

# Laurel Arts

*Arts for everyone*

Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL

Laurel  
Arts  
DANCE

**ArtLink** • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • April 2021



Pittsburgh jazz artists from left Kenny Blake and Dwayne Dolphin

## ***Kenny Blake & Friends to perform***

Kenny Blake and Friends will perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 21 at Somerset Country Club. The event is in memory of long-time Somerset Area High School Band Director Herb McDowell who died February 14, 2021.

Pittsburgh jazz saxophonist Kenny Blake will be joined by special guest and Grammy award winner Dwayne Dolphin.

Tickets are \$20 and are available at Laurel Arts and the Country Club. Seating will be limited. To make dinner reservations prior to the show, contact Somerset Country Club directly at 814-445-5200.

Herb McDowell Memorial Jazz Night is sponsored by Brian Zeigler and Jeff Mishler.

## ***14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament set for June 4***

We're excited to be able to have our 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament benefiting the Dorothy Dressler Scholarship Fund and Children's Programming.

The Las Vegas Scramble will be Friday, June 4 at Somerset Country Club. Registration and lunch begin at noon, Friday, June 4. Scramble begins with a 1 p.m. shotgun start.

Hors d'oeuvres will follow after golf, prepared by Somerset Country Club.

The tournament is rain or shine, but we're certainly hoping for lots of sunshine. Cost to participate is \$150 per player and includes your cart, 18 holes of golf, lunch, hors d'oeuvres after golf, foursome photo, prizes & awards. The activities package is also included (power ball, mulligans & skills contests.)

Awards will be presented for gross & net. Ties will be broken by a card-off. Prizes will be provided by Somerset Country Club and Laurel Arts.

We are also grateful for sponsorships as well as corporate / company foursomes. Foursomes are included with platinum and gold sponsorships.

Tournament is limited to 18 foursomes.

During 2019-20, Laurel Arts awarded \$17,000 in scholarships to students attending our Studio Kids Preschool and dance program. Even though we couldn't have the tournament last year, we received many generous contributions toward the scholarship fund, which allowed us to provide approximately \$10,000 in scholarships in the 2020-21 school year.

Part of our mission is to make the arts accessible to all. We will not turn away a student; thus participation in this event, as well as continued support, is greatly appreciated.

For more information about the tournament, contact Laurel Arts, 814-443-2433.

### Upcoming exhibits ...

**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.

**May 11-June 10**

#### **Christopher Boring & Bridget Mayak**

Christopher Boring is a Pittsburgh based artist; Bridget Mayak is from Somerset. Together, they will present an exhibit in two and three dimensions (earthy and organic.)

**Opening Reception (tentative)  
6-8 p.m. Friday, May 21**

**June 22-August 5**

#### **11th Annual Triennial**

Building Bridges is the theme of this year's Triennial. This exhibit will draw works from local and regional artists in a variety of media. Explore our galleries to see how these artists propose to unite us or how they choose to illustrate what seems to divide us.

**Opening Reception & Awards  
(tentative)  
6-8 p.m. Friday, July 2**



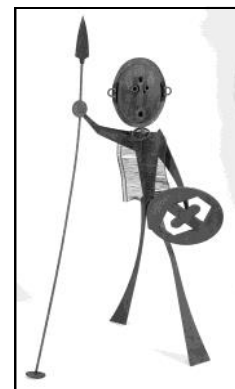
Located upstairs at  
**The Philip Dressler Center  
for the Arts**

**Office/Gallery Hours:**

**Noon-6 p.m.**

**Monday-Thursday**

Closed Friday-Sunday except  
for special events.



Examples of work by Boring (left) and Mayak (right)

## Boring-Mayak to present joint show

Christopher Boring is a Pittsburgh based artist; Bridget Mayak is one of Laurel Arts' gallery committee members. Kathy Trexel Reed, another gallery committee member, said, "Mayak's earthy clay pieces and welded sculptures will be great partners for Boring's work. His oils are often as organic as rocks and zen-like cracks in the ground."

They will exhibit at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts May 11 through June 10. An opening reception is planned (tentatively) for 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 21.

Boring received his BFA in Drawing and Painting from Edinboro University in 2012. He resides in Pittsburgh with his wife and fellow painter Heather Heitzenrater and their two cats. His studio is located in the neighborhood of Homewood and is part of the Radiant Hall Studios at 7800 Susquehanna Ave.

His work has been shown nationally, and at the State Museum of Pennsylvania, Hoyt Art Center in New Castle and Academy Center of the Arts in Lynchburg, VA.

Boring has won awards, given artist talks, and participated in several art festivals. He is also an active member of Associated Artists of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Society of Artists.

Bridget Mayak holds a bachelor's degree in Art Education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania, which is where she first developed her love of pottery and sculpture. Mayak taught art for 40 years in the Somerset Area School District, touching the lives of over 8,000 students!

Her clay work consists predominantly of functional pottery and whimsical clay sculpture; her metal sculptures are assembled from found objects and scrap steel. She also combines the two media in specialty pieces and garden totems.

In 2009, Mayak was named Pennsylvania's Outstanding Elementary Art Teacher of the Year by the Pennsylvania Art Education Association. She was chosen as Touchstone's Artist of the Year in 2010.

Mayak's work has been exhibited at Touchstone Center for Crafts in Farmington, Fallingwater, Bottleworks in Johnstown, and at Laurel Arts, where she has won Best of Show and numerous other awards.

She recently exhibited in an alumni show, entitled *60s, 70s, and 80s Artist Legacy of IUP*. She is a juried artisan for the Handmade Along the Highway program sponsored by the Lincoln Highway Association and sells her work at shops throughout western Pennsylvania.

# TEAM LAUREL ARTS

As executive director of Laurel Arts, one of my roles is to serve as the “face of the organization.” In short, this means that I represent Laurel Arts, connect and communicate with the community, engage in public relation matters and the like. I will be honest, seeing my mug can get a bit old, but it is part of the gig, and I am humbled to have the opportunity to represent this amazing organization.

Some days are lost in the to-do lists, planning, and just plain keeping up with it all, so much so, that even “the face” needs to take a moment to step back with clearer eyes and a deep breath, to see all that the heart and soul of the organization has, can, and will achieve.

Working for a nonprofit is not *working*, it is committing one’s self to a greater cause, aspiring for a better something ... whatever that something might be; it is living in a shared vision of making a difference, and doing so in a selfless manner.

EVERY. SINGLE. TEAM. MEMBER. AT. LAUREL ARTS. EMBODIES. THESE. IDEALS.

Now, imagine me standing at a podium as I yell and bang my fist on the worn wood at the iteration of each word listed above, so much so that the reverberations are filtered into the air through the speaker and resonate with the slightest of feedback in the microphone.

I am proud of our Laurel Arts team, each and every one of them – from our business manager, to our dance instructors, to our office staff (who typically prefer to stay behind the scenes), to our amazing maintenance man (yes, one man), and of course, our incredible preschool instructors.

Let’s be honest, these are all individuals who could go other places, do other things, make more money, but they don’t. Why – because they care – they care about our students, the communities we serve, and this organization ... and they care about each other.

When I talk about Laurel Arts to others and inform them of the plethora of offerings, people are always amazed by the fact that this little town of Somerset has such an active arts organization. In each issue of our monthly newsletter, we try to convey to you the latest and greatest, but really that is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg of what the Laurel Arts team actually does.

I might sound a bit bragadocious, but you know what, I AM! We are so fortunate to have such amazing individuals committed to Laurel Arts and the betterment of our local communities through the arts, and I felt it important to take a moment to applaud this amazing group for all that they do.

This Laurel Arts team truly is the heart and soul of this organization, and I am proud to gaze upon all that they do each and every day.

Thank you ladies and gentleman, YOU ARE Laurel Arts.

*Jaci McCusker, Executive Director*



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

## *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 Mayak, vice president  
Mark Addleman, treasurer  
Rebecca Frola Biss, secretary  
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Sharon Clapper  
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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:** Rehearsing second & fourth Thursdays. Contact Dave Breen, 701-1515, email photo@davebreen.com for time / location.

### **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, 814-442-3934.

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

## Johnstown Symphony shares plans for spring

JSO has a variety of events planned for spring. Information is available on the JSO webpage. Highlights include:

- 7:30 pm April 17: JSO Brass Quartet at the Grand Halle in Johnstown. Tickets at <http://www.grandhalle.com>.
- 3 pm April 24: **Horns in the Hills** at Roxbury Band Shell. Free outdoor concert.
- May 22: **The Four Seasons** with Maureen Conlon-Gutierrez and the JSO strings. To buy tickets, visit the JSO website.
- May 22: **Journey Through Johnstown** Run-Walk-Bike fundraiser event. To register, visit the JSO website.

Laurel Arts would like to congratulate **James Blachly**, JSO's Music Director, who won a Grammy for his album **Ethel Smyth: The Prison**, first premiered in the US with JSO!

## Laurel Highlands Chorale plans May mini-concert

Laurel Highlands Chorale continues to rehearse for its upcoming Spring Mini Concert Series. Tentative plans are to schedule two concerts on Sunday and one on a Monday evening in mid-May. This will allow for attendance to be kept within the current CDC guidelines. Other COVID precautions will be taken as well. No tickets will be available at the door. Instead, reservations must be placed ahead of the concerts to secure a date and time slot. Payment will be made upon entering the concert venue. Specifics, such as dates, times, and concert venue have not been finalized. Final details will be placed in the next Laurel Arts newsletter, as well as other local print media, and on posters placed around town.

We are so looking forward to presenting a concert with fun, uplifting, and positive music! Hope you will join us.

## Community Band rehearsing 2nd & 4th Thursdays

Somerset County Community Band has begun spring rehearsals the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at Suite 111, Georgian Place. The summer performance schedule may be limited, but performances will be noted in upcoming issues of the Laurel Arts newsletter. For more information about the band (new members are always welcome), contact Dave Breen, 814-701-1515 or photo@davebreen.com.

## Somerset Garden Club will host plant sale

Somerset Garden Club plans to host its spring plant sale Saturday morning, May 8 (the day before Mother's Day) at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts. The club will also be filling the planters in uptown Somerset when weather allows.

The Garden Club is always happy to have new members. To find out more, visit the club website: [somersetgardenclubpa.org](http://somersetgardenclubpa.org).

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

## *Workshops inspire unique gifts for Mother's Day ...*

### **Create a Magical Fairy Garden**

***Saturday, April 17, 10 am to noon***

Join Instructor Debbie Baca for the morning to create your very own magical fairy garden. Students will be painting the tray base and arranging the fairy garden to their liking. We will be using a combination of paint, glue, and, of course, imagination to create extraordinary homes fit for a special fairy.

Debbie is the owner of Red Cloak Designs, a locally-owned custom wood craft shop. Red Cloak specializes in the use of reclaimed barn wood and in making outdoor games and furniture. Visit her shop at Merchant Village or her Etsy store at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/redcloakwooddesigns>. Workshop will be from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17 at the Education and Dance Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Material fee, payable to the instructor, is \$12. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

### **Spring Soap Making Workshop**

***Friday, April 23, 5:30 to 7:30 pm***

Let's make some spring flower inspired soap. You will be able to choose your scent, colors, and whether you want to add botanicals or exfoliants. This is a fun class to help welcome spring!

The workshop will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 23 at the Dressler Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$20 members; \$25 non-members, plus a materials fee of \$8. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by Friday, April 16.

### **Mother's Day Gifts with Alcohol Inks**

***Saturday, April 24, 10 am to noon***

Join Instructor Marsha Schmuck for the afternoon and learn the basics of alcohol inks. Use beautiful colors to create amazing gifts for mom, grandma, or that special person for Mother's Day! Of course, when you see how they turn out you may choose to keep them for yourself. This workshop is appropriate for ages 12 and up.

This workshop will be from 10 a.m. to noon at the Education & Dance Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$20 members, \$25 for non-members. Materials fee is \$20.

Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by April 17.

### **Bob Ross Painting with Al Just**

***Monday, April 26, 10 am to 3 pm***

Certified Bob Ross Instructor Al Just has another beautiful piece picked out for students to paint this month. Al assists students to create beautiful: this month is a barn scene. Al has several certifications including Bob Ross, Dorothy Dent, Joyce Ortner and has studied with James Sulkowski, Robert Warren, and Valerie Stewart. This class takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, April 26 the Education and Dance Center. The fee for the workshop is \$48 for members; \$60 for nonmembers. This includes all materials. Students only need to bring paper towels, baby wipes and old rags. Preregistration is required by Monday, April 19 and students are asked to pay in advance. A minimum of four students is required for the class to run. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register.

### **Sourdough "Starters" for Starters**

***Friday, April 30, 5 to 7 pm***

Learn how to care for a sourdough starter and bake the easiest loaf of bread (Sourdough Boule). In this class, Instructors Pam Frola and Rebecca Frola-Biss will be going over how to care for your sourdough starter and the importance of routine feedings. We will make a few loaves in class and each participant will be given a starter and dough to take home and bake.

This class is from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday, April 30 at the Dressler Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$20 members, \$25 non members, plus a \$10 materials fee. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call 814-443-2433 to register.

### **Patriotic Wreath Workshop**

***Sunday, May 2, 2 to 4 pm***

Join Instructor Barb Cass for another step by step workshop to craft this patriotic wreath just in time for the Fourth of July. You can also remove the sign and use it any time of year, including Memorial Day. This would make a great gift for Mother's Day!

This class will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, May 2 at the Education & Dance Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$20 members, \$25 non-members. Materials Fee is \$35. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by April 25.

More classes on the next page!

## *... or, better yet, enjoy taking a class with mom (or a friend ...)*

### **Wool Braided Rug Making Workshop**

**Begins Wednesday, May 5, 1 to 2 pm**

Instructor Lisa Meyers offers a rug making classes that teaches a machine free, gadget free, ancient method of making braided rugs. Learn the techniques and problem solving skills needed to create a quality rug. The first lesson is one hour or so to go over the proper materials, needles, thread, thimble, scissors and a lesson on color theory to help you personalize your project. No need to bring anything unless you want to make sure it is correct. Handouts are given with each night's lessons. This is a very important class and cannot be missed. Please do not buy any materials before this lesson. After the information session, students will be responsible for purchasing materials required.

The first class is from 1 to 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 5; the next four classes will be from 1 to 3:30 p.m. May 12, 19, 26 and June 2 at the Dressler Center. (A class from 5:30 to 8 p.m. will also be offered.) Cost for the class is \$52 members; \$65 nonmembers. Fees for materials are not included in the cost. Registration is required. Call 814-443-2433 or text/call 814-442-6217 to register.

### **Mother's Day Cupcake Workshop**

**Friday, May 7, 5:30 to 7:30 pm**

Cake Decorator Meagan Richter will be showing students step by step how to create a dozen of these beautiful assorted flower cupcakes. The workshop will include icing and fondant work to create a flower bouquet. This edible arrangement would make a great gift for Mother's Day or bring Mom along and work on it together!

This class is from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 7 at the Education & Dance Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$20 members; \$25 non-members. Materials Fee is \$16. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by April 30.

### **Mother/Daughter Tea Party**

**Saturday, May 8, 1 to 3 pm**

What better way to celebrate Mother's Day than with a tea party! Join us for a delicious selection of mini sandwiches, scones, and, of course, tea. This event is perfect for all ages. We will have kid friendly snacks and drinks available, too. The afternoon includes party games and a craft. This is a special way to celebrate not only moms but grandmas, aunts, or someone special.

The tea is from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, May 8. Fee is \$30 per mother/daughter couple. An additional adult or child is \$10. The event takes place at the Education & Dance Center. Call or text 814-442-6217 to register by May 1. Preregistration is required.

### **Laura Schrock's Card Making Workshop**

**Tuesday, May 11, 6 to 8 pm**

Join talented card maker Laura Schrock for an evening of creating detailed and amazing cards. Laura's classes have become very popular and they always fill up quickly. Don't miss out! There is a limit of 12 participants. Preregistration is required.

The class will run from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 11 at the Dressler Center. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$12 members; \$15 non-members. Materials fee is \$12. To register, please contact Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 or call or text 814-442-6217.

### **Bob Ross Painting Workshop**

**Monday, May 17, 10 am to 3 pm**

Certified Bob Ross Instructor, Al Just has another beautiful piece to paint this month: a lighthouse scene.

The class takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, May 17 at the Education & Dance Center. The fee for the workshop is \$48 members, \$60 non-members 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, May 10 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.

### **Classes for our youngest artists**

Drop in at Laurel Arts for our all new **Maker Mondays!** During this session, students ages five and under will take part in games, science experiments, songs, stories, and of course ART! No need to register ... just drop in Mondays from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Recently, students celebrated National Deep Dish Pizza Day! Little Makers created their own hat, apron, pizza dough and planted tomato seeds. The following Monday was National Farm Animal Day!

The cost for each Maker Monday is \$5 to help cover supply expenses. Classes take place at the Education and Dance Center. Call or text 814-442-6217 for information.

## ***This & that ...***

### ***May the Fourth be with You! ... a virtual race***

The Rotary Club of Somerset and Laurel Arts are teaming up to launch a virtual race (walk, run, bike) which will kick-off May 4. The race is Star Wars inspired (May the Force be with You.)

Even if you know nothing about Star Wars or have no hopes of becoming a Jedi Master, this race will be a fun way to get out and enjoy a good run. The virtual option allows you to race at your own pace, when you want ... it is as simple as register, race, track.

Information will be posted soon on both the Rotary Club & Laurel Arts Facebook pages, as well as on the Laurel Arts website.

And, of course there will be some out of this world SWAG for race participants to enjoy! Stay tuned and in the mean time, "Do or do not. There is no try (we had to end with a Yoda quote)."

### ***Music Night with the Irish Pretenders***

Laurel Arts is anxiously awaiting our first outdoor music night of the season Saturday, May 22. The Irish Pretenders will provide the entertainment. The evening kicks off at 5 p.m. on the lawn. Stairs Restaurant will be bringing its Bolie Wagon or you can bring your own picnic basket. Check our Facebook page or May's newsletter for more information.

### ***Studio Kids welcomes Jamie Bastidas***

Jamie Bastidas joins our outstanding staff at Studio Kids Preschool. Jamie was an elementary and special education teacher prior to having children. She is the mother of five, ages three to nine.

A certified holistic health coach, Jamie has always been a firm believer that emotional intelligence is essential in the growth process. "Now, especially living through a pandemic, it is important that we prepare our children with appropriate tools to communicate and regulate what they are feeling," Jamie said. Movement is also important to healthy development. "We want our children to move freely and to be versatile in their movement."

Jamie will be providing Studio Kids an hour of mindfulness and movement. Children will learn techniques to improve breathing, flexibility, balance and movement/dance.

"My hope is for you to see growth in your child throughout time. You should see them eager to connect and use strategies of mindfulness," Jamie added.

*Learn more about our outstanding preschool program ...*

***Attend our OPEN HOUSE***

*6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 21 • 601 Georgian Place*

**Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL**

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

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and Dance Center***

# Laurel Arts

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Somerset, PA 15501



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- Luther P. Miller & Alan and Lana Miller
- Mark & Ann Persun
- Bob & Kathy Trexel Reed
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- Riggs Industries
- Mary Ann & Bill Riggs
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- Somerset Trust Company
- UPMC Health Plan
- U-Stor Mor, LLC
- Walmart
- Sallie Zoerb
- Wheeler Family Charitable Trust
- Wheeler Fleet Solutions



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*Thank you to ...*