



*WIVLA's Mission: to provide an inspiring forum for women to explore and advance their creative development, to promote their work in the marketplace and to infuse the community with their spirit of cooperation and invention.*

## FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, February 16, 2010

*“A Circle of Five”*

Gathering Time: 6 PM • Meeting Time: 6:15 – 7:15

Museum of Printing History

1324 West Clay Street, Houston, Texas 77019

**Celebrate a belated *Happy Valentine's Day* and *Mardi Gras* with WivLA at the “Circle of Five!”**

Share your best Valentine's tales and/or bring or wear something with Mardi Gras colors (green, purple & gold)! And certainly be certain to come with your latest creative endeavor. It's all in good fun and to bring us closer together as women and artists, regardless of the media.

**Join us for dinner following the meeting at Café Express on West Gray**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jeanne Haner

Greetings WivLA members and Friends!

2010 is off to a great start. If you attended our January meeting you know why! Our speaker for the evening, Dr. Mylene Dressler was exceptional. She definitely stoked our creative fires. Member response to her talk is phenomenal. Thank you, Mylene. We also had the ECO Fund drawing at the January meeting. The ECO Fund is a \$1,000.00 WivLA member scholarship given every year to two members that have continually maintained their membership for three years. Congratulations to our 2010 ECO Fund winners, Bonnie Blue (artist) and Diana Weeks (writer)!

February will be a busy month. Our general meeting February 16 will be a "Circle of Five" meeting. Please bring some of your work to share with the other WivLA members. Our Membership Tea is this month - Sunday, February 28 at The Path of Tea. Your membership must be renewed to attend this function but you can renew at the door.

Coming up in March we will have our 15th Anniversary Party at Archway Gallery - Mark your calendars- Saturday, March 27.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or questions about WivLA please do not hesitate to contact me - [wivla.jhaner@gmail.com](mailto:wivla.jhaner@gmail.com). I am honored to be your President. Thank you.

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**Deadline for March 2010 Newsletter: Feb. 25**  
submit to [newsletter@wivla.org](mailto:newsletter@wivla.org)

## MEMBER NEWS

*This column is for members to report their news: getting published, having a show, receiving an award – recognizing any of their work. Please submit your news to share with other WIVLA members.*

WIVLA will hold its Annual Member Tea, February 28. See “Membership News” for details.

Congratulations to the 2010 ECO Fund Recipients: Bonnie Blue for the artist award; Diana Weeks for the writer award.

### VISUAL ART CELEBRATIONS

**Kay Cox** was awarded 2nd place in the 2 dimensional mixed media division in the Galveston Art League's Winter Juried Exhibition for her fiber piece called "She dreams of romance, travel" from her poem, "Wild Woman Found Buried in Suburbia."

**Piyali Dasgupta** has a new space for work and The Golden Cat Silk Company in Winter Street Studio, #33. Please come and visit us on the 2nd.Saturday Open House.

Deconstructing Reality, an art exhibition featuring work by photographic artists **Sue Burke Harrington** and Deborah Bay, opens March 6, 5-8 PM., at Archway Gallery, 2305 Dunlavy, 77006. Both artists work with graphic software to “deconstruct reality” each with a unique interpretation. Burke Harrington is presenting works from her series, “Metamorphosis,” which incorporates both photographs and traditional art media in her discoveries of the changes in our perceived reality. The show continues through April 1.

**Cynthia Hickok's** teapot, called "Steeped in Art," was seen in London by the art editor of a calendar company who selected it for their 2011 calendar of "Teapots." It should be available in Barnes & Noble stores. “You can call me Miss January!” says Cindy.

**Rona Lesser** had a painting, "Playing with Line" accepted into the national juried show, “Drawing the Line,” from the Jewish Women's Art Network, part of the National Women's Caucus for Art. The show is being held at the Beverly Arts Center of Chicago, February 5 – March 6 with a reception February 14 during the national conference of the Women's Caucus for Art and the College Art Association Conference.

Two of **Sally Stubbs'** photographs will be on exhibit until February 22 in the Galveston Art League Winter Juried Exhibition. One of the images, "Koi #2" took Second Place in the Professional Photography division. Her "Fragrance in E Minor" has been accepted into the Vermont PhotoPlace Gallery's juried "Floral" exhibit in Middlebury, Vermont. Also, her work has been juried into a group exhibition at the Hardy and Nance Street Studios, here in Houston. The opening reception will be on March 13.

**Dune Tencer** has work in three shows. “Artists for Haiti,” February 11 at Laura Rathe Fine Art Gallery, 2707 Colquit, 77098 is a silent auction and all proceeds will fund charities such as Doctors without Borders. “Artist Alive and Well - Spring Show” will open March 7 at St. Luke’s United Methodist Church Rotunda Gallery, 347 Westheimer, 77027. Galveston Art Walk at the Mosquito Cafe, 628 14th Street, Galveston, 77550- March 6 through April 14.

### LITERARY CELEBRATIONS

Two poems by **Sandi Stromberg** have received recognition in the Dallas Poets Community annual contest. Her poem "Turf" is a finalist and "Frogs Don't Sing Red" is a semi-finalist. Reading and judging is in Dallas on February 5.

**Sharon Worley's** book, *Women's Literary Salons during the Napoleonic Era: the Cradle of Patriotic Nationalism* (2010) Edwin Mellen Press has just been published.

*Invite A Friend To Come To A Meeting.  
Invite A Friend To Join.*

## NEW MEMBER Profile

*If you are a new member and we haven't printed your profile – let us know, [newsletter@wivla.org](mailto:newsletter@wivla.org), so we can properly introduce you to other WiVLA members.*

**J-Coby Wayne** is a poet, artist, writer, ghostwriter, editor + teacher who founded e3 Poetry (experience/energy/evolution), which creates original poetic + visual works to capture the experiences of the conscious evolution every human being is traveling + which provides visibility for other "conscious poets" who are actively working to contribute to social progress + evolution through their poetry. She has written three books of poetry with accompanying philosophy, "Words Are Not Enough: A Compass for the Evolving Life," "The Voice Speaks" and "Early Wanderings." She is also co-founder and Chief Experience Guide of Energy Arts Alliance, a growth and evolution organization and community that helps adventurous, socially-conscious people - especially creative people and performers - manifest good stuff by living consciously in the world of energy through the energy arts.

## INTRODUCING THE WIVLA ADVISORY BOARD FOR 2010

By Lane Devereux

Here is a short trivia quiz for you:

1. Who was the first president of WiVLA?
2. What is a salon and how did they start?
3. What do the tiara/scepter pins that some members wear signify?
4. What fundraisers did WiVLA put on in the 90s?
5. What was the purpose for which they raised that money?
6. When did we start giving Scholastic Key scholarships to young women artists and writers graduating from high school?
7. Whose idea was this originally? (Hint: NOT a board member )
8. Who drew the original WiVLA logo?
9. What were the two main elements in the logo?
10. Where do we keep WiVLA papers for posterity?

Hard questions? Yes, for most of us. Unless you have been a WiVLA member for its entire 15 year history – and doing a lot of volunteer work along the way – you probably cannot guess at the answers to most of these questions.

There are other, more serious, questions that come up every March when the board positions change. How does a new president know what is expected of her? How does a new treasurer know what is expected of her? (And so on for all the board positions.) Who has the keys to our Post Office box? And where is it? What restrictions does our contract with the Museum of Printing History put on our use of the building? Where have we held exhibits in the past? Were the outcomes good or bad?

WiVLA needs to maintain organizational consistency. It needs a formal and reliable memory. Without these attributes, an organization can lose focus and unwittingly drift away from the original intentions and goals of the founders. This is not to say that WiVLA should remain a static, lockstep entity with no flexibility or room for new ideas. Rather, new ideas and changes in WiVLA should build on a foundation of knowledge of our past and of our aspirations for the future.

Two years ago, the board of directors formed an advisory group made up of members with previous WiVLA board experience. The purpose of this group, known as the advisory board, is to assist the WiVLA board president, and through her, the rest of the board members. This advisory board has six members: chair, secretary, and 4 at large members. The current WiVLA board president sits in on all meetings as well.

Advisory board members serve limited terms with a regular replacement rotation that allows the advisory board to take greater advantage of WiVLA's leadership resources. I am honored to be the chair of the advisory board for 2010. Serving with me are returning members Carolyn Florek and Diana Weeks; and new members Nancy Michon, June Russell and Kay Sarver. Jeanne Haner, currently president of WiVLA's board, will join us at our quarterly meetings this year.

## PAST PRESIDENT – KELLYE SANFORD

As Told to Jane Mulholland

*In honor of WiVLA's fifteenth anniversary the newsletter will profile one of our eight past presidents each month. We will complete these profiles with our current president Jeanne Haner.*

When I met with Kellye Sanford, WiVLA's sixth President, we discussed her involvement with WiVLA, her two terms as President and her work as an artist. Her vision as President was to make the WiVLA mission more real and to give the mission form and substance. She also wanted to foster the development of the organization to be a home for creative professionals in a wide range of artistic endeavors and establish a professional environment where the non-professional could grow and learn and become professional.

She reminded me that WiVLA was started by professional writers and artists who wanted a nurturing environment where they could hone their skills and further their careers while helping others develop their skills. She also envisioned an environment where non-professionals could find mentors and grow from the experience of others.

During her term WiVLA had a variety of shows including a juried show at Chase Bank, a show at Mind Puddles Gallery and a collaboration show at the Brazosport Art League - a new venue for the organization which expanded our community beyond Houston's borders. The organization celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a Bedazzled party at Orna Feinstein's home. In a day long workshop at Imprint, Kathleen Cambor discussed The Craft of Fiction and Robert Phillips discussed The Craft of Poetry.

During her term the board also began WiVLA's affiliation with the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards

granting scholarships to female high school seniors, one in art and one in writing, which has continued annually to the present.

Changes were also made in board procedures. A process of approval was developed to screen speakers to insure high quality for our member meetings. The ECO Fund Application process was improved to clearly define eligibility and responsibilities of the recipients. There was also an effort made to involve each board member and to improve continuity on the board.

Kellye talked about her early involvement with WiVLA in the Seeds of Healing, A Garden of Hope an exhibition conceived in response to the events of Sept. 11, 2001. She developed all of the graphic work for the show including publicity and posters. She designed and produced an accompanying chapbook and a visual presentation for each written work in the book. These were framed to hang with visual works of art in the exhibition. She also taught a group of volunteers how to hand stitch the chapbook. She said, When I offered to work on a postcard for the Seeds of Healing, I expected to make a small contribution toward a worthwhile cause. (Proceeds from the exhibit were donated to Crisis Hotline) I received so much more than I ever could have contributed. To have one's work so readily received and one's efforts so publicly appreciated is truly overwhelming.

Her experience with this show encouraged her to greater involvement in the organization. As a result of her participation in

WiVLA, she says she now has any number of people she can call for advice or to brainstorm artistic endeavors. Her experiences in WiVLA made her an advocate for people getting involved in the organization.

This year she has two goals for work in the art community: one is her commitment to DiverseWorks Art Space where she is president of the board; the other is to renew her involvement in WiVLA. The support my husband and I received from WiVLA members when Fritz was transitioning in his career made a difficult time much easier for both of us, she says, pointing out the important friendships she has made through the organization.

For the past two years Kellye has been a member of WiVLA's Advisory Board and involved behind the scenes in giving the board ideas and consul.

Asked about her artistic career she said, I'm a multidisciplinary visual artist working with traditional and digital tools to create two and three dimensional work. I have a small publication design company specializing in literary fiction and poetry and in helping non-profits self publish, and I've worked full time as a designer and illustrator at the Houston Chronicle for a number of years. Kellye is also working on a continuing series of paintings. The new decade is a time for renewal and discovery. I want to maintain the areas that have sustained me, but explore new areas of interest and stay open to what the universe brings.

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## GOOD PLACES TO WRITE AND DRAW

By Cary Reeder

**Café Brasil**, corner of Westheimer and Dunlavy

What I realize most when I scope out good places to write and draw is that the screen of my laptop is absolutely filthy. I mean, how do I even manage to navigate the dust and droplets to share my pearls of wisdom? The writer must trudge on through such obstacles, so I am here today at Café Brasil checking out the scene. Like many indie coffee houses, Café Brasil has the reputation of been cool, aloof, and not the friendliest joint in town. Having escaped from South Florida, where rudeness and contempt are a way of life, I wasn't very keen on visiting C.B. I've grown fond of Houston where you can smile and say hello to someone without them thinking that you are crazy or want to engage in an intimate relationship with them and I want my coffee house to be just as nice. Therefore the trip to Café Brasil came with some baggage.

I am pleased to report that all the innuendo and scuttlebutt about Café Brasil is untrue. Sure Café Brasil is cool—it's in the heart of the tattoo-bar-tattoo-vintage clothing-tattoo-bar-tattoo district—but it's not aloof in the least. Everyone I encountered was exceedingly cordial and I even overheard the young woman behind the counter offer temporary credit to a regular who had forgotten her wallet. All of the staff said please and thank you. They said hello to people as they came in and goodbye as they left. Furthermore, one staffer was observed cooing over a baby. All I can think is that when the cool and aloof hipsters find out about this, it is *over* for Café Brasil.

**General Atmosphere:** Café Brasil recently underwent a renovation. On my first visit shortly after moving to Houston 12 years ago, I remember it being dark and somewhat claustrophobic. The building was enveloped in vines and foliage, and you had to work really hard to find the "Brasil" sign in the window. I kind of miss that secretive feel but I guess in the interest of marketing, the abandoned building look had to be dropped. While it has lost its vine covering, Brasil has retained its old-world feel.

The café is divided into three distinctive seating areas: a rustic brick-walled room through the entrance, a sterile industrial-style room off to the right, and a covered patio overlooking the intersection of Westheimer and Dunlavy. After initially sitting in the sterile industrial room and experiencing a marked decrease in my creative mojo, I moved to the rustic brick room where my mojo quickly returned to its proper level.

**Café  
Brasil**

**Features:** Café Brasil is centrally located and sandwiched between Domy Books and Red Foot Yoga. There is great jazzy music in the background including the classic "The Girl from Ipanema," which could brighten the mood of even the grumpiest of ogres. They offer free WIFI and will let you sit and nurse your latte for hours on end. Live music is featured at night, and Domy periodically screens movies in the back courtyard. There is no parking to speak of so you must find a place on the street. I was lucky enough to find a spot right outside the entrance.

**Coffee and Comestibles:** Café Brasil has it all. They have a full breakfast menu and a lunch/dinner menu includes pizzas, sandwiches, salads, and my sentimental favorite, quiche. They also have a full coffee menu and offer a variety of teas and soft drinks.

**When to Go:** Weekdays seem to be the least crowded. Café Brasil serves wine and beer so it probably gets feisty weekends and evenings. I'm here at lunchtime on a Tuesday, and while there are customers, it is by no means packed. It has just the right level of background noise for creative contemplation.

**The Verdict:** Café Brasil is great. For the writer it offers a cozy ambience and for the drawer it provides a wealth of interesting subject matter. I can't wait to come back with my sketch pad to draw the fascinating, patina-covered windows. I thoroughly enjoyed my visit and highly recommend Café Brasil as a good place to write and draw.

*Have you found a Good Place to Write or Draw in your neighborhood? Tell us about it as a guest columnist!*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

WiVLA Membership Chair Cary Reeder wants all to mark their calendars for the annual Member Tea to be held on February 28, 2-4 PM at The Path of Tea, 2340 West Alabama. You must renew your membership to be eligible to attend and you may renew at the door. But it's not too early to renew your WIVLA membership. Our membership year runs from March 1-February 28. Start the year off right by renewing today! The membership form is at the end of the newsletter and on our web site. Please fill out the form even if your information hasn't changed so we know we are current with you.

## The *Creating* Life

By Jane Mulholland

As I am preparing to turn the newsletter over to a new editor in the next few months, I would like to thank those of you who have made contributions to the newsletter. Special thanks go to Cary Reeder who every month has informed and entertained us with her column "Places to Write and Draw." My vision for the newsletter now and in the past is that the newsletter is the vehicle to learn about "official WiVLA business" but primarily for members to share with other members their news as well as things that would be of interest and assistance to other members. *It is your newsletter and I have seen my role as a conduit from you to other members.* While we have to stay within our 8 page limit to get first class postage, the more we hear from you the better the newsletter becomes.

### WILVA BOARD

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Last month I asked you to let us know what inspires you. Hearing from you, inspires me. I got one reply from **Cary Reeder**: "Walking is what inspires me. It is a rare occasion when I haven't either come up with a brilliant idea for my art, writing or life, or solved a problem during one of my walks along the Heights Boulevard trail." So, perhaps next month we'll hear from you about what inspires you.

### Writers

Brazos Writers of Bryan and College Station, Texas is a community arts organization. This year they are sponsoring a writing contest with prize money in fiction, non-fiction and poetry. \$10 entry fee. For details and entry form: [www.brazoswriters.org](http://www.brazoswriters.org). **Deadline for entries: March 31.**

If you are interested in contributing to "The Creating Life" or writing this column please contact [newsletter@wivla.org](mailto:newsletter@wivla.org).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Jon Son** will be holding private classes for from 1 to 4 people in her Montrose studio this year: days and times are very flexible to fit our schedules.

[www.joanson.com/paperart/Origami\\_Classes.html](http://www.joanson.com/paperart/Origami_Classes.html)

**Karen Smith** wants to know if anyone has information about festivals and other events to sell Joe Goodbuddy greeting cards. If you have any ideas let Karen know and she will share the information with other WiVLA members: [ksmithtex@aol.com](mailto:ksmithtex@aol.com) or 713-521-7775.

Pulitzer Prize winning columnist Ellen Goodman will speak at the Performance Center at the Ensemble Theatre, 3535 Main Street, March 12. For tickets: [www.firstuu.org](http://www.firstuu.org)

## WIVLA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New Regular Member    New Student Member    Renewal

### Welcome to Women in the Visual and Literary Arts

Please complete the form below. Add a \$35.00 check or money order for regular dues (or \$10 for student dues), made payable to WIVLA. All members will receive the WIVLA monthly newsletter by mail and e-mail, however, any member who does NOT want a paper newsletter can let us know below.

MAIL TO:            Membership  
                       WIVLA  
                       PO Box 130406  
                       Houston, TX 77219-0406.

WIVLA membership runs from March 1 through the end of February. New memberships paid in January and February automatically carry over to the next fiscal membership year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Don't send me (US Mail) newsletter \_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (h): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (w): \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Web address: \_\_\_\_\_

CREATIVE AVENUE: Please be specific and list all areas of interest and expertise. This information will be used in our next directory, allowing members to network with each other. Please do not feel intimidated and do not feel modest. For example: Artist: paint in oils, acrylics; fiber artist, mural painter, etc. Writer: poet, novelist, etc. Attach a sheet or write on the back if you need more space.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

COMMITTEES: Please indicate the committee(s) on which you would be willing to serve:

Refreshments/hospitality    Membership    Literary Events    Visual Art Events    Newsletter    Publicity

Philanthropy    OTHER SERVICES: \_\_\_\_\_

Computer skills (please indicate proficiency level, programs and Mac or PC platform): Graphic Design

\_\_\_\_\_ Bookkeeping \_\_\_\_\_ Event Planning \_\_\_\_\_ Commercial printing connections

Copy center connections    Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Ease of access to certain types of supplies or materials: \_\_\_\_\_

Speaker suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

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## WIVLA – CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**February 15:** The Board meeting is 6:00 PM at Archway Gallery.

**February 16:** Member meeting: Circle of Five

**February 28:** Member Tea, The Path of Tea, 2340 West Alabama, 2 – 4 PM.

**March 27:** WiVLA 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, Archway Gallery

**July exact date TBA:** Exhibit at Waldo's Coffee House, Heights Boulevard

**August 4-25:** Annual WiVLA Print Show, Museum of Printing History

### MEMBER MEETINGS 2010:

February 16

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 16

Dec: no mtg.

### Women in the Visual and Literary Arts

P.O. Box 130406

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