

# Laurel Arts

*Arts for everyone*

Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL

Laurel  
Arts  
DANCE

**ArtLink** • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • Holiday Edition 2020

## First Night of Christmas ~ reimaged!

First Night of Christmas at Laurel Arts could be the subject of a Norman Rockwell illustration on the December 12th cover of the **Saturday Evening Post!** It will be an outdoor celebration of the arts, the community, family and friends.

Join us from 2 to 6 p.m. Saturday, December 12. We are planning an afternoon of entertainment, chainsaw carving demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, with an antique steam engine on display.

We are inviting local artisans to participate in an arts & craft marketplace. If you are interested in participating, please call Alison Leer at 814-443-2433 or email her at [alison@laurelarts.org](mailto:alison@laurelarts.org). We also plan to have food available as well as adult beverages.

There will be lots of kids crafts and activities; something for all ages.



Santa will arrive to light the 20-foot Christmas tree via fire truck (yes, it's a big tree) just before 5 p.m.

Shortly thereafter on the lawn stage we will premier a Christmas movie that you've never seen before.

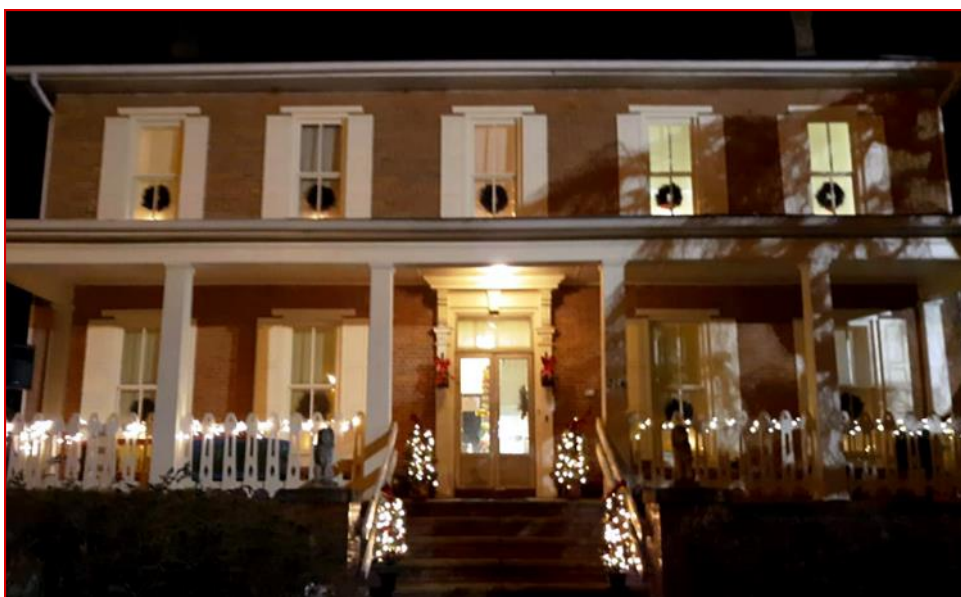
The movie will feature Laurel Arts Performance Company dancing to **A Christmas Wish**, the story of a children who live in the woods and the animals who come to decorate their tree. Our 14th annual **Rhythms of Christmas** will also be part of the premier movie ... recording these dances was our way of providing our students with the opportunity to

perform even though an auditorium was not available this year.

There will be opportunities to win great prizes while enjoying what we hope will be a winter wonderland! (A little snow is good; but no rain, please!)

Our parking lot and Harrison Avenue will be closed, but parking will be available at the Field House and at Miller Funeral Home (if there are no viewings that afternoon.)

Visit our Facebook page for updates, and **mark your calendar for 2-6 p.m. Saturday, December 12.**



Families enjoy a wagon ride and the center is decorated for Christmas (2019).

## Classic and contemporary works on exhibit through Dec. 17

Currently in our galleries are fine works of art from Laurel Arts Permanent Collection. The gallery committee selected works to exhibit which include some rare, classical style paintings by George Hetzel, Lila Hetzel and Thomas Moran.

Other more contemporary paintings, photographs, and sculptures also feature people, places, and imaginative themes, but their impressionistic, interpretive techniques impart a sense of the maker's identity. Mary Anderson's **Lady Godiva** tells that story in fairy-tale style, while Anna Marie Schnur's **Mourning Visit** is more puzzling.

Two paintings near the office door, one by Sam Mosholder and another by Lila Hetzel, have already been cleaned and beautifully restored by Michael Mosorjak, art conservationist of Johnstown. Photographs before their restoration and after are hanging between them.

Alexander Kostellow's very large **Farm Family** (pictured above) and Sam Rosenberg's **Frosty Son of Thunder** are



also in need of restoration. Formerly hanging on the walls of Somerset Area Junior and Senior High School, they are located now in the main gallery. Watch for them to wink at you as they welcome all donations from visitors to be restored to their former glory. (Kostellow also painted American post office murals during the 1930s, including the one that hangs in Somerset's Post Office.)

Visitors to the galleries will find a variety of art works and ideas to consider. Some of the art has stories to tell; some of it invites you to have

a conversation with the piece. Come as a tourist, but expect to clear some cobwebs from your mind. And don't forget to contribute to the care and conservation of these visual expressions of life and fantasy.

As always, this exhibition is free to attend and open to the public. We hope that you will take the opportunity to visit the Dressler Center and enjoy the works selected by the gallery committee. The exhibit will be open through December 17 during regular gallery hours.

### Upcoming exhibits ...

**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.

### You're invited ...

... to a artist reception and open house at **Uptown Works**, 109 E. Main Street, Somerset, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Saturday, December 5. Johnstown Symphony Orchestra is doing a pop-up concert at 2 p.m. at the courthouse, so start there, then venture down the street.

Featured artists are Somerset County Artists Association members Susan Wilson, an artist who works in many mediums including fiber arts, and David Greene, photographer and painter.

## Gallery Assistant Linda Peck retires

Linda Harrill Peck, Gallery Assistant / Curator, is retiring from her post at Laurel Arts. Linda has been a fixture at the Dressler Center for many years, first as an exhibiting artist and later as a gallery assistant and curator.

When asked to talk about her association with Laurel Arts, Linda said:

"I was a member not long after Laurel Arts started. Up until that point I was an oil painter, I took a class from Olga Poggi and volunteered as a

continued on page 4

## ***Happiness, Gratitude, and Hope in the Year that was 2020***

I will preface this article by saying this – life presents us with several “a-ha” moments; these moments might come in the form of a difficult experience, a film, a class, a conversation or even a book. I refer to them as “*Matrix* moments” (as in the sci-fi blockbuster series featuring Keanu Reeves), because they serve as those teachable moments when the reality of something is revealed and one’s mind is essentially “blown.”

It would not be a surprise to anyone if I said 2020 has been a difficult year; it was however, full of “*Matrix* moments.” We realized that the “normal” perhaps is not always necessary, we began to appreciate time spent with loved ones a bit more (even if via an online chat), and the word “essential” took on a new meaning.

In my former life (as they say), a book club of sorts was created by one of the employees which was very much embraced by my then employer. The first suggested read was *The Happiness Advantage: The Seven Principles of Positive Psychology That Fuel Success and Performance at Work* by Shawn Achor. I signed up to receive a copy and this became one of my own personal “*Matrix* moments.”

Some of the principles discussed in the book include:

- *The Tetris Effect*: how to retrain our brains to spot patterns of possibility, so we can see—and seize—opportunities wherever we look.
- *The Zorro Circle*: how to channel our efforts on small, manageable goals, to gain the leverage to gradually conquer bigger and bigger ones.
- *Social Investment*: how to reap the dividends of investing in one of the greatest predictors of success and happiness—our social support network.

*The Happiness Advantage* is not simply literature on how to maximize self-potential and achieve success, but serves as a mantra for the impact and effects happiness and gratitude can have on one’s life. This sounds like rainbows and butterflies, but when you actually task yourself with retraining your brain to seek the positive in just about every aspect of your life, you realize it is more difficult than one might think.

After having read this book, I have tried to apply these principles to my life. It is not always easy. There are many days when the doldrums or obstacles of life easily switch my positivity to an audible, “HURUMPH.” In those moments, I tend to rely heavily upon the power of music as my reset tool, which typically helps. Let’s just say, I listened to A LOT of music this year.

As we near the end of 2020, a moment of reflection paints a picture of strange dichotomies – moments of silence and stillness, followed by uncertainty and chaos, appreciating our neighbors, and emboldened battles of words on social media platforms.

In those early moments of silence and the unknowns of what the rest of the year would hold, I focused on gratitude. I have tried to carry that feeling of gratitude and the principles laid out in *The Happiness Advantage* with me as if they were the pieces of jewelry I wear every day.

With this being the final Laurel Arts newsletter of 2020, I want to close this chapter on a note of happiness, gratitude, and hope.

I am grateful for what I have the opportunity to do at Laurel Arts. Every. Single. Day.

Many of you reading this are either supporters of Laurel Arts, partners, board members, staff or volunteers. I mean this when I say – YOU make this organization what it is. I wish I could personally thank each and every one of you, every day, for the support, hard work, and dedication you have shown this amazing organization. Each of you provide an invaluable and immeasurable opportunity to impact our community through the ARTS and your support gives me even greater hope for the years to come - more public art, music, dance, programming, and community impact!

We have weathered a storm this year and there is so much more that could be said, but I will leave you with this - pursue the happiness, reflect upon those moments of gratitude, and keep hope close to your hearts....and of course – don’t stop the music, grab that paintbrush, keep dancing, and revel in the advantages of happiness!

**Jaci McCusker**, Executive Director

## ***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

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

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

Brooke Sheeler, president  
Erin Glessner, vice president  
Mark Addleman, treasurer  
Jeff Johnson, secretary

Mike Beech  
Cindy Breen  
Sharon Clapper  
Allison Finui  
Rebecca Frola Biss  
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Mike Mitchell  
Fred Rosemeyer

**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.

## 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.

## Somerset Garden Club says goodbye to summer

The Garden Club has had to cancel some of its cherished projects and fundraisers for this year, but report that the club is engaging its members in other ways. Members did get together to say goodbye to summer by cleaning out our beautiful planters.

The club extends a big thank you to the "wonderful borough employees for taking such beautiful care of the plants this summer, and for helping members both plant them and clean them up at the end of the season.

The club is also making plans for the installation of member Sheila Croushore as the next president of the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania. We are so proud!

## Linda Peck retires, continued from page 2



Linda Harrill Peck

host for her class and others that followed. There are many art materials such as acrylic, watercolor, mosaic, stained glass, pastels, pottery and papercutting to add as an artist.

Paul Beal and I would put the work on the walls for Laurel Arts. I knew that Paul was a watercolor painter but didn't know that he had begun to be a papercutter. He offered a class at Laurel Arts, and I took the class. I was the only one from the class that continued to papercut; I really enjoyed it. I live in the woods and my inspiration comes from where I live.

The receptions were a big part of every show, and I would look for recipes to make for those shows. Often there were shows that required a prospectus and a juror and other materials that would be in a show. I worked on the permanent collection and other things that needed to be done.

It's been many years that I've enjoyed the art work, the music and the dance that Laurel Arts has provided. I've met some very interesting people throughout the years. Laurel Arts Triennial Show is great. Somerfest and the Christmas Craft Show were great ways to introduce many people to the art world. There were musical groups that played throughout the community; they were usually organ and piano music and I tried to never miss any of those. At times they would have the dance performance on a Sunday and sometimes they had musicals, those were wonderful. I hope that many people will include Laurel Arts with a membership, it is so great to have this in Somerset. I will still attend the shows at Laurel Arts, so please stop in."

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

# Creations for holiday decorating or gift giving

## Thanksgiving Fun

**Friday, November 20, 5 to 7 pm**

Join Instructor Marsha Schmuck for a special Thanksgiving celebration. Make a turkey treat to snack on, play a candy corn game, and craft a holiday decoration from a wood slice. We will learn about the Pilgrims and Indians and what



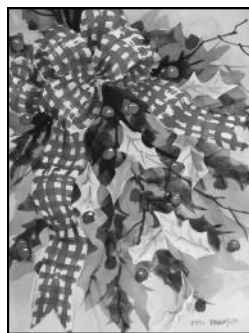
Thanksgiving is all about. This class is best suited for ages

3-10, and takes place on Friday, November 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 601 Georgian Place. The cost for this event is \$16 for members; \$20 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$10 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck. Preregistration is required. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

## Holiday Watercolors for Beginners

**Saturday, November 21 from 10 am to 2 pm**

Instructor Peg Panasiti will be teaching this Holiday Watercolors for Beginners Workshop. Students will be taken step by step through creating a piece similar to the beautiful holiday painting that is pictured. Students will be asked to purchase their supplies before the class. If you come with a friend or family member, you can share your



supplies to help on the cost. The class takes place on Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 601 Georgian Place. The fee for the workshop is \$36 for members; \$45 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$2 materials fee payable to Peg. (She will be providing the watercolor paper.) See below for the suggested additional supplies you will need to bring. The class is suitable for ages 10 and up. Preregistration is required. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

Suggested supplies to purchase in advance:

1" or ¾" FLAT WATERCOLOR BRUSH, ASSORTED SMALLER BRUSHES, WATER CONTAINER, PAPER TOWELS, PENCIL WATER MIST BOTTLE (old WINDEX OR HAIRSPRAY BOTTLE), SCISSORS

COLORS: Suggested tube colors – red, yellow & blues

- ULTRAMARINE BLUE
- COBALT BLUE

- CADMIUM YELLOW
- QUINACRIDONE GOLD
- QUINACRIDONE RED
- CADMIUM RED
- BURNT SIENNA
- ENAMEL TRAY OR PALETTE TO PLACE COLORS FROM TUBES
- BEGINNERS MAY USE A SET OF PRANG WATERCOLORS PAINTS IN PLACE OF TUBE COLORS.

These supplies are suggested, if you have others, please feel free to use them. Good watercolor paper and good brushes are more important than the brand of paints you choose. Peg paints with primary colors—red, yellow and blue. It is good to have two colors of each. To be provided: 1/4 sheet of 140# Arches Cold Press watercolor paper.

Meet Peg Panasiti: "Painting with watercolor has been my passion for the past 40 years. Getting involved in several art organizations keeps me current on the latest art trends." Peg is a member of Wednesday Night Painters, Pittsburgh Watercolor Society, Greensburg Art Club, Latrobe Art Center, Altoona Art In Common and Bellefonte Art Museum. She has been accepted into several national art exhibits and is a Signature Member of Pennsylvania's Watercolor Society.

There are a variety of ways to begin – wet brush into wet paper, wet into dry or dry into wet, and she uses them all. Peg creates all of her pieces with just the primary colors - red, yellow and blue in different hues.

## Gnomevember Workshop

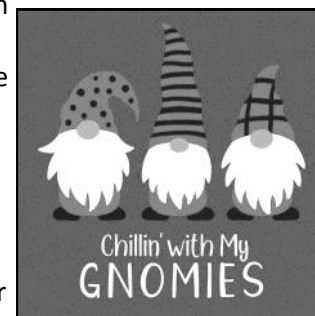
**Sunday, November 22 from 4 to 6 pm**

Create some holiday decor with Instructor Marsha Schmuck.

Participants will create a couple different holiday gnomes that have become popular to decorate with for the holidays.

One of these will include an ornament for the tree. The workshop is Sunday, November 22 from 4 to 6 p.m. at 601

Georgian Place. Fee for members is \$20; \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus materials fee of \$10 payable to Marsha Schmuck. Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register up to one week in advance.



# Gobble up these holiday-inspired workshops

## Thanksgiving Cake Workshop

**Tuesday, November 24 from 5 to 7 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 festive turkey cake. Students will each have their own individual cakes to work on and take home. The finished product will be similar to the picture. Visit Keri's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cakesbykeri6684> to see some of the wonderful cakes she has created. The workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, November 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. at 601 Georgian Place. Fee for members is \$20; nonmembers \$25 payable to Laurel Arts plus a materials fee of \$15 payable to Keri Brown. Pre-registration 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.

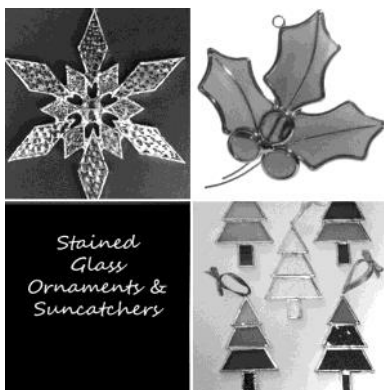


## Christmas Stained Glass Ornaments

### or Sun catchers

**Friday, December 4 from 5 to 7 pm**

We are so excited to have Dave Howard join us as an instructor for this stained glass class. Dave is the owner of Uncle Dave's Art Studio in New Kensington. He is also an award winning author and illustrator of children's books. These stained glass pieces can be hung on the tree for Christmas or used as a sun catcher. Students will choose one of the three that are pictured and will learn how to cut, grind, foil and solder it together. No prior stained glass experience is necessary. Dave has 25 years of experience and will assist students to complete the project. Workshop is Friday, December 4 from 5 to 8 p.m. 601 Georgian Place. Class fee for members is \$40; \$50 nonmembers and includes all materials. Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts, 814-443-2433.



## Bath Time Lattes

**Saturday, December 5 from 3 to 5 pm**

Instructor Becca Frola-Biss will help students to create some amazing Bath Time Lattes. The lattes are made up of both a bath bomb and soap. Participants will create three in Hot Chocolate, Peppermint Mocha, and Pumpkin Spice scents. These could be used for a relaxing bath time on your own or would be perfect to gift to someone for the holidays. The workshop is Saturday, December 5 from 3 to 5 p.m. at 601 Georgian Place. Class fee for members is \$20; 25 for nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts; plus a materials fee \$12 payable to Becca Frola-Biss. Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register up to 1 week in advance.



## Red Truck Centerpiece Workshop

**Sunday, December 6 from 2 to 4 pm**

Join Instructor Laura Schrock for an afternoon of crafting. Students will create the beautiful red truck centerpiece as pictured. This piece would make a perfect Christmas decoration or holiday table centerpiece.



The truck has become a popular item. It measures 6x13 inches empty and 6x20 inches when full. This class is limited to eight students so you'll want to sign up quickly! Class is scheduled for Sunday, December 6 from 2 to 4 p.m. at 601 Georgian Place. Class fee for members if \$20, \$25 for nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a materials fee of \$30 payable to Laura Schrock. Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register up to one week in advance.

## Alcohol Inks Workshop

**Tuesday, December 8 from 6 to 7:30 pm**

Join us for an evening of creating with alcohol inks. Using alcohol inks can be a fun way to use colors and create backgrounds for stamping or cardmaking. You can also use alcohol inks in painting and to add color to different



## Decorate, celebrate ... enjoy the season

surfaces such as glass and metals. In today's class we will create several items that would make great gifts for the holidays including a mug, coasters, and



an ornament. Class will be Tuesday, December 8 from 6 to 7:30 at 601 Georgian Place. Class fee for members is \$24, \$30 for nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a materials fee of \$15 payable to Marsha Schmuck. The class is designed for ages 10 & up. Pre-registration is required. To register, call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433.

### Succulent Holiday Tree Workshop

Sunday, December 13 from 2 to 4 pm

Instructor Sheila Croushore is back with another Succulent Workshop. Sheila has been a member of the Somerset Garden Club for several years and is very knowledgeable in all types of plants. During this workshop students will be guided through creating a Succulent holiday tree. Participants will create the tree shape from chicken wire, fill the tree form with Sphagnum Moss, and plant each of their succulent plants. The tree in the photograph is approximately 14" tall. Sheila suggests that students bring a pair of gardening gloves to handle the chicken wire. The class is set for Sunday, December 13 from 2 to 4 p.m. at 601 Georgian Place. Class fee for members is \$16; \$20 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a materials fee of \$45 payable to Sheila Croushore. This class is designed for ages 12 through adult. Children under 12 are welcome to attend but must be accompanied by an adult. There is a limit of 15 students and the succulent classes always fill quickly. Text or call 814-442-6217 call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by December 3.



### 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. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.



### ELF Celebration

**Saturday, December 19 from 4 to 8 pm**

Do you have some last minute shopping to do before the holidays? Drop off your child for a fun evening with Miss Marsha as you finish up your own elf duties. We will start the evening off with a special spaghetti dish just like in the movie Elf. Throughout the evening, we will craft, play games, and watch the movie. Participants should be ages 4 and up. Feel free to bring a blanket to watch the movie. Celebration is Saturday, December 19 from 4 to 8 p.m. at 601 Georgian Place. Fee for members is \$16, \$20 for nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a materials fee of \$10 payable to Marsha Schmuck. Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.



### Holiday Cake Workshop

**Sunday, December 20 from 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 "cool" snowman cake. Students will each have their own individual cakes to work on and take home. The finished product will be similar to the picture. The class is set for Sunday, December 20 from 2 to 4 p.m. at 601 Georgian Place. Class fee for members is \$20; \$25 for nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a materials fee of \$15 payable to Keri Brown. Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register. This class fills up quickly and is limited to 14 students.



# Another mural project brightens Uptown

Last year, the Borough of Somerset tackled a major construction effort to replace a portion of sidewalks and adjoining structures on Main Street in Uptown Somerset. At that time, an electrical utility box was installed in front of Dr. Botti's office.

Laurel Arts was presented with the opportunity to coordinate with the Borough of Somerset and install another public art project in Uptown Somerset. The Borough has been wonderful to work with and we appreciate their trust in allowing us to take the ball and run with this exciting project. This was a unique endeavor as none of us involved had ever dealt with applying a piece of artwork to something such as a utility box.

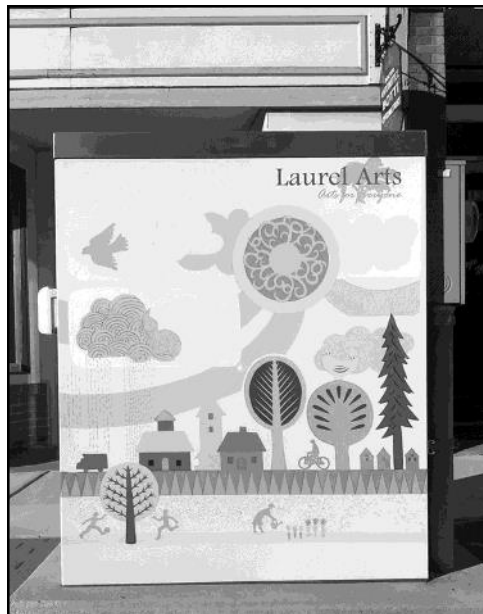
Laurel Arts and artist Kathy Trexel Reed worked closely with Blue Sky Design Co. out of Greensburg, PA. After Kathy had completed her beautiful cut-paper design, photographer Dave Breen took professional images of her work, which were then sent to the design company. Blue Sky did a wonderful job making sure that the artwork fit the unique space, and they also installed the artwork in wrap form. Blue Sky was also involved in the murals recently installed at the intersection of Patriot Street and North Center Avenue.

Murals and other forms of public art are adding new life and color to communities across the country. Laurel Arts via our newly developed **Mural Works** program hopes to establish a creative landscape on the buildings and structures across Somerset County, to provide residents and visitors alike with a greater sense of community, cultural engagement, and what we already know as artists and an arts organization - the power of what the arts can do for all of us!

Here's what Kathy had to say about the experience:

"It's a real compliment to have my artwork become a mural here, and I thank Laurel Arts Mural Works and Jaci McCusker for the opportunity.

To consider it, I thought about its size and the people who might notice it as they passed by. What would I



want to have visitors think about as they looked at it?

First, I measured it carefully, making notes & drawing sketches of the box's lumps and bumps ... I took photographs of it and measured it again.

Then I began to draw on paper, not knowing where it would go ... I wanted it to be calm and not shout at people. I wanted them to see themselves in the mural, like a child looking at a children's book. I love the beautiful views of the Somerset County countryside where I grew up and where I choose to live.

I decided to consider one inch of my paper equal to 5 inches on the utility box, so I drew a grid of the 3 sides on large paper. I thought about the corners and how the image would wrap around, without cutting something important apart. During these stages, a LOT of mathematics / arithmetic was involved! That in itself shows that ART always involves more than imagination ... MATH, for example!

I began to worry about the sizes / spaces of the box and sent some preliminary sketches to Blue Sky, asking if my drawing was too busy. The designer encouraged me and advised that I allow some "wiggle room" for its application, and that the mural vinyl enlargement is best applied during mild weather. Now COMPUTERS and SCIENCE are involved!

It took months of daily attention for choosing colors for each feature, cutting the shapes by hand, and trying them next to each other. Gluing cut paper is always a challenge, and this required continued measurements of the dimensions on the grid ALL THE TIME before placing the cut shape permanently.

Seeing how it all came together, I call this piece **Near and Far**. It's exciting for me to have it become one of the new PUBLIC ART pieces adding interest and ideas to the community. HEALTHY communities, schools, and cultures support and promote the arts, because humans need the ARTS to understand and express all of what life brings, and simply for pleasure."



## Congratulations ...

... to **Maple Queen Scholarship Pageant** finalists from Somerset Area High School **Abby Burtner** and **Isabella Lauer**, both Laurel Arts dancers and Performance Company members. Abby, Isabella and **Catherine Houghton**, Rockwood Area High School, are also our senior choreographers for the **14th annual Rhythms of Christmas**.



### Win a Kate Spade tote

Laurel Arts is sponsoring a raffle for a Kate Spade "Lori" tote, retail value \$329. Tickets are \$10 each and are available for purchase from any board member as well as in person at the Dressler Center until 6 p.m. December 10 (if there are still tickets left, we also will be selling them at First Night of Christmas Dec. 12 (the day of the drawing.) Only 150 tickets will be sold. All proceeds benefit Laurel Arts. Winner need not be present to win.

## Holiday season begins with Light Up Somerset & Christkindl Market On Main

**Saturday, November 28 from 3 to 9 pm**

Light Up Somerset has also been reimagined for 2020. There won't be a parade, but Santa will still light the tree. Children are encouraged to write letters to the Man in Red. In fact, the theme of this years' Holiday Design Contest theme is **Letters to Santa**. Students from Rockwood, Shanksville, Turkeyfoot, Shade, Windber, North Star and Somerset are creating 3-D holiday designs to represent that idea.

There will be a Christkindl Market in Uptown Somerset that afternoon and evening. The ambiance of uptown will be magical on November 28 with Christmas lights twinkling, kettle corn popping, and holiday music playing. What a great time to shop and enjoy the outdoors with your family and friends.

Anyone interested in the Christkindl Market should contact Somerset Inc.

## Help bring joy this season

Buy your gifts at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)  
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## 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**  
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[office@laurelarts.org](mailto:office@laurelarts.org)

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