



River Region Art Association Newsletter

November 2009



From the Newsletter Editor's Desk:

At the October meeting I was asked by the Board and members who attended, to address a message to the general membership regarding recent comments, complaints, criticism, and lack of responsibility made to some of our members regarding the running of the association.

Without mentioning names or specific incidents, I will list some of the "concerns" I heard expressed at the latest meeting.

- Few members attending Board or Membership meetings
- Removing of another member's art from display
- Not understanding the Board's reasons for making particular decisions
- Problem with members signing up to display their art but do not train and/or docent
- Few members volunteering for service
- Older, dedicated volunteers tired of being called on for so much volunteering because others are not doing their share
- Membership meetings should include guest speakers

I will now pass along the "comments" that I heard: By the publishing of attendance, it can be seen that there is a very, low attendance each month. This gives the impression of not being concerned about the mission nor the regulations of the association. According to our By-Laws we were NOT created for displaying work at an art gallery. An art gallery wasn't in existence at that time! Our art association was created to promote artists and to make our community aware of the arts. This includes many things besides an art gallery.

It is suggested that members attend Board or Membership meetings to be aware of what's going on BEFORE decisions are made; to express their opinions about the Board decisions that they don't agree with, or to challenge a previous decision.

The Board has had to make a lot of decisions simply because few show up for Membership meetings. The Board understands there are some who are not happy with recent Board decisions. The last Board meeting had three (3) Board members to make decisions!

We also have an Art Center to keep open for a place to have business meetings each month, a place for membership to meet in small groups to paint and socialize together, a place to display exhibits, a place to teach classes to the public. Those who have art hanging at Houmas House must docent at the Art Gallery there. Those who do not have work hung at Houmas House may display their work at the Art Center in Gonzales, and they can help at the Art Center to keep it open to the public.

Besides the Board of Officers, there is a need for other tasks that can be done at home or on the weekends by members: keep up the scrapbook, train new members, purchase household and business supplies, make sure supplies are at both gallery and center; check and accept that all art is appropriate for Gallery display; make rounds monthly at Art Center and Art Gallery to ensure that only trained and signed up members have work displayed, coordinator for the theme exhibits, coordinator working the cash register for Art Gumbo Market Saturdays, just to name a few! (Interested members call **Betty Marks** at 647-0595 to volunteer.)

We have worked very hard to get where we are, so let's ALL work together! Show up for the meetings with new ideas, ask questions, feel free to disagree, debate, find answers to your questions!!! Everyone's voice can be heard. The next monthly Membership meeting is November 8th, and the next Board meeting is November 15th.

Guest speaker for November 8th will be **Joan Murray** who will tell us how she arrived at creating the unique jewelry she designs. There will be information on the art trip to Meylan, France in April. We will also discuss preparations for our Deck the Halls Open House and the December Art Gumbo Market schedule. We have a lot of opportunities coming up for all artists! You are an important part of the RRAA art scene!

Be there to participate in the planning and advancement of your art association. The Board wants your ideas! Call the president and ask that your name be placed on the Agenda and tell the membership your ideas or concerns. November 8th at 2 p.m. will be election of officers! Please come to meet the candidates and vote!!!



Shirley Russell, Newsletter editor

OCTOBER BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The October Board/Membership meeting was held at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 18, 2009 at the Art Center. Those present were: **Betty Marks**, president; **John Robbins**, parliamentarian; **Jan Hebert**, member-at-large; **Elaine Champagne** substituted for the secretary (thanks again); and members **Donna Braud**, **Carolyn Bowman**, **Gaynell Moore**, **Cy Rawls**, **Robin Rotolo**, **Shirley Russell**, and **John Hebert**, member and guest speaker.



SALES FOR THE MONTH

The artist with the most sales for the month of October is **L. J. Mayers!** These artists also enjoyed sales at the Art Gallery: **Diane Tygier**, **Susan Sheets**, **Betty Marks**, **Louise Hansen**, **Carolyn Bowman**, **Ken Taylor**, **Sally McConnell**, **Helen Haw**, **Sylvia Rochester**, **Robin Rotolo**, **Jan Hebert**, **Carolyn Milner**, **Josie Young**, **Alexandria Bernard**. We had a great month for sales! This includes sales up to October 25.



Walking in the Awesome Rain!

The weekend of Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens was WET! But that did not dampen the spirit for the ARTS! River Region Art Association, who presented the art event, went on with the Awesome Show in spite of the rainy weather....and many people walked through the rain to see the ART! Even though the sun did not shine, the Awesome Art competition displayed 303 pieces of art at Houmas House this year. It was judged by **Diego Largaia**, **Darry Parr**, **Karen Wallsten**, and **Steve Bourgeois**...what a job they had to do! Over 200 adults entries competed and youth from twenty different schools entered in the youth categories. The school with the most art spirit was **St. James Gifted Center** represented by 39 students. **Lynn Bolding** is their art teacher and she accepted the Louisiana Art Spirit Award at the reception on Sunday, Oct 11.

RRAA President, **Betty Marks**, presented memorial plaques to the families of two RRAA members who passed away this year. **Gerald Lotz** and **Jessie Bourgoyne** were the members who colored our community with their creative art and they will be truly missed.

Many thanks to the sponsors who supported the arts this year: COX, Harry and David, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Chip's Grocery, Don's Seafood Hut, Eatel, Treads and Care, Coca Cola, LaMar Advertising, LA Homes and Gardens Magazine, Ascension Magazine, and especially Kevin Kelly who provided a beautiful backdrop for the ARTS with Houmas House Plantation and Gardens. The Louisiana Division of the Arts and the Baton Rouge Arts Council partially supported the Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens event with Decentralized Grant Funding. The business community supported the ARTS also with advertising in the Awesome Art Program Guide.

Over 200 entertainers, art demonstrators, and Arts and Crafts booth vendors weathered the weekend under tents and on the plantation porches to dodge the raindrops. Visitors toted umbrellas but brought smiles and cameras as they enjoyed the art, music, and beautiful fresh-rained gardens. It was an awesome challenge with awesome results! Thanks to all members who helped in any way to make this event happen! We especially thank **Donna Braud** and **Jan Hebert** who worked really, really hard to make this a super event!

Adult Awards at Awesome Art

Best of Show

39C Jovann Armstrong, "The Snowball Stand"

Master of Color

20C Muriel Prejean, "Oayka Shadows"

Most Creative Award

82A Darryl Babin, "Portrai of a Student: Lasseigne"

Da Vinci Award

24B June Tuma, "Guarding the Fairgrounds"

Painting

1 38C Carolyn Lantz, "Garden Guard"

2 17B JoAnn Mobley, "Magnolia Study"

3 21B Kathy Daigle, "The Dogs' Habit"

4 26B Lisa Diamond, "My Father's Cars"

5 29A Larry Downs, "The Chair"

H 63B Craig Black, "Incidental Tourist"

H 50B Summer Perkins, "Uptown Gate #1"

H 81C Joan Chapman, "Painter at Houmas"

H 41A Mia Freneaux, "Country View"

Photography

1 37C Dawn Broussard, "Broussard's Barn"

2 62C Donna Smith, "Forgotten Pier"

3 64C Mimi Fowler, "Shadows of New Orleans"

H 85B Kim Braud, "Best Friends"

H 8A Donna Braud, "What is This Stuff?"

H 72A Amy Gautreau, "Beauty of Time"

Drawing

1 36C Dawn Broussard, "Little Bitty Bang Bang"

2 24A June Tuma, "Louisiana Farm"

3 40A Jovann Armstrong, Untitled

H 79A Ronald Stasko, "To the 4th and the 5th Generation"

H 79C Ronald Stasko, "Sewing Table and Chair"

H 74B Alana Rogers, Untitled

3-Dimensional

- 1 12B Sally McConnell, "Large Bowl"
- 2 67B Paul Braun, "Cypress Cove"
- 3 4B Carl Zvonek, "Flowing Vine"
- H 12A Sally McConnell, "Black and Gold Mask"
- H 2A Kenneth Taylor, "Fall Leaves"
- H 4C Carl Zvonek, "Blowing Lily"

Youth Awards

Painting (ages 6 - 11)

- 1 1A Gracie O'Neil, "Goldfish Reef"
- 2 29B Daevon Adams, "Father & Son"
- 3 22B Wyatt Clement, "The Misty Swamp"
- H 60A Christopher Bourgeois, "Two Make a Couple"
- H 33A Ruston Poche, "Soaring the Sky"
- H 56C Morgan Andrews, "Coffee Mugs"

Drawing (ages 6 - 11)

- 1 13B Allyson Loupe, "Horse"
- 2 25A Lance Riedlinger, "A Runaway Dog"
- 3 12A Blaine Dodson, "Bottlenose Dolphin"
- H 56B Morgan Andrews, "Paper Made"
- H 59A Angelena Tranchina, "Blue Butterfly"
- H 29C Daevon Adams, "Blinded"

Painting (ages 12 - 17)

- 1 3B Erika Knight, "Shadow at Dusk"
- 2 47A Kaitlyn Fitch, "Eve"
- 3 3C Randa Smith, "Hall of Silence"
- H 20A Tyrell Barnes, "Dream"
- H 19A Jalani Joseph, "Ancient Mama"
- H 50A Jessica Fontenot, "Reach Out"

Drawing (ages 12 - 17)

- 1 4A Duo Xu, "Study from Bernini"
- 2 8A Camille Nolan, "Tea Time"
- 3 9A Laura DeRocher, "Flower"
- H 6A Ronald Bailey Jr, "Jade"
- H 45A Michael Jones, "Louisiana Plantation"
- H 10A Tamerick Zachery, "Wolf Yellow Eyes"



WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT FRANCE IN APRIL, ON THE CHEAP?

The Gonzales Committee on Cultural Affairs is the group that arranges events with the city of Gonzales and the sister city of Meylan in France. Some of the artists from Meylan visited our gallery ((Art Center) in May. Now they want us to come to France! **John Hebert**, member and guest speaker explained how we would go about visiting France as an artist group.

The Gonzales Committee on Cultural Affairs is planning a group trip to Meylan, France April 24-May 2. The committee is in the process of planning a program, and they want to have RRAA represent art with our artists. Any artists who go on this trip would only pay for air fare and personal souvenirs. People would stay in a French home and also would be fed all meals. So the only expense is really the plane ticket which will be a group rate, and they said it seems as of now it may be around \$800-\$850 round trip. More details are forthcoming.

When we go to Meylan we will be taking a Jambalaya crew, Cajun musicians, possibly Cajun dancers, and artists from RRAA. We would create a little Louisiana Festival in the town of Meylan. Artists would share their art styles, can sell their art, will meet with French artists, and have a display in the Town Hall in Meylan. So you will learn about the art and culture of France. You will live right with the French people for a week. You may also extend your trip while

you are over there, and travel to other parts of Europe if you wish to do so on your own. Several of the people going will do this. The actual time in Meylan will be April 24-May 2. But you can stay as long as you want if you make those arrangements on your round trip ticket.

This would be a wonderful opportunity to paint, carve, sculpt, make jewelry, draw, and photograph with a French flair! You will meet interesting people and learn more about the French people. It will be a learning experience, and we are never too old to learn. You may end up exchanging art and art ideas with French artists. Since you only have to pay for the flight, it is less expensive than if you went on your own. They have not locked in the group rate as of yet, but there will be more details soon. So just think about it and call **Donna Braud**, publicity, at 328-7354, if you are in anyway interested in making the trip to Meylan.



NEWS FLASH!!!

Eatel Community Connection has asked River Region for the Artist-of-the-Month to bring in some of their art to be displayed on their "set." There won't be any interview or such, just showing art, giving the artist's name, and telling where else the artist has work displayed, such as our Art Gallery located at Houmas House. They will not be selling our art, just promoting it.

During the month Eatel will repeatedly show the art, tell who created it, and where their other work can be viewed! Eatel Community Connection is a cable station, Channel 4. The program will show the art on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday it will be shown at noon. Jenny Heroman is the anchor and producer of the show.

Here's how it will be handled with RRAA. The Artist-of-the-Month will be given the contact information and that artist will be responsible to bring 3 or 4 pieces of their art to the Eatel office building that is on Worthy Road behind the Regions Bank.



NOVEMBER ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Our new November artist of the month is **Cy Rawls**! Cy Rawls is a native Virginian but has lived in south Louisiana most of the last forty years. She began studying art in High School under Jeanne Roberts and later studied under Teresa Pollack, Maurice Bonds, and Charles Sibley. This was at the height of the abstract expressionist movement carried on by artists such as Jackson Pollack, de Kooning, and Mark Rothko. Cy Rawls says of her student years, "While we were not discouraged from representational painting, we were discouraged from using any outside influence in our art; our paintings and drawings were to be completely freestyle and original, true expressions of our feelings. We drew and painted entirely from memory and emotion. What many artists would see as severe restrictions suited me just fine."

For many years she worked as a graphic artist—as a contract artist at a local plant, sole proprietor of Industrial Graphics and a stint doing computer graphics for the federal government. It is only in the last five years that Cy has returned to fine art and the pleasure of being as creative as she likes.

When asked about her current artistic efforts, Cy says she feels "no great compulsion to be painting or drawing constantly. The mood must strike me. But when I begin I am completely engrossed until the piece is finished." Her portfolio now includes works in a more conventional style in colored pencils and pen and ink as well as abstracts."

When asked what she would like to accomplish in the art field she replied, "I have always wanted to do really large paintings. Once I bought a 4-foot by 4-foot canvas and carted it around for a succession of moves then finally threw it out! I have gotten hold of some quite large watercolor paper and am trying to drum up the courage to start working on it."

Cy Rawls' art work will be on display from November 1 through November 30, 2009 at the Art Gallery of the Houmas House from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. She will also have some of her work displayed on the "set" for the local Eatel Community Connection on Channel 4 for the month of November. Her work will be shown on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 6:30 a.m. and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at noon.



ART GUMBO MARKET IN NOVEMBER

In November the **ART GUMBO MARKET** will be offering shopping and browsing under the trees at Houmas House Plantation on Saturday, November 21 from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. The historic Plantation is located on the River Road in Ascension Parish. Chef Jeremy Langlois will be presenting a special free tasting booth with one of his delightful dishes from the Burnside Grill, the on-site restaurant. There will be pottery, jewelry, paintings, photography, carved gourd art, wood carvings, live plants, fused glass art, fabric art, folk art and crafts and other unique original art pieces.



SANTA IS COMING TO THE ART GUMBO MARKET

In December the **ART GUMBO MARKET** will be open for three consecutive Saturdays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for your shopping pleasure: Dec 5, Dec 12, and Dec 19. Santa will be available for pictures by photographer, **Donna Smith** in the beautiful setting of Houmas House Gardens. Chef Jeremy will offer special free Holiday samples of a different Houmas House delicacy each week. There will be a variety of original art and craft ideas to explore. Come shop under the trees at Houmas House and make a day of it with lunch in the on-site restaurant or perhaps a tour of the gardens and beautifully decorated mansion.



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS GATHERING

The following information is important to read and put on your calendar!

For the annual **Deck the Halls** celebrated Sunday, **December 6 at 5-7 p.m. at the Art Center**, members are asked to participate by bringing in 1-3 pieces of art to display with no fees. Work should have price for sale attached. All work is to be brought in on November 28 and December 3. All work needs to be hung **BEFORE** the meeting. Please observe this deadline. Participating members are expected to each bring a covered dish so there will be **LOTS** of food. Those who wish (you do **NOT** have to participate in this) to participate in the Gift Swap may bring a small handmade item that you have made wrapped to exchange with another. Members are also asked to bring in handmade tree decorations so we will plenty of new and creative Christmas objects to purchase! Santa will pay us a visit!



ART GUMBO MARKET IN JANUARY 2010

NON-MEMBER VENDORS WILL BE CHARGED A \$15 BOOTH FEE

Beginning in January 2010, RRAA paid members will not be charged a booth fee, but non-members will be charged \$15 each month.

INVITATION to CELEBRATE COMMUNITY in Denham Springs

An area-wide invitation to artists to submit work for inclusion in a community-wide art exhibit entitled, "Celebrate Community" has been issued to RRAA. The exhibit will feature local artists, age 18 and above, professional and non-professional, and will be displayed at 133 Hummell Street, Denham Springs, LA. November 17th to December 31, 2009.

Mediums accepted for the exhibit include pottery, sculpture, fiber arts, hand-made jewelry, stained glass, photography, as well as two-dimensional works in oil, acrylic and watercolor. Entries must be the original work of the artists and of non-controversial subject matter suitable for family viewing. All entries are subject to jury by gallery committee for appropriate content and presentation. No entry fees are required; however, number of entries could be limited depending on participation. Works may be for sale at 15% commission to ACLP.

Artists should bring works to the Arts Council of Livingston Parish, 133 Hummell Street, Denham Springs, LA, November 2 - 5, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. All work should be labeled for identification and properly framed and wired for hanging. The hanging system cannot accommodate saw-tooth hangers, so they will not be accepted. Three-dimensional work with special display requirements such as pedestals for pottery or sculpture or jewelry stands or cases must be provided by the artist.

A Grand Opening reception is planned for November 17, 2009, 5 - 7 p.m. For more information, please contact the Arts Council of Livingston Parish at (225) 664-1168, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m., M - Th.

A NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR RRAA ART TO BE DISPLAYED



A new Community Coffee café has opened in Prairieville and has asked River Region for five (5) framed paintings to be hung. CC is located near Hwy. 42 and Airline. On November 16 they will have their opening. Our organization can hang 5 framed paintings. Names will be drawn for the right to hang.

If your name is drawn, you will be responsible for bringing in your framed painting by Thursday, November 5 or Saturday, November 7 at the Art Center. The painting must be framed and ready to hang tagged with artist's name and price for sale.

Members who are interested must contact **Donna Braud at 328-7354 or donnadidit@cox.net by NOV. 3!** Five (5) names will be drawn and the people contacted. Framed paintings will be hung for six (6) weeks and then names will be drawn again, and so on.

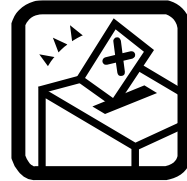
ASCENSION LIBRARY INVITATION TO RRAA



We have been contacted by the Ascension Parish Library in Gonzales to set up an art exhibit in the library for the month of December representing the artists of River Region. Members are asked to bring in one painting or photo or drawing...ready for hanging to be placed at the Gonzales branch. The art may be brought to the RRAA Art Center no later than Dec 5.

The exhibit will be displayed Dec 8th for the Christmas caroling event at the Library and then remain hanging until the end of the month. You may bring this piece of art in for the library with your other exhibit pieces for our Deck the Halls Open House on Dec 6 at the Art Center. Be sure to mark with your name and contact info on the back and include your price. So remember you may have up to three (3) free pieces hanging in the Art Center and one piece for the Library. Also you may bring your hand made Christmas ornaments for the Open House Christmas Tree. Try to get your items in early before the Dec. 5 deadline. Call **Donna Braud** for any additional information at **328-7354 or donnadidit@cox.net**

COME TO THE MEETING AND VOTE! SHOW YOUR SUPPORT!



NOMINATIONS FOR 2010 OFFICERS

The following people are nominated for offices for the next year. (The Nominating Committee were **Elaine Champagne** and **Linda Simms**. Thanks for serving the membership!) If you wish to submit additional names for the offices, please attend the Membership Meeting on November 8th and the name will be added to the ballot. The Membership Meeting will take place at 2 p.m. at the Art Center, Sunday, November 8th.

President
1st Vice President
2nd Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

Betty Marks
Carolyn Milner
Cy Rawls
Aileen Pine
Donna Braud

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 8TH AT 2 P.M. AT THE ART CENTER.
NEXT BOARD MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 15TH AT 2 P.M. AT THE ART CENTER.

