



# Laurel Art Guild Highlights

www.laurelartguild.org

March 2017

## Jon's Journal

I told you last month.....March would sneak up on us, and it has. That means it is time for the annual Laurel Art Guild Open. Melissa Price tells me there were 103 individuals who entered and submitted at least one item to the Judge for consideration. It is great to see LAG members are well represented.

We are still in need of assistance receiving works of art for this show. The drop off date is Tuesday, March 7th from Noon – 2:00 and 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Please contact me or Melissa Price to let us know which time window works best for you. The Open House, Reception, and Awards Ceremony for the Open will be held Sunday, March 12th from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. I look forward to seeing as many members as possible turn out for this special event.

Our February Member Meeting was held Saturday, February 11th, at MAC. Our guest's presentation was very entertaining and informative. Brenda Kidera displayed images of photographs she had taken, held discussions about the subject matter, lighting, composition, etc., and then showed us an image of the painting she created from said photograph. In many cases, she had taken multiple photos from various points of view and then allowed her imagination to meld them together into a cohesive piece. She encouraged us to point the camera all around the chosen scene. Work our view up and down, side to side, close up and from a distance. Also, print your pictures in black and white to check the values – will it be an interesting painting? She concluded, "The photos are only a reference for scene ideas, imagination is what makes it uniquely yours." I realize I may be preaching to the choir on this for many of you, but it was an eye opening experience for me – and a few others in attendance as well.

Next up, the March Member Meeting will be held on Saturday, March 25th, from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Our very own, April Rimpo, will present a demonstration utilizing fluid acrylics. This will include underpaintings that include lacy meshes of paint and textural passages created using dabs of thicker acrylic paints. Please come support LAG, be inspired by a new technique and/or learn a thing or two. It is our intention to hold this meeting at The Montpelier Art Center. However, please watch for an email (from me) if a location adjustment is necessary. I will pass that along just as soon as possible.

Monday, April 10th will be an opportunity for LAG members to have two items critiqued by professional artist, Susan Murphy. I'm giving you a little advanced notice so that you can get busy! (Or) maybe you have that one piece lying about that you're just not sure of. Bring it out! Have a fresh set of eyes take a peek at it for you.

I'll leave you with a little spring challenge: Jon's favorite flower is the daffodil. The first one to send me a (live) photo of a big yellow bulb, trumpeting the arrival of spring, will receive a surprise. No camera? – call me and tell me where I can see it.

Happy hunting,  
Jon

## Member News

**April Rimpo** had paintings selected for two exhibitions: Maryland Federation of Art's Art on Paper at Circle Gallery in Annapolis, and the Watercolor Art Society of Houston's 40th International Exhibition.

She also invites you to see her solo exhibit *Common Threads* at Touchstone Gallery, 901 New York Ave NW, Washington DC, from March 3 - April 2. The opening reception is on Friday, March 3, from 6:30 - 8:00 PM. An encore reception will be Sunday, March 26, from 2 - 4 PM.

**Jon Shields** is happy to report he sold his piece; CELTIC CROSS at Olive on Main in Laurel during his January exhibit.

## LAG OPEN Congratulations

Congratulations to the following LAG Members who will have their work hanging in the 48th Annual Laurel Art Guild Open 2017:

Peggy Benedict	John Cholod
Veselin Culibrk	Thomas Kirby
Max Leason	Carol Leo
Melissa Price	April Rimpo
Diane Shipley	Sylvia Valentino

## Online Exhibit by John Cholod

There is a new exhibit on display in our online gallery: Water. Please take a look and add a work of your own, if you wish. Three other exhibits remain open: Symphony of Spring, Favorite Places, and Rustic. 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 John - 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 John for assistance, if needed.

<http://laurelartguild.org/olexhibit/main.php>

## Exhibitions

### by Diane Shipley

Plans are currently on hold for the **Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church**, including works by Jane Trout and Donna Aldridge, both members who passed away in 2016. More details to follow.

I scheduled a show for May through June at the **Bowie Senior Center**. It will be here before we know it, so hope you will be busy painting during our cold, winter months.

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. No domestic animals. More guidelines from the Center will follow at a later time.

We have also been confirmed for **The Slayton House in Columbia**. That show is scheduled for October 18 – December 15, 2018. It is a large space and we will need lots of paintings.

## LAG Field Trip: Art in the U.S. Capitol Building, Saturday, February 18, 2017, submitted by Carol Leo

The February 18<sup>th</sup> tour of the art in the U.S. Capitol Building was a delightful experience for the LAG members and their guests.

Tom Fontana, Marketing and Communications Director of the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, took the group on a riveting tour of not only the art and statuary of the Capitol and the Capitol Visitor Center, but the architecture as well. The group was captivated from the outset by one interesting and enlightening fact after another, delivered in a lively way by Tom, from his encyclopedic knowledge about the Capitol Building, American history, and the artistry in the Capitol.

So much information was imparted, that a recording device would have been needed to adequately capture all of it, but the LAG group never wavered in their interest as Tom punctuated his historical dialogue with little known and sometimes humorous “behind-the-scenes” facts and theories. There was an “unofficial” explanation, for instance, as to why the boot of one of the signers in the John Trumbull painting of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, was every so casually on top of the boot of another signer; or why one artist painted his self-portrait into the frieze with a gaze that will look perpetually down on those in the hall beneath.

The details of how the Capitol Building itself came into existence, and the many interesting stories along the way about the various phases of constructions, setbacks, and victories all added to the interest of the tour. Staring up 18 stories into the air within the Rotunda, the group witnessed the “Apotheosis of George Washington” painted by Italian artist, Constantino Brumidi, who was not only influenced by the Sistine Chapel masterpiece of Michaelangelo, but, who had actually worked as a restorer on this famous masterpiece. The method used by Brumidi of fresco painting and of painting from the uncomfortable angle of flat on the back on a rather rickety scaffolding was identical to that used by Michaelangelo.

The Laurel Art Guild group is extremely appreciative for this opportunity to have viewed firsthand some of the National artistic treasures housed in the Capitol Building, and to have received such a wealth of information from our extraordinary

tour guide along the way. Below are a few comments received from those who attended the trip.



*Carol, thank you for today it was marvelous! Tom was just perfect.*

*Thank you so much for organizing the tour of the Capitol. It was so interesting and I learned so much. Aching back, sore feet, growling stomach were all worth it!!! THANKS!!*

*Carol, today was so wonderful. Thank you for putting it together.*

*I know all of us would enjoy a second trip to the Capitol.*

*Hi Carol, many thanks for organizing this tour. It was just wonderful! Tom did a great job - you can tell he loves his work.*

*Thank you very much indeed for having the US capital tour. It was very interesting to learn a lot and see it in person.*

*Thanks for organizing the Capitol Tours. I learned so much and had fun at the same time. Tom Fontana was great! Please let him know how much he is appreciated.*



## *2016-17 Executive Board*

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*Items with ? are in need of a Volunteer*

## *Newsletter Input Due the 10th of the Month*

Please provide items you would like to have included, as space allows.

Any work in a show? Pictures welcome to brighten our newsletter!

Recent sales?

Your upcoming exhibits?

Calls for artists that you know about and others should know.

Suggestions for Plein Air location?

Laurel Art Guild Highlights  
Montpelier Arts Center  
9652 Muirkirk Rd.  
Laurel, MD 20708