



NEWS BRIEF

Dues are Due by September 30 | New Executive Board Sets Plans, Goals

Critique Group Meetings in September & October

The JRAL Critique Group sessions have been scheduled for September and October. Participants will bring a work for group feedback and a snack to share.

Mary Kent will host the Critique Group on Thursday, September 26, at 2:00 pm. Mary's home is 1350 Westwood Ave, Richmond 23227. To attend, please RSVP to Mary at (804)278-8917 or marykentartist@gmail.com.

Gay Plack will host the Group on Wednesday, October 23, 2:00 pm, at her home: 2909 Huntwick, Henrico 23223. To attend, RSVP to Gay at (804)939-7004 or gebtock@gmail.com.

Change to Exhibit Schedule

Due to smaller available exhibit space, limited public access, and potential sun damage to paintings, the June 2020 show at First UU Church as been cancelled. In its place there will be an exhibit at Virginia Eye Institute, 400 Westhampton Station, at the Huguenot Bridge, June 1 through June 30.

Members who had signed up for the First UU show are being asked if they would like to switch to the Virginia Eye Institute show (which will **not** be a judged show). Others may also sign up on the JRAL Website, or by contacting Exhibit Chair David Cheatham.

The most current Exhibit Schedule can always be found on the JRAL website at <https://www.jamesriverartleague.com/2019--2020-exhibit-information.html>.

Coming Up in September & October...

September 20 meeting...

Bill Nelson, Illustrator and Figurative Artist

will show and discuss a sample of illustrations from his long career (postponed from May meeting). His illustrations have been featured on the covers of many magazines, including The New Yorker, Time, TV Guide, and Newsweek. He illustrated a series of U.S. Postage stamps, has been featured in the Norman Rockwell Museum, and has received over 900 awards and recognitions of various kinds. In addition to his illustration career, Bill is an internationally recognized sculptor and ventriloquist figure maker, and is listed in "Who's Who in America."

Bill grew up in Richmond, graduated from John Marshall High School and RPI/VCU, and worked for the Richmond Times-Dispatch and the Richmond Mercury before starting out on a freelance career. A signed copy of his book will be raffled off at the meeting.

October 18 meeting...

Kayla Diggs Brody, of Richmond Mural Tours

will present a video tour of Richmond's vibrant murals. After her presentation, she will share with us some pre-designed DIY mural tours in which members can participate alone or in groups, to explore some of Richmond's most historically significant neighborhoods and discover RVA's most beautiful murals.

September-October Exhibits...

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, September 23-November 11. (This exhibit is full.) Drop-Off: Wednesday, September 23, 10-10:30 am; Pick-Up: Thursday, November 11, 10-10:30 am.

Our featured artists at the **JRAL Gallery at Crossroads** for September-October 2019 are Sally Booth, Barbara Evans, Susan Hutcheson, Bonnie Jordan, and Ursula Klostermyer.

JRAL Dues for 2019-2020 Are Due!

It's time to renew your James River Art League membership! Your membership dues of \$30.00 are due **no later than September 30th, 2019**. Please make your check payable to James River Art League or JRAL, which you can mail to our Treasurer, Elizabeth Hood, or bring to our first meeting of the season on Friday, September 20th. If mailing, Elizabeth's address is: Elizabeth Hood, 808 Dover Bluff Pl., Manakin Sabot, VA 23103.



Future Program Schedule for 2019-2020

- **November 15: Sabrina Cordovana**, artist/owner of Inspire Art Center. Also, **Holiday Craft Bazaar**.
- **December 20: Holiday Luncheon** at Westwood Club
- **January 17: Janet Visser & Bonnie Carter**: Demonstration of unique painting techniques that combine pastels, gold leaf, mixed media, and pastel underpainting
- **February 21: Focus on Four JRAL Artists**
- **March 20: Robyn Ryan**, Acrylic/Watermedia Artist
- **April 17: Bus Trip to National Gallery, Print Studio Gallery**, in Washington DC, including a behind the scenes tour not available to the general public
- **May 15: Artist Challenge** presentations and critiques. The theme for this year's Challenge is "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words."

JRAL Executive Board 2019-2021

Officers

President: Terry Atkinson
Vice President: Carole Morck
Secretary: Dianne Smith
Treasurer: Elizabeth Hood

Committee Chairs

Programs: Kaye Jones
Membership: Carol Baron
Exhibits: David Cheatham
Gallery: Diana Robinson & Janine Orr
Hospitality: Harriet Vincent & Carol Cullinan
Publicity: VACANT
Social Media: Elizabeth Hood (interim)
News Editor: Stella Jones
Community Outreach: Rosemary McKnight
Archivist: Cathy Kresan
Gallery at Crossroads (ad hoc committee): Lois Shipley

Artist Challenge Theme Chosen

After reviewing the considerable input from JRAL members, Program Chair Kaye Jones and the Executive Board have selected "**A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words**" as the theme for this year's Artist Challenge. Everyone has a favorite quote, a beloved poem, a personal anthem, or an inspirational quote that is near to their hearts and adds meaning to their lives. In this Artist Challenge, we are invited to express those favorite words through a visual art, to illustrate that a picture can be, in fact, worth a thousand words!

The Artist Challenge presentations and critique will be at the May 15, 2020, meeting. As an added incentive, the artwork created for this Challenge will be the foundation and theme of the July 2020 judged show at Cultural Arts Center of Glen Allen.

JRAL Executive Board Plans the Year's Events & Goals

JRAL's new Executive Board, led by President Terry Atkinson, met for a day-long planning session on Monday, August 5, and again for its regular meeting on September 6. During the meetings, the Board identified several goals for the coming year to improve the functioning of JRAL. These goals include:

- Reexamining the current criteria and process for bringing new members into the Art League;
- Thinking strategically about how JRAL and its exhibits should be marketed;
- Building leadership within the League;
- Brainstorming ways to increase diversity

Other issues discussed at both meetings included:

- We still do not have a Publicity Chair, and President Terry Atkinson hopes to find several people who can share publicity responsibilities. Meanwhile, JRAL has signed a new contract with Crossroads Art Center to ensure that publicity about our JRAL Gallery and our key exhibits in the coming year are advertised in the Crossroads newsletter.
- Aspects of JRAL judged shows were discussed: It is hoped that a change in the judged show venue will increase participation. Exhibits Chair David Cheatham announced there will be a judged show at the Montpelier Center for Arts & Education in January 2020, and another judged show at the Cultural Arts Center of Glen Allen in July 2020.
 - Our judged show in January at Montpelier Center will be judged as an overall art exhibit, rather than in separate media categories. These ribbons will be awarded: Best in Show, Second Place, Third Place, and up to five Honorable Mentions (depending on the total number of entries).
- Membership Chair Carol Baron is forming a committee to develop the membership selection process and better serve existing and new members.
- The Board approved the proposed budget for 2019-2020; the full membership will vote on the budget at the September 20 meeting.

The James River Art League is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of more than 120 member artists from throughout Central Virginia whose goal is to encourage the creation and appreciation of the visual arts. The James River Art League *News Brief* is published bi-monthly in support of JRAL programs and the activities of its membership. Copyright 2019: The James River Art League — all rights reserved.

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