

Laurel Arts

Arts for everyone

Studio Kids
PRESCHOOL

Laurel
Arts
DANCE

ArtLink • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • August Recap & September 2020

A dance with umbrellas ... perfect for the day!

Outdoors but covered, a perfect solution!

A good time was had by all—it was a perfect day!



*Can't Stop
Won't Stop*
QUARANTINE 2020

WE MADE IT WORK! A big thank you to Georgian Place, Geochemical Testing and Romesburg Media Group (not to mention dance instructors, husbands of dance instructors, parents, and students.) Despite all of the restrictions, we were able to have a dance recital for our students. Following six weeks of modified instruction this summer, students performed outside on a very raining day. We created a dance floor, a back curtain and a covered walk-way. Georgian Place allowed us to use the breezeway. We presented three shows with 21 dances in each in order to limit the number of people who attended and participated to under 250 per show. Our 2020-21 dance year begins the week of September 21. It's not too late to register. For more information, email office@laurelarts.org or visit Laurel Arts Education and Dance Center on Facebook. The registration form is also on our website, laurelarts.org.

Imagine! Yes, we've had to make adjustments to our office hours, events, programs and classes. But, we're still an Art Center. There's color and beauty all over our grounds, and the galleries have reopened with color and beauty all over the walls. There will also be music on the lawn so stayed tune and stay in touch!



Upcoming exhibits ...

September 15-October 22
Somerset County Artists Association
Member Show

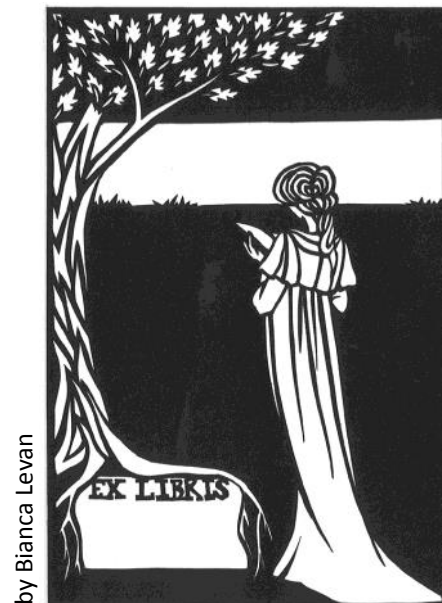
All members are invited to exhibit work. This show will have a variety of art forms and media represented.

November 3-December 17
Select Pieces / Permanent Collection

Part of Laurel Arts' mission is to collect, preserve and exhibit work of area artists.



Located upstairs at
The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts
Office/Gallery Hours through September:
Noon-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday
 Closed Friday-Sunday except
 for special events.



GAP to exhibit original bookplates

Ex Libris, the current exhibit of the Guild of American Papercutters, is on display at the Dressler Center. The public can vote for favorites September 8-10; then the display will move to the Mary S. Biesecker Library September 14-16 for additional time to vote. Be among the first to see these original book plates made of hand-cut paper. The exhibit will return to the Dressler Center and be on display through November. It will become a traveling exhibit in future.

Ex Libris refers to a book owner's identification label that is usually pasted to the inside front cover of a book. Members of the Guild will receive bookplates made from the some of the show entries.



Pictured are Dave Greene, Somerset County Mobile Food Band, and Alisa Murphy, Humane Society of Somerset County, (seated) and Bridget Mayak, Joy Knepp, Jaclyn McCusker and Susan Wilson.

Gallery Committee makes donations

In March, Laurel Arts' Gallery Committee hosted its third annual Soup'er Bowl. The purpose of the event is to bring people together through art, a simple meal of soup and bread, and to bring awareness to the fight against hunger.

In August, the committee was finally able to present proceeds of the event to The Humane Society of Somerset County and the Somerset County Mobile Food Bank. The event raised close to \$3,000, which was split equally among the organizations and Laurel Arts' clay studio. The clay studio uses the funds to replenish the clay and glazes which will be used to make the bowls for the next Soup'er Bowl.

Committee members are grateful for the artists who donate so much of their time and efforts to create such a worthy event and for the many attendees and businesses who have supported it.



Mike Baker brings beauty to our outdoor spaces

Mike Baker, Laurel Arts Maintenance Supervisor, is also our groundskeeper. A groundskeeper attends the land for aesthetics and function. Mike goes above and beyond to make the grounds of The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts a welcoming, colorful and creative sanctuary.

He has put so much care, thought and time into everything he has done at both centers - from making sure our facilities are thoroughly cleaned during the COVID-19 pandemic to reviving a beloved herb garden. Words cannot truly encapsulate the appreciation the staff and board have for this man.

We are excited to be your community arts center and welcome you to stop by to enjoy this outdoor space which embodies both the calm of nature and the sparks of artistry.

One of the outdoor projects Mike has been working on is our Imagination Garden. When complete, it will include a variety of musical instruments for children to explore. The Imagination Garden is at the top of the hill near our garage which features replicas of a paper cutting design by local artist Kathy Reed. The garage was painted by Erin Glessner and Bridget Mayak. The colorful bicycles pictured on page one are from the Art in Motion project.

The Dressler Center is where art and nature meet; Mike Baker makes it work!

Jaclyn McCusker, Executive Director

Our Dressler staff ...

Jaclyn McCusker
Executive Director

April Davis
Business Manager

Mike Baker
Maintenance Director

Adam Davis
Maintenance

Senda Harvey
Administrative &
Event Assistant

Alison Leer
Office Coordinator &
Administrative Assistant

Linda Harrill Peck
Gallery Assistant / Curator

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

Laurel Arts Board of Directors

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The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts

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

jmccusker@laurelarts.org

The official registration and financial information of Laurel Arts may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-

Our Affiliates

NOT ALL AFFILIATES ARE MEETING REGULARLY. CONTACT INFORMATION IS INCLUDED FOR EACH GROUP SO PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL FOR INFORMATION!

Botanical / Culinary Arts

Somerset Garden Club: Contact Andrea Falcchek, 814-442-4359, andreaefalcchek@yahoo.com

Needle / Fabric Arts

Crochet Guild: Contact Sheena Pile at 444-2419.

Knitting Guild: Contact Susan Barclay, 443-2482.

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 outdoors at Grace United Methodist Church, Somerset.

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

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

Visual Arts

Laurel Highlands Photography Club: Contact Roz Pugh, 814-701-1170. The club meets at 6:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month from September through June, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 1845 N. Center Ave., Somerset.

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

Somerset County Artists Association: Contact Dave Greene, 814-926-4223.

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

Somerset Auxiliary of JSO to host Taste of the Laurel Highlands On-Line

The Taste of the Laurel Highlands On-line Edition will take place Tuesday, October 20. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will be no tastings of the wonderful food our area restaurants have to offer. Instead, we will be hosting an online auction which will be open for bidding beginning October 1. Please check out items and gift cards to many of your favorite restaurants and businesses on-line! Visit our website, www.sajso.com, or call the JSO office, 814-535-6738, for more information.

Roof Garden Chorus rehearses safely

The Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus has been rehearsing since mid-summer in the pavilion at Grace United Methodist Church on Felgar Road in Somerset. The group has decided not to host its annual fall show, but says, "We are still a bunch of guys who like to sing so we get together for the sheer joy of busting those barbershop chords together."

With approaching cooler weather the group is exploring options for moving inside to continue singing together.

Community Band cancels Christmas season; brass ensemble will perform

Lacking rehearsal space, Somerset County Community Band has cancelled its Christmas season. The brass ensemble does plan to perform at its traditional holiday events.

Artists Association cancels meetings plans member Sept. 15-Oct. 22

Due to the pandemic, SCAA has cancelled the remaining meetings for 2020. Meetings will resume next year.

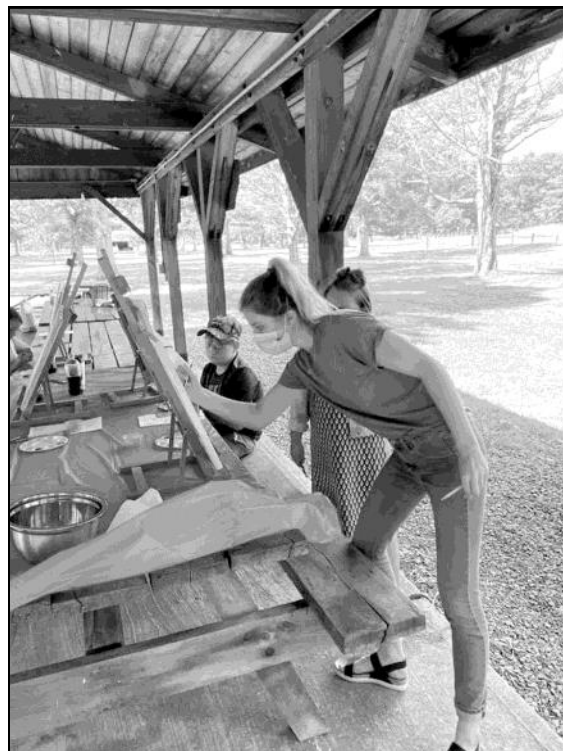
The Member Show will be on exhibit in Laurel Arts galleries from September 15 through October 22. The opening reception, however, has been cancelled.

Laurel Highlands Chorale cancels Christmas season, concerts

In a continuing effort to maintain safe distancing and personal protection standards, Laurel Highland Chorale, in conjunction with Somerset Church of the Brethren, will not be hosting a Christmas concert in December. This was a most difficult decision to make. We will, instead, look to the future to bring the best spring concert ever in May 2021.



Before the end of summer, students took part in a special *Art Experience* at Laurel Hill State Park. Participants took a walk with Park Ranger Kim Peck and had a chance to watch butterflies in all stages of development: chrysalis, caterpillar, and butterflies. After the walk, students created a beautiful butterfly painting with artist Caitlin Schmuck (right). Watch for more monthly *Art Experiences* with Caitlin!



Celebrate the end of summer

Scarecrow Fun and Paint Jam Sept. 19-20

For years, Laurel Arts has been part of the annual Scarecrow Festival at Georgian Place. Unfortunately, this year the festival has been canceled.

But that's not to say we can't continue with the fun! We have planned a **Scarecrow Making Workshop** from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, September 19 at Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center.

Students will create a reversible wooden scarecrow/snowman. This piece will be created and decorated on a two foot by 11 inch board. We will also decorate delicious scarecrow cupcakes.

The cost for the two-hour class is \$16 for members of Laurel Arts (\$20 for non members) payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$12 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck.

Registration is required and space is limited. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.



We'll conclude the weekend with an **End of Summer Paint Jam** from 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday, September 20.

Join us for Laurel Arts first Paint Jam! "Jams" will be provided by Showtime Entertainment. The afternoon will include painting, pizza making, and milkshakes while listening to some great music!

In addition, each participant will be given a blank canvas to create whatever he or she would like. (This is not a step by step painting class.)

At check-in, participants will receive tokens for a canvas, a build-your-own pizza, drink and a milkshake. There will also be a large canvas for participants to add their own creativity. The canvas will be on display at the dance center after the event.

Registration is required and space is limited. Tokens can not be purchased that day. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 by September 13.

The cost for this event is \$30 payable to Laurel Arts. All ages are welcome. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. The event takes place on the lawn behind the Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center.

Matt Otis & the Sound plus Randy Myers to appear on the lawn stage Saturday, September 19

Bedford musicians Matt Otis & the Sound will entertain on the lawn stage at the Dressler Center Saturday, September 19. The evening will kick off with hometown favorite Randy Myers at 6:30 p.m.

Morguen Toole will have its food truck; but guests are also welcome to pack a picnic dinner.

Bring your lawn chairs, and sit back and enjoy the last sounds of summer, funded by the Forging Unity Grant from The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.



Classes are back ... consider these opportunities to create something special

Clay Earring Workshop

Join Instructor Caitlin Schmuck for an afternoon of fun and creativity! Students will make color choices and create four pairs of earrings. They will also be able to create a unique fifth pair using by using what they've learned and adding their own ideas. While the earrings bake, we will enjoy a small snack. Feel free to bring along your own wine or favorite drink. Once earrings are baked and cooled, Caitlin will demonstrate how to add jump rings and earring backs. Don't have pierced ears? These earrings also make great gifts! This class is designed for ages 12 and up. The cost for the workshop is \$16 for members of Laurel Arts (\$20 for nonmembers) payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$10 materials fee payable to Caitlin Schmuck. The class takes place at the Education & Dance Center, 601 Georgian Place. Registration is required and space is limited. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 by September 12.



The fee for the workshop is \$48 for members of Laurel Arts; \$60 for nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts. This includes all materials. Students only need to bring paper towels, baby wipes and old rags.

Registration is required by Monday, October 5 and students are asked to pay in advance. A minimum of 4 students is required for the class to run. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

Succulent Pumpkin Workshop

Join gardener Sheila Croushore for an afternoon of fall planting. Sheila has been a member of the Somerset Garden Club for several years and is very knowledgeable in all types of plants. Students will be instructed in cleaning a medium size pumpkin and then planting beautiful succulents inside. This is a fall centerpiece that will serve as a unique decoration for several weeks. The class takes place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, October 10 at 601 Georgian Place. The fee for the workshop is \$16 for members of Laurel Arts (\$20 nonmembers) payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$12 materials fee payable to Sheila Croushore. This class is designed for ages 10 through adult. Children under 10 are welcome to attend but must be accompanied by an adult. Text or call 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 by October 3 to register.

PLEASE BE SURE TO NOTE REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND CALL IN ADVANCE! Thank you!

Check Facebook (Laurel Arts) for information about upcoming classes.

Paint in Bob Ross style with Al Just

Certified Bob Ross Instructor Al Just has another beautiful piece picked out for students to paint in October. This workshop will be a step by step class in which students will create an oil painting of the scene pictured.

The workshop takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, October 12 at the Education & Dance Center.



At the Education & Dance Center:

- **Studio Kids:** Preschool opens Tuesday, September 8. We offer two options: half-day preschool on Tuesdays and Thursday (mornings OR afternoons) and full-day preschool Monday, Wednesday and Friday. For more information or to inquire about openings, email angi@laurelarts.org.
- **Laurel Arts Dance:** The new dance year will begin the week of September 21. Classes are offered for children as young as three through high school. The schedule is posted on Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center Facebook page. There may be spots open, so don't hesitate to ask. Email office@laurelarts.org for information. Dance disciplines include ballet, tap, jazz, lyrical and hip hop. **NEW THIS YEAR** is Theatre Dance. The class is perfect for students who participate in high school musicals.

Musical Theatre Dance 2 (for students 11-17) will seek to strengthen students' acting and dancing while performing by using the genre of dance that is Musical Theatre. Focusing on popular dance styles used by ensembles in Musical Theatre Productions, this class will instruct students how to "be in an ensemble" acting while dancing. Students will study and focus on the vitality of storytelling in dance. We will explore 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 dance number. No prior dance and/or acting experience is needed. Just a love of Musical Theatre!

Musical Theatre Dance 1 (for students 5-10) 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. NO prior experience is needed! For more information or to register, email office@laurelarts.org.

- **Adult tap classes:** Is learning to tap on your bucket list. Join us for drop-in classes. Adult tap classes will be held from 9 to 10 a.m. beginning Saturday, September 26. Classes are only \$6.40 for members of Laurel Arts (\$8 for nonmembers.) Class is designed for all levels including beginners.

Education & Dance Center staff ...

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
Preschool Aid
Classes & Programs Coordinator
Summer Camps Instructor
Fundraising Coordinator

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Help us and save! **Bosco's Friends Helping Friends** is better than ever. It's a two-day event, **October 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.** You don't need a shopping pass to purchase. You'll get 20% off the lowest sales prices and we'll get 5% of your purchase. You simply select **Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center** when you make your purchases.

Laurel Arts
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Somerset, PA 15501



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