

# Laurel Arts

*Arts for everyone*

**ArtLink** • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • Winter 2023

Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL

Laurel  
Arts  
DANCE

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The Gallery Shoppe  
@DRESSLER



## Find the perfect gift created by a local artist

Stop by The Gallery Shoppe at Dressler and not only will you be shopping local, you'll be purchasing a gift made by one of many local and regional artists.

The Shoppe offers jewelry, mugs, leather wallets, trinket trays, artwork, wine stoppers, scarves, and so much more.

We have greeting cards that are blank inside so that you can write a personal note to friend or family.

Valentine's Day is less than a month away. Stop by Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## Coming soon ... *Soup'er Bowl & Wild About Bags*

**Soup'er Bowl 2023** will be held from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 18 at the Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center, 601 Georgian Place. The event is modeled after the popular Empty Bowls dinners that take place worldwide to fundraise for food-related charities in order to raise awareness and help end hunger.

Admission is \$20 and tickets are only available at the door. Price of admission includes a simple meal of soup, bread, a cookie and a beverage. Attendees will also select a unique, handmade clay bowl to take home to serve as a reminder that "Soup feeds the body, but ART feeds the soul!"

The soups and cookies are being donated by several local restaurants, and the clay bowls were handmade by the Mud Ladies, local artists/art teachers who volunteer their time and talents to make this special event happen. All proceeds are split between Laurel Arts and a local food pantry or similar charity.

Take-out meals will be served, but we are hoping to offer in-house dining options as well! Laurel Arts would like to thank our loyal supporters who attend this event every year. We invite anyone who has yet to attend to check it out for yourself. You won't be disappointed!

Laurel Arts is **Wild About Bags** as we prepare for our second annual purse party set for 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at Bakersville Banquet Hall.

The grand prize is a four-piece Coach set (tote, corner zip wristlet, crossbody and mini umbrella, all in a stunning leopard print.) An additional 20 designer bags will be on the Pick of the Table. There will be a 50/50 drawing, basket raffles, food and beverages.

Tickets are \$35 and are available from any Laurel Arts board member as well as at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts. You do not need to be present to win; but you must be at least 21 years of age to purchase a ticket.

*Upcoming exhibits ...*

**Through January 26**  
**Somerset County**  
**Elementary/Jr. High School**

Visit the galleries to see art through the eyes of children K-8.

**February 7-23**  
**Somerset County**  
**Sr. High School**

Oh, how they've grown. This exhibit follows our young artists as they mature in their art.

**Reception**  
**2-4 p.m. Sunday, February 12**

**March 7-23**  
**Somerset Area School District**  
 Visit the galleries to see art created by students in the Somerset Area School District. Student art will hang from ceiling to floor as we present the work of students grades K-12.

**Reception**  
**2-4 p.m. Sunday, March 12**



**Visit the**  
**Guild of**  
**American**  
**Papercutters**  
**Exhibit**  
**Now through**  
**July 15**

The Museum is located upstairs at **The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts**

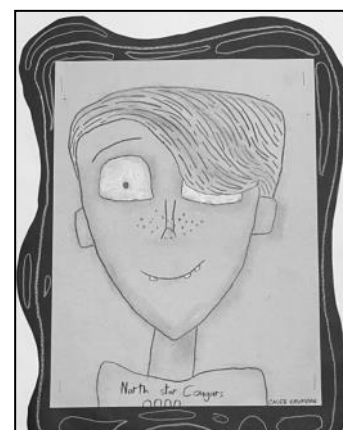
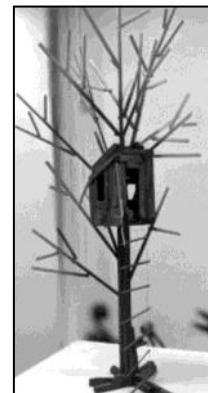
**Office/Gallery Hours:**  
**11 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**Monday-Thursday**  
**10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Saturday**

**Call for Artists!****Off the Wall: A 3-D Exhibit**

Instead of walking up to art in our galleries, what if you could walk through it, around it, maybe even under it?

Laurel Arts will be hosting "Off the Wall: A 3-D Exhibit" from April 4 through May 4. Area artists are invited to participate.

For more information about the exhibit, please contact Alison Leer, 814-443-2433, to discuss entering your pieces into this amazing exhibit. Drop-off dates are March 29, 30 or April 1. Pick up date is May 6.



Left, Rocco Hagan, eight grade; right, Caleb Kaufman, third grade

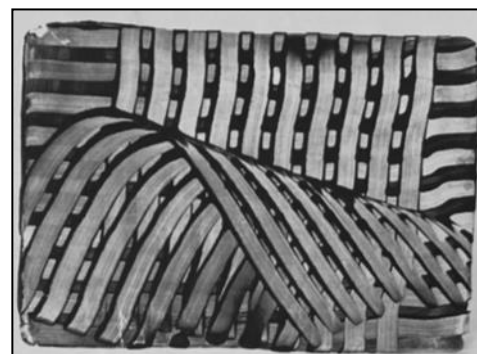
**Congratulations to Elementary / Jr. High art exhibit winners**

The Elementary / Jr. High Art Exhibit will be on display through January 26. The exhibit showcases work by Somerset County school children in grades K-8. Twelve art teachers participated, contributing 144 individual pieces of art and two class projects.

Winners in grades K-2 were: Lilyauna Mull, first grade, outstanding student, Maple Ridge; Sebastian Martin, second grade, honorable mention, North Star Central; and Amelia Sechler, kindergarten, honorable mention, Rockwood.

Winners in grades 3-5 were: Caleb Kaufman, third grade, outstanding student, North Star Central; Jacob Oleksa, honorable mention, fifth grade, Conemaugh Township; and Bailey Quintero, fifth grade, honorable mention, Johnstown Christian School.

Winners in grades 6-8 were: Rocco Hagan, eight grade, outstanding student, Conemaugh Township; Emmalie Gonzalez, eight grade, honorable mention, Somerset Junior High; and Emerson Solarszyk, sixth grade, honorable mention, North Star Middle School.



Lilyauna Mull, first grade

## LAEDC will remain at 601 Georgian Place

Somerset Trust Co. announced in November that it will be purchasing 80,000 square feet of Georgian Place property, including several office buildings, as part of a move to consolidate offices and bring several hundred employees under one roof.

The purchase does not affect Laurel Arts Education and Dance Center at 601 Georgian Place. Laurel Arts purchased the space in 2009. We are part of a condominium association that oversees maintenance, etc. of the "600 building" at Georgian Place.

"A number of the buildings (not included in the sale) are owner-occupied and I think they'll complement what we're trying to do," Somerset Trust Vice President of Marketing Allison Hoffman said. In addition to Laurel Arts Education and Dance Center, there are several other owner-occupied spaces that are not included in the sale.

According to Somerset Trust CEO Sean Cook, the company views the move as an opportunity to create a modern work space that will fit employees' changing needs.

Developing a headquarters inside the Georgian Place will create opportunities for neighboring businesses. Cook envisions a unique "campus-like community" around the Somerset Trust headquarters — with room for retail, restaurants and complementary tenants.

"When it comes to employee well-being — health and fitness and other services are all huge priorities — and a lot of that is already in place," Hoffman added.

The historic 1915-era mansion that overlooks Somerset Lake is also not included in the purchase.

Laurel Arts is excited at the prospect of being a part of this new development as we move forward with developing more arts opportunities for area residents.

## Staffing updates ...

The Board of Directors of Laurel Arts is happy to welcome back Jaclyn McCusker. Jaci joined Laurel Arts in the fall of 2017 as our Director of Development and served as Executive Director until last fall (2022) when she took a position with Aspire Grant and Development.

Aspire afforded her an amazing opportunity, but ultimately, Jaci realized her heart was still at Laurel Arts! She is eager to apply her new experiences and perspectives to her ongoing plans and long-term goals for Laurel Arts; and the board of directors is excited to welcome her back as Director of Development. Her position will be focused mainly on fundraising, pursuing grants, boosting our membership base, and seeking other financial support for all that we do. Jaci will also be working to develop programming and partnerships that will promote and expand upon our mission.

Elizabeth Miller has joined Laurel Arts as our bookkeeper. She and her family have participated in Laurel Arts programs, and she has experience running her own business. We welcome Liz to our Laurel Arts team.

## Our Dressler staff ...

**Jaclyn McCusker**  
Director of Development

**Mike Baker**  
Maintenance Director

**Vickie Baughman**  
Office Assistant

**Alison Leer**  
Office Coordinator &  
Administrative Assistant

**Elizabeth Miller**  
Bookkeeper

**Sharon Phillippi**  
Office Assistant

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  
Laura Bowers  
Sharon Clapper  
Allison Finui  
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. Meets 2nd Monday, 11 am, Dressler Center.

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

**Crochet Guild:** Contact Kathy Martin, 814-443-3054. The Guild meets at 2 p.m. on the second and third Tuesdays of the month.

**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 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 are at 7:15 p.m. Thursdays at Somerset Junior High School beginning March 16. Contact Dave Breen, 814-701-1515, email 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

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

## ***HELP WANTED!***

### **Barbershop Chorus in need of a director**

Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus is looking for a director. Phil Parlock, chorus director for the past 11 years, has resigned so that he can spend more time with his growing family. Anyone interested in more information about the position should contact Larry Shober at 814-267-4042 or Lee Hoffman at 814-279-1733.

For the next few months, the chorus will meet at 7 p.m. every other Tuesday at Grace United Methodist Church on Felgar Road in Somerset. For specific dates, contact Larry or Lee.

### **Photo Friends plans photo contest / exhibit**

Watch for more details as Laurel Highlands Photo Friends work out the details for another photo contest/exhibit in 2023. Details will be announced in early February.

### **Community Band plans summer season**

Somerset County Community Band will begin rehearsals for its summer season March 16. The first rehearsal will start with a pizza dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria at Somerset Junior High School. Rehearsal will begin at 7:15 p.m. in the junior high band/orchestra room. There are no auditions; anyone who enjoys playing a band instrument is welcome to attend. The band plays concerts at various festivals around the county during the summer months.

### **Garden Club News**

Somerset Garden Club is happy to announce another successful wreath sale, thanks to their members. The club also wants to recognize Linda Musser for her leadership in the "uptown greening efforts." The club is also making plans for its spring plant sale and uptown beautification.



## ***Save the Date for Common Threads Fiber Arts Symposium***

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Saturday, April 22

**Somerset Historical Center**

10649 Somerset Pike, Somerset, PA 15501

For more information visit [www.laurelarts.org](http://www.laurelarts.org)

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

*arts for everyone!*

# No need to hibernate ... warm up with a class

**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.

## Clay Earring Workshop

SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 5 – 7 PM

Join Instructor Caitlin Schmuck for an afternoon of fun and creativity! Students will create 5 pair of earrings. Feel free to bring along your favorite beverage to enjoy with a provided snack. Once 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 5 to 7 pm Saturday, January 28. This class is designed for ages 12 and up. The cost for the workshop is \$20 members / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$15 materials fee payable to Caitlin Schmuck. The class takes place at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Reservations and a 50% deposit are required by January 21. Please call/text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-1835.

## Homemade Cinnamon Roll Workshop

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2 – 4 PM

Join Instructor Marsha Schmuck for the afternoon to learn to make delicious and surprisingly simple cinnamon rolls. Students will get to taste test a finished batch. Then participants will be guided step by step through creating their own to take home and bake.

The class takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, February 4 at 601 Georgian Place.

The cost for this workshop is \$22 members/\$25 non-members payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$15 materials fee.

Preregistration is required by Monday, January 30. Our new payment policy requires students to pay 50% of the total tuition and materials upon registration. This is non-refundable. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-1835 to register.

## Paint & Sip - Paint Pouring & Wine Tasting

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2 – 4 PM

We are excited to offer another new experience at Laurel Arts – a Paint & Sip from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, February 5 at 601 Georgian Place. Lee Hetrick of Vin De Matrix Winery will be providing participants with three flights in a choice of dry, semi or sweet. The three pours will be larger than the smaller tasting portions usually provided.

As an added bonus, Instructor Caitlin Schmuck will show students a paint pouring technique and walk them through creating their own unique pour. Each person will be able to choose their own combination of colors.

This would make a great date night for couples, friends, or family members just in time for Valentine's Day!

The cost is \$37 payable to Laurel Arts plus \$8 payable directly to Vin De Matrix Winery.

Preregistration is required by February 1. Our new payment policy requires students to pay 50% of the total tuition and materials upon registration. This is non-refundable. Call/text 814-442-6217 or call 814-443-1835 to register.

## Snowman Wreath Workshop

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 6 – 8 PM

Instructor Marsha Schmuck will show you how to create an adorable snowman wreath to add to your winter decorations. The wreath is crafted from a 6-inch and 10-inch wire wreath frame, white loop yarn, and your choice of embellishments.

The class takes place from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, February 10 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. The cost for this workshop is \$20 members/\$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$30 materials fee.

Preregistration is required by Wednesday, February 1. Our new payment policy requires students to pay 50% of the total tuition and materials upon registration. This is non-refundable. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-1835 to register.

## Valentine's Day Cookie Decorating Workshop

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2 – 4 PM

Instructor Stacie Custer will be showing students how to decorate these adorable cookies just in time for Valentine's Day. Stacie is in the process of opening a

*continued on next page*

# Don't forget ... Valentine's Day is coming soon!

bakery in Somerset, *Stacie's Sweets and Eats*. She has experience making a variety of cakes, cookies, and sweets for any and all events.



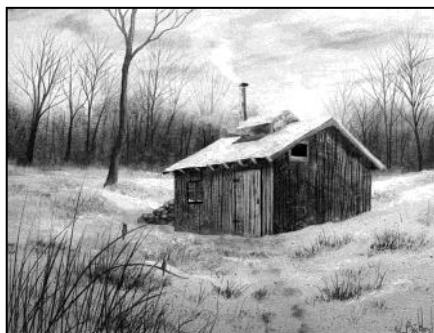
Students will decorate six cookies similar to the ones pictured.

The class takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, February 12 at 601 Georgian Place. The cost for this workshop is \$20 members/\$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus a \$25 materials fee.

Preregistration is required by Sunday, February 5. Our new payment policy requires students to pay 50% of the total tuition and materials upon registration. This is non-refundable. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-1835 to register.

## Bob Ross Painting Workshop with Al Just MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 10 AM – 3 PM

Certified Bob Ross Instructor Al Just has another beautiful piece picked out for students to paint in February. Al assists students to create beautiful paintings of landscapes, seascapes, wildlife, and florals. He has been teaching for 15 years and currently offers classes at his studio in Johnstown, Cambria County Community Art Center, and Altoona Penn Highlands Community College.



The class takes place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, February 20 at 601 Georgian Place. The fee for the workshop is \$48 members / \$60 nonmembers 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 13 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 814-443-1835 to register.

## Bob Ross Painting Workshop with Al Just MONDAY, MARCH 20, 10 AM – 3 PM

The March class will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, March 20 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. The fee for the workshop is \$48 members / \$60 nonmembers 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 13 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 814-443-1835 to register.

## WINTER & SPRING DAY CAMPS

Laurel Arts is hosting a series of day camps designed for children ages 4-5 and 3 and under if accompanied by an adult. The class would also be suitable for homeschooled children up to 3rd grade. The sessions will include crafts, games, recipes, and story time. Classes will be 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday mornings. The cost per month is \$32 members / \$40 nonmembers and includes 3 sessions. Preregistration is required seven days before the first session of each month. Call/text 814-442-6217 to register.

### Cooking Creations Day Camp

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 15 & 22, 10 AM – 12 NOON

This month, we will head to the kitchen and try to stay warm. We will make some new delicious recipes. We'll even create a few special treats just in time for Valentine's Day.

### Celebrate Spring Day Camp

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 15 & 22, 10 AM – 12 NOON

Join us for a "Think Spring" theme this month. We will plant some flowers and learn how they grow. We will also craft and create snacks all about the upcoming season including birds, butterflies, flowers, and more.





We are always excited to welcome school groups to tour our exhibits. Recently, St. Peter's sixth grade class and their teacher Mrs. Sanner stopped by to check out artwork from Somerset County elementary and junior high students as well as artwork from their classmates. During their visit, they also ventured upstairs to the Guild of American Papercutters exhibit and marveled at the intricacies and beauty of papercutting! Thank you Saint Peter School for bringing yet another grade to visit Laurel Arts!



Our dancers are excited to welcome members of Laurel Arts Performance Company to their dance classes during Special Guest Week! The four guests (back row center) are Hailey Bowlby, Kyleigh Bailey, Isabelle Schmuck and Mirabella Tweardy. Guests visited 13 combo level classes.

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

**Amanda Bergstresser**  
Dance Creative Director

#### *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

*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***

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*Visiting our galleries may just give  
you a whole new perspective!*

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

***... for your generous support  
of Laurel Arts***

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

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Aspire Grant and Development  
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(Dave & Cindy Breen)  
Petros & Nita Argres  
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Randy & Barb Davies  
Fraternal Order of Eagles  
Geochemical Testing, Inc.  
(and the Bergstresser Family)  
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