



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.

January Membership Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

“Moving Ourselves, Moving Others: Keeping the Creative Flame Leaping”

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

Museum of Printing History • 1324 West Clay Street, Houston, Texas 77019



DR. MYLÈNE DRESSLER

Please join us for our first program of 2010 when Dr. Mylène Dressler will present “Moving Ourselves, Moving Others: Keeping the Creative Flame Leaping.” This special program with interest for all members, both visual and literary, will be a slightly longer and interactive. According to Dr. Dressler, “We're going to have a marvelous time!”

Mylène (affectionately known as “Dr. Em” to her students and friends) was born in The Hague, the Netherlands and is a writer and a “superb” speaker whose work has been hailed by *The New York Times* as “splendid” and by the *Christian Science Monitor* as “haunting,” “demanding” and “perfect.” After a fulfilling career as a professional ballet dancer, she began her literary studies at the University of San Francisco, and then penned her first novel, *The Medusa Tree*, during her doctoral studies at Rice University. She soon followed it with the Book Sense Pick *The Deadwood Beetle*, named by the Christian Science Monitor as one of its Best

Books of 2001, then with *The Floodmakers* (2004), her “casually brilliant” (Texas Monthly) hybrid of play and novel. She is currently completing her fourth novel and maintains a weekly blog, “American Stories NOW,” created to help readers connect across cultures, places, groups and boundaries. Mylène makes her home in Texas and in the canyon country of southern Utah, where she lives with her traveling companions, her husband and two border collies.

The ECO Fund Awards will be drawn during the January meeting. You do not have to be present to win.

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

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Deadline for February 2010 Newsletter: January 29, 2009; submit to newsletter@wivla.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jeanne Haner

Happy New Year one and all!

I hope everyone enjoyed a safe and joyous holiday season. For most, the New Year is a time of reflection and inspiration. May 2010 bring all good things your way and may you find the inspiration to encourage, connect and applaud the accomplishments of each other in this New Year.

2010 is going to be a great year for WIVLA and its members! There are some very special events planned for the New Year and some are coming up rather quickly so please take note. January 19th is the next general meeting and the ECO fund drawing, February 28th is the Membership Tea at The Path of Tea, and March 27th is WIVLA's 15th Anniversary Party that will be held at Archway Gallery! Please help WIVLA in planning future WIVLA events by taking the time to join a committee. Your participation is greatly appreciated. You are an integral part of this organization and your participation helps make WIVLA more vital and vibrant.

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.

VISUAL ARTS

Sally Stubbs has two colorful artworks, "Brooms" and "Banana Leaf," in the juried "Winter Solstice Show" at Heritage Hall, JP Morgan Chase Bank, 601 Travis Street, Houston. The show was juried by Patrick Palmer, and runs through January 8, 2010.

Sally Stubbs has two additional artworks, "Dry Leaves" and "Pine Bark," in The Arts Alliance at Clear Lake Open Door Series 2009 Winter Juried Exhibition. She was Awarded Honorable Mention for The Body of Work presented. The gallery is located at

2000 NASA Parkway, Nassau Bay. The show closes January 7, 2010.

LITERARY ARTS

Margo Davis had two poems accepted for a forthcoming issue of *Louisiana Literature*.

Leah Lax won second place in the *Seven Hills Review* short story contest. The story will be published in January.

Jennifer Watson published her short story, "Marigolds" in the fall issue of *Laurels*, a literary magazine of the University of St. Thomas.

PAST PRESIDENT – LILLIAN WARREN

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 Lillian Warren, WIVLA's fifth President, we discussed her involvement with WIVLA, her two terms as President and her work as an artist. After Lillian came to Houston from St. Louis a friend of a friend told her about WIVLA. "It was exactly what I needed, because at the time, I was searching for a community of artists. I always found WIVLA's programs inspiring – particularly the

writers as I guess they made me stretch more. My first position on the board was as Program Chair. I have always felt that the programs are the life blood of the organization from which all other events flow."

As President she loved the monthly meetings and found members' news of successes at the end of the meeting energizing. One of the special events

WIVLA did during her time in office was the “Seeds of Healing, A Garden of Hope” exhibit at Chase Bank. The exhibit held April 25 through May 17, 2002 was created in response September 11, 2001 after three WIVLA members, Jane Ebone, Sally Ridgway Proler and Jane Mulholland discussed how writers and artists could be a powerful force in healing the wounds of the attack. The exhibition was dedicated to healing and to the idea that even in tragedy we can nurture growth and creativity, just as the earth in its cycles nurtures us. “It was an extremely successful exhibit where artists and writers participated using as their inspiration proverbs from around the world which Jane Ebone had compiled for us. Under the direction of Kellye Sanford, WIVLA volunteers made 75 hand-bound booklets which listed the proverbs that each participant used for her work and included all the written works in the exhibit. All of the proceeds from the exhibit went to Crisis Hotline.”

“Being on the WIVLA board and being President prepared me for the Diverse Works board and their President for the last four years. I took a workshop, ‘Professional Development for Artists’ at Diverse Works which became a life changing event for me. The curriculum included proposal writing, networking, giving talks about your work and approaching galleries. What changed me, an

introvert, was the challenge to get out there to gallery openings and see what others are doing. At these events we were told we must talk to three people before leaving. Since then, my husband and I have a date every Friday night to go gallery hopping. It has gone from being an ordeal to being fun – and now, I know most people I see there.”

Lillian has an undergraduate BFA in painting and an MBA focused on Information Systems. “Business is about creative problem solving and not that unrelated to art.” Currently she paints full time and consults part time – the part “that pays better.” She has taken numerous courses at Glassell and enjoyed the critique and theory classes the most, exploring the “why” of your art and what is important to you. When Lillian came to WIVLA most of her work was abstract. Today she is doing urban landscapes and is one of the artists affiliated with Rudolph Projects Art Scan Gallery (1836 Richmond). “There are lots of visual possibilities in Houston. I was a landscape painter in St. Louis so the transition from abstract is not as great as one might think.”

When I asked her “What is next?” She thought a moment and said, “Maybe a rest for a while.” That is doubtful, but when you see her at a gallery some Friday night, say “hello.”

GOOD PLACES TO WRITE AND DRAW

By Cary Reeder

The Gazebo on Heights Boulevard between 11th and 10th Streets

After ten straight days of cold, rainy, dreary weather, I certainly was not going to spend the first beautiful sunny day inside in my search for good places to write and draw. Why not feature a place to where one can take their creativity outside, or as the French say, *en plein air*, I thought to myself. “Great idea self!” I responded. And I knew just the place for my outdoor excursion—a charming gazebo on Heights Boulevard.

I usually start my mornings with a walk on Heights Boulevard, and halfway through I stop at the white gazebo on Heights Boulevard just north of 11th Street to do my stretches. The gazebo is a little piece of heaven—a place to sit, stretch or rest protected from the hustle and bustle of the street. Heights Boulevard has a number of benches and seating areas, and even another gazebo south of 11th, but this gazebo is tops in my book. I think Houston Press readers once voted it as one of the best places to “have a good cry.” Rather than making a spectacle of myself by weeping uncontrollably, I’ve brought my sketch pad to draw and write.

General Atmosphere: The gazebo is in the center of Heights Boulevard, adjacent to the trail. Surrounded by tall trees and quaint houses, it is quite airy and gets plenty of natural light. Along with walkers, runners, sullen teenagers on their way to school, and people walking Fifi and Fido, you will find blue jays, mockingbirds,

squirrels, the occasional hawk, and a plethora of grackles. The human and doggie water fountains are nearby, as is the Carl and Melvalene Cohen Plaza, dedicated to a couple who have spent much of their lives making the Heights the great place it is.

Features: A plaque indicates that this gazebo is dedicated to Heights residents in memory of Mr. Paul P. Pirkle, Sr. What a perfectly pleasant present to mark Mr. Pirkle's passing. The open air, wood-frame gazebo has deck seating on each side and a great view of the surrounding area. No "official" WIFI is available but who really needs it out here? It's a great place for people and dog watching. The gazebo also provides a shield from curious onlookers who may feel possessed to provide unhelpful comments about your artwork/writing in progress.

Coffee and Comestibles: The Gazebo on Heights Boulevard is a strictly BYOC&C establishment. Waldo's Coffee House and the cute new diner, Lola, are both nearby, so you can stop in for something to go. I'm enjoying a coffee from Starbucks. Can you believe that I went there to exchange a gift of chocolate covered espresso beans for a Pumpkin Spice Latte? Yes, I really am that cheap.



When to Go: Anytime during the day, weather permitting, is a great time to go. The gazebo is available on a strictly first-come, first served basis.

The Verdict: Sometimes you need to shake up your routine to get those creative juices flowing. The unpredictability of the outdoors can help shift your thinking from the mundane to the magical. While I was there, a ladybug landed on my shoulder. How can you not be inspired when one of Mother Nature's creatures takes time out of their busy schedule to stop by for a visit? If you want a break from the norm, I recommend a visit to the Gazebo on Heights Boulevard the next time you need a good place to write, draw or ponder.

Have you found a Good Place to Write, Draw or Be Creative? Don't be shy, be a guest columnist!

THE GAZEBO IN THE HEIGHTS
(PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.HOUSTONIST.COM)

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.

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

The *Creating* Life

By Jane Mulholland

“You have to allow yourself to take joy. Otherwise, you’re no good to anyone.” Ruth Stone
What a good thought to begin the year. It seems to me the things that bring me joy also inspire me. After Thanksgiving until recently, I have been astounded by the gorgeous colors of our local trees.

Several times I raced home, grabbed my camera and went back to shoot the trees before the leaves dropped. When we had real snow that Friday in early December, I thought, “There go the beautiful leaves.” But unlike the trees in the North that drop their leaves quickly after the first frost, the stately oak outside my window kept turning more and more crimson and still, a day before the New Year, holds on to its bright foliage. Amazing: Houston the best place in the country to see gorgeous trees!

I’d like in next month’s column to have you tell us what inspires you and/or gives you joy in your creative life. Just send your comments: newsletter@wivla.org and share your thoughts with our membership.

Triple Canopy: Call for

Proposals: Triple Canopy is an online magazine that works collectively with writers, artists, researchers and other collaborators on projects that deal critically with culture and politics, and the ways people engage them, both online and in the world at large. We are pleased to announce our first call for proposals. In the coming months we will be commissioning ten projects spanning the five areas outlined below—original research, new-media journalism, public programming, Internet-specific artwork, and critical dialogues—to be published in the magazine and presented before live audiences in the next year.

This first round of commissions is supported in part by a generous grant from the Brown Foundation, Inc. of Houston. Commissions will be accompanied by a modest honorarium, the amount of which will reflect the scope of the project and the cost of its development.

Project areas:

Research Work was established to facilitate the creation of research projects that are produced outside

academia, for a general audience; employ Internet-specific methods of presentation; and serve a public best reached by making the work available for free online.

Internet as Material was established to support emerging and mid-career artists who have never before made work specifically for the Web in the production of an online project. These projects further Triple Canopy's mission by utilizing the Internet—which is too often understood as a channel for the transfer of information—as a medium for the development of artworks that actively engage readers.

Thinking through Images was established to foster conversations about images and videos of cultural, political, and social relevance, between artists, writers, researchers, and other cultural practitioners working in different fields. The program aims to facilitate close readings of popular media and fine art—from nineteenth-century paintings to Internet memes to documentation of current events—that consider

these cultural products in a common context.

The New Media Reporting Project was established to provide journalists an outlet for—and provide them with the training and technical resources and expertise to realize—in-depth, critical reports executed in multiple media, with the goal of providing an immersive experience of the stories and subjects that shape our age.

New Programming was established to support the development of exhibitions, panel discussions, performances, film screenings, and other public events that examine the intersection of culture, politics, and technology.

Triple Canopy works collectively with writers, artists, researchers and other collaborators on projects that deal critically with culture and politics, and the ways people engage them, both online and in the world at large. These investigations are realized in an online magazine as well as in public programs and print publications encompassing various

fields and locales. They aim to present work and advance ideas informed by a multitude of disciplines and perspectives, and to disseminate them among a broad and diverse audience. Triple Canopy is a nonprofit 501(c) 3 organization, founded in late 2007; and published the first issue on March 17, 2008. For information: <http://canopycanopycanopy.com>
Submissions and proposals are due by February 15, 2010.

Writers

This is fun. Every story starts out the same. This time the theme is:

“Working for God is never easy.”
 Submit to: *The First Line*. E-mail (via MS Word or WordPerfect attachment) to:

submission@thefirstline.com.

Type: Short stories (3,000 words MAX).

<http://www.thefirstline.com>

Deadline: 02/01/10.

Artists

Call for applications: The Artadia Awards 2010 Houston! The Fund for Art and Dialogue is now accepting applications from all visual artists living and working in Houston, Harris County, Texas.

Individual artists and collaboratives working in all media and at any point in their career are strongly encouraged to apply. Awards include 2 - \$15,000 awards; 5 - \$3000 awards. For eligibility, information and application:

www.artadia.org/forartists.html

Deadline: March 1, 2010

If you are interested in contributing to “The Creating Life” or writing this column please contact newsletter@wivla.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jeanne Haner

wivla.jhaner@gmail.com

President

Madilyn Stein

madsteinart@gmail.com

Vice President

Connie Buchanan

ccbuchanan@sbcglobal.net

Secretary

Pattie Berg

jewelry@sapamojo.com

Treasurer

Carolyn Adams

carolyn_l_adams@att.net

Literary Chair

Adela Andea

adela@andea.com

Visual Chair

Diane Griffin Gregory

dianegregory@gmail.com

Speaker Chair

Sue Burke Harrington

sburkeart@gmail.com

PR Chair

Jane Mulholland

mulholland.jane@gmail.com

Newsletter Chair

Cathy Nieman

nie46@earthlink.net

Historian

Caroline Reeder

cs_reeder@sbcglobal.net

Membership Chair

Cookie Wells

wadsworth@sbcglobal.net

Visual Chair

Ann Bell will offer two new classes for the New Year: “How to Paint from Your Photographs” and “Understanding Composition” plus” The Business of Art.” Complete class schedule:

<http://www.annbell.net/classes.htm>

Writing Marathon, January 16, 10:30-1:30, Montrose Library -- Downstairs Conference Room, 4100 Montrose Boulevard. Free. Bring a snack to share. For information contact: Diana Weeks dianaweeks@att.net or Karen Smith ksmithtex@aol.com

Position Open: Assistant Curator of Education, Blaffer Gallery, the Art Museum of the University of Houston, Full time, UH Posting Number 064803. For information: <http://jobs.uh.edu>

WIVLA – Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 19: Member meeting and ECO Fund drawing

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

March 27: WIVLA 15th Anniversary Party, Archway Gallery

Member meetings 2010:

January 19

February 16

March 16

April 20

May 18

June 15

July 20

August 17

September 21

October 19

November 16

No meeting in December

WIVLA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 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: _____

Women in the Visual and Literary Arts

P.O. Box 130406

Houston, Texas 77219-0416

<http://www.wivla.org>