

## April 2009 – LAG General Program by Louise Kyanko

The program will be a presentation by **Louise Kyanko**, who was the founder of the Laurel Art Guild. Louise studied art in France and other European countries, and is presently an active artist. It promises to be an interesting insight as to how a small handful of artists banded together with no support, no place to do art work, but with a determination to bring art to Laurel. We will have several displays set up with photos of the original artists.

### Preview of Laurel Art Guild History

The Laurel Art Guild (The Guild) had its first meeting in 1967 after Louise Kyanko placed an ad, calling for interested artists to start an art club. There was a great turn out on April 18, 1967 at the Citizens Building and Loan Community room. The community leaders of Laurel were very helpful finding places for the Guild to have their meetings. They met in the Laurel Parks and Recreation Building until the Laurel Realty Co. donated the old Phelps and Shaffer Dry Good Store at 906 Montgomery Street. With donations from many Laurel businesses, the building was refurbished. The Guild held meetings there for two years with exhibits and art classes for children and adults. The Guild gave back to the community by painting murals for the Laurel Children's Center.

In 1971, the Guild was given a meeting place, on the second floor of the renovated Carriage House of Montpelier Mansion, by the Prince George's Planning Commission. After many happy and productive years in the Carriage House Fine Arts Center, the old "Barn" on the Montpelier grounds was being renovated, with ground breaking slated for 1978. Unfortunately, it was accidentally burned to the ground (except for the Silo). The "Barn" was rebuilt to become a great place for the arts. The Guild members were active in the opening of the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center (MCAC) in 1979 and Richard Zandler has been the center's director since.

### Come to the program to learn more

#### Presidents of Laurel Art Guild

Louise Kyanko .....	1967	Mavreen Veihmeyer .....	1987/88
Mary Jo Fero.....	1968	Lynn Ferris .....	1988/89
Ted Metzger.....	1969	Joel Bitman .....	1989/91
Elda Hiser.....	1970	Michael Ann Harper.....	1991/92
Helen Hass .....	1971	Beth Collard .....	1992/94
Bette Valenti.....	1972	Natalie Harvey .....	1994/95
Betty Plasberg.....	1973	Marleen Cunningham.....	1995/96
Mavreen Veihmeyer .....	1974	Sharon Hart Sefton.....	1996/97
Anne Hanna.....	1975/76	Gail Zinar.....	1997/98
Clara Walsh .....	1976/77	John MacArthur .....	1998/99
Carol Bierwagen .....	1977/78	Steve Buzash.....	1999/2000
Linda Kirby .....	1978/80	Gail Zinar.....	2000/01
Marlene Sweger .....	1980/81	Connie Sauer .....	2001/02
Diane Zarfoss.....	1981/82	Natalie Fleming.....	2002/03
Susan Murphy.....	1982/83	Jane Trout.....	2003/04
Karen Tylec.....	1983/84	Marjory Sampson/ Jane Trout.....	2004/05
Lynn Ratliff .....	1984/85	Mary Ellen Simon .....	2005/07
Stella McDonald.....	1985/86	Mary Flanigen .....	2007/08
Rose Lomangino .....	1986/87	Robyn Hatton.....	2008/09