

# Laurel Arts

*Arts for everyone*

**ArtLink** • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • Autumn 2022

Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL

Laurel  
Arts  
DANCE

*You won't **BELEAF** what's happening this fall*



From left, front row, Lowell Friedline, Roger Felix, Stu Kreinbrook, Larry Shober, Paul Ritchey, Phil Parlock; back row, Norman Menhorn, George Philibin, Barry Michell, Mike Mitchell, Lee Hoffman, Rudy Acs, Barry Ritko.

*Crazy About You!*

## Roof Garden Chorus plans annual show Sunday, October 9

Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus is planning its Annual Show for the first time since Covid. The show is set for 2 p.m. Sunday, October 9 at Grace United Methodist Church on Felgar Road.

Theme of the show is **Crazy About You** with lively familiar songs along with some new pieces audience members are sure to enjoy.

Joining the barbershoppers will be **The Flight 93 Memorial Chorus** making a guest performance. They are an all-male a cappella chorus that sings patriotic numbers. The Roof Garden Chorus is pleased to bring this level of entertainment to Somerset County.

Tickets are \$12 for the show; \$20 for the Afterglow Party at Oakhurst.

For tickets contact members of the Roof Garden Chorus, visit Laurel Arts (Dressler Center) or purchase at the door.

Somerset Auxiliary

 **JOHNSTOWN**  
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*presents its 11th annual*

**Taste of the  
Laurel Highlands**  
*A Decade+ of Delicacies*

5:30-8 pm Tuesday, October 11  
Green Gables

*Sample signature dishes from a variety of  
local restaurants*

\$35 per person • visit [www.sajso.com](http://www.sajso.com)  
call 814.535.6738

**HAUNTED**

**The Exhibit**

**October 11—November 3**

**Reception**  
*(if you dare)*

**6 to 8 pm Thursday,  
October 13**

*Upcoming exhibits ...***SCAA MEMBERS EXHIBIT  
Through October 6**

Members of Somerset County Artists Association are exhibiting their recent works.

**HAUNTED The Exhibit  
October 11-November 3**

Stop by The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts between October 11 and November 3 to see a unique exhibit entitled **Haunted!** The opening reception for this exhibit is from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, October 13 and, as always, it is FREE to the public. Spooky-themed refreshments will be provided!

**Reception  
6-8 pm Thursday, October 13**

**Visit the  
Guild of American  
Papercutters Exhibit  
November 5- July 15  
Green Room (upstairs)**



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

**Office/Gallery Hours:**  
**11 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Saturday**

## Laurel Arts and the Haunted Hollow to transform galleries during October

If the walls could talk! Staff members at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts sometimes feel a chill in the air, sense a presence, find an object has been moved to a different place. Ghosts? Who knows, but the galleries will certainly be haunted from October 11 through November 3.

Laurel Arts and the folks at the Haunted Hollow just outside New Centerville are collaborating to transform the galleries at the art center into an otherworldly space.

The exhibit will showcase the art forms of special effects makeup, fabrication and monster making, prop making, and other skillful techniques used in the world of the Haunt.

Special effects makeup artists, monster makers, fabricators and prop makers are encouraged to enter their creepiest work. Entry fees are \$5 for one piece, \$6 for two, and \$7 for three or more. Call for Entries is available at [www.laurelarts.org](http://www.laurelarts.org).

Entries will be accepted from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, October 5 and 6 and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 8. This is a juried exhibit and entries will be judged on quality as well as available gallery space.

For more information about the exhibit email Becca Frola-Biss at [rfrolabiss@gmail.com](mailto:rfrolabiss@gmail.com).

We are also planning a special event following the reception on Thursday, October 13. Stay tuned by following our Facebook page for more information!

**LAUREL ARTS  
MAKERS  
MARKET**

5 PM-Dark  
Wednesday, Oct. 12

Laurel Arts is excited to host its fourth Makers Market of the season from 5 p.m. until dark Wednesday, October 12. The market is located along Harrison Avenue and offers a wide variety of artisan food, jewelry, handcrafted clothing, cutting boards, wine, pottery, art work and more. While you're here, be sure to stop at the center to check out our exhibits and Gallery Shoppe!



## Board president announces staff changes

Just as the seasons are changing, there are changes happening at Laurel Arts as well!

After four years as our Executive Director, Jaclyn McCusker has stepped down from that role to pursue a full time job at Aspire Grant & Development, but she will continue to work for Laurel Arts as our Special Projects and Funding Coordinator, focusing solely on grants, donations, and memberships while the Board of Directors looks to hire a new Director of Development.

Melanie Sarver has accepted the new position of Director of Operations, so in addition to her current bookkeeping and administrative roles at the Education and Dance Center, she will be responsible for overseeing several areas across the entire organization.

Amanda Bergstresser's title has changed from Lead Dance Instructor to Dance Creative Director to more accurately reflect the duties and responsibility of her job.

So while we won't have to say goodbye to any of these familiar faces, they will be working for Laurel Arts in different ways. We congratulate these hard-working women on their new positions!

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we extend our deepest gratitude to Jaci McCusker for sharing her passion, her creative vision, and for her unwavering dedication to upholding our mission of providing **Arts for Everyone**. Under her leadership, Laurel Arts has not only survived the pandemic, but *thrived* in spite of the many difficulties we constantly face as a non-profit arts organization.

Most people who know Jaci, see her working within the community to promote the diverse arts experiences, performances, exhibits and classes that Laurel Arts offers. What people may not realize is how much MORE work takes place behind the scenes. Though we will soon be looking to hire a new director, Jaci is irreplaceable; she leaves big (possibly hot pink) shoes to fill!

**Erin Mayak**, *president*, Laurel Arts Board of Directors

## A note from Jaci ...

Almost five years ago, I walked through the doors of Laurel Arts' Education & Dance Center to take my little Lincoln to attend another day at Studio Kids preschool. As I walked down the yellow-beige hall, something prompted me to turn my attention to a bulletin board affixed to the left-hand side of the hallway. My attention was drawn to a help wanted posting for a program coordinator.

Long story short, I contacted the number and next thing I knew, I was sitting with LA board president, Cindy Breen, talking about the job opportunity. In this discussion and after having reviewed my resume, she mentioned that she thought I was actually more qualified for their director of development position. I was both humbled and elated to be considered for the position. Little did she know that only a few years prior, I had submitted a resume for the executive director position at Laurel Arts, which was then filled by another candidate.

I was nervous, excited, and eager to learn. I began to see our community through new eyes. I saw the potential, the thrill of new opportunities, and paths for not just

*continued on page 7*

## Our Dressler staff ...

**Melanie Sarver**  
Director of Operations

**Mike Baker**  
Maintenance Director

**Vickie Baughman**  
Office Assistant

**Alison Leer**  
Office Coordinator &  
Administrative Assistant

**Jaclyn McCusker**  
Special Projects and Fundraising  
Coordinator

This newsletter is published by Laurel Arts for its members and friends.

### Laurel Arts Board of Directors

Erin Mayak, president  
Cindy Breen, vice president  
Robin Henley, treasurer  
Rebecca Frola Biss, secretary  
Mike Beech  
Sharon Clapper  
Allison Finui  
William Hoffman  
Jeff Johnson  
Mike Mitchell  
Fred Rosemeyer  
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](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). Meets 2nd Monday, 11 am, Dressler Center.

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

**Crochet Guild:** Contact Kathy Martin, 814-443-3054.

**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 Lee Hoffman, 814-279-1733, or Larry Shober, 814-267-4042. Rehearsal 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings 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 for Christmas are at 7:15 p.m. Thursdays at Somerset Junior High School beginning October 20. Contact Dave Breen, 814-701-1515, email [photo@davebreen.com](mailto:photo@davebreen.com).

### ***Visual Arts***

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

**Laurel Highlands Photo Friends:** Contact Ron Bruner, [rbruner@zoominternet.net](mailto:rbruner@zoominternet.net)

**Woodcarvers:** Contact Jeff Baltzer, 814-442-6617.



## Chorus to make guest appearance at Roof Garden Chorus annual show

The Flight 93 Memorial Chorus is an all-male a capella chorus committed to excellence and service to the community. Members will take the stage at the Roof Garden Chorus' annual show at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 9. The chorus rehearses once a month in Cumberland and all music and learning materials are provided. For more information visit [www.flight93memorialchorus.com](http://www.flight93memorialchorus.com) or email [info@flight93memorialchorus.com](mailto:info@flight93memorialchorus.com).

## Garden Club hosts District VI annual meeting

Garden Club members thank all the District VI members and guests who attended the Annual Meeting at The Heritage in Rockwood. After the business meeting and a delicious lunch, members were treated to a program on *New and Interesting Plants* by Ron McIntosh, former WJAC Green Grower.

The club also wants to thank all who helped, baked, supported, and attended, especially Betty Lou and Dave Svonavec, who hosted and decorated, and Connie Marteeney and Jill Gary, who made the site so beautiful for the event! A special shout-out to SGC member Nerita Brant and her committee who made the table runners and the napkins as party favors for our guests. They also set up an amazing raffle and jewelry sale.

## Community Band plans Christmas season

Members of Somerset County Community Band can put away their summer music folder, but they can't put away their horns (woodwinds, drums, etc.) The band will join Laurel Arts dancers for the 16th annual *Rhythms of Christmas* holiday show to be presented at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 10 at Somerset Area High School.

The community band will begin Christmas rehearsals October 20, and new members are welcome. Contact Dave Breen, [photo@davebreen.com](mailto:photo@davebreen.com) for more information.

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

*arts for everyone!*

# What's UP this FALL? *Lots of classes & workshops*

**IMPORTANT, PLEASE NOTE:** Registration and a 50% non-refundable deposit are required to book Laurel Arts classes and camps. This 50% non-refundable deposit will be for the entire class, including the material fee. Example: \$25 tuition and \$20 material fee = \$45 total class fee; deposit due upon registration will be \$22.50.

## *NEVER MISS A CLASS OFFERING ... FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK*

### **Zumba at Laurel Arts**

BEGINS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 7:30 – 8:30 PM

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. 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.

These are drop-in classes on Mondays beginning September 26. Class time is 7:30-8:30 p.m. Space is limited so you can also call ahead to secure your spot if you'd like. Class takes place at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Cost per class is \$6 members of Laurel Arts / \$8 nonmembers.

Contact 814-442-6217 or 814-443-2433 to register, for more information, or to become a member of Laurel Arts and receive 20% off all classes.

### **3D Needle Felting Workshop**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1 – 3 PM

Local artist Loretta Radeschi is returning to Laurel Arts for another Needle Felting class. This time she will be taking her art to a new level as students learn on a 3D project. The felt will be added to small gourds and pumpkins. Loretta will provide all the materials needed. No experience necessary. This class is designed for students ages eight through adult.

Class takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, October 1 at 601 Georgian Place. The cost for the workshop is \$20

members of Laurel Arts / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$8 materials fee payable to Loretta Radeschi.

Registration and a 50% deposit is required. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-1835 to register by September 24.

### **Clay Earring Workshop**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 3 – 5 PM

Join Caitlin Schmuck for an afternoon of fun and creativity! Students will make four pair of earrings, making their own color choices and getting step by step instruction. Students will create a fifth pair using what they've learned and adding their own touches. While the earrings bake, we will enjoy a small snack that is provided. Feel free to bring along your favorite drink. After your earrings are baked and cooled, Caitlin will show you how to add jump rings and earring backs to make your creations wearable! Don't have your ears pierced? These earrings also make great gifts!

Class takes place from 3 to 5 p.m. Saturday, October 8 at Georgian Place. This class is designed for ages 12 and up. Cost for the workshop is \$20 members of Laurel Arts / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$15 materials fee payable to Caitlin Schmuck. Registration and a 50% deposit is required by October 1 and space is limited. Call or text 814-442-6217 to register or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433.

### **Fall Embroidery Workshop**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2 – 4 PM

Join Caitlin Schmuck to learn the art of embroidery and create a beautiful piece perfect for Fall decorating. Caitlin is the co-owner of Lilac Honey LLC. She creates and sells several items including headbands, hair scrunchies, and embroidered shirts and hats.

Class takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 9 at 601 Georgian Place. Cost for the workshop is \$20 members / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$15 materials fee payable to Caitlin Schmuck.

Registration and a 50% deposit is required by September 30. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-1835 to register.



# More fun fall classes & workshops

## No Sew Fabric Pumpkins

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2 – 4 PM

Marsha Schmuck will help students make a couple different types of no sew pumpkins just in time for fall decorating!

Class takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 15 at 601 Georgian Place. Cost is \$20 members of Laurel Arts / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$20 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck.

Registration and a 50% deposit is required. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call 814-443-1835 to register.

## Reversible Pumpkin/Snowman

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2 – 4 PM

Join Marsha Schmuck for an afternoon of crafting. We will work together to create a reversible piece: 3 stacked pumpkins on one side for fall decorating and a snowman on the other side for winter. The project will be built using three sizes of wood slices.

Class takes place from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, October 22 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. The cost for this workshop is \$20 members / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$25 materials fee payable to Laurel Arts. Registration and a 50% deposit is required. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call 814-443-1835 to register by October 15.

## Halloween Fun!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 10 AM – NOON

Wear your favorite costume and enjoy Halloween Fun with Ms. Marsha. The morning will be full of spooky crafts, games, and snacks!

Class takes place from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, October 29 at 601 Georgian Place. Cost is \$16 members of Laurel Arts / \$20 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$10 materials fee payable to Marsha Schmuck.

Registration and a 50% deposit is required and class size is limited. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-2433 to register at least one week in advance. This class is best suited for ages 4 and up.

## Cupcake & Wine Pairing

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 6 PM – 8 PM

We are excited to offer a new experience at Laurel Arts, Cupcake & Wine Pairing! Lee Hetrick of Vin De Matrix Winery will guide participants through the best flavors of wine to enjoy with a variety of six cupcakes. Cupcakes will be baked by Stacie Custer of Stacie's Sweets & Eats. The flavors will all be themed for Fall!

The cost of the event includes the wine tastings along with six Fall cupcake samples. Participants will also take home a six-pack of full size cupcakes, one of each flavor and a keepsake stemless glass.

Cost is \$30 payable to Laurel Arts plus \$7 payable directly to Vin De Matrix Winery. The class will run from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, November 9 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset.

Please email your favorite holiday recipe to [msmarsha@laurelarts.org](mailto:msmarsha@laurelarts.org) to be used as a fun ice breaker for the event. Guests who provide an email will receive a copy of all of the recipes.

Registration and a 50% deposit is required by November 1. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call 814-443-1835 to register.



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

## Wish List ...

Don't let those coupons, BOGO offers, etc. go to waste. We can always use boxes of tissues, paper towels, napkins, sandwich bags (quart, sandwich & snack size), aluminum foil, wax paper, plastic wrap, disposable wipes, glue sticks (preferable disappearing purple), dry-erase markers, dishwashing detergent, paper plates, plastic cups, and disposable flatware.

You may drop off donations at the Dressler Center or the Education and Dance Center. May seem like small things, but they are greatly appreciated!

## **Arts for everyone ... how about *dance* for everyone!**

We have a Saturday morning dance class for tweens & teens who need some extra help. They are excited to be able to dance with their moms (and/or dads). If you know a family who has a child with learning difficulties, physical disability, or emotional and behavioral difficulties who might enjoy taking a dance class (with a parent), give us a call at 814-443-1835 or email [office@laurelarts.org](mailto:office@laurelarts.org). Class is 10 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday mornings, Laurel Arts Dance Center, 601 Georgian Place.

We also have a class for adults with learning and/or physical disabilities. It meets from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. Mondays. Participants do a warm-up of gentle stretches, learn dance steps and combinations, and some even tap dance. For more information contact [office@laurelarts.org](mailto:office@laurelarts.org) or call 814-443-1835.

**Adult tap class:** 9 to 10 a.m. Saturdays at 601 Georgian Place.

**Dance@3:** 5 to 5:30 p.m. Fridays at 601 Georgian Place.

For information about Laurel Arts Dance, give us a call, 814-443-1835.

## ***A note from Jaci,*** *continued from page 3*

artistic possibilities, but partnerships and engagement for the overall betterment of our region through the arts, culture, and positive socio-economic impact.

To this day, when I enter The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, I feel a sense of peace. There is a certain smell, the walls are cool to the touch, yet warming to the soul, the aged intricacies of the building envelope me, and I appreciate the community support which has made such a robust arts organization in a rural community such as Somerset possible.

It has been very difficult to figure out how to convey these thoughts, as I feel as though the organization has been one of my own to look after - and feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to do so.

The last several months, I have also been granted an enormously exciting and equally humbling opportunity to work as a consultant for Aspire Grant & Development LLC.

As of September, I have accepted a full-time position with Aspire. I cannot explain how grateful and truly excited I am about this opportunity.

With that said, I will continue to help at Laurel Arts, but under the new title of Special Projects & Funding Coordinator (SPF 50 as I like to call it).

I know I have been a bit verbose, but at the end of the day, I want to say this ... PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE support your local nonprofits - volunteer, donate, attend events, spread the word!

We are so fortunate to have such an amazing arts organization - the world needs more art, so please support it anyway that you can!

I want to thank all of the people who have supported me, and the organization, over the past few years - I value the friendships, conversations, and adventures more than I can express!

## ***Education & Dance Center staff ...***

**Amanda Bergstresser**  
Dance Creative Director

**Melanie Sarver**  
Director of Operations

*Dance Instructors*

**Cindy Breen**

**Megan Edwards**

**Melissa Gindlesperger**

**Aubree Maus**

**Olivia Ream**

**Bethany Thomas**

**Madison Troy**

**Angela Fullard**  
Preschool Teacher

**Patricia Ohler**  
Preschool Aid

**Marsha Schmuck**  
Preschool Aid  
Classes & Programs Coordinator  
Summer Camps Instructor  
Fundraising Coordinator



**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

Members ... Laurel Arts Annual Meeting will  
be at 6 p.m. Tuesday, October 11 at The Philip  
Dressler Center for the Arts.

Non-Profit Org.  
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Permit No. 2

Current resident or

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



**Thank you to ...**

1st Summit Bank  
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Aspire Grant and Development  
Atlas Printing Co.  
(Dave & Cindy Breen)  
Petros & Nita Argres  
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Geochemical Testing, Inc.  
(and the Bergstresser Family)  
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**... for your generous support of Laurel Arts**

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