

Laurel Arts

Arts for everyone

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

Laurel Highlands Chorale to present Christmas concerts

It is with great joy and much excitement that the Laurel Highlands Chorale announces its upcoming 2021 Christmas Concert. This concert will include songs to ring in the Christmas season.

Concerts will be presented at **3:30 p.m. Sunday, December 5, and at 7 p.m. Monday, December 6 at Somerset Church of the Brethren**, 606 Berlin Plank Road, Somerset. Admission is \$5.

Tickets for the Christmas concert will be sold prior to the concert and at the door. Advance tickets are available from chorale members or by contacting Dorene Friedline, 814-926-3610 or 814-442-0460.

The concert is open to the public. However, as with any gathering, the current COVID virus situation is a concern



to everyone. Masks should be worn at the discretion of the attendee.

Because of the pandemic, current chorale membership is about half of the groups "normal" of 60 to 70. While being small in number, the music is still big and bold with Christmas spirit!

Members are happy to bring back this holiday tradition!

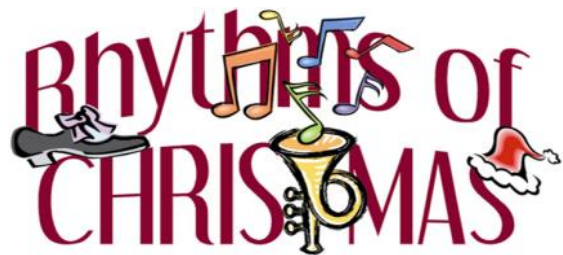
Rhythms of Christmas is back ...

... featuring Laurel Arts Dancers and Somerset County Community Band

Laurel Arts dancers and members of Somerset County Community Band have been rehearsing since October and are thrilled to present the 15th annual *Rhythms of Christmas!*

The show will be at **1 p.m. Saturday, December 11 at Somerset Area High School auditorium**. There is no admission charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted for the Dorothy Dressler Scholarship Fund.

The show will open with **A Visit to the North Pole**. Performance Company members dance this story that takes visitors to see what happens behind the scenes at Santa's Workshop. This is a traveling show that the company takes to area elementary schools and nursing homes. Because of the pandemic, the troupe isn't visiting as many elementary schools this year, so plan to bring your little ones to see this performance.



The show will feature approximately 70 of our dance students (Rhythms is a voluntary performance with rehearsals on Saturdays.) Nine of our senior company students are doing the choreography for most of the dances. They are Ashlyn Bittner, Ashley Ciepiela, Bena Croushore, Faith Custer, Emily Hostetler, Emma Klahre, Alana Kreger, Ella Peck, and Caroline Troll.

The choreographers will also join the band, dancing to **Santa's On His Way**, composed by James Swearingen.

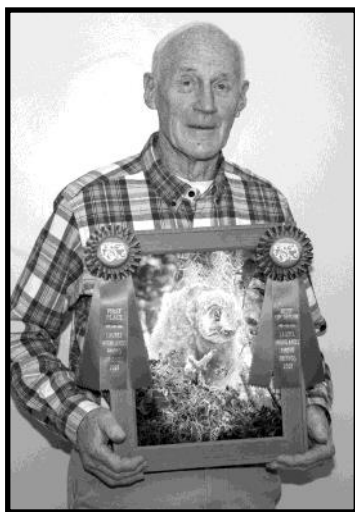
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Upcoming exhibits ...

Nov. 2-Dec. 16 Laurel Highlands Photo Friends

Laurel Arts affiliate Laurel Highlands Photo Friends is hosting a photography contest, and entries will be on exhibit through Dec. 16.

Winners were announced November 5.



Stokes Clarke with his winning entry, *Baby Owl Discovers His Foot*, which received Best of Show.



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

Office/Gallery Hours:
11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Monday-Thursday
Noon to 4 p.m.
Saturday

Laurel Highlands Photo Friends announce contest winners

Laurel Arts Photo Friends hosted a photography contest this month. The pieces are on display at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts through December 16. Winners were announced at an opening reception on November 5. Congratulations to everyone who entered and to the winners listed below. Visit our galleries or visit our website, www.laurelarts.org and click on Virtual Show.

Scenic Entries

1st Place, Charlotte Pletcher, *This Old Mill*; 2nd Place, Stokes Clarke, *Magnolia Gardens*; 3rd Place, Susan Wilson, *Arches Window*; Honorable Mention, Jeanne Henry, *Frozen*

Black & White

1st Place, Charlotte Pletcher, *Over the River*; 2nd Place, Ron Bruner, *Thoughtful Warrior*; 3rd Place, Stokes Clarke, *Angry Bird*; Honorable Mention, Caitlyn Vogel, Untitled

Nighttime

1st Place, Alishia Wilders, *Through the Trees*

General

1st Place, Ron Bruner, *Reflections*; 2nd Place, Ron Bruner, *Flowering Waters*

Digital & Alternative Processes

1st Place, Ron Bruner, *Fantastic Foliage*; 2nd Place, Carol Saylor, *Farm Vista Watercolor*; 3rd Place, Carol Saylor, *Flower Twirl Effect*; Honorable Mention, Susan Wilson, *Doc's Dory*

Fauna & Birds

1st Place, Stokes Clarke, *Baby Owl Discovers His Foot*; 2nd Place, Charlotte Pletcher, *Snowy Day Visitor*; 3rd Place, John Spangler, *Nesting Ospreys*; Honorable Mention, Jeanne Henry, *You Look Delicious*

Floral

1st Place, Stokes Clarke, *Columbine*; 2nd Place, Ron Bruner, *Tulip Delight*; 3rd Place, Alison Leer, *Gazania*; Honorable Mention, Jeanne Henry, *Pretty in Pink*

People

1st Place, Alan Gardner, *Kaboom*; 2nd Place, Michael Maloney, *Katie at Laurel Hill*
3rd Place, Ron Bruner, *The End*; Honorable Mention, Caitlyn Vogel, Untitled

Coming up in January 2022 ...

Somerset County Elementary Schools Art Exhibit, January 11-27 with a reception planned for 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, January 16. Visit the galleries to see art through the eyes of the students. All Somerset County elementary schools and homeschoolers, grades K-5, are invited to participate.

Somerset County Jr/Sr High School Show, February 8-24 with a reception planned for 2-4 p.m. Sunday, February 13. The gallery will feature older students, grades 6-12, as they explore art through various mediums. All Somerset County junior and senior high schools are invited to participate, as well as home schooled students.



Pictured from left: Artists Jane Holt, Joy Knepp, Bridget Mayak, Dave Green of the Somerset Mobile Food Bank, Alisa Mosholder Murphy of the Somerset Humane Society, artists Erin Mayak, Kathy Trexel Reed, and Susan Wilson.

Mud Ladies scoop ice cream, craft bowls, make a difference

Members of Laurel Arts' Gallery Committee, also known as the "Mud Ladies," presented \$700 to both the Somerset County Mobile Food Bank and The Humane Society of Somerset County from funds raised at the "Scoop'er Bowl" event, held in August of this year.

You might be familiar with the group's annual "Soup'er Bowl" event. This year however, with concerns about the pandemic, the artists held the event outside in late summer and put a sweet spin on the title to note the replacement of soup with ice cream.

The name may have changed, but cause remained the same as these amazing "Mud Ladies" volunteered their time and talents to craft bowls that were then sold at the event, along with ice cream, all in the name of fighting hunger.

The group is already crafting plans for the next Soup'er Bowl event, which is scheduled for March 19, and once again delicious soup and beautiful bowls will be on the menu.

Job opportunity at Laurel Arts ...

Are you looking to make a positive impact in our community, do you enjoy working in a team environment and with the public, do you appreciate the arts? We are looking for an office administrator. Position is part-time Monday through Thursday (usually) and typically 20-25 hours per week. Among your responsibilities will be to do some basic bookkeeping, manage our membership data base and mailings, process sales and class / event registrations, while always providing friendly and efficient customer service. To learn more, email Jaci McCusker at jmccusker@laurelarts.org.

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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- Robin Henley, treasurer
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Legal Counsel
Lois Caton

The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts

214 S. Harrison Avenue
Somerset, PA 15501
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 Lee Ann Schrock, 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.

Visual Arts

Gem & Mineral Club: Contact Sue Bittner, 445-6085, or Bob Tutko, 814-886-9418.

Somerset County Artists Association: Contact Dave Greene, 814-442-3934.

Laurel Highlands Photo Friends: Contact Ron Bruner, rbruner@zoominternet.net

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

Many thanks to our affiliates for all they do to promote our mission of ...

arts for everyone!

Somerset County Community Band prepares for Christmas performance Saturday, Dec. 11

(continued from page 1-Rhythms)

Mr. Swearingen is among the band's favorite composers; in fact, he visited Somerset on September 10 to direct the band's performance of his piece, *Flight of Valor*.

The band is under the direction of Jason June, and will have approximately 35 members performing at Rhythms of Christmas. The following day, members will perform for the residents of Siemon's Nursing Home at a family open house. At 7 p.m. December 15, the band will join North Star High School for its Christmas concert.

Rehearsals for the summer season will begin in mid-March. For more information on the community band, contact Dave Breen, photo@davebreen.com.

JSO Board of Trustees elects Mark Addleman to serve as board president

CONGRATULATIONS TO LAUREL ARTS' OWN VICE PRESIDENT, MARK ADDLEMAN!

The Board of Trustees of Johnstown Symphony Orchestra elected Mark Addleman to serve as board president for a two-year term. Mark is associate principal horn of the Erie Philharmonic and vice president of risk and lending operations at Somerset Trust Company.

Mark began playing with the Johnstown Symphony Youth Orchestra in late middle school and earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Temple University and a master's in French horn at Carnegie Mellon University. While in Pittsburgh, he worked on the Artistic Planning and Development team at the Pittsburgh Symphony. He has served as assistant principal horn of the Erie Philharmonic since 2012.



Members of Somerset Garden Club meet at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts to make wreaths for their annual sale.

It's not too late to make something great!

Quilted Ornament Making

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 6 PM – 8 PM

Learn to create beautiful no-sew quilted ornaments. Christmas-themed fabric and all supplies will be provided in the materials fee. Step by step instructions will be provided. These ornaments would be a great addition to your Christmas decor! Class takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, December 3 at 601 Georgian Place.



Cost: \$16 members/\$20 non-members payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$15 materials fee to Marsha Schmuck. Preregistration is required. Call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 or text/call Marsha at 442-6217 to register.

Little Maker Mondays

MONDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13, 20, 10 AM – 11:30 AM

Drop in at Laurel Arts for our Little Maker Mondays! During this session, students ages 1-5 will take part in games, science experiments, songs, stories, and, of course ART! Each week is different so you can come every week! No need to register ... Just drop in. Students ages 1-2 must be accompanied by an adult.

The cost for each Maker Monday is \$5 to help cover supply expenses. Classes are taught by one of our dance moms, Tami Skavang. Tami has a degree in Elementary Education. She has taught Kindergarten and Preschool in the past. Classes take place at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset.

Kids' Ornament Making Workshop

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 5 PM – 8 PM

Join Instructor Marsha Schmuck as we create a collection of beautiful Christmas Ornaments in a variety of ways. We'll take a break to make a festive snack and even play a few games. This is the perfect chance for parents to finish up some holiday shopping or wrapping while the kids are busy crafting!



The class takes place from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, December 10 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset.

Cost for the workshop is \$16 members/\$20 non-members payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$12 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register. Preregistration is required.

Bob Ross Painting Workshop

MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 10 AM – 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 paintings of



landscapes, seascapes, wildlife, and florals. He has been teaching for 15 years. Al has several certifications including Bob Ross, Dorothy Dent, Joyce Ortner and has studied with James Sulkowski, Robert Warren, and Valerie Stewart.

The class takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, December 13 at 601 Georgian Place. 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, December 6 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.

Wooden Christmas Blocks

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 6 PM – 8 PM

Join Instructor Marsha Schmuck for this step by step workshop. You will turn ordinary blocks of wood into 5 holiday stackables: The Grinch, a snowman, Santa, a gingerbread, and a reindeer. These would be great to give as one gift, split them up into separate gifts, or keep them for your own decorating! (continued on next page)



What's your New Year's Resolution? Take a class!

(continued from previous page)

The workshop takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, December 17 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset.

The cost is \$16 members/\$20 non-members payable to Laurel Arts plus an \$18 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck.

Gifts in a Jar Workshop

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 10 AM – 12 PM

Join Instructor Marsha Schmuck for an evening of creating Gifts in a Jar. We will make a soup mix, a cookie mix, and more. When completed, each jar will have



layered ingredients and a recipe attached on how to make that item. These would make great gifts for the holidays!

This class takes place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, December 18 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. The cost is \$16 members/\$20 non-members payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$20 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck. To register, call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433. Preregistration is required.

Bob Ross Painting Workshop with Al Just

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 10 AM – 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 paintings of landscapes, seascapes, wildlife, and florals.



The class takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, January 10 at 601 Georgian Place. 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 Tuesday, January 4 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.

Hot Chocolate Bomb Workshop

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 2 PM – 5 PM

Today we will be creating a variety of the popular hot chocolate bombs. We will think beyond the basic hot chocolate flavor. We will make 6 each of assorted chocolate and white chocolate bombs. This class is best suited for adults.



This class will run from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday, January 15 at 601 Georgian Place. Class fee payable to Laurel Arts is \$16 for members, \$20 for non-members. Materials Fee is \$15. Call/Text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by January 8. Pre-registration is required.

Learn to play the guitar ...

Guitar lessons are offered at Laurel Arts on Wednesdays, taught by Bob Bretz. Bob has decades of experience and teaches all styles of guitar. Contact Bob directly, 814-421-8134, for more information.



We also offer piano ...

If you were to research the benefits of playing the piano, you would find countless articles on the positive effects of playing this instrument. It has been proven to not only help strengthen hand muscles but relieves stress and stimulates the brain. It has been found to improve language skills, vocabulary, and even math!



Jade Boyer has over 20 years experience in piano. She studied at the Suzuki School of Music and has had several private teachers. She is available to give lessons on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings at Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center. For more information on signing up for lessons with Jade, text/call Marsha at 814-442-6217.

Dancing at Laurel Arts is SWEET!

We love the holidays at Laurel Arts Dance! Our performance company will be performing their Christmas Show, **A Visit to the North Pole**, at Rockwood, North Star Elementary, Studio Kids Preschool, Eagle View Elementary, and Siemon's Lakeview Manor on Friday, December 17.

The show will also be part of this year's **Rhythms of Christmas** at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 11 at Somerset Area High School.

The 26 members of our performance company are thrilled to be able to entertain in their communities. They also danced on the Diamond in Somerset during Light Up Somerset the Saturday after Thanksgiving.



Dancers Hailey Bowlby, Courtney Anderson (back) and Clare Troll and Auzalie Minor (front) will perform **Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree** at the 15th annual Rhythms of Christmas at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 15 at Somerset Area High School.



Laurel Arts has so much for which to be thankful.

We are thankful for our:

- dedicated staff
- wonderful parents
- delightful students
- generous sponsors
- supportive community
- and the imagination and inspiration that comes from our art-based programming.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and Best Wishes for an Incredible New Year!

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
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814-443-1835
office@laurelarts.org

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Laurel Arts

PO Box 414
Somerset, PA 15501



Our elves have been busy restocking our shelves ... make this an artful Christmas.

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Thank you to ...