



River Region Art Association Newsletter

April 2011

From the desk of the President, Robin Hi everyone! Spring is here, and we have so many neat things going on now I can hardly wait for our general meeting to discuss them. Here are some things to think about though...

We have a trunk show scheduled for May 6 from 6-9 p.m. We are going to try to get the next door Parish Hall to use too, and if we can, we are going to go ALL OUT on this one, all 3-dimensional art can be displayed by the artists and we are going to have a flamin' blast. As soon as we know, we will let you know, too. Speaking of Flamin'Red Hot is on the horizon, get ready, do something red, hot, red hot or hot red. This year we will be at the Art Center and are so excited it is coming home so we can enjoy it "our way". Yeeehaw....

We are also putting together some new committees, all exciting and interesting and all centered on our mission...GET THE ART OUT TO OUR COMMUNITY, SHOW PEOPLE HOW TO SEE THE BEAUTY WE SEE!!! Come to the General Meeting, we are going to have a ball planning.

Oh, planning...almost forgot...we are also starting to put our summer program together. This year we are going to set some detailed lesson plans, some goals and define the classes so each instructor and each student knows what to expect.

And...we have some very interesting things to talk about for Awesome Art. My friends, we have got ourselves rolling in the best possible way for our group and for our mission and for our art. Please plan to attend the general meeting, and don't forget our reception afterwards for our artist of the month **Mary Demerest**. See you Sunday!!!!

AWESOME NEWS!!!



The City of Gonzales has given us the go ahead on using the Jambalaya Park area, Stage area, grounds and City Hall to present our Awesome Arts & Cultural Festival as well as our 2nd annual Scarecrow contest.

Although it is several months awayit is not too soon to begin planning such a big event. We will have our Awesome Art Show, the Scarecrow competition, arts and crafts booths, food booths, children's activities, and musical entertainment on the stage. It will be free and open to the public, therefore not cost prohibitive for families and the artists have a better opportunity for selling more. More information will be coming soon.

If you want to get involved in the planning....raise your right hand and shout "I DO!" to our president, **Robin Rotolo** at 717-7178....we need your creative ideas and energy to make this the talk of the town!

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR THE 1st Vice President

At the next general membership meeting on Sunday, April 10th, nominations will be taken for the position of 1st vice president which was vacated by Robin Rotolo who is now the new president.

MARY DEMAREST IS ARTIST-OF-THE-MONTH

Mary Demerest has been chosen the April Artist of the Month by River Region Art Association. Her work will be featured throughout the month of April at the Art Center in Gonzales and at the RRAA Gallery located in the gift shop at Houmas House Plantation.

Mary often refers to her art-inspiration as coming in "through the back door." She loves to find new ways to incorporate the traditional into the contemporary and vice versa, or to use methods or materials that might be a surprise to her clients. "It's kind of a 'right-brained' approach," she says, thus her title of The Right-Brained Potter found printed on her art business cards.

Mary's journey to pottery has been long and eventful, traveling through such destinations as drawing, painting, print-making, and three-dimensional art, places she's visited and shared with her students along the way.

Mary earned her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Art Education and is a National Board Certified Teacher of Early Adolescents & Young Adults. She holds an Ancillary Certificate for participating in the Talent Education Program in the Louisiana Public Schools and has taught in that program in both Jefferson and Ascension Parishes. Now retired, she has the time to devote to her latest passion, pottery. Working with her friend and mentor Sally McConnell of Glazed & Confused Pottery, she has jumped into the thrill of personal sales and craft sales with both feet. Two retired teachers? Playing in mud? Laughing and sharing ideas and skills? It's a great formula that has convinced her that the best REALLY IS yet to come.

Look at Mary's work and you'll see her "Art Children." They are all food-safe and ready for adoption. And she promises that they are well-behaved and sure to be at home in your family as well.

Mary's current work can be found at the LSU Museum Gift Shop in downtown Baton Rouge, at the River Region Art Center in Gonzales, at the RRAA Gallery located in the Houmas House Gift Shop in Darrow, at Louisiana Pottery in Sorrento, in Déjà vu Interiors in Kenner, and Sweet Tangerine in Corsicana, TX. Mary frequently displays her work at the River Region ART GUMBO MARKET at Houmas House every third Saturday of the month. She participates at the Awesome Art Festival annually and in numerous other festivals throughout Louisiana.

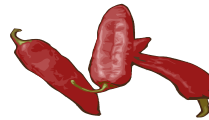
A reception will be held for Mary Demarest following the April 10 Membership Meeting at the River Region Art Center in Gonzales.

NO ARTIST AT BARNES AND NOBLES IN APRIL

Remember that the March into Art winners are displayed at Barnes and Nobles this month.



GET THE REDS!!!



Coming Soon.....**RED HOT NIGHT at the ART CENTER! June 24th 5:30-7:30 p.m.** We will have a Pot Luck gathering that evening and all the food should be RED or HOT.

All the art will be RED and HOT....and so will the prizes....and you can come RED HOT yourself! Don't miss this activity....RED HOT FUN! Use the RED HOT side of your Brain and be creative! Plan and begin your painting NOW!



COMMUNITY COFFEE'S INVITATION TO RRAA ARTISTS

Community Coffee has a standing offer to RRAA to let our artists show and demo their artwork on any Saturday or Sunday at CC's coffeehouse on Airline Highway (near Rt. 42) in Prairieville. Any RRAA member may set up a mini-workspace and demo their art or just bring samples to display and sell. Artists bring their own small table and display or demo their artwork for 2-4 hours on any Saturday or Sunday, mornings or afternoons. The management and staff at CC's are very welcoming and helpful.

If you are interested in participating in this opportunity to present your art to the public and promote RRAA please contact **Cy Rawls**, rawreid@eatel.net or via phone 717-4751 or 225-622-2872. If you would just like to know more about this or would like for me to go with you when you set up, let me know.



INVITATION TO NEW MEMBERS

New members: please note that the Art Center is in need of fresh pieces of art to hang at our Art Center on Magnolia Ave. On any Thursday or Saturday you may bring in two or three pieces of art, and we will hang them for you.

We do have room for YOUR art because we have asked other members who have more than three pieces to TAKE DOWN their work to make room for yours! We sincerely hope you will take advantage of this offer. There is no fee involved. It's free to hang your art at our Art Center.

Attention **members who have more than three pieces:** it's past time for you to pick-up your extra art. Also it would be generous of you to update some pieces that have been there forever, it seems! Help us to spruce up the Art Center!

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UPDATE CORRECTION: See below

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!!!!!!!CORRECTION FOR Children's Summer Art WORKSHOPS!!!!!!



Children's Summer Art Workshops will be held at the RRAA Art Center May 31-June 3 and another session June 6 - June 9. The teachers are organizing their ideas and supplies now. Artists receive pay of \$30 per student per week....classes are limited to 10 students per artist. Artist will make \$300 if she has a full class that week. Workshops are 2 hours per day for 4 days each week.

This year parents pay \$50 per child per week. RRAA receives \$20 per student for art supplies, miscellaneous items, and advertising. This was reported incorrectly in the last newsletter.

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MARCH SALES



Another good month of sales! It was close to the total of last month. The top selling artist was **Sylvia Rochester**. Following closely behind was **Diane Tygier** and third place was **Shirley Schell**. These artists also enjoyed sales this month: **Monica Landry, Carolyn Bowman, Jan Hebert, Sally McConnell, Kathleen Kuhnert, Mary Demarest, Donna Marie Montagino, L J Mayers, Mary Crochet, Susan Rodrigue, and Gaynell Moore**. We also had two sales of children's art from the March into Art Show.



URGENT! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The president, **Robin Rotolo**, is calling on all members who have and haven't volunteered recently to help with at least one event a year. YES, THIS MEANS YOU!

This year we are looking forward to our members participating more. If you don't call US, we just might call YOU!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Volunteer for just one event this year, such as helping with the upcoming Awesome Art festival in October or helping with the Trunk Shows on Friday nights. These are just a few examples. Find out what the major events are and how you can benefit by volunteering for just ONE event.

Whatever your interest in is, there are others who love it, too! Join with them—get involved with others who have the same interest as you.

Docent training is with any docent. Just show up and ask to be trained on Thursday or Saturday mornings! **Shirley Russell** is docent on Thursday, April 14. She has volunteered to train this day.

You can request to work with a trained docent until you feel comfortable working alone. Call **Robin** at 717-7178 if you're interested in learning how to docent.

We artists need friends who support us. Want to make new friends? Our membership is full of friendly, like-minded people like you!



GET SET . . . TO GO. . . TO MARKET!!!

Art Gumbo Market.....April 16 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Houmas House

Art Gumbo Market.....May 21 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Houmas House



THE FRENCH ARE COMING!!!

The French are coming ...the French are coming! There are sixteen French people coming from Gonzales' sister city in France...Meylon, at the end of May. Some of our artists traveled to Meylon last year and visited with them. Now it is time for their visit to America.

Gaynell Moore, Donna Braud, Betty Marks, and Carolyn Bowman have been preparing for their visit. They will be host families. We want them to enjoy our art and have set aside an evening to entertain them.

Sally Mc Connell has offered her wonderful deck and backyard to present an all American Cookout for our French visitors. They will be touring Ascension Parish on Monday, May 30 and we have invited them to meet at our Art Center for a sip of wine around 6 p.m. to view our gallery. Then we will travel together to Sally's for the cookout at 7 p.m. Brush up on your French and plan to join us for the fun. C'est la vie! More details later.

NEXT GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, Sunday, April 10 at 2 p.m. at the Art Center

NEXT BOARD MEETING, Sunday, May 2 at 6 p.m. at the Art Center