



River Region Art Association Newsletter

March 2011



INTRODUCING THE NEW RRAA PRESIDENT, ROBIN ROTOLO!!!

Hello, members! As many of you know, I have taken the position of President for the remainder of this year. John had some work opportunities that he could not turn down so has resigned. We want to wish him the best in his endeavors and hope he will eventually find time to come back and be a part of our group. My change has left a vacancy in the 1st Vice President position, please contact our Members-at-Large with any nominations you might have for that position. The important thing to remember is that person has to be willing to step up as President if for some reason I have to leave.

We have the most dynamic and diverse group imaginable. We have the greatest opportunity of any group around to present art to our community, to share the special "eye" of appreciation of all things surrounding us with anyone willing to look and listen. I am very enthusiastic about OUR MISSION. I welcome any new ideas and thoughts that will help us fulfill OUR MISSION.

I do not intend to make any major changes to the plans set up for this year, although I would love to find a larger facility for our meetings, to hold classes and for our art center including our gallery in Gonzales. If anyone knows of another location preferably on a main street that is larger than the one we have and affordable, please let me or any board member know via email or you can phone either Houmas House gallery and leave a message or you can phone the Art Center and leave a message there. We have outgrown the facility we are in right now and need more room for classes, for our meetings, and to hang all the wonderful pieces we just do not have room for at this time.

As part of our welcoming new members to our group, we will be setting up a special new member wall in the Art Center for new members to hang their pieces, once they have been trained to docent. If they would like to also hang at Houmas House they can do so with paying a fee, but as usual the rule there is that each person must abide by the hanging limit rules and must docent at least one day a month. We have contact information regarding the training and scheduling available for new members when they join. Please bring as many new members into our fold as you can, we love them and need everyone so we can promote our Mission.

One other thing I would ask of all members is that if you have an issue, complaint, idea or suggestion, please contact one of our Members-at-Large to discuss the details. We have a Board Meeting the first Monday of each month from 6 p.m. until we are done. Any member is welcome to attend, but the speakers for you will be our members-at-large. They are all willing to listen and open to any suggestions. Our Members-at-Large are: Gene Ferguson, Jan Hebert, Betty Marks, and Sally McConnell.

Each General Meeting, every item brought up in our Board Meetings will be reported on. We will discuss those that need a general membership vote, and we will explain those that have been decided on by the board.

I need each Committee Chairman to contact me to let me know who is committed to do which of our projects. This is urgent! Please respond immediately.

We are a great group, we have talented people grouped together with a common mission, and I intend to promote that mission to the fullest of my ability. I need your help with this. I need ideas and workers and people who want to be part of a growing organization. I believe that if we do what we always did, we will get what we always got. If nothing changed at all, we would still have a great group with a great mission. If we make minor changes, we might see changes that will come from your ideas and thoughts. Please be an active part of us, it is so fulfilling in so many ways!!!

The last thing I would ask is for everyone to be on the lookout for an air conditioner for the Art Center. The one there is on its last legs, and it will not last through the summer. We would be happy with a used one, but we just cannot afford a new unit so if anyone can help us find one, please let us know.

Respectfully,

Robin Rotolo, president

Welcome new members:

Margaret Lee.....Painting

Carolyn Rodrigue.....Jewelry and Pet Accessories

Lenny Wells.....Photography

Emily Bowers.....Jewelry

ARTISTS-IN-ACTION



Frances Prestridge volunteered her time teaching at the St. James Gifted Center in St. James Parish. She taught the children how to do sculptures. They each made their own and had them ready for March into Art for the 3/D category.

Thank you **Michael Bianchetti** for updating our forms. Thank you also for making our Artist-of-the-Month wooden plaques!

Our very own **Carolyn Bowman** is singing with the Baton Rouge Chorus on March 3 at 7:30 p.m. "Ode to Joy" will be sung and will be accompanied by the Baton Rouge Symphony. Carolyn also tried out for a part in the next Ascension Community Theatre play entitled "Act in Greek" and will be performing in April. This gal can do it all.....and why not? Bravo! Carolyn lives life to the fullest!



WORKING AT THE ART CENTER

If you are interested in learning how the Art Center is operated and would like to volunteer once a month.....please call **Robin Rotolo** at 717-7178, and we will match you with a member who will train you. If you think you need additional training, we will provide that also! That way we will be able to keep our Art Center open for more sales to the public!

On the day that you volunteer, you can bring your art to work on, or you can bring your laptop, or pair with another artist to work that day.

Subject: HANGING RULES AT ART CENTER

As you all know, we have gained special Gallery extensions at Community Coffee, Barnes and Nobel and Houmas House in the last couple of years, in doing that, the art that covered the walls at the Art Center in Gonzales dwindled so we made a special plea to artists for help to cover the walls until our membership picked up and we had more art from additional artists to display. We are very grateful to all the artists that helped us keep the walls and shelves covered. We have increased our membership now and are in dire need of the wall space we once begged to cover. The Board of Directors discussed this at the meeting the beginning of February, but since our meeting was after the newsletter was published it was not possible to announce the new display rules at our Gonzales Art Center facility.

We will now be following the same rules as those at Houmas House relative to displays, although we need docents so badly, we are not requiring that a person who displays at the Art Center also docent there once a month at this time. **We will however be enforcing the following limits to displays.**

Hanging Art – must be framed or gallery finished with wire hanger (no other method of hanging will be accepted) limit 3 pieces, no larger than 36" .

3 -D Art – these pieces are those items that will not hang on the walls, they will be displayed on the shelves at the art Center, limit 3 pieces.

Cards – limit 10. (one price tag = one item)

Jewelry – limit 10 pieces (one price tag – one item)

These rules will go into effect on March 31, 2011 please have any items over these guidelines removed from the gallery by that date.

Thank you again to those artists who stepped up and helped us keep our walls and shelves covered when we needed the help.



ARTIST-OF-THE-MONTH for February

Diane Tygier was artist-of-the-month for February. Due to technical difficulties, her biography was not in the newsletter.

Diane Tygier's work has been described as fresh, open, immediate, lively and graceful. Her works are recognized and praised by numerous collectors as well as garnering awards around the world. In each of her paintings she tries to convey harmony, serenity and peace.

Her art education began at the University of Minnesota with follow up classes at Fordham University in New York as well as private classes with noted watercolorists Edgar Whitney, Carl Burger of Princeton and Shirley Elmer.

Prior to the loss of her home's slate roof in New Orleans (courtesy of Katrina) Diane painted on canvas, designed fabric, jewelry, furniture and lamps. However, "If you're handed a lemon, make lemonade," so she has turned her creativity to painting on slate giving new life to antique slate just as new life has been infused into New Orleans.

For many years Diane and her former business partner owned and operated TYGIER KNIGHT GALLERIES on Royal Street in the French Quarter.

After relocating to Gonzales due to Katrina, she stopped painting for almost two years. Crediting River Region Art Association with renewing her connection with other artists and spurring her excitement in painting once more, she now is a regular exhibitor at the RRAA Gallery at Houmas House. There you will find a selection of her popular slate paintings. Travelers from all over the world choose to take a remembrance of Louisiana in one of Diane's works of art.



ARTIST-OF-THE-MONTH for March

Sally McConnell has been chosen Artist-of-the-Month for March at River Region Art Association. As a child she always loved to play in the mud, making mud pies and anything else she could come up with. As Sally grew up she still enjoyed art, but there were more important things to do and the art was set on the back burner. She grew up in Westerville, Ohio, took art in high school, majored in Fine Arts at Ohio State, and married an Air Force sergeant her sophomore year of college. Sally spent the next 23 years traveling the U.S. and Europe being a military wife and mother of three.

After leaving the military, Sally divorced, settled in Louisiana, got her teaching degree from LSU and enjoyed living in the South with all it had to offer, including meeting and marrying her present husband, Alan McConnell.

Prior to her retirement from teaching, a dear friend talked her into taking pottery lessons, and, as the saying goes, "and the rest is history!" Sally claims her love of nature influences her pottery. "The fact that I'm again playing in mud, makes me feel as though my life has gone full circle," she states.

Sally has recently won first place of the Coyote Clay Glazing competition, a national show. She has been featured on LPB's Profile of Artists in 2010. She was the first place winner in Awesome Art in Autumn Gardens for 2009. She has won numerous other awards with her three-dimensional art. Toomie's Travels featured Sally on TV in 2008 and she has been featured in LPB's Travelling Art Auction in 2007, 2009, and 2010.

Sally's work can be found at Louisiana Pottery in the Cajun Village, LSU Museum of Art gift shop next to the Shaw Center in Baton Rouge, at the River Region Art Gallery at Houmas House, the RRAA Art Center in Gonzales, and the Artist's inside Circa 1857 on Government St. in Baton Rouge. She displays her art pottery at the Art Gumbo Market at Houmas House and many fairs and festivals in the state. A reception will be given in Sally's honor following the 2 p.m. RRAA Membership Meeting at the Art Center on March 13.



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.



CANCELLED TANGER MALL SHOW

The David & Harry Art Show has been cancelled due to their closing abruptly. They were a major sponsor of the show. There will not be a show in April to replace this.

ARTISTS' WORK TO BE PICKED UP

The Click Art winners were displayed at CC's. Two of our members' works were among them: **D.J. Smith's** 'A Wrinkle in Time' and **Kitty Kuhnert's** 'Resurrection Fern in Place'.

The art taken down was brought back to the Art Center where you may pick it up or leave it there on display:

Tiger Eyes - **Mary Crochet**
 Munising Falls - **Michael Bianchetti**
 Key Largo - **Kitty Kuhnert**
 Step Back in Time - **Louise Hansen**
 Cajun Cabin 2 - **Shirley Russell**
 Blue Dragonfly - **Carolin Milner**
 Purple Flower - **Toni Cookman**
 Southern Azalea - **Betty Hutchinson**
 Monarch - **Josie Young**
 River Walk - **John Robbins**
 Also swapped-out work by **Anne Thigpen** and **Martha Roberts**

Milner Displays Art at Barnes & Noble

Carolin Milner, artist and instructor in oils, Chinese watercolor, and ceramics will have her artworks on display at Barnes & Noble Bookstore at Perkins Rowe in Baton Rouge for March. Carolin, a member of River Region Art Association, has been a resident of Prairieville for over thirty years and now teaches art to K-8 students at Most Blessed Sacrament School in Baton Rouge.

Carolin explains she began painting when she was in fourth grade when a neighbor offered to give her free painting lessons. Many years later, as a stay at home mom, she began "dabbling" at painting again. She checked out books from the library, studying composition, drawing techniques, and a variety of art styles and movements. Eventually she began giving drawing and painting lessons at a local craft store. She was encouraged to apply for a position with Catholic Elementary Schools as an itinerant art teacher moving around to three schools. This prompted Carolin to go back to school to get a degree in Art Education. While working three days a week teaching art at Most Blessed Sacrament School, she earned a degree in Studio Arts and minor in English. During her junior and senior years in college, she was a member of the Tau Delta Honor Society for Architecture & Allied Arts.

Now in addition to teaching K-8 at Most Blessed Sacrament, Carolin serves as Development Director. She also teaches drawing and oil painting classes to students after school, Oriental Brush Painting classes to adults, and Drawing and Design classes at the RRAA Art Center during the Youth Summer Workshops each year.

Carolin is a strong advocate for the arts as part of the school systems. She claims it has been proven that students who are encouraged to develop their creativity through the arts do better in high school and college and are more valued in the workplace. One of her greatest rewards as a teacher has been to see students' self esteem go up as a result of making a drawing, painting, or sculpture they are truly proud of.

Carolin will have oil paintings on canvas...landscapes, florals, and still life paintings on display at Perkins Rowe Barnes & Noble Bookstore for the month of March.



SALES FOR FEBRUARY

February sales were brisk with both the Houmas House Gallery and the Art Center in Gonzales. **Louise Hansen** was the overall high sales person with **Josie Young** in second place. Other artists enjoying sales were: **Carolyn Bowman, Deborah Bianchetti, Desiree' Dugas, Diane Tygier, Donna Montagino, Helen Fernandez, Jan Hebert, Joe Harden, John Robbins, Kathleen Kuhnert, Mary Crochet, Monica Landry, Robin Rotolo, Sally McConnell, Skip Goldstein, and Sylvia Rochester.**



TRUNK SHOW with Wine and Cheese

The Wine, Cheese & Art night at the Art Center was highly successful on February 18 after having to cancel because of the freezing weather. Several pieces of art were sold off the walls in addition to the 3/D art at the tables on special display. We hope you will represent your art at the Art Center if you do not have any pieces there now. It is free to display and sales are picking up lately. We want our Gallery at the Art Center to look great when our visitors come to browse. The Center is open regularly on Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Tuesday from 4:30 to 9 p.m. and Wednesday 6 to 8 p.m., when the classes are being held we have visitors there....and every third Sunday from 12 to 4 p.m. when we hold our membership meeting visitors are welcome.

Our thanks to **Robin, Donna, John, and Cy!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

MARCH INTO ART

March into Art broke records this year with the biggest youth art show ever at RRAA. We had 28 schools participate with a total of 225 entries. Faith Academy grabbed the Louisiana Art Spirit Award with the most entries. St. James Gifted Center was a real close second. All winners will be published online at artgumbo.org. The judges did a great job. It took Debi Buco and Denise Ducote 2 and 1/2 hours to do the judging! Winners will be awarded following the Children's Creativity Day at the Art Center on March 26. Mayor Barney Arceneaux of Gonzales will be presenting the awards at 3:30 p.m. Winning art pieces will be displayed at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Perkins Rowe and at Prairieville Community Coffee through the month of April.

CHILDREN'S CREATIVITY DAY

Children's Creativity Day will be on March 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. RRAA will present free art fun for the kids and door prizes. RRAA artists will set up art stations under the trees with **Mary Crochet** (painting), **Mary Demarest** and **Sally McConnell** (clay), **Monica Landry** (beading), **Donna Braud** (collage art) and **Carolyn Bowman & Cy Rawls** (face painting). A special delight will be fun for the children with Louisiana author and storyteller Lynda Deniger. She has published [Salty Seas & His Heroic Friends](#) and [Patti Pelican and the Gulf Oil Spill](#), two beautifully illustrated children's books, that focus on inspiring children and teaching them some of the most important values in life. She will be presenting delightful shows at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. featuring the characters from her book and will sign books.



RED HOT NIGHT!!!!

This IS A Warning! Get ready to have FUN! Coming Soon.....RED HOT NIGHT at the ART CENTER! When: **June 24th 5:30-7:30pm**. We will have a Pot Luck gathering that evening and all the food should be RED or HOT. This can really get interesting!

It is not too soon to be thinking of what kind of art you will enter....no entry fee....up to three pieces per person. For those of you who are new to RRAA...we invite you to get involved. It's fun and a great way to get to know each other. All the art must be either RED, HOT PINKS or ORANGE...It can be Fiery or HOT! It can be a painting, a colored ink drawing, a color photo, or any 3-dimensional art. It just must be RED and HOT! Examples: red flowers, Little Red Riding Hood, a colorful hot air balloon, fireworks!, oranges and red apples, HOT PINK jewelry... use your imagination and be creative with the words: RED & HOT. There will be door prizes throughout the evening....they will all be RED. (Anyone who wants to donate a RED prize just bring it to the ART CENTER and label RED HOT. The Show will be judged and only RED Ribbons will be awarded!

Take-in for this RED extravaganza is June 9, 10, 11, and 12 from noon to 4 p.m. each day Thursday-Sunday. June 12 is our Member meeting if you want to just bring your art when you come to that. More information will follow...just start thinking RED and see what you can come up with...you are an artist! By the way...we all wear **RED** for **RED HOT NIGHT!!!!** **Dress is Shabby Chic!**

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. Teachers this year will be **Terry Farrell** (advanced painting and drawing) ages 10-14; **Carolyn Milner** (basic drawing and design) ages 8-12; **Mary Crochet** (acrylic painting) ages 8-12, **Donna Smith** (photography) ages 8-14, and Vicki Ferstal (multi-media class for ages 6 and 7).



If there are any RRAA artists interested in teaching in the program...let us know as soon as possible so that we may include your class in the program. We will soon announce the art opportunities for the youth so that parents can plan their summer activity for their children. Artists receive pay of \$25 per student per week....classes are limited to 10 students per artist. Artist will make \$250 if she has a full class that week. Workshops are 2 hours per day (10 a.m.-noon) for 4 days each week.

This year parents pay \$50 per child per week. RRAA receives \$25 per student for art supplies, space rental, miscellaneous items, and advertising.

ART GUMBO MARKET

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



We need volunteers! Do your part as a member!

NEXT BOARD MEETING, Monday, April 4 at 6 p.m. at the Art Center

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