

Laurel Arts

Arts for everyone

Studio Kids
PRESCHOOL

Laurel
Arts
DANCE

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

Welcome to ...

First Night: A Whoville Holiday

6 to 8:30 pm Friday, December 6 - The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts

We hope to spread some Christmas cheer to everyone who supports us throughout the year!

Please join us from 6 to 8:30 pm Friday, December 6 for our annual First Night of Christmas. We've been celebrating the holiday with family and friends for over 40 years.

This year, a brass ensemble from Somerset County Community Band will play on the porch of the Dressler Center from 6 to 6:30 pm.

Santa will arrive via fire truck provided by Somerset Volunteer Fire Company. After lighting our tree, donated by Painter Pines, St. Nick will return to his sleigh, weather permitting, where he'll hear the wishes of all the little ones in attendance.

Meanwhile, there will be dancing in the street by members of Laurel Arts Performance Company, and horse-drawn carriage rides around the neighborhood (sponsored by Aspire Grant and Development.) Volunteers from the Humane Society of Somerset County will be attending with their furry friends.

Come inside to warm up and do a little shopping. The Christmas Craft Shoppe has been re-invented as an artisan market and will be open during First Night only. Artists will have decorative, functional and wearable art, pottery, glass, and items for children.

And, what's First Night without Christmas crafts, face painting and refreshments for everyone.

You can also purchase chances to win baskets and prizes from local businesses. One of the baskets was donated by the Pittsburgh Penguin Foundation (just imagine what it may hold.)

Before the evening concludes, we will announce the winners for the Holiday Design Scholarship Contest (pictures on page 4 & 5.)

For more information about First Night contact Laurel Arts at 443-2433. A huge thank you to U-Stor Mor for sponsoring our First Night Celebration.

Holiday Basket Raffle

Laurel Arts' **Holiday Basket Raffle** will run from Dec. 2 through 14. Winning tickets will be drawn on Monday, Dec. 16 at 11 am. Winners will be notified by telephone. The donated baskets are valued from \$45 up to a few hundred dollars! The baskets contain donated items from The Pittsburgh Penguin Foundation, Seven Springs, Somerset Trust, and Glades Pike Winery to name a few. There is also a Barbie-themed basket, a Mary Kay basket, a basket for "man's best friend" and a very nice car care basket! Please stop by the Dressler Center to check them out and buy your tickets.



Upcoming exhibits ...

Through December 17

Eight Create

Eight hard-working members of Laurel Arts Gallery Committee are also prolific and well-known local artists. They have taken on the blank canvas of The Philip Dressler Center and filled it with a wide variety of work in many different media.

Exhibiting are:

Peggy Black
Erin Glessner
Jane Holt
Joy Knepp
Bridget Mayak
Linda Peck
Kathy Trexel Reed
Susan Wilson



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)

Don't miss the Artisan Market at First Night of Christmas December 6

An Artisan Vendor Market will take the place of our Christmas Craft Shoppe this holiday season. "There are several shops in the area now offering hand-made arts and crafts," Jaci McCusker, executive director, said. "It just seems like a bit more fun to have vendor market and make it more of an event. The market will allow makers to interact with visitors and personally promote their wares."

Erin Glessner will be participating in the event. Erin's work can also be seen in the current gallery exhibit, ***Eight Create***. She explained, "Our featured artists will have decorative, functional and wearable art for sale, such as jewelry, plus pottery, glass, fiber arts, items for children and holiday décor. Come shop for one-of-a-kind gifts."

Check out our used art book sale

We have been cleaning out our library (yes, Laurel Arts has an extensive library ... but more about that in an upcoming newsletter) to make room for newer art books that have been generously donated.

We are offering many used but in very nice condition art books for sale to coincide with the Holiday Basket Raffle, December 2 through December 14. Please stop by the Dressler Center to see what we have to offer.

Could be the perfect stocking stuffer for the artists in your life!



Exhibited in our galleries during the holiday season is work by eight local artists and members of Laurel Arts Gallery Committee. The exhibit will hang through December 17. Be sure to attend the Artisan Market December 6-7, and take the opportunity to view (or purchase) their exceptional work. Pictured are Linda Harrill Peck, Susan Wilson, Erin Glessner, Joy Knepp, Jane Holt, Kathy Trexel Reed, Peggy Black and Bridget Mayak.

Thank you for being our friend & neighbor

There's a buzz in Western Pennsylvania about *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. And, why not. Not only do we love Tom Hanks, we have long adored Fred Rogers. Mr. Rogers always represented what's good about living in our neighborhood.

Members of Laurel Arts (our friends and neighbors) will soon be receiving an annual appeal letter from Jaci McCusker, our executive director. Our members have always been very supportive, and we want you to know that we appreciate you. The letter will ask you to consider a year-end donation to Laurel Arts, and if you can, your donation will be put to very good use. If you can't, there are still plenty of ways to support the arts in our community.

Attend a gallery opening or a lawn concert, join one of our affiliate groups, take an art class, send your children to art camp, visit the National Museum of American Papercutters, have a picnic on our grounds (you may want to wait for better weather!)

Because you are a member of Laurel Arts, we know that you appreciate the arts and our organization. We hope you feel like you are part of the arts community. You are an integral part of the community that made the following possible.

Over 250 children attended our dance program, Studio Kids Preschool, and our summer-long art camp program.

We hosted nine gallery exhibits, including three that featured hundreds of works by young artists in the county (our elementary school show, our junior-senior high school show, and our Somerset Area School District show.)

We presented two dance recitals (our 12th annual Rhythms of Christmas and our 30th spring recital); our performance company presented a Christmas show to nearly 2000 elementary students and residents of two nursing homes; and they attended two dance competitions.

We completed the garage mural project and are working on another community mural, and the foundation was laid for our imagination garden.

Over \$17,000 was awarded in scholarships to children attending our dance and preschool programs.

We hosted a variety of special events, including Music on the Lawn, Soup'er Bowl (fight against hunger), Common Threads (a fiber arts symposium), Somerfest and more.

Over 100 art classes for children and adults were offered.

We partnered with The Guild of American Papercutters, Community Foundation of the Alleghenies, Festival of Books in the Alleghenies, Laurel Highlands Chorale, Mary S. Biesecker Public Library, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance, Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus, Rotary Club of Somerset, Somerset County Artists Association, Somerset County Community Band, Somerset Garden Club, Somerset Historical Center, and Somerset, Inc. to bring programs, projects and special events to our community.

So, please allow us to once again thank you for your support!

Our Dressler staff ...

Jaclyn McCusker
Executive Director

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.

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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.



Berlin Brothersvalley High School



Somerset Area High School

Visit uptown Somerset and enjoy ...

Voting kicked off for the Second Annual Holiday Design Contest Friday, November 22. The contest is sponsored by Laurel Arts and Somerset Inc. This year six local schools entered the competition, and with the help of a stipend from their sponsors, have drafted, designed, and built large-scale decorations that currently sit on the diamond in Uptown Somerset.



Shanksville Stonycreek High School

The purpose of the project is two-fold. First, the concept is to encourage technical students and art students to work together to craft an amazing 3-D holiday design. Second, the design should be something that stands the test of time. We hope that the school's home communities will relish the designs and utilize them for years to come.

The creativity, craftsmanship, and ingenuity of the students shine from each and every project.

In addition schools are competing for several scholarships. Voting for People's Choice will be open through noon Friday, December 6. This award of \$500 will be presented to the school that receives the most votes (a new system is in place this year to ensure fairness.)

Judge's awards include: Art Award of \$500 to be presented to the design that best represents the theme and demonstrates the best artistic quality; Technical Award of \$500 will be presented to the design that demonstrates the best technical skills; Motion Award (new this year) of \$500 will be presented to the school that best incorporates



Rockwood Area High School



North Star High School

Christmas Magic on the diamond!

motion into the design. Winners will be announced during First Night at Laurel Arts on Friday, December 6.

Many thanks to our major sponsor (sponsoring the scholarship awards) Somerset Trust Company.

The projects materials were sponsored by business in the participating communities, including: Berlin Brothersvalley High School sponsored by Center Rock Inc.; North Star High School sponsored by Highland Tank; Rockwood Area Junior/Senior High School sponsored by Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company; Shanksville-Stonycreek School District sponsored by Blackburn Marine Distributing; Somerset Area High School sponsored by Morocco Welding; and, Windber Area High School sponsored by Hollern Koontz Insurance.

The students did an incredible job and we invite you to vote, share, and come see the projects on the diamond in Uptown Somerset!

To vote go to:

<https://www.somersetinc.org/holidaydesign/>



Windber Area High School

Our Affiliates

meetings at the Dressler Center unless otherwise noted

Botanical / Culinary Arts

Somerset Garden Club: Contact Andrea Falchek, 814-442-4359, andreaFalchek@yahoo.com
Meeting 2nd Monday of the month, 11 a.m.

Needle / Fabric Arts

Crochet Guild: Contact Sheena Pile at 444-2519. Meeting 2nd and 3rd Monday of the month, 6 p.m.

Knitting Guild: Contact Susan Barclay, 443-2482. Meeting 2nd Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at Somerset Alliance Church. Weekly group 10:30 a.m. at members' homes.

Performing Arts

Laurel Highlands Chorale: Contact Jan Burkett, 443-3085 for more information.

Mt. Union Sacred Harp Singers: Rehearsal 2nd Thursdays of the month, Kingwood Church of God (Jan-Mar), Mt. Union Church (other months).

Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus: Contact Mike Mitchell, 442-8843, or Larry Shober, 267-4042. Rehearsal 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings, Grace United Methodist Church, Somerset.

Somerset Auxiliary JSO: Contact Sam Hanson, 814-754-5230, or Gay Reed, 814-279-7134. Meeting 1st Thursday of the month, 12:30 p.m. Location TBA.

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

Visual Arts

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

Somerset County Artists Association: Contact Dave Greene, 814-926-4223. Meetings 6 p.m. fourth Tuesday of the month.

Woodcarvers: Contact Jeff Baltzer, 814-442-6617. Meeting 6 p.m. Wednesdays.



Laurel Highlands Chorale performs in 2018, under the direction of Jan Burkett.

Laurel Highland Chorale to perform annual Christmas concerts Dec. 8 & 9

Come celebrate the Christmas season with the Laurel Highlands Chorale as we mark 30 years of singing Christmas music with a concert, *Christmas – Past and Present*, at 3 p.m. Sunday, December 8 at Somerset Church of the Brethren on the Berlin-Plank Road. If you cannot make that concert, there will be a second performance at 7 p.m. Monday, December 9 at the church.

There will be a special tribute to past and present directors and a song from each decade of Christmases, along with other favorites.

Violinists Allyn Custer and Lisa Pierce, flutist Mary Lynn Bowser, and everyone's favorite percussionist Brandon Lambert will be joining us and providing special music.

Tickets are only \$5 and are available at the door, by contacting any chorale member, or by calling Dorene Friedline at 926-3610 or 442-0460. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Everything that is available on Amazon is also available on AmazonSmile; the only difference is that Amazon will make a donation to Laurel Arts.



Members of Laurel Arts performance company are: (seated) Emily Smail, Clare Troll, Emma Klahre, Katie Romesburg, Avery Cook, Ava Pyle, Isabelle Schmuck and Caroline Troll; (kneeling) Alana Kreger, Ella Peck, Taylor Cook, Teegan Pugh, Lindsay Frazier, Ashley Ciepiela, Emily Ream, Kelci Leasure; (standing) Ashlyn Bittner, Bena Croushore, Abigail Burtner, Emily Hostetler, Morgan Troy, Faith Custer, Isabella Lauer, Alexa Shaulis and Catherine Houghton.

Performance Company to visit schools

Our performance company will be taking its Christmas Show on the road Friday, December 6 and Tuesday, December 10.

On December 6, they will perform at North Star Elementary at 9 a.m.; Eagle View/Maple Ridge at 10:30 a.m.; the Sheltered Workshop at 11:30 a.m.; and The Heritage at Siemon’s at 2 p.m.

On December 10, they will perform for Skills USA at 8:30 p.m.; Shanksville at 9:45 a.m.; Berlin at 1:45 p.m. and Meadowview at 3 p.m.

You can also see the show at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 14 as part of Rhythms of Christmas!



Rhythms of Christmas to be presented Saturday, December 14

Join us for our 13th annual **Rhythms of Christmas** to be presented at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 14 at Somerset Area High School auditorium. Our student choreographers (pictured from bottom to top and left to right) Bena Croushore, Ashlyn Bittner, Emily Hostetler, Alexa Shaulis, Morgan Troy, Abigail Burtner, Isabella Lauer, and Catherine Houghton have been working with our dance students since mid October to create a entertaining Christmas spectacular.

Somerset County Community Band will join the dancers, performing a variety of holiday favorites, including a medley from Christmas Vacation, A Very Brassy Christmas and a Celtic Carol.

There is no admission charge, but we do graciously accept donations to the Dorothy Dressler Scholarship Fund.

Meet the performers after the show and join us for cookies and punch in the cafeteria.

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

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Follow us on Facebook
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Laurel Arts

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Enjoy these holiday events ...

First Night of Christmas
6-8:30 pm Friday, Dec. 6

Laurel Highlands Chorale Christmas Concerts
3:30 pm Sunday, Dec. 8 and 7 pm Monday, Dec. 9

Rhythms of Christmas
1 pm Saturday, Dec. 14

Non-Profit Org.
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Somerset, PA
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- Ameriserv
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- Petros & Nita Argyres
- Barbera Law
- Citizens Neighborhood Bank, A Division of Riverview Bank
- Clark Hunter Foundation
- CME
- Randy & Barb Davies
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Guild of American Papercutters
- Highland Tank
- Joy & Gerald Knepp
- Luther P. Miller & Alan and Lana Miller
- Mark & Ann Persun
- Riggs Family Foundation
- Riggs Industries
- Rotary Club of Somerset
- Somerset Trust Company
- UPMC Health Plan
- U-Stor Mor
- Wheeler Family Charitable Trust

Thank you to ...