



River Region Art Association Newsletter

November 2010

Welcome New Members



Darcey Hafner.....jewelry
Samantha Hallenus.....unknown



ARTIST OF THE MONTH

Elaine Champagne is our artist-of-the-month! She is a creative member of the Louisiana art scene since 1999 and has been chosen as November’s artist-of-the-month at the River Region Art Association. Her work will be displayed at both the River Region Art Center in Gonzales and at the River Region Art Gallery at Houmas House Plantation.

She joined River Region in 1999 and has honed her craft in oils, watercolors and pastels. She has studied watercolor painting with artists such as Judy Betts, John P. O’Neill, Roberta Loflin, Doris Cowan, and Otis Dobson. She has expanded her skills in oils with other artists including Gayle Rivere and Sylvia Rochester. More recently Elaine has explored new media and branched out into acrylics with Janice Carter and pastels with Nancy Stutes.

Elaine has long had an appreciation of the Louisiana landscape which inspired her swamp scenes. Many of her paintings now grace the walls of homes across the country from California to New York. Elaine says, “Painting has always brought me relaxation and lets me erase all my cares and worries. Nature will always find a way to bring light and color to us, especially my favorite subjects – birds and flowers. When I concentrate on form and color, it results in hours of fun and creativity. Working alone lets me explore my creative side, and when I work with my grandchildren I gain even more inspiration watching them see how rewarding the pursuit of art can be.”

Come by and see her work at the Art Gallery at Houmas House every day from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and at the Art Center on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.



GET THE SPIRIT!

Please join in the spirit of the Christmas season and help to decorate the Art Center for the holidays. If you do not presently have any of your art represented at the Art Center....bring in 1-3 pieces marked for sale by November 11...no fee involved. If you already have art there, you may want to refresh your display. We need help on Thursday, November 11 to put up the Christmas decorations and arrange the art for exhibit. **If you can help, be there at 1:00 pm.** Anyone who wants to make artsy ornaments to place on the tree, bring those in also by November 11... priced to sell. Contact **Donna Braud** at 328-7354 or donnadidit@cox.net with any questions.

Pictures will be taken of our Art Center after it is decorated with holiday spirit, and we will show via media that our Deck the Halls Gallery is ready with holiday ideas. Anyone willing to volunteer to work at the Art Center we are open every Thursday and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact **Aileen Pine** at 673-6784 to sign up for a day. Of course we will have our annual Deck the Halls Open House on Sunday, December 5 from 5 – 7 p.m. Let’s all have Happy Art-Full Holidays!



OCTOBER SALES NEWS!!!

Sales for October surpassed September with the top sales spot captured by **Josie Young**. Josie knows how to click and stay focused! Second place for sales goes to **Diane Tygier** with third place to **Kitty Kuhnert**. Others who enjoyed sales this month were: **Betty Hutchinson, Betty Marks, Carolyn Bowman, Carolin Milner, Elaine Champagne, Helen Haw, Helen Reese, Julie Morgan, Mary Demarest, L J Mayers, Monica Landry, Peg Carbo, Robin Rotolo, Sharon Turner** and **Shirley Schell**. Hopefully we will see sales climb even more with the holidays ahead.

ARTISTS IN ACTION



Sylvia Rochester's Da Vinci's Lost Years is a "finalist" in the 2011 EPIC Awards for the Paranormal Romance Category. The winner will be announced in March at their annual conference in Williamsburg. Congratulations Sylvia!



Terry Farrell, one of our members, teaches art at Faith Academy, and she encouraged her students to create a scarecrow for our Scarecrow Contest. They entered and won \$75! To celebrate, a tent was erected on campus and the prize money was used to purchase pizza and ice cream cake. Terry said that her students had a super time!!! Congratulations Terry!



Thanks to all **River Region artists who donated** to the 2010 Boy Scout Centennial silent auction. RRAA art raised \$720 for Scouting! Our artists donated 55 pieces with 48 pieces sold. Scout leader David Breau says, "Thanks to you all." President, **Betty Marks** delivered the art to the Clinton event and set up the auction table. A special thanks to Betty!



MORE MARKETS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Art Gumbo Markets will be held on Saturdays, November 20, December 4, December 11, and December 18 from 10 a.m.— 2 p.m. at Houmas House under the trees near the parking area. Booths are free and the market is free and open to the public. Sign up for your spot now as the holiday shopping season gets underway. Contact donnadidit@cox.net to get your name on the list.



NEW BOARD OF OFFICERS

The November membership meeting of the River Region Art Association will be held on Sunday, November 14 at 2 p.m. at the Gonzales RRAA Art Center. Election of Officers for 2011 will take place. The nominating committee has submitted the following slate of candidates:

- President.....**John Robbins**
- Vice President.....**Robin Rotolo**
- 2nd VP and Assistant Treasurer.....**Cy Rawls**
- Treasurer.....**Donna Braud**
- Secretary.....**Carolyn Bowman**
- Parliamentarian.....**Terry Farrell**

There were no nominations from the floor at the October membership meeting....so the above candidates will be voted in as the Officers of the Board for 2011. The new 2011 RRAA Board will be installed at a brief ceremony at the Christmas Party on December 5 at the Art Center.

There will be a reception for the artist-of-the-month for November, **Elaine Champagne**, immediately following the November meeting. There is no artist-of-the-month chosen for December.



WINE . . . CHEESE . . . and ART

WINE... CHEESE... and ART will be featured Friday, November 12 from 6 – 9 p.m. at a special evening event at the River Region Art Center in Gonzales sponsored by LeBlanc's Food Stores . River Region artists to be featured in this Jewelry & Silk Scarves Trunk Show are: **Shirley Schell, Robin Rotolo, Jan Hebert, Monica Landry, Carolyn Bowman, and Helen Reese**. This FREE event highlights an evening of art fashion with necklaces, earrings, bracelets, and hand painted silk scarves just in time for the holidays!

Enjoy shopping, sipping good wine, and sharing a fun time. There will be a large selection of both red and white wines....and Mickey Martin, the wine specialist from Le Blanc's will be our server. Mickey will answer all your questions about wine. The artists will answer your questions about their art styles. Bring a friend or neighbor and show them our Art Center!



CHRISTMAS IS A COMIN'

Time to hum the carols and "Deck the Halls" at RRAA. Our annual Christmas Party will be on Sunday, December 5 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. at the Art Center. We always like to spruce up the Center with a holiday look and fill it with members' art. We also put up a tree and some members like to make artsy ornaments to hang on it. They can be for sale, so mark them as such. Please bring in 1-3 pieces of your art if you do not have any of your work represented there now. Or you may want to just refresh what you presently have on display.

WE would like to have the Art Center decorated for the holidays by November 11 because we are having the Wine, Cheese, Jewelry and Scarf Show Open to the public on November 12, sponsored by LeBlanc's Food stores and served by Mickey Martin, the wine specialist. So make arrangements to bring in your art before then so we can present a full and fabulous Gallery of Art. Be sure to have it priced for sale. Call **Donna** at 328-7354 if you have any questions.

The "Deck the Halls" party on December 5 will also be advertised as an Open House and the public is invited to put a little "art" in their Christmas. For the December 5 gathering, each artist is asked to bring their favorite "party dish" and RRAA will furnish the punch, cold drinks, coffee, and wine. We will put all the dishes together to create a Holiday Feast for all to enjoy. Please bring your family and friends to join in the spirit of the season. There will be numerous dishes and delightful desserts to choose from. Remember to pass the word.... they can shop for art while they enjoy the holiday food.

Over the last few years we have continued the tradition of a Holiday Gift Exchange at our Christmas Party. Any artist interested in joining in may do so and you will really have fun. You bring one piece of your artwork wrapped as a gift and place it under the tree. (painting, pottery, jewelry, or whatever you do) All those who bring a present will receive a present. The gifts are numbered and you will draw a matching number to get your surprise. It is always fun to get someone else's creation. This is just for fun and it is not necessary to participate. About 6 p.m. the exchange among members will take place. Briefly after the surprise gift exchange, the new Board Members for 2011 will be introduced.

Plan to join with your fellow members in celebrating another great year for the Arts! We hope you will come! We hope you will tell guests to come also. Let's have a party! Mark this date on your holiday calendar....December 5 from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.



BARNES & NOBLE FEATURED ARTIST of the MONTH

Elaine Forstall is our Featured Artist at Perkins Rowe Barnes & Noble for November. She was raised in New Orleans and began painting as a young girl. She is a Primitive Artist and is exceptionally gifted with very little formal training. Her paintings of the old south capture the beauty and heritage of Louisiana. Elaine's paintings have won many awards and were formally sold at the Gallery Bon Amis and Gallery Toulouse in the French Quarter of which she was part owner.

Through acrylic and oils, each piece is brought to life with a primitive touch and the heart of the South. Her art tells a story about her beloved heritage and the city she grew up in. Elaine now lives in Abita Springs, Louisiana and celebrated her 80th birthday in July 2010.

NEXT MEMBERSHIP MEETING IS NOVEMBER 14 AT 2 P.M. AT THE ART CENTER

NO DECEMBER BOARD MEETINGBUT.... OUR "DECK THE HALLS" CHRISTMAS PARTY ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5 AT THE ART CENTER FROM 5 – 7 P.M.