

# NEWS

www.jamesriverartleague.com



## THE PORTRAIT PAINTER

### DONNA CAMPBELL ALLEN OFFERS HER INSIGHTS, TIPS AND TECHNIQUES



#### The Holiday Issue

The Art of Cards	4-5
Changes to Bylaws	6
News and Notes	3
Program Schedule	2
Exhibit Schedule	7

Donna Campbell Allen is passionate about her career as a portrait artist.

"Painting portraits," she says, "has brought me the most satisfaction in my artistic experience."

"I also get great enjoyment from teaching others, seeing how a little time and curiosity can bring about happy surprises."

She will bring her own excitement and a few happy surprises to the Nov. 16 meeting of the James River Art League, where she will demonstrate her personal methods



White Bow



Three Brothers on a Rock

and techniques for painting watercolor portraits.

Going step by step, she will take us from the beginning, the early decisions, her method of layering and glazing, the middle work, and the celebratory finish.

She will talk about creating the sketch, composing and identifying the center of interest, figuring out lighting and shadow, color harmony, her personal skintone recipes, creating the underpainting and her painting rhythm.

(Continued on page 2)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Lois Shipley

I admire all of you who have the foresight to not only get Christmas cards made using your art, but you first painted something appropriate and, I imagine, followed through and mailed them all out with your personal greeting.

I have to admit that the cards are the last thing I do every Christmas, and I have started calling them Happy New Year cards. No bah-humbugs allowed!

My research tells me that Christmas cards appeared during the Victorian age in 1839 with the start of England's Uniform Penny Post (postal system).

They were fancy with a cheerful and colorful message, and the tradition soon spread across two continents.

From Raphael's Madonna to Folk Art traditions to Thomas Nast's

(Continued on page 8)



Thomas Nast's Santa



# DONNA CAMPBELL ALLEN ON PORTRAITURE

(Continued from page 1)

And she will have some of her own finished works on display.

Donna has focused on portraiture for the past dozen years. Before that she spent 15 years in advertising as an art director, designer and illustrator for several department stores on the east coast. She also illustrated a novella, "The Special Guest, A Christmas Story."

Her work has been exhibited in national and international shows including the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society International Show and re-

ceived Best of Show in the NAP Richmond 2011 National Show.

She teaches adult and teen classes at the University of Richmond, Arthaus Visual Arts Studio and the Visual Arts Center.

Donna graduated with top honors from the Ivy School of Professional Art in Pittsburgh.

The meeting, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church at Forest and Patterson avenues, will begin at 11 a.m. **Note the new, earlier time which will be for all JRAL regular meetings.**



Lace

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE



Date	Type	Details
<b>FALL / WINTER 2012</b>		
11 a.m. November 16 <b>NOTE TIME CHANGE</b>	Meeting Program <i>Demonstration</i>	Local artist, teacher and JRAL member Donna Allen demonstrates her approach to the watercolor portrait.
Noon December 14	Holiday Luncheon	Lunch in the Marble Hall of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.
<b>WINTER / SPRING 2013</b>		
11 a.m. January 18, 2013	Meeting Program <i>Speaker</i>	Marlene Paul, director of Art 180, tells us about the work of this local organization that creates and provides art-related programs for young people living in challenging circumstances.
February 15	Local Field Trip <b>NOTE CHANGE</b>	Visit the Virginia Historical Society to learn about projects to restore the Charles Hoffbauer military murals. See the restoration in progress by conservator Cleo Mullins.
11 a.m. March 15	Meeting Program <i>Video Presentation</i>	Watch "Snow Hill," a self-portrait of Andrew Wyeth, one of our greatest American painters. This film incorporates his great works of art along with home movies of N.C. Wyeth and authorized interviews with Andrew Wyeth and famed model Helga Testorf.
April 19	Out-of-town Field Trip	Travel to Newport News to see "Working South," a special exhibit of paintings by nationally recognized watercolorist Mary Whyte, at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center. Afterward visit the Maritime Museum next door and enjoy lunch at the Museum Café.
11 a.m. May 17	Annual Meeting	Share results and enjoy critiques of work from the annual Member Challenge. Outer dimensions of artwork and frame: 20"x24"

Programs and schedule are subject to change. For updates, visit the website: [www.jamesriverartleague.com](http://www.jamesriverartleague.com)

Admission fees may apply for field trips. Meals and transportation are at members' expense.



# NEWS, NOTES FOR AND ABOUT JRAL ARTISTS

## Recent sales

Mary Kent sold a painting at "Gallery", the annual juried arts and crafts show at the First Unitarian Universalist Church.

## Honors

Bonnie Shelor won honorable mention in the juried Fall 2012 show at Crossroads Art Center.

## Pastel Society

The Pastel Society of Virginia (PSV), founded in 2011 in Northern Virginia, has created a Central Virginia Chapter. Elizabeth Hood reports. For those looking for a way to expand exposure for their work and to interact with other pastelists, this is a great opportunity. Membership in the PSV is \$25 a year, with no jurying in process at this time. Carol Cullinan and Linda Wolitz are co-chairing two shows planned for this area: February-March, 2013 at Uptown Gallery in Richmond and mid-2014 at the Cultural Art Center at Glen Allen.

The membership application can be downloaded from:  
[www.tinyurl.com/psvmembership](http://www.tinyurl.com/psvmembership)

For further information you can call Linda Wolitz: 804.262.5882.



## JRAL at VMFA

For the October outing, JRAL members visited the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts to see work by internationally known glass artist Dale Chihuly. Kate Towler photographed his "Persian Ceiling" (left), and Mary Kent, who organized the visit, discussed Chihuly's Native American-inspired fabric art with Jane Cox and Kate.



## NEW MEMBER

The JRAL board, at its Nov. 2 meeting, accepted into membership **Barbara Evans** of Montpelier.



Barbara Evans

Barbara, who specializes in oil and pastel, has studied at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Studio School and at Crossroads Art Center.

## Severe Weather Reminder

As winter approaches the board is reminding members that we will follow the guidelines of Henrico County schools on cancellation of meetings. If there's no school, there's no meeting. Notices will be posted on the JRAL website as well.

## Fees for Crossroads Show

At the November meeting, Exhibit Chair Gigi Vranian will be collecting the \$10 fee per painting for those artists participating in the Crossroads Exhibit in January. This is to cover the increased Gallery Fee that Crossroads Art Gallery is charging us.

## Petersburg Art Center

Bill Smith will be jurying a show at Petersburg Art Center in November.

## What's Your Art History?

We would like to compile a collection of short art-related bios on each of our members – brief descriptions of your artistic background and journey, statements about your artistic inspiration and vision. These little blurbs will serve as verbal snapshots of each of us, to be used in future publicity materials and during our 50th anniversary.

Please write a paragraph, 50 words or so, that captures the essence of you as an artist: Your media, favorite subject matter, where or with whom you've studied, awards you've won, how your endeavors enrich your life, your artistic aspirations, etc.

Send your blurbs to JRAL's Archivist, Stella Jones, at [stellaj17@gmail.com](mailto:stellaj17@gmail.com), or via snail mail at 6609 Fitzhugh Ave, Henrico, VA 23226.



# THE ART OF CARDS

We asked JRAL members to send us examples of art they had created for holiday cards through the years.



▲ **Janice Clark:** I love painting figures in scenes, especially with interesting gestures. This iconic Richmond scene was so much fun to paint, I was almost sorry when it was finished.



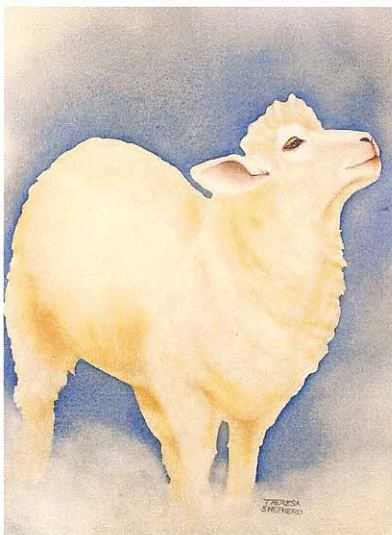
▲ **Mary Kent:** This was a group family portrait showing (l to r) Jasmine, Prince and Sarah, three sweet creatures who brought us much joy and, occasionally, a little bit of peace.



▼ **Mary Dean:** My cards represent an animal or place that is significant to us from the year before. One year this raccoon visited us daily, finishing off the cat's food, then looking in our windows at us.

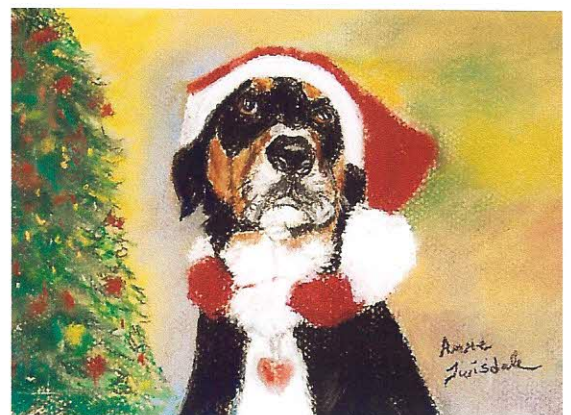


▲ **Gigi Vranian:** We have many deer that come to visit us at our home on Running Cedar Trail. Her bow is designed with Running Cedar and a Christmas bell.



▲ **Terry Shepherd:** Animals are my favorite subject to paint and I have always had a fondness for sheep and lambs. (Even before I married into the name "Shepherd") This painting is titled, "My Sheep Hear My Voice."

▲ **Anne Twisdale:** This painting is of my beautiful dog, Katy. I had to bribe her with treats to get her to keep the Santa hat on. I painted it with pastel and added the tree which wasn't up yet.







▲ **Stella Jones:** I took the original photo during a previous year's snowstorm, then painted a small picture from the photo. I didn't quite like the painting as much as the photo, so I blended the two images in Photoshop, added one of the software's "artistic filters" to get more of that paint daubs effect, and voila!



▲ **Jane Cox:** The cat is my beloved Punkin, who has appeared on all our cards since he became a family member five years ago. Charlie always said he was the best looking member of the family.

▲ **Betie Cherry:** This is Central Park with the Plaza Hotel in the background. It's a special place for my husband and me.



▲ **Florence Tromater:** This is a scene of Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens from 2009.

## THE ART OF CARDS



Oh, no! Not another Christmas card picture.



Does the camera make me look fat?



She's crowding me.



Stop fidgeting.



▲ **Mike Steele:** We've always done photos, paintings or computer art of our pets for Christmas cards (and only once did we make them wear antlers. We've always regretted doing that). One year we offered a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into making the card.



# VOTE ON NEW BYLAWS AT NOV. 16 MEETING

By Collin Hoskins

At the regular membership meeting in November, you will be asked to approve the revised JRAL Bylaws. A copy of the new document has been sent to you in a separate mailing.

## Why Have New Bylaws?

"The Bylaws say we can't do that." "Why is the fiscal year different from the meeting year?" "Who is responsible for what?" Are we allowed to have a bake sale?" "Why is everything him, he, and his?"

In answer to those and other questions, complaints, or frustrations, the Bylaws Review Committee has been reviewing the current ("old") Constitution and Bylaws of JRAL since February. The original documents were drafted in 1964; amendments were made from time to time, but there is still a need to update the documents in a number of ways.

The result is a proposed new document, one that better reflects the mission of James River Art League today and that will serve us well for another five decades.

## What Are The Changes?

There are many small changes, such as formatting, rewriting for clarity and taking into consideration newer technology. And there are some significant improvements, such as:

- There is one document instead of two. Robert's Rules of Order calls for just bylaws, no constitution.
- The New Bylaws describe what we really do, want to do, and must do.
- Responsibilities are clarified and confusion is reduced.
- There is flexibility to minimize the need for future changes.
- The New Bylaws are compatible with obtaining tax-exempt (not-for-profit) status or incorporation
- The format is more "user friendly."
- The Bylaws are gender neutral – no *his*, *he*, or *him*.
- Membership types have been simplified – just two regular types, Exhibiting and Associate (non-exhibiting), plus Charter Members.
- Time frames have been synchronized: the fiscal year, exhibit year, and meeting years all begin July 1.
- Officers and standing committees have been changed slightly for improved efficiency and because of changing technology. There is only one Secretary, with the Corresponding Secretary and Telephone Committee duties now part of the new Communication Committee. Another new committee is Community Outreach. The Historian has been replaced by the Archivist, recognizing

the need to utilize advancing technology, and by the Archives Committee.

- A new *Mission Statement* replaces the Constitution's Article 1, Section 2: *Object*.
- The section for dues payments and collections is now more specific.
- Upon approval, some of the changes will become effective immediately, but several parts will be delayed until the next League year to enable a smooth transition.

## What Happens Next?

The bottom line is that after adoption of the new bylaws, you probably won't notice much, if any, difference. But in the long run, JRAL will be an even better part of the greater Richmond art community,

If you have questions or comments, please contact a member of the review committee as soon as possible. The vote on the new bylaws will be taken at the Nov. 16 meeting.

## Bylaws Review Team:

Collin Hoskins, Chair  
chah@verizon.net  
677-7524

Elizabeth Hood  
elizabethhood@comcast.net  
784-5868

Gigi Vranian  
vraniangigi@comcast.net  
784-8087

Karen Witthoefft  
edkarenwitthoefft@verizon.net  
272-9453

## DUES ARE DUE

Fall is a busy time of year for all.

Please don't let paying your dues slip your mind.

According to the JRAL Bylaws members whose dues are not paid by December 1 will be notified by the Membership Chair that their membership has been terminated.

Please send your \$30 check made out to JRAL to:  
Maryanne Evans, Treasurer JRAL,  
14505 Highgate Hill Court,  
Chesterfield, VA 23832.



# IT'S TIME FOR ANOTHER JRAL ARTIST CHALLENGE

By Mary Kent

Every year, JRAL likes to encourage us to stretch our talents and get out of our comfort zones by offering an artist

challenge to our members.

This year's challenge for anyone who would like to participate is called the "River City" or "Richmond" or "RVA"

challenge. The goal is to produce a piece of art that truly speaks of Richmond.

For inspiration, think of our fair city's historic buildings and monuments; the river and its banks, bridges, locks and canals; the skyline; our many beautiful parks and gardens; townhouses in The Fan, your favorite neighborhood shop or café; one of the music festivals or farmers' markets; or whatever it is that means Richmond to you.

Create your work in the medium of your choice, whether that is oil or acrylic, watercolor or pastel, pen and ink, pencil, woodcut, collage, photography or something else.

Guidelines: Try not to stray too far into the suburbs – we are really talking about "Richmond" here – and please do not base your work on any previously published photograph of Richmond (unless, of course, it happens to be your own). Stick with your own photography or that of your friends, or paint "alla prima" if that appeals to you.

If participating in a "Challenge" is not your thing, that's okay. Not everyone enjoys this type of exercise.

We have invited Christopher Wynn, a well-known painter of Richmond scenes, to join us in May to critique the efforts of those who did, and it will be fun to see what everyone came up with.

Exhibit Chair, Gigi Vranian, has scheduled a special exhibition of our RVA works to open at Crossroads Gallery in March of 2014 in conjunction with the celebration of our 50th anniversary. In the interest of being able to show as much of our artwork as possible, we request the finished size of your piece be no larger than 20" by 24".

Note: Anyone who has recently (or not even so recently) completed a quintessential picture of Richmond is welcome to submit that work as a response to the challenge (but it might be fun to try another one).

## EXHIBIT SCHEDULE



### Location

### About This Exhibit

### Important Dates and Info

#### FALL / WINTER 2012

**Tuckahoe Library**  
1901 Starling Dr.  
Henrico, VA

Dec. 1–29  
No commission  
30 artists, 2 paintings each

Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., Dec. 1  
Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., Dec. 29  
No reception

#### WINTER / SPRING 2013

**Crossroads Art Cntr**  
2016 Staples Mill Rd.  
Richmond, VA

January 18–March 4  
\* 15% commission  
40 artists, 1 painting each  
All paintings must be for sale.

Drop off: 10-11 a.m., Jan. 12  
Pick up: 10-11 a.m., March 5  
Reception: 6-9 p.m., Jan. 18

**St. Giles  
Presbyterian Church**  
5200 Grove Ave.  
Richmond, VA  
2012 Artist Challenge  
Pictures

March 7–April 29  
No commission  
25 artists, 1 painting each  
Maximum Size Restrictions:  
35" W x 21"H

Drop off: 9-9:30 a.m., March 7  
Pick up: 9-9:30 a.m., April 29  
No reception  
No prices on cards

**For Art's Sake  
Gallery**  
8538 Patterson Ave.  
Henrico, VA

March 4–April 30  
30% commission  
20 artists, 2 paintings each  
Maximum Size Restrictions:  
32" x 32"

Drop off: 10-10:30 a.m., March 4  
Pick up: 10-10:30 a.m., April 30  
Reception: 5-8 p.m., April 5  
All paintings must be for sale.

**Capital One -  
West Creek**  
Not open to the public

May 3–August 30  
No commission  
35 artists, 1 painting each  
All paintings POR or NFS

Drop off: 2-2:30 p.m., May 3  
Pickup: 4-4:30 p.m., Aug. 30  
No reception

**James Center  
Atrium**  
1051 E. Cary St.  
Richmond, VA  
Annual Judged Exhibit

June 1–June 22  
No commission  
Max 65 paintings, 1 per artist  
Maximum size restrictions:  
34"W x 37"H

Drop off: 9:30-10 a.m., June 1  
Pick up: 9:30-10 a.m., June 22  
Reception, awards presentation:  
2-4 p.m., June 9

Diana Robinson, Gallery Co-Chair: 741-5550 (H), 512-9389 (C); dnr36@comcast.net  
Kate Towler, Gallery Co-Chair: 565-2606 (H), 432-4188 (C); katetowler@verizon.net  
Gigi Vranian, Exhibit Chair: 784-8087 (H), 337-3720 (C); vraniangigi@comcast.net

NOTES: Sign-up is a must for all exhibits. Please call Gigi if you sign up but can't make it. / Schedule is subject to change. Please visit the website, [www.jamesriverartleague.com](http://www.jamesriverartleague.com), for most current information. / Receptions: Food provided by exhibit participants, unless otherwise notified by the Hospitality Committee.

\* There will be a \$10 fee for each painting in the Crossroads Art Center to pay a portion of the gallery fee the JRAL is charged for the exhibit. The fee from each participating artist will be due at the November meeting.



November / December 2012



## James River Art League

**Lois Shipley**  
President

**Mary Kent**  
1st Vice President  
Program Chairman

**Collin Hoskins**  
2nd Vice President  
Parliamentarian

**Jane Cox**  
Recording Secretary

**Sally Booth**  
Corresponding Secretary

**Maryanne Evans**  
Treasurer

### Committee Chairs

**Elizabeth Hood**  
Membership

**Suzanne Spooner-Munch**  
Publicity

**Diana Robinson**  
**Kate Towler**  
Gallery

**Gigi Vranian**  
Exhibit / Contact

**Stella Jones**  
Historian / Archivist

**Lisa Nye**  
**Pam Roach**  
Hospitality

**Sandy Bruton**  
Telephone

**Mike Steele**  
Newsletter

**Our Mission:**  
To encourage the creation and  
appreciation of good art.

## FOUR ART GIFT IDEAS TO GIVE OR GET

There's nothing like opening a Christmas gift to find a book inside, then spending Christmas afternoon by the tree reading.

Here, from Publishers Weekly, are four new book suggestions to give or get:

America's original artist of sumptuous color, detail, and identity in the natural world, John James Audubon, is honored in **Audubon's Aviary: The Original Watercolors for The Birds of America**, with text by Robert J.M. Olson, curator of drawing at the New-York Historical Society. Olson tells the story of the creation of the Audubon watercolors and delves into the master naturalist's sources. In the process, we are taught how to see.

**Blown Covers: New Yorker Covers You Were Never Meant to See** were chosen by New Yorker art editor Françoise Mouly. It is a look at the creative evolution of artwork (always timely, sometimes

funny, occasionally outrageous) destined to adorn the front of the New Yorker — or not.

Every few years, it seems, a biography of a great artist does very well—Van Gogh last year; before that Matisse; and so on. A notable this year is Sheila Hale's **Titian: His Life**. Hale has spent 10 years on the book, and it will be the first biography of Titian, the Italian star of the 16th century Venetian school, in more than a century.

J.R.R. Tolkien is the granddaddy of lots of today's fantasists. His original drawings are the basis for **The Art of The**

**Hobbit** by J.R.R. Tolkien, edited by Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull. It contains Tolkien's 10 original black-and-white illustrations, two maps, and five color scenes he later painted. The authors, Tolkien scholars, examine Tolkien's craft in relation to the text.

### The Book Club

## HOLIDAY PARTY ON DEC. 14 AT VMFA

The annual JRAL holiday luncheon will be held this year in the Marble Hall at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts on Friday, Dec. 14, at noon. We hope as many

members as possible will turn out for this event to celebrate the season with fine food, fine friends and fine art. Guests are welcome.

The cost for the luncheon is \$20 per person, including entrée, beverage, dessert, taxes and service charges.



The Marble Hall

If you would like to attend, please let your Program Chairman, Mary Kent, know as soon as possible. A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the November meeting. Send your check payable to JRAL for \$20 to Maryanne Evans, Treasurer.

The final deadline for signup for the luncheon is Thursday, November 29.

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

(Continued from page 1)

Santa Claus, the art of Christmas is a part of our heritage.

With Christmas cards, it has always been about sharing the warmth of the season through art and poetry.

**I**n creating your own cards, you become a special part of that heritage for your friends and family. This has really given me a lot to think about... for next year.

Wishing a Merry Christmas and a very creative and Happy New Year to all!

I hope to see you at the annual JRAL Holiday Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 14.