



# Laurel Art Guild Highlights

[www.laurelartguild.org](http://www.laurelartguild.org)

June 2016

## *Jon's Journal,*

Hello LAG Members –

First, I would like to say, “Thank you.” Many of you expressed confidence in my ability to be the new President. I will certainly do my best to keep this fine organization running smoothly and continue to have our meetings interesting, educational, and fun. I look forward to working with all of you, meeting those I have not had the pleasure to meet, and helping us all to find new ways to explore our creativity and provide opportunities to exhibit our work.

I remember my first LAG meeting. We had a nice presentation by Brenda Kidera followed by her critique of our work. As I watched piece after piece go up to the easels, I wasn't sure I belonged. Then, I caught site of a little “sweetgum spike-ball” drawing, by Mavreen Veihmeyer, as she doodled on her agenda, and I was certain I didn't. However, when it came to my turn, I felt a little more at ease because of the comments made, not only by our guest, but by several members as well. That was the first of many times you have made me feel right at home! I count that as a strength of the Laurel Art Guild; very friendly, very supportive, very encouraging. Thank you again.

I tell you that story because I have come to think of creating art as being very similar to when I cooked for a living. I made many, many dishes that I wouldn't eat – but it wasn't “bad food,” I just didn't care for it. But, there was always someone who did! Samuel Clemens said, “Differences of opinion is what makes horseracing.” And after all, horseracing is a Maryland tradition. So, there may be flaws in our composition or inconsistencies with our color palette or perhaps even bizarre subject matter, but it doesn't really matter if anyone, but you, likes your work – if it makes you happy, keep the creative juices flowing; paint, draw, sculpt, etc. - just stay in the race. I know there is someone for every piece of art.

Speaking of color palette, our May meeting featured a fine demonstration of “how to see and mix colors accurately.” The meeting was well attended and I believe many of us walked away with one of Glen Kessler's *Painter's Compass Color Wheels*, a tool designed to build an artist's confidence in mixing any color, regardless of brightness,

shade or value. Glen demonstrated by mixing paint to match; the color of the floor, a model in a magazine, and another magazine photo selected by a member.

Also during the May meeting, we had a presentation by LAG's two scholarship recipients. Please see the write-up and photos below for details.

Since the last newsletter, several LAG members participated in the Annual Festival of Herbs, Teas, and the Arts (April 30), sponsored by the Montpelier Arts Center. Although a cool day, we did manage to stay dry, and there was a good crowd on hand for the festivities, exhibits and wares for sale. LAG hired Steve Fleming to give a plein air workshop, which included a demonstration by Steve, then a critique during and after our two and a half hour plein air session. (details and photos below)

In April, I made a commitment to join anyone who wanted to try plein air painting but wasn't too sure about it – the offer still stands. And oh, by the way, I participated in the Steve Fleming event at Montpelier and created *my first* plein air painting. (see paragraph three for results – haha) I had a good time!

One last thing; we will be hosting the annual *New Member's Luncheon* on Saturday, June 18<sup>th</sup>. We will convene at the Potbelly Sandwich, on Route 1 in Laurel, at 12:30 pm. It is in the same parking lot as the Lowes. All current LAG members are welcome to attend and our *new members* can expect a personal invitation forthcoming. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP by Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup> to: [alice\\_joe@verizon.net](mailto:alice_joe@verizon.net) or phone her at 301-474-1396.

See you soon,

Jon

## *Member News:*

LAG welcomes two new members this month:

**Veselin Culibrk** who works in oil and pencil. He can be reached at [culibrk@comcast.net](mailto:culibrk@comcast.net) or 804-361231.

**Arlene Mindus** instructs Zentangle and works in watercolor and photography. She can be reached at [amindus169480@comcast.net](mailto:amindus169480@comcast.net) or 410-381-9323.

Diane Shipley and Mary Ellen Simon have paintings at Friendship Heights Village Center in the Montgomery Art Association exhibit, 4433 South Park Avenue, Chevy Chase. The exhibit will run from June 6 – July 10.

LAG members are well represented in the **Red, Hot & Wild** exhibit, coordinated by DC/LA Arts, at the Huntington Community Center in Bowie. They are; Ada Ghuman, Tom Kirby, Barbara Mertens, April Rimpo, and Jon Shields. The exhibit runs through June 28<sup>th</sup> with a reception to be held on Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup>. (7:00 – 9:00 pm)

Two paintings hanging in the Fairhaven Exhibit, in Sykesville, have sold. Congratulations to Carol Leo and Phyllis Ross. Carol's **Washed Ashore** and Phyllis' **Fenwick Island Lighthouse** now have a new home.

April Rimpo will have a solo exhibit, "**Summer in the City**" which will feature watercolor and fluid acrylic paintings inspired by tidbits of life in the city. The display will be in the Artists & Makers Studios, in Rockville, Maryland, from June 29 – July 28. There will be an opening reception on July 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 9:00 pm.

### ***Scholarship Recipients*** - by Mary Ellen Gordon

The Laurel Art Guild enjoyed meeting our two student winners at the May Member's meeting. Both recipients know where they want to go and what they want to accomplish.

Karissa Winston, from Laurel High School, will attend school in New York next year. She plans on a career in fashion design, with her main interest in shoe design. She shared on of her designs with the group.

Maurice Leary, from Pallotti High School, is going to California to study computer graphics. He hopes for a career with Pixar. Perhaps we will see his name streaming with the credits of an animated film one day.

Both students shared their talents with us and appear to be well on their way to achieving their goals.



Karissa Winston



Maurice Leary

## Montpelier's Festival of Herbs, Teas, and the Arts – by Carol Leo

Our annual participation in the Montpelier Herbs, Teas, and the Arts Festival was successful and enjoyable for those who participated. Although the weather was not ideal, it did not rain, which was a great improvement over the week preceding and all the days of the weeks following the event (answered prayer).



Our featured plein air artist, Steve Fleming attracted a crowd as he demoed and explained some of the essentials of plein air painting. Steve unapologetically dialogued in a stream-of-consciousness style as he explained his plein air process as well as gave commentary on a number of other issues. The Festival visitors were entertained and educated as they watched. Although we had ten plein air participants from various art groups who had originally signed up to paint for two and a half hours onsite, the cool and overcast weather deterred most, who pled “lack of gloves” as the reason for not painting. The three of us who stayed to complete the workshop were very gratified by the many available scenes, trees, buildings, people from which to choose and received helpful comments in the critique given by Steve at the end of the session.

Two of us set up shop and found we had a steady stream of customers to our art tables, and we ended up selling lots of cards and two small paintings (Diane). To our surprise, we found we had a clientele that has been building up over the last couple of years, and at least one customer commented that she had only come to the Festival to find us, and to purchase her annual supply of cards.

In the meantime, the visitors to the festival were having a great time trying their hands at oil pastels and tempera painting at the four art stations we had arranged. The composite works produced are in the photo on the right.



*Special thanks to Diane Shipley, Jon Shields, Olivia Moore, Mary Ellen Simon, and Carol Leo, the LAG members who participated. And very special thanks to William and Noah Shields, two of Jon's sons; and Maddox and Jonathan, Mary Ellen Simon's neighbors, who were hired to provide the setup and takedown. We have never seen the tent go up with such lightning speed, and we could not have carried all the necessary equipment from the Carriage House to the Festival site without their help. Thank you!!*



## *Exhibits:*

We currently have a large exhibit at Fairhaven Retirement Community in Sykesville during April and May. If you have a chance, it's a beautiful drive on a nice spring day. Their address is: 7200 Third Avenue. And good news – we have had a couple of sales.

WSSC, Laurel – We have an exhibit at the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission headquarters building during June. This show is in the hallway near the main entrance so it gets a lot of foot traffic. I hope you get a chance to go over and see it.

Our show we had booked at the Olive Leaf Bistro at Savage Mill is now on hold, because the restaurant has closed. We are waiting to hear if the new tenant will want to have art displayed.

Looking ahead: June **2018** – Patuxent Research Center – National Wildlife Visitor Center, Laurel, MD. It is a long ways off, but start thinking about painting wildlife, nature, and/or environmental conservation issues. Subject matter should include endangered, threatened, or native species (to North America), wetlands, oceans, woodlands, prairies, or other habitats that are recognized as symbols of the earth's vital resources. More guidelines from the Center will follow at a later time.

### **On line exhibit – by April Rimpo**

There are four exhibits currently on display in our on line gallery: ***Symphony of Spring, Shades of Purple, Fall Fling, and Animals***. Each member can post one image depicting their interpretation of the title. You must use a separate login for each exhibit to insure the image ends up in the correct exhibit.

You can send a jpeg file to her - If you do, also provide the title, size and medium. If you want it listed for sale, also provide the price and contact information that you are willing to share online. Contact April for assistance, if needed.

You can see April's entry at [http://laurelartguild.org/olexhibit/main.php?g2\\_itemId=730](http://laurelartguild.org/olexhibit/main.php?g2_itemId=730)

### **Other opportunities not sponsored by LAG:**

“ART AS POLITICS” call for entries. Express everything you love and hate in the current election process as a visual art form. Love, anger, concern – get it all out and be part of the show. Abstract, figurative, installation – all original visual media are welcome. To apply visit [www.touchstonegallery.com](http://www.touchstonegallery.com) and click on “Art as Politics” juried show entry. Entry is via [www.entrythingy.com](http://www.entrythingy.com). Deadline to apply is July 5<sup>th</sup>.

“AMERICAN LANDSCAPES” and “WATER WORKS” – both of these exhibits are sponsored by Maryland Federation of Art. The deadline for entries into *Landscapes* is June 9<sup>th</sup>, while the deadline for *Water Works* is June 20<sup>th</sup>. Information on both can be accessed at [info@mdfedart.org](mailto:info@mdfedart.org).

## *Plein Air:*

Carol is still on the lookout for our next adventure. I know she would love to hear some ideas from the membership. [paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org](mailto:paintoutdoors@laurelartguild.org)

## 2016-17 Executive Board

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<b>Items with ? Are in need of Chairpersons!</b>			

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