

# LAUREL ART GUILD NEWSLETTER



**MAY 2024**

## President's Message

Here it is, May already, and we arrive at our last formal program presentation of LAG's year. We're in for a special treat from noted watercolor artist David Daniels (see below). To make it easier to arrange carpooling to meetings, we are sending LAG's latest Member List to all members in a separate email.

This is also the meeting where we elect new officers to lead us through the next program year. Please see the Nominating Committee report later in this Newsletter. We thank Carol Leo and her committee for their hard work in finding the best candidates for the coming year.

If you have not already been to see the LAG Open exhibit at the Montpelier Arts Center, by all means try your best to get there – it's wonderful. You'll see lots of different, truly exciting approaches to creating beauty. We thank Anita Carrington and her crew for everything they did to make this happen. And we thank the staff at the Montpelier Arts Center for all their support without which there would be no show.

Next month's meeting is our annual New Members Luncheon on June 15. If you joined LAG after July 1, 2023, you will receive an invitation to attend as our guest. If you are a continuing member, we hope you'll attend too (but at your own expense.)

## May Program

On **Monday, May 13, 2024 at 7pm** **David R. Daniels** will present a lecture-demonstration on *Building Stronger Watercolor Paintings* at the Montpelier Arts Center at 9652 Muirkirk Road, Laurel, MD 20708.

Mr. Daniels is one of the D.C. area's premier watercolor artists. He holds a Master of Arts degree from Central Michigan University. Following 15 years of public-school teaching, he moved to D.C. to pursue an art career. In the past several years, David's talent has earned him the

distinction of Best of Show in the exhibits of such prestigious organizations as the Capitol Hill Art League of Washington, the Cultural Society of Coral Springs, Florida and the Watercolor Association of Washington, D.C. In addition to being a working artist, David is a dynamic and engaging instructor. He is the watercolor instructor for the Smithsonian Institution, is a former instructor at Montgomery College, and teaches workshops throughout the world. David is on the faculty of the Amalfi Coast Music and Arts Festival in Italy.

He has been involved with such art-related activities as the Boat House Art School of Washington, DC, where he was the director for two years, and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden Docent Program. He has affiliations with numerous art organizations and associations. Recently, David was featured in *American Artist Magazine* and his works can be found in two new publications by Rockport Publishers: *The Best of Watercolor Composition* and *Floral Inspirations*. David is included in *Who's Who in American Art*.

His work can be found in corporate collections of such organizations as the Quadrangle Corporation, Michigan Education Association, Home National Bank of Arkansas City Kansas, and the private collection of the National Institutes of Health as well as numerous private collections.



Rock Creek II



Two Crows

More of David's work can be seen at <https://mrwatercolor.com/>

## Exhibits

**June** – WSSC Main Headquarters in Laurel –The show will run from June 3 through September 3

**September** – Kensington Park Library

**Ongoing** - Small Works at MAC. We hung a new show on April 20 which will run through July 29

## LAG Open

Attention art enthusiasts and aficionados! The grand spectacle that is the Laurel Art Guild 55th Open Juried Exhibition has unfurled its colorful canvas for all to behold. If you missed our lively reception, fear not! The show will be enchanting eyes and stirring souls until May 26, 2024, at the Montpelier Art Center.

Let's give a round of applause, or a standing ovation, to our esteemed winners! Especially to our very own Carol Leo, whose masterpiece "Sunset Scamper" galloped its way to third place, and to Diane Shipley for turning her shadowbox into a runway with "Fashionista," which flew off the walls! Bravo, bravo!

Now, let's shine a spotlight on the merit-worthy maestros:

Sorrell Greene, illuminating the darkness with "Seek the Light, It Removes All Darkness"

Diane Dunn, diving deep with "Beneath the Sea"

Mary Beth Akre, bridging the gap with "One Lane Bridge"

And drumroll please! The podium dwellers:

Third Place: Carol Leo, chasing sunsets with "Sunset Scamper"

Second Place: Victoria Ali, riding the waves of "Adaptation, Rising Tide"

First Place: Kwame Otibu Kena, giving us a Mad Men vibe with "Mid Century Modern 003"

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Margaret Boles, Ellen Cort, Diana Doyle, Teresa Ficaretta, and Eva Zang for their invaluable help with receiving the art. A special shoutout goes to Jill Bartos for using her math skills while lending a hand with hanging the art.

Now, dear members, remember, like a masterpiece in its making, our organization thrives on collaboration and participation. So, roll up your sleeves and get a little dirty! Please volunteer, you're the gas that makes this engine run! Your input and assistance are not just appreciated, they're essential!



LAG Open Reception



Carol Leo and Gail Shaw-Clemons, Juror



Gail and Kwame Otibu Kena

## Member News

**John Cholod** has an on-going exhibit at the Laurel-Beltsville Senior Center Avenue of the Arts. It runs until May 31.

**Carol Leo** sold her painting “Heron Hideout” at the WWCA (Washington Watercolor Association) exhibit Serenity and Tranquility exhibit held at the Hera Hub in Washington, D.C. for the last four months. Carol will have four paintings on display at the Kensington Park Library with the WWCA during the month of May.



**Rebecca Rothey's** painting “Sunflowers” was selected for inclusion in the Rhode Island Watercolor Society’s Bloom exhibition.



**Diane Shipley** sold two paintings at the Woman’s Club of Chevy Chase Annual Show and Sale held April 12-14. She also sold her metal sculpture at the LAG Open.

Mary Ellen Simon's painting "Ginger in the Jungle" placed second in the pastel category of the Women's Club of Chevy Chase art exhibit. Better yet, someone bought it.



## Nominating Report

President – Efrain Montanez  
Vice President – Anita Carrington  
Treasurer & Membership Chair – Eva Zang  
Secretary – Jill Bartos

Voting for LAG Officers for the July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025 term will take place during the May 13 meeting. In addition to this slate, nominations from the floor will be accepted – but only if you make sure ahead of time that your nominee is willing to serve.

## Shared by Diane Shipley



## Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Teas, and the Arts 2024-The Artists' Displays

This year's festival took place largely unhampered by the occasional rain sprinkles throughout the day. Festival goers continually arrived onsite, and I have never seen so many smiling faces in one place. A line of tents belonging to LAG members was the first thing that greeted them as they entered the festival grounds. No wonder they were smiling. Studio D, shining with bright hand-crafted jewelry designed by LAG member,



Diane Doyle (D.) and manned by D. and her daughter Mary was first in line. D. has this to say: *The festival was charged with happy energy. And despite the rain, it was a beautiful day. With beautiful artisans, beautiful festival goers!! My daughter and I had soooo much fun!*

As visitors continued up the hill, they encountered Fine Art by Eva Zang, whose colorful original

pieces and alcohol ink designs attracted many comments and purchases. Eva's husband Jim Tkatch shared the space and had his line of photo cards on display and for sale. Under the same tent was Rebecca Myers, whose exquisite original artwork and cards received rave reviews.



Diane Shipley, Pam Bozi, and Carol Leo shared the next tent, each with her own unique style of watercolor paintings, prints and cards. New customers and return customers came by to purchase artwork.



The final LAG display and sales tent contained beautiful plants grown by Linda Botts-Butler, as well as exquisite floral wreath arrangements. Linda commented: *Thank you for encouraging LAG members participation. I enjoyed the group's synergy, conversations, and seeing everyone's beautiful artwork - so inspiring. I agree that despite the rain, the time spent interacting with the community was very rewarding and so much fun!*

LAG had nine members who participated as exhibitors. Thank you to all who put their beautiful work on display for all to enjoy.

Morgan Barton (below), whose display was next to Linda's exhibited her large, bright, beautiful acrylic paintings.



Everyone had at least one sale. CONGRATULATIONS! Although we stopped early because of increased rain, the perseverance paid off.

## Montpelier Festival of Herbs, Teas, and the Arts 2024 continued-The Visitors' Tent

The visitor tent received brisk attention from the visitors right from the beginning. Both children and adults were attracted to the opportunity to create art at one of the media stations set up by LAG. The available media included oil pastel, acrylic, tempura, watercolor, marker, and charcoal.



Our first participants of the day were mainly children, and they were very happy with their creations. As morning wore on, we noticed that a lot of adults were participating this year.



Left: Jill Bartos assists young artist.

Jill Bartos, who was one of three LAG representatives in the visitors' tent put it this way. *Melba and I noticed that more adults than children visited the tent in the morning which was surprising. The questions I heard most often were "Do you all teach classes?" and "Where can I take art classes?" It would be nice if we could have some kind of flyer or card.* (editor's note: agreed! We did give them the website for reference.)

*Thanks Carol for organizing such an enjoyable and rewarding event!*



Right: Margaret Boles helps with Cleanup.

**THANK YOU!**

**to all LAG Participants  
& to Holly Burnham,  
MAC Coordinator!**

Above: Melba Brown assists visitors and paints at the same time!



Linda Botts-Butler and Husband; Morgan Barton and Grandmother; Anita Carrington; Rebecca Myers and Husband; Eva Zang, Jim Tkatch, Jill Bartos; Melba Brown; Margaret Boles; Diane Shipley; D. Doyles and Daughter; Pam Bozzi; Carol Leo



## 2023-24 EXECUTIVE BOARD

### Elected Officers

**President:** Mary Ellen Simon  
[president@laurelartguild.org](mailto:president@laurelartguild.org)

**Vice President:** Anita Carrington  
[lagopen@laurelartguild.org](mailto:lagopen@laurelartguild.org)

**Treasurer:** Eva Zang Tkatch  
[treasurer@laurelartguild.org](mailto:treasurer@laurelartguild.org)

**Secretary:** Jill Bartos  
[secretary@laurelartguild.org](mailto:secretary@laurelartguild.org)

**Immediate Past President:**  
Carol Leo  
[IPP@laurelartguild.org](mailto:IPP@laurelartguild.org)

### Appointed Officers

**Membership Chair:** Eva Zang Tkatch  
[membership@laurelartguild.org](mailto:membership@laurelartguild.org)

**Exhibits Chair:** Diane Shipley  
**Co-Chair:** Linda Botts Butler  
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**Webmaster:** John Cholod  
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**Plein Air Chair:** Carol Leo  
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**Program Chair:** OPEN

**LAG Open Chair:** Anita Carrington  
**Assistant Chair:** Fiori Tesfamariam  
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**Workshops:** OPEN

**Historian:** OPEN

**Publicity:** OPEN

**Festival Activities:** OPEN

**PLEASE CONSIDER  
VOLUNTEERING FOR OPEN  
POSITIONS!**

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

***Newsletter Input Due on  
the 15th of the Month***