



River Region Art Association Newsletter

August 2009



The River Region Art Gallery opened July 1 at the Houmas House. The first recorded sale in our new location was Sylvia Rochester's book!

The Grand Opening for our new Art Gallery location at Houmas House was Wednesday, July 15 at 10 a.m. on the lawn under the oaks. We had a huge red ribbon cut by our president, Betty Marks! The event was attended by: many of our members, Kevin Kelly, Ascension Chamber President Sherrie Despino, Parish President Tommy Martinez, Council Members Dennis Cullen and Pat Bell, Miss Gonzales Jambalaya Chanie Frederic, Miss Teen Gonzales Jambalaya Courtney Gautreaux, and various friends of the arts. There were pictures and write-ups in the newspapers. Kevin graciously had snacks prepared on this hot, sunny day. There was even cold champagne!

Our first Art Gumbo Market at the Houmas House on the River Road on Saturday, July 18 was a success! Most artists enjoyed sales even if the temperatures were steaming hot! We had a wonderful day. Kevin Kelly had his Chef Jeremy Langlois to set up a free tasting booth with a wonderful shrimp dish which was enjoyed by all. He plans to offer this each month. Artists participating were: Sylvia Rochester, Josie Young, Sally Mc Connell, Mary Demarest, LJ Mayers, Kenneth Taylor, Peggy Carbo, Mary Crochet, Skip Goldstein, Fred Guidry, Robin Rotollo, and Diane Tygier. We also had two non-profits set up booths: Louisiana CHIPS and Child Advocacy Services. Having visitors at Houmas House is a real plus for our Art Gumbo Market, and our artists are getting much more exposure than before.

Our next Art Gumbo Market will be held on Saturday, August 15 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. under the trees at Houmas House again. Artists, bring your art, table and chair, and tent if you want and be prepared to sell. Artists who do not have credit card capabilities can go through the RRAA Gallery to get charge sales approved but a 20% donation will be taken. Artists will receive checks from those sales at the beginning of the following month.



DOCENTS REMINDERS

Who needs or wants more training? Several docents remarked that they would like more training. We want all volunteers to feel comfortable when they are docents. So if you're not comfortable after being trained, speak up and ask for more training. Please call Carolyn Bowman at 622-6667 or Betty Marks at 647-0595. After all, the RRAA needs competent and confident docents!!!!!! We can make training available several times a month if you ask.

There is refrigeration and microwavable facilities for us. In the middle of the shop there is a cold drink machine. We can put our sandwiches on the bottom shelf way in the back. There is a microwave machine in the room across from the women's restroom.

Docents need to ask the front cashier to unlock the back door when you arrive, and remember to ask them to lock it when you leave.

All docents need to know the combination to the key box that is attached to a cabinet which is locked. Write the combination and keep it with you when you docent for the day. Write down the president's phone number and keep it with you when you work, Betty Marks, 647-0595. All work procedures are filed in a white binder kept behind the register.



ANOTHER REMINDER FOR DOCENTS

Please be aware that as docents we are to behave professionally using "inside" voices while speaking in our art area to customers or friends. Voices travel to the front of the Gift Shop. Please be aware of this when two or three gather talking and visiting in the art area. And remember, we have been asked by Kevin NOT to engage in conversation with his paid employees!



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

There are many members who have given their time and effort recently to help with the move or just plain "helped" a whole lot! They deserve a "special" thank you.

These names are not the only people who have helped, but their names were submitted to the newsletter for special recognition:

Carolyn Bowman.....for keeping the calendar filled for the new Gallery

Donna Braud...donating postcards for promoting the new Gallery and Art Gumbo Market

Mary Demarest...sewing drapes and painting the outdoor sign for the new Gallery

Gene and Jo Ann Ferguson....donating for computer purchase for RRAA

Jan Hebert....arranging the new Gallery for marketing purposes

Betty Marks.....for getting the new Gallery up and opened

Sally McConnell...painting the pedestals for three-dimensional art at new Gallery

Carolyn Milner....developing and printing new RRAA Brochure

John Robbins ...for colorizing the Houmas House YELLOW for our Awesome Art prints and putting out signs to advertise the Art Market

Linda and Kevin Simms.....donating for computer purchase and screens for RRAA

Alma Sholmire....researching and completing a load of paperwork for the RRAA

Kenneth Taylor...for providing and shaping the wood for the inside palette sign and putting out signs to advertise the Art Market

Diane Tygier....painting the inside small art gallery sign

And to all the others who helped in numerous ways! Thank you! (If you think someone should be specially thanked and their names were not published, please email Shirley Russell their names at starw0man@eatel.net)



"WHAT AMERICA MEANS TO ME" WINNERS

The July Community Art Exhibit is featured at the Art Center where this month's work was displayed.

The adult winners are: 1st place Skip Goldstein with fused glass entitled "POW MIA Flag;" 2nd place Donna Braud with an acrylic painting entitled "Two Hurricanes or Better Than One;" 3rd place Robin Rotolo with jewelry entitled "Let Freedom Ring."

The children winners are: 1st place Jacob Bush, age 9, with an acrylic painting entitled "Red, White, and Blue;" 2nd place Emily Bush, age 6, with an acrylic painting entitled "Fireworks for Freedom."



GO WILD WITH WESTERN ART

The Community Theme Art Exhibit at River Region Art Center for August is "Cowboys, Indians, and the Wild, Wild West". You could paint a still life using your boots and hat, depict horses, show a western landscape, make an Indian totem pole, show a saddle or guns, or draw your favorite cowboy. Paintings, drawings, photography, or three-dimensional art is acceptable.

Both youth and adults may enter two free pieces each. Three-dimensional art must be ready to hang with wire on the back. Take in days will be Saturday, August 1; Thursday, August 6; and Saturday, August 8. Bring your art to the River Region Art Center in Gonzales between 10 a.m.-4 p.m. any of those days. The art will be judged and ribbons awarded. Artists will be recognized in the newspaper and on the RRAA website at www.artgumbo.org. The exhibit will hang until the end of August.

ARTIST-OF-THE-MONTH

Our new August artist-of-the-month is Martha Robert. Her art work is on display at the River Region's Art Gallery at the Houmas House for the month of August. Please come by to see her work.

FREE ACRYLIC WORKSHOP

Way back in April or May we had a sign up on a first come-first served basis for a Free Acrylic Workshop. Well, it's almost time! Don't forget it will be held on Saturday, August 29 from 2-5 p.m. at the Art Center. (Sorry, I haven't been given any information to deliver other than date, time, and location.)

LET'S AD IT ALL UP!

Time is running out for our ads for the Awesome Art Program. We really need your help in making this campaign a success. Only four members have remembered to get their ads in. The deadline is August 15, and we have targeted September 1 to have them printed and ready to distribute to the community. We ask every member to sell one or two ads for our program. It is a lovely booklet with a colored cover and nice quality paper.

If you want your business card in the Awesome Art Program...it is \$35 and we will need your business card along with the check sent to the River Region Art Association, 1835 N. Magnolia Ave. Gonzales, LA 70737.

If you are going to sell any to your family or business associates, the costs are listed. Business card ads are \$35...Half page ads (5"x4") \$60...Full Page Ads (5"x 8") \$100. All ads are in black & white and must be copy ready. Ads may also be emailed to donnadidit@cox.net if you do not mail them....but the check must be mailed to RRAA. These Programs are distributed in the community prior to the event to advertise the festival. They are also passed out to the visitors to the event as they enter Houmas House. Any questions: call Donna Braud 225/328-7354.



MEMBERS WHO WANT TO DISPLAY WORK AT AWESOME ART IN BOOTHS

Members who wish to display their artworks at the Festival can get a booth for a \$50 fee. If you know of other artists or craftsmen interested in setting up a booth for AA at Houmas House....they can get the form online and submit it with a \$75 fee. This covers both days of the event. Any literary artist may set up a card table with their books only for \$10 for the weekend, or five (5) writers may go together with a large table for \$50. Send check and application to RRAA in Gonzales.



CALL FOR HELP WITH AWESOME ART FESTIVAL

Awesome Art at Houmas House will be the weekend of October 10 and 11. All members, please remember that it takes a whole team to successfully arrange for a festival. Depending on just Donna Braud and Jan Hebert to do all the work is not realistic. Many of the jobs are small and can be done from home if you work. Donna Braud works. Jan Hebert works. Many of our members work. This is a huge undertaking and must be shared by ALL members. Together we can do it.

Come to the next Membership Meeting on August 9 at 2 p.m. at the Art Center to find out how Awesome Art is progressing, and what more needs to be done. Come join the meeting and ask what you can do to **help** with the festival!!!!

We need our new members to volunteer and discover what our organization is all about. Working and sharing planning can be fun for a group of like-minded people! Volunteer and put your name down for a small task. Rally behind and offer to **help** Donna Braud and Jan Hebert for a successful Awesome Art!!!!

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING AUGUST 9, SUNDAY 2 P.M. AT ART CENTER (second Sunday of each month)

NEXT BOARD MEETING AUGUST 16, SUNDAY 2 P.M. AT ART CENTER (third Sunday of each month)