



NEWSLETTER

JRAL Gallery at Crossroads | DiPasquale to Judge Annual Show | Paint-In on July 16th

Annual Judged Show will be at First UU May 28-July 30

The annual JRAL judged show this year will be at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1000 Blanton Avenue, across from the Carillon in Byrd Park. The exhibit goes up on May 28, and will last longer this year at the request of the Church; we will take down the exhibit on July 30.

Sculptor and visual artist Paul DiPasquale will be this year's judge. He will announce the ribbon winners at the reception on Sunday, June 12, 2-4 pm. The judging categories have changed slightly, in that oil and acrylic paintings will be judged separately. Ribbons will be awarded for Best in show, and for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each of four categories: Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, and Other or Mixed Media. Honorable Mentions may also be named in each category, at the judge's discretion. Exhibit attendees will vote on a People's Choice award.

All participating artists are asked to bring something for the refreshment table at the reception; in planning your contribution, please remember that **First UU Church is a nut-free zone.** Do not bring any food item that contains any kind of nuts.

Winning paintings will be featured in a special July Newsletter.

In Memoriam: *It is with great sadness that we announce that our member, Harriet Baker, passed away on April 26. Harriet joined JRAL in 2011 and will be greatly missed by her friends and fellow artists.*

Members will display their "Emotions" at the May 20th Artist Challenge & Meeting

JRAL Members are looking forward to sharing our "Emotions" at the May meeting, as we display the paintings we have created for this year's Artist Challenge. "Emotions" is the theme, and popular artist and instructor Christophora Robeers will be our guest critic and will offer her thoughts about our work.

Please remember to include a short, written "statement of intent" with your painting, to tell everyone the emotions you hope to portray/evoked, and what you were feeling during the painting process. If you have a table top or floor easel to display your painting, please bring it along.



JRAL Has a Gallery at Crossroads Art Center!

James River Art League has rented gallery space at the Crossroads Art Center, to provide a place for members to display artwork on a continuing basis. There will be six separate exhibit periods per year: May-June, July-August, September-October, November-December, January-February, and March-April.

The JRAL Gallery measures 8 feet wide by 12 feet deep, and will be subdivided to accommodate up to five artists during each two-month period. Initially, the 8-foot back wall will be available for a single artist and the two 12-foot side walls will be utilized by four artists, each having one 6-foot section. The total price of renting this Gallery at Crossroads is \$300 per month. Exhibiting artists will share in the cost, and the JRAL treasury will pay a subsidy of 12.5% of the total rent. So for each two-month period, exhibiting artists will pay approximately \$131 for the 8-foot back wall, and \$98.50 for a 6-foot section of each long wall. JRAL will pay the remaining \$75 of the two-month cost.

Any exhibiting member of the James River Art League may participate in this gallery program, and your participation will count toward your annual JRAL two-exhibit requirement. A signup sheet will be available for each exhibit and acceptance will be on a first-come, first-served basis. All artwork displayed in the gallery must be for sale with stated prices and sales are subject to Crossroads' commission fees (currently 15%). The exact dates of each exhibit period will be on the sign-up sheets.

This is a wonderful opportunity for JRAL artists and the League to expand exposure and prestige of members' art for a relatively small expense. Mike Steele and Betty Eddowes are co-chairs of the Crossroads Project Team; please contact them to sign up to exhibit in the Gallery, or with any questions.

Exhibits Update

JRAL's 2015/16 exhibit year is winding down. Our annual judged show will be opening at First Unitarian Universalist Church on May 28 and run through July 30th; hope everyone will come to the reception for the awards presentation on Sunday, June 12, 2-4 PM at First UU. Categories for awards are by medium: Oil, Acrylic, Watercolor, and Other/Mixed Media. Paul DiPasquale will be our judge.

The shows at Capital One and Virginia Eye Institute have been hung. We had three sales at our Crossroads exhibit "Spring in Virginia", and also three sales at our "Journey Along the James" exhibit at For Art's Sake Gallery. Congratulations to those members with sales! Both exhibits were beautiful and the themes not only gave us a marketing "hook" but really helped the exhibits have a cohesive look.

Overall sales have been good so far this year. We've had 12 total sales, which is about 4% of all paintings exhibited. That's a good sales rate, and we still have three more exhibits to complete.

Elizabeth Hood, Exhibit Chair

Lost & Found

Lost: An enameled sunflower pin belonging to Susan Hutcheson at the April 15th meeting at St. Matthew's. If found, please call Susan at 804-320-3873.

JRAL's First Paint-In will be July 16th

The first JRAL Paint-In will be Saturday, July 16, in the large classroom at Crossroads Art Center. JRAL members will enjoy a creative day of painting, camaraderie, and mutual inspiration and encouragement.

A still life will be set up, or you can bring a photo of your own from which to paint. This could also be a day to try something new if you're in the mood... participants are encouraged to bring any extra supplies they might have, so that colleagues can experiment in a new medium.

Carol Baron and Irene Taylor are organizing this Paint-In for the Art League. Members who are interested in participating are asked to sign up at the May meeting, or email Carol at <cebarono210@gmail.com> or Irene at <goodnightirenet@yahoo.com> Please indicate if you plan to paint in either the morning or afternoon, or all day. There will be no fee for joining the Paint-In; the JRAL Treasury will cover the expenses. Tables and chairs will be provided by Crossroads; there are a few easels available, but artists who prefer to use an easel are encouraged to bring their own. Please be prepared to clean up your painting station before you leave.

Light refreshments will be provided; for lunch, members will be able to purchase from Gretchen's Cafe next door to Crossroads (with excellent sandwiches, salads, and gluten-free options), or bring their own.

We hope this will be a special day of sharing the creative experience!

Exhibit Schedule — Spring-Summer 2016

VIRGINIA EYE INSTITUTE

400 Westhampton Station
Richmond, VA 23226
(By the Huguenot Bridge)

May 2 - May 31

Drop off Monday, May 2, 3:00-3:30 pm
Pick up Tuesday, May 31, 3:00-3:30 pm

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

Annual JRAL Judged Exhibit

1000 Blanton Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Public Reception & Awards
Ceremony: Sunday, June 12, 2-4 pm

May 28 - July 30

Drop off Saturday, May 28, 9:30-10:00 am
Pick up Saturday, July 30, 9:30-10:00 am
Size Restriction: H-36", W-36"
Juror: Paul DiPasquale

Looking Ahead to Fall...Another Judged Show!

JRAL will stage a second judged show in October at Montpelier Center for Arts & Education. This show will feature new judging categories! While our annual June show is judged by medium, the Montpelier exhibit will be judged by subject matter, and will, in fact, be titled "Subject Matters."

The exact categories have not been finalized as yet, but will divide into groups such as land, city, & waterscape; figure & portraiture; wildlife & other animals; still life, interiors, & floral; and "beyond realism", including abstract & nonrepresentational. Ribbons will be awarded in each category, and for Best in Show. Categories will be finalized and announced at our May 20th meeting.

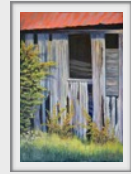
So while you're painting over the summer, be thinking of what you would like to enter into this new-concept show! More information and sign up sheets for the Montpelier judged exhibit and other fall shows will be available at our May 20th meeting.



Member News

Exhibits:

- Congratulations to **Terry Atkinson, Carol Baron, Sally Booth, and Betsy Taylor** who had paintings accepted into the *South-Atlantic Juried Exhibition* at The Montpelier Center, running April 16 - June 15.
- More congratulations to **Brenda Bickerstaff-Stanley, Chris Ludke, Jan Priddy, and Betsy Taylor** who were juried into the *Art Speaks on the Bay 2016* exhibit, running April 30-May 28 at the Bay School Community Arts Center in Mathews, VA.
- **Jan Priddy** has achieved her first gallery representation at Yellowhouse Art Gallery in Nags Head, NC.
- **Harriet Vincent** has an exhibit of 21 framed watercolor paintings, as well as a collection of unframed originals, at Glenmore Yoga, now through June 14.
- **Bev Bley** has a show at Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts during the month of May; the Center is located at 810 Sophia Street in Fredericksburg, open daily (except Tuesdays) noon to 4 pm.



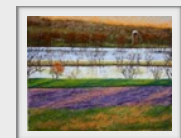
Betsy Taylor's
"Abandoned Spring"

Awards & Sales:

- **Nancy Sandridge** won a second place ribbon for her acrylic painting "Spring Fling — Stalking Dinner" at the Tuckahoe Woman's Club juried art exhibit April 10-15.
- **Sally Booth** was awarded an Honorable Mention in the South-Atlantic Juried Exhibition for her painting "Warm Springs View."
- The JRAL exhibit at Crossroads Art Center brought several sales. **Elizabeth Hood** sold her acrylic painting "The Guardian," **Nancy Markwith** sold her watercolor "Spring at Lewis Ginter," and **Dianne Smith** sold her acrylic painting "Hay Bales in the Spring."
- More sales for JRAL members at the For Art's Sake exhibit! **Terry Atkinson** sold "James River Otter," **Elizabeth Hood** sold "Twilight on the James," and **Pam Roach** sold "Love Birds on the James."
- **Lois Shipley** sold six paintings from her solo show *The Power of Places* at the Montpelier Center in March & early April.
- **Cindy Kinney** sold four paintings at her dual show with David Short at For Art's Sake in February.
- **Paulette Nesbitt** recently has sold two paintings, "Lotus" and "Chester Road Swans," from her Crossroads gallery space.



Dianne Smith's
"Hay Bales in Spring"



Elizabeth Hood's
"Twilight on the James"

Art Trips & Workshops:

- **Susan Hutcheson, Carol Mullen, Suzanne Spooner-Munch, and Karen Whitthoeft** visited the National Gallery in Washington DC on April 19th, a field trip taken with the Tuckahoe Artists Association. They enjoyed the featured exhibit of American Prints, as well as the mirrored architectural installation outside (seen in photo to the right).
- **Diana Robinson** at For Art's Sake now offers a weekly Open Studio on Wednesday evenings at 6:30-9:00 pm. Artists can enjoy painting with colleagues in a supportive environment, but without having to pay an additional instructor's fee. The cost of the Open Studio is \$15 per week, with a one-month commitment required. Still life setups will be provided, or you can work on a personal project. Contact FAS for full details.



JRAL Continues Its Support of GWHS Students

As part of JRAL's mentoring program of the art students of George Wythe High School, Rosemary McKnight and Jane Cox shopped for, and delivered on April 7, art supplies to William Johnson and Keith Browne, the school's art teachers. This purchase of much-needed art supplies follows demos by several JRAL members in the fall, and a joint art exhibit at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in November. This year-long mentoring program has provided much-needed and enthusiastically-received help and support for the art students and teaching staff at George Wythe during this school year.



The final JRAL Outreach project for the year was the May 6th presentation of the *Outstanding Art Student Award* to senior Dimitrik Pendleton. Dimitrik (pictured at right with his principal, teacher, and Jane Cox) received a \$100 gift card to Plaza Art, and a recognition certificate.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Well, Spring is finally here! The members of James River Art League are extremely busy. We have quite a few exhibits going on, with more coming. We have had great success in sales at our Crossroads and For Art's Sake shows; congratulations to those who have sold. The Capital One show has gone up, and we have the exhibit at Virginia Eye Institute and our judged show at First Unitarian Universalist Church to wind up our exhibit year. Many of you have worked hard to make sure that these shows go smoothly for our artists and the venues themselves. Your work is greatly appreciated.



Jos Biviano was our presenter for April. Jos delivered an excellent program and I am confident everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Alice Goode and Marla Coleman put together a fabulous series of program speakers and demonstrators this year and we are fortunate to be the benefactors of their hard work.

Our Outreach Committee, with Chairman Jane Cox, has had a busy year working with George Wythe High School. To finish our year of support, in late April Jane delivered over \$500 in art supplies for the students, and in May JRAL presented a \$100 gift card for Plaza Art to the winner of GWHS's Outstanding Senior Artist Award.

We are looking forward to our first Paint-In in July, and I am also delighted to mention that JRAL has contracted for a gallery space at Crossroads, so that our artists will have a chance to show and sell their art at this popular venue. (Please see the story on page one of this newsletter for more details.) Mike Steele and Betty Eddowes will be heading up this project for us, so many thanks to them for stepping up to the challenge.

This has been a very busy and successful year for JRAL. I want to say "Thank You" to all of you who have contributed your time, energy, and knowledge to make this a great year. We only have one general meeting left before we break for the summer, and in some ways it seems that this year has flown by. The summer break is a great time to reflect on what we have accomplished and think about what we want the League to do in 2016-17. I know we will come back in September energized and eager to begin again.

Rosemary McKnight, President

Art Links

- The Public Art Commission website mentioned by Elyn Parker in her March 18 visit to JRAL is <<http://www.richmondgov.com/content/CommissionPublicArt/index.aspx>>. It includes agendas & minutes of the PAC meetings, and information about current public art projects in Richmond.
- Did you know that the color blue is missing from ancient art? Read this fascinating article from National Geographic: <<http://phenomena.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/02/vanished-the-surprising-things-missing-from-ancient-art/>>.
- Jan Murray found this early video of Pierre-Auguste Renoir. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_V62aT_K8Zw>. It shows the Impressionist artist painting and smoking a few years before his death. During this period, Renoir worked in constant pain due to severe rheumatoid arthritis, a condition that left him unable to walk, and with a permanently clenched hand. When asked by Henri Matisse why he kept painting, Renoir replied, "The pain passes, but the beauty remains."

New Faces on the JRAL Executive Board

This year the League's Executive Board has welcomed a few new members and made other changes, as some previous officers and committee chairs have had to step down.

JRAL's new secretary for 2016-17 is Nancy Tucker; Susan Hutcheson has taken over the job of Publicity Chair. A Co-Chair of the Hospitality Committee is being sought, to join Co-Chair Jean Younkin; and Gigi Vranian now is the sole Chair of the Membership Committee.

We thank former Board members Debbie Pompano, Susan Fisher, Kay Roscoe, and Arlene DeConti for jobs well done! We also send our heartfelt best wishes to Tom Burns, who remains titular Co-Chair of the Gallery Committee, but who is struggling with health issues.

Executive Board for 2015-2017

Officers

President: Rosemary McKnight
1st VP & Program Chair: Alice Goode
2nd VP: Collin Hoskins
Secretary: Nancy Tucker
Treasurer: Terry Atkinson

Committee Chairs

Membership: Gigi Vranian
Exhibits: Elizabeth Hood
Gallery: Mary Kent & Tom Burns
Hospitality: Jean Younkin
Publicity: Susan Hutcheson
Communications: Elizabeth Hood
Community Outreach: Jane Cox
Newsletter: Stella Jones
Archivist: Stella Jones

The James River Art League is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of more than 100 member artists from throughout Central Virginia whose goal is to encourage the creation and appreciation of the visual arts. The James River Art League Newsletter is published bi-monthly in support of JRAL programs and the activities of its membership. Copyright 2016: The James River Art League — all rights reserved. Editor 2015-2017: Stella Jones, stellaj17@gmail.com