

# Laurel Arts

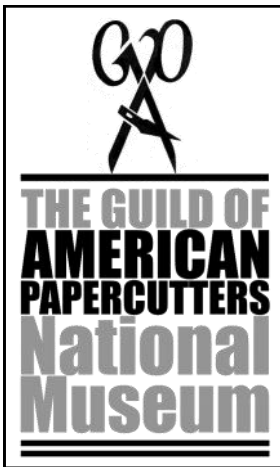
*Arts for everyone*



**ArtLink** • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • September-October 2024

*New exhibit coming to The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts*

## ***Cutting Edge: Contemporary Papercutting*** at The Guild of American Papercutters National Museum



The National Museum of The Guild of American Papercutters, located on the second floor of The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, is pleased to announce the upcoming exhibition, *Cutting Edge: Contemporary Papercutting*, featuring the work of Lorraine Bubar, Béatrice Coron, Hazel Glass, Rebecca Greene, Mark Curtis Hughes, and Swoon. The exhibition will run from October 1 through April 1,

2025. An opening reception will be held Saturday, October 12.

Curated by Puerto Rico based contemporary papercutter Rosa Leff, this exhibition is an opportunity for audiences to experience the mutability of a medium often associated with craft and tradition and recognize its worthiness as a fine art. The unpretentious nature of papercutting no doubt comes from its roots in folk art. However, these masters use the accessibility of the medium to guide an appreciation of detail: a dense crowd or the intricate pattern of a turtle shell.

Stories are slowly revealed as the artists carve their paper with a preferred tool: usually a blade, knife, or scissors. Drawing on their knowledge of papercutting's rich history and their extensive expertise, they wield these humble instruments to create detailed works reflecting the modern world: LA's tangled highways, the ocean's deepest secrets, London's busiest streets, the challenges of motherhood, and so much more.

These works address the process of papercutting, a meticulous excavation of one or many layers of paper,

and its meditative qualities. Glass said, "My knife follows the lines until they've led me to the destination: sunken-relief sculptures that transport me from everyday anxiety to the enchanting." In the end, the shadows of the cut paper remind us that there is even more to each story.

For Coron the "shadows suggest danger but also opportunities for new adventures."

Visit the exhibit during gallery hours or attend the opening reception October 12. Let your papercutting adventure begin!



**A FREE papercutting class** is also planned with Artist Wendy Bale from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday, October 12.

Bale will take you step by step through embossing and painting your own realistic rock paper monarch butterfly. In this introduction to Rock Paper you will learn about the unique qualities of this durable mineral paper — yes, it is really made from rocks! While we're crafting, we'll discuss

*continued on page 6*

## Upcoming exhibits ...

### ***Fright at the Museum: An Exhibit of Haunting Art***

October 3—November 2

We're creepin' it real with another exciting Halloween-themed exhibit. Fright at the Museum will feature ghoulish galleries of haunting art. Prepare to be intrigued if not downright shocked!

**Opening Reception  
Friday, October 4, 6-8 p.m.**

### ***Creating Kindness*** November-December

This unique exhibition will explore our understandings of kindness and the impact it has on our lives and communities. The exhibit will open in November to coincide with World Kindness Day and run through December. Our hope is that the exhibit will inspire, inform, and remind visitors to be kind even on bad days.

**Opening Reception  
Saturday, November 16, Time TBA**



Located on the  
2nd Floor  
of  
The Philip  
Dressler Center  
for the Arts

### ***Cutting Edge: Contemporary Papercutting***

October 1-April 1, 2025

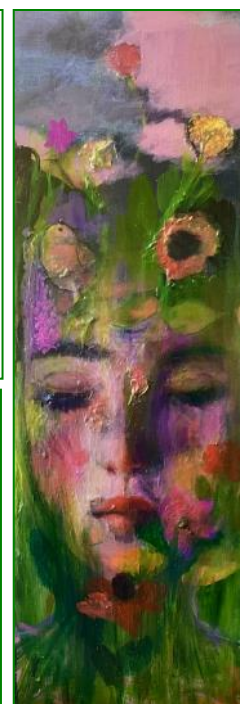
See story on page 1.

**Opening Reception (2nd floor)  
Saturday, October 12, Noon-2 p.m.**

## Art in Bloom Exhibit Winners



Above left, Best of Show - *Magnolia Grandiflora V: Fitzgerald the Seed Pod* by Andrea Finch, Chambersburg; and right, SCAA Award - *Fern Drawing* by Erin Mayak, Somerset.



Clockwise from left,  
1st Place -  
*Tradescantia* by  
Jeanne Perrier,  
Glenshaw;  
2nd Place -  
*Botanical  
Daydreams* by  
Stacey Pydynkowski,  
Mount Pleasant;  
3rd Place - *Flower  
Moon* by Ron Nigro,  
Trafford.



Left, Honorable Mention -  
*Poppy* by Leah Shuck,  
Carnegie; and, right,  
People's Choice Award -  
*Above & Below the Surface III*  
by Lisa Rasmussen,  
Pittsburgh. The People's  
Choice Award was  
courtesy of the Penn State  
Master Gardeners of  
Somerset County.

*From the director ...*

## *You help keep the Arts Alive!*

For almost 50 years, Laurel Arts has been a cornerstone of creativity and culture in Somerset County, but we can't do it without YOU!

As a member, you're not just supporting the arts, you're investing in our community's future. Whether it's empowering the next generation through youth arts programs, bringing people together at community events, or sustaining the heart of our nonprofit, your membership makes it all possible.

You are:

- **Inspiring Young Minds:** Your membership helps to fund children's art classes, summer camps, and outreach programs that spark creativity and confidence.
- **Celebrating Local Talent:** Your support of events and exhibitions showcase the amazing creativity right here in our community.
- **Keeping the Arts Thriving:** Your membership provides crucial operating support, allowing us to continue offering enriching programs for all.

Together, we enrich lives, foster creativity, and build a vibrant community through the power of the arts. We thank you for your membership and hope you will take advantage of the programs you help support.

### **SUMMER MUSIC SERIES SPONSORS ...**

Our sincere thanks to the following sponsors of our summer music series. The series is designed to both entertain and foster community fellowship as well as celebrate local talent. We couldn't stage this series without the generous support of:

Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie #1801

Riggs Family Foundation (c/o The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies)

Angi Tennant State Farm Insurance Agent

The Walmart Foundation (Store #1765, Somerset)

Stoy Excavating (Jim & Heather Stoy)

Tri-Star Ford

Barry & Nancy Miller

**A special thank you to Spangler Subaru of Johnstown for sponsoring the Secret Life of Pets summer camp this year! ~ Jaci McCusker**

### ***Our Dressler staff ...***

**Jaclyn McCusker**  
Director of Development

**April Davis**  
Bookkeeper

**Mike Baker**  
Maintenance Staff

**Alison Leer**  
Gallery Coordinator &  
Administrative Assistant

**Jennifer Long**  
Office 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  
Laura Bowers  
Sharon Clapper  
Allison Finui  
Jeff Johnson  
Mike Mitchell  
Brooke Mishler  
Fred Rosemeyer

**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.



*We're building a path to an  
even brighter future  
for Laurel Arts!*

*Be on the lookout for  
information on our  
brick fundraising campaign.*



## 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 Sheila Croushore, 814-233-7679, sheshore@ymail.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 first 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, 814-443-3085 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 the Christmas show will begin in mid-October at Somerset Junior High School. New members are always welcome. Contact Dave Breen, 814-701-1515, 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.



Randy and Linda Musser at the Gold Star Memorial at Patriot Park. Randy is president of Patriot Park. Linda is a member of Somerset Garden Club.

## Garden Club, Patriot Park install Gold Star Marker

On August 12 the first Gold Star Memorial Marker in the State of Pennsylvania was dedicated at Patriot Park. The memorial was sponsored by Patriot Park Foundation in cooperation with Somerset Garden Club and the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania.

Somerset Garden Club's Fall Luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. Monday, October 14 at Somerset Country Club. Amanda E. Dowie Dried Flower Memorial Awards will be also be presented. Becky from Shadowwood Gardens will give members advice on putting their gardens "to bed" at the end of the season.

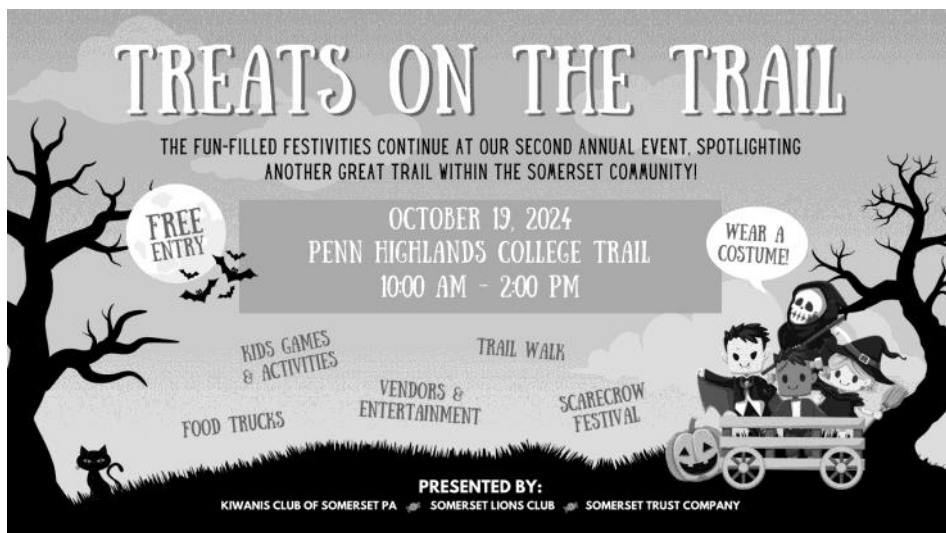
## Community Band to begin Christmas rehearsals

Somerset County Community Band will begin rehearsing for its Christmas season in mid-October. The band participates in Rhythms of Christmas, a Christmas show featuring not only the community band, but also Laurel Arts dancers.

Rhythms of Christmas will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 14 at Somerset Area High School.

For more information on the band, contact Dave Breen, photo@davebreen.com, 814-701-1515. New members are always welcome, as are high school students who are looking for more opportunities to play their instruments.

**Thank you to our affiliated organizations and their members  
for keeping the Arts Alive in Somerset County!**



## Laurel Arts dancers will perform at Treats on the Trail

The fun-filled festivities continue at the second Treats on the Trail, spotlighting another great trail within the Somerset community! Come in costume, and bring your wings, brooms, or walking shoes! The event will feature activities along a portion of the Penn Highlands College trail, 6024 Glades Pike, Somerset.

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, October 19. Parking will be available at DeVilbiss and Somerset County Technology Center with shuttles running to and from the trail. You'll find our dancers along the trail from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and helping with a craft & activity station in the afternoon.

There's no admission charge, and lots of things to do including a 5k Run/Walk the morning of the event! Runners will start at 8 a.m. and walkers at 8:01 a.m. at Penn Highlands College. Entry fee is \$30 for both pre-registered entries and race day entries. Entries received before October 5 will receive an event shirt. Visit <https://qrco.de/bfMVVvk> for the registration form. Return to Lee Hoffman at [leehoffmanrog@gmail.com](mailto:leehoffmanrog@gmail.com).

The event is presented by Kiwanis Club of Somerset PA, Somerset Lions Club, and Somerset Trust Company.



There are still a few spots open in our unique Studio Kids Preschool program. For more information call 814-443-1835 or email [studiokids@laurelarts.org](mailto:studiokids@laurelarts.org)

**Scholarships may be available for families who qualify.**

## Education & Dance Center staff ...

**Amanda Bergstresser**  
Dance Creative Director

**Elizabeth Miller**  
Administrative Assistant-LAEDC

**Angela Horner-Parrish**  
Office Assistant

### Dance Instructors

**Cindy Breen**  
**Megan Edwards**  
**Melissa Gindlesperger**  
**Aubree Maus**  
**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**

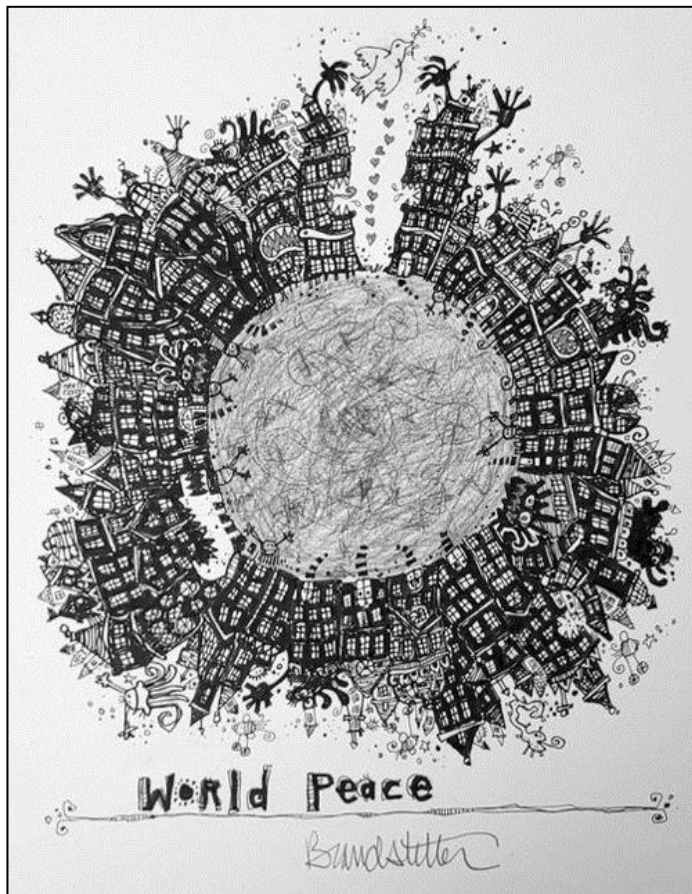
# Visit our galleries, immerse yourself in kindness

The galleries at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts will be transformed into a colorful, immersive experience where visitors will be greeted with large panels of images, artworks, written materials, experiences, and multi-media that will be used to explore kindness. Laurel Arts will be working with Blue Sky Design Co. of Greensburg once again, as we did with our 9/11 exhibition in 2021. We have already confirmed regional artist Larry Brandstetter for the exhibit. Larry's work is centered around concepts of kindness, peace, and love.

Laurel Arts is currently in conversation with The Fred Rogers Institute to obtain film clips, artifacts, and host workshops at the Dressler Center with their scholars. We will work with the scholars to plan student workshops that will be made available to area school students.

We will host an opening reception on November 16 (time to be announced.) We are also looking to host guest speakers and have a movie night in conjunction with the exhibit. Follow us on Facebook for more details. We will also be asking community members prior to the exhibition, and during, to participate in activities that will be used as an installation in the exhibition.

The exhibit will explore concepts with a goal of inspiring and informing visitors of all ages, reminding us that you can be kind at any age. It's truly not that difficult, even on bad days. It is a mindset that, once adopted, grows and reaches beyond the self.



World Peace by Pittsburgh-based artist Larry Brandstetter.

## *Papercutting, continued from page 1*

Monarch butterfly facts and trivia. No drawing skills are required, everyone gets a pattern to trace. Your finished butterfly can be displayed inside or outdoors. Suitable for adults and young people able to handle sharp scissors and a fine point pen. All tools and supplies will be provided.

This is a FREE class, however, pre-registration is still required, please contact 814-443-2433 to register. This class will be held in the GAP Archive Room on the 2nd floor of the Dressler Center. There are stairs required to access the GAP Archive Room.

Wendy Bale is a multi-disciplinary nature artist in Jamestown, New York. Her work showcases the environments found in Western New York and Pennsylvania. She uses various mediums—primarily

focused on drawing and sculpture— to create her pieces based on her experiences in nature.

This free workshop was made possible through a grant award from The Community Foundation for the Alleghenies.

**NOTICE OF LAUREL ARTS ANNUAL MEETING:** The Board of Directors will hold its annual meeting at 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, October 8 at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts. Members are invited to attend.

## Discover these fabulous fall workshops ...

### Hanging Fabric Sunflower workshop

Sunday, September 29, 2-4 pm

Fall is the perfect time of year to craft a beautiful sunflower decoration! Join instructor Marsha Schmuck to learn how to use simple knots and a mason jar ring to make a festive sunflower wall hanging. The piece includes an 11x15 pallet wood hanging backdrop. Assorted fabric will be available for students to choose from. This workshop takes place from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, September 29 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Cost: \$20 members / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus \$18 materials fee.

### Breads & Spreads

Saturday, October 12, 2-4 PM

The Breads & Spreads class will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, October 12 at 601 Georgian Place. The class will include how to make Liz's delicious pretzel bread, a honey butter, and a honey mustard dip. Cost is \$20 members / \$25 nonmembers plus a \$20 materials fee all payable to Laurel Arts. Registration is required at least one week before the class. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call 814-443-1835 to register. A nonrefundable payment of 50% of the fees is required at the time of registration.

### Halloween Faux Stained Glass Resin Workshop

Wednesday, October 16, 6-8 pm

Join Cortney Himes for some Halloween fun! Students will create a faux stained glass piece using resin. Choose from three designs. This workshop takes place from 6-8 p.m.

Wednesday, October 16 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Class fee payable to Laurel Arts is \$40 members / \$50 nonmembers plus \$15 materials (choose a 2nd design for \$10).

### Rope Ghost Workshop

Saturday, October 19, 4-6 pm

Join Marsha Schmuck for an evening of Boo-tiful Halloween crafting. Students will be guided in cutting and gluing strands of rope to a wooden rainbow shape. Add a few finishing touches and students will go home with a festive decoration perfect for Halloween decorating! This workshop takes place from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, October 19 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Cost: \$20 members / \$25 nonmembers payable to Laurel Arts plus \$20 materials fee.

### Pumpkin Cake Decorating Workshop

Sunday, October 20, 2-4 pm

Join Elizabeth Miller for an afternoon of cake decorating fun! Students will create a pumpkin cake. As an added bonus, participants will learn first hand how Ms. Liz whips up her delicious buttercream icing. Students will decorate a six-inch circle cake. Choose chocolate or vanilla flavored cake. Class will take place from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, October 20 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. The length of the class depends upon how many participants. Cost: \$24 members / \$30 nonmembers plus a \$25 materials fee all payable to Laurel Arts.



### *Don't miss the final Laurel Arts Makers Markets of the season October 9*

Makers Markets feature local artisans who make and sell their own original artwork, farmers and growers who produce their own vegetables, artisan food products, health & beauty products, and so much more. Makers Markets are held on the lawn across from The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts (corner of Tayman Street and Harrison Avenue) from 5 until dusk.

Follow Laurel Arts' Facebook page for more information about who's coming to the market, who's entertaining and what you'll miss if you don't show up!

## ... while you create some autumn splendor

### Halloween Linocuts Workshop

Wednesday, October 23, 6-8 pm

Cortney Himes will be teaching a linoprints workshop. Students will use carving tools to create an image on a rubber mat. Once the scene is completed, Cortney will guide participants in applying ink and printing their image. Students can choose one of the designs provided or create their own. Class will be from 6-8 p.m. Wednesday, October 23 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$40 members / \$50 nonmembers plus an \$8 materials fee. Please register by October 16. Space is limited to 15 students.

### Autumn Oil Painting with Jen Boden

Sunday, October 27, 2-5 pm

We are excited to have Jen Boden return this fall with another beautiful oil painting workshop. Students will create a colorful field of sunflowers at sunset. This class is perfect for students at all levels in oil painting. Class takes place from 2-5 p.m. Sunday, October 27 at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset. Class fee, payable to Laurel Arts, is \$48 members / \$60 nonmember. This includes all of the materials needed for the project. Please register by October 20.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Our 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 at least one week prior to the class or workshop. THANK YOU!

### NEW ...

#### TEEN ART CLUB - ages 13 & up

Thursdays evenings - 2 times a month - 6 pm to 8 pm

Our NEW Teen Art Club will begin in October, with get-togethers **October 10 & 24**. Fee is \$18 per class or you can purchase a punch card (\$90 for 6 classes.) You must pre-register 7 days in advance and prepay - call/text 814-442-6217. Join us for themed art weeks: painting, clay, sewing, mosaics, alcohol inks & more! Have your work on display at Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center. Show & tell about works you have done on your own, plus we'll do field trips to the Dressler Center to see art exhibits, and we'll visit with guest artists.

### Also at the Education & Dance Center ...

#### Weekly Line Dancing Classes

Wednesdays, 10-11 am & 8-9 pm

As the weather turns cooler, keep fit with line dancing classes with experienced Instructor Katherine Zeigler at Laurel Arts. This is a great way to get your body moving, exercise your brain as you learn new dance moves, and meet new people. No experience is required to join. Classes are weekly from 10 to 11 a.m. and from 8 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays at 601 Georgian Place. Please watch our Laurel Arts Facebook for cancellations due to holidays or weather. \*No morning or evening classes on November 27, December 25, or January 1. Cost: \$5 per class. You can preregister to secure your spot or just drop in. Call or text 814-442-6217 or call 814-443-1835 to register ahead.

#### TapFUNDamentals

Saturdays, 9 to 10 am

Join a fun group of tappers and complete that bucket list! We welcome tappers of all levels including no experience. We may even have tap shoes you can borrow. Class always starts with a warm-up and ends with a cool-down. In between, it's pure fun with lots of dancing. No need to memorize choreography, we shout it out and follow along. This is a drop-in class. Cost is \$6.40 members / \$8 non-members, and is held at 601 Georgian Place, Somerset.

#### ART VOYAGE DAY CAMP

Tuesdays 9 to 11 am

This day camp is designed for homeschoolers & young artists, pre-k through 6th grade. Fee is \$15 per class. You must pre-register and prepay - call/text 814-442-6217. Upcoming themes include: **October 8**, Artful Autumn: Use beans and seeds to make a leaf mosaic in clay, use chalk pastels to create a beautiful sunflower, and craft a faux candy apple that looks good enough to eat! **October 15**, Pumpkins Galore: Splatter paint to create a Jackson Pollock pumpkin, get creative in designing another pumpkin in zentangles, and design one in Yayoi Kusama style! **October 22**, Boo-tiful Artwork: Vincent Van Ghost? The colors and shapes of Piet Mondrian in a spider web? Paul Klee's 'Castle and Sun' painting turned into a Haunted House and Moon? Famous artists will inspire our boo-tiful artwork!





Through a collaboration with Laurel Arts and Somerset Inc., mural artist Alex Maksiov recreated a time when Newberrys was located on the diamond. "The power of public art lies in its ability to transform spaces and bring communities together," according to Jaci McCusker, Laurel Arts Director of Development. "This mural is not just about beautifying a building; it's about celebrating our shared history, sparking conversations, and creating a sense of pride and belonging among the residents of Somerset."

Laurel Arts board president, Erin Mayak, spent part of her summer creating this mural at the Union Street Playground.

Take a day and walk around Somerset. There's a lot of art to see!

Laurel Arts  
PO Box 414  
Somerset, PA 15501

FRIGHT AT THE MUSEUM:  
AN EXHIBIT OF HAUNTING ART

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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Permit No. 2

Opening Reception  
Friday, October 4, 6-8 p.m.

Current resident or

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Somerset County