

Laurel Arts

Arts for everyone

ArtLink • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • January 2022

Studio Kids
PRESCHOOL

Laurel
Arts
DANCE

New board presidents explains bond with Laurel Arts

By Erin Mayak

President, Laurel Arts Board of Directors

Ever since I can remember, Laurel Arts has been an integral part of my life. As a child, I helped my mother hang the school art shows, I painted faces at Somerfest, and even parted with my own toys every year to be used in a display for Santa's workshop during First Night celebrations.

As I grew up, I took classes here and attended performances, gallery openings, took part in the Art Seeds program, as well as art camps. Later, I volunteered at those same camps, and eventually taught and coordinated them.

I then worked as a summer intern at Laurel Arts for three years while I was in college. During that time, I did every job imaginable, from administrative tasks to organizing outreach programs, and lots of manual labor! I credit my experiences here with building my resume and preparing me to become an art teacher.

After teaching art in Fayette County for three years, I had the opportunity to move back to Somerset, and it felt like the right time to get more involved in the community and return the favor to Laurel Arts for helping to propel my career.

I was excited to work with the Gallery Committee, and it was around that same time that I was asked to serve on the board of directors for the first time, which I did for several years. The experience gave me the chance to see the organization from a different perspective and feel like I was part of the decision making that would help move Laurel Arts forward.

To me, every bit of fundraising, making the tough financial decisions, and strategic planning is to help other people feel the same enjoyment of the arts that I have felt.

- Erin Mayak



My mother had served on the board of directors when I was a child, and her involvement and belief in the importance of the organization inspired mine even at a young age. I also felt a special bond with Dorothy Dressler for most of my life, as we shared a Halloween birthday and she often sent me little cards and books that she knew I would enjoy.

This might sound odd, but I have always tried to honor Mrs. Dressler in whatever tasks I took on at Laurel Arts, whether it was organizing art materials in a closet, washing the punch bowls and dishes after an opening reception, helping maintain the grounds, or even patching and painting the walls of the galleries.

My family has held important events here as well, including bridal and baby showers, and even a surprise birthday party for me! Many times, Laurel Arts has felt like a second home.

I see the Dressler Center building and its location as one of our community's biggest assets. It is

continued on page 3

Upcoming exhibits ...

Somerset County Elementary Schools Art Exhibit

January 11-27

Visit the galleries to see art through the eyes of these young artists.

Somerset County Jr/Sr High School Art Exhibit

February 8-24

Students in grades 6-12 explore art through various mediums. Their work demonstrates how children grow as artists.

Reception 2-4 p.m.
Sunday, February 13

Somerset Area School District Art Exhibit

March 8-24

The galleries will feature the artwork of Somerset Area School District Students, K-12.

Reception 2-4 p.m.
Sunday, March 13



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

Posters explain history of papercutting

by *Kathy Trexel Reed*

The National Museum of the Guild of American Papercutters at Laurel Arts begins 2022 with a new exhibition featuring educational posters. Five of a series of fourteen posters are displayed at Laurel Arts, and they help explain several multi-cultural traditions of the art form.

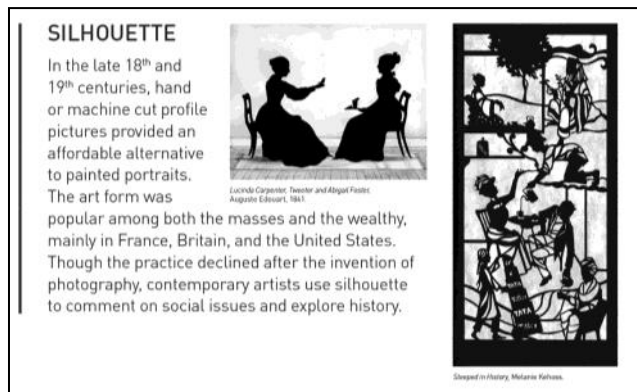
Visitors can see the historical origins of papercutting identified in these selections that represent major international styles. Guild members' original cut paper artworks are also mounted to complement the five posters: Chinese Jian Zhi, Polish Wycinanki, Swiss Scherenschnitte, Silhouette, and Judiac styles.

Although these all have highly distinctive techniques and approaches, easy to learn to identify, the

common characteristics of positive paper parts designed with negative cut away areas are the foundation for creating the shapes and textures of papercuttings. They become "scissor-drawings."

The poster illustrations show significant influences that have blended and inspired cut paper artists for centuries. The art form has evolved and contemporary cut paper artists now often reflect an entirely new, personal, visual language, including three-dimensional forms. Although tools, cultural identities, and social circumstances have been altered by time, the pleasure of cutting paper continues to be translated into expressive art.

For more information about the Guild of American Papercutters, visit papercutters.org or The Guild of American Papercutters on Facebook.



Notecards available from *Making Marks* residency

Making Marks, an 18 day-residency sponsored by Southern Alleghenies Museum of Art (SAMA), has culminated with the printing of notecards featuring artworks produced by participants from The Patriot.

Experimenting with textures, lines, and patterns, and using a variety of unusual tools, the finished products allow the viewer to interpret the free expressions in personal ways.

The cards are available for purchase from Laurel Arts, and proceeds will support a 2022 continuation of the program. There are four sets of 10 unique cards available. Mentors from the gallery committee have been privileged to share mark-making techniques with residents of The Patriot, and are pleased that the project verifies Laurel Arts' mission, *Arts for Everyone*, so beautifully.

New board presidents explains bond, continued from page 1

important because of what it holds inside and what it represents. Our exhibits, our permanent collection of artwork, our programming and our connection to the community are at the heart of our Art Center.

To me, every bit of fundraising, making the tough financial decisions, and strategic planning is to help other people feel the same enjoyment of the arts that I have felt. There are so many local people who have shared with me similar bits of nostalgia and positive experiences they have had at Laurel Arts, and it is my hope that this trend continues.

Over the years, I have worked alongside many executive directors, board members, instructors, staff and volunteers, and each person has brought something unique to the organization. I've seen many of our initiatives work well, and we've learned lessons from the ones that haven't. I hope that my contribution to the organization as an art teacher and as an artist is beneficial in helping us sustain relevance and purpose in the community.

I am happy to serve Laurel Arts in this new role as president and look forward to working with the rest of the board of directors as fellow caretakers of this organization that holds so much history and has so much potential.

A note from Executive Director Jaclyn McCusker

As executive director of Laurel Arts, I am excited to announce that in addition to my duties as director of this amazing community-focused arts nonprofit, I have also been afforded the opportunity to join Aspire Grant & Development LLC as a part-time consultant.

As supporters of Laurel Arts, I want to share this news with you directly, because this will be a wonderful partnership moving forward; one that I hope will benefit our organization and our communities.

Looking toward 2022, plans are already in place for several engaging events and programming including: classes, children's summer camps, more music on the lawn, a member mixer, FUNdraisers, a robust membership campaign, uptown murals, exciting exhibits, collaborative event engagement, dance competitions and recitals, and SO much more!

I am humbled and thankful to be surrounded by such a wonderful staff, board members, artists, and volunteers! We couldn't make it happen without these individuals, and I feel confident that our creative core will only continue to GROW!!

That is why, with this additional opportunity, the involvement of these wonderful people, and your support, Laurel Arts will continue to create, engage, educate, uplift, and provide "Arts for Everyone" in 2022 and the many years to follow!

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.

Laurel Arts Board of Directors

Erin Makay, president
Mark Addleman, vice president
Robin Henley, treasurer
Rebecca Frola Biss, secretary
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William Hoffman
Jeff Johnson
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Brooke Sheeler

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: Rehearsals will resume mid-March at Somerset Junior High School. 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!

February + JSO = music of love!

Celebrate love with the JSO as the symphony performs the timeless music of Frank Sinatra, Rogers and Hart, and more with JSO POPS and guest vocalist Charles Wesley Evans. Whether it's date night or a night out with your besties, this is champagne and strawberries in concert form! For tickets or more information, visit the JSO website: www.johnstownsymphony.org.

Roof Garden Chorus rehearsing, performing again!

After a year of intermittent rehearsals, canceled performances and no annual show, the Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus is back to having weekly rehearsals. The chorus had a few performances over Christmas, but with Covid concerns, not as many as the group typically had.

The Chorus is accepting bookings and the annual show, which is the highlight of the year, is being planned for fall. Men of all ages are invited to stop in at any rehearsal and see if they might like to become part of this fun group. Chorus members meet at 7:30 p.m. every Tuesday at Grace United Methodist Church on Felgar Road, Somerset. For information, contact Larry Shober, 814-267-4042.

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NEW ITEMS
WINTER







GALLERY SHOPPE
|
AT DRESSLER

Store hours: 11 am to 6 pm Monday-Thursday
12 noon to 4 pm Saturdays

We promise ... these classes are “snow” much fun!

NEW ... Zumba Class

SATURDAYS BEGINNING JANUARY 22, 10 – 11 AM

It's a New Year with some new classes at Laurel Arts! Is your New Year's resolution to become more fit or maybe just to take some time for yourself? The new Zumba class we are offering is a perfect way to do both! Zumba combines Latin and international music with dance moves to provide an aerobic workout. Aerobic exercise can help you reach a healthy weight, strengthen your heart, and even improve your mood.

Join Zumba Certified Instructor Sharon Parra each week or when it's convenient for your schedule. Sharon is a former dance student at Laurel Arts where she took a variety of classes for seven years. She also studied dance for a short time in Hawaii. She will be teaching Zumba with us and at MorGainz Fitness in Somerset.

These are drop-in classes 10 a.m. Saturdays beginning Saturday, January 22 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. The cost per class is \$8 for members / \$10 non-members. Contact us at 814-442-6217 or 814-443-2433 for more information or to become a member of Laurel Arts and receive 20% off all classes.

Beach Snowman Painting Workshop

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22, 6 – 8 PM

Join instructor Caitlin Schmuck for an evening of painting fun. Caitlin will take students step by step as they create a snowman painting similar to the one pictured. Participants will be using acrylic paints for this class.



The workshop will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, January 22 at Georgian Place.

Feel free to bring your own drinks and snacks. We are asking that all students wear a mask for this class. Class fee is \$20 members / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$12 materials fee payable to Caitlin Schmuck. Please register by Saturday, January 15. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433.

Winter Snowman Party

SATURDAY, JANUARY 29, 10 – NOON

(Ages 4 & up or under 4 with adult)

Join instructor Marsha Schmuck for a fun morning of Snowman building! Students will craft snowmen with various items including wine bottles and wood slices. Of course, we will take a break from crafting for a special snowman snack. Snack time is always a favorite in the kids classes! We will finish off the morning with some games that will be SNOW much fun!

The workshop will take place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, January 29 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Class fee is \$16 members / \$20 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$10 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck. Please register by Saturday, January 22. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433.

Snowman Cake Workshop

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 2 – 4 PM

Cake Decorator Meagan Richter will show students step by step how to create this amazing cake. The workshop will include icing work to create a 6-inch round cake similar to the one in the photo. This one of a kind creation would make a great dessert for your family or friends!



Meagan is the owner of Heirloom Pines Farms. She and her husband are planning to open a shop in Somerset. Once the shop opens, they will be able to provide the community with their delicious coffees and baked goods created from family recipes.

The workshop will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, January 30 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Class fee is \$20 members / \$25 non-members payable to Laurel Arts plus a materials fee of \$25. Please register by January 23. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433.

More classes on the next page ... keep reading!

Guitar and piano lessons available

Guitar lessons are offered at Laurel Arts on Wednesdays, taught by Bob Bretz, 814-421-8134. Jade Boyer offers piano lessons at the Education & Dance Center. Call/text Marsha at 814-442-6217.

Check out these “sweet” February workshops

Couples Paint Pouring Workshop

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 6 – 8 PM

Join Instructor Caitlin Schmuck for an evening out just in time for Valentine's Day! Caitlin will show students a variety of paint pouring techniques and then allow each couple to choose two of their favorite methods to create their own 11x14 pourings. Acrylic Paint Pouring is a painting technique used to create art by pouring acrylic paint onto a canvas. Using different techniques and colors of paints, you can create beautiful and unique pieces.

The workshop will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, February 5 (date night!) Fee is \$24 members / \$30 non-members payable to Laurel Arts with a \$20 materials fee payable to Caitlin Schmuck. Class will be at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by January 28.

Chocolate Making Class for Kids

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2 – 4 PM

(Pre-K through Grade 6)

Create some delicious treats just in time for Valentine's Day. Chocolate covered everything including pretzels, strawberries, and rice krispie treats. Give them as a gift or keep them all to yourself! Either way, we will have so much fun making them!

This class will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, February 12 at Georgian Place, Somerset. Class fee is \$16 members / \$20 non-members payable to Laurel Arts and a material fee of \$14 payable to Marsha Schmuck. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by February 5.

Couples Valentine's Cake Workshop

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2 – 4 PM

Cake Decorator Meagan Richter is offering a couples cake class just in time for Valentine's Day! This would make a perfect date night for couples but could also include a parent and child or best friends looking for something fun to do together.

Meagan will be showing students how to create these two delicious cakes. The workshop includes two 4 inch round cakes similar to the ones in the photo.



Workshop will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, February 13 at Georgian Place. Class fee is \$28 members / \$35 non-members payable to Laurel Arts with a materials fee of \$15 payable to Meagan Richter. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register by February 6.

Bob Ross Painting Workshop with Al Just

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 10 AM – 3 PM

This workshop will be a step by step class in creating an oil painting of the beautiful scene pictured.

The class takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, February 14 at 601

Georgian Place, Somerset.

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, February 7 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.



It's a new year and a new theme for Maker Monday! For January, our theme is “Do you wanna build a snowman?” We will be welcoming winter weather with some snowman crafts and activities. We promise it will be SNOW much fun for children ages 1-5. We will play games, sing songs, read stories, do science experiments, and of course make ART! No need to register, just drop in. Students ages 1-2 must be accompanied by an adult. Workshops are every Monday for 90 minutes and run from 10 to 11:30 a.m. The cost for each Maker Monday is \$5 to help cover supply expenses.

Congratulations to 1st semester Students of the Month

Laurel Arts is so proud of our dance students and families. This year, they have collected food for the local food pantry, supplies for The Humane Society of Somerset County, and blankets for residents of Siemon’s Lakeview Manor.

It’s not easy to choose, but each month our teachers select their student of the month. These students have demonstrated a willingness to learn and work hard. They are attentive, cooperative and are true role models.

Congratulations to:

SEPTEMBER: Caroline Troll, Ashley Ciepiela, Mirabella Tweardy, Taylor Westley, Milee Booher, Alexis Clark.

OCTOBER: Brooke Fullard, Ryann Haer, Isabelle Schmuck, Addison Fox, Raeleigh McKool, Clare Troll.

NOVEMBER: Maci Burgos, Kylee Mallory, Emilia LaNasa, Bena Croushore, Helena Hinton, Arabella Meola.

DECEMBER: Tiana Augustine, Faith Custer, Hannah Spiri, Hailey Bowlby, Reese Demchak, Maria McGinnis.



Tickets available for Purse Party March 27

Diamonds might be a girl's best friend, but a Michael Kors purse is a close second! Laurel Arts is excited to announce the FIRST EVER "Pretty in Pink" Purse Party from 2 to 4:30 p.m. March 27 at Bakersville VFD Banquet Hall.

Tickets are \$35 per person and can be purchased at both Laurel Arts locations. There are only 250 tickets available for purchase, and 10 designer purses will be given away. Winners need not be present to win.

Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Drawings begin at 2 p.m. and go off every 15 minutes. Additional prizes/raffles include: 50/50 drawings, door prizes, pick of the table raffles, and basket drawings.

Snacks and refreshments will be provided and are included in the ticket cost.

The funds raised from this event will go directly to keeping the ARTS ALIVE in Somerset County!

Education & Dance Center staff ...

Amanda Bergstresser
Lead Dance Teacher

Melanie Sarver
LAEDC Administrative Officer

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



Laurel Arts

PO Box 414
Somerset, PA 15501



Check out our January & February classes inside!

Follow Laurel Arts on Facebook for the latest offerings.

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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

... for your generous support of Laurel Arts

MJ Miller Family
Agricultural Heritage Fund
Romesburg Media Group
(and the Romesburg Family)
Rotary Club of Somerset
Somerset Trust Company
The Pittsburgh Foundation
UPMC Health Plan
U-Store Mor, LLC
Walmart
Sallie Zoerb
Wheeler Family Charitable Trust
Wheeler Fleet Solutions

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