





ArtLink • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • October 2020

More color than autumn leaves ...





Keep reading to learn more about: (upper left) *our freshly painted fence* (upper right) *the new uptown mural* (middle left) *lawn music and ...* (middle & right) *... more garden music* (lower left & middle) *original bookplates* (lower right) *art at Uptown Works*





Upcoming exhibits ...

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Through 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.





In addition to Kathy Reed and Linda Peck's entries on page 1, Sarah Madison's art deco design and Linda Emmerson's dragon were also winners.

GAP exhibits original bookplates

Ex Libris, the current exhibit of the Guild of American Papercutters on display through November, features 25 original bookplate designs created by members of the Guild of American Papercutters. Four of the designs were selected as "people's choice" winners. The pieces selected through voting at Laurel Arts and the Mary S. Biesecker Public Library were created by Kathy Reed and Linda Peck (on the front cover) and Sarah Madison and Linda Emmerson (above.)

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 winning show entries.

Laurel Arts and the Guild of American Papercutters enjoy a great working relationship. In fact, The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts has been home to the Guild's National Museum since 2009.

Laurel Arts expands available gallery space to include Uptown Works

Sometimes you visit the gallery, and sometimes the gallery visits you! When cutting-edge and beautifully imagined co-working space, Uptown Works, opened in Somerset, Laurel Arts provided some unique and eclectic artwork from our collection to grace the walls.

Recently, Somerset County Artists Association joined this exciting collaboration! Members of Laurel Arts Gallery Committee removed the permanent collection pieces, and artists David Greene and Susan Wilson (both members of SCAA) brought new artwork to hang.

Laurel Arts would like to thank Uptown Works, SCAA, the artists, and the members of our Gallery Committee for their collaborative efforts in this program.

If you are in the area, be sure to checkout the artwork, the beautiful building that is Uptown Works, and possibly

purchase one of the pieces on exhibit (yes, they are for sale!)

Exhibiting artist David Greene grew up in Ohio, attending Ashland College with majors in Art and English. After a stint in the Air Force, he worked at a mid-sized newspaper in north central Ohio. In 1975, he went to work at a large portrait photography studio, and in 1980, he opened his own portrait studio in the Rockwood area.

During the last eight years, David has expanded his art by going back to his college roots, playing with watercolor, acrylics and other mediums. Recently, he has produced many varied pieces on paper and canvas, some of which you can see at Uptown Works.

"Motion and emotion is my theme these days. Using my emotions, I apply the paint in a flowing effect that

Laurel Arts expands available gallery space, continued from page 2

defines my feelings at the moment. The Covid-19 lockdown gave me the opportunity to experiment with my art. Recently some of my work is the result of my reactions to political events in this country. I attempt to put a lot of my passion in each piece that I create."

Susan Wilson attended high school in Pittsburgh. she has a





By Susan Wilson

The cyanotype process she often uses was developed in 1842 when photography techniques were being explored and invented. It is a non-silver technique using potassium ferricyanide and ferric ammonium citrate, and when they are mixed together and applied to a surface and dry the surface is light sensitive. Her negatives are the size of the image and placed on the surface of the fabric with a piece of glass on top and exposed to sunlight. The ultraviolet light exposes the image and then it is rinsed in vinegar and water. She tones, dyes, stuffs and embroiders her images.

They are displayed as quilts, framed pieces, sculptures and mixed media.

"It is through photography and fiber that I capture a moment in time and transform it to a tactile creation to share through art. Art has also been a vehicle that has helped me and my students work through life issues and the many changes and challenges that we face. My hope is that we all find the media that will help us work through and beyond obstacles to improve our lives and be a better person."

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Our Dressler staff ...

Jaclyn McCusker Executive Director

April Davis Business Manager

Mike Baker Maintenance Director

Rebecca Frola Biss Office Assistant

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

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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.



By David Greene

Our Affiliates

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

Botanical / Culinary Arts

Somerset Garden Club: Contact Andrea Falchek, 814-442-4359, andreafalchek@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.

Photography Club welcomes new members

Laurel Highlands Photography Club started out as a small group of friends in 2010 and has grown into a group of over 50 active members. Members have had their work published in Somerset Magazine each month and in the annual Town Planner. Members are amateur and professional photographers of all ages who focus on growing their photography skills.

The group meets the first Tuesday and third Thursday of each month (September-June) at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 1845 North Center Ave., Somerset. The club recently became an affiliate of Laurel Arts.

The club's end of the year project is done in conjunction with Somerset Historical Center and is entitled "Art in the Museum." It is a public photography contest; the club has had as many as 180 submissions in one contest year.

In the last year, the club welcomed several new members and branched out into some new adventures. Monthly meetings always include a learning experience. Last year a live video feed was added for those who cannot attend the meetings. This year a second monthly meeting was added. With a variety of outings and flexible dates the club hopes to better serve potential members.

We have also added community service opportunities to allow our members to learn while providing the community with needed photos. Members have provided Jennerstown Speedway, Mountain Craft Days/Somerset Historical Center, and Somerset County Fair (just to name a few) with photos they can use for marketing. These digital photos were provided free of charge. We are also looking for businesses willing to display our members' photos.

A beginner photography class provides instruction in a classroom setting. In the fall a four-week class was offered on Saturday mornings. Members are also planning to host one-day seminars that will allow those that cannot commit to 4 weeks to have the opportunity of an overview.

Anyone interested in photography is welcome to attend a meeting. For more information, email lhphotoclub@gmail.com or call club president Roslyn Pugh at 814-701-1170.

Virtual Taste of the Laurel Highlands October 17-24

To participate in this year's Taste of the Laurel Highlands, which benefits Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, visit www.up4bid.net. Bidding is open from October 17 through October 24. There are nearly 70 items available including gift cards from many fine area restaurants.

We salute our affiliates who help to keep the arts alive even during tough times!

Join us for these classes ... it's more fun to learn in person

Learn to Crochet

Tuesday, October 13, 6:30 to 8 pm

Join crochet instructor Heather Houghton for her first three-week session teaching at Laurel Arts. This class is perfect for beginners who have never



crocheted before or those who know the basics and are looking for some guidance. Heather is not only a long time dance mom but she has also been crocheting for over 20 years. She has completed countless projects including afghans, hats and cute pieces such as Dobby from Harry Potter and decorative candy corns. Students will meet the first week to talk about the basics and will be able to decide on a small project to complete in the following weeks. The first week, participants will get crochet hooks and yarn to practice. We ask that you purchase the yarn you will need for your personal project on your own before the second week. The instructor will guide you in what to purchase. The class takes place on Tuesday, October 13, 20, 27 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Education and Dance Center. The fee for this three-week workshop is \$40 members/\$50 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$5 materials fee payable to Heather Houghton. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

Decorative Jack-o-Lantern Wednesday, October 14, 6 to 8 pm (Dressler)

Craft this decorative Jack-o-Lantern with the help of instructor Laura Schrock. You may know Laura from her previous classes at Laurel Arts where she has helped students to create beautiful holiday cards. This pumpkin is 16 inches and lights up. Students will be using a glue gun to adhere their embellishments. Participants will make a top hat for



their pumpkin from foam sheets, fabric, and ribbon. The workshop is Wednesday, October 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the first floor gallery at Dressler. The cost is \$16 members/\$20 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$28 materials fee payable to Laura Schrock. Class size is limited to 8. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

Spooky Halloween Cake Workshop

Sunday, October 25, 2 to 4 pm

Professional Cake Decorator Keri Brown is back with another amazing cake creation to share with students at Laurel Arts. Keri will walk you step by step through creating this spooky Halloween themed cake. Students will



each have their own cakes to work on and take home.

Class fee is \$20 members/\$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$15 materials fee payable to Keri Brown.

Class takes place on Sunday, October 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Education and Dance Center. Preregistration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 to register or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433. This class fills up quickly and is limited to 14 students.

Halloween Fun with Miss Marsha!

Saturday, October 31, 10 am to Noon

Come in your favorite costume and enjoy Halloween Fun with Ms. Marsha. The morning will be full of spooky crafts, games, and snacks! The class takes place on Saturday, October 31 from 10 a.m. to Noon at the Education and Dance Center. The cost is \$16 members/ \$20 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$10 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck. Preregistration is required and class size is limited. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register at least one week in advance. This class is best suited for ages four and up.

Bob Ross Painting Workshop with Al Just

Monday, November 9, 10 am to 3 pm

Certified Bob Ross Instructor Al Just has another beautiful piece picked out for students to paint this month! The workshop takes place on Monday, November 9 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Education and Dance Center. The fee for the workshop is \$48 members/



\$60 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts. This includes all materials. Students only need to bring paper towels, baby wipes and old rags.

Preregistration is required by Monday, November 2 and students are asked to pay in advance. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

There's more to learn, craft, enjoy ...

Holiday Wreath-Making Workshop Sunday, November 15, 2 to 5 pm

Instructor Barb Cass will be returning to Laurel Arts to share how to create another one of her amazing wreaths. This month Barb will be offering two wreaths in one day. You can choose to create one or both. Both wreaths include the beautiful red truck that has become a popular holiday decoration.



The cost for this workshop is \$20 members/\$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus the materials fee payable to Barb Cass. See the details on materials fees below:

Wreath #1 is a pine wreath with bows. Please note that the bows will differ a bit from the photo. The materials fee is \$51.

Wreath #2 includes assorted holiday ribbon and mesh, green pine and pine cones. The cost for the materials is \$52.

If you choose to do both, the materials fee is \$93. That would save you \$10.

Class takes place at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset on Sunday, November 15 from 2 to 5 p.m. Registration is required. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

Bob Ross Painting Workshop with Al Just

Monday, December 14, 10 am to 3 pm

Here's another Bob Ross inspired painting, just in time for the holidays. The workshop takes place on Monday, December 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Education and Dance Center. The fee for the workshop is



\$48 members/\$60 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts. This includes all materials. Students only need to bring paper towels, baby wipes and old rags.

Preregistration is required by Monday, December 7 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.

Pictures from some of last month's classes! Looks like fun ...





Scarecrow and Snowman reversible sign and lots of colorful clay earrings!



Rotarian Arts board

member) Fred Rosemeyer gives direction. Below: Rotarian Rita Halverson was instrumental in getting this project off the ground. She was also celebrating her birthday the day of the fence painting project.

Rotarians, students from SASD spend a day fence-painting

On a beautiful (and brisk) Saturday morning, a crew of volunteers ascended upon the grounds of the Dressler Center to place a fresh coat of white paint on the fence that surrounds the property along both Tayman and Davis Avenue.

The project was spearheaded by members of the Rotary Club of Somerset and Laurel Arts with the hope of restoring the iconic fixture, supporting community-focused efforts, and promoting Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self."

In addition, students from the Somerset Area School District, members of the high school football team and the National Honor Society, brought brushes and went to work.

A special thanks to coaches Brian Basile, Jeff Urban, Sam Zambanini, Levi Cook, Dan Sivak, Jeff Rogish and Rick Flyte. Lowe's Home Improvement of Somerset donated the paint and additional supplies. Somerset Inc. connected us with student volunteers!

Rotarians Rita Halverson spearheaded the project, with the support of Ann Persun, current Rotary president, and Fred Rosemeyer and Sharon Clapper, both Rotarians and Laurel Arts board members.

The staff at Laurel Arts has worked tirelessly to enhance the natural beauty of the Dressler Center grounds and this project has served as such an integral part of the beautification process.

Words cannot truly describe the appreciation we have for our community, these volunteers, and the students. Our center is an even more beautiful place because of your efforts.

Mural depicts farm life, recreation, industry, history

Public art has the power to define a civic space, display the threads which bond a community, serve as a tool for activism, or simply create enjoyment for residents and visitors alike.

Laurel Arts is proud to be a part of the first mural installation in Uptown Somerset at the corner of West Patriot Street and South Center Avenue. This project was a collaborative effort of Laurel Arts, Somerset County Chamber of Commerce, Somerset Inc., and Somerset County Economic Development Council.

Special thanks to the sponsors and partners of this project: Somerset Trust Company, Somerset Jaycees, The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies, The Cambria City Cultural Partnership & 1889 Foundation. Thanks also to the Borough of Somerset and to Blue Sky Sign Co.

Christine Troll designed the artwork. Christine is 18 years old and the daughter of Suzanne and Charles Troll.

Christine said, "The first thing I do when I start thinking about drawing a picture is envision how I want it to make people feel when they look at it, and how I want that picture to affect them. The vast beauty of nature is so intense for me; it serves as the most poignant inspiration for my art. And then I go from there, developing how I achieve that response to my artwork. I sketch it out, and tweak the design, then I color it, trying to imitate the magnitude of the beauty that I find in nature."

Laurel Arts is proud to be able to tell a bit of the story of who we are, what we have endured, and what makes us "America's County."

Enjoy another music night & film night this month

What a long, strange year this has been. We are closing out the 2020 music series from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, October 17 with our friends from Diamond



Star Halo, who always put on a great show! This time, they are bringing Red Law along for the ride as the opening act - you won't want to miss them!

Since we will be eerily close to Halloween, you are welcome to come dressed in your ghostly wears, just try not to disturb the real spectres of the Dressler Center!

This event and other music events have been provided via the collaborative efforts of The Mary S. Biesecker Public Library, Laurel Arts, and Somerset, Inc.

This event is child and pet friendly. It is also BYOB, but as always, we ask that you enjoy responsibly. Extra parking will be available on the lawn across from the Dressler Center. Be sure to bring blankets and jackets for possible colder temperatures.

This event and future events are made possible through grant funding from the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Forging Unity Grant.

We ask that guests adhere to the recommendations set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and other health organizations with regards to the COVID-19 virus.

We look forward to seeing you at Laurel Arts for a night of music and fun!

& FILMS ON THE TOWN &

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and snacks to the lawn of Laurel Arts to enjoy this classic SPOOKTACULAR movie, *Hocus Pocus*, from 6:15 to 8 p.m. Friday, October 30.

Feel free to come dressed in your favorite costume to add a little fright to the night!

In the event of inclement weather, we will show the film at 6:15 p.m. Saturday, October 31 instead.

This film and the free films to follow are made possible by the Community Foundation for the Alleghenies through their Forging Unity Grant. This is a partnership between Laurel Arts, Mary S. Biesecker Public Library, and Somerset, Inc.





You are invited to join us as we dedicate our



Garage Mural and Imagination Garden During Music on the Town with **Red Law** and

Diamond Star Halo

Saturday evening, October 17

At the Education & Dance Center:

• Welcome to our new office assistant: Melanie Sarver is our new office assistant. She is the mother of two daughters, Courtney & Emma, and she has been married for 26 years to husband Randy. She lives on the



outskirts of Confluence on the couple's hobby farm where they raise beef, chicken and ducks. Before coming to Laurel Arts Melanie worked in the resort industry for 15 years, beginning her career as an administrative assistant before being promoted to construction and engineering coordinator, housekeeping manager and director of design and future concepts. Melanie said, "It was a great childhood for my daughters being able to use the resort for activities and events. But,

now that my girls are all grown up I'm ready for my next adventure. I'm so happy to join the amazing team at Laurel Arts and have learned so much in just a short period of time. Between the Preschool and Dance Center it is such a great atmosphere to work in and I look forward to many years."

- **Rhythms of Christmas:** Yes, we're planning to have a holiday show, but it may not be a live performance. This will be our 14th year, and our dancers love this holiday tradition. We are exploring the idea of creating a movie of our dances and showing it in an outdoor venue (Burr!) Stay tuned ...
- Adult tap classes: Is learning to tap on your bucket list. Join us for dropin classes. Adult tap classes are held from 9 to 10 a.m. Saturdays at the Education & Dance Center. Classes are only \$6.40 for members of Laurel Arts (\$8 for nonmembers.) Beginners welcome!
- Dance classes for children and adults with special needs: We have provided dance classes for children and adults with special needs for many years. And, we welcome new participants. The class for children meets from 11 to 11:45 a.m. on Saturdays; the adult class meets from 7 to 7:45 p.m. on Thursdays. For more information, email office@laurelarts.org or call Melanie at 814-443-1835.
- **Registration if still open** for some of our dance classes. If you know of someone who may be interested in dancing, please contact Melanie. We have classes for children as young as three years old.
- **Musical Theatre Class:** Attending our musical theatre class is a great way to prepare for high school musicals. Bethany Thomas, a theater instructor at UPJ, is our teacher. For more information, contact Melanie at 814-443-1835. You are welcome to sit in on a class to see if you'll like it.
- Help us and save! Boscov'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.

Education & Dance Center staff ...

Amanda Bergstresser Lead Dance Teacher

> Melanie Sarver Office Assistant

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

Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center 601 Georgian Place Somerset, PA 15501 814-443-1835 office@laurelarts.org

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