



River Region Art Association Newsletter

August 2011

From the President's Desk:

Hello Fellow Association Members!!! There are so many irons in our fires right now and so many exciting things going on now that I am not sure where to start telling you about them all.

First of all be sure to drop by the Gallery at Houmas House or the Art Center in Gonzales to see Josie Young's photography, she is the artist of the month for July. We will be honoring her immediately after our monthly meeting on Sunday 8/14. I hope you will plan to be there for the reception following but also to hear about all the neat and wonderful things that are happening in our group now.

I cannot tell you how excited I am about our association with the Gonzales City Government. I hope that shortly after the first of the year, we can invite members to a meeting to discuss with us ongoing and upcoming events that we can participate in. They are so upbeat about our group, our new location for Awesome Art on the Bayou and the Scarecrow contest. It is so encouraging to know they are backing us and that we are finally going to be recognized as we pursue fulfilling our mission.
(Have you read it lately?)

Planning for Awesome Art is in full swing, we need help, we need help, weeee neeeeed heeeellllppppppppp! We need help on every committee, we need help getting sponsors and we need help getting more people interested in doing scarecrows, we need vendors who want to sell their wares and we need free entertainment - I offered but no one wants to see me try to dance and believe me they would not want me to sing...we want patrons to stay! Please plan to participate in our festival and also please offer a little time to help us with all the various chores ahead of us now.

In the meantime, it is closing on time to decide on a nominating committee for next years' officers. That committee is chosen by me but I sure would like to see some volunteers. Our group is really very extraordinary, we have a growing group and very little dissention within the ranks but there are some good ideas on how we can do things better and there are people willing to institute those ideas. If you know of someone who fits this bill, please volunteer to be part of the nominating committee.

The move is going to happen immediately after Awesome Art. We will have a month to clear out of the art center and move into the new location, we need painters, window washers, carpenters, workers in general and will probably be working evenings and weekends the whole month. Please plan to help, please plan to be part of the new large more visible facility and please come, roll up your sleeves and donate some time to get our new location ready for us to really begin being a dominating force in Gonzales. We are on the bottom floor of making Gonzales a dynamic place for all art forms and we will be in a great place to start showing this community that there some really neat things going on at our place. Please be part of our group, get in there with the rest of us and be involved, we welcome everyone with open arms!!!

I like to end each letter with a note about someone who goes beyond to help us fulfill our mission. **Cy Rawls** has been taking care of our CC's Coffee location. She schedules the demonstrators on weekends, she changes out the art on the walls when needed and she keeps our relationship with CC's very positive. This helps not only our members but our Association is also on the positive receiving end of her relationship with Sarah Ameer the owner. Please let Cy know as far in advance as you can if you would like to spend all day, part of a day, half a day demonstrating your work at CC's. I go there regularly and besides the coffee, I just love the kids that work there and I think Sarah is great too! Thanks Cy, you do a great job there.

Robin Rotolo, president



New Members!

Jana Livorsi.....Paper Crafting
 Sandy Leader....Acrylic
 Margaret Mc Nabb.....Tye Dye Art
 Jan Collins.....Acrylic, Pastels, Watercolors
 Jean O'Grady.....Sewing, Knitting
 Amelia Babin.....Acrylic, Pastels
 Janice Carter.....returning member/Art Teacher at EA High School



END OF BARNES & NOBLE SHOWING OUR ART!!!

Here is the email **Jan Hebert** received from them. If you have email, you already have received notice.

Dear Mr. Robbins,

We have thoroughly enjoyed our partnership with the River Region Art Association, however we need to have the flexibility to work with local schools who wish to display their artwork in our store during their bookfair events. As a result this month (August) will be the last month where we will automatically have the RRAA hang our monthly shows.

I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and hope you understand our situation.

Thank you for sharing the wonderful artwork of the River Region Art Association with our staff and customers.

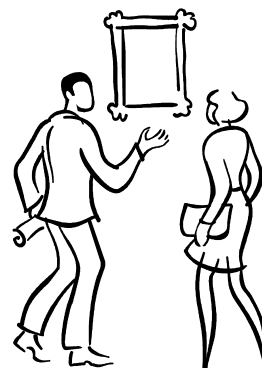
Yours Sincerely,

Janice Sommerville
Community Relations Manager
Barnes & Noble Booksellers



SCARECROW CONTEST

Don't forget September 9 is the deadline for the Scarecrow entry form and fee. The form and rules are online at www.artgumbo.org or at the Art Center. Judges for the Scarecrows will be Scott Rogers of The Around Town Show and Jenny Heroman of Eatel Community Connection. Your scarecrow will need to be ready to erect in Gonzales on September 24 & 25.



AWESOME ART INFORMATION

Awesome Art on the Bayou is coming up soon! Lots of background work is going on now. Just want to give you a timeline and a few details. Get involved in our biggest event of the year! This is a family friendly community affair!

Dates to remember:

September 9 Deadline to turn in form and fee for Scarecrow Contest

September 24 & 25 Scarecrows to be erected in the Jambalaya Park/City Hall area in Gonzales

October 6 Take in of art for Awesome Art competition from noon til 7 p.m. at City Hall in Gonzales

October 7 Art is judged and preparations made for Awesome Art on the Bayou.

October 8 Awesome Art on the Bayou Festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the City Hall/Jambalaya area and along the Francois Bayou

October 9 Awesome Art on the Bayou Festival from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in the City Hall/Jambalaya area and along the Francois Bayou

- Awesome Art Show will remain 3 entries for \$25 for adults or one for \$9 involving painting, drawing, photography, and 3/D art
- Youth may enter at \$3 per entry in Painting or Drawing
- \$1600 offered in prize money/Ribbons ...judged show to be displayed in Gonzales City Hall /Awards on Sunday, October 9
- Arts & Crafts Booths will be \$50 for members for the weekend and \$75 for non members. Pass the word!
- Literary Artists may have a book signing table for \$25 for the weekend.
- There will be an Interactive Art Area for Children.....volunteers will be needed.
- Food Booths will be added this year since we are at a new venue in Gonzales. This will be juried by the Board.
- Non profit information booths will be offered to selected groups.
- The stage at the Jambalaya Park will offer musical entertainment October 8 & 9 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. DAF State Grant written.

Go to our website, www.artgumbo.org to download forms if you wish to reserve a booth for the Awesome Art on the Bayou Festival in Gonzales on October 8 & 9. Both arts & crafts booth forms which is \$50 for members and the literary booths for writers which is \$25. We hope you will help to make this a great festival for our community. We will have several volunteer opportunities also available. Let us know if you want to help!

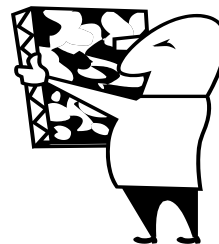
Donna Braud, Project Coordinator

Awesome Art on the Bayou Arts & Cultural Festival

River Region Art Association

225-328-7354 Cell

donnadidit@cox.net



SHOWING AT CC'S IN PRAIRIEVILLE

In case you haven't been by CC's coffee house (on Airline in Prairieville), RRAA is privileged to have an ongoing hanging exhibit of our members art on the wall there.

It is time to take down the old and put up new so this is a call to all members:

If you are interested in having one of your paintings, drawings, or photographs hanging in a local business with lots of customers coming and going all day---drop off one piece of hanging artwork, properly framed, with wire or other strapping on back for hanging at the **Art Center in Gonzales between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. this Saturday, August 20th**. These works will stay at CC's for approximately two months.

If you are unable to drop off a piece on Saturday but wish to participate, call Cy at 225-622-2872 or 225-717-4751 and she will meet you at the Art Center at your convenience. If you have a piece already hanging at the Art Center that you would like to be in the CC's exhibit, let her know.

If we receive more pieces than we can hang at CC's (12), we will hang the overage at the Art Center. If we don't receive 12 pieces we will make up the difference by choosing from art that is already on the wall at the Center. We encourage new members not to be bashful but to step up and enter this exhibit.

Any questions e-mail **Cy Rawls** at rawreid@eatel.net



JULY SALES chi ching!

Sales were down this month...guess the weather was HOT but not the sales! Top sales again goes to **Diane Tygier**. Second place was captured by **Josie Young** and following behind her is **Carol Pierce**. Other artists enjoying sales this month were : **Sally McConnell, Mary Demarest, Kathleen Kuhnert, Monica Landry, Carolyn Bowman, Donna Montagino, Desiree Dugas, Gaynel Moore, Jan Hebert**, and brand new member, **Jana Livorsi**.

From the Newsletter Editor: Please report errors directly to Shirley Russell at starw0man@eatel.net

NEXT GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING Sunday, August 14 at 2 p.m. at the Art Center

NEXT BOARD MEETING Tuesday, September 6 due to Labor Day at 6 p.m. at the Art Center