

WIVLA VOICES



women in the visual and literary arts

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Jeanne Haner



Greetings WivLA Members and Friends!

We started our first meeting of 2011 with a lovely punch and cookie reception. A number of people remarked that they appreciated the opportunity to catch up with others they hadn't seen since the last meeting in November. The program featured a panel of five WivLA women who gave a "behind-the-scenes" look at recent organizational developments. I want to thank Jean Caslin, Lane Devereux, Diane Griffin Gregory and Diana Meade for joining me on the panel, and also thank the present board of directors for their support and contributions to WivLA

over the past year. We also officially launched our new website at the meeting. The response to WivLA's "forward movement" has been tremendous. Thanks to all of you for your positive and encouraging words about the progress WivLA has made as an organization.

Our general meeting February 15 will be our bi-annual "Circle of Five" meeting. Please bring some of your work to share with other WivLA members, or come as an interested observer.

Here are three upcoming events to consider: A day of creative learning is planned for Saturday, February 19th as the first literary event for 2011. I encourage you to sign up today. The ECO fund applications are due to be received by February 28, 2010. The guidelines and application can be found at: [http://wivla.org/ECO.htm] Sunday, March 13th from 2 - 4pm will be our Member Social at the Atharettia Yeargin Art Museum. Further details will follow by an e-announcement and in the March newsletter.

Thank you for your involvement in WivLA; I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

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Deadline for March 2011 Newsletter: February 20th, 2011; submit to newsletter@wivla.org

FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

February 15, 2011, 6 pm
Museum of Printing History
1324 West Clay Street

Discuss your creative journey with WiVLA members at the “Circle of Five” meeting.

We can share our best efforts and New Year’s goals as we get into the swing of WiVLA’s progressive energy! Maybe you’ll have some ideas for recycling those wonderful Valentine’s Day cards and candies that you received. It’s all about respecting each others’ work and allowing an equal five minutes to share.

“Circle of Five” brings us closer together as artists and friends, regardless of the media.

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

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear WiVLA Members,

This issue of WiVLA VOICES is the last printed copy you’ll receive in your mailbox. In March, WiVLA will go green, and our newsletter will become digital like so many other types of printed media that were at one time tangible. It’s a strange thought knowing our books, bills, pictures, newspapers, and journals have been transferred to a virtual world. With electronic media, we don’t have to worry about the ink from paper dirtying our fingers, and at the same time we feel good this shift is saving countless of trees. We are living in a new era for sure.

This is an exciting time to be a WiVLA member when several new changes are at the fore. A new fiscal year approaches, new policies have been approved, and new board members are coming in. At first it may seem as if so much is happening at once. Change can be as easy as flipping a switch — for example, when you try a new food on an impulse and fall in love with it — or it can be as difficult as trying a new diet and quitting after the first week.

I just read a book called “Switch” by Chip & Dan Heath, which talks about the psychology of change and the reasons making some changes are more difficult than others. In short, the authors say when we reconcile our emotional impulses with our rational thinking, set specific realistic goals, and gradually change our habits, then change becomes easier. Using an example from the book, people are more likely to accept switching from whole milk to 1% milk than to switch to a healthier diet. Where there is ambiguity, change looks more like a foe.

At our last WiVLA meeting, I was proud and happy to hear about the positive changes taking shape to take our organization to the next level. However, we’d be naive to think these changes are going to happen suddenly. Jeanne’s words echoes through my head: baby steps. Baby steps.

I have enjoyed being Newsletter Chair this year, yet I must make the switch and allow another member to take this role. To be certain, I’ll miss receiving and delivering your news each month, and making the adjustment will be difficult at first. But then again, I have just read from the Heaths about how change incites growth, so I feel encouraged (especially considering the fact I read their entire book on my iPhone).

Sincerely,
Jennifer Watson

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.

VISUAL ART CELEBRATIONS

Maggie Baldwin's art was selected for The Lone Star Cy-Fair Art Procurement Program. Her painting "As Worlds Juxtapose - Part II" was purchased by the college as part of the college art collection which is displayed on campus. She also received an Honorable Mention for another work entitled, "As Worlds Juxtapose - Part III."

Margaret Colvin's painting "Majestic" and **Rona Lesser's** work was accepted for the Local Emerging Artists Exhibit at Jack Meier Gallery, 2310 Bissonnet, Houston, TX 77005. **February 19th**; preview 1- 4 pm; wine reception 6 - 8 pm.

Natalia Vargas (2010 Maxine Leo Fund Winner), has been accepted as one of the 70 students out of 150 applicants to continue in the Communication Design program at the University of North Texas to pursue a career in graphic design/art direction.

Roberta Sajda will be a featured artist **February 4th** at DaVinci Gallery, 315 W Main St, Tomball.

LITERARY CELEBRATIONS

J-Coby Wayne has joined the "Thirsty Thursday" monthly poetry reading group in Dripping Springs, TX, as a poet-reader. Her first reading at the end of

January featured her "Year Window" multimedia art, poetry and music experience that was shown earlier in 2010 in Beijing, China.

Stella Alexander has been invited to be a participating author for the twenty-second National African American Read-In, celebrating African American literacy. Stella will talk about her experience as an author and read from her poetry books.

Germaine Welch's poem "Houston Oil Man Missing" will appear in *The Lineup: Poems on Crime, #4*, in March 2011, published by Poetic Justice Press. *The Lineup* is available at *Murder by the Book* in Houston.

Marlene Llanes had oil paintings on view at Artopia, Saturday, January 29th. She will also show one oil painting at "Small Works by Great Minds Auction" at the Arts Alliance Center at Clear Lake, **Thursday, February 3, 6-9:30 pm**, 2000 Nasa Parkway, Nassau Bay (across from Johnson Space Center). Tickets \$10.

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER

Name: Erica Tucci

E-mail address: Erica@ericatucci.com

Creative medium/media: writing

She heard about WIVLA Lane Devereaux's husband Michael, who is a colleague of mine

She joined because: to meet like-minded women, networking, professional services

"I'm an author of two forthcoming books, *Anything is Possible* (a novel based on a true story... a love story), and a non-fiction book, *Zesty Womanhood at 40 and Beyond: Second Act, New Role* (the title speaks for itself!), both of which will be out as e-books February 1 and as paperbacks April 25 through Amazon.com. I'm also a Reiki master/instructor and a life coach. You can learn more at <http://www.ericatucci.com>."

Information about the revised ECO FUND GUIDELINES and APPLICATION FORM

For those of you who missed the January 18th membership meeting, below is the new version of the ECO Fund guidelines. Please go on line to www.wivla.org to download both these guidelines and the revised ECO Fund Application Form. If there are any concerns or questions about the ECO Fund, please contact Diane Griffin Gregory by phone, 713-864-1563, or by email, dianegggregory@gmail.com.

The Educational and Cultural Opportunity (ECO) Fund is a monetary award, as determined by the sitting Board of Directors, given to one writer and to one visual artist within a fiscal year. Once determined, the amount of the award will be announced in the ECO Fund Application Guidelines, on the Application Form and in the *WIVLA VOICES*. Word processed applications are preferred. It is recommended that you present a clear and well-developed application. You might consider having someone edit/review your application before submitting it. **The 2011 award is \$1000 per recipient.**

Eligibility:

- An applicant must have been a dues-paying member for the previous two consecutive fiscal years.
- A member may submit only one application (as either an artist or a writer) in a given fiscal year.
- Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.
- Previous recipients of the award and members of the sitting or incoming Board of Directors are ineligible to apply.

This is an anonymous, competitive process and all entries will be reviewed for eligibility. Following the selection by an independent juror or panel in **March**, the recipients will be announced and will receive their awards at the following **April** membership meeting. Please submit a completed Application Form by the **postmark deadline: Monday, February 28, 2011.**

Responsibilities of recipient:

Funds may be used to:

- Attend classes, workshops or other educational opportunities
- Acquire equipment to further creative endeavors
- Create a community service project
- Support artist's honorarium for making work

Recipients must present a synopsis of their ECO Fund experience at the **April** membership meeting following the award year. The WIVLA Program Chair will confirm the April presentations with the recipients. They are asked to share their creative product through visual presentations and/or readings. Recipients who fail to use the funds according to the guidelines are required to refund the award to the organization.

Humor
GOOD PLACES TO WRITE AND DRAW
 By Cary Reeder

Dunn Bros Coffee

3333 Wesleyan, Phone: 713-892-8100

In the interest of reviewing all types of coffee shops, this month I decided to give a chain store a chance. Chains get a bad rap because they 1) are usually bland, generic and predictable, 2) are partly to blame for the downfall of Western civilization, and 3) most likely had a hand in the meteoric rise of Justin Bieber. At the same time, the predictability of chains isn't all bad when you want the simple guarantee that the store will be open when it says it will, the coffee will be consistently good, and the WIFI will be working. It's a touchy subject this debate over corporate vs. independent and I'm not taking either side here—just stirring the pot.

Dunn Bros (they opted for the cooler “bros” rather than “brothers”) is located in the new shopping center that rose from the ashes of the old HISD Administration building. It is on the bottom floor of a mixed use development with apartments on top and retail on the bottom. In Houston, this is as about as close as we come to incorporating any of the urban planning ideas I learned about in graduate school. It's nice to see that my fair city is making at least a few strides in the right direction.

General Atmosphere: When I visited Seattle a few years back, I was giddy visiting coffee chains because even though they were commonplace to the locals, they were new to me. I feel the same way about Dunn Bros, which has a little more personality than your typical Starbucks. It's a chain, but it's a *new* chain. There is something of a bookstore quality to it, probably because they have two big bookcases with magazines and books available to enjoy with your coffee. The décor is calm and uncluttered with neutral greens and earth tones. During my late afternoon weekday visit, the place was hopping with businessmen meeting, student's studying, and friends visiting. The noise level was low, and the patrons were nice and well behaved.

Features: I visited Dunn Bros on one of those endlessly dreary days that we recently had to endure. Even so, with its large plate glass windows I could imagine glorious sunlight spilling across my notebook on a less dreary day. There are a couple of comfy seating areas, several tables and chairs, and a large patio for those days when the weather isn't so dreary and is instead blazing hot. For those who need a break from writing to do “research,” Dunn Bros offers free WIFI. Along with the aforementioned books and magazines, I also noticed a large number of board games available for play. Clearly Dunn Bros is taking a cue from smaller, independent coffee shops who have been offering homey features like these for years.

Coffee and Comestibles: Dunn Bros serves a full line of coffee beverages as well as light offerings for breakfast, lunch and dinner. My latte wasn't the best I've ever had but I will chalk that up to the barista having an off day. I didn't try any of the cookies, cakes or pastries but they looked very yummy and tempting. They also serve beer and wine during the evening.

When to Go: Because they serve alcohol in the evenings and breakfast on the weekends, weekday mornings and afternoons are probably the best time to go. In addition, they have live music on some nights that may interfere with your concentration level. Like all other coffee shops, it's best to go during non-meal hours if you need some peace and quiet for your creative endeavors.

The Verdict: While I do not see myself making a special trip to Dunn Bros to write or draw, I was pleasantly surprised by the relative hominess of this chain store. Apparently each store is independently owned so maybe they have some leeway in making each seem less sterile. I rate Dunn Bros as a dependable and pretty good place to write and draw, and I do not blame it for the meteoric rise or continued popularity of Justin Bieber.

Have you found a Good Place to Write or Draw in your neighborhood? We encourage WiVLA members to be guest columnists. Contact the editor for details.

MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

Call for Entries:

Archway Gallery

announces its **3rd annual Juried Exhibition** benefiting Houston Area Women's Center, July 2-August 5, 2011. Postmark deadline: May 14. First award is \$500 cash and a month's exhibition of the artist's work at Archway Gallery, as if they were a member artist. Juror will be Bert Long. Submissions are to be by digital images on CD; mail postmark deadline is May 14, 2011. For early prospectus please send SASE to Juried Exhibition, Archway Gallery, 2305 Dunlavy, Houston, Texas 77006.

Visual Arts Alliance 28th Juried Open Competition

Postmark deadline for entries: February 26
Prospectus and entry form visualartsalliance.org
Submissions for the annual Gulf Coast Prizes in fiction, nonfiction, and poetry are now open. Deadline March 15. www.gulfcoastmag.org.

Creative Capital's next grant round, for Film/Video and Visual Arts, will open on February 1.
www.creative-capital.org.

Classes, Lectures & Shows:

The Big Greet, February 5, 6 p.m. **Winter Street Studios** (2101 Winter St.) Celebrating all things Houston! Local Entertainment, Artists, Cuisine, and Brew. Purchase tickets online at houstongreeters.org

Karleen Koen teaches writing courses in Austin and Houston this spring.
Feb. 5: Creating Strong Characters/Writers League of Texas/Austin March 5: Writing the Novel: Drafts/Rice University Continuing Education Department/Houston March 26: Rediscovering Creativity/Rice University Continuing Education Department/Houston writersleague.org or gscs.rice.edu

Joan Son's Montrose Studio will be open on Friday and Saturday February 11 & 12 from 11 to 6 pm. Last Minute Valentine Sale! with handmade treasures including jewelry, cards, paper art, ceramics, Texas dust pans, origami and magic. 904 Welch, just behind Texas Art Supply. joanson.com or 713-522-5377.

Mylene Dressler is speaking at Georgia's Carson McCullers Conference on February 18 and at Santa Fe's Creativity and Madness Conference on February 20. www.mylenedressler.com.

Gretchen Havens will teach **Advertising and the American Culture**, an 8-session evening course beginning February 24 at the Glasscock School of Continuing Studies at Rice University. The course will explore the effects of advertising on our society, and the influence of events such as feminism, wars and current technology on the content and style of advertising. Details at gscs.rice.edu, click on Arts, Humanities and Sciences.

Ann Bell is offering several new one-day classes, suitable for both beginners and experienced painters. See the schedule at www.annbell.net/classes.htm

Rolling in Mud: 40 Years of Ceramics, a free lecture by Peter Held. Saturday, February 12, from 4-5pm. Freed Auditorium of the Glassell School of Art, MFAH.

Patricia Hernandez: Parody of Light is on view at DiverseWorks Art Space until February 27. Diverseworks.org.

**Mark your calendars for Literary Day:
February 19, 2011
Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet
8:30 - 11:30 (poetry) and 12:00 - 3:00 (memoir)**

Download the registration form at wivla.org/literary.htm

Sandi Stromberg

Morning Poetry workshop \$30

Sarah Cortez

Afternoon Memoir workshop \$30

Both workshops \$50

Writers and visual artists are invited to join us for a Literary Day of workshops. Take this opportunity to try a new genre or explore your written creative voice.

In the morning, Sandi Stromberg will help us collect colorful seeds to plant in your imagination and grow into poems. Through a series of writing prompts, we'll invite the unconscious to offer us gifts of insight and play. Then we'll explore some of the mechanisms that make good poems - imagery, metaphor, line breaks, word choice - and some of the things that get in our way when we're in the creative process.

In the afternoon, Sarah Cortez will give us ideas for capturing our memories with prose in ways that are lively, engaging, and resonant. Memoir is an amazing way to capture and hold dear precious moments, or paradoxically, allow a resting place for what is sad or painful, giving new perspective and understanding. Both workshops will provide a welcoming atmosphere of instruction and encouragement.

Corry Austin and Elizabeth Earle, WiVLA's Co-Chairs of Literary Arts, have organized these workshops.

For further information, contact:

corry@sbcglobal.net 281-731-2711

eaearle@hotmail.com 281-788-8007

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WiVLA – CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 7: WiVLA Board Meeting, Live Oak Friends Meeting House

February 15: WiVLA Membership Meeting: "Circle of Five"

February 19: WiVLA Literary Day at Bayland Comm. Center, 6400 Bissonnet, 8:30 am – 11:30 am poetry & 12:00 – 3:00 pm memoir

WiVLA meets **the third Tuesday of every month** excluding December at The Museum of Printing History, 1324 W Clay Houston 77019



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