

Laurel Arts

Arts for everyone



Fall 2025

www.laurelarts.org

Welcoming the Cozy Season

Stop by the Dressler Center porch if you are in need of a warm hat! Handmade with love and generously donated by one of our members, there are both children's and adult sizes available. Don't see your size or preferred color in the free little library? Stop into the office to see an expanded selection. All hats are FREE to those in need of one!

Your Fall Bucket List

Ready to make the most of the season? We've put together a fun lineup of fall and winter art classes! See our Facebook page or website for more information, or stop in to either location to register. Here is just a sample of the classes we offer!

- 11/9: Necklace Pendant Painting Workshop
- 11/12: Bread Cornucopia Making Workshop with Wine Tasting
- 11/16: Christmas Needle Felting Workshop
- 11/19: Toy Soldier Painting Workshop
- 11/21: Hand Knit Christmas Tree Making
- 12/9: Holiday Door Mat Series - Christmas



We also have weekly line dancing and adult tap classes! Line dancing classes are Mondays from 8pm-9pm and Wednesdays from 10am-11am. Line dancing does not require pre-registration. Our adult tap classes are on Saturdays from 9am-10am and do require pre-registration.

Call 814-443-1835 to sign up!

The Philip Dressler Center for the Arts welcomed the Pittsburgh Society of Sculptors

If you stopped by the galleries recently, you would've noticed it looked a little different!

We were pleased to welcome the Pittsburgh Society of Sculptors. The "SoS" as they are commonly referred to, was established in 1935 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and presented its first open juried exhibition in that year, which received national attention in Time magazine. They are one of the oldest artist-run organizations that exclusively promotes sculpture both regionally and nationally.

If you would like to learn more about the Sos, visit their website at societyofsculptors.org

BEST OF SHOW
Defiant - You cannot erase me or my colors by artist
Duncan McDiarmid



Rhythms of Christmas

We are excited to celebrate the 19th annual **Rhythms of Christmas**. This year's show will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, December 13 at Somerset Area High School's auditorium. Admission is free, but we do accept donations to our scholarship fund. A cookies and punch reception will follow in the cafeteria.

The wonderful thing about this show is that it gives Laurel Arts dance students an opportunity to choreograph and teach. It takes a great deal of commitment from the choreographers, the dancers and their parents. They give up a portion of every Saturday from mid-October until the day of the show. This year, we'll have nearly 90 dancers participating. The show will open with A Little Girl's Christmas, featuring Laurel Arts Performance Company. Somerset County Community Band will also perform, offering even more Christmas favorites.

Our senior company choreographers are Emma Klahre, Kylee Mallory, Isabelle Schmuck, Mirabella Tweardy, Hailey Bowlby and Kyleigh Bailey. Junior company members assisting with choreography this year are Ryann Haer, Reese Demchak, Helena Hinten, Holland Hinton, Hannah Spiri, Brooke Fullard, Milee Booher, Auzalie Minor, Avalyn Bergstresser, and Lochlynn Pile.



From L to R: Isabelle Schmuck, Emma Klahre (Senior), Hailey Bowlby, Kylee Mallory (Senior), and Mirabella Tweardy

WISH
LIST

Volunteers: Having a Heart for Art



Volunteers of all ages showed up in force to help with our Outside Work Nights at the Dressler Center.

With limited staff and numerous positions open, our volunteers are the heartbeat of Laurel Arts. Your time, passion and creativity are what keep this organization thriving- we truly appreciate what you do.

Volunteering builds a sense of community and belonging through giving of your time and efforts. Are you looking for an opportunity to share your talents? Contact us today!

Urgently Needed Volunteer Opportunities:

Snow Removal (Dressler Center)
Handyman/ Maintenance

MURDER
Mystery
THE SULTAN'S PAJAMAS
6pm November 22nd at the Dressler Center. Ticket info and link will be on our Facebook page.

Please scan the QR code to see what's on our Amazon Wish List!

Top Needs: Black Sharpies,
Kleenex Lotion Tissues, ZEP Neutral
PH Industrial Floor Cleaner



Upcoming Events

Fundraisers!

Channel Your Flannel

Channel Your Flannel:
A cozy Laurel Arts fundraiser

When: Saturday, November 15
5:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: Shamrock Sporting Clays
624 Humbert School Road
Rockwood, PA

Tickets are \$30 and include:

- Live entertainment
- Light hors d'oeuvres
- Basket raffles
- Great ambiance
- A handcrafted pottery piece from Laurel Arts' own Mud Ladies



Scan here for tickets!
PA SGOC 6010-25

Channel
YOUR FLANNEL

A LAUREL ARTS
FUNDRAISER



Laurel Arts
Arts for everyone



Move Over Santa, Scott Blasey is Coming to Town!

Tired of traditional holiday office parties? Bring your staff to enjoy an evening of music with Scott Blasey of The Clarks! Individual tickets as well as

Sponsored Tables (with preferred seating) will be available. Want to make it a night to remember? Purchase the VIP pre-show dinner experience with Scott!



Follow the direct QR code link to Zeffy for tickets or call 814-443-2433

21+ ATTENDEES MUST BE AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE

LAUREL ARTS PRESENTS

JINGLE AND JAMS:

A NIGHT OF COCKTAILS & CHRISTMAS WITH SCOTT BLASEY OF THE CLARKS

♪ INDIVIDUAL TICKETS ♪ CORPORATE SPONSOR TABLE
♪ VIP PRE SHOW DINNER ♪ CHRISTMAS PARTY TABLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH
VIP DINNER STARTS 5:30 PM
GENERAL ADMISSION 6:45 MUSIC STARTS 7PM
THE HITCHING POST AT CRAZY HOLLOW FARMS, LLC

848 HUSBAND ROAD
SOMERSET, PA 15501

FOR MORE INFORMATION
814-443-2433
WWW.LAURELARTS.ORG
SGOC #6010-25

SCAN HERE FOR TICKETS OPTIONS

Watch for these Exhibits Coming Soon!

Our final exhibit for 2025 will be the Somerset County Artists Association's Member Show. The exhibit will run from November 13 - December 18 and promises to have a wide variety of entries. There will be an opening reception held Friday, November 14 from 6pm-8pm. Come meet and mingle with some local artists while you enjoy light food and drinks, and of course beautiful art!

Looking ahead...

Be sure to visit us January through March to see the bright and colorful exhibits of local and Somerset County schools!



Collaboration of SCAA Members & Makers Market Vendors

HOLIDAY SALE ALERT!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
10:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
AT THE PHILIP DRESSLER CENTER FOR THE ARTS

We are a stop on the Cookie & Cocoa Tour!

Stop by, have a cookie and shop for holiday gifts while supporting local artists!

OUR AFFILIATES

Please note: not all affiliate groups are meeting regularly.
Please contact the individual group you are interested in
for more information.

Somerset Garden Club: Contact Renee Eash,
ReashROG@gmail.com, 814-619-1973. Meets 2nd
Monday, 11am, Dressler Center.

Crochet Guild: Contact Kathy Martin, 814-443-3054.
The Guild meets 1-3pm on the first and third
Tuesdays of the month.

Knitting Guild: Contact Lee Ann Schrock,
leann265@yahoo.com, 814-233-6434.

Laurel Highlands Chorale: Contact Jan Burkett,
814-443-3085 for more info.

Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus: Contact Lee
Hoffman, 814-279-1733, or Larry Shober, 814-267-
4042. Rehearsal 7pm Tuesday evenings at Grace
United Methodist Church, Somerset.

Somerset Auxiliary JSO: Contact Beth Pile, 814-442-
9061, elizabethpile@yahoo.com

Somerset County Community Band: Rehearsals for
the summer season are at 7:15pm Thursdays.
Contact Dave Breen, 814-701-1515,
photo@davebreen.com.

Somerset County Artists Association: contact
Rebecca Frola-Biss, 814-233-6451.

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

Woodcarvers: Contact Jeff Baltzer, 814-442-6617.
Meets 6-7:30 on Wednesdays at the Dressler Center.



Affiliate News

The Laurel Highlands Chorale has begun practicing for their annual Christmas concert, which will be held Sunday, December 7th at 3:30pm and Monday, December 8th at 7:00pm at the Somerset Church of the Brethren, Berlin-Plank Road. "Hark! How the angels sang" will feature songs the angels sang to declare the birth of our savior, Jesus Christ; along with fun, favorite songs of the holiday season. Intermission music will feature the Berlin Brethren Church's Bell Choir under the direction of Norman Menhorn. The chorale is under the direction of Jan Burkett and is accompanied by Stephanie Pesl. Tickets are \$5.00 and will be available at the door, or from any chorale member. Please contact Dorene Friedline at 814-926-3610 or 814-442-0460 for tickets or more information. We look forward to seeing you there!

...Affiliate News Continued

The Somerset Garden Club will hold their annual wreath sale on Monday, November 24th from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Philip Dressler Center for the Arts, 214 S. Harrison Ave., Somerset. Wreaths are \$25 and may be ordered in advance. The Garden Club also hopes to be able to sell wreaths at Light Up Night in Somerset on Saturday, November 29th.



Roof Garden Barbershop Chorus is gearing up for the holiday season! They will be singing at various locations throughout the community including Light Up Somerset on November 29th. Contact chorus president Lee Hoffman for performance availability (information listed under Our Affiliates).

We are always welcoming new voices to the group- join us for a Tuesday evening rehearsal!



Somerset Auxiliary JSO: The Johnstown Symphony Orchestra (JSO) presents "Holiday Pops!" on Saturday, December 13th at 3:00pm or 7:30pm at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center. The JSO Chorus and Inclined to Sing take center stage for a heartwarming evening of holiday choral masterpieces, joined by the full orchestra in a festive musical celebration. From cherished classics to seasonal favorites, this concert promises stirring harmonies, rich orchestration, a few surprises! Don't miss this magical night of music to brighten the season! For tickets, call the JSO at 814-535-6738 or visit the JSO website:

<https://www.johnstownsymphony.org>



Somerset County Community Band: Brass group will be playing uptown Somerset on November 29th for Light Up Night, and also Friday, December 5th at 6:00 pm at Friedens Lutheran Church.



Guild of American Papercutters: The National GAP Museum, housed on the 2nd floor of the Dressler Center, is currently home to an exhibit by artist Janelle Washington. Janelle creates images using paper that showcase Black culture, history, and family themes. In addition, she explores the history, identity, family, and feminine beauty themes in Black culture.



HONORING THE ARTFUL IMPACT OF JACLYN MCCUSKER

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the departure of our talented Executive Director, Jaclyn McCusker. Jaci's creative passion and leadership has helped shape Laurel Arts for nearly a decade. We are deeply grateful for her dedication and energetic pursuit to bring the arts to Somerset County. Her warm and welcoming personality has been immeasurably important as a driving force to promote the arts in our community. During her tenure, Jaci's vision centered on ways that the arts could better serve our community. She was a driving force behind the addition of the Imagination Garden. This project created a space on the grounds of the Dressler Center where visitors of all ages can interact and create music while enjoying the outdoors. Jaci was also a vital part in bringing the



Music on the Lawn series to Laurel Arts. These performances showcase local musicians, and provide free family-friendly entertainment during the summer months. Music on the Lawn is a wonderful opportunity to bring our community in to enjoy the performing arts in a way that all generations can appreciate. From expanding class offerings to procuring grants for programming, Jaci has had an immeasurable impact on all facets of Laurel Arts.

Please join us in thanking Jaci for her outstanding contributions and in wishing her the best in her next creative chapter at Aspire Grant & Development. Jaci will always be a part of the Laurel Arts family, and will continue to be present as a valued volunteer and supporter of the arts.

Dear Partner in the Arts,

Thank you for contributing to the arts throughout 2025! I am so proud of Laurel Arts and what it has provided to communities throughout Somerset County this past year. In 2025, Laurel Arts has consistently delivered a multitude of entry points to the arts for people with diverse interests, strengths, and backgrounds—from monthly gallery openings at the Dressler Center to our spring dance recital that showcases the hard work and talent of dedicated dance students, to setting up craft activities in order to support flood-damaged communities when they needed to be reminded of the resilience the arts can reflect in their journey to rebuild.

In the coming year, we will be looking to the past to celebrate the role Laurel Arts has played in the region over the past 50 years! Since being established in 1975, this organization has played an important part in highlighting the talent and creativity of the people in and around Somerset County. We have been able to do this because of the support of our members—people like you!

In the coming months, we hope that you will seek out ways to continue to enjoy and support a robust arts community in Somerset County. Will you *Channel Your Flannel at Shamrock Clays* or stretch your sleuthing skills at a *Murder Mystery* party? Maybe you will join us for an intimate evening of great music from *Scott Blasey of The Clarks!* Or why not get in the holiday spirit with an afternoon of the student-choreographed *Rhythms of Christmas* show? Whether you're joining in on one of these special occasions or purchasing handcrafted holiday gifts from our *Gallery Shoppe*, there are so many ways to be a part of the arts as 2025 winds down.

I hope this newsletter comes to you at a time when you are taking the time to reflect on what you are thankful for from the preceding year. At Laurel Arts, we are grateful that you continue to make us a part of your life. Your membership helps us to keep enthusiastic creation flowing. Keep an eye out for our Annual Appeal campaign information and consider making a year-end, tax-deductible donation. Or ask us about how businesses and employers can participate in the PA Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program, which provides tax credits to eligible businesses that make financial gifts to organizations that provide educational enrichment.



Laura has been hands on during many of our volunteer work nights. Here she is pictured refinishing pedestals for the Pittsburgh SOS Exhibit.

With so much gratitude,

Laura Bowers
Laura Bowers

President, Laurel Arts Board

Thank you to...

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