

# Conversazione

Newsletter of the River Region Art Association - July 2008

## THE AD SELLING CAMPAIGN FOR AWESOME ART IN AUTUMN IS NOW UNDERWAY

The Awesome Art in Autumn Program Booklet is an important part of the Awesome Art Exhibit. The sale of ads in the booklet helps raise funds to offset expenses of co-sponsoring this event. **RRAA IS ASKING EACH MEMBER TO SELL TWO ADS.** Please ask your friends and neighborhood businesses you patronize to buy an ad in our Program Booklet. Enclosed with last month's newsletter were forms to use in selling ads. Please bring the completed forms, checks and ad layouts to the Gallery marked to the attention of Sally McConnell. **The deadline for bringing in ads is August 15.**

This annual cultural event featuring artisans and artists in a plantation setting will be held October 11-12 at Houmas House Plantation 10:00AM-4:00PM. Awesome Art is sponsored by RRAA, Houmas House Plantation, Louisiana Division of the Arts, Baton Rouge Arts Council and WCEF Louisiana Culture Department.

The art exhibit and competition is open to all artists, adult and youth. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded. Judges for this year's exhibit are Libby Johnson, Michael Crespo, Ron and Judy Kelly and Steve Schneider. Additional forms and other info regarding ad sales are available at the Gallery or on our website [artgumbo.com](http://artgumbo.com).

**RRAA** is accepting applications for booths for the two-day Awesome Art exhibit and sale. The fee for booths is \$50 for RRAA members and \$75 for non-members. Booths must be juried in by the Awesome Art Committee. All art must be the original work of the artists. No commercial, retail or food booths allowed. For more information about renting a booth call Donna Braud at 225-328-7354.

### Field Trips or Family Trips

Field Trips or Family Trips is the suggested theme for the August Gallery Exhibit. Many of our members get inspiration from places they visit, be it right here in our own river region, across America or abroad. So bring in your travel artwork. This is a community exhibit so all may enter and all art forms will be accepted. There will be no entry fee. The exhibit will be judged and ribbons awarded. Please remember that all hanging artwork must have wires for hanging. Take-in is August 1 to 7. Please pick up any artwork that is still at the gallery from previous exhibits.

### ART GUMBO MARKET

Sales at our Art Gumbo Market remain good. We will have the next Art Gumbo Market with the Ascension Farmers on Saturday, July 19, from 8am-noon at Hwy 621 and Airline. RRAA plans to continue to set up at the market on the third Saturday of each month. Any member of RRAA may have a sales booth at Art Gumbo. Please call Jean Liehe (673-5484) or Linda Simms (677-8889) to sign up for a booth and be included in the advertisement for the Art Gumbo Market.

## **CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS**

**AUTHORS IN AUGUST - How to Write and Publish a Novel** - Saturday, Aug 9, 10:00AM-12:00 NOON. Donation Fee to RRAA \$3.00. Several local authors will share their knowledge with you. Included are RRAA member **Sylvia Rochester** - Proofing and Revisions; **Elaine Grant** - How to sell to Harlequin; **Eleanor Cocreham** - Men's Reactions to Romance Novels; **Lynn Lamousin** - Screenwriting (Producer of The Lady from Sockholm - sock puppets gone wild!); **Connie Rachal** - Writer's Block; **Tammy Riviere** - What Makes a Good Novel; **Nancy Brandt** - Motivation & Getting a Book Finished. **Don't miss this workshop if you have ever had a dream to write.**

**Oil Painting** (Beginner & Intermediate) - Jan Hebert, Instructor. 4 sessions on Wednesdays, 6pm to 8pm. ONGOING CLASSES. \$45 for 4 sessions. Jan's ONGOING ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN will resume in August.

**HELP RRAA OFFER INSPIRING CLASSES!** Please fill out the Art Class Questionnaire sent to you in May and return to Jean Liehe. Extra copies are at the Gallery or you may print one from our website [artgumbo.org](http://artgumbo.org). We need your feedback so we can offer classes that interest you and your friends and family.

All members are invited to **WEDNESDAY OPEN PAINTING DAY** at the Gallery. Bring your supplies and spend a few hours in leisurely, unstructured art work with RRAA colleagues.

**ATTENTION!!** All art left in Gallery from past theme exhibits **not picked up** within 90 days after pick-up date becomes the property of River Region Art Association. **Pick-up your artwork promptly.**

Also, artwork exhibited at Jerry Folse Seafood has been brought back to Gallery. Artists, please come pick up your artwork.

**GET ONLINE:** All members! Put your biography and photos of your artwork on the **RRAA WEBSITE**. For more info on how to do this contact our webmaster Gene Ferguson at [webmaster@artgumbo.org](mailto:webmaster@artgumbo.org).

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS Melissa Jane Lake and Eric Vosburg.** We look forward to seeing your work in the Gallery. Be sure to take advantage of our Summer Special - you can exhibit 2 pieces of artwork free of charge now until September 30th.

**RRAA NEEDS VOLUNTEERS TO MAN THE GALLERY.** Please volunteer to man the Gallery one day (6 hours from 10AM to 4PM) or one or two half days (10 to 1 or 1 to 4) a month. To volunteer, call the Gallery (225 644-8496) and leave a message for Carolyn Bowman.

## **ARTIST OF THE MONTH**

**RRAA ARTIST OF THE MONTH for July 2008 is MAMIE BLANCHARD BRAUD.** Mamie Braud, a resident of Thibodaux, finds it a joy to have been given the privilege of learning

to paint and striving to see the beauty of God's creations in this world. Mamie takes inspiration from the bayou country's abundant choice: flowers in all seasons, landscapes of historic plantation homes with majestic moss-draped oaks and blooming magnolia trees. She also paints the traditional "Cajun" and "shotgun" and "camp" houses along the bayou and swamp waters. These are among a few subjects that she especially likes to paint because being a native of this area and having been born on the banks of Bayou Lafourche this love of the land and its culture is the one she wants to share. She believes that painting is one's own interpretation or expression of life and a great deal of satisfaction for her is received by sharing her love of art with others.

Most of her paintings are inspired by her own photographs taken during travels throughout the country and in this area. Her computer is her best ally and she stores a magnificent collection of photos of what she plans to paint and also what she has painted.

The formal art education she received did not begin until her husband's work brought them to Brewton, Alabama where she enrolled as a student at the Junior College. When they returned to this area she studied under several artists and has acquired a distinctive style of her own that has rewarded her with numerous ribbons and awards. Her paintings and commissioned works hang in many family and friends' homes and offices. Her best critics are her family consisting of husband, four sons with three spouses, fourteen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren scattered throughout the country.

Her choice of painting technique is a realistic style. Although she has worked in different mediums her favorite remains acrylic after being introduced to it over thirty years ago. Mamie is a one of the charter members of River Region Art Association and is also a member of the Terrebonne Fine Arts Guild in Houma, Louisiana. The public is invited to stop by the RRAA Gallery and view a collection of Mamie's paintings

### **SUMMER EXHIBIT SPECIAL**

We want to see your artwork! The RRAA Board invites each member of RRAA to exhibit two pieces of your artwork in the Gallery **FREE OF CHARGE (no exhibit fee)** now until September 30, 2008. No pieces larger than 20x30 please. Bring to the Gallery any Tues-Sat, 10AM-4PM.

**NEW DATE AND TIME FOR AUGUST GENERAL MEETING. We are trying a new date and time for our July general meeting** in order to encourage wider participation in the Association. So all members, please try to make this July meeting. There will be **DOOR PRIZES!**

### **PLEASE MARK THE FOLLOWING DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR**

- Jul 17**      **July General Meeting for All RRAA Members, Thursday 6:30 PM at RRAA Gallery**
- Jul 19**      **Art Gumbo with Ascension Farmers Market at Airline Hwy & 621, 8am to Noon**
- Aug 1-7**     **Take-in for Field Trip/Family Trip August Exhibit at Gallery**
- Aug 15**      **Deadline for Awesome Art Program Booklet Ad Sale**

## **COMING EVENTS IN THE RIVER REGION:**

- **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Summer Invitational Art Exhibit** at the Alfred C. Glassell Exhibition Gallery, LSU School of Art, Shaw Center for the Arts, Convention at Lafayette St., Baton Rouge. Featuring new works by artists in all media inspired by the theme Hot Tamales. Reception date Saturday, July 12, 2008, 7:00-9:00PM. Exhibition runs July 12 - August 19, 2008.

- **Orchestra from the City of Meylan, France** (sister-city to Gonzales) will perform at St. Theresa's on Tuesday, July 8 at 6:30PM and again on Thursday, July 10 at the Household of Faith at 6:30 PM. The concert is FREE.

- **St. Luke's Episcopal Church Arts and Crafts Fair** is taking applications for booths for their next fair on Oct 4, 2008. Booth rate is \$70. Phone 225-275-5588.

- **RRAA** is accepting applications for art booths for it's annual **Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens at Houmas House Plantation** which will be held on Oct 11 and 12., 2008, 10AM-4PM. The fee for booths is \$50 for RRAA members and \$75 for non-members. This is our biggest art event of the year. Booths must be juried in by the Awesome Art Committee. All art must be the original work of the artists. No commercial, retail or food booths allowed. Call Donna at 225-328-7354.

**RIVER REGION ART ASSOCIATION IS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION. WE RELY ON UNPAID VOLUNTEERS TO KEEP THE GALLERY OPEN AND THE ASSOCIATION FUNCTIONING. PLEASE COME TO MEETINGS AND VOLUNTEER TO HELP US REALIZE OUR MISSION TO MAKE ART ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE TO ALL IN THE RIVER REGION.**