

JANUARY –  
FEBRUARY  
2010

### *Inside this Issue:*

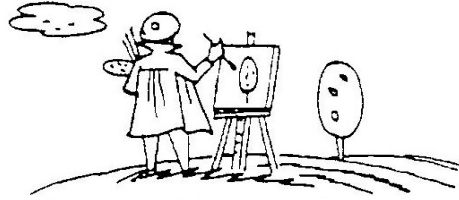
- Members Honored at Holiday Luncheon
- New Meeting Location
- Glenmore Yoga Exhibit
- President's Message
- Program Schedule
- Critique Group
- Spotlight on the Board
- January Speaker
- February Field Trip
- Exhibit Schedule
- Member News

### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Our Meeting Location has changed!

The next Regular Meeting of the James River Art League Will be at St. Matthew's Church  
1101 Forest Avenue  
(corner of Patterson and Forest)

Friday, January 22  
At 11:30am



**The James River Art League**  
Richmond, Virginia

## JRAL Members Honored at Luncheon

Lunch at the Colony Club on December 11 was a delightful and festive occasion, featuring lovely decorations, delicious food and the wonderful company of fellow artists.

Following lunch there was a special awards presentation honoring four long-term members: Betty Brinser, Lunette Edwards, Mary Beth Ols and Helen Sanders as the first recipients of the William Youngblood Award.

This award was recently established by the Board to recognize selected members for their outstanding and continual contributions to the James River Art League in support of the League's Mission "to encourage the creation and appreciation of good art."

Congratulations to our praiseworthy honorees!



*Betty, Helen, Mary Beth & Lunette*



## Exhibit at Glenmore Yoga

The first JRAL exhibit of 2010 was hung at the Glenmore Yoga and Wellness Center on Saturday, January 2. This is a new venue for us and the first art exhibit ever for Glenmore. By all reports, the yoga staff and students are extremely enthusiastic about having our artwork on display in their facility.

Glenmore is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 2:30 and on Saturday from 8:30 to noon. JRAL members are welcome to drop in and view the show. The address is 10442 Ridgefield Parkway in the Glen Eagles Shopping Center.

A joint reception for yoga students, JRAL members and guests is planned for Sunday, February 14 from 3:00 to 5:00.

Co-owners Nancy Glenmore Tatum and Kevin Casey have offered to arrange a free introductory yoga class for JRAL members! This will be a group session. Date and time plus details on how to sign up are to be arranged.

Visit [www.glenmoreyoga.com](http://www.glenmoreyoga.com) for information about Glenmore Yoga class offerings, or call (804) 741-5267.

**President's Message**

*Jane Cox*



Best wishes for a happy new year! The JRAL begins 2010 with a new venue for both the board and regular meetings. Our meeting location will be St. Matthew's Episcopal Church on the corner of Patterson and Forest Avenues. With the steady growth of membership, we outgrew the Bon Air Library. St. Matthew's is now our home.

On the meeting front, the JRAL ended 2009 on November 20th with a very informative speaker, Joan Davis. It appeared that most of us were busy taking notes on the copyright laws and the legal issues she addressed. And on December 11th, 37 members gathered at the Colony Club for a delightful, delicious holiday luncheon. The highlight was the presentation of the first William A. Youngblood Award to Betty Brinser, Lunette Edwards, Mary Beth Ohls, and Helen Sanders. They were honored for outstanding contributions to the JRAL during their

30 plus years as members. Congratulations ladies for a well-deserved honor.

On the exhibit stage, we had a very good show at the Tuckahoe Library with 26 exhibitors and 48 paintings displayed on two floors. 37 of our members have shown in at least one exhibit so far. This information came from Collin Hoskins, our "hangman." Since he has been working out of town during the week for the past several months, he gave major credit to Anne Twisdale, and Lunette and Bob Edwards for their valuable assistance.

There have been a few changes to the Telephone Committee. Norma Haigh resigned as chairman, but will continue to serve on the committee. Thank you Norma for all the years you faithfully served on the board. Pam Roach agreed

to join Norma, Sandy Bruton, and Anne Negus, the new chair, on the committee.

If all goes as planned, my husband and I will escape the cold and travel to Ft. Myers Beach from January 9 – February 5. While in Florida, I will take advantage of The Center for the Arts League of Bonita Springs. This is an outstanding organization with a large facility for classes, workshops, and exhibits.

I look forward to seeing you again in February for our field trip to Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum in Charlottesville.

**Program Schedule - Spring, 2010**

- January 22\***     **Hugh "Bami" McCreight**, owner of Memories on Canvas
- February 19**     Field Trip to the **Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum** in Charlottesville, VA. Guided tour with lunch to follow at the Boar's Head Inn
- March 19\***        **Susan Stuller** – "Techniques in Watercolor and Acrylic on Yupo"
- April 16**            Field Trip to the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** in Washington, D.C. Docent tour with lunch to follow
- May 21\***            **Visions of Kalymnos,**" show and tell by eight JRAL members who have visited and painted on this Greek island.

**\* Meetings with guest speakers:**

Speaker	11:30 am – 12:15pm
Refreshment Break	12:15 pm – 12:30 pm
Business Meeting	12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

***Please stay for the Business Meeting. This is your Art League!***

**Critique Group**

The next meeting of the JRAL Critique Group will be held on Friday, February 5th from 11:00 to 2:00 at St. Matthew's Church.

Having trouble with a painting? Not sure about the composition, focal point, color values or something more intangible? Why not take advantage of this opportunity to share ideas and suggestions with your fellow JRAL members in an informal setting?

The aim of this group is to provide support that will help each participant move on with their painting. Anyone is welcome to join. Sign up at the January meeting or contact Anne Sampson, informal Group Leader, at [annesva@comcast.net](mailto:annesva@comcast.net) or on 804 330-3145 or 804 467-2911 if you are interested.

## Spotlight on the Board

Gigi is a native Virginian. She was raised one of five children, growing up in Winchester, VA. At age 17, she went to nursing school, because she wanted to help others. All the while, her "love of art" was always in her heart. She began her art journey at age 10, with a small colored pencil set and paper that she received from her parents as a birthday gift. "This wonderful gift was so encouraging to me," she said. She served on her Chapter and City Council Boards for Beta Sigma Phi Sorority, in Winchester, helping with numerous community art related projects.

In 1980, she moved to Richmond and became Coordinator for Orthopedic Surgery at HDH Forest. Whenever possible while raising her family and working, she participated in workshops and all medium painting classes, woodcarving and pottery classes at University of Richmond, Virginia Museum of Art and Hand Workshop. After taking classes with Jan Schropshire at the Hand Workshop, she knew that she wanted to be a watercolorist.

Gigi retired from her Coordinator position in 2001, but continued on her nursing career path until 2004, as Special Projects Coordinator for HCA.

## January Speaker

At the next regular meeting on January 22, we will have a presentation by "Bami" McCreight, who plans to talk to us about "The Reproductive Process." (We assume this means as it applies to artwork.)

This month the spotlight is on Gigi Vranian, our Second Vice President and Parliamentarian.



Wanting to learn more about the "Art World", she was accepted into the JRAL in 2001 and has been an extremely active participant and contributor ever since joining the group. Her motto, "you can't learn by sitting on the side lines, you have to jump in with both feet." With both feet, she served as Second VP and Corresponding Secretary May 2003-2005, President and Newsletter Editor, May 2005-2007, and First VP and Program Chairman 2007-2009. She

currently holds the position of Second Vice President and Parliamentarian.

In addition to these official Board positions, Gigi has chaired numerous ad hoc committees, most recently and notably organizing and leading the Calendar Committee that developed our 2010-11 eighteen month art calendar.

Gigi currently takes art classes from Anne Chaddock at For Arts Sake and helps the community through her volunteer efforts in Disaster Health Services at the Greater Richmond Chapter of the American Red Cross.

"Life offers a series of learning and self awareness possibilities, I love to embrace as many as I can, enjoying the many friendships along the way. That's why the creation of art is so important to me; it allows me to see that life in a very special way, with clarity and purpose; a gift that keeps on giving."

Gigi lives with her husband, Ed, in Manakin-Sabot.

## February Field Trip

Join us in February when we travel to Charlottesville to tour the Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art Museum on Friday, February 19. We plan to car pool, leaving from the Beverly Hills Shopping Center parking lot at 9:00 a.m. After touring the museum, we will enjoy a lunch buffet at the Boar's Head Inn. There is no entry fee for the museum. Cost for lunch is \$24.

To register for the trip, contact Lois Shipley, Program Chairman, 804-883-5040, [lawshipley@embarqmail.com](mailto:lawshipley@embarqmail.com).

Send a check payable to JRAL to Nancy Foley, 9107 Stephens Manor Dr, Mechanicsville, VA 23116.

Visit [www.virginia.edu/kluge-ruhe/exhibits](http://www.virginia.edu/kluge-ruhe/exhibits) for information about the museum.

## **Exhibit Schedule – Spring 2010**

**Glenmore Yoga and Wellness Center - 10442 Ridgefield Parkway,  
Richmond (New Venue)**

60 paintings/30 artists

Up Saturday, January 2, 2010, 12 noon

Down Saturday, February 27, 2010, 12 noon (two month show)

Joint sponsored reception for yoga students and artists, Sunday, February 14, 2010, 3:00-5:00 pm

**Bank of America Center – 1111 East Main Street, Richmond**

60 paintings/30 artists; narrow display boards will not hold wide paintings

Up Saturday, January 30, 2010, 10:00 am

Down Saturday, February 20, 2010, 10:00 am (three week show)

**Uptown Gallery – 1305 West Main Street, Richmond**

50 paintings/25 artists + crafts and sculpture (New Venue)

Up Saturday, March 27, 2010, 10:00 am

Down Saturday, May 29, 2010, 10:00 am (two month show)

Two First Friday Art Walks and receptions

**30% Commission**

**James Center Atrium – 901 East Cary Street, Richmond**

**James River art League Annual Juried Show**

**68 paintings/34 artists**

Up Saturday, June 5, 2010, 9:00-10:00 am

Down Saturday, June 26, 2010, 9:00-10:00 am (three week show)

JRAL sponsored reception Sunday, June 13, 2010, 2:00-4:00 pm

### **Some Reminders about Participation in League Exhibits**

- ◇ Gallery Chairman, Collin Hoskins, reports that in the four exhibits that have gone up since September, 38 members, 57.6% of the membership, have taken part in at least one show. According to our By-Laws, “An Active member who fails to participate in two League sponsored shows per year will become an Inactive member”. An Inactive member is required to pay dues and may attend League functions but may not vote or hold office. The Board is planning to begin enforcing this requirement. Note that it does not apply to Patron members.
- ◇ Gallery Rules require that all paintings must be in ready-to-hang condition with picture wire firmly attached (not strung too taut, please). Clip type hangers are not acceptable.
- ◇ In consideration of your fellow artist members, please do not deliver paintings late, pick up paintings early or neglect to pick up paintings from any exhibit or from any other member you have made an arrangement with!

**Exhibit/Contact  
Chairman:**

**Karen Wittthoefft**

**272-9453 (h)**

**380-0173 (c)**

The Exhibit/Contact Chairman is in charge of procuring new and existing exhibit areas and shall be the liaison between the League and the public.

**Gallery Chairman  
a.k.a. “Hangman”:**

**Collin Hoskins**

**677-7542 (c)**

The Gallery Chairman is in charge of hanging all art shows and exhibits. The membership is required to aid the Gallery Chairman when called upon to do so.



## Member News

**JRAL extends a warm welcome to the following new member of the Art League:**

Barbara Lange  
10202 Acworth Dr  
Glen Allen, VA 23060  
[bLange@gwsinc.com](mailto:BLange@gwsinc.com)

**Congratulations** to Pam Roach and Gigi Vranian who sold paintings in the show at the Tuckahoe Library.

**Way to go** Leslie Schooler for selling a total of seven paintings in December.

**Thanks** to Beth Bradford for taking care of our wall at Crossroads where new paintings were recently put up.

**Kudos** to everyone else, who has sold paintings, contributed their time and efforts to our Art League and is otherwise finding success and satisfaction in their art!

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### “For Art’s Sake” Show and Reception

Quite a few JRAL members are currently participating in the annual juried art show sponsored by For Art’s Sake and benefiting “Make-A-Wish” foundation. Work is on display at the James Center, 901 E. Cary St. from January 9 through January 30. A reception will be held on Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

### Montpelier Center For Arts & Education

Sponsoring “FEEL GOOD GIVING” – a Juried All-Media Exhibition by Virginia Women, March 1 – April 20, 2010. Opening Reception Friday March 12; Deadline for entries February 1.

Contact Lois Shipley  
[lawshipley@embarqmail.com](mailto:lawshipley@embarqmail.com) or see  
[www.montpeliercenter.org](http://www.montpeliercenter.org).

### In Memoriam Masaaki Okada

Our holiday season was touched with a note of sadness when we learned that former JRAL member “Mac” Okada passed away a few days before Christmas. Mac was an award winning photographer who worked for the Richmond Times-Dispatch and Richmond News Leader for 32 years before retiring in 2003.

He was known and respected in the business for his “incredible talent to see photo layouts,” and for being a wonderfully helpful and encouraging mentor.

When Mac applied to join the James River Art League, he told us he was “not a real artist,” but his exquisitely detailed paintings of Virginia’s scenic waterways and wildlife told us otherwise.

The James River Art League was privileged to have counted Mac Okada as one of our members. He was a kind, gentle and talented man who will be greatly missed.

### Memorial Gathering for Mac Okada

On Sunday, January 10, five JRAL members attended a memorial get-together for Mac Okada at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. There was a large turnout of friends, many, of course, from the newspaper world, but others who had met Mac through his art or his walks along the James River that he loved. Mac’s family was represented by a brother, a sister and an old friend who traveled from Japan to be here. In the Japanese tradition they presented each guest with a token gift representing our relationship to Mac, and on our part we presented them with a copy of our newsletter containing his “Memoriam” and other information about the Art League.

A great many of Mac’s paintings (as well as much of his fishing gear) were generously given away by the family to as many guests as possible. Based on a simple number drawing system, our own Susie Counts was delighted to become the recipient of a beautiful watercolor depicting a pair of swans floating gracefully on the river.

**JAMES RIVER ART LEAGUE**

President, Jane Cox  
4604 W Grace St  
Richmond, VA 23230

(804) 358-1697  
[janenealcox@comcast.net](mailto:janenealcox@comcast.net)

**MEETINGS**

Third Friday of every other  
month, 11:30am  
September-May  
St Matthews Church

Newsletter Editor  
Mary Kent

(804) 278-8917  
[mary.kent1@verizon.net](mailto:mary.kent1@verizon.net)

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Bi-monthly September-May

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**WINTER WEATHER POLICY**  
Our meeting cancellation  
policy follows the Henrico  
County school closure due to  
inclement weather  
announcement;  
Next meeting will be the  
following month, unless  
otherwise notified.

**About Our  
Organization**

The James River Art  
League was originally  
organized by members of  
a painting class taught by  
Helen Bailey. Through  
Helen's persuasion, an art  
league was formed south  
of the James River in  
1964. At that time, the

meetings were held in a  
small white house on the  
grounds of the Westover  
Hills School. The  
members decided to  
follow the constitution and  
by-laws of the Petersburg  
Art League. They  
organized the James  
River Art League as a  
corporation.

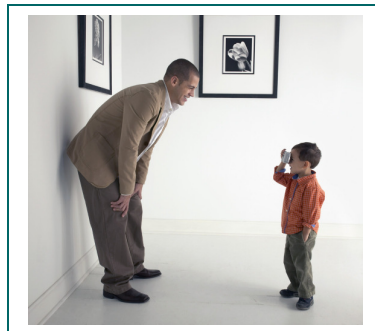
Their membership grew,  
and soon the League  
included members from  
across the James River,  
and into the City of  
Richmond.

Thanks to a few who had  
vision, the James River Art  
League celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup>  
year anniversary in 2005.

**JRAL Emblem**

The design, pictured on page one, was selected by the membership in 1964.  
Member artist, William Youngblood, depicted an artist at work, on the banks of the  
James River.

We are grateful for all the contributions that Mr. Youngblood made to JRAL!



***Our Mission Statement:***

***To encourage the  
creation and appreciation  
of good art.***

**JRAL**  
Mary Kent  
5 Tow Path Circle  
Richmond, Va. 23221

