

# Laurel Arts

*Arts for everyone*

Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL

Laurel  
Arts  
DANCE

**ArtLink** • A Newsletter for the Members of Laurel Arts • Summer 2025



## ***Everybody loves a parade!***

Marshall is "fired up" for the 2025 SOCO Summer Parade Friday, July 25. Laurel Arts is the host of the parade which will kick off at 6 p.m. and travel up North Center Avenue to Main Street to Franklin Avenue.

The parade is the start of **Chalk the Block** Weekend (July 25–27) in uptown Somerset.

Uptown Chalk the Block is Western Pennsylvania's first and oldest Street Painting Festival. This year features over 20 professional chalk artists producing work on the sidewalks and streets of uptown. There will also be both emerging and youth chalk artist competitions, live music,

art demonstrations, free kids activities, food and drinks available for purchase, a 5k run/walk, and so much more! For a schedule, visit [somersetinc.org/chalktheblock](https://somersetinc.org/chalktheblock).

Following the parade, make your way to the diamond to hear Matt Otis and The Sound from 7 to 8:30 p.m. The musical stylings of Matt Otis and The Sound will have you dancing in the street - literally!

If that's not enough dancing, Laurel Arts will be hosting Music on the Lawn Saturday evening with Bam & Friends from 6 to 9 p.m., with food by Taste with the Bowers.



## ***Celebrate the 4th on the 5th***

White Horse will be playing on the lawn stage from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, July 5. This ever-popular band attracts a big crowd! The Untraditional Creperie will be on hand to provide nourishment so that you can dance the night away. You are also welcome to BYOB along with your favorite snacks.

See page 6 to see our remaining summer music series.

## Upcoming exhibits ...

### **SCAA Juried Show** Through July 17

### **Jeanne Perrier and Laurel Arts Clay Artists**

Lifelike botanical illustrations by  
Jeanne Perrier, complemented  
by pottery created by  
Laurel Arts Clay Artists  
**July 24-August 28**  
**Opening Reception**  
**including a brief artist talk**  
**6-8 p.m., Friday, July 25**

### **Ken Cotlar**

Contemporary abstracts  
in acrylics  
**September 4-October 2**  
**Opening Reception**  
**6-8 p.m., Friday, September 5**

### **Pittsburgh Society of Sculptors**

Celebrating 90 years of Art  
Making! There is an open call for  
sculpture for this exhibit. You do  
not have to be a member of the  
SOS to enter. See the Call for  
Entry on our website  
[laurelarts.org/](http://laurelarts.org/)  
artist-call-for-entries/  
**October 9-November 6**  
**Closing Reception**  
**6-8 p.m., Thursday, November 6**

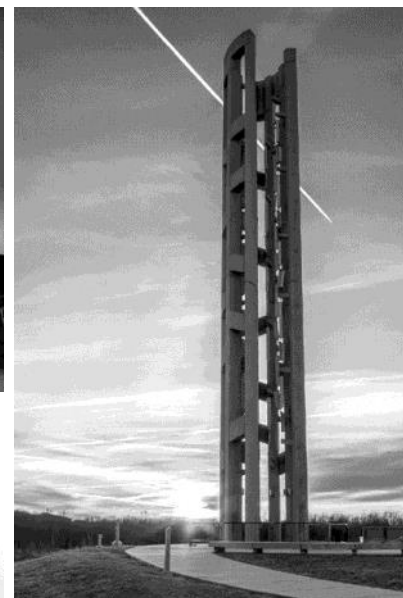


Located on the 2nd Floor  
of The Philip Dressler Center  
for the Arts

## Laurel Highlands Photo Friends announces winners

This year Laurel Highlands Photo Friends utilized a People's Choice Award. Visitors to Laurel Arts were encouraged to cast a vote for their three favorite pieces. Each place had a tie.

Winners were: (tied for first place) Jeffery Kearns, *Aurora Over the Lake*; Jeffery Kearns, *Voices in the Sky*; and Amanda Knepp, *Elegance*; (tied for second place) Amanda Knepp, *The Bird*; and Kyra Schon, *Childless Cat Lady*; (tied for third) Amanda Knepp, *Lunch*; and Charlotte Pletcher, *This Old Mill*.



Top left: *Aurora Over the Lake* by Jeffery Kearns; above: *Voices in the Sky* by Jeffery Kearns; bottom left: *Elegance* by Amanda Knepp (all tied for first place.)

The Philip Dressler Center  
for the Arts presents:  
the lifelike botanical illustrations  
of award-winning artist

**JEANNE  
PERRIER**

July 24 - August 28, 2025



This exhibit will include  
pottery by the Laurel Arts  
Clay Artists to complement  
Jeanne's creations!

Meet-the-Artist  
**Opening Reception:**  
Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-8:00 p.m.



### **Gallery Hours**

Monday through  
Thursday  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## SCAA juried show highlights region's artists

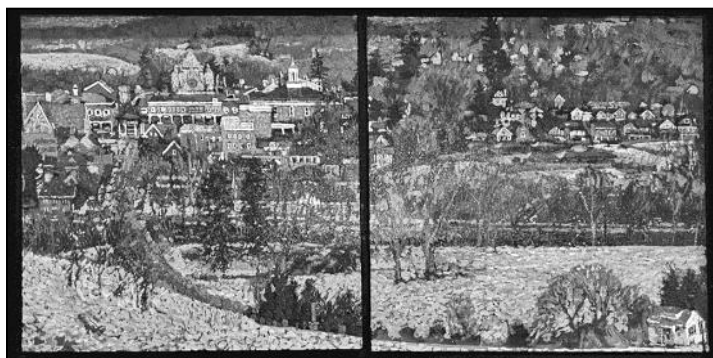
The current exhibit, Somerset County Artists Association Juried Show, is one you don't want to miss. It showcases some of the region's finest artists working in oils, pastels, watercolor, paper, wood, metal, and glass.

Best of show was awarded to Shelley Poli of Ligonier for *A Song for You* (pastel). First place went to Leslie Sorg of Scottdale for *Traditional Dancer* (oil). Kevin Kutz of Bedford received second place for *Ligonier Squall* (oil on two panels). Third place went to Shirley Tataleba of Berlin for *Milkweed & Monarch* (watercolor).

Alan Lichtenfels of Johnstown received the Ralph C. Welsh Award for *Hand of Friendship* (metal and wood). A special award was presented to George Radeschi of Bedford for his wood, walnut and white oak bowl. The Creative Award was presented to Bridget Mayak for *Textured Vessel* (clay and metal). The Judge's Award went to Linda Harrill Peck of Friedens for *Monarch?* (papercutting).

Honorable mentions were awarded to Peggy Black, Shirley Tataleba, Michael Walter and Zone Patcher.

The exhibit is open through July 17.



Top left: Best of Show, Shelley Poli of Ligonier for *A Song for You* (pastel.) Top right: First place, Leslie Sorg of Scottdale for *Traditional Dancer* (oil.) Above: Second place, Kevin Kutz of Bedford for *Ligonier Squall* (oil on two panels.) Right: Third place, Shirley Tataleba of Berlin for *Milkweed & Monarch* (watercolor.)

### Our Dressler staff ...

**Jaclyn McCusker**  
Director of Development

**April Davis / Shelly Ibbs**  
Bookkeepers

**Alison Leer**  
Gallery Coordinator &  
Administrative Assistant

**Jennifer Long**  
Office Coordinator

**Heather Miller**  
Administrative Assistant

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

### Laurel Arts Board of Directors

Laura Bowers, president  
Cindy Breen, vice president  
Brooke Mishler, secretary  
Rebecca Frola Biss  
Sharon Clapper  
Jeff Johnson  
Fred Rosemeyer  
Melissa Shaffer  
Mark Spiker

**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 Renee Eash, ResashROG@gmail.com, 814-619-1938. 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.

**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 Beth Pile 814-442-9061, elizabeth.pile@yahoo.com.

**Somerset County Community Band:** Rehearsals for the summer season are at 7:15 p.m. Thursdays. Contact Dave Breen, 814-701-1515, photo@davebreen.com. New members are always welcome.

### *Visual Arts*

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

**Laurel Highlands Photo Friends:** Contact Carol Saylor, barbados741@hotmail.com, 814-442-9519.

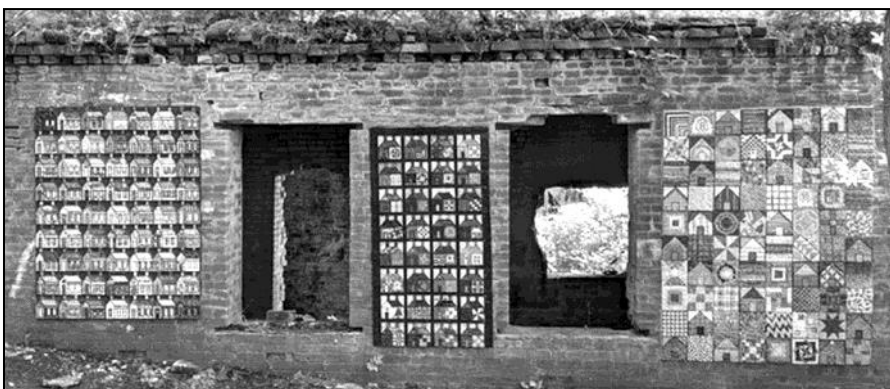
**Woodcarvers:** Contact Jeff Baltzer, 814-442-6617.

## Local artists visit The Ruins Project

SCAA members and friends visited The Ruins Project of rock mosaics Saturday, June 21. Participants carpoled to the site near Perryopolis, where they visited the studio of master-mosaicist Rachel Sager and toured the art installations, guided by historian Erika Johnson's commentaries. Standing walls of the former coal mine have become an international mosaic art gallery, acknowledging the historical value of mining and the perils for mine workers and families.

The Ruins Project is a collaborative mosaic art installation on private property adjacent to Sager Mosaics. It is accessible only via guided tour, and reservations are required. The tour is approximately 75 minutes of easy walking and standing outdoors, and ends with a short mosaic demonstration in Rachel's studio. Public tours are \$25 per person. For more information, visit [sagermosaics.com](http://sagermosaics.com).

Local artist Kathy Reed has contributed mosaic blocks to the project. The Ruins Project includes the work of over 400 artists from 17 countries.

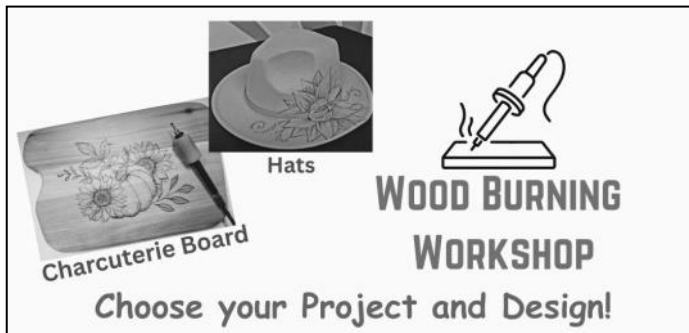


Above: Included in The Ruins are three versions of mosaic quilt blocks. On the left are picassiette (cut ceramic dishes); the center is made of smalti (cut glass); and on the right are blocks made of cut sandstone rocks. Three of the blocks were made by local artist Kathy Reed.



Left to right: The installation of a miner's boot and a soldier's boot, "Another Man's Boots," is viewed by Fred Stowell of Hollidaysburg. Linda Harrill Peck notes the small mosaic-rock details of a bluejay which rests on a painted tree limb. Shirley Tateleba views the picassiette house quilts with interest.

## Upcoming workshops ...



### Wood Burning (Pyrography) Workshop

**Sunday, July 13, 1-3 pm**

We are excited to have Karli Hazlett of Artistry From Scratch in Ebensburg join our talented line up of instructors. Karli will be teaching a class in Pyrography. Also known as wood burning, this is an art form in which designs are created on wood or other materials with a heated tool.

Students will use pyrography pens to burn beautiful designs into their choice of projects: a handmade charcuterie board or a hat, or you can choose your own design! Draw it at the class or send it ahead to have it drawn onto the wood for you. Projects can be taken home that day! This workshop is great for all skill levels. Please specify which project you would like when you call to register.

Charcuterie Board fee is payable to Laurel Arts: \$40 members / \$50 non-members plus a \$25 materials fee.

Hat fee is payable to Laurel Arts: \$64 members / \$80 non-members plus a \$25 materials fee.

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 by July 6 so supplies can be ordered in time. Pre-registration is required.

### Chunky Blanket Workshop

**Friday, July 18, 5:30-8 pm**

Learn how to make your own chunky knit blanket with Amy Miller of Finnegan Knits in Finzel, MD. This class is a great introduction to knitting because no needles are required, and at the end of the class you will have a lap blanket to call your own! Make your blanket part of your home decor, or use as a gift. All ages eight through adult are welcome! This class fills up fast so register early!

Registration is required. We ask that 50% of the fees be paid at the time of registration.

Class fee payable to Laurel Arts is \$32 members / \$40 non-members plus a materials fee of \$25 which includes three skeins of yarn to make a lap blanket.

### Christmas in July Acrylic Painting

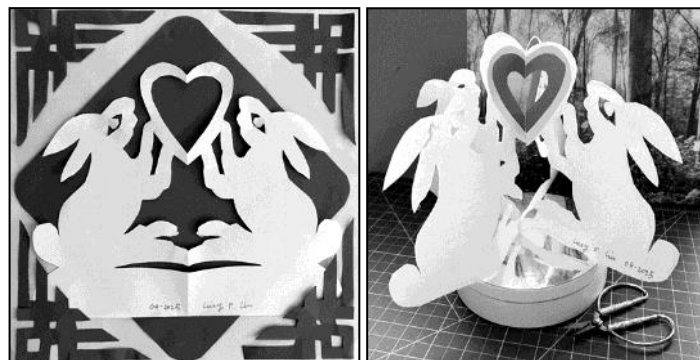
**Wednesday, July 23, 6-8 pm**

Celebrate Christmas in July and create a beautiful and festive acrylic painting with Instructor Cathi Neuhof. Students can choose what color to paint their canvas. A rustic metal star, various colors of vintage light bulbs, vintage fabric and wood will complete the piece. Make it now and surprise your family in December!

Class fee payable to Laurel Arts is \$32 members / \$40 non-members plus a \$15 materials fee.

To register for classes, call or text 814-442-6217 or call Laurel Arts at 814-443-1835.

All three classes will be held at the Education & Dance Center, 601 Georgian Place, Somerset.



### Free papercutting class with Lucy P. Liu

**Saturday, August 2, 10 am-2 pm**

The Guild of American Papercutters will offer a free papercutting class from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, August 2 at The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts (Laurel Arts) & home of The National Museum of Papercutting.

Lucy P. Liu is an advocate of Chinese papercutting and infuses her papercutting art into beautiful public art, wall art, illustrating art, home deco art and more with both 3D and 2D formats.

In this class, Lucy will be instructing students in the making of both 2-D and 3-D animals.

Registration is required, and tools will be provided. To register, call the Dressler Center, 814-443-2433.

# Summer music series continues through August

Following White Horse (July 5, see page 1), The Sequel, featuring one of our own board members Jeff Johnson, will take the stage Saturday, **July 12**. Maple Valley BBQ Company will also return that evening.

This summer will also feature: Bam & Friends with food by Taste with the Bowers from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, **July 26**; Matt Otis & The Sound with The Untraditional Creperie from 6 to 9 p.m., Saturday, **August 9**; and Tim & Stacy with Somerset Boy Scout Troop, from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, **August 16**.

We'll finish the summer series with an evening of blue grass on our green lawn! Marshale Bradford Exchange will perform from 5 to 7 p.m., followed by Hickory Bottom Band from 7 to 9 Saturday, **August 23**. The Untraditional Creperie will also finish out our summer of great foods.

Our Summer Music on the Lawn series is free to attend. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and partake of the food available for purchase, or bring your own. If you enjoy the series, donations are always welcome. There are donation boxes in the galleries, or you can send a donation to PO Box 414, Somerset, PA 15501



**There's something for everyone at Makers Market!** Vendors "make it, bake it, grow it" just for you. Our next Makers Market is from 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday **July 9**, followed by Makers Markets on **August 13**, **September 10**, and **October 8**. Often there is also entertainment and there may also be artist demonstrations. In some respects, Makers Market harkens back to the days of the arts and crafts of Somerfest, as does our Summer Music on the Lawn series. If you appreciate Makers Market and the Summer Music Series, your donation to Laurel Arts will help us continue to provide these popular community events. To make a donation, visit our website, [laurelarts.org](http://laurelarts.org), and click on **Make A Donation**. Hope to see you soon!

## CLAY QUEST

As part of this year's Chalk the Block, Curious Creations Studio is hosting **Clay Quest** as a fundraiser (and fun raiser) for Laurel Arts.

**What is Clay Quest?** It is a town-wide scavenger hunt where you search for handcrafted miniature clay sculptures hidden around Somerset (on sidewalks, benches, windowsills, and even inside local shops.)

**How to join:** To participate, register at Curious Creations Studio or at a participating sponsor during the hunt. Cost is \$10, and you will receive a map plus riddles and clues to help you on your hunt. If you'd like to make some tiny clay figures, visit Curious Creations Studio, 110 North Rosina Ave. (intersection of West Main Street and North Rosina Ave.)

**How to win:** For each found figure returned to Curious Creations by 3 p.m. Sunday, you will be entered into the Grand Prize Drawing. By visiting local participating sponsor shops during Chalk the Block, you may also be an "instant winner," earning a prize on the spot. Chalk the Block is the weekend of July 25-27.

Start your quest at Curious Creations Studio, follow us on Facebook + Instagram: @LaurelArtsSomerset #ClayQuestSomerset



## *Dancing at Laurel Arts is Magic*

*We'd love to have you be  
part of our dance family!*

For more information,  
email [office@laurelarts.org](mailto:office@laurelarts.org) or call  
814-443-1835.

**Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL  
REGISTER TODAY!**  
Laurel Arts Education & Dance Center

**LAURELARTS.ORG** **814-443-1835**

Studio Kids Preschool, 601 Georgian Place, is accepting registrations for our 2025-26 school year. Parents have a choice at Studio Kids: we offer a half-day two-day a week program as well as a full-day three-day a week program. Our unique, academic and arts-focused curriculum is aligned to state standards and utilizes creative hands-on learning in arts, language, math, and science.

As a testament to the success of our program, our families continue to send their younger children to Studio Kids. And, our parents and grandparents have great things to say about the program. *"Studio Kids is a great place to go for learning and fun. We highly recommend!"*

For more information, email [studiokids@laurelarts.org](mailto:studiokids@laurelarts.org) or call 814-443-1835.

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

**Elizabeth Miller**

Administrative Assistant-LAEDC

**Angela Horner-Parrish**

Office Assistant

*Dance Instructors*

**Amanda Bergstresser**

**Cindy Breen**

**Megan Edwards**

**Melissa Gindlesperger**

**Aubree Maus**

**Olivia Ream**

**Madison Troy**

**Hadley Ware**

**Angela Fullard**

Preschool Teacher

**Patricia Ohler**

Preschool Aide

**Marsha Schmuck**

Preschool Aide

Classes & Programs Coordinator

Summer Camps Instructor

Fundraising Coordinator

*Laurel  
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**Studio Kids  
PRESCHOOL**

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**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

# Wish List

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Somerset, PA  
Permit No. 2

*For the Education & Dance Center: a changing table (we have lots of young families), a washer & dryer (yes, we have laundry!)*

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*

Riggs Family Foundation  
Riggs Industries  
Mary Ann Riggs  
Michael & Jessica Riggs  
Pam & John Morocco  
Mosholder Insurance Agency  
Our Home Berlin  
Pennsylvania Rural Arts Alliance  
Ann and Mark Persun  
Rotary Club of Somerset  
Somerset Trust Company  
Spangler Subaru  
State Farm—Angi Tennant  
Stoy Excavating /  
Jim & Heather Stoy  
Stoystown Auto Wreckers  
Stoystown Tank & Steel Inc. /  
Claire & Steve Zufall  
UPMC Somerset  
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Wheeler Family Charitable Trust  
Sallie Zoerb

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Fraternal Order of Eagles  
Guild of American Papercutters  
Hauger-Zeigler Funeral Home &  
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John & Melinda Jacob  
Hooversville Trinity ELCA Charitable  
Legacy Fund c/o The Community  
Foundation for the Alleghenies  
Sean & Annette Isgan  
Nick Jacobs  
Jeff and Gerry "Buckie" Johnson  
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Bob & Kathy Trexel Reed