessible to All***

### Our Affiliates

*meetings at the Dressler Center unless otherwise noted*

#### **Botanical / Culinary Arts**

**Somerset Garden Club:** Andrea Falchek, 442-4359, andreafalchek@yahoo.com

#### **Needle / Fabric Arts**

**Crochet Guild:** Contact Sheena Pile at 444-2519.

**Knitting Guild:** Contact Susan Barclay, 443-2482.

#### **Performing Arts**

**Laurel Highlands Chorale:** Contact Jan Burkett, 443-3085.

**Mt. Union Sacred Harp Singers:** Contact Laurel Arts.

**Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus:** Contact Mike Mitchell, 442-8843, or Larry Shober, 267-4042.

**Somerset Auxiliary JSO:** Contact Sam Hanson, 814-754-5230, or Gay Reed, 814-279-7134.

**Somerset County Community Band:** Contact Dave Breen, photo@davebreen.com, 701-1515.

#### **Visual Arts**

**Gem & Mineral Club:** Contact Sue Bittner, 445-6085, or Bob Tutko, 814-886-9418.

**Somerset County Artists Association:** Contact Dave Greene, 926-4223.

**Woodcarvers:** Contact Jeff Baltzer, 442-6617.

## Coming up ... fall classes & workshops

### **Classes & Workshops**

#### **Stained Glass**

**Beginning Monday, September 9**

Talented stained glass artist Dottie Borosky returns this fall to Laurel Arts for another fun and productive series of classes. She will walk students through the process to create their own unique stained glass piece. These are generally six-week classes, but you may enroll at anytime. A new session takes place on the following Mondays: September 9, 16, 23, 30, October 7 and 14. Classes run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Education & Dance Center, 601 Georgian Place. Class fee is \$57.60 for members; \$72 for non-members. There is also a materials fee (cost depends upon the project). Contact Laurel Arts at 443-2433, or call/text 442-6217 for more information or to register. Pre-registration is required.

#### **Fall Cake Decorating Workshop**

**2-4 p.m. September 8**

Professional Cake Decorator Keri Brown has been busy this summer preparing cakes for weddings, parties, and celebrations. This fall she will return to Laurel Arts for yet another amazing decorating workshop. This month we will be creating a scarecrow cake just in time for fall celebrations! Keri will



walk you step by step to create this beautiful cake. Students will have a cake to work on and take home. Class fee is \$17.60 for members; \$22 for non-members payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$15 materials fee payable to Keri Brown. The workshop will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, September 8 at the Education & Dance Center, 601 Georgian Place. Preregistration is required. Call/text 442-6217 to register or call Laurel Arts at 443-2433. This class fills up quickly and is limited to 14 students.

#### **Patriotic Wreath Workshop**

**2-4 p.m. September 22**

Teaching her first class for us is Barb, owner of Barb's Country Creations. Her hobby has grown into her business. Now she is busy making wreaths, swags, and centerpieces for all occasions. During today's workshop, Barb will guide students in creating a patriotic pine cone

wreath. She will also show students how to create a beautiful bow for on their wreath. The class will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, September 22 at the Education & Dance Center, 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Preregistration is required. Please call/text 442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 443-2433 to register. Class fee is \$19.20 for members; \$24 for non-members payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$30 materials fee payable to Barb.



#### **Drop-in classes**

##### **Yoga with Hazel Weighley**

Drop-in yoga classes are offered from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursdays; and 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Dressler Center. Instructor is Hazel Weighley. Classes are drop-in, and are \$6.40 for members, \$8.00 for non-members. Call 443-2433, for more information.

##### **Tap FUNdamentals with Cindy Breen**

Drop-in adult tap class is offered from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturday mornings at Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center. Classes are \$6.40 per class for members, \$8 for non-members. We have some shoes available if you don't have your own. For more information, email [cindy@atlasprintco.com](mailto:cindy@atlasprintco.com).

***Music ... individual instruction for children and adults in violin and guitar is available at Laurel Arts. Call 814-443-2433 for more information.***

**Get the most up-to-date information on new classes and workshops by following Laurel Arts' Facebook page.**

# Musical Theatre is back and so is Miss Bethany!

We are excited to welcome back Bethany Thomas to our dance program. Not only will Bethany be teaching regular dance classes, she will also be teaching musical theatre dance. Two levels will be offered.

**Musical Theatre Dance 2**—Focusing on popular dance styles used by ensembles in Musical Theatre Productions, this class will instruct students in how to be part of an ensemble that is acting as well as dancing. Students will study and focus on the vitality of storytelling in dance, exploring recent musicals, dance styles, and choreographers from Broadway, Chicago, and London's West End. The class will conclude with a recital dance that emulates a musical ensemble number.

Prior dance and/or acting experience is needed (basic ballet, lyrical, tap, jazz or prior theatre arts classes.) This class will meet from 8 to 9 p.m. Mondays beginning August 19 and is designed for students 11-17.

**Musical Theatre Dance 1**—This class will be offered from noon to 12:45 p.m. Saturdays beginning August 24. It is designed for students 5-10. Musical Theatre Dance 1 will introduce young students to storytelling while dancing. There will be an emphasis on acting within the dance (this is NOT an acting class, rather an acting while dancing class) which will be accomplished through the use of the musical theatre dance genre. Students will learn basic children's numbers from musicals, as well as popular children's ensemble characters in a musical. The class will conclude with a recital dance that is an interpretation of an ensemble number in a musical. This class will prepare students to continue in Musical Theatre Dance 2. Prior experience is not necessary.

## Education & Dance Center staff ...

**Melissa McCusker**

Education & Dance Center  
Administrator

**Amanda Bergstresser**

Lead Dance Teacher

### Dance Instructors

**Cindy Breen**

**Megan Edwards**

**Melissa Gindlesperger**

**Aubree Maus**

**Bethany Thomas**

**Angela Fullard**

Preschool Teacher

**Patricia Ohler**

Preschool Aid

**Marsha Schmuck**

Fundraising Coordinator &  
Preschool Aid

*Laurel  
Arts*  
DANCE

Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL

*It's not too late to register for*

## LAUREL ARTS DANCE

**2019-20 Dance Classes begin August 19**

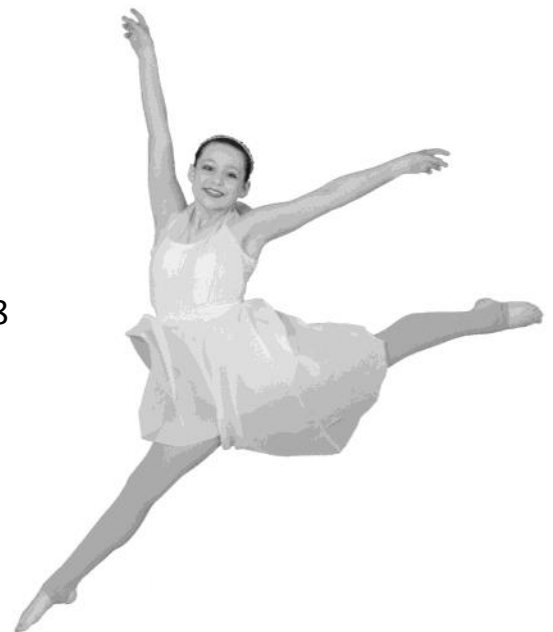
**REGISTER TODAY!**

Ballet • Pointe • Lyrical • Jazz • Tap • Hip Hop  
Musical Theatre Dance • Combo Classes for kids 3-8  
Special Needs (kids & adults) • Adult Tap

*There are a few spots remaining at*

**STUDIO KIDS PRESCHOOL**

**2019-20 Classes begin September 3**



Visit our office at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset • Call or email 814-443-1835 / [office@laurelarts.org](mailto:office@laurelarts.org)

Laurel Arts

PO Box 414

Somerset, PA 15501

***It's not too late***  
***to register for Laurel Arts Dance program***  
***and Studio Kids Preschool,***  
***but hurry!***

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Somerset, PA  
Permit No. 2

Current resident or



Laurel Arts is partially funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Other foundations and agencies providing support to Laurel Arts are: The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Somerset Borough Somerset County

***... for your generous support of Laurel Arts***

- Ameriserv
- Barbera Law
- Citizens Neighborhood Bank, A Division of Riverview Bank
- Clark Hunter Foundation
- CME
- Randy & Barb Davies
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Highland Tank
- Luther P. Miller & Alan and Lana Miller
- Riggs Family Foundation
- Riggs Industries
- Rotary Club of Somerset
- Somerset Trust Company
- UPMC Health Plan
- Wheeler Family Charitable Trust
- Wheeler Bros. Inc.

***Thank you to ...***