



# NEWSLETTER

## Focus Groups at May Meeting | People's Choice Awards Highlight June Show

### April's Artist Challenge Illustrated Some of Our "Love Connections"

The April 20th program featured paintings by JRAL artists who responded to this year's Artist Challenge: to paint a "Love Connection" (*selections seen below*).



Artist and Instructor Thomas Bradshaw critiqued the 40 or so paintings with a gentle but informative style, and we thank him for his input!



### Coming Up in May & Over the Summer:

#### *Focus on JRAL Artists on May 18*

Six artists of the James River Art League will lead discussion groups and give demos at the May 18th meeting, 11:00 am, St. Matthews Church. JRAL members will rotate through each "break out" group in 15 minute increments, to see demos in five different media, discuss tips, and enjoy the opportunity of learning from each other.

The five media groups and facilitators will be:

- Oil: Lois Shipley, assisted by Sally Booth, demonstrating a special water mixable oil technique they learned in a workshop with Beth Bathe.
- Pastel: Linda Wolitz
- Acrylic: Elizabeth Hood, presenting tips for working with acrylics and mediums
- Watercolor: Tami Topalu
- Colored Pencil: Rosemary McKnight

For this event we'll be reversing the usual order of our meetings; our final business meeting of the season will start out the day, followed by the refreshment break, and then the *Focus on JRAL Artists* program will commence.

#### *New Members Featured in May Show at Tuckahoe Library*

We've added a second exhibit at Tuckahoe Library to feature the work of our newest members. The show runs May 1-31. See the flyer on page 4 for details!

#### *"People's Choice" Awards will Highlight Exhibit in June*

This year's JRAL show at First Unitarian Universalist Church, June 4-July 30, will feature "People's Choice" awards. One "People's Choice" winner in each medium — oil, acrylic, watercolor, and other/mixed media — will be selected by members of JRAL and the general public who attend the exhibit, and will be announced around 3:30 pm at the awards reception on June 10, 2-4 pm. So be sure to come early to the reception, to have time to cast your ballot!

The Annual Members Judged Show, which has in recent years been staged in June, instead will take place this Fall at the JS Reynolds Community College Conference Center Gallery on East Parham Road. You'll be able to sign up for the Fall Judged Show at the May meeting, or by contacting Exhibit Chair [David Cheatham](#).

#### *Paint-In Will Be on July 21 at FAS*

Don't forget to sign up for the third annual JRAL Summer Paint-In, which will take place on July 21, 10 am-4 pm, at For Art's Sake Gallery & Studio. There is no participation cost to members for this day-long event; the studio fee is being paid for by the JRAL Treasury!

To join in the fun of painting with your colleagues and sharing tips and techniques, sign up at the May meeting, or contact [Rosemary McKnight](#).

## JRAL Gallery at Crossroads Has Exhibit Space Available

Your opportunity awaits to exhibit and possibly sell your work at the JRAL Gallery at Crossroads Art Center. An added bonus:



At the suggestion of a JRAL member, the Executive Board has decided that starting in July, members who exhibit in this Gallery will receive credit for participating in two exhibits, instead of just one!

While the May-June exhibit in our gallery/studio at Crossroads Art Center is full and on display — the exhibitors are Dale Berry, Rosemary McKnight, Jan Priddy, Betty Brinser, and Jack deTreville — **we currently have two openings for June 28 – August 29; and one opening for September – October.** Because it is a shared space with other JRAL artists, and partly subsidized by JRAL, a JRAL Gallery wall at Crossroads is very affordable. A side wall (approximately 5'6") is only \$98.50 for two months; the back 8' wall is \$131.00 for two months. Sales over the last year have been steady.

Spaces are already filling up for early 2019. Sign up NOW! Contact JRAL Gallery Co-Chair Lois Shipley at 804-883-5040 or [shipleylaw@embarqmail.com](mailto:shipleylaw@embarqmail.com).

## Special Summer Exhibit to Remember Jane Cox

JRAL will honor the memory of Jane Cox with an exhibit of her work on one of the walls in our JRAL Gallery at Crossroads during July and August.



Through special arrangements with her family, a number of Jane's paintings will be on display. Our thanks to Jenni Kirby of Crossroads Art Center for allowing us to exhibit some "Not for Sale" art work in this special show, and to several JRAL friends of Jane who are donating the gallery fee for the back wall that will display this exhibit.

*(Shown above: "In a Cat's Eye" by Jane Cox, First Place Watercolor in JRAL Judged Show 2013.)*

## JRAL Honors GWHS Student Artists in April Show

Six student artists from George Wythe High School were selected by JRAL judges as the prize winners in the spring GWHS Student Art Show, held in the school library during April. Community Outreach Committee members Connie deBordenave (Committee Chair), Terry Atkinson, Elizabeth Hood, and Karen Witthoeft acted as the exhibit judges, and they, along with Rosemary McKnight, awarded the Art League-funded cash prizes and ribbons at a ceremony on April 16.

The winners were selected from 60 works in the exhibit; those 60 were juried into the show by the three GWHS art instructors from work done by the approximately 150 art students during the current school year.

The prize winners are:

- First Place (\$100): Salera Franklin, Grade 10, for a scratchboard painting of a fish (*seen at right, top*)
- Second Place (\$50): Shadai Alexander, Grade 12, for a collage/mixed media work (*seen at right, center*)
- Third Place (\$30): Eder Lopez, Grade 9, for a scratchboard painting of a wolf's head (*seen at right, bottom*)
- Honorable Mentions (\$10 each):
  - Ikechi Chantilou, Grade 10, abstract print
  - Yasmeen Barksdale, Grade 12, collage/mixed media
  - William Jurez-Garcia, Grade 11, abstract ink



The James River Art League continually supports the art program at GWHS with annual student awards, in-school art demonstrations, and donations of desperately needed art supplies. Our ability to provide this support is enhanced by exhibit honoraria paid to JRAL by Capital One.

On May 25, we will present the *Jane Neal Cox Award* to Wythe's Outstanding Art Student of the year. It will be a \$150 cash award to a GWHS senior, funded by JRAL and an anonymous Art League member who has generously added to the award for 2018 and 2019. As approved by members in the annual budget, in May JRAL is also purchasing \$400 worth of art supplies for the students to use in the 2018-19 school year. An additional \$70 to purchase supplies has been donated by several anonymous JRAL members.

## Remaining Exhibit Schedule — Spring 2018

<b>Capital One</b> Private Exhibit-Not Open to Public	Pick Up: Saturday June 2, 9:30-10
<b>Feb. 16-June 2</b>	
<b>Tuckahoe Area Library</b> 1901 Starling Dr. Henrico 23229 <b>May 1-31</b> <b>New Members Exhibit</b>	Drop Off: Tuesday May 1 9:30-10:00  Pick Up: Thursday May 31 9:30-10:00
<b>First UU Church</b> 1000 Blanton Avenue Richmond 23221 June 4-July 30 <b>"People's Choice" Awards</b>	Drop Off: Monday June 4 9:30-10:00 am Pick Up: Monday July 30 9:30-10:00 am  <b>Reception: Sunday June 10, 2-4 pm</b>



## Member News & Notes

### Exhibits:

- **Mike Haubenstock** is having a one man show of recent work in the Gellman Room at the Richmond Public Library, 101 East Franklin Street, during June and July. The opening reception will be on June 1, 6:30 to 9:00 pm.
- *Art Speaks on the Bay*, the Bay School Community Art Center's annual juried show, honored two JRAL artists for the Bay School's 2018 exhibition. They accepted two paintings by **Jean Miller**, a watercolor titled "City Lights" and an acrylic named "Japanese Garden"; and an oil painting by **Jan Priddy** titled "Tanzania Zebra." The exhibit opened April 28 and runs through May 29 in Mathews. [bayschool-arts.com/pages/art-speaks-on-the-bay-2018](http://bayschool-arts.com/pages/art-speaks-on-the-bay-2018)
- JRAL members **Bill Campbell, Mike Haubenstock, Gwen Parker, and Jan Priddy** had paintings accepted into the *57th Annual South-Atlantic Juried Exhibition* at The Montpelier Center for Arts & Education. The exhibit runs from April 28th to June 25th. [www.montpeliercenter.org](http://www.montpeliercenter.org)
- **Terry Atkinson, Jane Bodnar, Carol Cullinan, Elizabeth Hood, and Linda Wolitz** will be a part of the Annual Judged Show of the MidAtlantic Pastel Society (MAPS) at the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Conference Center Gallery, 1651 East Parham Rd., May 8-June 28. The show will be judged by nationally known pastel artist Alain Picard. Opening reception is May 18, 6-8 pm.
- **Coakley Brown** had two paintings, "Chihuly Reeds Field Trip" (*seen at right*) and "James River Railroad Bridge", accepted into the "2D RVA" online exhibit of BuyRVAart, running March 9 through May 6. Both paintings were also a part of the live exhibition at locations around Richmond.



### Awards & Sales:

- **Jan Priddy** won First Place in Bon Air Artists Association's Judged Show in March, staged at Crossroads Art Center, with her painting "Old Green's Visitor." Jan also sold a painting from the March/April exhibit in the JRAL Gallery at Crossroads.
- **David Cheatham** has sold his oil painting "Dogwood (Panoramic)" which was juried into Crossroads Art Center's All-Media Show in March/April (*seen at right, top*).
- **Nancy Sandridge** recently sold her acrylic painting "Cousin Gull" from the Adele Castillo Student Show at Crossroads Art Center.
- **Anne Negus** sold her painting "Fall on the Eastern Shore" (*seen at right, bottom*) and received a commission for a new painting, from the *Loosely Defined* exhibit at For Art's Sake in March.
- **Suzie Counts** sold her oil painting "After the Storm" in April from *Revival* in Gayton Crossing SC.
- **Dani Ashbridge** recently sold her painting "View from My Office" from her website.



### Et Cetera:

- JRAL's **Community Outreach Committee** is looking for volunteers to give demos to the George Wythe High School Art Club after school. Instructor Jamie Weinstein has formed this group of a few enthusiastic students who are anxious to learn new artistic techniques. If you would like to share your skills with these GWHS students this year, or during the next school year, contact [Connie deBordnave](mailto:Connie.deBordnave@jral.org) or [Rosemary McKnight](mailto:Rosemary.McKnight@jral.org) of the Outreach Committee.
- **Jan Murray and Betsy Taylor** enjoyed a day of wildlife education and painting at the Wildlife Center of Virginia in Waynesboro on April 15. Taught by Amy Shawley, Paquette, the focus of the workshop was the American Kestrel. The Wildlife Center has a number of these workshops each year; for more information, visit their website at [wildlifecenter.org](http://wildlifecenter.org).
- **Call for Entries!** Diana Robinson's For Art's Sake Gallery has announced its juried and judged 2018 All Media Show. Entries are due by June 8; the exhibit will run June 29-August 29. To receive a submission application, contact FAS at 804-740-1400.

### In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we mark the passing of JRAL member Beverly Furillo Madison, who died on April 6th at the age of 70. Her family posted on her Facebook page, "Our mom was a wonderful, kind hearted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was eccentric, artistic, adventurous, and fun! She brought joy to everyone she met." To the Art League, Beverly brought her enthusiasm for acrylic and watercolor painting, her ardent and significant skills as a photographer, and her wish to be in the company of artists. We will miss getting to know her better.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

## The Gift of Feedback



As I reported at our March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, we had a whopping 76% response rate on our member survey. Ninety-eight members participated in giving their assessments, comments, and other feedback, which shows just how engaged our membership is in our League.

We'll be looking at the results of the survey over the coming months to see what actions we should take, but there's some quick takeaways from the results:

- JRAL seems to be generally satisfying the needs of our members, although there are areas where we can do more, change something, communicate better, or improve processes.
- Members rank the opportunities to learn through programs, network with other artists, and exhibit as the most important, and happily also rank their satisfaction as highest with these same three opportunities.
- Members are most interested in programs with guest artist demos, art community and member artist presenters, and guest artist critiques, and are less interested in breakout group discussions, member critiques, and paint-ins.
- Members are generally satisfied with the number of exhibit opportunities, our exhibit venues, and our exhibit processes, although the idea of themes continues to be controversial.
- Our *Newsletter*, email *Art News*, website, membership directory, and *Many Faces* Album get high scores from members across the board.
- Although members are supportive, community outreach projects do rate a little lower with members in general, and there is a general sense that members can't always participate.
- Members are also generally satisfied with most aspects of our organizational management, direction, communications, and structure.

When I was still working in the corporate world, our mantra was that "feedback is a gift," so my thanks to everyone who participated with the gift of their honest assessments and opinions which will help guide JRAL's future direction and offerings.

*Elizabeth Hood*

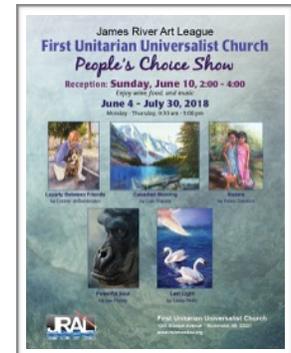
## Notes from May 4th Executive Board Meeting...

The JRAL Executive Board met on May 4th in the St. Matthew's Church library for its final regular meeting of 2017-18. Among the items discussed:

- New leadership positions were announced. Lois Shipley has assumed the role of JRAL Gallery at Crossroads Co-Chair, along with Betty Eddowes. Lois will also continue to publish the weekly email *Art News*. Elizabeth Hood will perform the other duties of Communications Chair, including administration of JRAL's Website and Facebook page (with the help of Dalhia Cavazos), along with her job as JRAL President.
- First UU Church has invited JRAL to repeat its "Stories of the Greatest Generation" exhibit at the church during August. Exhibits Chair David Cheatham will be contacting members to determine if enough exhibitors have an interest in this "encore performance" of the League's very popular show.
- Sign up sheets for the Fall 2018 exhibits at JSRCC (judged show), Cedarfield, and Tuckahoe Library will be available at the May 18th meeting.
- Treasurer Terry Atkinson announced that due to the Board's cautious income projections and conservative spending, we are ending the year with a healthy bottom line!



Thanks to Dalhia Cavazos for designing our current exhibit flyers!



## JRAL Executive Board 2017-2019

## Officers

*President:* Elizabeth Hood  
*1st VP & Program Chair:* Les Camphuysen  
*2nd VP:* Marianne 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  
*Art News (email news):* Lois Shipley  
*Website:* Elizabeth Hood  
*Facebook:* Dalhia Cavazos  
*Newsletter:* Stella Jones  
*Community Outreach:* Connie deBordenave  
*Archivist:* Cathy Kresan  
*Ad Hoc-Gallery at Crossroads:* Lois Shipley & Betty Eddowes

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 2018: The James River Art League — all rights reserved. Editor 2017-2019: Stella Jones, stellaj17@gmail.com