

# Laurel Arts

*Arts for everyone*



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

## Visit Elementary School Art Exhibit

Because of restrictions with respect to Covid-19, Laurel Arts isn't hosting an opening reception for our schools shows. We are, however, so pleased that we have galleries full of wonderful artwork produced by elementary students throughout the county.

You are welcome to visit the gallery during regular gallery hours (see next page), or you can see all the artwork online by visiting [www.laurelarts.org](http://www.laurelarts.org) (click on the Virtual Show tab) or use the link: <https://laurelarts.org/somerset-county-elementary-virtual-show/>.

*continued on next page*



## Students 'deliver' Letters to Santa

Somerset Inc. and Laurel Arts presented the third annual Holiday Design Contest which brings art and technical students together to create three-dimensional Christmas decorations for their hometowns. This year's theme was *Letters to Santa*.

Somerset Trust Co. is the overall sponsor, providing the scholarship awards which are presented to the school districts. Other local businesses provide money to the districts to purchase materials. Those sponsors are Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company, Blackburn Marine, CME Engineering, DRIVE DeVilbiss, Hollern Koontz Insurance, Highland Tank, and Morocco Welding.

*continued on page 2*

ABOVE LEFT: First Place & Technical Award to North Star High School; sponsor Highland Tank. ABOVE RIGHT: Second Place & Interactive Award to Shanksville; sponsor Blackburn Marine. LEFT: Third Place & Creative Award to Rockwood; sponsor Rockwood Casualty Insurance Company.

*Upcoming exhibits ...*

**January 12-28**  
**Somerset County**  
**Elementary Schools**

Our county's youngest artists have filled our galleries with two and three dimensional works of art. View in person during regular gallery hours or on our website ([www.laurelarts.org](http://www.laurelarts.org).)

**February 9-25**  
**Somerset County**  
**Jr.-Sr. High Schools**

See how they've matured in their vision and talent. This show features work by junior and senior high school students. View in person during regular gallery hours or at ([www.laurelarts.org](http://www.laurelarts.org).)

**March 9-25**  
**Somerset Area School District**

This show features work by students in the Somerset Area School District. It's always a very large show, so plan to take some time to view in person during regular gallery hours or on our website ([www.laurelarts.org](http://www.laurelarts.org).)



Located upstairs at  
**The Philip Dressler Center**  
**for the Arts**

**Office/Gallery Hours:**  
**Noon-6 p.m. Monday-Thursday**  
 Closed Friday-Sunday except  
 for special events.



Pictured on page 1 is artwork by Noelle Lushko, 1st place. Above is artwork created by Milee Booher, 2nd place.

**Visit Art Exhibit**

*continued from page 1*

Participating schools are North Star, Rockwood, Shade Central City, Somerset, Turkeyfoot, St. Peter, Somerset Christian School, Johnstown Christian School, and Somerset Area Home Schooled Students.

First prize was awarded to Noelle Lushko, 5th grade, Johnstown Christian School. Second prize went to Milee Booher, 3rd grade, Somerset / Eagle View. Third prize was awarded to Lucas Hegadus, 1st grade, North Star.

Honorable mentions were awarded to Channing Furman, 1st grade, North Star, and Lucas Paul, kindergarten, Shade / Cairnbrook.

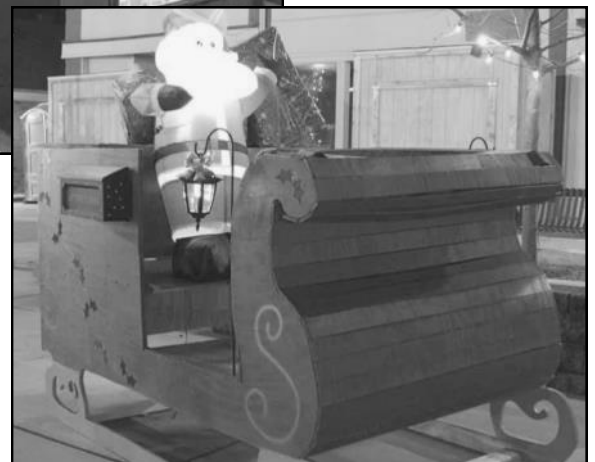


**Students deliver**  
*continued from page 1*

Shade withdrew from the contest, but plans to complete its project and have it displayed in Central City's community park.

All projects were returned to their hometowns following the holiday celebration uptown.

Additional awards presented:  
 ABOVE LEFT: Art Aficionado to Somerset; sponsored by Morocco Welding. ABOVE RIGHT: Art Aficionado to Turkeyfoot; sponsored by CME Engineering. RIGHT: Creative Award to Windber; sponsored by Hollern Koontz Insurance.



# Meat and potatoes keep us going

So you are a member of Laurel Arts – what does that mean?

By definition, you are a constituent, element, component, representative, or subscriber. Definitions, however, can be rather drab, the equivalent of a freshman economics class.

I like to think of members as the “meat and potatoes” of an organization. There are a lot of exciting things on a menu – some which offer the flare of something new, some which are only geared towards specific tastes, and those which satisfy and nourish (aka YOU).

By being a member of a nonprofit such as Laurel Arts, you are directly providing the much needed sustenance to the everyday operations and lifeblood of the organization.

Let's be honest, no one wants to talk about the fact that we have operational costs. We like to focus on the education, the projects, the programming, the “fun” stuff, BUT without the basic necessities (staffing, utilities, insurance, etc.), we cannot offer those things or continue to grow. THIS is why membership is so important.

Our classes are priced to cover costs, many events are free to the public, and grants (although they are much needed and greatly appreciated) only cover particular project or program costs. Thus, when it comes to general operating costs, we rely heavily on the generosity of others.

In the next month, Laurel Arts will engage in a county-wide membership campaign. As a member, I humbly ask that if you know of someone who might be interested in supporting the arts in our region, you consider promoting this membership drive and our cause.

2021 has a lot of exciting things in store for our community and Laurel Arts, and I would be happy to speak with anyone who might have questions about the coming year or plans for the future.

Being a member is just as important as any position within this organization, because YOU understand the need, the possibilities, and the opportunities! Your support is ALWAYS appreciated and I want to thank you again for opening your hearts to the arts!

Yours in Creativity,  
**Jaclyn McCusker**, *Executive Director*

## First Night didn't happen, but we had a beautiful tree

We had big plans for First Night of Christmas, a long-standing tradition and our annual gift to the community. Unfortunately, because of Covid-19 and the restrictions enacted by the Health Department, we just weren't able to do it this year.

We do want to thank LINDA FETTEROLF and JR ENOS for providing and erecting the Christmas Tree (it was a beauty), and our board president Brooke Sheeler for coordinating the installation.

We hope the decorations brought a bit of joy to passersby!

## 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  
Rebecca Frola Biss, secretary  
Mike Beech  
Cindy Breen  
Sharon Clapper  
Allison Finui  
Robin Henley  
William Hoffman  
Jeff Johnson  
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 to offer scholarship to agricultural science student

Somerset Garden club offers a scholarship to encourage students to pursue higher education opportunities in plant-related agriculture and related fields such as horticulture, floriculture, landscape architecture, conservation, forestry, botany, agronomy, plant pathology, environmental control, city planning, land management, and/or allied sciences, with the ultimate goal of seeking a career in any of these areas.

The deadline to apply is April 1, 2021. The selected recipient(s) will be announced at the local schools' Award Program. The scholarship check(s) will be presented at the June Garden Club Luncheon where the recipient(s) will be featured.

To be considered, students must be a Somerset County senior who has studied agricultural science in high school or a college student enrolled in an agricultural science or related program. Seniors who apply must be accepted into a plant-related agricultural, environmental, or related program at a post-secondary educational program. College students need to be continuing their studies in the field.

Recipient(s) are eligible to reapply for the SGC scholarship as long as they continue to meet the criteria.

More information and the application are available by visiting [www.somersetgardenclub.org](http://www.somersetgardenclub.org).

Additional scholarships are available through The Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania and the National Garden Club, Inc. Deadline for these scholarships is February 1. More information is also available at [www.somersetgardenclub.org](http://www.somersetgardenclub.org).

## Roof Garden Chorus hopes to meet again soon

Members of the Roof Garden Chorus are anxious to get together and "bust some chords!" The group has been on hiatus for nearly a year, and members are ready to sing again.

In "normal times", the chorus meets at Grace United Methodist Church on Felgar Road in Somerset. For more information about the Chorus, contact Larry Shober, 267-4042.

*Many of our affiliates have websites and/or Facebook pages. For updates on their meeting schedules and events, find them on the Internet or contact them directly with the information in the list to the left.*

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



## Scholarships matter!

When you participate in our Charity Golf Tournament benefitting The Dorothy Dressler Scholarship Fund and Laurel Arts Children's Programming, you make great things happen for children in our area.

This is a letter from one of our scholarship recipients.

*Dear Laurel Arts and All Its Sponsors,*

*Thank you so much for the scholarship. My family and I were so excited when we heard the news that my neighbors probably heard us. Dance is one of my favorite things in the whole world!*

*I'm very thankful for all the teachers and students that have been helping me through my outside and inside life of dance. The dance friends help each other learn dance steps and life steps. I am glad I have the ability to dance at Laurel Arts with so many kind and wonderful people. Also, I'm overjoyed that I can be a part of their lives.*

*Laurel Arts has been blessing me in many ways and continues to send God's grace upon me. I am praying for all the members of Laurel Arts and the donors and am very grateful to be a part of the dance family. May God continue to bless Laurel Arts and all the people who make a beautiful thing happen for so many!*

*Gratefully yours,  
Clare (age 13)*

For the 2020-21 school year, we have awarded scholarships to 18 students enrolled in either our dance or preschool programs, providing nearly \$12,000 in assistance.

Providing scholarships to children enrolled in Laurel Arts programming allow us to fulfill our mission of making the arts accessible to everyone.

## Mark your calendar and plan to join Laurel Arts at the **14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament**

*benefitting The Dorothy Dressler Scholarship Fund and  
Laurel Arts Children's Programming*

**Friday, June 4 • Somerset Country Club**

*Laurel Arts is committed to enhancing the quality of life in our community by offering an array of arts and educational opportunities and making them accessible to all. Your participation in our annual charity golf tournament helps to assure that the arts are alive in our community and within reach of everyone who desires to participate.*

**For more information, call 814-443-2433.**

**Laurel Arts**  
*Arts for everyone*

## A new way of FUNdraising

### Follow Laurel Arts on Facebook for ways to win

Fire departments, social clubs, and other non-profits have had a tough time raising funds since last March. It's hard to sell raffle tickets (for many groups, an important revenue source) when you don't see anybody.

Laurel Arts has recently had two successful raffles, promoted via Facebook, and thanks to the generosity of board members who donated prizes.

The first was for a Kate Spade purse won by Cris Sprock; the most recent was a Surface Pro 7 won by Mark Addleman.

Next up is a tubing package at Hidden Valley Resort that includes eight 2-hour tubing passes. Tickets are only \$8.

Follow Laurel Arts on Facebook for more information. Tickets go fast, so check regularly.

Following Laurel Arts on Facebook will also keep you up to date on upcoming events, classes, and workshops. We sure hope to get back to "normal" soon.

Thank you to those who have donated items and to everyone who has purchased tickets.

**amazon**smile  
You shop. Amazon gives.

Please consider supporting **Laurel Arts** by ordering through **smile.amazon.com** and note Laurel Arts as your charity of choice.

## Allow us to introduce ...

### Rebecca "Becca" Frola-Biss

Hi, I am Becca. So there is a lot about me that I think everyone should know. I am an active Board Member of Laurel Arts, and I am one of the newest staff members at the Dressler Center. I live literally down the road from the Dressler Center with my



husband, our three dogs (Toby, Luna and Lady Bird), and our cat (Stewart the female cat). I feel that I am a very artsy person. I really enjoy turning myself into things with Special Effects Makeup. I am also an avid gardener. I also enjoy making sourdough bread, kombucha, homemade soap, and bath bombs. I honestly will dabble in all different mediums, so you never know what I am going to create next. I am bringing to Laurel Arts over five years of marketing experience, and I hope with my digital media knowledge I can help the organization grow.

### Brooke Sheeler, Board President

Brooke joined the Laurel Arts board in late 2018 and became board president in October 2019. Brooke is excited to take part in leading the organization and helping Laurel Arts meet its mission to make the arts accessible to everyone throughout Somerset County and surrounding areas. Brooke said, "Watching the



organization expand its services and make strides has been an incredible initiative." In addition to serving on the Laurel Arts Board of Directors, Brooke works full time as Director of Grant Writing at Aspire Grant & Development Partners and serves on the Humane Society of Somerset County Board of Directors.

Brooke received her undergraduate degree, B.S. in Communications – Public Relations, at Slippery Rock University, and then pursued a M.S. in Integrated Marketing & Communications in 2018 from West Virginia University.

## Upcoming classes ... maybe it's time to try something new!

### Bob Ross Painting with Al Just

Monday, February 15, 10 am – 3 pm (Lighthouse)

Monday, March 15, 10 am – 3 pm (Butterfly)

Certified Bob Ross Instructor Al Just has two more beautiful pieces picked out for students to paint in February and March. Both have calming blues, pinks and yellows to make you feel and think of spring.



Al has been teaching for 15 years and currently offers classes at his studio in Johnstown, Cambria County Community Art Center and Altoona Penn Highlands Community College. Al has several certifications including Bob Ross, Dorothy Dent, Joyce Ortner and has studied with James Sulkowski, Robert Warren, and Valerie Stewart.



The workshops he offers at Laurel Arts are step by step classes in creating an oil painting of the beautiful lighthouse (February) and butterfly (March.)

Workshop fee is \$48 for members of Laurel Arts / \$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, February 8 and/or Monday, March 8, 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.

## Back in the studio & classroom, again!

Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center opened its doors again Monday, January 11 after being closed since December 4. Teachers, students and parents are so happy to be back, dancing, learning, and enjoying each others company (albeit masked and from a distance.)

Members of Laurel Arts can be assured that the facility is following all safety protocols required and/or recommended by the PA Department of Health.

The students and choreographers who were busy preparing for our annual Rhythms of Christmas had to postpone the show, but they will be recording their holiday spectacular in February. Parents and anyone interested can purchase a DVD made by Union & Main Production.

We're also preparing for our annual recital, even though we can't finalize plans until we see what happens over the next few months.

If you have a young child who would like to try dance, please contact the office, 443-1835, and speak with Melanie. We also have openings in our classes for adults and children with special needs.

## Why dance? Why not?

We recognize that very few children grow up to be professional dancers (very few student athletes grow up to be professional football, basketball, baseball, etc. players.) So, why should our children participate in dance (okay, or sports?) Here are some very good reasons!

1. **Dance promotes fitness for a lifetime!** Promoting fitness as fun at an early age creates a foundation for a lifetime of physical activity.
2. **Dance builds confidence, self-esteem and encourages self-expression.** Children learn to stand tall, smile and enjoy performing. They learn that hard work reaps great benefits.
3. **Dance helps children make new friends.** Often they develop long-term friendships. There is a bond created when children work as a team, and in dance they get a taste of competition as well as inspiration from their peers.
4. **Dance provides discipline and focus.** By learning new skills and retaining choreography, dancers feel success at a young age. They also learn that they must work hard and focus to achieve their goals.
5. **Dance develops flexibility of both body and mind.** It's important to start stretching at a young age to keep your body agile. As dancers learn to not only stretch their bodies but also control their movements and energy, they expand their brain function.
6. **Dancers create!** Dancers explore shapes, bring movement to music, and tell stories through dance.
7. **Dancers develop good posture and poise.** The benefits of proper posture and poise are incredibly important to everyone's well-being.
8. **Dance brings JOY!** Dancers have fun, make friends, and learn to find happiness!

### *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

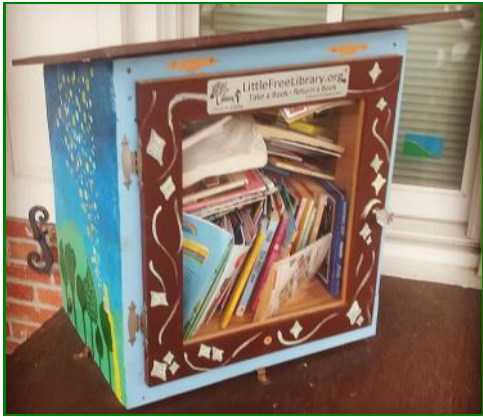
**Laurel Arts**  
**Education & Dance Center**  
601 Georgian Place  
Somerset, PA 15501  
814-443-1835  
office@laurelarts.org

Follow us on Facebook  
**Laurel Arts Education**  
**and Dance Center**

**Studio Kids**  
**PRESCHOOL**

*Laurel Arts*  
DANCE

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The Community Foundation  
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Somerset Borough  
Somerset County