March – April, 2014

NEWS

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50 Years of Art in Richmond ◆ 1964-2014

Experience Pastels in March

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Betsy Kellum Demonstrates Pastels to JRAL Members

By Elizabeth Hood

Pastel painter Betsy Kellum will speak to JRAL at our next meeting on Friday, March 21st. Her talk, "All About Pastels", includes information, techniques and demonstration of the pastel medium.

Betsy will have samples of pastels and pastel materials for members to see, touch and experience. While showing us examples of her paintings, she will talk about specific pastel techniques, framing and there may even be a hands-on piece for our audience to work on.

"At the Met" by Betsy Kellum

An award-winning pastel and oil painter, Betsy has studied with well-known pastel artists such as Burton Silverman, Albert Handell, and Doug Dawson, among others. She teaches adult classes and workshops, and has served as juror and judge for exhibits at the local, state and regional level. She has been published in numerous national publications such as *The Pastel Journal* and *American Art Collector*.

Betsy is a signature member of several pastel societies, among them Pastel Society of America, Maryland Pastel Society, Southeastern Pastel Society and Pastel Society of the West Coast. In addition, she has been juried into the International Guild of Realism.

Pastels have been used by artists since the Renaissance, and gained considerable popularity in the 18th century, when a number of notable artists made pastel their primary medium.

Please read Susan Fisher's article, "The Magnificence of Pastel" on page 4 for more insights on the pastel medium.

JRAL goes to Wilton House!

Tour, Lunch and Paint

Friday, April 11

Details on Page 6

Y'Art Sale

at For Art's Sake Gallery

Saturday, April 26th, 10 am – 3 pm

(Details page 7)

FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Here Comes the Sun"

Mary Kent

"Tulips at Lewis Ginter"
by Mary Kent

"Little darling,
It's been a long, cold lonely winter
Little darling,
It feels like years since it's been here

Here comes the sun,
Here comes the sun, and I say it's all right"

- George Harrison

Spring may not be here quite yet, but surely it will be soon. I don't know about you, but this painter is really looking forward to getting outside again to experience balmy breezes and blossoms and the feel of the sun on my back (or in my eyes) while I am trying to capture the essence of a landscape.

"I feel that ice is slowly melting"

What better way to usher in the season than by celebrating together at our fiftieth anniversary kickoff reception at Crossroads on Friday, March 21st (which, coincidentally, is the first day of spring). Invite friends and family to join us for our exhibit featuring approximately 50 paintings of special places in Richmond River City, the culmination of last year's Artist Challenge.

"The smiles returning to the faces"

I think it's brilliant that the James River Art League was born the same year, 1964, that the Beatles took America by storm. The really good stuff has a way of lasting, doesn't it? Read more about what was happening in our Art League in the 60's, 70's and beyond in the upcoming Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Book to be published by our Anniversary Committee later in the year.

"Sun, sun, sun, here it comes"

Mary Kent

JRAL Welcomes a New Member

The Executive Board accepted one new artist into membership as an Exhibiting Member at the March 7th board meeting.

Beverly Lockwood works in watercolor, collage and mixed media. She has taken classes with Christophora Robeers for 20 years, as well as attending many workshops. She is also a member of the Metropolitan Richmond Artists Association, Virginia Collage Society and Crossroads Art Center. Beverly was sponsored by Carol Baron.

Please join the Board in welcoming our newest member to JRAL and in helping her learn about our organization.

Save the Dates!

Calendar of Events
50th Anniversary

Friday, March 21, 6-9 pm
Crossroads Art Center Exhibit & Reception: "Richmond, River City"

Sunday, June 22, 2-4 pm
Annual Judged Show, James Center Atrium

Thursday, October 16, 5-8 pm
50th Celebration Party, Richmond Country Club

Friday, December 12
Holiday Luncheon

News, Notes For and About JRAL Artists

Member Exhibitions

Lois Shipley had 5 pieces accepted into the next juried exhibition at Gallery Flux, "Structures Brought to Light." Reception is at First Thursday Opening on March 6 at 307B England St., Ashland, and the exhibit is open until April 26th.

Bonnie Shelor will be exhibiting her experimental abstracts as guest artist at Uptown Gallery through April 26th. Receptions at Uptown are on First Fridays, March 7 and April 4.

Leslie Corbitt had two photographs accepted into the Photography Show in February at Art Works, and also has a painting accepted in the March All Media Show at Art Works. Receptions are on Fourth Fridays at 320 Hull Street.

Recent Sales & Commissions

Lois Shipley sold "Rugged Individual" from her Utah series at JRAL's recent exhibit at Glenmore Yoga.

Yvonne Wilson recently completed a commissioned pet painting.

Other Notes of Interest...

Leslie Corbitt attended a workshop this month at VMFA studio school, silk scarf painting, a one-day class with Mary Swezey. She came home with two completed scarfs. She is also signed up for another class at the studio school in March, Printing Textiles with Indian Blocks with the same instructor, Mary Swezey.

Virginia Watercolor Society will hold their 35th Annual Juried Exhibition from May 4-June 28 at the Academy of Fine Arts in Lynchburg this year. You must be a member to enter the show. The juror and workshop instructor this year is Nicholas Simmons, recipient of the National Watercolor Society's special Masters Award. The workshop dates are April 29-May 2, 2014. Please visit the website of VWS, www.virginiawatercolorsociety.org for more information.

A new artist's consignment gallery, The Artist's Shelf, has opened in Kilmarnock, Va., charging a 30% commission on sales, but no hanging fees. For more information, see the website at www.theartistsshelf.com.

Members, send your news to Elizabeth Hood, Newsletter chair, elizabethhood@comcast.net to be included in the next issue!

Awards and Honors

Several JRAL members were among the award winners in the For Art's Sake Annual Student Show, judged by Adele Castillo:

Shirley Harrington - 1st place Acrylic
Harvey Hinson - 3rd place Oil
Elizabeth Hood - 1st place Pastel/Drawing
Anne Negus - 2nd place Oil
Rosemary McKnight - 2nd place Pastel/Drawing
Nancy Sandridge - 3rd place Acrylic
Jean Younkin - 3rd place Watercolor

Three JRAL members received awards at the Susan Stuller Student Show at Crossroads Art Center in January:

Lori Wilson - 1st Place for her painting, "The Relatives"
Carol Joyce - 3rd Place
Lesley Schooler - Honorable Mention

"Building Stones" by Bev Bley

In the Crossroads Art Center Jan-Feb All Media show, **Bev Bley** received a 2nd place for "Building Stones", and **Bonnie Shelor** received 3rd Place for "But-The Eternal Exception".

At Uptown Gallery's judged show February "RVA-Beauty and History Abound", **Dan Michaels** received a 1st Place for his pastel painting, and **Rosemary McKnight** received an Honorable Mention for her colored pencil painting, "Autumn Barn".

Upcoming Workshops

Diana Robinson at For Art's Sake Gallery has several upcoming workshops: Figure Painting with Andre Lucero March 15, Painting Abstracts with Christophora Robeers April 5, Plein Air with Andre Lucero May 17. Only 2 spots are left for the Nova Scotia plein air workshop led by Christopher Wynn, August 17-23. Details can be found on their website, www.forartssakegallery.com.

Elizabeth Eubanks will be leading two workshops for 12 artists each, "Embracing Ireland" on June 21-28 and Sept 22-29. Itinerary details are available from Elizabeth at eeubanks@cox.net or call her at 804-314-1356.

Rosemary McKnight reports that Uptown Gallery has an upcoming workshop, Children's Portraits with Brenda Stankus, April 4-5. Details are available on their website at www.uptownartgallery.com.

The Magnificence of Pastel

By Susan Fisher

They are really wonderful; tactile, like silk, true color an artist can touch, move, and build upon.

Not to be confused with chalk, the pastel medium is created by combining the same pigments used in oil and other paints with a neutral dry binder. Many feel that the resulting color in pastel is more true to natural pigments. The less binder, the better - and, the more expensive the pastels will be. To put it simply, the less binder, the more "yummy".

Edgar Degas, "The Entrance of the Masked Dancers"

Techniques in pastel can be challenging, since they are applied and blended directly on the working surface. Most painting techniques such as blending, layering color, highlighting, feathering, etc., apply to versatile pastel. Blending is often accomplished with fingers, rolled paper tortillon sticks or kneaded erasers.

Portrait of Louis XV, by Maurice Quentin de La Tour, 1748

Edgar Degas, Mary Cassatt, Wolf Kahn, Georgia O'Keeffe and many, many other great artists have created famous pastel paintings. In fact, after about 1885, pastel became Degas' primary medium, and he is responsible for many innovative techniques in use today.

Finished work in pastel is generally referred to as a pastel painting if pastel covers most of the ground. If it does not, it is often referred to as a pastel drawing or sketch.

Wolf Kahn, "High Trees"

So don't forget, chalk is a rock, talc, or titanium dioxide with a little color thrown in. Chalk is used to mark lines on the football field, write on a blackboard, or queue up a pool stick. Pastels, on the other hand, are color and texture heaven, used to transport artists to the "zone", where we all like to stay.

Community Outreach Needs Volunteers

By Mike Steele, Chairmain, Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee of the James River Art League is working with Northfield Ministries on a short series of three programs for their clients, women who suffer from such things as eating disorders and depression (www.northfieldministries.org).

The programs are intended to introduce their clients to the creative opportunities, enjoyment and appreciation of art.

JRAL member Donna Campbell Allen will begin the project this month with a watercolor workshop.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to participate in the project in April and May. The plan for the program is open-ended: it can be a workshop, a presentation of your own art and your experiences as an artist, a discussion of a favorite artist, or just about any other art-related topic.

The presentations can be anywhere from 1 to 4 hours, and dates and times are flexible. If you want to do a hands-on workshop, student supplies can be provided.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Donna Allen or Mike Steele of the Community Outreach Committee.

Exhibit Schedule-2013/14

Location	*About this Exhibit*	*Important Dates & Information*
Crossroads Art Center 2016 Staples Mill Rd. Richmond, VA 23230	**March 21 – May 5** 15% Commission; 35-40 artists, 1 painting each **Maximum size 20" x 24" framed**	Dropoff: Mar. 15, 10-11 am Pickup: May 6, 10-11 am Reception: Mar. 21, 6-9 pm
For Art's Sake Gallery 9770 Gayton Rd. Henrico, VA 23238	**April 1 – April 28** 35% Commission; 20 artists, 2 paintings each **Maximum size ~32" x 32"**	Dropoff: Mar. 31, 10-10:30 am Pickup: April 28, 10-10:30 am Reception: Apr. 4, 5-8 pm
Capital One-West Creek 15000 Capital One Dr. Richmond, VA 23238	**May 2 – August 29** No Commission; 20-25 artists, 1 painting each **Maximum size 32" x 32"; POR or NFS**	Dropoff: May 2, **2-2:30 pm** Pickup: Aug. 29, **4-4:30 pm**
Virginia Eye Institute 400 Westhampton Station Richmond, VA	**June 2 – June 30** 6 artists, 4 paintings each **10% Donation; Artists to hang this exhibit**	Dropoff: June 2, **3-3:30 pm** Pickup: June 30, **3-3:30 pm**
James Center Atrium 1051 East Cary St. Richmond, VA	**June 7 – June 28** **12th Annual Judged Exhibit-50th Anniversary** No Commission; Max 65 paintings, 1 per artist **Maximum Size: W-34" x L-37"**	Dropoff: June 7, 9:30-10 am Pickup: June 28, 9:30-10 am Reception: June 22, 2-4 pm

To sign up for an exhibit, contact Barbara Lange, 874-5870 or 2blange@comcast.net
Other exhibit questions, contact Gigi Vranian, 784-8087 (H), 337-3720 (C), or vraniangigi@comcast.net

Questions about Gallery Pickup or Drop-off? Contact Karen Witthoefft, 272-9453 (H), 439-2852 (C), edkarenwitthoefft@verizon.net

NOTE: Schedule is subject to change. Please visit www.jamesriverartleague.com for the most current information.

Exhibit Update from Gigi Vranian, Exhibit Co-Chair

Hello everyone,

Just a reminder - **Barbara Lange** is now handling all signups for exhibits, so please contact her at 2blange@comcast.net or 804-874-5870 if you want to sign up for an exhibit or need to drop out of an exhibit.

Our exhibit, "Richmond, River City" at **Crossroads** will be opening on March 21. We have a waiting list for Crossroads, so if you signed up but find you cannot exhibit, let Barbara know right away so other members can take your place.

Artists exhibiting at **Capital One** (May 2-Aug. 29) need to drop off their painting at St. Matthews Church at 1:00 PM on Friday, May 2nd. Elizabeth and Gigi will be transporting the paintings to Capital One West Creek from there. ***We could use one more volunteer driver – please let Gigi know if you can help***.

Because this exhibit is not open to the public, we have scheduled a private tour for JRAL members and/or artists exhibiting there who would like to visit our exhibit. We will meet for lunch (optional) at Sunset Grill, 1601 Hockett Rd., Manakin Sabot 23103 on Thursday, May 15th at 12:15 pm, then carpool to Capital One from there about 2:15 pm *(note: Photo ID is required for check in at Capital One)*. The tour will be at Capital One Buildings 5 & 6 from 2:30-3:30. Please let Gigi know if you are interested in the lunch and/or the tour. (Check out Sunset Grill's menu at www.sunsetgrillgoochland. Fabulous!)

If you need help with pickup or drop-off of your art at any of our exhibits, please call on friends or someone from your Zip Code Buddy list (see page 8) for help. It's important that when you signup for an exhibit that you meet that obligation as we may have a waiting list, or let Barbara know ahead of time that you need to cancel from an exhibit.

Thank you so much!
Gigi Vranian, ***Exhibit Co-Chair***

Spring Visit to Wilton House

On April 11th, JRAL members will be touring Wilton House Museum and gardens at 215 S. Wilton Rd., Richmond, with the opportunity to paint on the grounds after our tour.

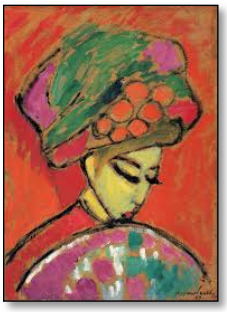
Wilton House was built in 1753 as the centerpiece of a 2,000 acre plantation owned by William Randolph III. This historic home was rescued from the wrecking ball in 1932 by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, dismantled, moved and rebuilt on its current site.

The museum recently announced the acquisition of a portrait of Gov. Peyton Randolph by American artist Thomas Sully, who studied under Gilbert Stuart in the early 1800s. Very few of his early works survive today.

Our tour will start at 11:00 a.m; the tour price is $6.00. We will have box lunches from Sally Bell's Kitchen to enjoy after the tour and the lunch price is an additional $10.75. The menu selections will be available at our March 21st meeting, or you can find their menu online at sallybellskitchen.com and call or email Sally Booth with your selection. The deadline to signup for the tour and lunch is April 9th.

After lunch, members are welcome to paint on the grounds at Wilton House until 3:30.

May 2014 Artist Challenge: HATS!



At our May 16th meeting, JRAL members will share their art based on the theme of "Hats!".

The 2014 Member Challenge is to create a piece of art with the focal point being **HATS**, in any style or medium of your choice. Some ideas are hats in history, silly hats, ladies or men's hats, hat sayings (think "talking through your hat", "hats off ", "keep it under your hat", "mad as a hatter", "bee in your bonnet").

Throw your hat into the ring for this challenge, to culminate with a show and critique at our May 2014 meeting. Christopher Wynn will again critique our work, as he did for our Richmond-themed challenge last year.

Any questions? You can email Sally Booth at sallybooth1949@yahoo.com.

Program Schedule-2013/14

Date & Time	*Type*	*Details*
Friday, March 21, 2014 11:00 a.m.	Meeting & Program Demonstration	Betsy Kellum – "All About Pastels"
Friday, April 11, 2014 11:00 a.m.	Field Trip – **NOTE DATE CHANGE**	Wilton House Museum, 215 S. Wilton Rd, Richmond
Friday, May 16, 2014 11:00 a.m.	Meeting & Program Member Exhibit	Artist Challenge "Hats!" & Annual business meeting

Meetings in September, November, January, March and May are held at St. Matthews Episcopal Church in the Parish Hall, 1101 Forest Ave, Richmond, VA. Locations for field trips or other special program will be announced.

JRAL Celebrates 50 Years of Art!

By Gigi Vranian and Lois Shipley, Co-Chairs 50th Anniversary Committee

In April a year ago, the Anniversary Committee first met and began planning for our 2014 JRAL 50th Anniversary Celebrations. It's 2014 and time to share the committee's enthusiasm for the James River Art League's celebration of Fifty Years of Art in Richmond with all of you. Please visit our web site to view the reports from each meeting and see the details of events planned for this year.

A new member recently asked, "Why is the 50th Anniversary so important?" It took a moment, but this is what came to mind: *artists, just like us, who saw potential in group exhibits, fellowship, learning possibilities, and constructive encouragement for group artwork critiques started the James River Art League in 1964*.

James River Art League has physically changed meeting sites and artist members these past 50 years, but the attributes that remain constant in JRAL are the willingness of members to share their creative ideas with each other like building blocks; the new found friendships with others of different backgrounds and interests; the welcoming spirit current members exhibit towards the newest juried members; and the support, encouragement and amazing talents all who belong and have belonged to this very special group share.

As we honor past members who devoted time and energy to JRAL, we steer towards our century mark, and we can proudly say, "WE ARE the James River Art League."

With this in mind, the Anniversary Committee needs your help for two projects that all support our main celebration party on October 16th at Richmond Country Club. We encourage all of you to help out as you get to know your fellow art league members and to just have fun in the process!

Y'ART SALE

*We will be holding a **Y'ART SALE** at **For Art's Sake Gallery on Saturday, April 26th from 10 am until 3 pm** to help defray the ticket price for our Richmond Country Club Celebration in October.*

Bring your already-priced un-used or gently used art supplies, artwork, greeting cards, art books, or anything else art-related that you would like to donate for this sale. If you have any items priced at $50 or more, JRAL will sell it "on consignment" for 50% of the proceeds. A sign-up sheet for a few volunteers to stay and help with the sale will be passed at the March meeting.

Since we are now a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization, you can request a tax deduction receipt! You'll get your receipt either when you drop off your items, or if you're picking up your unsold items at the end of the sale, you'll get it at the pickup time when we know how much was sold (so please put your name on your sale price tag so we know which things belong to you and if they were sold).

***ARRIVAL TIME FOR DONATIONS: 9:30 am.** Bring priced items in a box or zip-lock bags(labeled with your name) and sign in. Also, we will need plastic or grocery bags for buyers, so save those up and bring them too.*

***PICKUP UNSOLD ITEMS:** If you want to pickup your unsold items, return promptly at 3 pm; otherwise, unsold items will be donated to George Wythe HS Outreach Project.*

Invite your friends, artsy neighbors, art teachers, and other art groups to drop by our Y'Art sale for great bargains! We'll send you a JRAL flyer to help you spread the word in person, by email or on your facebook page. For Art's Sake Gallery will also send a notice to their contact list.

ARTWORK FOR TABLE DECORATIONS & PRIZES at October 50th Anniversary Party

PURPOSE: Small size artworks to be created by members and displayed on tables with the centerpiece decorations. Artwork will then be used for Door Prizes at the event for our JRAL members. How wonderful to go home with an original piece of art created by a fellow JRAL member!

SUBMISSIONS: An original artwork of any 2 dimensional medium, framed or unframed, both 5" x 7" or less. If unframed, please protect delicate works appropriately (such as in shrink-wrap or an acetate envelope).

TIME FRAME FOR COMPLETION: March until September 19th membership meeting. Anne Negus will collect all artwork at the September 19th meeting.

Gigi Vranian receives William Youngblood Award

At the January 17th meeting, Gigi Vranian was presented with the William A. Youngblood Award by Lois Shipley for meritorious service to the James River Art League.

Gigi joined JRAL in 2002, and has served on the Executive Board every year since 2004. She was President in 2005-07, 1st VP in 2007-09, 2nd VP in 2009-11, and has served as Exhibit Chair and Co-Chair since 2011. She has also served on numerous Ad Hoc Committees, created the format of our modern-day Newsletter, and brought innovation and organization to many JRAL functions. And she does it all with style, grace, and a smile for everyone she meets.

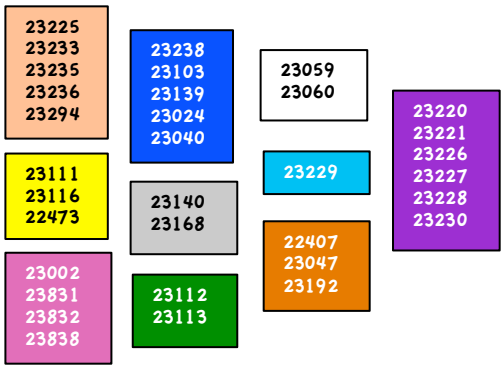
Lois Shipley presents the Youngblood award to Gigi Vranian

Get Help from your Zip Code Buddies!

JRAL has grown so much during the past few years that it's important to keep our relationships in the League alive and well.

At the September 2013 meeting, we introduced "Zip Code Buddies" to help members find other members who live near them to help with transport for exhibits or for carpooling to meetings and other League events.

The Zip Code Buddy list, with names, can be found on our website on the For Members Only page, www.jamesriverartleague.com, or you can use the zip code groups at right in conjunction with our directory to find your



Bill Kinsey Demos Collage and Printing at the Jan. 17 Meeting

March/April 2014

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James River Art League

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Barbara Lange
Exhibit

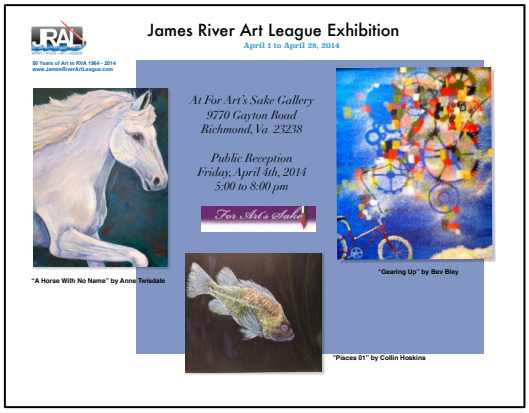
Tom Burns
Karen Witthoefft
Gallery

Lois Shipley
Membership

Susan Fisher
Publicity

Our mission is to encourage the creation and appreciation of the visual arts.

Upcoming JRAL Exhibits April - March



Pastels by Betsy Kellum

(See Story Page 1)

"Rainy Day in Montalcino"

"Take Me Home"

Artful Recipes from our Members

Rosemary McKnight's Tomato Soup (every drop was downed at our last meeting!)

½ cup chopped onions
3-4 cloves garlic, chopped
32 oz. can crushed tomatoes
32 oz. can diced tomatoes
8 oz. can tomato sauce
32 oz. box chicken broth
3-4 Tablespoon honey
1 ½ tsp. dried basil or 3 tsp fresh basil, chopped
1 tsp. dried thyme
salt & pepper to taste

Saute onion in 2 Tblsp. olive oil till soft, then add garlic and sauté 1-2 minutes more. Add remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce to simmer and cook for approximately 1 hour. Blend with immersion blender or in a blender to smooth the soup to desired consistency. Can be served with croutons, grated Parmesan cheese, a dollop of sour cream, and/or chopped green onions or chives.

March/April 2014

Elizabeth Hood
Newsletter Chair
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Manakin Sabot, VA 23103

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