

Conversationne

River Region Art Association Newsletter



February 2009

FROM THE PRESIDENT Last night was the first general meeting of the new year. There were seven people in attendance, including me! How can the RRAA continue to operate without the cooperation of the membership?

The general meetings will now be held every other month in hopes that you can find the time to attend. We haven't seen some of you in months, and we miss you. We miss the fun of having a group of artists get together. Because so few attend, the Board finds itself in the position of having to make decisions that should be made by the membership. This is YOUR association, and we need to see your faces at the meetings. PLEASE, PLEASE COME! The next meeting is March 12 from 7:00-8:00. There will be door prizes, and maybe even food!

Come to the next meeting and tell us if the "meeting time" is a problem for you; let me know what other day or time might be more convenient for more members.

We also need docents. Starting Tuesday, February 3, each time you work the gallery (half or whole day), you will sign a slip of paper and put it in a box. At the Deck the Halls party, we will draw one of the slips for a major prize.

Please find time in your busy life to give the gallery a day. **WE NEED YOU!**

Love to all,

Betty ...Your President



PAINTING WITH WINE AND THROUGH EXPERIMENT



Terry Farrell, a professional artist from California, has returned to her roots in Louisiana. She taught a painting class for us at the RRAA gallery using wine! Port, Cabernet, Lambrusco and Zinfandel are just a few of the wines used to paint with at our gallery. She has had various shows from one coast to the other and taught in the public schools in California as well as privately. Now she is enriching the lives of children and adults alike with her skills in different medias and styles, here in our own state of Louisiana.

Painting with wine was a first for all the participants, and they were surprised at the results. Each wine produced a different color. After painting their canvases, wine, cheese and grapes were served as refreshments. Another wine painting class will be taught on February 8 from 1 p.m.--4 p.m. by Terry Farrell at the RRAA gallery. The fee is \$30 and the wine is furnished. Just bring watercolor paper and brushes.

Terry will teach an experimental class for us on Tuesday evenings on March 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 6-8 p.m. for \$125. The class is entitled "Drawing and Painting Through Experiment." Terry will have us think about what we like to draw most. . . people, animals, or objects? We will learn different styles of painting, drawing, abstract, gesture and realism. We will leave this class with a new knowledge of art and know what style we like the most. We will also leave with a very impressive portfolio of our very own artwork to share with our family and friends. Most supplies will be furnished although each participant will need to bring their own watercolor paper and two black pens: one fat and one thin! We will create a masterpiece after our experiments. You may also leave this class with a reawakening of your inner child and a renewed outlook on your work.

PEN AND INK CLASS

River Region Art Association in Gonzales will present a Pen and Ink Drawing Class featuring art instructor Louise Hansen. Class fee is \$40 and a supply list can be found online at www.artgumbo.org or call the Gallery at 644-8496. The workshop will be on February 28 from 9 a.m. -4 p.m. Registration is until February 26 at the River Region Art Association's art gallery which is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10a.m.-4 p.m.

Louise Hansen studied art at the University of Southern Mississippi and pursued a career in commercial art. Beginning as a graphic artist for the Mississippi Engraving Company, she moved on as a fashion illustrator for Rubenstein's in Shreveport, Louisiana and McRae's in Jackson, Mississippi; later she was an Advertising Manager for Gayfer's in Jackson, Mississippi.

Louise is now a retired graphics artist and fashion illustrator, but she is busy as an instructor teaching pen and ink drawing and watercolor painting.

CALL TO ARTISTS! ALEXANDRIA ART WALK

The Arts Council of Central Louisiana and the City of Alexandria announce a Call to Artists to participate in the Spring 2009 Alexandria Art Walk in historic downtown Alexandria, Louisiana. The semi-annual art walk is a multi-media downtown celebration of the arts that draws thousands of attendees. Booth space is free. Contact Ben Mahoney at the Arts Council of Central LA at (318) 484-4471 or ben@louisiana-arts.org DEADLINE: March 20


2009 BOARD/MEETING SCHEDULE

Board Meetings—6 p.m.

January 8
February 12
March 12
April 2
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 15
November 12
December 3

General Meetings held right after Board Mtgs

January 22
none
March 12
none
May 14
none
July 9
none
September 10
none
November 12
none

Click Art Winners-----  for January's community theme exhibit: 1st: Julie Hill with "Netherlands"; 2nd Donna Smith with "Faded Glory"; 3rd Josie Young with "Pink Rose"; Honorable Mention Josie Young with "Bird Nest ". Congratulations to all. Look for their names in the paper and on our website!



THINGS I LOVE is our community theme for February! We all love certain people, places, and objects. This exhibit is open to both the experienced and the beginner. Everyone may enter two free pieces of art! All art forms are welcome: It can be art on canvas or paper, wood carvings, fabric art, jewelry, pottery, metal or wire art, paper mache, sculpture or anything else!

Bring your two pieces to the River Region Art Association's gallery between February 3-14. The Gallery is located on Magnolia Ave. behind Domino's Pizza in Gonzales and is open from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Our number is 644-8496.

We encourage all RRAA members to join in with the community to present a fun show, so let's begin painting or crafting NOW!

This show will be judged with ribbons awarded. The winners will have their work displayed on our website and in the local media! Get involved with your creative side and join the community to celebrate "Things I Love"! It is all free, and you can express yourself with your original ideas. Let's see what talent is hidden in Ascension Parish!

The last day of the show will be March 1. Art will be taken down the next day. We ask that you pick up your work promptly so that we can get ready for new work. Thank you for understanding and cooperating.



"Children's Creativity Day" and "March into Art"

We have TWO BIG EVENTS scheduled for children! Children's Creativity Day for 2009 will be March 28 from 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at the River Region Art Association's gallery in Gonzales. Drop by with your children for a Saturday afternoon of free art fun with painting, beading, and three-dimensional activities. Artist members of the River Region Art Association will set up art activity booths for the children to try out their creative spirit. They will take their masterpieces home. Door prizes will be given. We will need artists to work with the children from 1-3 p.m. painting and creating.

At 3 p.m. prize money and ribbons will be awarded to the winners of the annual Youth Art Competition, "March into Art." Refreshments will follow the awards. Artist Terry Farrell will be chair of the "March into Art" Show this year. Thank you, Terry!

There will be two age divisions: 12-17 and 11 and under. Children will pay \$1 to enter each piece with a limit of two artworks per category. The categories are: painting, drawing, photography, and three-dimensional. There will be no specific subject matter. Take in for the art will be from March 3-14. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded. Let all the children in your life know about this special March into Art Show. Encourage them to try for a Blue Ribbon and also to come to the Children's Creativity Day to enjoy the art fun and see their artwork on display.

Please sign up to participate in this fun day by calling Betty Marks at 647-0595 or Terry Farrell at 257-4065. We will also need help with the refreshments from 3-4p.m.



WHAT IS THE NEW PRESIDENT DOING?

The new president jumped, bounced, leaped??? into her new position! Betty Marks is on the job and already looking over all the association's records, updating and simplifying forms, checking on our loaned out books, noticing who has paid dues and fees, looking over housecleaning supplies, making decisions on what will be done with paintings that have not been picked up in a timely manner, and numerous other things. Thank you, Betty, for this much needed cleaning.



OVERDUE GALLERY BOOKS

There are two books that have been checked out and are overdue. Please check your house for these items and return them.



HAVE YOU PAID ANNUAL DUES?

The River Region Art Association annual dues are due by the end of January. We printed this in the last Newsletter as a reminder, and several members have paid. Thank you. We know that people need reminders, but at the same time, an organization cannot keep its doors open without cooperation from its members. The Board will decide at the next meeting the date for who will no longer receive the Newsletter or be allowed to hang their artwork.

OLD PAINTINGS LEFT AT THE GALLERY FROM LIBRARY EXHIBIT



We still have unclaimed paintings left in our gallery from the Ascension Library Exhibit held in December!!! At the end of January, they will be stacked on the floor in the kitchen. The Board will decide what to do with the unclaimed paintings at the next Board meeting.



HANGING EXHIBIT FEES NOT PAID

Volunteers and the president are going to determine who has not paid hanging exhibit fees the last week of January. The artwork will be stacked in a corner of the kitchen, until the Board decides what to do with them.



GOOD NEWS—Big Hefty Prize for Working the Gallery!!!

The Board and the President decided that an extremely nice prize will be the award that docents will have a chance to win next December. All who work a half day or a full day will have their names placed in a drawing each day they work. (Call Betty Marks at 647-0595 if you need more information.) So the more you work, the more chances you have to win! This will begin in February!! Later this December at the Board meeting, the winner's name will be drawn for the prize!!!! Sign your name in the docents' book for working in the art gallery right away!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Once again, a big thanks to all in the past who have donated time and energy to set up decorations, open the gallery, vacuum, participate with Art Market and art booths at various events, help with hospitality, rearrange the displayed artwork, update the website, teach a class, take a class, serve on the Board, attend meetings, chair a committee, help with Awesome Art or Red Hot Night or any other event. We have so many outstanding, hard-working, responsible artist members!

Gonzales is fortunate to have the River Region Art Association located right here where so many of us live! Where else can a skilled craftsperson or artist have their work displayed locally so inexpensively or meet with imaginative community gatherings or take creative classes with like-minded people? All of you have been more than generous with your time and talents to serve the rest of us. Want to join our dedicated supporters but can't come to the gallery? Help us with telephoning chores! Call Betty Marks. So far, no member has volunteered for the position of Treasurer!!! We are a highly talented group of creative people; certainly we have within our artist community a compassionate and responsible person who will take this position on to help their fellow neighbors!-----Some committee chairs have been filled and we are grateful, but a few are vacant. There are two that come to mind: 2009 Red Hot Night and Docent Calendar (This can be done by telephoning from home!). Thanks again for your help!

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Our new "Artist of the Month" for February is John Robbins! The next Newsletter will have a feature article about him. His work will be on display February 3-28. Come by to see his photography work!

OFFICERS--NEXT BOARD MEETING

Reminder—the next Board meeting will be Thursday, February 12 at 6 p.m. at the gallery. If you cannot make the meeting, please call the president and let her know. We need all the officers at the next Board meeting. Let's have 100% turnout!!!

