

Laurel Arts

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

Jr. Sr. High School Art Exhibit in the galleries through February 25

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 junior and senior high school students from North Star, Rockwood, Conemaugh Township, Somerset, Turkeyfoot, Somerset Christian School and the Somerset Homeschoolers group.

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 (click on the Virtual Show tab) or use the link: <https://laurelarts.org/somerset-county-jrjr-virtual-show/>.



LEFT: Isaac Boring, 11th grade, Conemaugh Township, 1st place. ABOVE: Alexis Scott, 12th grade, North Star, 2nd place. RIGHT: Cheyenne Judy, 7th grade, Rockwood, 3rd place. Honorable mentions were awarded to Mariah Drovnak, 8th grade, North Star, and Emmaleigh Lushko, 11th grade, Johnstown Christian School.

Friend of the Arts Award

Laurel Arts salutes Riggs Family Foundation

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2021 recipient of the Laurel Arts *Friend of the Arts Award*!

The Riggs Family Foundation has been an ardent supporter of the mission and efforts of Laurel Arts, as well as so many other worthy causes throughout our area. The foundation is committed to the betterment of our communities, and we are very thankful for all that they do.

Laurel Arts Executive Director Jaci McCusker had the pleasure of presenting the award to Mary Ann Riggs. Jaci noted that, "It was also bittersweet, as our community lost an incredible man in 2020, Mary Ann's late husband, Bill Riggs."

Bill was instrumental in many early initiatives at Laurel Arts and was a continued supporter for the years to come.

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*Upcoming exhibits ...***Through February 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.)

**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.)

**April 6-May 4
Uncommon Threads**

All things Fiber Arts will be included in this exhibit. Explore the craftsmanship, creativity and skills of fiber artists in the region.

Opening Reception (tentative)
Friday, April 9



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.

Laurel Arts salutes Riggs Family Foundation

continued from first page

Jaci added, "We will miss looking out across the lawn this summer to see his smiling face at the music nights. The world is a better place because of him."

On a lighter note, this award was presented to Mrs. Riggs in the beautiful uptown co-working and creative collaborative gem, Uptown Works.

This historic building was brought back to life through the vision of Emily Riggs Korn. We hope that you will take some time to learn more about it, make a visit, or become a member. The space even houses some local artisan wears, art, and crafts for sale.

Somerset County Artist Association artists David Greene and Susan Wilson have artwork currently on display at Uptown Works, and we hope to have a reception when permissible.

Thank you again to the Riggs Family Foundation for your generosity and commitment to the arts and to our community!



Mary Ann Riggs accepts the *Friend of the Arts* Award from Laurel Arts Executive Director Jaci McCusker.

Exhibit of Uncommon Threads scheduled for April

Laurel Arts welcomes submissions to a new exhibit entitled **Uncommon Threads** to be held in April. The show will be open to the public from April 6 through May 4 at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, 214 S. Harrison Ave., Somerset.

We are looking for works that display the craftsmanship, creativity and skills which convey the beauty of all areas of Fiber Arts.

You may submit up to four 2-Dimensional or 3-Dimensional works in the areas of basketry, weaving, tapestry, coiling, knitting, crochet, embroidery, lacemaking, rug-braiding, rug-hooking, macramé, textile arts, quilting, spinning, papermaking, or any creative combination of the above.

A prospectus is available from Laurel Arts. For information, call 814-443-2433 or email gallery@laurelarts.org.

Laurel Arts 11th Triennial Building Bridges

June 22 through August 5

Email gallery@laurelarts.org for information / prospectus

Music makers, dream dreamers & our community

The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members. – **Coretta Scott King**

Over the course of my time with Laurel Arts, the word *community* has been nestled most fervently at the epicenter of my organized (and sometimes disorganized) chaotic thought process.

If I can be completely honest with you, the reader, there are days when the possibilities can seem unattainable – our own community of volunteers, staff, and the like, seem too small to achieve the dreams dreamt and the goals for tomorrow.

I revel in the soaring ideas of what could be. Quotes such as *We are the music makers and we are the dreamers of dreams* from the classic 1971 film *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory* spoke to me as child, and often reassure me as an adult.

Without dreams, goals and aspirations, what is our purpose as a human, an organization, or a community? How do we make ourselves better than we were the day, month, year(s) prior? To expand upon those ideals, it also takes the combined effort of a community, in whatever capacity, working together to make it all happen.

There, of course, needs to be a healthy dose of realism to balance out the wish to give out a “golden ticket”, and I am fortunate to have a few key staff and board members to keep me grounded at times (not naming names, but you know who you are, and I thank you).

Organizations and communities thrive when the dreamers, doers, thinkers, the willing participants, the MUSIC MAKERS, come together to participate in something greater than themselves. These are ordinary, everyday people who do extraordinary things for their communities, often times simply because they care, and at the end of the day, we all care and want to see our communities flourish.

In our county, we have been so very fortunate to have had a good many of the *music makers* – the compassionate members who have made a difference and continue to do so every day; however, and if I could humbly speak on behalf of several local organizations – we need more participants in the continuous engagement of making our community what we know it can be. There are a lot of wonderful things happening in our community, and if you are interested in becoming a part of it, reach out to Laurel Arts, Somerset Inc., the Rotary Club, or a nonprofit or service organization that fits your niche.

We all have the capacity to build a better tomorrow and a better future for our community.

I welcome you to reach out, get connected, even if it is attending an event or supporting an organization – YOU have the power to make a difference!

I would like to dedicate this article to two individuals who worked closely with Laurel Arts and devoted so much time, effort, and support to our region for many years and whom we sadly lost – Mr. Kenneth Halverson and Mr. Bill Riggs – the music makers of the hills of laurel – you will be missed, but your legacy will live on.

Jaclyn 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.

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The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts

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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-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 Shoer, 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.

Although most of our affiliates are not meeting / rehearsing at this time, many have websites and/or Facebook pages. For updates on their upcoming meeting, events, etc. find them on the Internet or contact them directly with the information in the list to the left.

Exploring Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, Laurel Arts decided to honor some amazing artists by sharing information about them on our Facebook page. First up, published on February 1, was Poet Phyllis Wheatley, 1753-1784.

Visit our Facebook page for daily history lessons as well as links to more detailed information from publications such as Smithsonian Magazine.

So far, we've featured writers, visual artists, musicians, dancers, and quilt makers. Keep reading, and feel free to share your thoughts.

Check out our online raffles

If you don't routinely check our Facebook page, you may want to "follow / like / share." Beginning in January, we began hosting online raffles, and they've been both successful and exciting. All proceeds benefit Laurel Arts, and all Small Games of Chance laws apply. The drawing is presented live via Facebook as soon as all tips are sold.

Our first raffle was for a Microsoft Surface Pro 7, and the winner was Mark Addleman.

Next up were eight snow tubing passes at Hidden Valley, and the winner was Teresa Mallory. This was followed by a drawing for Seven Springs lift tickets won by Suzanne Sturni.

Now that we're all "thinking spring", keep an eye out for the next raffle (it promises to lift your spirits!)

Many thanks to the donors of these amazing prizes and to everyone who purchased chances to win.



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

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

Celebrate spring by learning something new ...

Celebrate Johnny Appleseed Day (kids)

Saturday, March 6, 10 am to noon

Did you know March 11 is National Johnny Appleseed Day? It's a day set aside to celebrate John Chapman and how he planted and cared for countless apple trees. To celebrate, we will create some delicious apple recipes, turn a clay pot into an apple, and perform some apple science. We'll also learn about the life of Johnny Appleseed. This *a-peel-ing* workshop is best suited for children ages Pre-k through 3rd grade.

The workshop is from 10 am to noon Saturday, March 6 at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee is \$16 for members of Laurel Arts; \$20 for non-members payable to Laurel Arts. Material fee is \$8. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by February 27.

National Crayon Day (kids)

Saturday, March 6, 2 to 4 pm

Join us for a colorful afternoon in celebration of National Crayon Day (which happens later in March.) During this workshop, we will use a blow dryer to melt crayons into a beautiful masterpiece. We will also create candles from melted crayons and recycle small pieces into a gooey slime. This workshop is best suited for students in grades 3 through 7.

The workshop is from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 6 at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee is \$16 for members of Laurel Arts; \$20 for non-members. There is also a \$12 material fee. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by February 27.

Baking with Girl Scout Cookies (adults)

Sunday, March 7, 2 to 4 pm

It's Girl Scout Cookie Season! Of course, the cookies are delicious as is, but why not make them into something even better? Today's recipes will all be created with these traditional cookies as our main ingredient. We will prepare a few dishes as time allows including Samoas truffles, Tagalong dip, Thin Mint brownies, and more! This class is best suited for adults.

Class will run Sunday, March 7 from 2 to 4 pm at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee is \$16 for members of Laurel Arts; \$20 for non-members. There is a material fee of \$12. Call/Text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by February 27.

Bob Ross Painting with Al Just

Monday, March 15, 10 am to 3 pm

Certified Bob Ross Instructor Al Just has another beautiful piece picked out for students to paint in March. 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 workshop he offers at Laurel Arts is a step by step class in creating an oil painting of the beautiful butterfly (pictured above.)

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, 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.

Stained Glass with Dave Howard

Friday, March 19, 5:30 to 7:30 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. A stained glass piece will look adorable hanging in your window. Students 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.

The class will be from 5:30 to 7:30 Friday, March 19 at the Education and Dance Center. (Please note: this class could take a bit longer on class size and pieces that are chosen)

Class fee for members is \$40; for non-members, \$50. Fee includes all materials. Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register at least one week in advance.

Coming in March ... don't miss out on the fun!

Gnome Door Hanger (adults)

Saturday, March 20, 2 to 4 pm

Create an adorable interchangeable holiday gnome sign during today's workshop. Students will be guided to paint all the pieces. It includes eight holiday sets that attach with velcro to the gnome.



The sign is 18 inches in diameter. Students can choose to have their last name or "Gnome Sweet Gnome" on their sign. Please specify when registering. This class is best suitable for adults. All pieces will be prepared by Crafts with a Side of You. The workshop is Saturday, March 20 from 2 to 4 pm at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee is \$16 for members of Laurel Arts; \$20 for non-members. There is also a material fee of \$35. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by March 6.

Pysanky Eggs

Saturday, March 27, 1 to 5 p.m.

Join Instructor Jennifer Miles-Mudery for an afternoon of creating beautiful pysanky eggs. Students will be given step by step instructions to create a one a kind decorative piece using wax and dyes on a hollowed out, real egg. For over 2000 years, the art of decorating eggs has been passed down through generations. Jennifer has been creating pysanky eggs for 28 years. She actually got her start with the art form when she was 18 and took a

class just like this! She has participated in several historical art shows and is in the process of getting her master Pysanky artist ranking from the International Egg Artist Guild. Workshop will be Saturday, March 27 from 1 to 5pm at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee payable to Laurel Arts is \$28 for members; \$35 Non-members. Material fee is \$10. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by March 17.

Homemade Body Care Creations

Wednesday, March 31, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

Join instructor Tracy Hostetter for an evening of creating assorted homemade body care items. Tracy owns a hobby farm where she raises goats and other farm animals. She enjoys using the goat's milk to create soaps and other items. During this workshop she will introduce students to creating with mango butter. It is a rich natural fat derived from the seeds contained inside the pits of the mango fruit. This butter provides a multitude of benefits for the body including maintaining softness in skin and hair. Students will be guided in creating a variety of mango butter products including a foaming hand soap and several lip balms and lotion bars. Tracy will have a variety of essential oils available for students to choose their preferred scent. The class is Wednesday, March 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Education and Dance Center.

Class fee for members is \$20 payable to Laurel Arts. Non-members fee is \$25 payable to Laurel Arts. Materials fee is \$5 payable to Tracy Hostetter.

Pre-registration is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register at least one week in advance.



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For more information, email studiokids@laurelarts.org

CreARTivity Camps

for kids 12 months through 7th grade

Laurel Arts is excited to present a new series of summer camps for children as young as 12 months old through 7th grade. All camps will be located at the Education and Dance Center, 601 Georgian Place. For more information or a brochure and registration form, call Marsha Schmuck at 814-442-6217.

ART Explorers, ages 12 to 18 months, will meet for 90 minutes on Thursdays and Fridays. The first camp will explore the **Best of Disney** June 10-11, followed by **Science & Art** July 1-2, and **Favorite Storybooks** August 19-20. Register for one, two or all three. Camp fee is \$20 for members of Laurel Arts; \$25 for non-members. We ask that parents stay with their children to help them as they create and explore.

ARTventurers are children ages 18 to 36 months. Two-day and three-day sessions will be available (each session is two hours long.) Campers will explore the **Best of Disney** as they paint with ice and build with clay during the week of June 7 through 11. The week of June 28 through July 2, these youngsters will explore **Science & Art** including dinosaurs, fossils and volcanoes. **Favorite Storybooks** will be the theme of the camps held the week of August 16-20. Camp fee for three-day sessions is \$32 for members of Laurel Arts; \$40 for non-members. The camp fee for five-day sessions is \$40 for members; \$50 for non-members.

Young at ART is for children Pre-K through 3rd grade. These are our traditional five-day, full-day camps. Students will use lots of art media to create projects, will make delicious snacks, and will participate in fun theme-based games. These camps are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Camp fees are \$80 for members of Laurel Arts; \$100 for non-members. June 21-25 will be **Camp Crayon**; July 5-9 will be an **Art Safari**; July 19-23 will be **Story-inspired Cooking**; and August 9-13 will be a **Croods Camp**.

ARTolescents is designed for children entering grades 4-7. This group will experience more advanced art lessons. These camps are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Camp fees are \$80 for members of Laurel Arts; \$100 for non-members. **Arts Galore**, June 14-18, will explore a variety of media from clay to wire to paints. Campers will **Get to Know Our Community** the week of July 12-16 as they learn about famous people from our area. They will also spend a day touring local businesses. Campers will be **Time Travelers** the week of July 26-30, exploring the time of the dinosaurs, jumping ahead to the Renaissance, and finding their way to the 1960s. A **Special Events Cooking Camp** August 2-6 will provide campers an opportunity to make foods for a luau, a fiesta, a camping weekend, and a pizza party.

Siblings attending the same camp (applies to **Young at ART** and **ARTolescents** camps only) will receive a \$10 discount for each additional sibling attending.

Campers in day-long camps will need to bring their own lunch. All campers should plan to bring a water bottle.

Education & Dance Center staff ...

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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
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Laurel Arts is partially funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Other foundations and agencies providing support to Laurel Arts are: The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies Somerset Borough Somerset County

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- Aspire Grant and Development
- Atlas Printing Co. (Dave & Cindy Breen)
- Petros & Nita Argyres
- Barbera Law
- CME
- Randy & Barb Davies
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- Geochemical Testing, Inc. (and the Bergstreser Family)
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