



NEWSLETTER

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JRAL Welcomes Six New Members



The Executive Board has approved the applications of five new Exhibiting Members and one new Associate Member to join the James River Art League.

Please welcome (pictured above, left to right):

- **Michele Rea**, Exhibiting Member; Watercolor
- **Michael Ruiz**, Exhibiting Member; Photography
- **Deanna Williford**, Exhibiting Member; Watercolor, Pen and Ink
- **Anu Antony Vellaiparampil**, Exhibiting Member; Oil
- **Joanna Obeck**, Exhibiting Member; Oil
- (not pictured) **Ellen Kreisler**, Associate Member; Watercolor, acrylic, linocuts, collage

Everyone will be meeting these new JRAL members at upcoming meetings, learning more about them and seeing samples of their work!

Nominating Committee is Hard at Work

The election of JRAL officers for 2019-2021 will be at the May 17th meeting. The new president will then appoint Chairs of our Standing Committees. If you have not yet told Nominating Committee Chair Terry Atkinson how you'd like to serve JRAL, please do so right away. The James River Art League needs you!

Coming Up in March & April:

March 15...*Celeste Johnston* — *Botanical Illustration Artist*

Celeste Johnston, Botanical Art and Illustration Teacher, will present "Understanding Botanical Art Illustration" at the March 15th meeting, 11 am, St. Matthew's Church.

Celeste teaches botanical illustration at Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, for Hanover and Westmoreland Counties, and in children's classes at VMFA. She has worked as a docent for VMFA, the Corcoran Gallery of Art, and James Monroe Museum and Library, and has special expertise in public relations and marketing. (Pictured: "*Shelley's Bouquet*" by Celeste Johnson)



New Bylaws Vote: The business portion of the March 15th meeting will include a membership discussion and vote on the proposed JRAL Bylaws, revised and updated by the Executive Board in recent months. Members were mailed a copy of the proposed new Bylaws in early February, so all have had time to review them prior to the vote at the March meeting.

April 19...*"Bird's the Word!" Annual Artist Challenge presentations and critiques*

There's still time to take the challenge!

For the April 19th program, JRAL artists will present their interpretations of the theme "Bird's the Word" for this year's Artist Challenge. Paint a real bird, a fantastical bird, a British "bird" (or an American "chick"), or even a turkey dinner!

Critiques will be provided by **Robert Louis Caldwell**, an award winning, nationally recognized and published wildlife artist. Caldwell lives and works in Richmond, and operates the **Midlothian Art Academy**. He has been named an Associate Living Master with the Art Renewal Center (ARC), an organization promoting skills-based training, standards and excellence in visual arts, and leading the revival in realism. Learn more about Robert at his website www.rlcaldwell.com.



“Focus on the Artist” Created a Day of Sharing and Learning at February 15th Meeting



Many thanks to Lois Shipley and Sally Booth, Rosemary McKnight, Elizabeth Hood, Linda Wolitz, and Tami Topalu for their lively, thoughtfully prepared, and informative presentations; and to Program Co-Chairs Gigi Vranian and Les Camphuysen for setting up such a great program!

“JRAL Newsletter” to Retire

The bimonthly “JRAL Newsletter” will retire after the May issue. It is being replaced by the E-newsletter “Art News” which is emailed weekly (less often during the summer) to all JRAL members. So please be sure that we have your correct email address! If your email address changes, please let Membership Chair Carol Baron, and Communications Chair Elizabeth Hood, know your new address.

In addition to the emailed “Art News,” a short, printed “News Brief” will be sent bimonthly to members without internet access, just prior to our meetings. It also will be posted on the JRAL website for reference.

Exhibit Schedule — Spring 2019

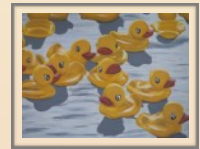
- Program Schedule**
- **March 15:** Demo by **Celeste Johnston**, Botanical Illustration Artist
 - **April 19: Annual Artist Challenge Presentations.** Theme: “Bird is the Word” — Guest Artist critiques by **Robert Caldwell**, wildlife artist
 - **May 17: Bill Nelson**, The renown illustrator & figurative artist will show and discuss a sample of illustrations from his long career; also Annual Meeting and **Election** of JRAL Executive Officers for 2019-2021

<p>Glenmore Yoga & Wellness 10442 Ridgefield Parkway Henrico, VA 23233 January 9-March 6, 2019</p>	<p>Pick Up: Wednesday, March 6 12:30-1:00 pm</p>
<p>Crossroads Art Center Sidecar Gallery 2016 Staples Mill Rd Richmond, VA 23230 March 15-May 6 Theme: Splash of Color</p>	<p>Drop Off: Wednesday, March 6 10:00-10:30 am Pick Up: Monday, May 6 10:00-10:30 am Reception: Friday, March 19, 6-9 pm</p>
<p>For Art’s Sake Gallery 9770 Gayton Road Henrico, VA 23238 April 1-April 29 Theme: Small Works (15” max)</p>	<p>Drop Off: Monday, April 1 10:00-10:30 am Pick Up: Monday, April 29 10:00-10:30 am Reception: Friday, April 12, 5-8 pm</p>
<p>Capital One Private Exhibition-not open to the public July 15-November 11</p>	<p><i>Painting information due by March 15. Exhibiting in this show will count for 2018-19 exhibit year, even though the show is later in the calendar year.</i></p>
<p>Tuckahoe Area Library 1901 Starling Dr. Henrico 23229 May 1-May 31 New Members Exhibit</p>	<p>Drop Off: Wednesday, May 1 9:30-10:00 am Pick Up: Friday, May 31 9:30-10:00 am</p>
<p>First UU Church 1000 Blanton Avenue Richmond, VA 23221 May 28-July 29 JRAL Judged Show</p>	<p>Drop Off: Tuesday, May 28 9:30-10:00 am Pick Up: Monday, July 29 9:30-10:00 am Reception: Sunday, June 9, 2-4 pm</p>



Member News Review

- “Inside Out/Outside In” is an exhibition of works by **Renee Gleason and Lois Shipley** at For Art’s Sake Gallery February 25-April 1. The opening reception will be Friday, March 8, 5-8 pm. FAS is in the Gayton Crossing Shopping Center, 9770 Gayton Rd, Henrico 23238.
- **Mike Haubenstock** is having a solo show, "Reflections On Fashion," at the Montpelier Arts Center (17205 Mountain Rd, Montpelier, VA 23192), March 4 - April 15. The reception will be March 10 from 2-4:00 pm. The show features his recent Fashion Series of paintings of famous designer show windows, with the reflections of the scenes opposite. Each painting is really two paintings on one canvas....the mannequins and the reflected buildings, people and cars.
- **Connie de Bordenave, Dalhia Cavazos, and Rosemary McKnight** are showing in the current "Black Lives Matter" exhibit at First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1000 Blanton Avenue, Richmond 23221. The show runs through March 16.
- “Small Art with Big Heart” was an auction to benefit the Richmond Animal League, part of their Sugar and Spice Cocktail Party Fundraiser in February. Artists from all over the country donated tiny paintings for the auction, including JRAL members **Dani Ashbridge, Jean Fahed, Alice Goode, Dorothy Kuffler, Dianne Smith, and Gayle Soloe**.
- The art of **Terry Atkinson** was featured, along with work of Jean Kleeman and Carolyn Velletri, in “Three Friends Painting”, an exhibit at Swift Creek Mill Theatre as part of its Featured Artists Program. The exhibit was up during the run of the theatre’s production of “Cyrano de Bergerac” which ran January 25 through March 2. Attendees to the exhibit’s opening reception in January got to see a special performance of “Cyrano de Bergerac” for free!
- Congratulations to **Thomas Bradshaw** and **David Cheatham** who each received an Honorable Mention from judge Betsy Kellum at the Crossroads Art Center January All-Media Show. Thomas won for his oil painting "Assateague Burn" (*seen at right, top*) and David won for his oil painting "M R Ducks." (*at right, bottom*)
- Several members have reported recent sales. **David Cheatham's** above-mentioned "M R Ducks" has been purchased by VCU, which intends to hang it in its children's hospital wing. **Margot Titmus** sold her painting "Fall at the Lake" in December. **Dani Ashbridge** sold a trio of paintings at the December-January Small Works Show at For Art’s Sake Gallery & Studio. The paintings of “Fah La Lah Moo!” formed a 'moovelous' triptych! **Lois Shipley** sold “King of Mallory Square” in February to a lady who saw it in a show months ago, couldn’t get it out of her mind, so tracked Lois down via her website! Sales at the JRAL Gallery at Crossroads continue to be strong: Congratulations to **Anne Twisdale** who sold her painting "The Gardener" in January.
- **Elizabeth Hood's** colored pencil painting “Purple Anemones” has been selected to be published in Ann Kullberg’s “CP Hidden Treasures, Vol. 5”, to come out later this year. “Hidden Treasures” is a companion book to Kullberg’s other annual collection “CP Treasures.” Ann Kullberg is an artist, instructor, and author in the art of colored pencils. <https://annkullberg.com>



Community Outreach Committee Update

Outreach Committee Chair Connie de Bordenave thanks JRAL members for their continued support of George Wythe High School’s Art Program, and provides this month by month calendar for Spring:

- March — Richmond City Schools Art Month, with a city-wide art show and festival to be held at Huguenot High School. This is a wonderful way to see the work that the city art programs produce. JRAL artists have been invited to give live demos at the festival on Saturday, March 9th. Contact Connie if you’d like to participate. artbycdeb@gmail.com
- April — GWHS Student Art Show (probably 2nd week of April). JRAL will award prizes to the top students in the show.
- May — Outreach Committee will purchase supplies for the next school year for GWHS.
- June — JRAL will present the *Jane Neal Cox Award* for the Outstanding Senior GWHS Art Student of the year.

If you would like to help GWHS with supplies, there is a current need for hot glue guns and cartridges, a light box, watercolor paper, and pre-cut 8x10 and 9x12 mats.

Please remember, any monetary donations to the art program at GWHS are tax deductible. If you wish to contribute funds to augment JRAL’s support of the art students, write your checks to JRAL and mark "GWHS" in the memo line, with a slash and the area in which you would like your contribution used. For example: GWHS/Senior Art Award or GWHS/Art Club or GWHS/Art Supplies.

FROM THE PRESIDENT...



Richmond is for Art Lovers

Just recently, Artnet News published "The Top Ten Best Cities for Art Lovers in the U.S.", compiled by real estate website Apartmentguide.com, and Richmond came in at #9! Their ratings were based on per capita art demographics: the ratio of art galleries and dealers, art museums, artist supply stores, cultural art organizations, and more, in relation to population. They also took into account our public art installations such as the murals and the presence of VCU's #1 ranked public school fine arts program in the country.

Is anyone who lives here surprised? We have world-class museums, a fantastic range of types of art galleries, and something for everyone in our plethora of cultural art organizations. (We all know we could have more art supply stores, but there's always the internet.)

We in JRAL are doing our part to demonstrate our love of art. I see it in our passion for creating it, our keen interest in hearing and discussing it, our strong desire to learn about it, and our generosity in teaching it. Our programs take us to museums, show us how other artists make art, teach us art history, and give us opportunities to share our knowledge with each other and the community. In our exhibits, we showcase to the community our skill, talent and creativity. We are helping the next generation grow and learn about art with our outreach programs.

Looks like we're in the right place!

Elizabeth Hood



Notes from March 1st Executive Board Meeting...

The JRAL Executive Board met on March 1st in the St. Matthew's Church library. Among the business discussed:

- There are eight slots open for the Capital One exhibit, and information about the paintings is due by March 15.
- A new exhibit venue is in the JRAL schedule for 2019-2020: We will be exhibiting at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's Library/Education complex in September-November. Other exhibit venues confirmed for next year are Cedarfield, Tuckahoe Library, Glenmore Yoga, and Montpelier Arts & Cultural Center. Additional venues are being negotiated.
- New Standing Rules, which describe the methods and procedures for implementing the JRAL ByLaws, were reviewed.
- The process for jurying new members was discussed and continues to be developed.

JRAL Forms a Critique Group

JRAL has started an informal Critique Group, a periodic gathering of members who are interested in an opportunity to share work in progress, or completed work, and get constructive feedback from our peer members, with the goal of us learning from each other.

The second critique group meeting will be on March 26, to be hosted by Connie de Bordenave. This meeting will be at Seventh Street Christian Church, 4101 Grove Avenue, Richmond 23221, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Those JRAL members who would like to attend on March 26 should RSVP to Connie at artbycdeb@gmail.com.

Critique Group attendees should bring one or two pieces for feedback, and some snacks to share (sorry, no wine at this meeting).

The Critique Group will meet every month or so in a member's home, or other location if a member chooses. Mike Haubenstock will be leading the project and organizing the scheduling. If you would like to host a future Critique Group meeting, contact Mike Haubenstock at mhauby@gmail.com.

JRAL Executive Board 2017-2019

Officers

President: Elizabeth Hood
1st VP & Program Chair: Les Camphuysen
2nd VP: Maryanne Evans
Secretary: Dianne Smith
Treasurer: Terry Atkinson

Committee Chairs

Program Co-Chair: Gigi Vranian
Membership: Carol Baron
Exhibits: David Cheatham
Gallery: Mike Haubenstock & Rosemary McKnight
Hospitality: Bonnie Shelor & Suzanne Spooner-Munch
Publicity: Dale Berry
Communications: Elizabeth Hood
Website: Elizabeth Hood
Facebook: Dalhia Cavazos
Newsletter & Art News: Stella Jones
Community Outreach: Connie deBordenave
Archivist: Cathy Kresan
Ad Hoc-Gallery at Crossroads: Lois Shipley

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 Newsletter 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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