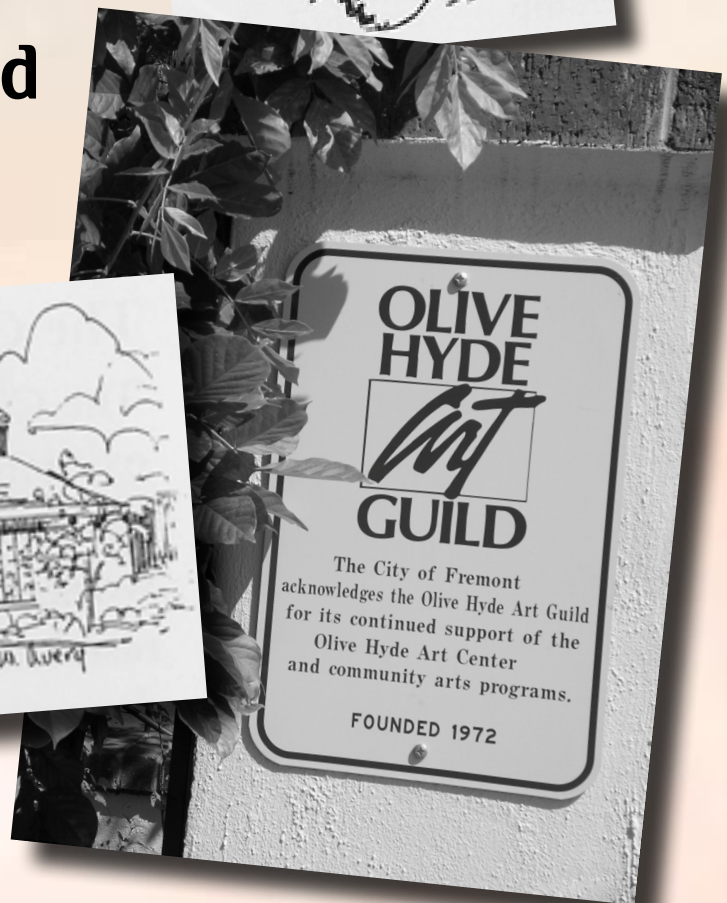




# OLIVE HYDE *Art* GUILD

Art With a Heart:  
The Olive Hyde Art Guild  
Through the Times



by Radhika Sharma  
June 2021

# **OLIVE HYDE *Art* GUILD**

## *Art With a Heart: The Olive Hyde Art Guild Through the Times*

*By Radhika Sharma*

*Cover Design by Lisa Stambaugh*

*June, 2021*

Interviews and profiles of esteemed members of the Guild.  
These interviews and profiles reflect the reminiscences of current and  
former members of the Guild.

***Joan Logan***  
***(as narrated by Joan Logan)***

Esteemed former member Joan was one of the 13 ladies who started the Olive Hyde Art Guild. After the Guild was deactivated, it was revived, and the City of Fremont also became involved with it. “After proposition 13 passed money became scarce it became important for the Art Guild to reinvent itself.” reminisces Joan.

Charlotte Britton (The Art Classes Director for the City of Fremont) was the one who invited members of the various art classes to attend the first meeting at Gail Culver’s home to consider reactivating the Guild after Prop. 13 passed. One of Charlotte’s many duties was also overseeing the exhibits at the gallery. Charlotte Britton is the reason the Guild and the Gallery exists today.

A Guild members Pat and Bob De Marta agreed to have the Guild meetings at their home. The Art Guild then choose a VP, a President and a treasurer. Gail Coover opened a savings A/c with the Bank and the guild was back in action again. Joan Logan was chosen as treasurer.



***Joan Logan***

Joan notes that she is “thrilled and pleased with how the art guild has progressed!”

“This is a gallery where people want to show up in!” June also notes the contribution of Charlotte Britton Anderson, who brought a lot of wonderful artists to the Guild and the gallery.

“The Guild has been fun! It is a community of people to pull together and has never been a clique.” she notes.

Much has changed since the early days of the Guild; the Olive Hyde Art Guild meetings were initially set up as a luncheon which the ladies would meet on a monthly basis and it evolved as more members were brought into it. The space and the courtyard were also remarkably different – it was simply decomposed granite and a beat-up old garage with no landscaping.

Soon after the Holiday show and sale, funds were donated to improve the gallery space. And over time it was transformed into the space in its current form.

Joan really appreciates that the Guild is a hands-on organization where everyone contributes. Her parting advice for the Art Guild is that effort should be made to bring in new officers, who work their way up the system and transform the board. “It should be a new experience for everyone; new people bring in new energy!”

## *An interview with the current Olive Hyde Art Guild President Gail Blalock*

“I am not an artist! Nor have any artistic abilities,” says Gail in her modest and unassuming style, “...but I admire people who do something artistic!” A long-time member of the Olive Hyde Art Guild, Gail has contributed much to the Art Guild.

Her early experiences with the Art Guild were very encouraging, “Everyone was so friendly!” she says and Gail instantly felt at home. Soon after in the 1990’s Gail formally joined the Olive Hyde Art Guild and after her retirement in 2005 became a very active member of the Guild.

The Art Guild has evolved much since her association with it in the past decades.

When quizzed about the astute choices she makes as the Guild President, Gail credits it to her organized nature and her background as a City Clerk for the City of Milpitas.

“Unlike other boards, this is a fun board to be a part of!” she notes.

The year 2020 has also been a landmark year for the Art Guild. The pandemic has transformed the way the Olive Hyde Art Guild operates (by necessity). “It is unlikely that we will go back to doing things the way they were, with everything being done in person – it is likely that it will be a combination of in person and online activities.” Says Gail. However, she notes, that “...there is nothing like going to a gallery and to reach out and experience a piece of work!” She also meditates over the changes in the offing. “Perhaps we might not be able to do receptions in person for some time.” We are truly navigating a new world.

Having been a long time member of the art guild, Gail has several fond memories of the various programs and activities. “I loved the demonstration on how to make cards and the tie and dye silk scarf that I made is a proud addition to my wardrobe!”

She also notes that owing to popularity of the several programs of the guild, the Guild has often used the Fukaya room in the Fremont Main Library. The current trend of online programs has been a blessing as many of the Olive Hyde Art Guild members are aging and some might not drive at night.

When quizzed about the need of the hour for the Art Guild, Gail outlines several steps.



**Gail Blalock**

“Over the years, the Guild membership has started aging and we need to get younger people active in the Guild. Therefore, we gift all the scholarship recipients one year of the Guild membership!”

Other outreach efforts include reaching out to students to help in the Guild and earn community service hours in the process. However, Gail notes that owing the hectic lives of students and the timing of the zoom activities and meetings, the participation often is more suitable for retired members of the community.

Gail’s greatest concern is that in the last few years getting active volunteers for the Board has been a challenge. “The by laws allow for only two years of service for the Olive Hyde Art Guild President and Vice President and finding new board members has been a consistent challenge.” Gail encourages those who attend Guild programs to step up and join the Guild.” It’s a wonderful social group and the friendships formed here carry on for life!” She also shares with concern, that there has been talk of disbanding the Guild and that could be prevented if there was an addition of new members on the board.

She notes with gratitude that several members have devoted countless hours of their time to the Guild activities!

In parting Gail adds, “It’s important to get people to do short terms jobs for the Art Guild. This will give them a taste of the work and feel for the Guild and they will then stay and become more involved!”

*Reminisces of Beauty*  
*An Interview with the Olive Hyde Art Guild*  
*President 2021-2022, Judy Anglin*  
*(with a brief anecdote from Kim Bach)*

Soft spoken and elegant, Judy Anglin has had a long association with the Olive Hyde Art Guild.

A Fremont resident since 1978, Judy recalls fondly her introduction to the Art Guild during a City of Fremont’s recreation watercolor class.

“I was a young parent then,” says Judy “...and delighted at how friendly and inviting everyone from the guild was!”

Judy slowly became more involved in the Art Guild’s activities, helping with the Olive Hyde Art Guild holiday show and assisting soon with leadership positions.

“Our number **one** goal has always been to support the gallery,” says Judy referring to the Olive Hyde Art Gallery, a pulsating center of creativity and artist engagement.



*Judy Anglin*

Judy mentions several steps in the evolution of the Art Guild, leading to the current version of the Art Guild roster and activities. These include Olive Hyde Art Guild’s endeavors to support the Gallery by absorbing expenses for exhibit publicity, postcards and refreshments for guests. “This outreach had a great impact on the community – it brought people to the center and the gallery. We soon enabled capital improvements to the gallery – lighting, flooring, windows and blinds and more!”

Over time Judy’s association with Olive Hyde Art Guild grew, as did the Olive Hyde Art Guild’s association with the organization and the community. Several businesses in the community supported and continue to support the Art Guild. These include: Grants from Fremont Bank and Fremont Bank Foundation, Tri City Voice for Art Guild Publicity, several OHAG member trust funds, and numerous community Business Memberships.

Judy also mentions the Holiday show at length. “The holiday show has a fine reputation! Feedback from participating artists screened for the show is always complimentary. Local businesses and restaurants are proud to be associated with the event and this expectation keeps the Art Guild and its members on their toes.” Judy is also immensely proud of the Art Guild’s contribution to the high school and college student’s scholarship work, the Abode Services, the Serra Center Art Workshops and all the other Art Guild partnerships with the City of Fremont.

“However, it would be wonderful to see more community involvement in the Olive Hyde Art Guild!” she says. The Olive Hyde Art Gallery was donated by Ms. Olive Hyde and before the buildings were

donated to the City, they served as Ms. Hyde's residence alongside a gift shop. After the City acquired the space several modifications were made to the residence/gift shop space.

Looking ahead, Judy envisions collaborations, associations and representations from various Fremont organizations on the board. These possibilities include the Fremont **ART** Association, business leaders, education leaders and the representatives from the Fremont Chambers of Commerce.

Judy advocates for opening further community associations because that will enable more participation from the community. "More people will visit!" she adds.

She fondly remembers the Art Guild's efforts in the past years to bring national exhibits home to the community. "These outside exhibits would come in, and their presence would bring in a youth population and families and teenagers!" she says underscoring the need for deeper community support.

Judy was also a key member of the Olive Hyde Art Guild team that curated the extremely successful Project Mini Art in 2020. The Project Mini Art was created in response the changed timelines of the pandemic and marked a first in the Guild's foray in the online sales space. Additionally, the OHAG Members Juried Show held biannually since 2001, gives member artists an opportunity to exhibit their art at the Olive Hyde Art Gallery.

"My deepest aspiration for the Guild," says Judy "...is in seeking a wider partnership with the community!"

When pressed for an anecdote from the days past, Judy shares the experience of one of the former curator's Kim Bach.

"Immediately one story comes to mind. It goes like this.... opening receptions of each new exhibit were held at the Gallery, always on a Friday night from 7-9pm. Since Kim lived in Berkeley, rather than drive home late at night, she would sometimes go upstairs in the Gallery and sleep or rest. Sometimes, as the story goes, she would hear footsteps on the stairway leading up to the room at the top where she was resting.

(Kim Bach notes: )

Twice, I heard very distinct footsteps...I think it was 7 steps and then the landing and then 5 more (but I might have that backwards). They stopped at the door and then nothing...no retreating steps...nothing after I called out. I had heard that others had experienced things that could only be explained by a ghostly presence and we assumed that it was Olive Hyde unhappy with anyone spending the night in her place!

Judy is a true admirer and supporter of the Olive Hyde Art Guild! The wonderful stories of creativity and camaraderie of members like Joan, Judy and Gail and so many more keep the legacy of Ms. Olive Hyde alive!

\*\*\*