

# Laurel Arts

*Arts for everyone*



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

*11th Annual Triennial reception 6-8 Friday, July 2*

## Laurel Arts presents **Building Bridges**

Laurel Arts is excited to present its 11th Triennial Juried Art Exhibit. This year's theme is **Building Bridges**. Artists from throughout the region are showing works that reflect a spirit of uniting people, places, ideas or suggest through their work their concerns about divisiveness.

The triennial will occupy the galleries through August 5. It is a juried show, and the exhibiting artists have worked in a variety of mediums.

Diane Kelly, artist and owner of Firesong Studio, near Bedford, was the juror for the show. She has an extensive background in graphic arts and fine arts. She has exhibited work in various galleries, served as a juror at the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA, writes for and has worked as a technical editor for Interweave Press, contributing to both Handwoven magazine and various other books.

An opening reception is scheduled for 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 2. The public is invited to attend, meet the artists, and enjoy an evening out.

Galleries are also open Monday through Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. and during special events.



This acrylic painting (no, it's not a photograph) received Best of Show. The artist is Dai Morgan, and the work is entitled **Weight Limit**. More winners are listed on page 5.

The triennial is a show you won't want to miss. When you visit the Dressler Center, you are also encouraged to visit the Imagination Garden as well as The National Museum of the Guild of American Papercutters.

## **The Evergreens and Matt Otis & The Sound**

**See them on the lawn stage Saturday, July 3**

The Evergreens and Matt Otis & The Sound will return to Laurel Arts, performing from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 3 on the lawn stage at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts.

Old Bedford Brewing Company will be on hand with brews that may surprise your taste buds with unique and delicious flavors.

This event is made possible by funding received from The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies' "Forging Unity" grant, in conjunction with Somerset, Inc. and the Mary S. Biesecker Public Library.

LA Nights are free and family friendly. Bring a lawn chair, grab some friends, and enjoy a wonderful evening of outdoor music in the heart of Somerset County.

## Upcoming exhibits ...

**June 22-August 5**

### **11th Annual Triennial**

**Building Bridges** is the theme of this year's Triennial. This exhibit draws work 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**  
6-8 p.m. Friday, July 2

**August 9-September 2**

### **Jenny Wilson**

Ms. Wilson describes her paintings as contemporary landscape or abstract. She composes her paintings much the way she performs jazz. A full-time jazz musician, Ms. Wilson and her Trio will play on the lawn stage from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, August 14.

**Our galleries will be  
open during  
Music on the Lawn  
events.**

**Feel free to browse!**



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.



Somerset County Community Band performs its annual Fathers' Day Concert June 20. *There's more music to come because ...*

## Summer nights go better with summer music!

Our music events, otherwise known as LA Nights, are free and family friendly. The audience is encouraged to bring lawn chairs, friends and family and enjoy an evening of outdoor music in the heart of Somerset County. Food and beverage vendors will be on the grounds for some of the events, but families are also invited to bring their own picnic baskets.

These events are made possible by funding received from The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies' "Forging Unity" grant.

On Saturday, July 17, from 6 to 9 p.m., popular local talents **J.D. & Cindy** with **Guest** will perform folk and classic rock on the lawn stage of The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts.

**Red Law** and **Whitehorse** will perform from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 31. From oldies, to rock, to originals, there will be something for everyone's taste in music. Vin de Matrix Winery will have a variety of wines available for purchase.

The **Jenny Wilson Trio** will perform from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, August 14. This will be a big night for Ms. Wilson; not only will she be making music (jazz), she will be exhibiting her work in the galleries at the Dressler Center. Come for the music and the art.

The gallery committee is also planning its Scoop'er Bowl Party (which replaces the annual Soup'er Bowl event usually held in March.) Guests who purchase a special ticket will be able to select a hand-crafted bowl made by local artists and have an ice cream sundae. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

**Jessica Lee & Guitarist Mark Strickland** will bring another evening of jazz to the lawn stage from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, August 28. Vin de Matrix Winery will also be on hand. And, to say goodbye to summer, Laurel Arts will bring back **Randy Myers** along with **Tim and Stacey** from 4 to 8 p.m. Saturday, September 25. Morguen Toole Co. is scheduled to bring its food truck for both nights; come for the music and have a nice dinner.

## Reflections of the Human Spirit

### Laurel Arts to host a month-long 9-11 exhibition

A poignantly clear blue sky. A crisp September morning. The world revolved upon its axis as it normally had – children took the bus to school, the morning news covered yesterday's events, and the day was one of those perfect late summer, not quite fall days that we know so well in our neck of the woods.

That same morning, 40 passengers and crew members boarded United Airlines Flight 93. We all know the unfortunate events that would follow; the attack aboard Flight 93 would result in those passengers and crew members becoming known as heroes thereafter. The bucolic green-laden rolling hills of Somerset County would become a final resting place, and our area would be impacted in a profoundly unique and unimaginable way.

The morning of September 11, 2001 suddenly became a moment of tragedy in our Nation's history. The stable axis of our world suddenly felt like it had suffered a paradigm shift, wherein the fundamental makeup of our lives seemed all but shattered.

In the moments that would follow the crash of United Flight 93, local fire departments, emergency response units, and members of our communities jumped into action; they responded without question to an act of terror, because from what I have been told, "it's just what they do."

Somerset County was suddenly the scene of an attack on the core foundations of our Nation's freedom and how did we respond – with fearless heroism, tenacity, unity, grit, and an embrace of sympathy and steadfastness for the families of the 40 fallen heroes that would span decades. President George W. Bush coined the phrase, *America's County*, because he witnessed the response, unity, and sense of community that defines the people of this area. Many individuals from Somerset County came together and restored a sense of hope and perseverance after one of the most tragic days in history and as residents of this area, we should be proud of those efforts put forth by so many local individuals.

This September, Laurel Arts will host a month-long exhibition entitled, **Reflections of the Human Spirit - America's County Responds to the Tragic Events of September 11th**. The exhibition will host artifacts from the National Park Service, local fire departments, and first response agencies, as well as photography, artwork, audio & video files, images of Somerset County, and artistic symbols of hope's endurance during such tragedy. A performance will be held on the evening of September 11 by members of the Johnstown Symphony Orchestra, wherein pieces written exclusively for this event will be performed. In addition, there will be guest speakers (authors and local community members) and additional performances by local musicians scheduled throughout the month of September.

Twenty years removed from a day that we must never forget, my hope is that this exhibition will serve as a reflection of our County - that we answered the call without hesitation, that the members of our communities embraced one another, that there was hope for a better tomorrow, because we saw first-hand what people can achieve when they work together. People of this County get things done, we have grit, we have tenacity, and I believe that is something that we should all be proud of and make us even more proud to say that YES, we live in Somerset County!

*continued on next page*

## 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

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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](mailto:andreafalchek@yahoo.com).

### ***Needle / Fabric Arts***

**Crochet Guild:** Contact Sheena Pile at 444-2419.

**Knitting Guild:** Contact Lee Ann Schrock, [leann265@yahoo.com](mailto:leann265@yahoo.com), 814-233-6434.

### ***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 at 7:15 p.m. Thursdays, Suite 111, Georgian Place. Contact Dave Breen, 701-1515, email [photo@davebreen.com](mailto: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, 814-442-3934.

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



## Garden Club restores Children's Aid Home garden

Members of Somerset Garden Club have been working on restoring and improving the garden at the Children's Aid Home. Gardening Know How provided a grant for the purpose of improving soil, mulch, and adding vegetables and pollinator friendly plants at the Home.

The club also presented two scholarships to students who will be studying horticulture-related subject matter. Members had their annual plant sale in May and have been getting together to work on the uptown planting.

SGC won second and third place at the state level competition for the club's Facebook page and website ([somersetgardenclubpa.org](http://somersetgardenclubpa.org).)

Members are organizing a sale of spring bulbs that need to be planted in fall, and they are looking forward to a joint meeting with Johnstown Garden Club and some garden field trips.

## ***Reflections of the Human Spirit***, *continued from page 3*

Through this exhibition, I would love all of you to join us in embracing who we are as a County, and not just any one at that, we are **America's County**.

"Reflections of the Human Spirit" will be held at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts from September 6 – September 30. A memorial reception will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021 from 4 – 8 PM at the center. Other events are currently being scheduled and will be announced shortly.

If you would like to learn more about the exhibition or would like to participate in our coordination efforts, please contact me directly, at [jmccusker@laurelarts.org](mailto:jmccusker@laurelarts.org) or at 814-443-2433.

**Jaci McCusker**, Executive Director



1st place, **Hold On**  
by Lynda Kirby (Digital)

## Triennial award winners to be recognized

In addition to Dai Morgan's Best of Show award for **Weight Limit** pictured on page 1, the artists whose work is pictured below will be recognized at the opening reception Friday, July 2.

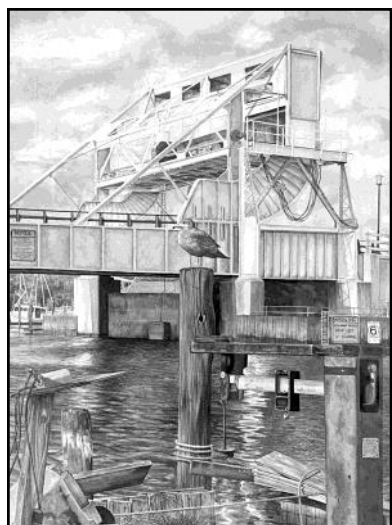
The black and white photos don't do their works justice. To truly appreciate the incredible talent of these and other exhibiting artists, you need to visit the galleries or attend the reception from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, July 2.



2nd place  
**The things I'll Never Forget**  
by Larry Brandstetter (Ink on Bristol)



3rd place  
**Under the Bridge** by Susan Wilson  
(Cyanotype)



SCAA Award  
**Tilghman Island Bridge**  
by Bernard Spada  
(Watercolor)

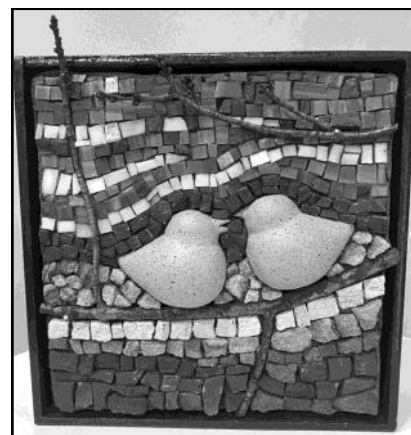


Juror's Award (best represents the theme)  
**Ranchers and Restorers** by Melanie Kehoss  
(Cut paper light box)



Honorable Mention (right, above)  
**Bison Vision** by Mary Beth Landis  
(Photography)

Honorable Mention (right, below)  
**Communicate** by Bridget Mayak  
(Mixed Media)







Winners in our **14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament** are: GROSS (sponsored by CME Engineering) Della Resh, Ann Cox, Annette Isgan and Vickie Beer; NET Denny Sprock, Doug Berkley, Skeetz Ellis and Glenn Miller. The tournament raised \$21,100 for the Dorothy Dressler Scholarship Fund and Laurel Arts Children's Programming through sponsorships, player fees and day of the event raffles. A huge thank you to our tournament's major sponsors: Highland Tank, Somerset Trust Company, UPMC Health Plan, AmeriServe Financial, Inc., Whalley Charitable Trust, Randy & Barbara Davies Family Foundation, Wheeler Fleet Solutions, Rotary Club of Somerset, Luther P. Miller Inc., Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerle 1801, and William & Bonne Gurzenda. We also had 22 tee sponsors. We would also like to thank our host Somerset Country Club and our beverage supplier Inco Beverage Inc.



**LAUREL ARTS**  
**WANTED:**  
**VOLUNTEERS**

*Come volunteer with us!*

**Are you looking for a fun and creative way to impact our communities?**

**Contact us for volunteer opportunities.**

**Visit our website:**  
**[www.laurelarts.org](http://www.laurelarts.org) or**

**Call us at (814) 443-2433 for more information.**

We  
♥  
Studio  
Kids  
Preschool



Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL



For more information or to registers for our arts-based preschool program email [studiokids@laurelarts.org](mailto:studiokids@laurelarts.org) or call 814-443-1835.

ABC ...

D ... ance!

**It's time to sign up for  
Laurel Arts dance school.**

Call 814-443-1835 or email [office@laurelarts.org](mailto:office@laurelarts.org), and we'll send you a registration form and more information about our dance program.

Classes for 3-year-olds & up plus classes for adults and children with special needs.



**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*  
DANCE

Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL

**Laurel Arts**  
**Education & Dance Center**  
601 Georgian Place  
Somerset, PA 15501  
814-443-1835  
[office@laurelarts.org](mailto:office@laurelarts.org)

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

Laurel Arts  
PO Box 414  
Somerset, PA 15501



Our  
Imagination  
Garden  
is in  
BLOOM!  
We hope  
you'll visit  
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*...for your generous support of Laurel Arts*



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1st Summit Bank  
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Petros & Nita Argyres  
Barbera Law  
Children's Aid Society Foundation  
CME  
Randy & Barb Davies  
Fraternal Order of Eagles  
Geochemical Testing, Inc. (and the Bergstresser Family)  
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*Thank you to ...*